



*The upper left picture is of Frank Phillips—thoroughly at home in the saddle. Right, above, a view of the Phillips Museum, and below it, Woolaroc Lodge. Left below, Dr. E. E. Dale of the University History Department points out some interesting items in the Phillips Historical Collection in the University Library.*

# Making the West Live Forever

By Grace Ernestine Ray

**Frank Phillips, Who Made Possible O.U.'s Fine Collection of Southwestern History, Really Loves His Western Lore**

ON November 28, 1873, one of the first white children in Greeley County, Nebraska, was born in a hewn-log cabin. Today he is famous and wealthy, but he spends his leisure in a log cabin near Bartlesville which is in part a replica of the house where he was born and christened Frank Phillips sixty-six years ago. This cabin retreat, which is named Woolaroc Lodge, is on his FP Ranch in the Osage Hills, where he also maintains his Woolaroc Museum. Here, in addition to operating a commercial ranching enterprise, he is preserving the atmosphere of the Old

West when buffalo roamed the plains and cowpunchers rode the range.

Although he is active as chairman of the board of the Phillips Petroleum Company, he has an important side-line interest, that of western history. He has volunteered to fill one of the principal roles in the preservation of the history of the Southwest, of Oklahoma and Indian Territory in particular.

One of his contributions is a money gift of \$20,000 to the University of Oklahoma which has been used in the collection and purchase of about 75,000 historical docu-

ments which otherwise would have perished or been stored away in private homes where historians could not have access to them. Students working toward advanced degrees in history, as well as those doing undergraduate work, use the Phillips collection in their research. A doctor's dissertation based upon this material won a national honor, the Dunning prize in history awarded by the American Historical Association. This dissertation, entitled *The Rise and Fall of the Choctaw Republic*, was written by Miss Angie Debo.

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## Making the West Live Forever

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"Such national recognition could probably not have been won by a University of Oklahoma student without the original sources in the Phillips collection," commented Dr. E. E. Dale, '11, head of the department of history in the University of Oklahoma, and a well-known author.

A new book released this winter by the University of Oklahoma Press is based upon the Phillips documents. It is *The Cherokee Cavaliers*, written by Dr. Dale. Other noted Oklahoma writers, such as John Oskison of Vinita, and Stanley Vestal of the University, have found hitherto unpublished information of value in these files. The entire country and all posterity will reap the benefit of the preservation of this history. Authors from other states come and use it because it is the best collection of documents ever assembled anywhere on certain phases of the history of the Southwest. This winter an author came out from New York to do research in the collection.

These documents, which include letters, legal papers, pamphlets, posters, books, photographs and negatives, have been collected and indexed under direction of Dr. Dale and Dr. M. L. Wardell, '19, also a professor of history in the University. Musty cellars and dusty garrets in various parts of the state have yielded their harvest of history. A few recent additions to the collection include books in the Creek Indian language; a history of the life of W. S. Robertson, who was head of the Tullahassee Mission, and who was the father of Miss Alice Robertson, congresswoman; letters of Ann Eliza Worcester, wife of W. S. Robertson and daughter of Samuel Austin Worcester, who printed the Cherokee Almanac in 1835; and a file of letters of J. B. A. Robertson, former governor.

"Among the unusual documents filed in the collection are six extremely rare copies of the Cherokee Almanac, which was the first annual publication in Indian Territory," Dr. Dale explained. "Others include Stand Watie's commission as brigadier-general issued in 1864 and his Masonic certificate issued in Washington, D.C. in 1846; the letters of Elias C. Boudinot; Captain Payne's broadside advocating settlement of the Territory; a copy of Albert Pike's treaty with the Cherokees.

Mr. Phillips is famous throughout the country for his support of Boy Scouts. He contributes, by means of the Frank Phillips Foundation, between \$30,000 and \$50,000 a month for the purpose of widening the Boy Scout movement, because he believes in character-building organizations.

Besides his contribution to history students in the University of Oklahoma, he has aided another group in the University. He recently gave a substantial sum to the anthropology department to be used in re-

search work and excavations among the prehistoric Indian sites in Oklahoma, of which there are several promising locations. Dr. Forrest E. Clements, professor of anthropology, and his students have already added to the knowledge of science regarding the history of man, through relics taken from the Spiro Mound burial sites. Some of the most valuable specimens found in the United States have been uncovered in Oklahoma.

Generosity and an interest in people, which are outstanding qualities of Mr. Phillips, prompt him to open to the public his Woolaroc Lodge and museum near Bartlesville, although this is his country retreat and he probably desires some privacy. By supervised visits under direction of guides, the general public learns something of the history of Oklahoma and the Southwest.

