

NEW BOOKS

FROM SOONERS
AND THE O.U. PRESS

Reviewer—Dick Smith

A Shirrtail to Hang To by Beth Day, Henry Holt and Company.

THEY tell you in advertising that the best eye-stoppers are kids and dogs. Beth Day, '45Let, will probably catch a lot of eyes with her history of Cal Farley and his Amarillo Boys' Ranch for bottom-of-the-barrel types, and if her readers can't stop reading between the whines it's because author Day not only has a genuine, sympathetic story, but also a reporting style that won't let loose. Her protagonist, Farley, had considerable success on the wrestling mats in the 20's, then wrestled even more successfully with his shyness to become a flourishing Panhandle businessman. The only thing he couldn't whip was a weakness for small fry—particularly the small fry most likely to fry in the state pen later in their fishy lives. Farley herded all the deserted, angry young mendicants he could out to a deserted cow town near Hereford, Texas, and there, backed by a lot of sympathetic Panhandlers, he sold out his business in Amarillo in order to devote himself to promoting the most heartwarming success story in juvenile delinquency since Spencer Tracy aced Mickey Rooney in *Boys Town*. As a matter of fact, Hollywood has already done a picture at and on Farley's Boys Ranch. Although the Boys Ranch boys liked the older stars well enough, they couldn't stomach the juvenile star: the brat drowned three of their pet skunks in a toilet before he was apprehended.

RECOMMENDED: Boys will be boys. Dogs will be dogs. And your husband's liable to become another Farley if Miss Day's excellent reporting job catches his eye.

Charles de Gaulle—The Crucial Years, 1943-44 by Arthur Layton Funk, University of Oklahoma Press.

WORLD WAR II ruined us, I suppose, for those grand old days when non-entities like Hayes (he was a president of the United States) could be elected to office.



Author Beth Day, '45Let

It's a shame. The American voter was about the only person on earth who practised the wisdom of putting not very unusual men in office. Like a woman looking for a husband, the American voter was sharp-eyed for mediocre men: they might not be much of a success, but by the same token of mediocrity they probably wouldn't be much of a failure.

All that went out the window as Germany turned into Hitler and Italy became Mussolini. When Tojo-Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, Roosevelt had already made everyone so cuddly by the fireside that his flamboyant dealings as a State-Man with State-Men Churchill and Stalin were approved and even encouraged by voters who not too long ago had proclaimed themselves immensely content with a Coolidge on the dais.

As happy with his role as a Shriner in town on a convention, Roosevelt launched into the international buddy business with the not unreasonable conviction that his fabled personality would charm Churchill and Stalin into seeing a postwar era in which the three of them could chum around like old cronies, ready to nip the bud of any flowering international villainies.

It seemed plausible enough at the time. Even realistic Churchill, reluctant to bite the hand that was feeding and arming England, said little and went along with this homey Americana. And Stalin, of course, was considerably more agreeable in those days than after the war.

The only person—or rather, the only na-

tion—who pouted over Roosevelt's chum triumvirate of State-Men was France—or rather Charles De Gaulle.

A brilliant, but obscure tank officer, Charles De Gaulle had identified himself with France's past glories immediately after her incredibly inglorious collapse in 1940, and took it upon himself to demand her and his rights in the most un-chumlike way.

His presumption and Roosevelt's antagonism to the ambitions of this latter-day Joan of Arc are the subject of an outstanding book from the University Press—Arthur Layton Funk's *Charles De Gaulle, The Crucial Years (1943-44)*. Funk's book is a definitive, absorbing study of those swift-moving days when De Gaulle had both the conceit and the humility to become a nation.

By luck (and with considerable encouragement from the Press) author Funk finished his book just after De Gaulle returned to power in 1958. It is luck Funk deserves. A clear-thinking naval officer now stationed in Madras, India, Funk writes with authority and with an incredibly unnoticeable style. His lucid pictures of State-Men De Gaulle, Roosevelt, and Eisenhower are impressive analyses of motivation guided by a gentlemanly refusal to exploit hindsight at the expense of often pigheaded, but always dedicated men.

