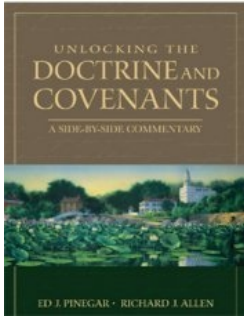


“Unlocking the Doctrine and Covenants: A Side-by-side Commentary” by Ed J. Pinegar and Richard J. Allen (Covenant Communications, 2008, \$24.95)



This is a book that LDS folks will probably want to know about as they begin a year long study of the Doctrine and Covenants and church history—in fact, those who are interested in LDS studies at the academic level, might also find this an interesting addition to their library. There is no shortage of current titles relating to the Doctrine and Covenants, but the format of this book seems particularly appealing to those who are serious students of LDS scriptures. Those familiar with the LDS Institute manuals, which have been used as a study supplement for years, will find the layout of the book to be equally user friendly.

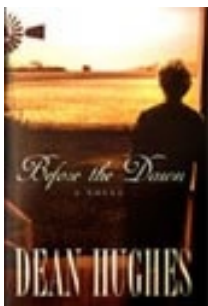
“The authors offer this commentary as an adjunct to the systematic process of acquiring increased understanding . . . of the Doctrine and Covenants. . . . The approach used is to include every verse of the D&C—from the beginning to the end—accompanied by commentaries and insights on sequential segments.” The authors have also included quotes from General Authorities, scholars, and historians, along with background settings of historical settings and events. The reader will also find photographs of historical sites, which give a visual insight into the times and places.

Some thoughts on the column and 2008

The beginning of a new year and the end of the old, seems like a perfect time to look forward and at the same time take few minutes to look back. I’m especially thinking today of the many books I received this year that I never got around to reading. Not because they aren’t good books by good authors, but because I just didn’t have time. Isn’t that the way it is—more book, movies, events . . . fill in the blank, than we can get around to. Believe me, those of you who are putting whatever off until retirement—it isn’t going to happen then either, so better make time for it now

Looking back, here are just two regional reads I wish I had reviewed, and just a brief description, in case you missed them too.

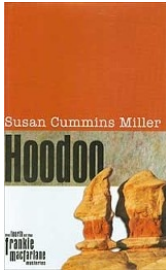
“Before the Dawn” by Dean Hughes (Deseret Book)



Dean Hughes is no stranger to Utah readers, who remember him for the “Children of the Promise” and “Hearts of the Children” series. In this book, Hughes hearkens back to the Depression days in the Uintah Basin. Considering that recession is in our daily news and we’re a long way from digging out of the hole, this book seems even more relevant now than it did when it first crossed my desk and ended up collecting dust on the book shelf. Leah Sorensen is a “prickly and proud” widow who has seen more than her share of bad times and brushes off the bishop when he calls her to be Relief Society President. “They’d all vote against me if you put my name up . . . and I’d vote with them.” But the bishop sees only her strength and determination. “You lost your husband and you didn’t give up. You know how to survive hard times, and some women in our ward

don't. I'm not looking for a nice church lady right now. I'm looking for someone with some grit, and that's what you've got."

"Hoodoo" by Susan Cummins Miller (Texas Tech University Press)



This is the fourth in the Frankie MacFarlane mystery series. Having previously reviewed an earlier book in this series, "Quarry," I was excited when it first arrived in the mail. Frankie is a field geologist who has a penchant for stumbling onto murders and intrigue that "play out against the glorious spooky towers" of the ancient homeland of the Chiricahua Apache in Southeastern Arizona. Mineral rights, water supplies, and property values all come up against the greed and treachery of person or persons unknown. Finding herself in the hot seat, Frankie once again must put the pieces

together to save herself and others who have been falsely accused.