Escorted around by gay-clad cowboys in high-heeled boots, one may even hear some of those tall tales for which the knights of the range are famous. Mr. Phillips himself, tall and slender in riding clothes, may clump around in cowboy boots, and give you a mischievous earful. One of the Woolaroc wranglers spun the following yarn for us:

"Once when the water was too low here on the ranch to run over the dam, the boss told me he was expecting important guests for an hour or so, and he wished I'd just hide above with a tub and dip enough water to keep a small stream running over the dam to make it realistic while they were here. I did, and if those blasted visitors didn't stay two days! I wore that tub out."

**T**HE first time I visited Woolaroc we were gazing at the love birds and pheasants in their cages when I heard another visitor say:

"A monkey has escaped! They're trying to catch it."

"I didn't know they had monkeys here," I said to my sister who lives in Bartlesville.

"You can find anything here," she said. "If you think of something you'd like to see, just name it—it's probably here," she invited.

"I've never seen buffalo," I suggested eagerly.

And then I found that by following the winding driveways through the 4,000 acres, you may see not only buffalo but Indian teepees, prairie schooners and native Oklahoma deer leaping between the trees or tamely grazing beside paths where crowds of visitors pass. On rocky slopes and projecting ledges, you may see mountain goats posing picturesquely. And, as you drive around a bend through a grove of trees on the way to the lodge, you will get a shocking greeting from grim skeletons of by-gone cattle—each skeleton mounted neatly on the trunk of a live tree at the height of a standing cow. This little added touch is a product of Mr. Phillips' ready sense of humor.

The lodge-residence has one of the best collections of mounted animal heads and horns in the world. The paintings depicting Indian and pioneer life from one of the most complete groups of pictures of this kind in the Middle West. Mr. Phillips is the only white man who was ever adopted into the Osage Indian tribe. At the door of the museum is found this inscription which he wrote:

"Dedicated to the Osage Tribe of Indians, various organizations, and many good friends who have honored me with emblems and tokens making this collection possible."

His sense of humor lends attractiveness to Mr. Phillips' personality. This prompted him to help organize as a joke the "Outlaws and Cow-Thieves Association," composed of leading Bartlesville citizens and old-time Oklahoma cattlemen. A large photograph of this group hangs on the museum wall. The museum building is constructed of native stone procured on the ranch, and it is built to stand for many generations. The four large chandeliers in the building hung for nearly fifty years in the reading room of the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City. Mr. Phillips facetiously remarks that they are probably the most expensive light fixtures in the world, as they are about all he has left of his investment in the old Waldorf-Astoria building, which was torn down and replaced by the Empire State building.

Although the museum's contents represent, for the most part, relics and exhibits typical of early Indian life and pioneer Oklahoma, it also contains a variety of articles from all over the world. One of the most important exhibits is the Woolaroc airplane, which was purchased by Mr. Phillips for Col. Arthur C. Goebel, who with Lieut. W. V. Davis as radio operator and navigator, won the Dole race from Oakland, California, to Hawaii in 1927, landing in Hawaii in 26 hours, 17 minutes. In this race eight planes set out from Oakland, but only two reached their destination. About 15 people lost their lives in this flight.

On one of the walls is the famous painting, "The Run," by John Noble, portraying the opening of the Cherokee Strip in 1893. Among the thousands of objects to be found on display, the most interesting included a Dinosaur egg that is more than 95 million years old which was presented by Dr. Roy Chapman Andrews; prehistoric objects and fabrics excavated in Peru by Mr. Phillips' son, Mr. John G. Phillips; and shrunken human heads from Central America.

Of course the museum is replete with trophies of the Old West, such as chuck wagons, firearms, bows and arrows, Indian costumes, and the 101 Ranch saddle, which is valued at many thousand dollars.

An addition to the museum building, which will increase its ample space to one and one-half times the present size, will be completed sometime in the near future,

and Mr. Phillips already has numerous trophies ready to display in it. He seems to be a natural-born collector.

The FP Ranch, Woolaroc Lodge and Museum are located in an interesting historical setting. The word "Woolaroc" means woods, lakes and rocks, and it was originally the home of Osage Indians who were moved by the federal government in 1871 from Kansas to the Osage Nation reservation in what is now Osage County. Herds of cattle grazed there, and it was a favorite deer hunting ground for both whites and Indians. Then it became an outlaw hangout, and a favorite retreat for desperadoes and cattle thieves. Making the location still more interesting, prehistoric village sites have recently been discovered within the ranch boundaries, and various implements such as grain grinders and crude utensils were dug out and placed in the museum.

In the wild setting of ravines and trees graze herds of elk, buffalo, wild turkey,



## Oklahoma Books and Writers

TO some alumni it will seem only a few years ago that Dr. W. B. Bizzell brought Joe Brandt from the *Tulsa Tribune* to the University of Oklahoma campus and gave him the task of establishing a University Press. As a matter of fact, it was little more than a decade ago.

