A Spirited Tale of a Brave Young Woman

DETOUR TRAIL

"For a slice of American history, Detour Trail reminded me of Children on the Oregon Trail."

"Captivating from cover to cover, Detour Trail is highly recommended."

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In 1903, Red Cloud declared that the Oglala had been “free as the winds, and like the eagle, heard no man’s commands.” Such words could have served as his epitaph.

That Red Cloud is not as famous as Crazy Horse, his protégé, is in large part because his autobiography was lost for a century. Its reappearance, along with this volume, completes Red Cloud’s story.

—Allen Barra, author of Inventing Wyatt Earp: His Life and Many Legends

HERO’S TRIUMPH AND TRAGEDY

In his spirited retelling of George Custer’s dramatic Civil War career, Thom Hatch pulls out all the stops in favor of the hero of his tale in Glorious War: The Civil War Adventures of George Armstrong Custer (St. Martin’s Press, $27.99).

From West Point graduate to aide-de-camp for George McClellan to boy brigadier and Gettysburg hero all the way to division commander under Phil Sheridan, Custer experienced a success in the Civil War that has sometimes been obscured by what happened at Little Big Horn 11 years after Appomattox.

Hatch’s account often echoes Jeff Wert’s account of that 1876 battle, which brought Custer fame and national attention. One should know, however, that Hatch’s enthusiasm for Custer sometimes outruns evidence that points to a more tempered treatment.

—Brooks D. Simpson, author of The Civil War in the East: Struggle, Stalemate, and Victory

LYNCH MOB LAW

Mark C. Dillon, an associate justice of the appellate division of the New York State Supreme Court, brings all of his legal knowledge to bear on the actions of Montana vigilantes from 1863 to 1870 in The Montana Vigilantes, 1863-1870: Gold, Guns, and Gallows (Utah State University Press, $34.95).

Dillon analyzes the circumstances that allowed vigilante groups to flourish, their flouting of the due-process standards of the era and the surprising acquiescence to their fate of many of the 62 men accused through March 1870. Along the way, the author provides more than 50 photographs and numerous digressions, including a discussion of how gold and silver became the basis for U.S. currency and what it meant when new sources of these precious metals were found.

All in all, Dillon has given us a well researched and highly accessible look at a significant topic.

—Carol A. O’Connor, co-author with Clyde A. Milner II of As Big as the West: The Pioneer Life of Granville Stuart