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Southern Ariz. Authors

By J.C. Martin

SPECIAL TO THE ARIZONA DAILY STAR

"Ending in Ice" (Oxford University Press, \$29.95) is retired University of Utah physical geography professor **Roger M. McCoy's** readable tribute to Alfred Wegener. Wegener was a German meteorologist who, in 1910, publicly proposed "continental drift" — a theory that once many of the earth's land masses were joined. Wegener died in 1930 on an expedition to Greenland, never living to see his ideas — after more than a half-century of general ridicule — accepted as the respectable theory of "plate tectonics."

Two veteran Southern Arizona writers have released two more history and biography offerings: **"Apache Junction and the Superstition Mountains"** (Arcadia, \$19.99) by **Jane Eppinga** and **"Outlaw Tales of Arizona: True Stories of Arizona's Most famous Robbers, Rustlers and Bandits"** (TwoDot, \$10.95) by **Jan Cleere**.

Eppinga is a wizard at finding fascinating old photographs whose captions carry the bulk of her story. Cleere has dug into archives to come up with accounts of well-known culprits such as Buckskin Frank Leslie and Pearl Hart and lesser-knowns but equally lethal criminals, such as Lafayette Grime.

● Anthropologist/archaeologist **Arthur H. Rohn** has teamed up with photographic specialist **William M. Ferguson** in **"Puebloan Ruins of the Southwest"** (University of New Mexico Press, \$34.95). Included are the Zunis, Hopis and other pueblo peoples in Arizona and New Mexico. "Our purpose," Rohn writes, "has always been to offer the general public a complete and informative picture of ... 2,500 years of growth and change ..."

● In 1976, **Barbara Jean Young** was a specialist working with people with disabilities when an automobile accident made confronting disabilities a personal as well as a professional challenge. Whatever else, **"Helping People With Disabilities Help Themselves: Promoting the CAN Attitude"** (Author House, \$22.49; paper, \$15.49) makes clear that dedicated, motivated professionals, such as Young, are essential to the success of any system.

● **"Save Your Butt: Survival Preparedness For Those Who Don't Have a Clue"** (Altered States Production, \$30.75) by **Michelle and Wayne Hertzberg** is a spiral workbook designed to give you an idea of what it takes to survive in an emergency and tips on putting a survival plan together.

● **Allen R. Kates**, author of "CopShock," has worked with **Sharon Knutson-Felix** on her autobiography, **"Gifts My Father Gave Me"** (Holbrook Street Press, \$16.95). There is a deep religious commitment in Knutson-Felix's triumph over the despair following the death of a young son and the death of her first husband.

On to fiction:

● **Gary Peterson**, the protagonist of Mac Brothers' **"Academic Pursuits"** (PublishAmerica, \$21.95), teaches journalism at Southwestern State University (where Nancy Mairs is also on the faculty). It's a job he is good at and loves to do. What he is not good at is office politics. He also has a few health problems. He can only distract himself for so long by making up Merge-Matics — book, TV and movie title combinations (example: "Phantom of the Oprah") before it all falls apart in this playful dissection of academia.

● **"Death in the Desert"** (Treble Heart Books, \$14.95) by **Francine P. Biere** is a heavily plotted novel dealing with illegal immigration from Mexico, including strong — not always legal — support for it.

● **Patrick Harding's "The Skystone"** (Publish America, \$19.95) In an imaginative fantasy, a mischievous angel goofs up in heaven causing a mysterious, powerful gem to plummet to earth. Sent by heavenly elders (who appear as towering thunderclouds) to retrieve it, he meets up with a set of likable earthlings.

● **Robert H. Clark**, decorated navy veteran and retired overseas businessman, has taken up writing fiction. In **"Diamonds in the Rough"** (Dorrance, \$20), his hero, working out of South Africa, takes on some bad actors in the international diamond trade. In **"Saint Steven Legacy"** (PublishAmerica, \$19.95), he builds a generational saga that involves drug money and family feuds as his hero, Enrique Saint Steven, a Basque, recovers his inheritance. In each, Clark shows that love and money are not incompatible.

● **"The Death and Ascension of Calvin C. (A Conservative Politician's Rise to Grace)"** (Trafford, \$12.50) by **SM Nona** is what its title declares. Calvin C is enormously successful — right up to the moment he drives his SUV into a tree. This leads to a revealing conversation with God.

● **"Born Again: A Conspiracy to Create a Theocracy"** (Author House, \$28.99 cloth; \$17.49 paper) by Dave Wilcox depicts the events which lead a strong, charismatic religious leader to attempt to turn the United States into a theocracy.

● *Southern Arizona Authors is published monthly. Books should be sent to: J.C. Martin, P.O. Box 65388, Tucson, AZ 85728-5388. Include the price and name and number of someone who can be reached if additional information is needed. Once they're included in the column, books go to Pima Community College West Campus library.*

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