

BOOK REVIEW

The Kiowa Indians. By Hugh D. Corwin. (Privately printed; Hugh D. Corwin, Lawton, Okla. 1958. pp. 221. Ills. \$3.50.)

The official records of American Indian tribes are generally well preserved; but the traditions and stories which give an insight into native American minds and hearts are in danger of disappearance. Mr. Corwin's book on the Kiowas is a contribution to the history of a great people. His sources include books and articles on the Kiowa country by Grant Foreman, Carolyn T. Foreman, J. B. Thoburn, Colonel James B. Many, Lawrie Tatum, J. W. Wilbarger, Josiah Butler, W. S. Nye, J. J. Methvin, Isabel Crawford, Rev. Owen F. Thompson, George Catlin, and many other writers who have given their attention to the Indians of the Plains.

More important than his secondary sources, perhaps, are the results of his interviews with Kiowa Indians. The descendants of Hunting Horse; Tom Dietrich, grandson of Joseph Chandler; and Edward Clark, son-in-law of Quannah Parker, are examples of the host of acquaintances who have enabled Mr. Corwin to speak with authority. Kiowa history has its share of dramatic action, and the author has packed a great deal of it into this volume. His narrative includes the mysterious death of Kicking Bird; the tragic careers of Satank and Big Tree; the story of Odlepaugh; the legend of Medicine Bluff; and the personal conflict of Satanta and Big Bow over a Kiowa woman.

He also gives with interesting detail the story of the first school in the Kiowa country, established by Josiah Butler near Fort Sill in 1871. The Saddle Mountain Mission, the life of Rev. Albert Horse, and the Methvin Institute, are treated in separate chapters. Lone Wolf (Gui-pah-go), and his nephew, Ma-Ma-De, also called "Lone Wolf the Younger," are the principals of another chapter. Lucius Aitsan and Jimmy Quoetone, each of whom was the son of a Mexican captive who married a Kiowa woman, were men of deep influence.

Students of the Plains Indians will find this account of the Kiowas an interesting and informative volume.

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Trigger Marshal. By Homer Croy. (Duell, Sloan and Pearce, New York. Pp. 245. \$4.50)

Bringing law and order to the raw frontier of the Oklahoma and Indian territories were largely matters of courage, patience, and persistence on the part of United States marshals and their deputies. What is now Oklahoma had become the refuge of many lawless men from throughout the nation. A majority of them were from neighboring regions and frontier states. The reason for early day Oklahoma becoming a mecca for the outlaw on horseback arose largely from the absence of a well organized local constabulary. Where the states had sheriffs, policemen, and town marshals, the territories relied in general on federal lawmen to keep the peace. Among the greatest of these federal peace officers was Chris Madsen. His remarkable story is told in a colorful way by Homer Croy in *Trigger Marshal*.

In recording the life of Chris Madsen, a narrative unfolds that is almost unbelievable. This stolid block of a man, born in Denmark, is not the type that one would expect to carve a glamorous career for himself. But Chris Madsen, the Danish lad, fought with the French at the Battle of Sedan in the Franco-Prussian War; served with the French Foreign Legion in Algiers; was with the United States Cavalry at the Battle of War Bonnet Creek when Buffalo Bill killed the great Cheyenne Chief Yellow Hand; became a United States deputy marshal, and finally a United States marshal. On top of all this he served with the American forces in the Spanish-American War.

Trigger Marshal, however, concerns itself primarily with that period of Chris Madsen's life when he was a United States deputy marshal in Oklahoma. Croy makes a rollicking story out of the life of this phlegmatic Danish-American who attained phenomenal success as a tracker down and conqueror of Oklahoma bad men. Sometimes the author allows his enthusiasm for his subject to have free reign, with the result that a certain amount of flamboyancy creeps into the styling. The use of the simile and the metaphor are occasionally overdone. The technique works, nevertheless, to the extent that the reader looks forward with anticipation to what is on the next page.

Like the writer of drama, Croy now and then breaks the thread of his story with a bit of humor so as to eliminate the monotony of the grimness attached to the duties of federal law enforcement men. One of the best of these is the story of the time that Madsen and Bill Tilghman, another great marshal, went to the nation's capital in an effort to speed up some of their back pay. While there their friend, President Theodore Roosevelt, invited them to a swank military ball. The two

tough old frontiersmen rented evening clothes and joined the festivities. Inasmuch as Chris always spoke with a Danish accent, Bill introduced him throughout the evening as the Ambassador from Denmark. The attention Chris got from some of the grande dames was most amusing.

There is also pathos in Croy's writing of this story. His description of Madsen's love for his wife Maggie and his devotion to his children touches one's heart. The death of Maggie was a severe blow to Chris although he was to survive her by many years. Chris and Maggie are buried side by side in the Frisco Cemetery a few miles north of Yukon, Oklahoma. This reviewer was so intrigued with the life of Chris Madsen, as revealed in *Trigger Marshal*, that he recently paid a visit to the Frisco Cemetery to view the last resting place of that great peace officer.

—Elmer L. Fraker

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