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Southern Arizona Authors

J.C. Martin, SPECIAL TO THE ARIZONA DAILY STAR

CORRECTION RAN JUNE 8, 2005 A2

Melissa Bowersock's name was misspelled in the Southern Arizona Authors column Sunday on H4.

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The "More Than Petticoats" series from New England's Globe Pequot Press has become a dependable source of profiles of 19th- and early 20th-century women whose contributions to their times largely have been overlooked.

They survived entrenched prejudice - against their voting, practicing law or medicine, or even running businesses much more complicated than a boardinghouse (which many of them, widowed, turned to) - to live productive lives.

"More Than Petticoats: Remarkable Nevada Women" (TwoDot/Globe Pequot Press, \$10.95) is the latest in the series. It was written by Oro Valley freelance writer Jan **Cleere**, whose background includes a degree from Arizona State University in American studies.

Cleere is careful to include Hispanics, American Indians and Chinese as well as Anglo pioneers. One of the 13 chapters profiles a group of nuns, the Daughters of Charity, who ran a hospital, a school, an orphanage and a church in rough-and-ready Virginia City.

"Fort Bowie, Combat Post of the Southwest, 1858-1894" (University of Oklahoma Press, \$32.95) was written by Douglas G. McChristian, a retired research historian for the National Park Service.

"A vivid and dynamic operational history," offers Bruce Dinges, director of publications for the Arizona Historical Society and a specialist on Western military history, "that describes the ebb and flow of events at this key outpost against the colorful backdrop of territorial development and the dramatic Indian campaigns of the Southwest."

"Remember Me" (Draumr Publishing, \$19.95) by Oro Valley resident Melissa Bowerstock is a contemporary romance. A young, pregnant, U.S. Air Force wife suffers amnesia after surviving an auto accident that kills the artist with whom she had intended to run away. She and her overbearing husband must try to put the pieces of their lives back together.

Debbie Ferns, a corporate-event planner and a special-event producer, gives an enthusiastic account of her introduction to firearms in "Babes With Bullets: Women Having Fun With Guns" (Bullseye Trading Post, \$15). Her take on guns "is not about hunting or fishing and doesn't pertain to domestic violence," she writes. "It's about shooting sports where the only thing we aim at is clay pigeons or steel and paper targets."

"Waiting to Die: Life on Death Row" (Vision, \$17.95) by Richard Michael Rossi tells of life on death row in the Arizona State Prison in Florence, where Rossi has resided for the last 20 years awaiting execution for having murdered a Phoenix man in August 1983 in a drug-fueled argument over a stolen typewriter.

For most readers, even the simplest details of prison life are disturbing and depressing.

Coming from the perspective of death row, it's worse. Rossi gives a grim description of a lonely life in cramped, dirty quarters, eating bad food. What he leaves out of his account is

how he has managed to avoid execution for 20 years and how and where he finds the time, energy and money to keep up his international pen pal correspondence and write books and articles to campaign against the death penalty.

"But She Was Too Blind to See" (Wasteland Press, \$11.95) is a novel from the precocious pen of Nogales resident Christina M. Bischoff, published last year when she was 12. The principal protagonists appear to be a werewolf and a vampire who room together and are journalists. (Actually, they are editors, which is more realistic.) Well, if Bischoff were your 12-year-old, you'd be proud as punch. The rest of us, to use one of the young author's phrases, will just have to trample through.

"The Skinny Deal" (Book Publishers Network, \$17.95) is former World War II memoirist Russ Hamachek's initiation into the world of the business novel. It's challenging to make "corporate life within the volatile brewing industry" appealing. Hamachek does a remarkably good job, and in the process explains the ins and outs of the leveraged buyout. Oro Valley newcomer James M. Deem has an ongoing interest in mummies. "Bodies From the Bog" (Houghton Mifflin, \$5.95) is about corpses, some several thousand years old, found in European bogs. The pictures are grisly, so check out what your kid can take before the nightmares set in. "3NBs of Julian Drew" (Grafia/Houghton Mifflin, \$6.99), also from Deem, is very different. Julian Drew, of indeterminate age, keeps a diary written in a personal shorthand - presumably inspired by Samuel Pepys. A comment on Amazon.com reads, "This book is a puzzle, and unraveling it is only half the fun." Hints might help.

"Out of Bounds; A Hannah Pryce Series Mystery" (Publish-America, \$19.95) incorporates the professional golf scene into the plot. Marci Martin's experienced heroine has to deal with a longtime friend, a pro golfer, who clearly is not herself. This is an easy read and is sure to give Martin's growing reputation a good boost.

Southern Arizona Authors is published the first Sunday of each month. If you have a book to submit, send it to: J.C. Martin, P.O. Box 65388, Tucson, AZ 85728. Include the price and the name, address and phone number of someone who can be reached if additional information is needed. Books set in the Southwest will go to the Southwest Books of the Year panel. Eventually, all titles go to the Pima Community College West Campus library.