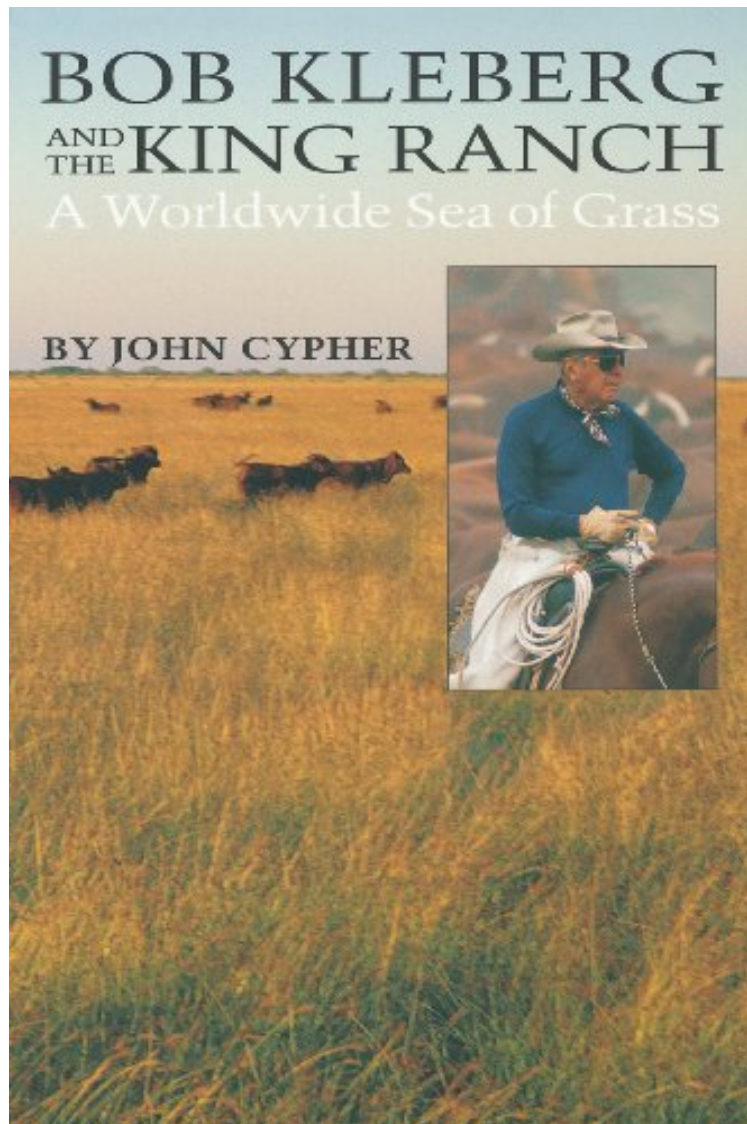


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## Bob Kleberg and the King Ranch

*John Cypher*

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**John Cypher : Bob Kleberg and the King Ranch** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bob Kleberg and the King Ranch:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Recommended ReadingBy Mark WiseVery interesting book.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Must ReafBy DeeGood story about Bob Kleberg, the last of the great cattlemen!6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Worth a readBy samI did not start out with an affinity toward the King Ranch; after living in southeast Texas for four years and seeing their name everywhere, I actually thought their partnership with Ford on the King Ranch F-150 was pretty gay. But I loved this book.I only got this book because I was interested in buying some Santa Gertrudis heifers, and through some research found that they came

