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Review of Isabella Greenway, an Enterprising Woman

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The bibliography is weighted with trial transcripts and government documents that are the foundation of this work, along with a list of secondary sources, but I miss any reference to the Apache Kid's biographer, Phyllis de la Garza (*The Apache Kid*, Westernlore Press, 1995) and the aforementioned David Wallace Adams. Despite its shortcomings, this book is necessary to depict and document the unequal justice that thrived in Arizona. McKanna's unique approach without question indicts a prejudicial and lopsided legal system.

Cochise College

H. HENRIETTA STOCKEL

Isabella Greenway, an Enterprising Woman. By Kristie Miller. (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2004. Pp. 324. Acknowledgments, photographs, notes, bibliography, index. ISBN 0816518975. \$24.95, cloth.)

Kristie Miller's interesting biography examines the life and legacies of Isabella Greenway, the "first of a number of remarkable women in Arizona politics" (p. xv) and the founder of the acclaimed Arizona Inn. The daughter of rancher Tilden Selmes and Martha (Patty) Flandrau, Isabella was born in the Dakota Badlands in March 1886. The Selmeses befriended a grieving Theodore Roosevelt, who had fled west following the deaths of his mother and wife in 1884. According to Miller, Isabella's beginnings in the Dakotas and her family's fortuitous relationship with Roosevelt "determined the course of her life" (p. 3).

The first half of the book traces Isabella Selmes's evolving association with the Roosevelt clan, her first marriage to Robert Ferguson (a former Rough Rider nineteen years her senior), Ferguson's long battle with tuberculosis, and Isabella's relationship with John Greenway (another Rough Rider and prominent mining engineer). Her first foray into politics occurred during the election of 1912, when she worked to turn out voters for Roosevelt's Bull Moose ticket. During the first world war, Isabella volunteered with the Red Cross, the Women's Land Army, and the Women's Auxiliary of the Council of Defense, where she gained important organizational skills that would prove significant later in life. A year following Robert Ferguson's death in 1922, she married John Greenway, perhaps the most important man in her adult life. Devastated after his death in 1926 due to complications following surgery, the forty-year-old widow resolved to see that Greenway's ambitions in life were fulfilled. She helped establish the Arizona Hut to help disabled veterans find work, she bought a ranch in northern Arizona, and lobbied for a dam on the Colorado River. Through a combination of hard work, political connections, and an effusive personality, Isabella Greenway quickly became a significant figure in the Arizona Democratic Party. During the early years of the Great Depression, she purchased an airplane company and founded the Arizona Inn in Tucson, a luxury resort still in operation today. In 1932, she attended the Democratic National Convention in Chicago and played an important role in securing FDR's nomination.

Due in part to her close connections to president-elect Roosevelt, Greenway ran for Arizona's lone congressional seat in 1933, winning a landslide victory. During her first term, Greenway lobbied for western irrigation projects, tariff

protection for the copper mining industry, and for the restoration of veterans' benefits. Although her close relationship with Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt at times limited her independence, Greenway was not a "rubber stamp" for all New Deal legislation. She easily won re-election in 1934, and labored long hours in support of Social Security, rural electrification, and various public works projects. Exhausted after completing her first full term in office, Greenway opted not to seek re-election in 1936.

While Miller's laudatory treatment of Isabella Greenway is at times overdone, the book reveals a complex woman who, while pampered, self-absorbed, and a bit ditzzy, was also altruistic, shrewd, and exceptionally hard working. Well written and researched (Miller uses a broad array of personal papers, letters, diaries, and photos), the book provides a cogent history of "an enterprising" but heretofore obscure woman at a critical juncture in American history. It should be well received by scholars and general readers interested in the dynamic role that women played in the development of the twentieth-century southwest.

University of Texas at Brownsville

THOMAS A. BRITTEN

My Life with Bonnie and Clyde. By Blanche Caldwell Barrow. Edited by John Neal Phillips. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2005. Pp. 374. Foreword, editor's preface, chronology, afterword, illustrations, maps, appendices, notes, bibliography, index. ISBN 08061326251. \$29.95, cloth.)

Blanche Caldwell was a starry-eyed young girl when she married a twice-divorced petty hoodlum named Buck Barrow. The two parlayed their relationship with Bonnie and Clyde into their graves. Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker gained notoriety during a three-year crime spree at the height of the Great Depression that left ten men dead, most of them law officers. After serving time for a two-bit crime, Buck Barrow—Clyde's older brother—received a pardon from Texas Gov. Ma Ferguson. This opened the way for Buck and his new bride to escape a life of crime and settle down. But Buck remained a criminal at heart and soon joined Bonnie and Clyde in a series of bank robberies, petty thefts, and killings and a life on the run. The result was that Buck Barrow was shot to death in an escape attempt and Blanche Caldwell Barrow became a young widow behind bars.

While in prison, Blanche wrote a memoir about her time with the Barrow gang. The handwritten document went unpublished for sixty-five years. In 2000, the executor of Blanche's estate, her friend Esther Weiser, found the memoir in a stack of papers in her garage that she was about to throw out. She instead contacted John Neal Phillips, the author of *Running with Bonnie and Clyde: The Ten Fast Years of Ralph Fults* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2002), who agreed to edit the brief journal into a book.

Phillips proclaims that the intent of Blanche's writing was to help young girls avoid getting mixed up with a life of crime. He also freely admits that the manuscript is not an objective account. The editor concludes, however, that it is the memoir's very subjectivity that gives it "a sense of gritty reality" (p. xix).