

Review

Reviewed Work(s): PHOENIX INDIAN SCHOOL: The Second Half-Century by Dorothy R. Parker

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Book Reviews

PHOENIX INDIAN SCHOOL: The Second Half-Century. By Dorothy R. Parker. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1996. Illus., notes, biblio., index, 96 pages. ISBN 0-8165-1679-0, \$14.95 (soft-cover).

DOROTHY PARKER HAS PROVIDED AN INTERESTING ACCOUNT of the Phoenix Indian School, which operated from 1891 until 1990. Her stated intent was to examine the consequences of historical events upon the school in the latter half of the twentieth century. In so doing, she discusses many well-known themes: the evolving boarding school discipline, the curriculum change from industrial arts to academics, and the emerging Native American cultural identity. Parker's study also discloses some new information, such as the formation of Company F, an all-Indian unit formed in 1915 and serving in the Mexican Revolution, World War I, and World War II. Furthermore, Parker openly discusses the issues which plague all modern high schools—the increasing emphasis on academics, the infusion of drugs and alcoholism, and the resulting lack of discipline.

Parker's primary research is unimpeachable; she utilized records from the National Archives, the Smithsonian, the Arizona Intertribal Council, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and numerous oral histories with the White Mountain Apache, the Gila River, the Tohono O'odham, and other tribes. What is lacking, however, is a historical perspective from preceding academic studies. Although Parker acknowledges the previous contributions of Margaret Szasz and Robert Trennert, she fails to make mention of the groundbreaking words of Francis Paul Prucha and R. Pierce Beaver, who both wrote about the relationship between American Indians, government, and religion. Further insight could have been gained in analyzing the changing perceptions of white and Indian educators toward Native American students by including the "image" theories of Robert Berkhofer, Frederick Hoxie, or Hazel Hertzberg. Nevertheless, Parker's book is a valuable resource in the area of American Indian education.

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TALES FROM WIDE RUINS: Jean and Bill Cousins, Traders. Edited by Mary Tate Engels. Lubbock: Texas Tech University Press, 1996. Illus., maps, notes, biblio., index, 244 pages. ISBN 0-89672-368-2, \$29.95 (hard-cover).

JEAN COUSINS LAUGHED when she read about the disappearance of the trading post from the western landscape. She had never considered herself a part of "living history." With this thought, editor Mary Tate Engels