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—Craig Cox, Executive Vice President, Soil and Water Conservation Society

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Barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.) grown under center pivot sprinkler irrigation in the San Luis Valley of south central Colorado. Photo by Dr. Jorge A. Delgado, USDA-ARS-NPA-Soil Plant Nutrient Research Unit

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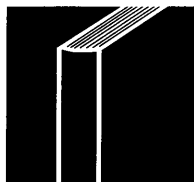
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B O O K S , E T C .

On Rims and Ridges: The Los Alamos Area Since 1880

By Hal K. Rothman. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1992, Epilogue to the Paperback Edition 1997, xiii + 384 pp., ISBN 0-8032-3901-7

Hal V. Rothman uses his extensive knowledge of the environmental geography of the Los Alamos, New Mexico area, in compiling this scholarly work. Rothman vividly presents the whole historical picture, which is critical to understanding how federal government agencies guided the economic development and growth of a region with limited natural resources.

The first section of the book focused on the work of Edgar Hewett and his efforts to create a national park on the Pajarito Plateau to preserve the pueblos and archaeological resources of the area. From 1900 to 1930, several attempts were made to create a national park. Local interests were not convinced that a national park would create any economic advantages. A national park would restrict the development of farming and ranching. Furthermore, New Mexicans felt that federal agencies had too much control. As more people moved into the area, competition for its limited resources increased. The failure to create a national park in 1906 ended the movement to preserve archaeological resources. In proceeding efforts to create a national park, archaeological preservation became secondary to economic reasons as national parks became an important way to attract tourists.

The efforts to create a national park culminated in 1916 with the establishment of Bandelier National Monument. The 22,400 acre monument was a victory for the U.S. Forest Service who regarded a national park as a threat to commercial value and development of forest lands. To local residents, the timber and pasture land of the region was their future ticket to prosperity. A national park reserve would have denied them their goals.

By the 1930s, the U.S. government and social institutions had a firm hold on the Los Alamos region. The New Deal created greater economic dependence on the federal government. The New Deal programs were implemented to prime the economic pump. They were not intended to replace traditional institutions. Bandelier National Monument received the most benefits from New Deal programs.

During the second world war, war-related industries took administrative control away from the U.S. Forest Service and Park Service on the Pajarito Plateau. Western towns with military based industries prospered, while places without these industries struggled to develop. In the early 1940s, the U.S. Army developed a secret atomic bomb research laboratory in Los Alamos. Created in 1947, the Atomic Energy Commission developed into a dominant federal government agency in Los Alamos. The Atomic Energy Commission was a real economic boost to the region; however, the commission inhibited the development of a diverse economy.

Growth in Los Alamos was more than the Pajarito Plateau could support without causing damage. To keep scientists content, the government transformed Los Alamos into an American suburb. The emergence of Los Alamos led to an Anglo upper-middle class without a traditional middle class. The high cost of living in the city forced Hispanics and Indians to live in nearby counties.

After World War II, Los Alamos citizens clamored for development, but by the 1980's, they favored growth management. Federal funds rescued the Pajarito Plateau from oblivion. It became a federal protectorate administered for reasons that had no relationship to its cultural or historical geography. Without the laboratory, the economy would face rural west poverty or rely upon the tourist industry. Rothman reiterates that Los Alamos did not take the time to evaluate what might occur if the military no longer needed the laboratory's research.

The research that Rothman put forth to complete his work is phenomenal. He distinctly depicts the physical geography. The illustrations in the book add depth to the text. Rothman does a superb job of describing the complex, federal agency policies and economic development in this rural isolated region. Rothman concludes by identifying several contemporary, community development challenges that citizens and planners must address to enhance the Los Alamos area.

—Reviewed by Jerold E. Braatz, University of Wisconsin-Extension, Chilton, WI

Agronomy

Advances in agronomy, vol. 64 (ISBN 0-12-000764-9), Donald Sparks, ed. 354 pp., 1998. Academic Press, 6277 Sea Harbor Drive, Orlando, FL 32887; Phone: 1-800-321-5068; fax: 1-800-336-7377; email: ap@acad.com. Hardcover, \$89.95

Agriculture

Ecology in agriculture (ISBN 0-12-378260-0), by Louise Jackson. 472 pp., 1997. Academic Press, 6277 Sea Harbor Drive, Orlando, FL 32887; Phone: 1-800-321-5068; fax: 1-800-336-7377; email: ap@acad.com. Hardcover, \$79.95

Soil processes and the carbon cycle (ISBN 0-8493-7441-3), by R. Lal, J. Kimble, and R. Follett. 608 pp., 1998. CRC Press LLC, 2000 Corporate Blvd., N.W., Boca Raton, FL 33431; Phone: 1-800-272-7737, outside US and Canada, call (561) 994-0555; fax: 1-800-374-3401; email: orders@crcpress.com. Hardcover, \$99.95

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375 pp., 1998. Academic Press, 6277 Sea Harbor Drive, Orlando, FL 32887; Phone: 1-800-321-5068; fax: 1-800-336-7377; email: ap@acad.com. Hardcover, \$69.95

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Forest ecosystems: analysis at multiple scales (ISBN 0-12-735443-3), by R Waring and S. Running. 400 pp., 1998. Academic Press, 6277 Sea Harbor Drive, Orlando, FL 32887; Phone: 1-800-321-5068; fax: 1-800-336-7377; email: ap@acad.com.

Paper (includes one CD-ROM), \$59.95

Land management

Land, water, and development: sustainable management of river basin systems (ISBN 0-415-15506-1), by M. Newson. 464 pp., 1997. E&FN SPON/ Routledge, 7625 Empire Drive, Florence, KY 41042; Phone 1-800-634-7064; fax: 1-800-248-4724; Internet: www.routledge-ny.com. Hardcover. \$110.00

Restoring prairie wetlands: an ecological approach (ISBN 0-8138-2497-4), by S. Galatowitsch and A. van der Valk. 344 pp., 1998. Iowa State University Press, 2121 S. State Ave., Ames, IA 50014; Phone: 1-800-862-6657 or (515) 292-0155; fax: (515) 292-3348; Internet: www.isupress.edu. Paper, \$29.95

Nature conservation in Europe: policy and practice (ISBN 0-419-21610-3) by Peter Bromley. 368 pp., 1997. E&FN SPON/ Routledge, 7625 Empire Drive, Florence, KY 41042; Phone 1-800-634-7064; fax: 1-800-248-4724; Internet: www.routledge-ny.com. Hardcover.

Plant science

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