

Belles Lettres and Bell Ringers

Guthrie, Oklahoma's First Capital, by Gerald Forbes, University of Oklahoma Press, 1938. 25 cents.

FEW civic rivalries have developed so much drama, bitterness and excitement as the early-day struggle between Guthrie and Oklahoma City, first for territorial leadership and later for the state capitol.

Gerald Forbes, '36, '37ma, has told the story of this rivalry in interesting and comprehensive style in this latest volume of the Historic Oklahoma Series of the University of Oklahoma Press.

Previously published books in the series are *Fort Gibson: A Brief History*, and *Down the Texas Road*, both by Grant Foreman. The volumes are purposely small, paper-bound, and designed to sell for 25 cents so that they may be readily available to school children as well as adults.

By selecting a special facet of Oklahoma history that has particular interest, each volume of the series presents valuable historical material in an entertaining way. This series should prove of great value as supplementary reading in connection with formal history texts.

The rivalry between Oklahoma City and Guthrie dates back to 1887 when the Santa Fe railroad was extended from Newton, Kansas, to Purcell, Indian Territory, and Guthrie and Oklahoma City became names on a railroad map. When Oklahoma Territory was opened in 1889, both towns blossomed into virile competing communities. Guthrie took the leadership for a time, but its long defensive battle against the removal of the capitol to Oklahoma City was a losing one.

Oklahoma City's final victory is explained in Forbes' book as due to a combination of circumstances, one of the most important being the enterprise of Oklahoma City men in building the St. Louis and San Francisco railroad.

Occupational guidance

A comprehensive volume designed to aid young people in selection of an occupation, written by F. Lyman Tibbitts, '16, '19ma, has been published in an experimental edition by the Harlow Publishing Corporation, Oklahoma City. It is called *Occupational Guidance for Youth*.

Mr. Tibbitts who is director of the Psychological Guidance Center at the University of Oklahoma, has approached occupational guidance as a science and has organized the material in this field in orderly, usable fashion.

Divisions of the book indicate the nature of the material: Part I, First Steps in Choosing Your Occupation; Part II, Occupations of Primary Production;

Part III, Occupations of Conversion and Repair; Part IV, Occupations of Distribution; Part V, Occupations of Social Co-ordination and Control; Part VI, Occupations of Home Extension; Part VII, Occupations of Fine and Recreational Arts; and Part VIII, Clerical Occupations.

Mr. Tibbitts explains that selection of an occupation should be guided chiefly by four general factors: interest, ability, personality, and opportunity. He gives samples of "profile charts" used by the Psychological Guidance Center for rating individuals on a basis of various specific factors to be considered in making a recommendation for choice of occupation.

In view of the widespread unemployment of recent years, a book such as this one should be of definite usefulness to young people and also to parents who want to give good advice to their children on choice of a life work.

The young person who finds an occupation to which he is well suited by natural ability and personality is much more likely to be happy than one who drifts into a type of work he is not fitted for or perhaps endeavors to make good in a profession for which he is not qualified and is foredoomed to failure.

Occupational Guidance for Youth appears to be a constructive and needed book.

Blackstone catalog

Catherine Spicer Eller, '28, assistant cataloguer in the Yale University Law library, has edited and compiled a bibliographical catalogue of editions and abridgments of Blackstone's *Commentaries*.

A review published in the *New York Times* comments that the catalog "will prove of inestimable value to students."

The catalog contains full descriptions of 271 separately printed works, and is a careful, studied piece of work, based upon actual examination of each book on the list.

"An excellent summary of the catalog is provided by the introduction, and the text is enlivened with historical and bibliographical notes appended to the separate entries," the reviewer states. "The catalog abounds in odd bits of precise data of an illuminating character."

Botkin's leave extended

Dr. B. A. Botkin, associate professor of English, has been granted an extension of his leave of absence for an additional year in order for him to serve as director of a nation-wide folklore study for the Federal Writers' Project. Dr. Botkin, whose headquarters will be in Washington, D. C., will be in charge of the work of several thousand persons, and will plan and edit the material.

"The most distinguished series of books ever published by any university press"

That's the superlative praise that has been given the CIVILIZATION OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN SERIES published by the University of Oklahoma Press. Every Oklahoman who loves books and loves Oklahoma will be proud to own the books in this series.

The Indian Civilization Series

Forgotten Frontiers: A Study of the Spanish Indian Policy of Don Juan Bautista de Anza, governor of New Mexico, 1777-1787, edited and annotated by Alfred Barnaby Thomas.

Indian Removal: The Emigration of the Five Civilized Tribes of Indians, by Grant Foreman. Now out of print.

Wah'Kon-Tah: The Osage and the White Man's Road, by John Joseph Mathews. A Book-of-the-Month Club selection.

Advancing the Frontier, 1830-1860, by Grant Foreman.

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