

U. S. A.
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tigations into the question which is the subtitle of the book: "What You Can Do About Prejudice." But even while this question is being investigated, efforts to wipe out racial and religious discrimination and prejudice must continue on the level of the knowledge we now possess.

U. S. A. Notes

THE STORY OF BAR HARBOR, by Richard Walden Hale, Jr. Ives Washburn, \$3. Mr. Hale was getting along fine with his "informal history recording 150 years in the life of a community" when, in the rainless autumn of 1947, the community started to burn up. This tragic dénouement gave him an admirable if unsought opportunity to prove his point (for this is history with a point) that "Bar Harbor is a place in which democracy

has succeeded when other forms of government, other ways of life, have failed." These "Americans who know how to help themselves" lived unto themselves until 1844, when Thomas Cole, Hudson River painter, brought his sketch-book (Princeton has it now) to Mount Desert Island. The cottage era, strictly, did not open until nearly twenty-five years later. It is still going strong; age cannot wither it, or dry timber burn it out. Mr. Hale, as becomes a member of the Wellesley faculty, alludes frequently and informally to novels with Bar Harbor settings. His own account, readable and competent, deserves to become a part of the region's permanent literature.

MOONSHINE AMERICA, by Leonard Wayman. Anglobooks, New York City. \$1.50. The press-release accompanying this book tries to do the reviewer's own mad-getting for him; for instance, it calls Mr. Wayman a "self-styled British author-sociologist." (Mr. Wayman doesn't style himself that or

Old Man

By Vincent McHugh

TIED round with dreams of sage poulette
eaten when he was a boy
and the old lion hunter
down from the Wasatch, who bred whippets for show
and who had numbers of bitches lying about
each with her litter, warmed by a kerosene stove

Let me tell you it was no easy going
no dugways then
the snow in the passes
and the hard yells of the Apache
echoing in the rock

The woman from Texas
who came to the point with little yelps
like a dog being kicked

And the sea the sea remembered all his life
in that one glimpse of it off Monterey

The first girl
in the field of wild mustard
her brown breast panting and wet
like the sweet flesh of infants kissed after a bath

Just once in forty years
the ore came right
that day in the Sangre de Cristo
and even the tailings had a smell of gold

Sold and poured into the bars of Tucson
The men standing close now
as if he were a talisman

The lightning blaze of whiskey
swollen in his muscles
and the sound of splintering wood

Waked and slept and waked again for two days more
and the business men on palomino horses at his funeral

\$400⁰⁰ CASH-PRIZE CONTEST

for the best letters on the controversial ending
of this new, 448-page, homosexual novel

THE DIVIDED PATH

by NIAL KENT

First Prize \$125.00
Second Prize 75.00
Third Prize 50.00
10 Prizes, each 15.00

Most novels on this theme have tragic endings. *The Divided Path*, however, ends on a note of hope. This story of the birth and development of the sexual consciousness of its young hero is presented against a twilight-world background with an authenticity unmatched in modern literature. Comments on its controversial ending may win for you one of these big prizes.

CONTEST RULES

1. Each contestant may submit one letter of not more than 300 words in length. All entries should be sent to Contest Editor, Greenberg: Publisher, 201 East 57th Street, New York 22, N. Y. and postmarked not later than December 1, 1949.

2. Prizes will be awarded for the best letters commenting upon the controversial ending of *The Divided Path*, a novel by Nial Kent. Letters may be *pro* or *con*, or may offer a new solution altogether. Should Michael, the hero, whose development inevitably sent him into the twilight world, live or die, and why? Should he find final happiness with Paul, or marry Elinor, whom he also loves? How would you end this novel?

3. Letters will be judged by the editorial staff of Greenberg: Publisher. Their decisions shall be final.

4. All contest letters become the property of Greenberg: Publisher, and none will be returned.

5. This contest is open to everyone within the continental limits of the United States, except employees of Greenberg: Publisher or their advertising agencies.



