

NEW BOOKS

FROM SOONERS
AND THE O.U. PRESS

Reviewer—Dick Smith

The Oil Century—From the Drake Well to the Conservation Era, by J. Stanley Clark, University of Oklahoma Press.

LAST August I received a doomsday letter from an alumnus in the oil business (an Independent, need I add) in which, with the typical gusto of his breed, he predicted a depression within 60 days; foresaw geologists and independents walking the streets (*concrete* streets); advocated cutting in half the number of all O.U. geology majors; proposed urging nearly all of the remaining majors to work for masters and doctors degrees; and suggested—as a service to O.U. students and alumni—that I reprint his letter.

I nearly wept.

That letter had all the earmarks of a ram-bunctious American type of which I, too, regretfully, predict the worst. They are fading, I swear, away.

Independents, God bless them, are as American as Davy Crockett. When they see a bahr, they shoot 'im; when they smell a pie they eat it; and when they have a hunch they play it. They are noisier, sadder, greedier, happier, smarter, dumber, more generous, more wasteful, more efficient, and can get things done quicker and better and with more gall and pride than any humans on the face of the earth.

They've pulled us all up to the world's highest standard of living by our greasy, muddy bootstraps.

And what it takes to understand them and their success is as American as Spindletop: *Cherchez la franc* (pardon the French).

My particular correspondent, and many like him, are having a hard time discovering *la franc*, or, at least, as many francs as they used to find.

Their problem is: The United States, through its major oil companies, has discovered and developed the world's greatest oil reserves. These, to the sorrow of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, are outside the United States. Now—considering, as the Joint Chiefs of Staff must every now and then—



Sylvia Zaremba

A New Record

Brahms' Variations and Fugue on a Theme by Handel, Three Brahms Rhapsodies, and Handel's Aria con Varizioni, Sylvia A. Zaremba, pianist, Unicorn Records.

The idea of a woman playing Brahms is an idea some men don't like to think about. It smacks of ladies smoking cigars.

Well then, Miss Zaremba, a petite piano instructor in O.U.'s fine arts college, has struck an unexpected blow for suffragettes. And I do mean "struck." The sound of her astonishing Brahms recording is as powerful as the sight of a prize fighter moving in for the kill. She leaps about the proud and noble crags of Brahms' demanding variations as if petite little women did such things any time they pleased.

I say they can't. But Miss Zaremba . . .

She's an exception.

RECOMMENDED:—without reservations. A beautiful woman masters a difficult man.

that the United States might possibly become involved in an all-out war, mightn't it be best to import as much of that oil as we can, thereby saving our own resources for an emergency?

The obvious answer is Yes.

But, on the other hand . . .

By favoring home conservation and foreign importation, the United States considerably curtails the profit-garnering antics of those producers who appalled sweet Ed-

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RIDE THE DARK HORSE

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Big Eight teams, is again one of the toughest in America. But O.U.'s smashing 80-57 victory over Iowa indicates that the 1958-59 edition are more than up to it.

The team's consistent improvement under Parrack is one reason for optimism. Another is the fine defensive play of the team.

One thing that worries Parrack is the loss of a scorer like Joe King who graduated last year and was fifth in 1958 conference scoring.

Parrack carries a "big opponent" team consisting of Bill Hammond, 6-6, and Del Heidebrecht, 6-6, forwards; Bob Stoermer, 6-8, center; Dennis Price, 6-1, and Buddy Hudson, 6-2, guards.

For smaller teams, the lineup shows Stoermer and Hudson as forwards; Jack Marsh, 6-7, center; Price and Raymond Lewis, 6-3, guards. Roger Potts, who scored 15 points in the Iowa game, fills out the eight-man first line. If Parrack follows his usual procedure, he will have some of his reserves ready for front-line duty before the season is over.

Of the eight men listed, fans are well-acquainted with Hammond, Stormer, Price, and to a lesser extent, Marsh, Potts, and Lewis. All saw action last year. The two newcomers are Heidebrecht and Hudson. They are proving to be important newcomers in the scoring and rebound-grabbing departments.

Heidebrecht is a transfer from Arkansas City, Kansas, Junior College. He was the leading scorer of the Kansas junior college league and set an all-time scoring record at Arkansas City and in the conference. He scored 723 points in 31 games for a 23.13 average. He had offers from 20 major universities and from 35 smaller colleges. He was a second team All-American junior college selection.

