

Oklahoma Books and Writers

Border Captives, by Carl Coke Rister. University of Oklahoma Press, 1940. \$2.00.

THE clash of white civilization with the southern plains Indians when the frontier was being steadily pushed southwestward was full of tragedy and violence. Probably the most heartbreaking phase of this struggle was the Indian practice, during the period 1835 to 1875, of kidnapping white women and children for ransom.

In *Border Captives*, Carl Coke Rister has presented a factual study of the captive traffic and the consequent bitter relations between the Indian tribes and white settlers.

He recognizes that the Comanches, Kiowas and associated tribesmen considered horse stealing, the killing and scalping of settlers, and the capture of white women and children a mark of valor. At the same time, the savage way in which captives were frequently treated aroused horror among the white settlers and caused them to be antagonistic to all Indians.

The book, therefore, does not seek to condemn or to condone, but presents the picture as the records show it.

As a matter of fact, the traffic in captives was aided more than a little by some of the frontier traders who acted as middle men in procuring ransom from relatives for the release of captive white women and children. Since practically all the money the Indians received in ransom profits was spent for guns and ammunition and food staples handled by the traders, the community of interest in the kidnaping "racket" is at once apparent.

For a time, Indians were reported as saying that the stealing of white women was more profitable than stealing horses.

Mr. Rister cannot, of course, catalog all the cases of kidnapping by the Indians, but he gives details about enough typical cases to give the reader an understanding of what was happening. And although the book is intended to deal only with a single phase of history in the southern plains, he sketches in enough background to make his story rounded and satisfying.

Well illustrated with pictures and maps, and issued in attractive format, *Border Captives* is a valuable addition to the recorded history of the southwest.

Mr. Rister, professor of history in the University of Oklahoma, is author of *Southern Plainsmen* published by the University of Oklahoma Press, *The Southwestern Frontier, 1865-1881*, and in collaboration with R. N. Richardson, *The Greater Southwest*.

Sooner Writers

Mrs. Gladys Davis LaVance, '34ed, who recently has been the popular singing cow-girl on the NBC "Songs and Stories of the

West" program, is turning to a writing career. She has written a new series of juvenile stories called *Stars in the Skies*. This summer she plans to return to the New York World's Fair, where last summer she was head hostess in the Ford Building ... Elgin Groseclose, '20, has received a \$1,000 award for his novel *Ararat*, from the Friends of American Writers. The award was presented before a distinguished literary gathering at Chicago. Dr. Groseclose is an economist in the Treasury Department at Washington, D. C., but spends his evenings writing.

... Gladys A. Barnes, assistant professor of Spanish in the University, is completing material for a book on the effects of the English language on Spanish, and Spanish on English. Miss Barnes has gathered material by visiting schools, reading newspapers, listening to radio broadcasts, and interviewing individuals during her extensive travels in border regions where the two languages have mingled ... An article by Dr. Maurice Halperin, associate professor of Romance languages, on "Maya Land" appeared in a recent issue of *Woman's Home Companion*.



Regional Geologist

Dr. Ross A. Maxwell, '29geol, '31ms, has received a promotion from National Park Service junior geologist at Austin, Texas, to regional geologist with headquarters in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He is now in charge of geological park work in eight states.

He succeeds Dr. Charles N. Gould, former director of the Oklahoma Geological Survey.

This new position climaxes a chain of advancements for Dr. Maxwell, which began with his first job as assistant instructor at the University of Oklahoma in a summer field course. He taught geological mapping.

After receiving his bachelor's and master's degrees from O.U., he earned the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, in 1936. From Evanston he went directly to the park service at Austin.

NYA Recreation Director

A former University track and football star, Ab Walker, '33phys.ed, has been named recreation director for the National Youth Administration in Oklahoma. His appointment was made by Bruce Carter, '32ma, new state head of NYA.

After graduating, Mr. Walker was football, basketball and track coach at Okmulgee for several years.

A member of Phi Delta Theta social fraternity, he was a first-string backfield man on the Sooner football teams of '31 and '32 and represented the University track team in broad jump in '32.

Notable Books!

by men you know

A stimulating list of books by University of Oklahoma faculty members, many of which were published by the University Press.

BORDER CAPTIVES

By C. C. Rister. A highly readable, authentic account of the kidnaping traffic of the southern plains Indians. University of Oklahoma Press. \$2.00

THE FORMATION OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

By Roy Gittinger. The definitive history of Oklahoma's origins. University of Oklahoma Press. \$2.50

THROUGH THE DIPLOMATIC LOOKING GLASS

By Oliver Benson. A clear and unbiased explanation of the diplomatic maneuvers leading up to World War II. University of Oklahoma Press. \$2.00

CITY BEGINNINGS IN OKLAHOMA

By John Alley. Colorful sketches of the overnight development of leading cities that were founded at the opening of Oklahoma Territory. University of Oklahoma Press. \$1.50

HANDBOOK OF OKLAHOMA WRITERS

By Mary Hays Marable and Elaine Boylan. A comprehensive directory, with numerous biographical sketches, of Oklahomans in the literary field. University of Oklahoma Press. \$2.50

LEVEL LAND

A new edition of popular poems by Kenneth Kaufman, Oklahoma's leading literary critic. Kaleidograph Press, Dallas, Texas. \$1.50

CHEROKEE CAVALIERS

By E. E. Dale and Gaston Litton. The story of the greatest statesmen in Indian history, and the strife within the Cherokee Tribe over removal to the west. University of Oklahoma Press. \$3.00

PROPAGANDA FOR WAR

By H. C. Peterson. The startling, factual account of how deliberate propaganda influenced the public of the United States toward war in 1917. Recognized as one of the ten nationally important books of last year. University of Oklahoma Press. \$3.00

FANDANGO

By Stanley Vestal (W. S. Campbell). Western verse by a man who is thoroughly at home in this field. Houghton-Mifflin. \$1.75

SOUTHERN PLAINSMEN

By C. C. Rister. A comprehensive book giving a well rounded picture of what every-day life was like for the settlers who pushed the frontier into the Southwest. University of Oklahoma Press. \$3.00

EARLY DAYS AMONG THE CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHOE INDIANS

By John H. Seger, edited by Stanley Vestal. An unusually readable book of reminiscences about early-day contacts of whites and Indians in southwestern Oklahoma Territory. University of Oklahoma Press. \$2.00

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