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Summer

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PLEASE PRINT

Belles Lettres and Bell Ringers

Brazos, by Ross McLaury Taylor, Bobbs-Merrill Company, Indianapolis, 1938. \$2.00

THE color and adventure of the declining days of the cattle industry in the Southwest have been woven into a substantial historical novel by Ross McLaury Taylor, '30, '33.

Brazos Bolton, native Texan, cuts his home ties and starts out to "see-roundabouts" as the story opens. Bewildered at first by the confusion and violence and crudeness of the fast-growing world that he had previously known little about, he soon has a chance to do a man's work and he matures rapidly.

He helps drive a herd of cattle north to Dodge City, and he meets Indian bands, cattle thieves, swindlers, honky-tonk women—all the motley population of the cowtowns and prairies. He helps push a railroad across the plains of Texas.

Through violence and hardships, he never loses a feeling for the beauty of the cow country's red soil and rolling plains, and his romance with Mary Sullivan, although beset with difficulties, reaches its culmination without any disillusionment.

The book shows the results of careful research, and a good understanding of the spirit of the Southwest by the author.

Ross Taylor was born in 1909 at Snyder, Oklahoma, of Texan parents. He did his first writing when he was still in grade school and through his early college years at O.U., but one day, in a mood of deep depression, he gathered all of what he had written together and burned it.

But he continued to write, and began to get some of it published, in the *Christian Science Monitor* and *American Prefaces*. *Brazos* is his first novel, however.

After receiving his B.A. degree from the University of Oklahoma, Mr. Taylor spent a year at Harvard taking special work in creative writing under Robert Hillyer. Then he returned to Oklahoma and received a master's degree in 1933. Recently he has been working toward a Ph.D. degree at the University of Iowa.

From 1934 to 1936 Mr. Taylor was assistant professor of English and director of dramatics at Centre College in Danville, Kentucky.

In 1934 he married Elizabeth Brooks, '33ma, daughter of Stratton D. Brooks, former president of the University of Oklahoma. They have one son, Brooks McLaury Taylor.

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More in journalism work

An increase of nine per cent in the number of former students and graduates of the University School of Journalism engaged in work on newspapers and



Ross McLaury Taylor, '30, '33ma

in other journalistic activities is reported in the annual survey compiled by *Sooner State Press*.

The number of alumni and former students of the various journalistic fields was listed as follows: editors and owners, editors, 39; managers and owners, managers, 13; trade journal, house organ editors, 10; managing editors, news executives, 18; editorial writers, special writers, columnists, 6; advertising managers, executives, 19; city editors, desk workers, 17; society and departmental editors, 17; sports writers and editors, 9; reporters, 44; correspondents, 9; A. P., U. P., I. N. S. employes, 20; magazine, trade journal and free lance writers, 28; advertising salesmen; copywriters, 31; college journalism teachers, 10; high school journalism teachers, 10; publicity writers and directors, 13; newspaper association employes, 3; radio news broadcasters, continuity writers, radio editors, 7; promotion department workers, 3; newspaper librarians and office employes, 7; print-shop owners; printing salesmen, 9; mechanical employes, 6; press photographers, 5.

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