from King Ranch, or more specifically from the mind of Bob Kleburg. But this book was not so much about Texas ranching and cattle, as it is about the gift of thinking big. Begrudgingly, I have to admit that there is something for anyone in this book. For the Rancher: The greatest lesson of the book is that a ranch should NEVER be overcapitalized or it will fail. Put your money into growing grass because everything else is a waste. For the Businessman: Personal contacts (i.e. good relationships) and seeking expert opinions are fundamental keys to success. For the General Public: Think Big! Granted, Mr. Kleburg had a massive pool of financial resources, but that does not mean that only the rich can think big. Any dream has to start with imagination and perseverance before it can ever become reality; this book has many examples of how a person can create their own reality, no matter the scale. Civil Rights Activists: Kineros have been on King Ranch for over 6 generations, showing how culturally tied Mexico is with Texas (and AZ, NM, CA) and the Kleburg family has cultivated this relationship since the end of the Civil War. Contrary to modern popular opinion, many in Texas are bi-cultural and bi-lingual, as Bob Kleburg was. This book does an excellent job showing the intrinsic ties and deep respect between Latin American and the Southwest US, and in doing so dispels some garbage political pandering by contemporary politics falling back on xenophobia as an answer to domestic problems. To sum up- It's a worthy read. Oil history, cattle, politics, entrepreneurship, women, drinking, planes, horses.... what else would you want to read about?

Ranching on the vast scale that Texas is famous for actually happened at King Ranch, a sea of grass that ultimately spread its pastures to countries around the globe under the fifty-year leadership of Bob Kleberg. This absorbing biography, written by Kleberg's top assistant of many years, captures both the life of the man and the spirit of the kingdom he ruled, offering a rare, insider's view of life on a fabled Texas ranch. John Cypher spent forty years (1948-1988) on King Ranch. In these pages, he melds highlights of Kleberg's life with memories of his own experiences as the "right hand" who implemented many of Kleberg's grand designs. In a lively story laced with fascinating anecdotes he both recounts his worldwide travels with Kleberg as the ranch expanded its holdings to Latin America, Cuba, Australia, the Philippines, Europe, and Africa, and describes timeless, traditional tasks such as roundup at the home ranch in Kingsville. Kleberg's accomplishments as the founder of the Santa Gertrudis cattle breed and a breeder of Thoroughbred racing horses receive full attention, as does his fabled lifestyle, which included friendships not merely with the rich and famous but also with Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, who shared his love of horse racing. For everyone interested in ranching and one of its most famous practitioners, this book will be essential reading.

"John Cypher spent 40 years (1948-88) on the King Ranch, most of the time as assistant to the president [Bob Kleberg]. Few people could be better qualified to lend an air of intimacy to a story about a 15-million-acre spread and the man who led it for more than 50 years. Bob Kleberg and the King Ranch combines a biography of Kleberg with the story of the postwar boom years that changed the King Ranch from a Mexican hacienda into a traditional South Texas cattle ranch and finally into an international corporate agribusiness." (Houston Chronicle) "Cypher writes ranch history and personal memories of 'The Boss' with affection and self-effacing loyalty. His easy conversational style makes life on a working ranch, the care and feeding of visiting celebrities and the field of international agribusiness both understandable and entertaining. If [Edna] Ferber were writing Giant today, she wouldn't need to visit the King Ranch. She could read Cypher's book." (San Antonio Express-News) "Cypher not only writes well but he is a great story teller and gives the reader probably the best of what will ever be known of the inner Bob Kleberg." (East Texas Historical Journal) ". . . a valuable contribution to an understanding of the rich, on-going history of the King Ranch. . . the author is articulate, skillful, and best of all, an excellent storyteller." (David Murrah, Director, Southwest Collection, Texas Tech University) "Nobody on this earth but you could have written this book with such intimate knowledge of the subject. You have given me insights and information I never had in forty years of devotion to the King Ranch. I salute you." (Tom Lea) ". . . a valuable contribution to an understanding of the rich, on-going history of the King Ranch. . . the author is articulate, skillful, and best of all, an excellent storyteller." (David Murrah, Director, Southwest Collection, Texas Tech University) "Nobody on this earth but you could have written this book with such intimate knowledge of the subject. You have given me insights and information I never had in forty years of devotion to the King Ranch. I salute you." (Tom Lea) From the Back Cover John Cypher spent 40 years (1948-1988) on the King Ranch, most of the time as assistant to the president, Bob Kleberg. This book combines a biography of Kleberg with the story of the postwar boom years that changed the King Ranch from a Mexican hacienda into a traditional South Texas cattle ranch and finally into an international corporate agribusiness. - from praise by Houston Chronicle.