

Sooner Books and Authors

"Sump'n Like Wings" and "A Lantern to See By," two plays by Lynn Riggs, published at \$2 by Samuel French, New York.

UNIVERSITY ALUMNI who have not yet made the acquaintance of Lynn Riggs have a rare treat in store. For few former students have attained such a remarkably advantageous rung on the ladder to fame and few give promise of a more successful career than does this young Claremore, Oklahoma, playwright, whose name, now but 29 years in his possession is known among the theater groups of not only New York, but of every place good plays are read.

Not only should you know Lynn Riggs as a successful playwright and a credit to both his state and university, but you should know him through his books. His publisher Samuel French does not offer a better introductory volume than one recently put out containing one of his earliest successes "Sump'n Like Wings" and one of his latest "A Lantern to See By."

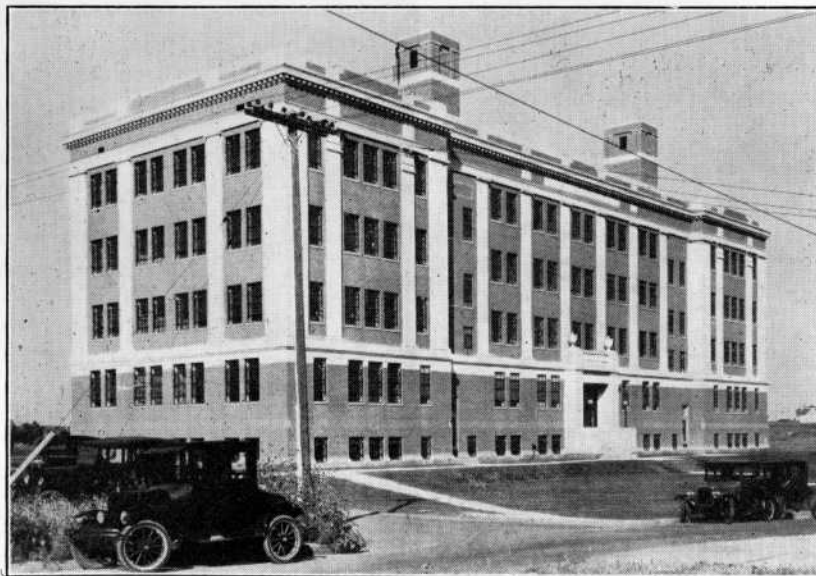
"Sump'n Like Wings" is to be pro-

duced this winter by the American Laboratory Theater while "A Lantern to See By" has been selected for the Lenox Hill Players' repertoire for the coming season. "Sump'n Like Wings" has also been produced in Rome, Italy, by a theater guild group there.

"Sump'n Like Wings" is the story of a small town girl, brought up by a narrow-minded, unsympathetic mother in a hotel owned and operated by the family. One suspects during the course of the play that Lynn Riggs himself has often felt during his childhood in the little village of Claremore that urge to be gone, to be away seeking new fields to conquer, that is "sump'n like wings" lifting one higher. For unless he had felt them himself he could scarcely have had such a depth of sympathetic understanding for Willie Baker. The play, as with most of his plays, is set in a small Oklahoma town and the dialect, conversation and scenes will be at once familiar to any Oklahoman who has ever been in a small Oklahoma town, for they are basically the same.

"A Lantern to See By" is more bitingly realistic and more fiercely tragic than "Sump'n Like Wings." If the two plays are fairly representative of Mr. Riggs' mental changes since his early days of writing and those of today he does not follow the usual course of development. The early works of an author are usually more cynical than the later since time ordinarily tempers skepticism. "A Lantern to See By" ends most tragically—more tragically than if the hero had been left hanging dead, dead, dead, from an oak tree limb on the prairie. For he is left just after he had murdered his father and since law is law, regardless of motives behind the murder or sensitiveness of the murderer, we assume the end which came to Jodie Harmon—and the assumption is more bitter, more realistic, more tragic than Lynn Riggs could have described. In that he shows himself ever the artist. He knows when to describe in horrible detail and he knows when lack of description is even more powerful.

