

## BOOK REVIEWS

*Hanging Judge.* By Fred Harvey Harrington. (The Caxton Printers, Ltd., Caldwell, Idaho, 1951. 204 p. Illustrations, maps, notes, glossary and index. \$4.00)

Serving as a vivid kodachrome panorama of the character, temperament and mores of the Indian Territory variety of outlaw and criminal, rather than a confining biography of the central figure of frontier criminal justice, Isaac B. Parker, author Harrington in his fine and very readable *Hanging Judge* has done well in his chosen mission of showing the frontier felon in his true stripe of ugly hoodlum, down-right scoundrel and no-good coward.

The reader is not taken through intimate views of Judge Parker's personal life and career, but is at once introduced to all of the thugs and villains whose depredations brought to an otherwise obscure frontier jurist a mission vital and essential to the early growth and development of a now prosperous and developed southwest.

Like old soldiers, Robin Hood myths are slow to die. Regarding the defendants in the dock of Judge Parker's Court it is now high time, as the author remarks, for us to change our heroes. In a skillful manner the reader is shown that today's plaudits and kudos should go not to the Doolins, Belle Starr, Rufus Buck, Cherokee Bill and the like, but rather to a man who declined appointment as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Utah Territory to accept the dubious honor of a western Arkansas Federal Judgeship.

All of the more "prominent" outlaws and ruffians of the period are paraded before us, stripped of their patina of glamor and shown in their true and proper base character. One well understands that the epithet "Hanging Judge" is applicable to Parker not in derision but as a by-product of the magnitude of his task and of the volume of the work of his court.

We are spared technical details on the statutory extent of Judge Parker's jurisdiction, legalistic references to writs and pleadings and citations to codes and precedents. Such are left, unsaid, in the law library where they belong. As such are of interest only to the brief-writing lawyer, the omissions are to be commended.

A particularly interesting chapter is that dealing with the head-on collision between the trial court and the appellate court, inevitable in the situation in which Judge Parker was placed. Far from the local scene and entirely familiar with Judge Parker's problems, it should be expected that the appellate justices would cling more to the form and the formal precedent of the law than to its basic substance as required by Parker. Historian Harrington

in his readable way introduces us to just sufficient of the opinions of the United States Supreme Court, including the now famous dissents, to resolve into orderly fashion that which could be misunderstood as an unseasonable conflict between trial and appellate justice.

In passing, two other important adjuncts of Parker's court are not forgotten, the two hundred or more deputy marshals, the "men who rode for Parker," and last but not least, the expert with the noose, hangman George Maledon.

Alive and human, this volume adds a fine contribution to the present day understanding of life in the Indian Territory.

—George H. Shirk

*Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*

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*Pioneer Doctor: An Autobiography of Lewis J. Moorman, M.D.*  
(University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, Oklahoma, 1951. Pp. xi, 252, including index. Illustrations.)

Behind every paragraph that is written there is always some sort of desire. The chief desire involved in this review of "The Pioneer Doctor" by Lewis J. Moorman, M.D., recently issued by the University Press, Norman, Oklahoma, is to convey to the reader that it is one of the very best volumes on Oklahoma history that has been presented to Oklahomans and other Americans in many decades.

The American doctor that has lived the long life of Dr. Moorman has moved intimately through an almost complete cycle of the development of the United States. An eminent physician born in the early 70's of the 19th century heired the same sort of medical training with slight improvement as was received by doctors from Washington's day until the beginning of the Civil War. Then there was the awakening and advancement in the science and practice of medicine in the decades after the destructive struggle between the States, which doctors born in 1875 and living until 1950 would know intimately.

As Superintendent of Schools in Kentucky in the "Gay 90s", it was my privilege to conduct old-fashioned County Institutes where teachers might come each year and under the direction of the County Superintendent of Schools and an instructor in pedagogy, psychology and management, and spent five days in discussing the aims and procedures of education. As instructor and lecturer, and one introduced by splendid men of the locality and county as a reputable teacher and with powers and virtues I perhaps did not possess, I met every element of the social order of the county entered. As I was invited into that region of Kentucky comprising such counties as Hardin, Breckenridge, Grayson, and stretching across to Meade and Jefferson, I met the Moorman's. Among them were doctors, lawyers, farmers and teachers. All were possessed of values of leadership

which Kentucky demanded at that time from those they were disposed to follow. They possessed the ability, unquestioned integrity, money and lands enough to be rated as "well-to-do" and they displayed a flair in deportment and dress that was demanded of a southern lady or gentleman. Out of this group and from this group came Lewis J. Moorman, M.D., author of "The Pioneer Doctor."

This book of 252 pages is factual and magnetic, and at the same time, the complete story of the boy born in 1875, moving up through the country schools of Kentucky and with the blessings of splendid parentage and with the freedom that only that region and that time could give, he arrived at his choice of life work—an American doctor.

This book presents every phase of living as a country doctor in such regions as the back-woods and remote districts, the states of Tennessee, Alabama, Nebraska and Oklahoma territory could supply a sensitive, adventurous, ambitious and kindly physician. Such chapters as "Alabama," "Westward Ho," "Jet," "The Promised Land," "Chickasha," "O.B.," (O.B. means obstetrics), "On The Plains" will give one a complete picture of localities and territories of those regions in which Dr. Moorman lived. They tell of the experiences of a talented young man, moving steadily toward his aim to be the best physician possible and all this surrounded by the most vivid descriptions of every kind, and seasoned with the saltiest language this writer has found in any book in twenty years.

