

# A Range Man's Library

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As an amateur range man I should not attempt to discuss the technical working tools of the profession. I would soon be out of my depth. On the other hand I should not write as an established collector of the literature of the range. A collector has been defined as one who tries to accumulate all that has been written on a subject—the worthy and the unworthy. Certainly it would be out of place to urge that you buy the unworthy and become an all out collector of range books. The late Charlie Everitt, beloved Americana dealer of New York City, tells this tale in his delightful book, *THE ADVENTURES OF A TREASURE HUNTER* (Boston, 1951). A man walked into his shop one day and said, "I'll buy any damn thing that mentions a cowboy." Note the mark of the collector, "any damn thing." Some minutes later Charlie ran a total on his adding machine. The stranger tore off a piece of Charlie's wrapping paper and wrote a check for \$1,243. The check was signed, Philip Ashton Rollins. Rollins wrote *THE COWBOY* (New York, 1922), one of the classics on the cowboy, his equipment and his work. He revised and enlarged it in 1936 and that is the best edition. Rollins was one of the great collectors of range life books and the collection is still intact in the Princeton University Library.

<sup>1</sup>*Prepared for the annual meeting of the American Society of Range Management, February 1960, by J. C. Dykes, Assistant Administrator for Field Services, Soil Conservation Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C., and presented by F. G. Renner.*

My recommendations are restricted to the more recent books and pamphlets on the men and events of the range. They are also selective, mentioning mainly the worthy books that will help build a library rather than a collection. There are two primary reasons for sticking to the more recent books—cost and availability. While it does not hold for all kinds of books, most of the older range life books are both expensive and hard to find.

## Balance Needed

There should be balance in a range man's library. There should be books about the range country; biographies and autobiographies of cowboys and cowmen; histories of their associations; accounts of the trails and trail drivers; ranch histories; studies of the range wars; books about cows, sheep and range horses; and the literature of the range including the novels, ballads, and art. These are the books that a range man should read and reread for pleasure and for an understanding and essential background of his profession.

It is perhaps happenstance that I am in a position to discuss recent range books. I am a collector of range books but also I have two close associates, B. W. (Bill) Allred and F. G. (Fred) Renner, who collaborate on a monthly review column, *WESTERN BOOK ROUNDUP*, carried by several magazines. In each of the past five years we have reviewed about 150 Western books. Practically every new range book issued during that period has been reviewed by one of the three of us.

An indispensable first book in any range man's library is a good bibliography. Until December 31, 1959, when *THE RAMPAGING HERD* (Norman, 1959) by Ramon F. Adams was issued such a book was not available. It lists a total of 2,651 books and pamphlets on men and events in the cattle industry. While it is by no means selective, it will provide much guidance to any range man building a library. As a collector, I have found J. Frank Dobie's *GUIDE TO LIFE AND LITERATURE OF THE SOUTHWEST* (Austin and Dallas, 1942, and revised and enlarged, Dallas, 1952) very useful. In the chapters on Range Life, Cowboys, Cattle, Sheep; Cowboy Songs and Other Ballads; Horses, Mustangs and Cow Ponies; and The Bad Man Tradition, Dobie comments on range books in his own particularly pithy and penetrating fashion. You will find this book highly entertaining as well as useful. Make no mistake—Frank Dobie is a range man with a deep love of the land, grass and animals that shines through everything he has written.

The greatest single book about a major segment of the range country is Dr. Walter Prescott Webb's *THE GREAT PLAINS* (Boston, 1931). The first printing is now a collector's item. A much more recent book, *GRASSLANDS OF THE GREAT PLAINS, THEIR NATURE AND USE* (Lincoln, 1956) by J. E. Weaver and F. W. Albertson, with contributions by other experts including Bill Allred, brings together a tremendous amount of knowledge about the vegetation of the mid-continent prairie between the Saskatchewan and the Rio Grande. Carl Frederick Kraenzel's *THE GREAT PLAINS IN TRANSITION* (Norman, 1955) is worthwhile.

