

University of Oklahoma Press



Books from Norman about the Southwest

One of the easiest ways to spend a decade or two among the settlers in the Southwest, is to spend an evening or two with Carl Coke Rister's new book, *SOUTHERN PLAINSMEN*. Taking that vast inland empire that lies between the Mississippi and the Rockies, and the Rivers Platte and Rio Grande for his backdrop, Mr. Rister tells of the drama enacted the early days of settlement. Here was a country that because of its aridity, lack of trees and waterways, its problems of transport, its quick settlement, millions of buffalo and other game, trail herds, and cowboys, developed a culture and way of life unlike any other region in America. It is a story of frontier law, medicine, teaching, Indian fighting, home life, and social customs all of which gave birth to the hardy, tolerant, drawling individual known as the southern plainsman, a man whose descendants today still show these influences. *SOUTHERN PLAINSMEN* is recommended by the Book-of-the-Month Club to its thousands of subscribers. *The Christian Science Monitor* says, "Readers in general should be grateful to find in one volume a bird's-eye view of one of the most fascinating regions in North America."

Have you seen Gerald Forbes' new pocket-sized edition of *GUTHRIE: OKLAHOMA'S FIRST CAPITAL*? It contains the amazing story of the rivalry between Guthrie and Oklahoma City for the site of the state capital. It was a genuine fight while it lasted, and one which could only have happened here—in the politics of early Oklahoma statehood.

America's greatest inspirational story, perhaps, concerns Sequoyah, an Oklahoman and a Cherokee, whose statue is now in the Hall of Fame. Illiterate, and not even speaking English, he is the only known man in history who invented an alphabet. With this syllabary the whole Cherokee Nation were able to write within an incredibly short time. More than thirteen million printed pages were produced in

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If you are a book collector, and we hope that you are, *A HANDBOOK OF OKLAHOMA WRITERS* offers you the chance of a lifetime as a book upon which to found an Oklahoma shelf for your library. It is written by Mary Hays Marable and Elaine Boylan and contains bibliographies and biographies of all your literary friends—Kenneth Kaufman, Stanley Vestal, George Milburn, Robert Whitehand, Lynn Riggs, Will Rogers, Harold Keith, and many others, some of whom you didn't know had published. Ready in March.

Cherokee at the Union Mission and Park Hill Press as a result of Sequoyah's invention. Incidentally, Grant Foreman's *SEQUOYAH* is the first complete life, and he proves rather conclusively that this genius (who was also known as George Guess) was the son of Nathaniel Gist, a revolutionary officer and a friend of George Washington.

In 1852, two young Army officers, fresh from service in the Mexican War, started an exploration which was to be filled with high adventure in an effort to discover the headwaters of the Red River. The subsequent report, written in journal form, published by the Government, was a best selling government document for years. Grant Foreman, in *ADVENTURE ON RED RIVER*, has annotated and edited this journal of Captain Randolph B. Marcy and Captain George B. McClelland and it becomes one of the most lucid and readable of early comments on Oklahoma and northern Texas. It is a day-by-day account of the progress of a body of men through a hunter's paradise in a country never before explored. One of its most unusual hunting yarns concerns John Bushman, their Delaware guide:

"John Bushman, our interpreter, was much surprised today, on calling a doe towards him with a deer-bleat, to see a small fawn following after its mother; but imagine his astonishment, when immediately behind the fawn came a huge panther bounding rapidly towards him, and in a twinkling he fastened his claws in the vitals of his victim. He, however, in this instance, caught a tartar, and paid dearly for his temerity, as John, with a spirit of indignation that would have done credit to the better feelings of any man, raised his rifle, and, instead of killing the deer, which was entirely

at his mercy, planted the contents in the side of the panther.

"The method of hunting deer by the use of the bleat is practiced extensively by the Delawares in this country, and with great success."

February tenth will see the publication of Grant Foreman's *MARCY AND THE GOLD SEEKERS*—a second volume of Captain Marcy's experiences in the Southwest. It is a chronicle of Marcy's patrol of Indian Territory on the southern route to the gold fields in 1849. Almost as important as the Santa Fe trail, and the route through Salt Lake, the southern route has received much less attention than it deserves. This account establishes both its importance and its interest in westward migration.

Also recommended by the Book-of-the-Month Club, are—Richmond Croom Beatty's *LORD MACAULAY: Victorian Liberal*, a life of the statesman who led a nineteenth century fight for reform in England, yet could see no future for the American form of republican democracy. He was a man of letters whom you will probably remember best for his "Horatio at the Bridge,"—and, *MCGILLIVRAY OF THE CREEKS*, by John Walton Caughey, the life of a half-Scotch Creek who was one of the greatest and yet one of the most mysterious of Indian leaders. Theodore Roosevelt said that it was due to the "consummate craft" of Alexander McGillivray that the Creeks were able to withstand white aggression better than any other native race.

Such are the new regional offerings from Norman. If there is no bookstore in your community you may order direct from the University of Oklahoma Press, Norman. The new postage rate is only 1½ cents per pound.

Rister. <i>Southern Plainsmen</i>	\$3.00
Marable and Boylan. <i>A Handbook of Oklahoma Writers</i>	2.50
Forbes. <i>Guthrie, Oklahoma's First Capital</i>	0.25
Foreman. <i>Sequoyah</i>	1.50
Foreman. <i>Adventure on Red River</i>	2.50
Foreman. <i>Marcy and the Gold Seekers</i>	3.00
Caughey. <i>McGillivray of the Creeks</i>	3.50
Beatty. <i>Lord Macaulay: Victorian Liberal</i>	3.00

The University of Oklahoma

William Bennett Bizzell, President



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