

FRIENDS OF THE MIDDLE BORDER, MITCHELL, SOUTH DAKOTA VOL. IV, NO. II

CHICAGO FMB CHAPTER TO HEAR AUTHORITY ON MIDWEST LITERATURE

Prof. John T. Frederick, distinguished critic and radio reviewer, will address the Chicago chapter of Friends of the Middle Border and guests at its first an-nual meeting February 6, announces Mrs. A. H. Hilsabeck, chairman. "We feel complimented to have Pro-

fessor Frederick to talk on 'Middle Bor-der Literature,'" Mrs. Hilsabeck writes The Bulletin. "His recently published 'Out of the Midwest' is the best anthology of Midwestern literature, and sus-tains admirably his reputation built up as an authority in this field while editor of the 'Midland Monthly' and professor at Iowa, Notre Dame, and Northwestern. He has long been interested in FMB, and is a member of its advisory committee on literature."

The Chicago FMB chapter will open this meeting to the public, seeking to bring together many Chicagoans of Western backgrounds and others interested in cultural developments-literary, musical, historical, and others—of the reg-ion. Several committees are being appointed for this purpose, and to develop a year-round program of activities.

We would like to get in touch with anyone in the Chicago region who might be interested in joining our FMB chap-ter," says Mrs. Hilsabeck. "We know there are many people who would be glad to support this movement which is so American in its conception and development. Our annual dues are nominal—only two dollars a year."

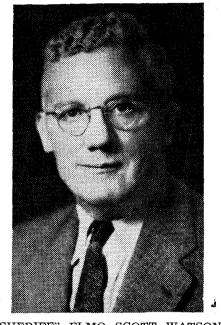
Mrs. Hilasbeck is immediate past president of the Friends of American Literature, and a member of the executive board of the Annual Writers Conference. She lives at 1365 East 64th Street, Chicago, (telephone: Midway 8258).

COMMANCHE NOT CUSTER'S HORSE

The Editor of the Bulletin bows low to C. I. Leedy, city auditor at Rapid City, S. Dak., who has called attention to an egregious error. A recent issue referred to ingly realize its purpose which, to quote a photo of Gen. George A. Custer and his a young Dakotan now soldiering in Eur-

"Commanche wasn't Custer's horse at for." all," writes Mr. Leedy. "If there is in existence a photograph of Custer and Com-manche it's a phony."

Commanche, be it known, was a claybank gelding, purchased by the Govern-ment at St. Louis in 1868, and served as historian of printing, died September 29, Capt. Myles Koegh's mount at the Battle of the Little Big Horn, June 25, 1876. He was author of numerous books in-Wounded in seven places, Commanche cluding "The Book, the Story of Printing survived the engagement—and was the and Bookmaking" and "Wings for Words," "only survivor." Carefully nursed back the life of Johann Gutenberg, inventor of to health, the horse remained with the printing. Seventh Cavalry at Fort Meade, S. Dak., Mr. M. and at Fort Riley, Kansas, where he died in 1891 or '92 aged 28 years. Professor Dyche, of the University of Kansas at Lawrence, mounted the hide and it is still preserved in the museum there.



"SHERIFF" ELMO SCOTT WATSON

WELCOME, CHICAGO FRIENDS.

To the Chicago chapter of Friends of the Middle Border—and all other chapters in prospect-Greetings!

We believed and we still believe that what controversies started in the blood and we call the Middle Border can make its sweat of the Battle of the Little Big Horn, greatest contribution to American civ- June 25, 1876. "Sheriff" Watson had ilization by being its best self. The spirit frequent recourse to his gong—an au-of self-reliance is our great heritage from thentic brass bell from Captain McDou-the piepeer, and we seek to faster it and gell's mule pack train segured from a the pioneer, and we seek to foster it and to make it fruitful in our day and the days to come. That is why we have chosen as our mottoes, "From what we have we make what we want," and, "What is past

so, Friends in Chicago and elsewhere, we welcome you. With your help, we believe that our organization can increasa young Dakotan now soldiering in Eur-

DOUGLAS C. McMURTRIE DIES Douglas C. McMurtrie, typographer and aged 56, at his home in Evanston, Ill.

of printing in the West led to association with FMB as member of an advisory stage coach, and train robberies occurred committee shortly after the organization's in the "guerilla fashion" of quick-riding, founding in 1939. He was an active mem- quick-shooting attacks. Members of the ber of the Westerners of Chicago.

CHICAGO 'WESTERNERS' MAKE HISTORY LIVE AT MONTHLY ROUNDUPS

"Chicago's most unique club" is how one newspaper writer describes "The Westerners," a group of Western history Westerners," a group of Western history enthusiasts who dine monthly at the Merchants and Manufacturers Club in the Merchandise Mart and forget the clock

while reliving history. It has no officers, but is rounded-up by "Sheriff" Elmo Scott Watson, a member of the faculty of Northwestern University. His "deputies" are Franklin Meine, author, and authority on Missis-sippi River humor; Leland D. Case, editor; and Herbert Kellar, historian. Membership Limited to 50

Resident membership is limited to 50 —and is "stag only." But any male out-side of the Chicago region may become a corresponding member upon payment of \$3 annual dues, which will bring him the right to attend roundups, The Wes-terners' publication, "The Brandbook," and membership in Friends of the Middle Border.. Since its inception last March, The Westerners have been affiliated with FMB through its Chicago chapter.

The October roundup will be devoted to "dime novels," with Albert Johannsen, emeritus professor of geology at the University of Chicago, leading the discussion. His is one of the finest collections in America of this "bad boy of literature." "Custer's Last Stand" was all but re-

Five years ago, FMB was started as enacted at the September dinner, with a an indigenous project in regionalism. panel of "alleged experts" stirring up We believed and we still believe that what controversies started in the blood and gall's mule pack train, secured from a Pine Ridge Indian by Fred B. Hackett. The discussion broke up just before midnight, but with the question whether Custer disobeyed Terry, or Reno did Custer, unsettled.

Digests of Recent Talks

Here are digests of recent talks:

Jesse James—by Don Russell, editorial writer, "Chicago Daily News" (March).

Scarcely anyone in America would fail to recognize the name of Jesse James, and yet it cannot be proved by historical evidence that he ever robbed a bank or held up a train. He was never tried for any crime, and for many attributed to him he was not even indicted.

Jesse Woodson James was born Sept. Douglas C. McMurtrie, typographer and Jesse Woodson James was born Sept. istorian of printing, died September 29, 5. 1847, near Centerville, now Kearney, ged 56, at his home in Evanston, Ill. Clav Co., Mo., the son of Dr. Robert uding "The Book, the Story of Printing brother Alexander Franklin James, was and Bookmaking" and "Wings for Words," born Jan. 10, 1843, and both James and he life of Johann Gutenberg, inventor of Frank joined Quantrill's guerillas early in the Civil War. Jesse was once cap-Mr. McMurtrie's interest in the history tured by Federal troops and beaten. f. printing in the West led to association with FMB as member of an advisory stage coach and train robberies occurred

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