Unfortunately, so far as I know there is no book about the intermountain ranges that is comparable in environmental coverage to these three. A book that will be harder to find but worth the search is *WESTERN GRAZING GROUNDS AND FOREST RANGES* (Chicago, 1913) by Will C. Barnes. Leon V. Almirall in *FROM COLLEGE TO COW COUNTRY* (Caldwell, 1956) has some pertinent remarks to make on ranching at the nine thousand foot level. Two books which give considerable information on desert ranges are worth mentioning—Earl J. Larrison's *OWYHEE, LIFE OF A NORTHERN DESERT* (Caldwell, 1957) and Edmund C. Jaeger's *THE NORTH AMERICAN DESERTS* (Stanford, 1957). *THIS IS THE WEST* (N.Y., 1957) edited by Robert West Howard has much to say on the whole of the range country. It was issued first as a paper-back at 35 cents and then in hard covers, with numerous fine illustrations, at 6 dollars—a bargain either way.

### The Trail Driving Era

The days of the spread of cattle from Texas into the Northern Plains and of trail driving to rail heads in Kansas is one of the most thrilling periods in the history of the West. This period has been very thoroughly documented in both fact and fiction. No book on trail driving will compare with Andy Adams' *THE LOG OF A COWBOY* (Boston and New York, 1903). Frank Dobie in his *GUIDE* puts it so well—"If all other books on trail driving were destroyed, a reader could still get a just and authentic conception of trail men, trail work, range cattle, cow horses and the cow country in general from *THE LOG OF A COWBOY*." The first printing of this book is getting scarce but the publisher keeps it in-print with colored illustrations (added in

1927) by another range man, R. Farrington Elwell—former manager of Buffalo Bill's Wyoming ranch and well known Western artist now living in Phoenix, Arizona. Frank Dobie's *UP THE TRAIL FROM TEXAS* (New York, 1955), primarily for younger readers, is a dandy book about real trail drivers. Wayne Gard's *THE CHISHOLM TRAIL* (Norman, 1954) is the best book in print on that drove road just as the late Walter S. Campbell's (Stanley Vestal) *QUEEN OF COW TOWNS, DODGE CITY* (New York, 1952) is the best book in print on Kansas cowtowns. The late Floyd B. Streeter's *PRAIRIE TRAILS AND COWTOWNS* (Boston, 1936) was issued in a small edition and is now very scarce and expensive but most of the text, revised and expanded, is available in his later book, *THE KAW* (New York, Toronto, 1941). *THE CATTLE DRIVES OF DAVID SHIRK FROM TEXAS TO THE IDAHO MINES, 1871 and 1873* (Portland, Oregon, 1956) was edited by Martin F. Schmitt and includes some later experiences of Shirk as a cattleman in eastern Oregon.

### Cattle Kings

Some cowmen started as cowboys, many cowboys never became owners, and some owners were never cowboys. *CHARLES GOODNIGHT* (New York and Boston, 1936) by J. Evetts Haley is the best biography ever written of a range man and may be the best biography ever written about a Westerner. The first printing of this great book is scarce and expensive but it has been kept in print by the University of Oklahoma Press since 1949. Edward F. Treadwell's *THE CATTLE KING* (New York, 1931) is good on California's big cowman, Henry Miller. Like the Goodnight book the original publisher permitted Miller's biography to go OP but an-

other publisher recognized its value and reprinted it. Roscoe Sheller's *BEN SNIPES, NORTHWEST CATTLE KING* (Portland, Oregon, 1957) is a rags to riches story of a man whose cattle ranged over much of central Washington. He had competition from Pete French of Oregon. There is a book about French, too, and while it is classed as novel it is said to follow closely the life of this well known cowman. It was written by Elizabeth (Lambert) Wood and is entitled *PETE FRENCH, CATTLE KING* (Portland, Oregon, 1951). Here is one more—*PIERRE WIBAUX, CATTLE KING* (Bismarck, 1953), a pamphlet reprinted by the State Historical Society of North Dakota. It is about a Frenchman who did well in cattle and became a well known cowtown banker. Frazier Hunt's *CAP MOSSMAN* (New York, 1951) is a top biography. Mossman made his reputation as manager of the Hashknife in Arizona where his success in dealing with rustlers led to his appointment as Captain of the Arizona Rangers. Later Cap and his associates controlled a million acres of range, all under fence, in South Dakota. There are many books about cowmen but none better than these—and these have the added advantage of being readily available.

### Associations

Historically, cowmen, beginning with the roundup, have worked together in solving their mutual problems. The books about their associations are a part of the history of the range. Maurice Frink's *COW COUNTRY CAVALCADE* (Denver, 1954) is on the 80 year old Wyoming association. Lewis Nordyke's *GREAT ROUNDUP* (New York, 1955) is the saga of the Texas and Southwestern. Ray H. Mattison's *ROOSEVELT AND THE STOCKMEN'S ASSOCIATION* (Bismarck, 1950) is

of much interest. Teddy was quite an organizer.

