

Belles Lettres and Bell Ringers

Southern Plainsmen, by Carl C. Rister. University of Oklahoma Press, 1938. \$3.00.

The lives of the southern plainsmen, differing sharply from the lives of people in other distinct regions of the United States, are described vividly in this new book which came from the University of Oklahoma Press in October.

Southern Plainsmen was written by Dr. Carl C. Rister, professor of history in the University, author of *Southwest Frontier, 1865-1881*, and, in collaboration with R. N. Richardson, of *The Greater Southwest*. He is a frequent contributor to periodicals.

The ways of life among the settlers of frontier regions from Colonial New England to the Mississippi, and of early Spanish

and subsequent white settlement of the Far West, have been described in numerous books.

But the folkways of the pioneers in the vast inland region extending from the Platte to the Rio Grande, and from the Mississippi to the Rockies, are less well known to readers. The absence of forests, the arid climate, the huge buffalo herds, the presence of Indians that often were hostile, and the development of the cattle industry resulted in a folkways pattern that is colorful and unique.

Dr. Rister has carefully studied a large amount of source material and has pictured authentically the lives of the southern plainsmen, as they were tied up together in the development of the Southwest.

A Sooner Prophet Is Honored at Home

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man's viewpoint, why shouldn't I know what women are thinking."

So it seems that Tulsa women's groups have unconsciously formed her laboratory for a long time. Mrs. Ferguson is now president of the Tulsa Symphony association. She holds membership in the Tulsa Peace council, the Town Hall council, the A. A. U. W., the Business and Professional Women's clubs, the alumni groups of Kappa Alpha Theta, the Panhellenic council, the League of Women Voters, a former president of the Y. W. C. A., member of Theta Sigma Phi, an informal group known as Tuesday Bridge club, and honorary member for Oklahoma of the American Women's association, the National Council for Prevention of War, the Oklahoma Historical Society, Tulsa Art association, and the Southwest Writers' conference.

Oh yes, and she is listed in Who's Who in America, and last November was named to the Oklahoma Hall of Fame at the statehood banquet in Oklahoma City.

She's proud she isn't like the New Yorker, to whom people have at last become meaningless—merely unidentified parts of a throbbing, monotonously-moving human mass.

On a recent visit to New York, she complained of the congested areas and of the crowded residential sections.

"Oh," said her host, "you would soon become accustomed to that. If you lived here long, those people would seem like so many trees to you."

"But," answered Mrs. Ferguson, "I don't ever want to feel that people are just 'so many trees.'"

And that's why Mrs. Ferguson stands today in the front rank of newspaperdom—because she takes time to know people. She found more inspiration for column material in the homely, simple lives of the general store owner and the farmer's wife and the

butcher back in Cherokee, Oklahoma, than she could have in sprawling, sophisticated New York City.

"And besides," she laughs, "you couldn't have the fun there that we have here."

To Mrs. Ferguson, the middle west is the real America. From here, she believes, will come the great social reforms that will mould the nation's tomorrow.

Mrs. Ferguson would rather be a good mother than have all the acclaim humanity might give her. It's true, her work has never suffered while she took time to practice "bring-up theories" on her two sons, Benton and Tommy, and daughter, Ruth. But it's just as true that those sons and that daughter haven't been forgotten a moment just because their mother is a "career woman."

Mrs. Ferguson's home is her office, and even though she's trying to read a book or dictate a letter or finish a column, she will always listen to anyone who drops in, her son or daughter, or a neighbor.

Benton, the eldest son, who attended the University of Oklahoma is a member of the advertising staff of the Texas Network, Fort Worth, Texas. He is married to the former Maxine Brown of Tulsa, and has one small daughter, Lucia Lee. Ruth, 21 years old, pretty, brown-eyed and blonde, attended the University of Oklahoma where she was a member of her mother's sorority, Kappa Alpha Theta, and this year graduated from the University of Tulsa. Tommy, 15, is in high school.

One book which Mrs. Ferguson treasures above many of the valuable volumes in her home is a big, bulging, blue scrapbook, filled with comically-illustrated poems which Benton has sent to her.

Tulsans have long known Mrs. Ferguson as a good mother and a good citizen. Now they're going to get acquainted with her as a newspaper columnist getting her stuff printed in her own home town!

A New Book For
Sooner Libraries—

Southern Plainsmen

by
Carl Coke Rister

Here is a colorful, readable new book by a University of Oklahoma Professor, which covers an important phase of Southwestern history. It tells about the picturesque life of the southern plainsmen, who led a life entirely different from the pioneers of any other region of the United States.

Hostile Indians, huge buffalo herds, droughts, cattle drives and other unique features of the early days on the southern plains region made every-day living an adventure.

Mr. Rister has described this kind of life in detail—gathering up the threads of source material in a way that no other author on the Southwest has ever done. The result is another fine book in the list of the University of Oklahoma Press. It is a book worthy of a place in every Oklahoman's personal library.

\$3.00

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