RECOMMENDED: State-Man study at its best. Here's hoping Funk is planning sequels.

Journey Through the Rocky Mountains and the Humboldt Mountains to the Pacific Ocean by Jacob H. Schiel (translated and edited by Thomas N. Bonner), University of Oklahoma Press.

RECOMMENDED: The 27th addition to the University Press' fascinating series, American Exploration and Travel, is a small (136 pages) but worthy volume by a German geologist who went along on the ill-fated Gunnison Expedition in 1853 as the expedition's surgeon. Jacob Schiel—the German geologist—had the luck to be separated from the expedition when Captain Gunnison and several of his men were wiped out by the Utes, but he was more unfortunate with mosquitoes, rattlesnakes, and Mormons; and his diary-like reflections on these companions—especially the latter—reach across a century with a freshness and individuality that make Herr Schiel as interesting as the country he was exploring.

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student in the O.U. College of Law.

Miss Mary Margot Crutchfield, Norman, and James R. Hyde, '58eng, New York City, were married April 21 in the First Presbyterian Church, Norman. They plan to live in Livermore, California, where Hyde will be a stress analyst for a corporation. Mrs. Hyde, who is a former O.U. student, has been a stewardess for an airline in New York City.

BIRTH—Vaughan W. Rhoades, '58eng, and Mrs. Rhoades (the former Charlotte Warren, '56) have chosen the name Stephen Blake for their son born February 1. Grandparents are William Warren, '36ba, and Mrs. Warren, '29, '30. Rhoades is employed by Cities Service Research in Tulsa.

1959

Dick Bowman, '59, is now head football coach at Ponca City High School. He formerly held a coaching position at Seminole High School.

James L. Hill, '59eng, Clinton, has been awarded one of five teaching internships in mechanical engineering offered by the University of Illinois. The Illinois program is sponsored by the Ford Foundation.

Raymond C. Lohman, '59eng, Midwest City, has joined the technical staff of the Esso Research Laboratories, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The Lohmans have a son, Larry Ray, 6.

Miss Janet Cabe, '59ba, Tulsa, has been granted a \$1,950 fellowship from the Ford foundation to study next year at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee. A letters major, Miss Cabe will work on a master of arts in teaching degree at Vanderbilt.

William Kirkham, '59, has been elected president of the Student American Medical Association at a recent convention in Chicago. Kirkham is a junior in the O.U. School of Medicine.

James J. Rhyne, '59bs, Norman, and Sydney James, '59ba, Capetown, South Africa, are recipients of the Woodrow Wilson Fellowship award. The fellowship gives financial assistance to persons entering graduate work who intend to pursue teaching careers. Rhyne will begin graduate work in physics at Stanford University, Stanford, California. James, a philosophy student, will do graduate work at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland.

Margaret Jane Green, '59ba, Norman, has been awarded a \$1,890 teaching assistantship in the political science department of the University of Minnesota.

Carol Bailey, '59ba, and Mary Teresa Baldwin, both of Oklahoma City, are winners of the two annual \$1,500 University Press fellowships. Miss Baldwin, who attended O.U. her freshman year, is a graduate of Trinity College, San Antonio, Texas. The awards are given each year to graduating seniors or recent graduates planning careers in book publishing.

MARRIAGES—Miss Judith Beryl Smith and Darrel Gene Rickard, '59, both of Oklahoma City, were married March 28 in Mayfair Church of Christ, Oklahoma City. They are living in Norman.

Miss Virginia Coffman, Lexington, and Ronald E. Thompson, '59, Tulsa, were married March 28 in the First Baptist Church, Lexington.

Miss Martha Jane Riley, '59, and Kenneth Ralph DeBerry were married March 30 in the First Presbyterian Church, Norman. DeBerry, who is a former O.U. student, is now stationed at the Beal Air Force Base, California. The couple lives in nearby Yuba City, California.

