

Oklahoma Books and Authors

A book which should soon be appearing in thousands of Oklahoma homes and libraries is *Oklahoma: A Guide to the Sooner State*, released in December by the University of Oklahoma Press, Norman.

This volume on Oklahoma is the last of a series of 51 guidebooks prepared under the sponsorship of the WPA writers' program. For \$2.50 the purchaser receives a big book of 548 pages, containing detailed information about Oklahoma interspersed with some sixty pages of illustrations and maps.

Kenneth Kaufman, '16ba, '19ma, University professor of modern languages and well known Oklahoma literary authority, says of the guidebook in comparison with others of the series, "The last, and without much doubt, the best. There may be half a dozen of the others which equal it in scope, completeness, care, and accuracy, but none excels it."

Credit for producing the first complete, informative work on Oklahoma goes first of all to John M. Oskison, journalist and short story writer, and Angie Debo, '18ba, '33ph.d, historian and researcher, who were editors in direct charge. Laurels also go to the Washington, D.C., staff which supervised the entire series and the members of the Oklahoma office who gathered material through long reading, research and talking to pioneer Sooners.

The book opens with a foreword by President Emeritus W. B. Bizzell, of the University, and a brief chapter of general information followed by three main parts. Part I, The General Background, contains an essay by Edward Everett Dale, '11ba, head of the University history department, and a carefully compiled, well written history of the Sooner state from the prehistoric Indian era to the present day.

Chapters on literature, transportation, industry, agriculture, education, sports and recreation, newspapers, art, architecture, music and folklore are found in Part I. Following the general plan used in all the guidebooks, Part II contains "biographies" of 12 of the state's principal cities—Ardmore, Bartlesville, Enid, Lawton, Muskogee, Norman, Oklahoma City, Okmulgee, Ponca City, Shawnee, Stillwater and Tulsa.

For each city, the guidebook lists everything from traffic regulations to prominent residents, past and present. Space is given to a short history of the city, information about its businesses, schools and even the favorite anecdotes of the locale.

Part III, by far the largest section, outlines some 22 tours of Oklahoma, all planned to cover as many points of interest as

possible for the mileage covered. Detailed information about historic spots, even those on out-of-the-way sideroads, and data about tourist camps and hotels provide valuable aid for the traveler.

"Nothing seems to have been overlooked," Mr. Kaufman says. "This book ought to be in the hands of every intelligent Oklahoman and of everyone else who would like to know about the Sooner state. It is something more than another book; it is the book about Oklahoma. Nowhere else is there so much of Oklahoma between book covers."

Possum Trot

The real South—not the one portrayed in *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Tobacco Road* and *Gone With the Wind*—but the one which should gain much from the spreading movement of industry is described in a new book, *Possum Trot*, by H. C. Nixon, just published by the University Press. (\$2.50.)

The small town in the south holds the key to American prosperity and points the way to a bright future for the region, Mr. Nixon believes. He feels that to really know about conditions in the south since ante bellum days you must know about the personal lives of real southerners like his own family and neighbors—white and black—whom he tells about in his book.

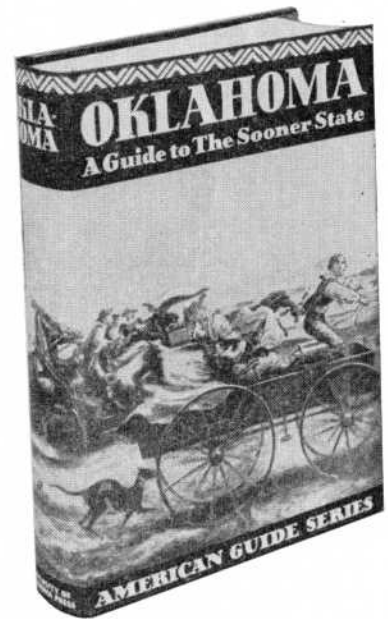
These people and thousands like them, scattered from the Carolinas to Texas and Oklahoma, are the real backbone of the south. Political demagogues—Huey Long and others—long ago realized this and gathered their followers from the crossroads.

By taking industry to these communities, a sounder agricultural economy will follow and the disastrous practice of ruining the land by growing only cotton will give way to diversified farming, Mr. Nixon believes.

Adequate highways will develop; schools will be built; a dairy industry will grow up—and most important, the migration of millions of southern workers to the industrial centers of the north will be allayed for opportunity will be found at home.

Possum Trot is said to be the first book about the south to tell of its problems since the Civil War as they have affected the people of one rural community, a community which is like countless others in the south.

Mr. Nixon believes that the true fiber of these towns will be shown by the way they meet the problems of the present emergency and the readjustment of the post-war period yet to come.



Now Available For
Immediate Delivery

NOT MERELY A GUIDE to the historic sites and natural wonders of the Sooner State but a guide to the Oklahoma spirit and its achievements in science, agriculture, industry, culture and to all fields of civilized endeavor—a veritable encyclopedia to Oklahoma.

Compiled on the spot by hundreds of Oklahoma men and women who know the state's locale in all of its rich tradition. Special contributions by E. E. Dale, John Oskison, Angie Debo, W. B. Bizzell, Kenneth C. Kaufman, and many others.

Published by the University of Oklahoma Press, in co-operation with the American Guide Series and the WPA Writers' Project. 544 pages. 64 pages of illustrations.

\$2.50

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Norman, Oklahoma

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Oklahoma Guide to the address below.

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