

## BOOK REVIEWS

**OPEN WIDER, PLEASE.** The Story of Dentistry in Oklahoma, by J. Stanley Clark. (Norman, University of Oklahoma Press, 1955. Pp. 391. Ills. \$5.00)

In point of time, modern dentistry as practiced today emerged simultaneously with the settlement and development of Oklahoma. Hence, a history of dentistry in Oklahoma of necessity parallels the history of the formation and growth of the State. Dr. Clark has handled both subjects well and has blended them together into a very readable volume.

As with other professions, the struggle for the adoption and universal recognition of a code of ethics was foremost in the attention of the dental pioneers in Oklahoma. Changing from an itinerant trade to the present substantial profession was a major accomplishment, and it is all recorded here.

The volume contains valuable reference material in the form of all Licensed Dentists from May 1891 to January 1955, officers of the Oklahoma State Dental Association, and similar reference data.

The various professions in Oklahoma are to be commended in their efforts to publish, while the information is yet intact, histories of their own growth and development in early Oklahoma. Coupled with the coming Semi-Centennial celebration of Oklahoma, such volumes are an important addition to the bibliography of Oklahoma history. It is hoped that the Bar Association, the Oklahoma Bankers, and others will follow the cue given by the dentists.

—C. Alton Brown, M.D.

*Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*

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**THE RAMBLER IN OKLAHOMA.** By Charles Joseph Latrobe (London 1835). Edited and Annotated by Muriel H. Wright and George H. Shirk (Harlow Publishing Corporation, Oklahoma City-Chattanooga, 1955. Pp. 85. Ills. Maps. \$3.00)

This first reprint with annotations of chapters pertaining to the Washington Irving tour of 1832 in Oklahoma, taken from *The Rambler in North America* (London, 1835) by Charles Joseph Latrobe, is particularly timely with the renewed interest in the Irving Expedition in the state. *The Rambler in Oklahoma* will always rank as a classic in Oklahoma history and literature, giving, as it does added facts and explanations by the editors, about the people mentioned and places visited by Latrobe that add much interest to the contents. Published for the first time is the map (page 29) by Colonel Shirk

who recently retraced the entire route of the tour. A facsimile of the Hitchcock Map (page 13), original in the Oklahoma Historical Archives, has never before been printed in connection with papers and previous publications on the Irving Expedition. Forming an appendix to the book, is the letter written by Commissioner Henry L. Ellsworth, in command of the tour, to Lewis Cass, Secretary of War, also published for the first time.

Charles J. Latrobe, world traveler, author, naturalist, accompanied by his protege, the young Swiss Count Albert de Pourtales, started the trip to North America early in 1832, in search of adventure. On board ship they met Washington Irving, returning to America following a long stay abroad. The trio struck up a strong friendship and whiled away hours aboard ship talking of possibilities of a trip to the Far West, to hunt buffalo, and to know the romance of life in the Indian Country. Surely Fate was with them, for it was on a boat trip from Buffalo to Detroit in August of that year that they met Mr. Ellsworth, slated to go to Fort Gibson under appointment of President Jackson through the War Department as a Commissioner in the settlement of Indian tribes then being removed from their lands east of the Mississippi to Indian Territory west of Missouri and Arkansas Territory. Arrangements were made for the three friends to accompany Mr. Ellsworth.

For their introduction to life in Indian Territory, they had as their guide from Independence, Missouri to the Three Forks, that distinguished gentleman, Indian Trader and friend of the Indians, Col. Auguste P. Chouteau, of whom Latrobe wrote, ". . . we were all beholden to his courteous manners, and extensive information on every subject connected with the country and its Red inhabitants, for much of our comfort and entertainment. . . ."

Their road merely a track over the natural sod of the prairie, the expedition set out from the Western Creek Agency October 10, 1832, and returned to that place one month later. Their route extended westerly through present Wagoner, Tulsa, Creek, Pawnee, Payne and Logan counties; south through Oklahoma and Cleveland counties; then swung northeast through Pottawatomie, Seminole, Okfuskee and Muskogee counties back to the Agency and Fort Gibson.

Latrobe wrote, "Here alone in the great wilderness we moved by day, lay down at night in peace and quiet . . . those who have never moved out of the narrow sphere where all is artificial . . . where the possession of much makes the attainment of more an absolute necessity . . . can hardly conceive how little in reality is essential, not only for existence, but for contentment. . . ." His scientific eye notes the vegetation, the beauty of the autumn prairie. He keeps a bag tied to his saddle into which he crams seeds of all kinds. He describes the Indians along the trail, whose campfire smoke often mingled with the smoke of the visitors' camp; shows his

appreciation of the art of camp cookery with descriptions of the preparation of venison, buffalo, turkey, and other game that made up the daily menu; kills his first bison; engages in a hunt for wild horses; spends anxious hours searching for the lost count; tells of rivers to be forded and of the Cross Timbers that bar the way, and of the rains that came down. He tells that game is less plentiful on the return, and the horses are lame but the spirit of adventure never dims.

—By Lillian Delly

*Lawton, Oklahoma*

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*A SURVEY OR ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY IN THE ARKANSAS-WHITE-RED RIVER BASINS.* National Park Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, 1955. Pp. 85. Not priced.

The National Park Service has completed a comprehensive survey of the recreational resources of the region comprising the basins of the Arkansas, White and the Red Rivers. This is of particular interest to Oklahomans in that Oklahoma is the only state entirely within that area. An appendix to the report dealing with the history and archaeology of the basins comprises a valuable reference work for Oklahoma historians and researchers.

The appendix is in two parts: Part I deals with archaeology of the region and was prepared by C. A. Steen. Part II, which is essentially a check list of all historic points and sites within the area, was compiled and prepared by John O. Littleton. Mr. Littleton has maintained an active interest in the Oklahoma Historical Society, and was a member of the 1954 Historical Tour.

The National Park Service is to be commended for its service in compiling data of this character. As time passes, more and more sites and historical locations such as those listed become obscure and more difficult to locate. Efforts to compile and make a matter of permanent documentation such information as this should receive full support from all members of the Oklahoma Historical Society.

—George H. Shirk.

*Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*