

UN Library Exhibits Books by Nebraskans

Works Discuss Pioneers, Politics, Stories of Indians

By Carol Garver.

If you are an observant and studious sort of person, you have no doubt noticed the group of books that have been gracing the show case on the first floor of the university library these past two weeks.

Books on pioneer life, on politics, common folk stories, and especially interesting to some, stories in which Indian and Indian Lore are the substance of the contents—all are the latest, outstanding works of Nebraska authors.

Everett Dick, a history professor at Union College here in Lincoln, has written a book, now on display, that has that distinct, "early day" flavor to it. It is called "The Sod House Frontier, 1854-890."

Compiled from old newspapers, documents and records, the book is a vital, glowing history of one little bit of humanity in the frontier life. It is a social history of the northern plains from the creating of Kansas and Nebraska to the admission of the Dakotas. The story differs from most in that no one gets

married in the last chapter and love is not mentioned.

"Prairie Women," by Ivan Beede, is another pioneer story in which the lives of typical men and women in a small middle western prairie town are portrayed psychologically by means of separate story flashes loosely strung together in the form of a novel.

Beede is able to portray the scenes and feeling sharply with a minimum but effective use of words. There is a genuineness of emotion in this incoherent plot helped by the use of the restrained style of the author.

Following the same theme, but entirely different in various respects is the book "Mortgage Your Heart," by Wohus Keith Winther. It is really a continuation of the novel "Take All to Nebraska." The plot is concerned with immigrant family named Gimsens, composed of six children and their parents, who are rent farmers of a Nebraska farm.

Minor rebellions of the children against the authority of their father, who detests seeing them grow into American ways, are present throughout the country. The climax comes when Hans, the oldest, is allowed to attend business school, a real victory on his part.

This story differs from the former ones mainly in the fact that

the characters seem unreal. There is a frozen quality about their thinking and actions. The language here is crude and the style is corresponding blunt.

The fourth book of this kind is "Spring Storm," written by a former economics professor at this university, Alvin S. Johnson. This is a story of a man and his son who move to a Nebraska farm where Julian, the son, grows into manhood. He becomes entangled in a love affair with a young wife of a drunken, repellent, old Dutchman who lives on the neighboring farm.

As a result Julian feels he is forced to leave the country he has grown to love for the east. The story is described as real but not squalid. Writing his story in a simple, beautiful and above all, poetic style, Johnson is able to capture the thoughts, feelings and confusion of youth.

John Neihardt presents an another phase of early American life—that of the American Indian. As a writer of poetry and lyric prose, Neihardt was given the title of Honorary Professor of Poetry at the University of Nebraska. His books, "The Song of the Messiah," "The Song of the Indian Wars," and "Black Elk Speaks," now on exhibit, are written in this manner.

"Black Elk Speaks," is the life story of a holy man of the Ogalala Sioux. Altho Neihardt lives in Mississippi, he was educated at Wayne Normal and the university of this state.

Hartley Burr Anderson, has carried thru the Indian theme in poetic style also in his book "God's Drum" which deals mainly with Indian folk lore. It is interesting to note that Professor Alexander, deceased since 1939, was born here in Lincoln to later become Professor of Philosophy at the University of Nebraska. He wrote many books and many were closely connected with the subject of his chosen profession.

A strictly patriotic book, is "Seasoned Timber," by Dorothy Canfield Fisher, a native of Kansas. In this she has symbolized the present day struggle between dictatorship and democracy by the means of a New England plot. A poor Vermont academy is left a million dollars by a rich citizen but with a catch.

The academy, in order to claim it, must submit to certain undemocratic principles and practices. The whole village takes sides, but in the end democracy reigns. A love affair, in which the principle is one of the participants does not end happily. To quote one of the critics, Mrs. Fisher has used a bold and unconventional treatment of a burning theme.

Another book, bordering more on politics than patriotism, however, is "The Western Democracy" by Arthur Mullen, a well known politician. Residing in his Omaha home Mr. Mullen raced against death to finish this book.

He has expressed his own personal opinions about important issues and the people of the day in his writings and has also given a bit of his past. In the latter he tells of his boyhood Nebraska home and his love for it. He once fueded with William Jennings Bryan and their fued did much to shape the political history of Nebraska.

He was floor leader for the democratic forces back in 1882, and was responsible for the appointment of Secretaries Hull and Ickes, in his book he expresses regret of that latter appointment. Mullen, a lawyer, was thoroly devoted to the principles of individual freedom. Incidentally, he speaks of Lincoln as a snob town.

Completing the list of books on display is "The Home Place" by Dorothy Thomas and "Capital City," by Mari Sandoz—what collection would be complete without her? Dorothy Thomas' book, like all her others, is a story about women in the midwest setting. Of course, men are included as a bit necessary to the plot but women compose the leading characters. The author, the born in Boons, Kas., attended high school at Bethany and college at Cotner and this university where she studied to be a teacher.

Miss Sandoz's general history is well known to everyone as is the content of her book, "Capital City," a story in which this fair city provides the setting for her dynamic characterizations.

Regents Transfer 18th, O Property

Board of regents of the university recently transferred to W. G. Lewis the property at the southwest corner of the 18th and O street intersection according to deed recorded Tuesday in Register of Deeds Vaughan's office at the courthouse.

The property, until recently oc-

cupied by a chain grocery store, brought \$7,500 in addition to a \$10,000 mortgage assumed by the purchaser. The property was originally deeded to the university by Don L. Love and John L. Teeters.

Bob Schlater.

Innocent, Daily Nebraskan editor, and all that sort of thing is off to Cody, Wyoming to accept a job for the rest of the summer.

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