



10-15-1984

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Recommended Citation

Westview Staff (1984) "Westview Receives Boost," *Westview*: Vol. 4 : Iss. 1 , Article 10.
Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview/vol4/iss1/10>

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Westview Receives Boost

WESTVIEW received a much-appreciated boost on Sunday, July 15, 1984 from a columnist whose word is good in Oklahoma. Kent Ruth of Geary devoted his entire column in the SUNDAY OKLAHOMAN to saluting WESTVIEW, A JOURNAL OF WESTERN OKLAHOMA. The column follows.

Western State Magazine Tries to Remember Past

By Kent Ruth

A salute today to a competitor! To a western Oklahoma magazine that is trying to do in a formal magazine format what this column attempts in the hurried — and hurried — confines of a daily newspaper. To promote a better understanding and appreciation of the past so as to enrich the present and, maybe, to shape a better future.

"Westview" is such a magazine, "A Journal of Western Oklahoma." It drew its first breath in 1981 on the campus of Southwestern Oklahoma State University with Dr. Leroy Thomas serving as godfather.

It is published quarterly. Individual issues cost \$2.50. The annual subscription rate has just been lowered — repeat, lowered — to \$8. Send check (or request for more information) to "Westview," SWOSU, 100 Campus Drive, Weatherford, 73096.

The spring 1984 book is a good example of what "Westview" is trying to do. Its theme is "Western Oklahoma Educators." In it, a score of writers pay personal tribute to individual teachers they have known, teachers who have influenced their lives.

Not surprisingly, several of the

Window On the Past

teachers honored were long-time SWOSU faculty members, such as Dora Ann Stewart, Elsie Shoemaker, J. R. Pratt, Gladys Belamy, Ivan Dean Cates, Edna Muldrow. Thousands of Oklahomans have known and been touched by one or more of those veteran teachers.

But Louise E. Latimer is honored, too, for 30 years of teaching in a procession of one- and two-room schools in western Oklahoma. As are "The Twins," Ima and Ura Foster, who between them spent 89 years helping to shape the lives of Greer County grade school youngsters.

Another article is a first-person effort by a "Depression Teacher," a sensitive recall of public school experiences in the '30s ... when sharing was a way of life and a teacher who gave a pair of 33-cent Sears Roebuck sneakers to a shoeless student felt amply repaid with a baked sweet potato from a syrup bucket lunch pail.

But "Westview" is a variety

package. It includes fiction as well as fact, poetry and art work as well as eulogies and autobiographies.

The spring 1984 issue simply had education as its theme. Other aspects of life in western Oklahoma, yesterday and today, will serve as themes of future issues. The current summer book, for example, features "Western Oklahoma Religion."

Western Oklahoma's "Colorful Past" will be featured this fall. Western Oklahoma politics, its frontier years and its successful artists and writers will serve as themes for subsequent issues.

Congratulations to Thomas and his staff. "Westview" isn't likely to depress sales of the New Yorker or National Geographic, or, for that matter, the Great Plains Journal, published by Steve Wilson and his fine staff at Lawton's institute of the Great Plains.

But "Westview" is a noble first effort (at least it's first to our knowledge) at giving Western Oklahoma its own literary voice. Its own cultural voice, if you will. It's an organ for searching out and preserving what is significant about the western half of Oklahoma, yesterday and today.

We wish it well.

THE SUNDAY OKLAHOMAN Section A July 15, 1984