### Autobiography

The books about cowboys are many. The first was Charles A. Siringo's *A TEXAS COWBOY, OR FIFTEEN YEARS ON THE HURRICANE DECK OF A SPANISH PONY* (Chicago, 1885). The first printing is exceedingly rare, but it has been reprinted many times. Siringo claimed that a million copies of it were sold in his lifetime. This seems to be an exaggeration but it was justifiably popular—a rollicking account. Fortunately, it is again in print with an entertaining and informative introduction by J. Frank Dobie, illustrations by Tom Lea, typography by Carl Hertzog, and the Sloane imprint (New York, 1950). Rated just below the Siringo, and not much at that, is Ike Blasingame's *DAKOTA COWBOY* (New York, 1958). Ike was a Matador cowboy and bronc peeler and this is a tremendously entertaining book that is also down to earth on all cow country happenings. Fred Gipson's *COWHAND* (New York, 1953) is matter-of-fact on the day-to-day jobs of a working cowboy. Richmond P. Hobson, Jr. has written two very entertaining books about the discovery and development of the last great cattle frontier on this continent—*GRASS BEYOND THE MOUNTAINS* (Philadelphia, New York, 1953) and *NOTHING TOO GOOD FOR A COWBOY* (Philadelphia, New York, 1955). Ranch life beyond the mountains in British Columbia was high adventure indeed. Walt Coburn's *STIRRUP HIGH* (New York, 1957) is his story of his first summer on the family ranch in Montana—it is completely charming.

### Ranch Histories

Ranch histories include much on the owners and their hired help as well as operations, fi-

nancing and stocking. *THE KING RANCH* (Boston, 1957) by Tom Lea, talented Texas writer and artist, is a handsome two volume set, designed by the equally talented Texas typographer, Carl Hertzog. It belongs in any range man's library. *LIFE ON THE KING RANCH* (New York, 1951) by Frank Goodwyn, is good on the life and legends of the Mexican vaqueros, who make up the working force on the ranch. Frank was raised on the Norias division where his father was the manager. J. Evetts Haley in *THE XIT RANCH OF TEXAS* (Chicago, 1929) spoke quite plainly about some folks who started their herds with XIT cows. A suit was filed and the unsold remainder of the first edition was impounded by the court. It is a very scarce and expensive book. However, with some changes, it is now again available with the imprint of the University of Oklahoma Press. The State of Texas traded the land which became the XIT to a Chicago syndicate for the Capitol building in Austin. *FLAT TOP RANCH* (Norman, 1957), edited by Bill Allred and the writer, is a different kind of a ranch history. It is the story of the creation of a ranch from a number of eroded, cropped-out farms and some depleted, brush-infested range. It also is the story, about the only one in book form as yet, of modern conservation ranching. Since neither Bill nor I receive a royalty from the sale of the book I am not too modest to say it also belongs in every range man's library. *WYOMING'S PIONEER RANCHES* (Laramie, 1955) is a big handsome encyclopedic volume on ranches of the Laramie Plain by three native sons, R. H. (Bob) Burns, A. S. (Bud) Gillespie and Willing G. Richardson. There are other ranch histories, of course, and nearly all of them are worth having.

### The Women's Viewpoint

The viewpoint of the women on range life is entertaining and sometimes informative. Agnes Morley Cleaveland's *NO LIFE FOR A LADY* (Boston, 1941) is generally conceded to be about the top account. It is certainly spritely enough without an overdose of sentiment but so is Sallie Reynolds Matthews' *INTERWOVEN* (Houston, 1936 and El Paso, 1958). The beautiful reprint, designed by Carl Hertzog, is illustrated by E. W. (Buck) Schiwetz. Mary Kidder Rak's *A COWMAN'S WIFE* (Boston and New York, 1934) and *MOUNTAIN CATTLE* (Boston and New York, 1936) are sound matter-of-fact ranch history. Mary Taylor Bunton's *A BRIDE ON THE OLD CHISHOLM TRAIL* (San Antonio, 1939) refutes the contention that women didn't go up the trail. Emerson Hough's good historical novel *NORTH OF 36* (New York, 1923) really stirred up the critics because he has the young woman owner of the herd on the trail with it.