Miss Donna Kay Dow, '59, Okarche, and Dale Ray Hughes, '59, Aline, were married March 28 in the First Christian Church, Kingfisher. Hughes is a student in the O.U. medical school and Mrs. Hughes is a senior at the University.

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Daredevils of the Confederate Army
by Oscar A. Kinchen, Christopher Publishing House.

LT. BENNETT YOUNG's comic opera raid on St. Albans, Vermont, is so typically Confederate that it's a pity more importance can't be attached to it. At the time, Young's mission and his trials raised more furor than the actions of any American serviceman—with the possible exception of General Sherman. Commissioned late in the war to divert Union troops from the front lines by raids from the Canadian border, Young managed only one raid—on St. Albans—and spent the rest of the war in a Canadian courtroom proving to the Canadians' satisfaction and to the Union lawyer's chagrin that holding up a few banks and burning down a few buildings in Vermont is every bit as legal when done by a Confederate as tearing down Tara in Georgia when it's done by a Yankee (excuse me—damyankee).

Little besides Yankee legal talent was diverted northward, despite the terror of the north-border folks; and Young and the sympathetic Canadians whipped that easily enough with southern-fried rhetoric. Years later, Young—the first man to raise the Confederate flag in Jassamine County, Kentucky—changed from a courtly fanatic to a businessman-author (his best known work: *Confederate Wizards of the Saddle*) and his demeanor became so conservative that latter-day St. Albanians invited him to speak at an anniversary ceremony. Embittered and vocal Old Guard prompted the mellowed Kentuckian to decline, however.

Oscar Kinchen's ('16ba, '20ma) chronicle of this Confederate golden boy is excellent for its scholarship, less excellent for its style—which often smacks of the hundreds of magnolia-scented books Professor Kinchen must have pored through—but even the euphemisms seem to make this amusing story more delectable.

RECOMMENDED: Civil War enthusiasts will find this a tasty morsel to help sate their 100th-anniversary appetites.

Miss Elizabeth Mary Ryan, '59, Fort Sill, and Warren H. Dunnington, '59, Norman, were married March 31 in the New Post Chapel, Fort Sill. The couple is living in Norman, where Dunnington is a senior at O.U.

Miss Alice Ellen Davis, Denton, Texas, and Gerald Hamer Mangold, '59bs, Enid, were married April 4 in the First Christian Church, Denton.

SUCCESS STORY

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surveying. Still, at the end of the first semester, thirty additional students had joined the original eleven in the tough curriculum, and Dean Brown reported he had received "hundreds" of inquiries about the curriculum from throughout the petroleum belt.

The curriculum was made broad and tough for a reason. Half-breeds in the oil business, landmen must be as ready to serve their companies in engineering, geological, and public relations discussions as in their most widely known function, acquiring drilling rights. Setting up a curriculum to please both these profession-conscious but broadly-trained men as well as the American Association of Collegiate Schools of Business (the accrediting agency) was no simple matter.

The main bone of contention between educators and landmen when the former were approached by the latter early in 1955 was that of specialization vs. general education. The former was impossible unless a new chair could be endowed at O.U. It was also unnecessary in Dean Brown's eyes . . .

After a widely-attended extension division short course for landmen convinced landmen and educators alike that a curriculum must be agreed upon, Dean Brown presented the substance of the present curriculum to Continental landman Phil McGowan and Cal-Ray Petroleum president William Majors. McGowan was chairman of the national association's education committee, and Majors was chairman of the local organization's education committee. Both men liked what Brown proposed.

Liked is hardly the word. The support given the curriculum by these two men and their associates is nothing short of phenomenal. Three O.U. landman majors are attending classes drawing on a \$2,750 scholarship fund which McGowan raised from 22 local chapters of the Association. And most impressive, six landmen have joined together in a committee to find summer training jobs for O.U. landman majors.

Toward the end of his report to the A.A.P.L. convention, Dean Brown responded to the landmen's 1958 resolution by presenting appreciation citations to McGowan and Majors for their efforts in establishing the nation's first curriculum in petroleum land management at O.U. It was an expression of what promises to be one of the most admirable of mutual admiration societies.