

BOOK REVIEW

Oklahoma: A Guide to the Sooner State. Compiled by Kent Ruth and the Staff of the University of Oklahoma Press. (University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, Oklahoma. 1957. Illustrations, maps, chronology, selected reading list, index. \$5.95.)

The publication of this *Oklahoma Guide* is an outstanding event this semi-centennial year of statehood for here fifty years after November 16, 1907, a portrait of Oklahoma has been attained. An attractive, useful volume, it is particularly valuable for fourteen separate articles that interpret and analyze the spirit of Oklahoma, its folklore, history, culture, industry and labor.

The first of these fourteen articles presented under the caption "General Background" in Part I is "The Spirit of Oklahoma," by Savoie Lottinville, Director of the University of Oklahoma Press. Others are by specialists in their fields, including well known professors in the University of Oklahoma: "Natural Setting" by John W. Morris, Department of Geography; "Early Oklahomans," by William E. Bittle, Department of Anthropology; "History," by Edwin C. McReynolds, Department of History; "Industry and Labor," by Arthur H. Doerr, Department of Geography; "Transportation in Oklahoma," by James A. Constantin, Marketing and Transportation; "Education," by Frank A. Balyeat, College of Education; "Architecture and Art," by John O'Neil, School of Art; "Music, Drama and Dance," by Spencer Norton, School of Music. Other subjects in this series, written by well known authorities in the state, are "Agriculture in Oklahoma," by A. E. Darlow, Vice-President of Oklahoma State University at Stillwater and Dean of its School of Agriculture; "Sports and Recreation," by Jeff Griffin, Director of Publicity for the Oklahoma Planning and Resources Board; "Newspapers," by Roy P. Stewart, staff member of the *Daily Oklahoman* and Washington correspondent; "Literature," by Edith Copeland, editor of the Literary page of the *Sunday Oklahoman*; "Oklahoma Folkways," by J. Stanley Clark, author and professor in Oklahoma City University.

Brief, factual information is given in the opening, "General Information," by Ralph Hudson, Librarian and archivist in the State Library at the Capitol in Oklahoma City. J. Eldon Peek, owner and president of the Oklahoma Theatre Supply Company, has provided fine photographs used as illustrations in the *Oklahoma Guide*.

Two-thirds of the text in this book offers a mine of information provided by Kent Ruth, author and the travel editor of the *Daily Oklahoman*. Here twelve Oklahoma cities are reviewed, their history and present day development briefly presented. Mr. Kent's outstanding contribution to the volume covers sixteen tours mapped within the borders of the state, giving interesting historical facts and present day data on nearly every town and historical place in Oklahoma. There are remarkably few errors in Mr. Kent's material.

Anyone who owns this new *Oklahoma Guide* has in his hands data which will stimulate his appreciation and interest in the old—in history—yet new—in progress—south western commonwealth of Oklahoma that has a significant place in the modern American scene.

—Muriel H. Wright

Oklahoma City