### Range Wars

The range wars, the big owner versus small owners or nesters and cattle versus sheep, were often bloody. The moves and counter-moves by the participants make interesting reading. The Johnson County Wyoming affair is perhaps the most widely publicized of all range wars. A. S. Mercer's *THE BANDITTI OF THE PLAINS* (Cheyenne, 1894) was the first of several books on it and is now exceedingly rare. It has been reprinted several times. *THE LONGEST ROPE* (Caldwell, 1940) as told by Bill Walker to Mrs. D. F. Baber seems to be the only other account of the Johnson County troubles still in print. Will A. Keleher's *VIOLENCE IN LINCOLN COUNTY* (Albuquerque, 1957) is by far the most authoritative book on the so-called Lincoln County War. *ARIZONA'S*

**D A R K A N D B L O O D Y GROUND** (Caldwell, 1936 and revised and enlarged, 1948) by Earle R. Forrest is an entertaining account of the Pleasant Valley War in Arizona.

### County Histories

I want to call attention here to another type of book—the county history—which often contains biographies of early cowmen, accounts of the establishing of the first ranches, and something of the range troubles. I hope you will carefully scan the county histories available in your own State, for in them you will find range history not available elsewhere. Here are some of the recent examples of county histories of considerable range interest: George Francis Brimlow's **HARNEY COUNTY, OREGON AND ITS RANGE LAND** (Portland, Oregon, 1951), Ira A. Freeman's **A HISTORY OF MONTEZUMA COUNTY, COLORADO** (Boulder, 1958), Cornelia Adams Perkins' **SAGA OF SAN JUAN** (Monticello, Utah, 1957), Harry N. Campbell's **THE EARLY HISTORY OF MOTLEY COUNTY** (San Antonio, 1958). The latter is essentially the history of a great ranch, the Matador. Minnie Dubbs Millbrook's **NESS, WESTERN COUNTY, KANSAS** (Detroit, 1955) has a place of honor in my own collection because it was in Ness County that I learned some forty years ago that a cowboy is no longer "a hired man on horseback" much of the time.

### Range Livestock

"No cows, no cowboys. No sheep, no shepherds. No livestock, not much American West." This quotation, I believe, should be credited to the late Colonel Eddie Wentworth, teacher, author, and long-time educational director for Armours. A range man's library will include books about the critters. The number

one book is J. Frank Dobie's **THE LONGHORNS** (Boston, 1941) based on a terrific amount of research and written as only *Mr. Southwest* could write it—a major contribution to the history of the West. The cattlemen took the lead in settling much of our west and it was the longhorns, walking to their new homes, that went with them. Paul C. Henlein's **CATTLE KINGDOM IN THE OHIO VALLEY** (University of Kentucky Press, 1959) adds some important links in the spread of the British breeds westward from the Atlantic. It was on the prairies and savannahs of the Ohio Valley that these breeds were first crossed with the longhorns of Spanish origin. Today the Hereford is the dominant beef breed in this country. The newest and best book about the whitefaces is Don Ornduff's **THE HEREFORD IN AMERICA** (Kansas City, Missouri, 1957). Robert J. Kleberg, Jr. of the King Ranch has written a pamphlet about the first beef breed to be developed in this country, **THE SANTA GERTRUDIS BREED OF BEEF CATTLE** (Kingsville, Texas, 1954). The Santa Gertrudis are becoming popular in the Gulf Coast country. Frank W. Harding's **MOSTLY ABOUT SHORTHORNS** (privately printed, 1947) is a little harder to find but real Shorthorn fans will do it. The books by Alvin H. Sanders on the Hereford, Shorthorn and Angus are now scarce but worthwhile. His **THE CATTLE OF THE WORLD** (Washington, D. C., 1926) is profusely illustrated and somewhat easier to come by. The number one book about range horses is J. Frank Dobie's **THE MUSTANGS** (Boston, 1952). This is one of the best, if not the very best of all of Dobie's books. In it his love of the wild and free sings on every page. Rufus Steele's **MUS-**

**TANGS OF THE MESA** (Hollywood, 1941) is well written but no longer easy to find. Walker D. Wyman's **THE WILD HORSE OF THE WEST** (Caldwell, 1945) is based primarily on the written records and has a fine bibliography. Luis B. Ortega's **CALIFORNIA STOCK HORSE** (Sacramento, 1949) is well illustrated with photographs and is informative. John A. Gorman's **THE WESTERN HORSE** (Danville, Illinois, 1939) is always in demand and therefore, in print. Wayne Gard's **FABULOUS QUARTER HORSE: STEEL DUST** (New York, 1958) is the story of one of the famous sires of this purely American breed so popular as cow horses.

