



Serving a Need for Alumni

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Oklahoma Memorial Union

University of Oklahoma, Norman

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Oklahoma Books

A book to be read and enjoyed over a long period of time, to be dipped into again and again, is *A Treasury of American Folklore* (Crown Publishers, New York, \$3.00), edited by Ben Botkin.

Many O. U. alumni remember Mr. Botkin as a member of the University of Oklahoma English department from 1921 to 1940. It was in Norman that he began collecting folklore, and the University Press book *Folk-say, A Regional Miscellany*, which he wrote was widely recognized as one of the first important collections of its kind.

Mr. Botkin went to Washington in 1937 as a Rosenwald Fellow; was folklore editor of the Federal Writers Project in 1938 and 1939, and since 1941 has been Fellow of the Library of Congress in Folklore. In 1942 he became assistant in charge of the Archives of American Folk-songs in the Library of Congress, and in 1944 he was elected president of the American Folklore Society.

A Treasury of American Folklore includes more than nine hundred pages of stories, legends, tall tales, traditions, ballads and songs of the American people. Many of the stories told are familiar to the average American—but they are so closely related to our basic human nature that they are timeless in appeal.

Some of the humor is robust, some gay, some is earthy, some is witty, some is almost grim. Taken all together, it is a magnificent and valuable collection.

► *Writing Non-Fiction* (The Writer, Inc., Boston, Massachusetts, \$3.00) is the latest book from the prolific typewriter of Walter S. Campbell, director of courses in professional writing at the University of Oklahoma.

His first two books on writing technique were *Professional Writing* and *Writing Magazine Fiction*.

In his preface to *Writing Non-Fiction*, Mr. Campbell comments that the writer of non-fiction has a far larger public and a far more stable market than the author of fiction. "It is at once an art and a business."

As in his other how-to-do books Mr. Campbell not only describes his theory of successful technique, but also adds specific work programs for the student at the end of each chapter as a practical means of applying theory to practice.

The fact that in one recent year, 39 of Mr. Campbell's students sold 94 manuscripts to national magazines testifies to the effectiveness of his methods.

► *Pudge at Pearl*, written by Ernie Hobericht, '41journ, tells the story of an all-out U. S. lad named Pudge who got the

urge to help the war effort by going to work in the Pearl Harbor Navy Yard and did. Issued by the Morale Activities Office in the Navy Yard, the booklet follows the adventures of our hero from the time he receives his travel orders to Pearl Harbor until he is well into his defense duties as a painter and decides that life in Hawaii is making a different man of him. Large cartoon-style illustrations showing Pudge in action decorate the booklet. Mr. Hobericht is editor of the *Pearl Harbor Bulletin*.

► James Pipes, author of *Ziba*, a book of folk poems published by the University of Oklahoma Press, has been awarded a Julius Rosenwald Fellowship amounting to about \$1,500. The fellowship will enable him to continue work on another book.

► A full page review of *Report on Demobilization*, written by James B. Mock and Evangeline Thurber and published by the University of Oklahoma Press, appeared in the May 6 issue of the *Saturday Review of Literature*. The book was described in the review as "a certainly scholarly book which speaks out against the folly of ditching every wartime control the instant the All Clear sounds."

► Random House, New York publishers, recently released the libretto of the Broadway hit musical *Oklahoma!* which was adapted from the play *Green Grow the Lilacs* written by Lynn Riggs, '23. Kenneth Kaufman, '16ba, '19ma, commented in an announcement of the libretto that "the only trouble about reading the book is that it makes you still wilder to see the play than you were before."

► An unusual book, designed to help leaders of young people's groups in conducting devotional services, is *Devotions for Youth*, by Clark R. Gilbert, '41m.ed, published by Association Press, New York (\$1.75).

Mr. Gilbert, now superintendent of schools at Carterville, Missouri, has been a teacher or school official since he was 19 years old. Frequently called upon to work with young people's groups, he found that "the weakest part of youth programs was the devotions."

He decided to do something about it, and *Devotions for Youth* is the result. The book includes more than one hundred devotional stories and programs, based on daily life problems and experiences of young people.

Considering the book useful as a handy reference manual for finding appropriate material for any given occasion, the author provides a cross reference index. The material is non-denominational and can be used for almost any group.