

Stuart
5044

Now in AC Shirley's letter

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Bill, (Holman)

Well, I'm still dazed at the work and artistry that went into the BIRD & TEXAS book. In addition, I think John Graves' contribution may be the closest thing John ever does in the way of an autobio. Now, I must admit, I can't lift it, but it has "owned" the dining room table since arriving and who needs to eat with it around? I noted Friday it took two stout young men to hold it up for TSHA auction! I have done a section in the Center for Texas Studies (North Texas State U.) newsletter FOCUS ON TEXAS which I will send along to you as soon as the newsletter gets out of the print shop. I wish I could have done the Dallas News story. I think the project should get some kind of massive attention....I am going to suggest a special award from the Texas Institute of Letters. I showed the work to a correspondent for Cable News Network who was out filming an interview with me and I had him try and lift it. I suggested CNN do a story. I am also working on MacNeil/Lehrer in that direction.

I can't tell you how stunning the work is, how beautifully presented, and how well written....the Gentlings' "bird comments" are wonderfully personal. David, of course, must feel like this is a lifework even if he never pulls another proof!

I will be back to you, but I did want you to know I have received the book and please, please tell the Gentlings how honored and thankful I am for their consideration....and I will, of course, be writing them, too, but you see, I had this envelope of yours....!

regards.....

A. C. G.