Despite the importance of sheep in our range economy they have been practically ignored in range literature. A range man's library, to maintain balance, should include some books on sheep. Fortunately there are some very good ones. The best of all is the late Archer B. Gilfillan's **SHEEP** (Boston, 1929), truly a Western classic. It was reissued by the University of Minnesota Press in 1957 with an illuminating introduction by J. Frank Dobie. Hughie Call's **GOLDEN FLEECE** (Boston, 1942) is good social history as well as informative on sheepherders. Winifred (Thalman) Kupper's two books **THE GOLDEN HOOF** (New York, 1945) and **TEXAS SHEEPMAN** (Austin, 1951) are about sheep and sheep folks in the Hill Country of Texas where she grew up. Both are authentic and charming. Towne and Wentworth's **SHEPHERD'S EMPIRE** (Norman, 1945) is based on the writings of others but worthwhile. Colonel Wentworth's **AMERICA'S SHEEP TRAILS** (Ames, Iowa, 1948) brings together much information. It is not a book for reading but does have considerable reference value. Will C. Minor's **FOOTPRINTS IN THE**

TRAIL (Denver, 1959) is a delightful book of nature stories by a scribbling shepherd. Minor says sheepherding allows him more opportunity to study the whole of nature than any other manner of making a living he has yet discovered. He may be a worthy successor to Archie Gilfillan.

#### Literature Diverse

The literature of the range is certainly diverse. It encompasses the ballads and other verse, the legends and tall tales, the novels and short stories, the writings of certain range men, cartoons and art, and the heraldry of the range. I am also including here two additional books by Ramon F. Adams, COWBOY LINGO (Boston, 1936) and WESTERN WORDS (Norman, 1944). Both were labors of love in which Ramon strives to preserve for posterity, in dictionary form, the idiom of early range days. With the possible exception of the Negro spirituals, cowboy songs and ballads are believed to be the major contribution of this country to folk songs. John A. Lomax spent thirty years collecting and preparing such ballads for publication. Any of the books of cowboy songs he has compiled and his ADVENTURES OF A BALLAD HUNTER (New York, 1947) are worthwhile. The late Badger Clark's SUN AND SADDLE LEATHER (Boston, 1915) received the approval of the severest critics of all, the old-time range men. It is in print and enlarged to include the poems which appeared in a number of other small books of verse by Badger. "The Badger Hole," his log cabin bachelor home near Custer, South Dakota is now a State shrine. Omar Barker's SONGS OF THE SADDLE MEN (Denver, 1954) speaks to all those who love grass, blue skies, cattle and horses.

#### Novels

The novels of Andy Adams and

of Eugene Manlove Rhodes are a part of the literature of the range but all are now believed out of print. Several of the Rhodes novels were reprinted in paperback series and can occasionally be found in the used book and magazine stores. Conrad Richter's THE SEA OF GRASS (New York, 1937) is a beautifully written novel with a sound range conservation moral. Owen Wister's THE VIRGINIAN (New York, 1902) was the beginning of the deluge of "Westerns." It is still in print and while it does not smell strongly of cows, it has become an American range classic. The short stories and tall tales of Charles M. Russell, the great cowboy artist, are terrific. Many of them are included in TRAILS PLOWED UNDER first issued in 1927 but still in print. His GOOD MEDICINE contains a number of brilliantly illustrated letters. It was first issued in 1929 and is still available. Both the illustrations and Russell's words mirror the range. Russell illustrated many other range books but unfortunately nearly all of them are out of print. Mody C. Boatright's TALL TALES FROM TEXAS COW CAMPS (Dallas, 1934) is no longer easy to find but worth seeking. Dr. James Cloyd Bowman's PECOS BILL (Chicago, 1937) is the best of several books on this legendary cowboy.

