

Oklahoma Books and Authors

THE first complete history of the Creek Indian tribe, *The Road to Disappearance*, written by one of Oklahoma's best known historians and authors, Angie Debo, '18ba, '33ph.d, has been released by the University of Oklahoma Press as another volume in its series on the Civilization of the American Indian. (\$3.50.)

Two hundred years ago when the white man had secured only a slight foothold on the North American continent the great Creek Confederacy flourished under the reign of native law on land which now comprises for the most part, the states of Alabama and Georgia.

From this beginning, Miss Debo traces the tragic history and gradual movement westward of the tribe. Today, the progressive laws and customs of the Creeks have been assimilated into the American, but the influence of these Indians, Miss Debo feels, will remain long after their language is dead.

The story is that of a proud, once-powerful people. The reputation of the Creeks as warriors and diplomats, during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, extended to the most distant reaches of the Indian country. Outnumbered by the white men, whose growing greed for land forced their removal westward, they tried to establish a new home in the wilderness beyond the Mississippi.

No sooner had the Creeks begun rebuilding their shattered nation than they were again encircled by the encroaching white man. They were faced, moreover, with internal political strife, and split by the sectionalism of the Civil War. Despite these handicaps and adversities, Miss Debo tells how they maintained their native culture until final dissolution of the tribe by the Dawes Act.

Her book is the story of a minority people, clinging against all odds to native custom, language, and institution. She tells in an interesting manner of the internal structure of the Creek nation giving detailed description of its folklore, religion, politics, wars and social life. The reader also learns about the important Creek leaders, many of whom had a part in early Oklahoma history.

There is perhaps no person better qualified to write such a book than Miss Debo. Within the past year, her contributions to Oklahoma literature include *And Still the Waters Run*, a historical book on the Five Civilized Tribes, and her work as co-editor with John Oskison, of *Oklahoma: A Guide to the Sooner State* for the American Guide Series of the Federal Writer's Project.

Miss Debo was reared and attended school in Marshall, Oklahoma, where she made a first-hand acquaintance with Indian folkways and traditions. Starting at the age of sixteen, her education was combined with intervals of teaching in country schools. After receiving a bachelor's degree at the University, she took an M. A. degree at the University of Chicago, and later was graduated from the University with a doctor's degree.

In the field of regional literature, Miss Debo holds a distinguished reputation. She is the author of *The Rise and Fall of the Choctaw Republic*, which won the John H. Dunning prize of the *American Historical Society* for the best book submitted in the field of United States history in 1934.

The Road to Disappearance contains 416 pages, including a number of illustrations and maps. The book is divided into eleven chapters, each dealing with a separate phase of Creek history.

War Council

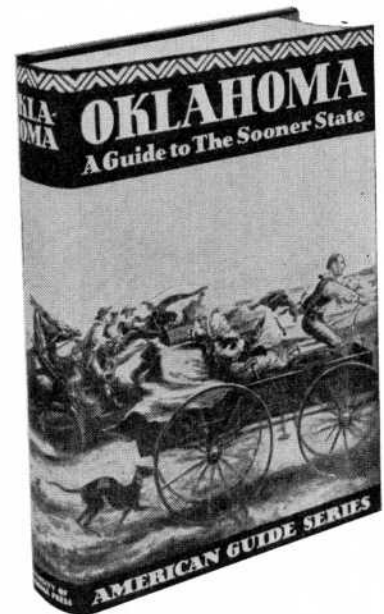
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the fact that the O. U. Extension Division, like other members of the National University Extension Association, had been conducting numerous civilian morale and defense activities during the last year, Mr. Scott was familiar with the background of many of the problems faced by the new War Council.

At the last meeting of the national association, held last November, Mr. Scott was commended by officials of the United States Office of Education for the way in which the University's Extension Division had emphasized a program of services aiding national defense for about a

year before the national defense movement got into full swing.

Mr. Scott's office in Old Science Hall is now an important nerve center of the campus. Ideas, suggestions, criticisms, statistics on the University's manifold war activities flow across his desk. In frequent consultation with President Brandt, and with periodical meetings of the War Council, the co-ordinator keeps the activities organized, prevents duplication, sees that word on general policies reaches the right places, and, in short, makes the University's war program a unified and consistent project.



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