Belles lettres and bell ringers


FOR many years Oklahomans have sought here and there to learn what this name or that name means. Now we know—at least in part. The author has classified Oklahoma place names as follows: Physiographic, Counties and County Seats, Post Offices and Towns, and Historical Names. There is an introductory chapter on Linguistic Origins in which the Spanish classified Oklahoma place names as follows: Norman, 1933.

In Oklahoma, as in other areas, place names have frequently become modified by use or the inability of the local residents to pronounce a "foreign" word—Bois d'Arc becomes Bodock. Okeene is a coined word, "Okee" the last part of the word "Cherokee" and "ne" the last of "Cheyenne," hence Okeene. But some clerk in making time tables for the railroad evidently had a better appreciation of Irish than Indian and Okeene became O'Keene. Such features in place names occur frequently. Why do Oklahomans—and in the southern part of the State—have an Ardmore and Marietta? Dr. Gould tells the reader that they are suburbs of Philadelphia and so named by railroad officials living in or near Philadelphia.

Obsolete terms are given brief attention. Unless they are recorded, time will soon cover them until no one will know their origin or even the name. Swanson County is now a matter of history. "Cherokee Strip" is commonly confused with "Cherokee Outlet." Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf Railroad—like other railroads—has lost its identity by purchase. These terms the author seeks to place on the pages of history.

The author makes no pretense to claim the work as exhaustive or complete. It is the beginning of a task which is almost endless. Critics add interpretations of names which were not before known. Scores of names not mentioned deserve attention—and will, it is hoped, be given a place in the next edition of the book.

A Year's Literary Work

Nine University alumni and at least a dozen faculty members have been authors of books during the past year, according to a survey made by Kenneth C. Kaufman, literary editor of the Daily Oklahoman who is a member of the University modern languages faculty.

The books by alumni, several of whom are faculty members, follow:

Wah'Kon-Tah, by John Joseph Mathews '20as, Pawhuska (University of Oklahoma Press), spiritual history of the Osages.

Toward the New Spain, by Joseph A. Brande, '21as, Norman (University of Chicago Press), history of the first Spanish republic.


No More Trumpets, by George Milburn, '30ex, formerly of Norman (Harcourt, Brace and company), short stories.

Kreuger's Million Dollar Bubble, by Earl Sparking, formerly of Oklahoma City (Greenburg), financial history and biography of Kreuger.


Early History, by Luther C. Snider, '11as, formerly of Norman (Century), geology.

The New First Course in Homemaking, by Maude Richman Calvert, '20M.S., Oklahoma City, and Anna Euretta Richardson (Smith and Hammond), home economics.