Hudson, the first Negro to play on an O.U. basketball team, is a promising speedster from Purcell. He is one of the fastest players on the squad. He was named to the Oklahoma all-state squad when he performed at Purcell. His full name is Harold Keith Hudson (a coincidence, as sports publicist Harold Keith discovered, which was pure coincidence).

Most fans realize that Kansas State, with All-American Bob Boozer, is installed as the pre-season conference champion. Iowa State and Kansas (although Chamberlin is gone) are rated as title threats. For the first time in several years, however, Oklahoma can be rated as a darkhorse.

OMINOUS NEGLECT

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of religious thought. According to Lewis Brown's "The World's Great Scriptures," Confucius taught moral law as a part of religion. He said, "Is there one maxim which ought to be acted upon throughout one's whole life? Surely it is a maxim of loving kindness: "Do not do unto others what you would not have them do unto you."

The same admonition appears also in the teachings of Brahmanism, Buddhism, Taoism, Zoroastrianism, Islamism, Judaism, and Christianity.

There are distinctions of phrasing, but no difference in meaning. The ancient Jewish writer admonished, "What is hateful to you, do not unto your fellow men. That is the entire law; all else is commentary."

Here very tersely stated, is a principle which has found almost universal acceptance and upon which all religious philosophers have agreed. The individual who understands this concept and its implications needs no other guide to living for, "all else is commentary."

Since the time of Confucius, man has had a Golden Rule. Why then have individuals, communities, and nations failed to follow it?

Contemplating history and the contemporary scene, one wonders if man really has a chance. John Steinbeck commented recently that "A wise and cynical friend" of his "handicaps life as seven to five against." James Hilton was quoted in the *American Journal of Public Health*, June, 1958, as saying, "I believe that the present structure of civilization is probably doomed, and the next to be evolved is probably doomed also, and the next after that, and so on; but I could be reasonably optimistic in regard to the next half million years."

This is the situation with which higher education is faced as we approach the future. Institutions of higher education need to re-emphasize the idea that, as least in part, the proper study of mankind is man. We must emphasize those areas of study which deal with human behavior—anthropology, psychology, sociology, and a host of other fields which we call the social sciences.

By accepting this as an increased dimension of higher education in the future, we may, in time, be able to help resolve the frustrations and fears of our people. In no other way can we approach the scientific developments of our modern society with confidence and courage.

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na Ferber not so long ago—the Independents.

Home conservation through allowables is a minor bind on the large companies, since most of them manage the overseas outfits; but the independent, home-based operators (of which there are about 10,000 in the United States) are left without a nickel to drill with (and you better believe some of them have enough nerve to drill with a nickel).

Little men have been squeezed out before and they probably will be again; but these little men are very big men—as the Joint Chiefs of Staff recognize—in that the greatest percentage of wildcatting and exploration has always come from Independents.

If you are inspired to sit Solomon-like on this dilemma, let me first recommend an excellent book from the O.U. Press.

Its title is *The Oil Century*. And its author is J. Stanley Clark—a Tinker Air Field employee and part-time historian.

Mr. Clark should become a full-time historian. The oil business is so sloppy with drama that it would be hard to write about it and not be interesting, but Mr. Clark demonstrates much more than hand-me-down talents—so much more that I wish he had elaborated on later oil fields as much as he did on the first one (Chapters One through Seven are mostly about the Oil Creek, Pennsylvania, developments; Chapter Eight is entitled, Expansion of the Oil Industry, 1900-50—a neat condensation, but, considering Mr. Clark's ability, a niggard one).

Mr. Clark set for himself every important aspect of the American oil industry to investigate and seemed to think he did not have space enough to elaborate at great length upon the minor aspects. I think the sales of this excellent book will probably uninhibit him. Mr. Clark is as interesting discussing 1958 conservation problems as he is in discussing 1858 drilling difficulties.

I wish he would answer my Independent correspondent for me (I was too busy to answer, what with wrapping up my affairs in anticipation of the predicted depression). Mr. Clark could understand that man's language. It's do-and-be-damned as well as I can tell; but we're trained nowadays to be as innocuous as a public relations account executive. So I for one can't help the man.

It's a sad day.

RECOMMENDED: Mr. Clark's book is a happy day in the Oil Century.