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**SUNDOWN** by John Joseph Mathews, '20as, Longmans, Green and Company, New York, 1934. \$2.50.

**J**OE MATHEW'S first novel, *Sundown*, is a book that should be read during the quiet of long winter evenings, for the powerful spell it casts over the reader is most in rhythm with solitude and quiet reflection. Not that its potency would be lost at any other time of year, but its mood is most suited to fire-side reading.

It is the story of Chal Windzer, part Osage, part white, and his contacts with white civilization at a university, at a flying field during the World war and then again back at home. Unmistakably, the university setting is that of the University of Oklahoma campus where the author attended school and was a member of Kappa Alpha.

It is a wistful story, perhaps, and could not have been written by anyone except a person who must have lived many of its scenes. Every emotion expressed by the author is genuine. No place in its three hundred and twelve pages does it seem that there is an insincere emotion or over-drawn scene. The delineation of the character, Chal Windzer, is remarkably well handled and escapes the dangers of making him a hero or an utterly shiftless person.

He is able, to some extent, to adjust himself to white civilization where other Osages failed. His experiences as an aviator during training for the war gave him wings. From wings to the excitement of an Oklahoma oil boom, Chal is followed and then through the drab days that follow the boom.

The contacts with white civilization gave Chal something that prevents him from going back without reservation to the life of the Osages and yet there is enough in his composite character to prevent him from following the normal existence of white men. He is the Osage who is on the fringe of one civilization looking into another. Perhaps, he belongs to neither or to both.

*Sundown* is beautifully written as was Mr. Mathews' first book, *Wah'Kon-Tah*, published by the University of Oklahoma Press. The descriptive passages are like fine etchings, particularly those that are concerned with scenes of Oklahoma plains and streams.

Scenes about the campus and Norman also are penned with a keen sense for detail. The difficult task of attempting to picture phases of fraternity and student life is handled carefully enough to escape

most of the pitfalls writers of campus life are beset by.

The well nigh impossible task of showing campus life in full detail is not attempted by Mr. Mathews, perhaps, since the unrealness of student existence always seems to lack the realness of its unrealness. Mr. Mathews shows only the highlights and they are done with feeling.

*Sundown* should enjoy long popularity since it concerns a phase of American life that will never be repeated. As *Wah'Kon-Tah* was a spiritual history of the Osages, *Sundown* is an emotional history of the youth of the Osages as they pass through a transitional period that lends itself well to drama.

### Sooner Magazines Wanted

Back copies of *The Sooner Magazine* are wanted by the New York Public Library to complete its file of the Sooner alumni monthly, H. M. Lydenberg, director, has announced. Copies needed by the New York City library include all of volumes one, two and three and issues number one to nine of volume four. Title pages and indexes to volumes one to four and six also are needed.

"Do you think that among the many readers of your publication there are some who have saved their copies and who would be willing to present them to the New York public library on the understanding that the file would be taken care of and preserved permanently?" Lydenberg has asked. Issues mailed to the magazine office on the University campus will be sent directly to him with the name of the donor.

### Van Heflin in New Play

Van Heflin, '32as, was to appear in one of the leading roles in the mystery melodrama, "The Night Remembers," that was to open November 24 at the Playhouse in New York City.

According to the *New York Times*, Heflin headed a cast which included such stars as Mary Holsman, Howard Ferguson, Tom Morris, Vera Hurst and others.

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