#### Cartoons and Photographs

The late J. R. Williams' COWBOYS OUT OUR WAY (New York, 1951) is a highly enjoyable true-to-life book of cartoons. J. Frank Dobie liked it and gave his reasons in the introduction he wrote for it. Ace Reid's COWPOKES (Kerrville, Texas, 1958) won't equal Jim Williams' expert work but Ace is a comer. The photographs by certain pioneer cameramen do much to document the flavor of the range. Brown and Felton's BEFORE BARBED WIRE (New York,

1956) reproduces many of the pictures of range life made by the pioneer Montana photographer, L. A. Huffman, LIFE ON THE TEXAS RANGE (Austin, 1952) is profusely illustrated with the very fine photographs made by the pioneer Texas camera artist, Erwin E. Smith. The text is by J. Evetts Haley. Ed Borein, like his friend Charlie Russell, was never a top cow hand because he was too interested in sketching the man, cow and horse action that is inevitable on the range. After Ed's death his friends published two handsome volumes—ETCHINGS OF THE WEST (Santa Barbara, 1950) and BOREIN'S WEST (Santa Barbara, 1952)—in which most of his great range sketches are saved for our future edification. Harold Bugbee illustrated several Haley books; Tom Lea several by Dobie; Ross Santee many of his own books as well as range books by others. Will James stuck pretty much to illustrating his own works. These and such other great western artists as "Buck" Duntton, Maynard Dixon, R. Farrington Elwell, Nick Eggenhofer, Harvey T. Dunn, and Frederic Remington illustrated range books. Watch for books with drawings by these artists. They are marks of quality.

#### Life on the Range

A range library should also include books that cover the sweep of men, cattle, horses, and country in their relation to one another. Such a book, for example, is Ernest Staples Osgood's THE DAY OF THE CATTLEMAN (Minneapolis, 1929 and reprinted 1954). Here, too, belongs Granville Stuart's FORTY YEARS ON THE FRONTIER (Two volumes, Cleveland, 1925 and in one volume, Glendale, Calif., 1959). E. C. Abbott, better known as Teddy Blue, was Stuart's son-in-law. Teddy told his story to

Helena Huntington Smith and the book which resulted from their collaboration, **WE POINTED THEM NORTH** (New York, 1939 and Norman, 1955, with Eggenhofer illustrations) is frank and highly entertaining. Walker D. Wyman's **NOTHING BUT PRAIRIE AND SKY** (Norman, 1953), based on the notes of Bruce Siberts, is just as frank on the early days on the Dakota range. Both deserve high literary ratings.

Three books have been compiled recently in which the records left by pioneer range men and those who reported their doings are made available to modern readers—Ramon F. Adams' **THE BEST OF THE AMERICAN COWBOY** (Norman, 1957), **THE COWBOY READER** (New York etc., 1959) edited by Lon Tinkle and Allen Maxwell and Clifford P. Westermuir's **TRAILING THE COWBOY** (Caldwell, 1955). Westermuir also wrote what is probably the most realistic book on the rodeo, **MAN, BEAST, DUST** (Denver, 1947). The classic book on brands is Oren Arnold and John P. Hale's **HOT IRONS** (New York, 1940) but Duncan Emrich' **THE COWBOY'S OWN BRAND BOOK** (New York, 1954) is a minor classic for readers 7 to 70. It was only after reading Hortense Warner Ward's **CATTLE BRANDS AND COWHIDES** (Dallas, 1953) that I learned why I couldn't read the Mexican brands I had encountered in the lower Rio Grande Valley thirty years ago. One or two of his own State or county brand books should be in each range man's library.

#### British Books

Some of the best writing ever done about the range is by educated men from the British Isles. The investment of foreign capital in livestock enterprises in the American West was a major financial phenomenon of

the late seventies and early eighties. Younger sons, experienced breeders, and British visitors followed their capital to the West. Unfortunately, there isn't a book by one of these educated gentlemen in print today. Mostly, they are expensive and hard to find, yet a range man's library should include one or more of these volumes. Perhaps the best of all, and probably the most expensive, is John Clay's **MY LIFE ON THE RANGE** (privately printed in Chicago, 1924). Clay, an educated Scot, was tenderfoot, ramrod, manager, owner and founder of a great commission firm. His book is tops in writing style and content. William French's **SOME RECOLLECTIONS OF A WESTERN RANCHMAN** (London, 1927) and John Culley's **CATTLE, HORSES AND MEN** (Los Angeles, 1940) rate just below Clay's book. R. B. Townshend's **A TENDERFOOT IN COLORADO** (London, 1923), **A TENDERFOOT IN NEW MEXICO** (London, 1923) and **LAST MEMORIES OF A TENDERFOOT** (London, 1926) are all good. They were reissued in this country in the twenties and are somewhat less expensive than those mentioned above. The one range book by an English author you are most likely to find, **MY REMINISCENCES AS A COWBOY** (New York, 1930) by Frank Harris, is utterly worthless. It was issued in wraps in what must have been a huge printing and is still rather common. There are many others, fortunately, and most of them are good.

