

Oklahoma Books

WHEN AN able historian combines wide information, a sense of humor, first-hand experience of his subject, and a genuine, life-long enthusiasm for the kind of the life and the kind of people he is writing about—the reader can expect something unusual-ly fine.

And *Cow Country*, by Edward Everett Dale, '11ba, long-time head of the University's history department, is just the kind of meaty, flavorsome book that friends of this salty professor would expect.

Just published by the University of Oklahoma Press, *Cow Country* is based on material which Ed Dale has used in essays and lectures. Somewhat less scholarly and factual than his *Range Cattle Industry* (University of Oklahoma Press, 1930), this new book gives a broad, many-sided picture of the cow country and the people who lived in it.

Ed Dale was raised in Texas, learned to be a cow puncher in Texas and in old Greer county, and operated his own cattle ranch for five years before turning school teacher.

Since then he has accumulated a doctor's degree from Harvard University, a Phi Beta Kappa key, membership in Acacia fraternity, the Boston Authors Club, member of the Indian Survey Commission that visited all Indian Reservations, is a trustee of the Frank Phillips Historical Collection, is active in most of the historical associations, has taught summer courses at many lead-

ing universities, and had turned out about a dozen books.

Some of the best known books are *Territorial Acquisitions of the United States*, *Tales of the Teepee*, *Letters of LaFayette*, *Frontier Trails and Cherokee Cavaliers*. *The Range Cattle Industry*, written after a year as research collaborator in the United States Bureau of Agriculture, is now a collector's item, bringing premium prices.

In spite of these solid, scholarly achievements, Ed Dale doesn't look the part of a professor. His weathered face appears accustomed to the winds of the Great Plains, and his pungent manner of speaking is equally appropriate for the lecture platform or the side of a camp fire.

Because he has had a life-long enthusiasm for all the interesting phases of the cow country, he is able to tell his story in the new book in a lively manner.

The period that he describes was the comparatively short time between the end of the Civil War and the fencing of the free range in the late eighteen eighties. The country, the "empire of grass," extended from the Rio Grande to the Canadian border, and west to the base of the Rockies.

It was in this time and this place that the tradition of the western cow country—a potent influence on American culture—had its development.

Chapter headings illustrated with pen sketches by Richard G. Underwood add character to the book.

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(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 30)

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Edward Everett Dale's

Cow Country

\$2.75

"Edward Everett Dale has been a top hand for a good while in writing about the range. *Cow Country* is certainly his climax. His *Range Cattle Industry* (now out-of-print, a collector's item) gave the economic side; *Cow Country* gives the human side, with interpretations both wise and mellow. It is a delicious and meaty blend of the knowledge mastered by Dale the historian and of an easy intimacy with the subject acquired by Dale the man while he rode horseback over grass, bached in a dugout and owned his own cows. The two chapters 'Riders of the Range' and 'The Humor of the Cowboy' have more bully anecdotes than any other chapters, with the possible exception of Charles Russell's, ever printed. A historian without a sense of humor can't possibly tell the truth about human beings. Dale's humor and humanity make him the grass roots historian."—J. FRANK DOBIE.

A VERY SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Book Exchange has a very limited number of copies of *The Range Cattle Industry*, mentioned above. This collector's item is a classic for any westerner's shelf. It is probably the best account of the business of cattle ranching during the sixties, seventies, and eighties. Mint copies. \$8.00 (The book has brought much more on the rare book market.) Limited! Orders will be filled, in order, as received.

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