

UP THE TRAIL FROM TEXAS

by J. FRANK DOBIE

Cowboys who drove herds of Texas cattle up the Chisholm Trail have interested readers, both young and old, for more than seventy-five years. Now the true story of trail-driving has been written by J. Frank Dobie, authority on the history and tradition of range life in the West.

In the period following the Civil War, longhorns were driven north by the hundreds of thousands each year to be sold in rollicky cow towns and to stock vast ranges taken from the buffaloes. Indians, scarcity of water, floods, lightning, stampedes—these were only some of the dangers confronting trail drivers. There were no fences. Grass was free—and so was life.

Among the characters in the book are Joseph G. McCoy, who established the first cattle market at Abilene, Kansas—terminus of the Chisholm Trail; Walter Billingsley, who bossed "the biggest trail herd" for the mighty King Ranch; and Charles Goodnight and Oliver Loving, who blazed a trail into New Mexico.

When he was young, Mr. Dobie knew many old-time trail drivers and took down their stories. Here he gives them, along with a wealth of information and anecdotes concerning the remuda men, chuck wagon cooks, trail bosses, cow horses, bell mares, longhorned steers and other types of trail-driving history.

Here is the *real* story of the *real* cowboy of the old West at the peak of his career.

J. FRANK DOBIE was born and reared on a ranch in the brush country of southern Texas. For thirty years he taught in the English Department of the University of Texas, and during World War II was Visiting Professor of American history at Cambridge University, England. His first book dealing with range life was *A Vaquero of the Brush Country*, followed by *The Longhorns* and *The Mustangs*.

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