#### Western Frontier Library

There never was a time before when so many good range books could be bought for so little. For example, Savoie Lotinville, the canny businessman and scholar, who heads the University of Oklahoma Press, is issuing a well printed, hard board cov-

ered series, The Western Frontier Library at \$2 per volume. In this Library of classic western reprints of particular interest to range men are: Mercer's **THE BANDITTI OF THE PLAINS** (1954) with a long introduction by William H. Kittrell; Pat F. Garrett's **THE AUTHENTIC LIFE OF BILLY THE KID** (1954), a major Lincoln County War item with an introduction by the writer which shows it isn't so authentic; Charles L. Martin's **A SKETCH OF SAM BASS** (1956), a cowboy and trail driver who turned train robber, with an introduction by Ramon F. Adams; Nelson Lee's **THREE YEARS AMONG THE COMANCHES** (1957) with an introduction by Dr. Walter P. Webb (Lee was a horse and cow trader and trail driver to Louisiana before he was captured); Will Hale's **TWENTY - FOUR - YEARS A COWBOY AND RANCHMAN IN SOUTHERN TEXAS AND OLD MEXICO** (1959), one of the rarest and most sought-for range books; and General James I. Brisbin's **THE BEEF BONANZA or HOW TO GET RICH ON THE PLAINS** (1959), one of the books credited with inducing eastern and foreign financiers to invest in the cattle business in the West. It was first issued in 1881 and was really an expansion of the first promotional piece of its type done for the Union Pacific Railroad — Dr. Hiram Latham's **TRANS-MISSOURI STOCK RAISING** (Omaha, 1871), a very rare range book.

#### Other Reprints

The famous reprint house Grosset and Dunlap has included two great books in the Grosset Universal Library, issued in paper covers, to sell at \$1.25—Dobie's **THE LONGHORNS** (1957) and Webb's **THE GREAT PLAINS** (1957). Bantam Frontier Classics, issued in 1959 in paper covers to sell at four bits include Dobie's **THE MUSTANGS**, Gip-

son's COWHAND, Santee's LOST PONY TRACKS and Campbell's (Vestal) DODGE CITY. Pennant Books issued Dobie's A VAQUERO OF THE BRUSH COUNTRY in wraps in 1954 to sell for two bits—this is a somewhat abridged edition of the 1929 *First* that is one of my favorites among all of Frank's fine books. Watch the racks of paperbacks in the book stores, newsstands and drug stores. More and more good range books are showing up on them. Also watch the remainder tables (sometimes labeled "Publisher's Overstocks") in the bookstores—occasionally a publisher overestimates the number of copies of a good range book the public will take at the original price and has to sell them cheaper.

Two other reprints in 1959, both by the Antiquarian Press of New York, rank in importance with the issuing of THE RAMPAGING HERD as news in the field of range books. They are cheap only in comparison with the prices commanded by the originals when one or the other does infrequently appear on the market. James Cox's HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD OF THE CATTLE INDUSTRY AND THE CATTLEMEN OF TEXAS AND ADJACENT TERRITORY (St. Louis, 1895) and James W. Freeman's PROSE AND POETRY OF THE LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY (Denver and Kansas City, 1905) were the two reprinted in handsome numbered editions of 500. The Cox, in two volumes, has a new introduction by J.

Frank Dobie—the Freeman one by Ramon Adams. The price of each is \$100. This is the first reprint of each of these exceedingly rare books. A good copy of the first of either brings \$500.

If you have the time, the patience, and the money, by all means get the first edition of all the books mentioned. The *firsts* will give you a feeling of pride of ownership as long as you live and will constitute a substantial addition to your estate. But, first editions are not mandatory in a range man's library. The reprints provide the same or an improved text at much less cost and can be had now. There is no valid reason for a range man to be without a library to supplement his working tools and to enrich his understanding of his calling.