Yet last month the Press issued Volume 19 of its Civilization of the American Indian Series—and this series, of course, represents only a portion of the entire list published by the Press, a list that will probably reach one hundred before the University's semi-centennial.

No. 19 in the Indian series is *Cherokee Cavaliers*, by Edward Everett Dale, '11, head of the University history department, with collaboration of Gaston Litton, '34 lib.sci, a member of the staff of the National Archives at Washington, D.C.

This new volume tells the story of forty years of Cherokee history as related in the correspondence of the Ridge-Watie-Boudinot family, and in these personal letters we find the heartaches and the triumphs, the humor and the philosophies of these Indian cavaliers.

Two hundred letters are presented in the book, most of them selected from a collection of two thousand now in the Frank Phillips Collection of Southwestern History at the University. Except for minor punctuation and editing necessary for clarification, the letters are presented exactly as written, although they are generously annotated in order to preserve the continuity and make them thoroughly intelligible even to persons not familiar with the background of Cherokee tribal history.

The letters deal with the period of Cherokee removal from Georgia to Indian Territory and the ensuing thirty years of fac-

water buffalo, zebras, brahma cattle, and African blue gnu. There are about 1400 head of deer, including white fallow and other varieties.

Wild waterfowl alight on the lakes. Peacocks, cranes, swans, ducks, pheasants, prairie chickens and geese have the freedom of inclosures. Stables of purebred horses are kept by Mr. Phillips, who still likes to ride horseback. Perhaps this diverting outdoor exercise accounts for his keen mind and his ability to work long hours, even though he has passed his sixty-sixth birthday. His room at the ranch has rows of riding boots, both military and the high-heeled cowboy style. He also has a dairy of sleek Holstein milk producers, a meat packing plant, and poultry yards.

This man was first a pioneer farmer of the West, and he likes to surround himself with the real rural life of today as well as the atmosphere of the Old West that is dead except where philanthropists such as himself preserve it.

tional strife and turmoil within the tribe.

The book is a worthy addition to the Indian Civilization series. The price is \$3.00.



### Textbook writer

A few years ago when the Texas public school system faced the new requirement of devoting thirty minutes a day to health instruction, Dorothy Nell Whaley, '27, was struck by the thought that there was no adequate text to use for this kind of instruction in the lower grades.

Physiology and health textbooks were written mostly for high school or the upper levels of grade schools.

Her own teaching field was high school English, but she knew something about small children too. So she went to work and produced two health readers, *A Holiday With Betty Jack* for the second grade and *The Land of Happy Days* for the third grade. Both have been adopted as textbooks for Texas schools, and one of them has already sold 77,000 copies.

The books are sold in New England, in Chicago, in Pennsylvania, and many other places. Doubleday Doran is the publisher.

Miss Whaley has sold newspaper and magazine features, writes book reviews for the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, and is correspondent for the *Southwest Musician*, Arlington, Texas.

She has been in the Fort Worth public school system for six years and is now English teacher in Paschal High School.

After receiving her bachelor's degree from O.U., Miss Whaley earned a master's degree from Columbia University, New York, and has done graduate work at the University of Texas, Austin.

## BOOKS by and for Oklahomans

### Through the Diplomatic Looking-Glass

By Oliver E. Benson, a member of the University of Oklahoma government faculty and a graduate of O.U. A dramatic and revealing description of the immediate origins of the war in Europe. A fast-moving, keenly-written account of the year between Munich and Poland, by an expert in the field of international relations. \$2.00

### The Formation of the State of Oklahoma

By Dr. Roy Gittinger, a graduate of O. U., now dean of admission at the University. A book recognized as the definitive study on the development of Oklahoma. Covers Indian Territory from the Louisiana Purchase in 1803 until statehood. \$2.50

### Cherokee Cavaliers

By E.E. Dale and Gaston Litton—two Sooner alumni. A choice collection of two hundred letters telling in the Indians' own words the story of a forty-year period in the history of the old Cherokee Nation. This volume is the nineteenth in the Civilization of the American Indian Series of the University of Oklahoma Press. \$3.00

### City Beginnings

By John Alley, a Kingfisher alumnus and head of the O.U. government department. The unique story of the rapid growth of Oklahoma City, Kingfisher, Stillwater, El Reno, Norman and other towns and cities of central Oklahoma after the run of 1889. \$1.50

### Propaganda for War

By H.C. Peterson, of the University's government faculty. The fast-selling account of the "Campaign Against American Neutrality, 1914-1917." The facts about how America drifted into the World War and a warning against how it might happen again. Selected by several authoritative boards as one of the outstanding books of 1939. \$3.00

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