

**Nasario Garcia ( Editor and Collector). *Recuerdos de los Viejitos, Tales of the Rio Puerco.* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1987) 266 pp., \$10.95 paper.**

The editor indicated in his foreword that he had several purposes for collecting and assembling the sixty-four stories that comprise this book. First, he had noted that little had been written concerning the history of the Rio Puerco region of New Mexico, and the little that had been written had not included the actual first person narratives of the people who had lived there. These, the collector believed, the "... vibrant oral history and literature from a previously unrecorded area can now further enrich the age old cultural heritage of Hispanic New Mexico."

The second and perhaps most important purpose was that, as the editor pointed out, "... language is the basic ingredient of a culture." The use of the Spanish vernacular, as it is still used in certain areas of rural New Mexico, inclusive of the use of archaisms from the colonial period, records a style of the language that if not saved for posterity will soon be lost forever. The third and final purpose was that the selections in and of themselves make interesting reading.

Garcia was very successful on all accounts. The author employed the use of a bilingual format, first relating the tales in as close to the exact style as told by the former villagers of the Rio Puerco Valley. The words were written as they were phonetically pronounced by those who related the tales. The tales were then translated to English, yet still managed to maintain much of the original flavor and mood of the original Spanish. Garcia also wisely included a glossary in which the archaic forms are translated into the more modern form of the Spanish language. While Garcia made no mention of this possible purpose for the book, the inclusion of this glossary makes the book a very practical supplementary text for a foreign language class, in that it enables the teaching of language from a multicultural perspective.

The book, in that it was divided into five chapters (The People, Their Tragedies, Their Religion, Their Mischief, and The Supernatural) provided a very wide and deep view of the peoples who resided in the Rio Puerco valley. As people themselves are multi-dimensional, any ethnography must include the different elements which help to define a culture, and in this vein, Garcia was most successful. Of particular interest to this reviewer was the manner in which tales in different chapters portraying different aspects of the lives of the people would contain characters in common. Particularly interesting was the story, told by his grandson, of how Rafael Lovato was captured by the Pawnee and how he eventually gained his freedom by the help of the government. In a subsequent chapter this was retold, but from a spiritual view, and how the Holy Child was punished until he assisted in Lovato's liberation. It was this kind of attention to detail that helped to make this book as interesting and valuable as it is.

This book clearly deserves a place on any multicultural reading list, from high school through university level, in either an English or a foreign

language classroom. Considering the readability and interest factor of the book, it would be one which the instructor would not have to pressure the students into reading.

— Glen M. Kraig  
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**Anne Wette Garland. *Women Activists: Challenging the Abuse of Power*. (New York: The Feminist Press, 1988) 145 pp., \$9.95 paper.**

*Women Activists* is a long overdue book of stories written by women who have been involved in community political activities. The author, Anne Wette Garland, is to be commended for her ability to organize the stories told by fourteen women in an organized and interesting manner.

*Women Activists* includes a one-page foreword written by Ralph Nader and a nine-page informative introduction by Frances T. Farenthold. The text is divided into three units with each unit divided into chapters. The chapters are stories told by fourteen women activists. The first unit, "Community and Neighborhood," includes four chapters: "Every Mountain Hollow" by Marie Cirillo, "The Human Element" by Bernice Kaczynski, "We Found the Enemy" by Gale Cincotta, and "Education's the Thing" by Maria Fava and Mildred Tudy. The second unit, "Environment and Public Safety," includes three chapters: "The Tongues of Angels" by Mary Sinclair, "Vociferous Residents" by Cathy Hinds, and "Common Sense" by Alice Weinstein and Marion Weisfelner. The third and last unit, "Justice and Peace," includes "Good Noise" by Cora Tucker and "Emboldened" by Greenham Common Women.

This book deals with four important issues: the roots of activism, certain conditions of activism, principles of political action, and feminism. In the introduction, Frances T. Farenthold does an excellent job of illustrating how these authors deal with the four aforementioned issues. For example, the anger which is at the roots of activism in the stories told by these women comes from a variety of sources. Differences in age, religion, education, background, income, and political beliefs were sources of anger and the roots of activism in the stories told by these women activists.

The second issue, "Certain Conditions of Activism," appears to have stemmed from the feeling of being much alone in their efforts when they first attempted to effect change. Many of these women were ostracized by friends, church, and community. But this feeling of being alone did not deter them from striving to reach their goals; instead, it increased their momentum for reaching them.

The third issue, "Principles of Political Action," had to be dealt with by all activists in this book. One of the first things that the women had to do was to identify the problem. Once the problem was identified, the next step was to