From Chapter XVII, "Vienna", on to the end of the volume is the engaging tale of a young American, emerging from the undeveloped districts of Oklahoma and America into the rich and cosmopolitan centers. In time, he finds his way into Oklahoma City which soon became the capital and metropolis of a region of almost 70,000 square miles which in the space of a little more than fifty years has given to the world riches in mineral, agricultural, commercial and cultural values unsurpassed by any other area of the earth within an equal time.

The author tells in inimitable style of his services that led him on in specialized therapy until his life was crowned with every honor that the life of a physician can bring. There will be no need to point these out, not to attempt to give the gist of the chapters of the book which disclosed Dr. Moorman's state-wide, national and even international fame.

If anyone who sees these words desires to know the Oklahoma country, root and branch, and at the same time, enjoy every page with its broad range of humor, let him read "The Pioneer Doctor."

Of course this volume like all others issued by the University of Oklahoma Press is of splendid format. The binding neat and strong, blue cover, the paper of most excellent quality, and it should have perhaps been said earlier, that the volume abounds with many

illustrations. All in all, this is a book that should be a "must" for every American physician. This would solve the perplexing problem now vexing American physicians as they confront a public sentiment, charging that humanitarianism is being left out of their practice perhaps too much. The humanities are the very substance of this pioneer doctor's story.

—Charles Evans

*Oklahoma Historical Society*

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*Oklahoma Imprints, 1835-1890.* By Lester Hargrett. (New York: R. R. Bowker Company, 1951. xvii—267 pp. Index of Printing Places, Chronology of Printing in Oklahoma, General Index. \$7.50.)

This volume, *Oklahoma Imprints, 1835-1890*, by Lester Hargrett who is well known for his scholarly bibliography of *The Constitutions and Laws of the American Indians* (Harvard University Press, 1947), is a fine contribution and a rich source for the Oklahoma historian, the student of Indian languages, and the collector of Oklahoma imprints dating back to the first printing in the Indian Territory by the Union Mission Press, in 1835.

There are 797 titles given by Mr. Hargrett, of which no copies of 102 have been found although satisfactory proof of most of them is cited, and copies may yet be discovered. More than two-thirds of the titles (about 450) are described in this volume for the first time, and 385 titles are known from a single copy each.

The first recorded title is a broadside of the Cherokee alphabet printed in three columns by the Union Mission Press in 1835. A copy of the first book, or the second title, an eight page Cherokee primer for children, printed at Union Mission had not been seen, Mr. Hargrett's evidence of the title being based on a letter of the Reverend Samuel Worcester, dated October, 1835, to the American Board at Boston. This title supercedes that of *The Child's Book*, a Creek primer printed at Union Mission in 1835, a rare copy of which is on exhibit in the Oklahoma Historical Society Museum. *The Child's Book* has been generally referred to by historians as the first book published in Oklahoma, as indeed it is at the present time—the first book seen—, and will be until a copy of the Cherokee primer is found.

Mr. Hargrett's text is more than a listing of titles for under nearly all of them interesting and valuable notes are given on their history and on the individuals connected with their publication through more than a half century of printing in the Indian Territory before 1890.

The volume was published under the auspices of The Bibliographical Society of America with the co-operation of The Library of Congress and The Newberry Library. It is beautifully printed

and bound by the Anthoensen Press, Portland, Maine. The organization of the text with its summary of Oklahoma printing by years, its Index of Printing Places, Printing Press, and Printers, its Chronology of Printing in Oklahoma, besides its general Index, makes the book a treasure for any library.

—Muriel H. Wright

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*Indians in Transition.* By G. E. E. Lindquist. (New York: Division of Home Missions, National Council of Churches of Christ in the U. S. A., 1951. 117 pp. Maps. 75¢.)

This published survey *Indians in Transition* by Dr. G. E. E. Lindquist, who is so well known for his many years of service a Field Representative of the Division of Home Missions, National Council of Churches in the United States of America, fills a much needed source book for accurate statistics on the fullblood Indian and his problems in today's world. The "Foreword" by George Nace, Executive Secretary of the Division of Home Missions, states that this publication is presented for its factual information yet more in the hope that it will stimulate effective participation in an intelligent approach to secure the more abundant life for the American Indian. This problem is twofold: the individual Indian's acceptance and reaction to modern times as a well balanced citizen of worthy character in his native country; and a continued and effective program of Protestant missions to spread the Gospel. In passing, it is well to note that the work of missions will always remain a part of our Christian civilization and its progress, in which the Indian as well as the white and any other person in the United States should have a part. Churches and schools have a never ending program in our country.

Oklahoma has an important place in Dr. Lindquist's report since one-third of the Indians in the United States are located in this state. A great problem since the beginning of World War II has had to do with population changes for work in industrial centers in all regions where Indian tribal groups are located. The Indian population moves by the fullblood and nearly fullblood groups from rural living to urban centers are shown and the results pointed out in the report. Rapid City, Iowa, in the region of the great Sioux tribe is taken as a typical situation of what is happening in towns and cities fringing on the old Indian reservation areas. These data have special significance for urban centers in this state, especially for Oklahoma City with its greatly increased fullblood Indian population from rural communities. Employment opportunities for these people should be encouraged and housing conditions improved if they are to be allowed to live above the level of public charges.

The book supplies a much needed, up-to-date source for information on Protestant mission schools and on activities of religious work directors in Government schools in the United States. The two maps cover one for the United States indicating appreciable Indian population and church organizations at work; and one for Oklahoma showing Indian missionary work by counties carried on by agencies co-operating in the Protestant Indian Council of this state. Dr. Lindquist with the collaboration of E. Russell Carter, Religious Work Director at Haskell Institute, has made a fine contribution of data to students of Indian history and contemporary life, and to all others who would hold and promote the great values of American life.

—Muriel H. Wright

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