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## The Way I Heard It: Tales of the Big Bend

*Walter Fulcher*

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**Walter Fulcher : The Way I Heard It: Tales of the Big Bend** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Way I Heard It: Tales of the Big Bend:

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The folklore of Texas' Big Bend region was still in the making during Walter Fulcher's lifetime. Born in Lampasas County in 1887, he worked on the Martin Ranch near Sheffield when a young man. There he witnessed events in the last outlaw activities of the Black Jack Ketchum gang. He also listened to legends told almost as gossip, and some of

the legendary figures were still alive or said to be alive, usually in hiding. In every village there was sure to be some ancient with a good memory and a better imagination, and Walter Fulcher heard many versions of many tales. He has set them down as he heard them, as simple folk tales that reflect the color of a wild and vivid country in 400 years of its settlement. The book has been edited, with introduction and notes, by Elton Miles, Professor of English at Sul Ross State College.

"This collection by Walter Fulcher, edited by Elton Miles, is far better than most assortments of folklore, having the ring of authenticity.... attractively printed and beautifully illustrated with photographs of the spectacular Big Bend country." (Los Angeles Times)"These tales are plain wonderful and make you wish there were more." (True West)"All who love that wild land and its tall tales will enjoy an hour or so with this self-taught and unpretentious raconteur." (Fort Worth Star-Telegram)"Imagination, artistry, careful and perceptive research, and skillful writing all combine to make this a moving and convincing portrait of a man and his times." (Southwestern Historical Quarterly)About the AuthorElton Miles (1917-1995) was Professor of English at Sul Ross State University.