
Books

THE STORY of the life and exploits of one of Oklahoma's first figures of historic importance is told by Carl C. Rister, chairman of the department of history, in his new book, *Land Hunger: David L. Payne and the Oklahoma Boomers* just released by the University of Oklahoma Press, (\$2.75).

The book recounts Payne's efforts to settle his Boomers inside the border of the Indian country, his trip to Washington to plead for the land opening, his battles with cattlemen and Indians, and finally his death in 1884. It is full of details culled from newspapers of the time.

David Payne is presented by Mr. Rister as a restless adventurer always seeking something just beyond his reach, a Moses who saw Oklahoma as the promised land. His personality fitted in perfectly with the atmosphere of danger and hardship in which he continually found himself. The memory of David Payne and his ideals is credited with spurring his successors on to their goal.

The volume itself is handsomely bound and illustrated. The pictures include several of Payne and his followers, their camp sites, maps of the contested region, and reproductions of contemporary newspapers. Art work on the jacket includes a large sketch of covered wagon folk on the move. Inside the front and back covers are large maps of territorial Oklahoma. An extensive bibliography concludes the book.

Land Hunger not only is an addition to the historical literature of Oklahoma, but also to the collected literature on the westward expansion of the United States. Payne now takes his place among the great frontiersmen of American pioneering history.

Mr. Rister is also the author of *Southern Plainsmen* and *Border Captives*.

America Forever Poems

Poems by Rudolph N. Hill, '26ba, poet and lawyer, which have appeared singly in state newspapers, the *New York Times* and the *Portland Oregonian*, were collected this fall and published as the *Whipping-Tree and Wagon-Trails Farewell, America Forever* poems. Mr. Hill, recently appointed police judge in Wewoka, dedicated the booklet to "all red-blooded Americans." Included are several ballads, sonnets and poems having stanzas of quatrain length. Subjects range from a tribute to Lord Nelson to a plea for a second front, but most of them were inspired by the West. Titles of poems are "To Hero of Trafalgar," "Triton's Song," "Wewoka," "Ballad of Cromwell, the Wicked," "Star of the Mistletoe," "Joan of Arc Hears Voices," "Wife of Ulysses Waits," "Spirit of Defense," "Pale Domes of Palestine," and "Sunset Call."

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