Whether you are a busy housewife



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directing the development of future university eds and coeds, whether you are engrossed in the weaving of the colorful tapestry of Oklahoma politics, whether you returned from school to take over your father's grocery business or went back to the farm, you will enjoy knowing this fellow Sooner through his books and you should make it a point today to read one of his plays. Read one and you will read others. For they are about people you have known, in a language you hear every day and in scenes which are familiar.

Lynn Riggs is at present spending a year abroad on a Guggenheim Fellowship. He visited at the university last spring and spent considerable time in Tulsa where his play "Big Lake" was produced by the Tulsa Little Theater Players.

Besides the writing of plays he has been successful in the field of poetry and has had verse published in Poetry, The Nation, and other national publications. A large section of the magazine Poetry recently was devoted to poems by Lynn Riggs and the university's own poet Stanley Vestal.

—S. B.

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Read in Cosmopolitan

Betty Kirk, '26 journ., now a feature writer on the New York Telegram, met Ray Long, editor of Cosmopolitan magazine, Rex Beach and Irvin S. Cobb, exemplars of Izaak Walton and O. Henry, when the trio visited Oklahoma City a year ago. Betty interviewed the roving three and remarked about a short story she had written. All the readers of the Cosmopolitan Magazine for August agreed with Ray Long in accepting Betty's "An Ace Up Her Sleeve."

On the Telegram, Betty found that

a feature writer's life is filled with the pleasant and the unpleasant. Walter Lister, the city editor, taking cognizance of the worries of New Yorkers in hunting apartments, assigned Betty to spend a month apartment hunting.

Every type of apartment fell under her keen scrutiny—from a single bedroom with a gas jet operated from a meter which responds to the magic touch of a quarter, to the deluxe \$10,000 apartments on Park Lane. Her first article appeared on the front page of the Telegram.

Though a new "stunt" on the Telegram, it was not new to Betty, who had done a similar series for the Oklahoma News.

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A Word From the Secretary

(Continued from page 16)

to the university, to the alumni, and to the state.

"The other method of bringing the university into the daily lives of its alumni is through the establishment of a monthly or quarterly magazine."

The magazine is being established and will fulfill its mission. The success of the other functions of the University of Oklahoma Association depends entirely on your individual support.

Frank S. Cleckler,
Association Secretary.

SUGGESTIONS?



WITH the establishment of this magazine the University of Oklahoma Association is entering a new era of its existence.

Many who will receive the magazine are actively interested in alumni affairs and in the administration of the association.

The association office will be glad to receive any constructive suggestions

you may have in mind which in your opinion will assist this association in meeting its obligations to the university and to you. Any suggestions submitted which involve a major policy, will be submitted to a committee and will be given very careful consideration. This is your association and we want you to participate actively in it. Address your suggestions having reference to The Sooner Magazine to the editor, and those with reference to the functions or management of the University of Oklahoma Association to the general secretary, care, The University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma.

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For the Ill and Infirm

Christened Hygeia Hall, the new university infirmary nevertheless will function this year, in spite of the resurrection of the Greek classics and mythology to find a title. The building cost \$135,000, is three stories in height, the second floor being exclusively for boys, while girls must carry their cots a floor higher. An automatic elevator—one of those hospitalish kinds that move with deadly precision—has been installed. There is an operating room on the third floor. (Hygeia—in Greek mythology, the daughter of Aesculapius, personifying health.)

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Failure of Aubrey Kerr, elected last semester to be president of the student council, to return to school this fall, led to the selection of Bob Shelton, vice president, to be his successor.

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The University of California Alumni association in 1921 had an enrollment of 4,500 members. Now it has 20,000 who pay annual dues. Its magazine often carries as much as \$4,000 worth of local and national advertising.

Layton, Hicks and Forsyth

Architects

906 Braniff Bldg.

Oklahoma City, Okla.