

# PICHER, OKLAHOMA

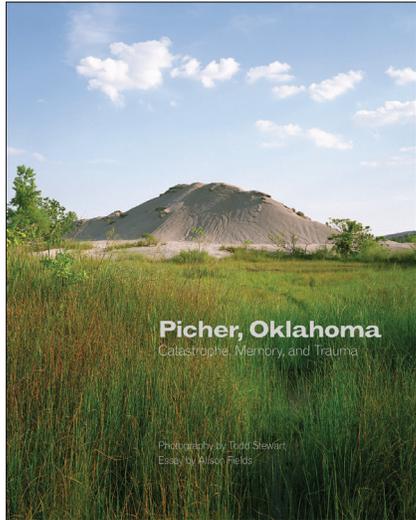
## Catastrophe, Memory, and Trauma

By Todd Stewart and Prof. Alison Fields



MAY 2016  
\$29.95 CLOTH 978-0-8061-5165-6  
224 PAGES, 8 X 10  
154 COLOR AND 38 B&W ILLUS.  
PHOTOGRAPHY/U.S. HISTORY

VOLUME 20 IN THE CHARLES M. RUSSELL CENTER SERIES ON ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY OF THE AMERICAN WEST



*A haunting photographic record of a former boomtown and the lives it contained*

On May 10, 2008, a tornado struck the northeastern Oklahoma town of Picher, destroying more than one hundred homes and killing six people. It was the final blow to a onetime boomtown already staggering under the weight of its history. The lead and zinc mining that had given birth to the town had also proven its undoing, earning Picher in 2006 the distinction of being the nation's most toxic Superfund site. Recounting the town's dissolution and documenting its remaining traces, *Picher, Oklahoma* tells the story of an unfolding ghost town. With shades of Picher's past lives lingering at every intersection, memories of its proud history and sad decline inhere in the relics, artifacts, personal treasures, and broken structures abandoned in disaster's wake.

In Todd Stewart's haunting photographs, faded snapshots and letters, well-worn garments, and books and toys give harrowing and elegiac testimony of constancy and dislocation. Empty buildings and bared foundations stand in silent witness to the homes, schools, churches, and

businesses that once defined life in Picher. As these photographs and Alison Fields's accompanying essays explore the otherworldly town teetering over massive sinkholes, they reveal how memory, embedded in everyday objects, can be dislocated and reframed through both chronic and acute instances of environmental trauma.

Though hardly known outside the Three Corners Region of Oklahoma, Kansas, and Missouri, the fate of Picher echoes well beyond its borders. *Picher, Oklahoma* reflects the broader intersections of memory, time, material objects, and changing environments, demanding our attention even as it resists easy interpretation.

Todd Stewart is Art, Technology, and Culture Associate Professor, School of Art and Art History, University of Oklahoma. He is author-photographer of *Placing Memory: A Photographic Exploration of Japanese American Internment*, and his work has been shown nationally in more than twenty exhibitions. Alison Fields is the Mary Lou Milner Carver Professor of Art of the American West and Assistant Professor of Art History, University of Oklahoma.

<b>ORDER</b>			<b>UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA PRESS</b> · 2800 VENTURE DRIVE · NORMAN, OK 73069-8216																	
<b>PICHER, OKLAHOMA</b>			OR CALL: (800) 627-7377 OR (405) 325-2000 · FAX: (800) 735-0476 OR (405) 364-5798 · ORDER ONLINE AT OUPRESS.COM																	
Catastrophe, Memory, and Trauma			NAME _____																	
By Todd Stewart and Prof. Alison Fields			ENCLOSED IS MY																	
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 30%;">PRICE EACH</th> <th style="width: 10%;">QTY</th> <th style="width: 60%;">SUBTOTAL</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">\$29.95 Cloth</td> <td style="text-align: center;"> </td> <td style="text-align: center;"> </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" style="text-align: center;">SHIPPING &amp; HANDLING* _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" style="text-align: center;">TAX _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" style="text-align: center;">TOTAL _____</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			PRICE EACH	QTY	SUBTOTAL	\$29.95 Cloth			SHIPPING & HANDLING* _____			TAX _____			TOTAL _____			<input type="checkbox"/> MONEY ORDER <input type="checkbox"/> CHECK (TO OU PRESS)		
PRICE EACH	QTY	SUBTOTAL																		
\$29.95 Cloth																				
SHIPPING & HANDLING* _____																				
TAX _____																				
TOTAL _____																				
ADDRESS _____			PLEASE CHARGE MY																	
CITY _____			<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>																	
STATE _____ ZIP _____			CARD NO. _____																	
DAYTIME PHONE _____			EXPIRATION DATE _____																	
SIGNATURE _____																				
<small>*PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY ORDERS FROM INDIVIDUALS. FOR DOMESTIC ORDERS, PLEASE ADD \$5.00 USPS SHIPPING FOR THE FIRST BOOK AND \$1.50 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL BOOK. FOR UPS/PRIORITY SHIPPING, ADD \$8.00 FOR THE FIRST BOOK, AND \$2.00 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL BOOK. INTERNATIONAL ORDERS, INCLUDING CANADA, ADD \$15.00 USPS SHIPPING FOR THE FIRST BOOK, AND \$10.00 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL BOOK. RESIDENTS OF OKLAHOMA MUST INCLUDE 8.25% SALES TAX. CANADIAN ORDERS ADD 5% GST. WE ACCEPT CHECKS, MONEY ORDERS, VISA, MASTERCARD, DISCOVER, AND AMERICAN EXPRESS. PRICES AND AVAILABILITY SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.</small>																				
<small>THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA IS AN EQUAL-OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER. WWW.OU.EDU/EOE</small>																				