Published Thursday

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or
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201 East 57th St.
New York 22, N.Y.

anything else in his book.) Mr. Wayman, the release continues, "discredits U. S. sincerity, character, intelligence, culture, business, foreign policy, and the American way of life." That's all right, so long as he leaves our women and our cooking alone. Actually Mr. Wayman isn't as bad, or as good, as he is made out to be. Take his chapter on "The Culture of the American Aborigine" (and he isn't talking about the Indians). Not a single book or author is mentioned in it. The chapter is concerned entirely with movies and radio, and a good many Americans would regard his strictures as understatement. He makes up a singing commercial in praise of Wayman's Desiccated Wheat—how many American advertising men does he suppose know what desiccated means, let alone how to spell it? Inevitably he stresses the gangster theme, but every gangster he names has been in his ten-thousand-dollar coffin for these many years, and one was actually legally executed. His anger is honest and forthright; he swings a lance, not a needle. But just one moment, Wayman, you who know all about the American way of life—there is no hyphen in Sing Sing.

SERVICE FOR PEACE: A HISTORY OF MENNONITE CIVILIAN PUBLIC SERVICE, by Melvin Gingerich. Mennonite Central Committee, Akron, Pa. Since their establishment in 1525, the Mennonites have held that war is "utterly contrary to the spirit and teaching of Jesus." Of 12,000 conscientious objectors drafted under the Selective Service Act of 1940, 4,665 were Mennonites. Their tradition of non-resistance was as sincere as it was ancient. Some Mennonites suffered for their beliefs during the First World War, and as a result the church put on an aggressive campaign for its principles and its integrity that bore fruit twenty-two and more years later.

Mennonite service in 1941-47 included work in soil conservation, national parks maintenance, reclamation, agriculture, dairying, mental-hospital duty, public-health work, and, rather more spectacular, in the United States Forest Service, where several of the youths became "smoke jumpers." (Mr. Gingerich gives credit for this particular idea not to a Mennonite, but to a Quaker.) This 500-page study, complete with bibliography, appendices, statistical tables, and a minute index, is comprehensive and inclusive. It is entirely factual, contains no special pleading, and altogether is a satisfactory, interesting, and worth-while addition to the history of America's war years.

WELLS FARGO: ADVANCING THE AMERICAN FRONTIER, by Edward Hungerford. Random House. \$3.75. Boswell met Johnson, and Wells met Fargo, in a bookstore. In May 1852 Wells and Fargo (Henry and William G.) capitalized their "California express" at \$300,000, and by the end of the year they had twelve offices in operation on or near the Pacific Coast. The first Wells Fargo robbery occurred in 1855, and was effected by "Rattlesnake Dick" Barter, and one is delighted to learn that this prototype of the American stick-up artist was a native of Canada and the son of a British Army officer. In 1884 the company made an accounting of its losses at the hands of bandits over the previous fourteen years which recorded 313 stage robberies (plus thirty-four attempted), twenty-three burglaries, four train robberies (plus four attempted), six guards and stage drivers killed, sixteen stage robbers killed, sixteen "hanged by citizens," 240 convictions, and \$415,000 in treasure stolen (and "promptly made good to customers"). Rewards, prosecutions, and salaries of guards brought the total to more than \$900,000—crime pays somebody. This, Edward Hungerford's last book, is a solid and detailed narrative; fact has the call over romance, much as it did, and still does, with Wells, Fargo and Company.

THE VERMONT STORY, by Earle Newton. Vermont Historical Society. \$7.50. This book, the first unit in a projected series of state histories, sets a stiff pace for the forty-seven which, one hopes, will follow. It is as far removed from the stodgy, unsightly, old-type local history as one could well imagine. With its wealth of illustrations, a large proportion of them in color, it is a breathtaking innovation, and a most welcome and important one. The text is no mere padding for the pictures, but a vivid, readable, well-documented expository and descriptive narrative. There is an admirable bibliography with helpful critical and explanatory comment, and a really comprehensive index. Mr. Newton is director of the Vermont Historical Society. There is a foreword by Allan Nevins and an introduction by Dorothy Canfield Fisher. Vermont was a pioneer in the field of intelligent and competent state public relations, and it has never let this policy degenerate into cheap and garish exploitation. This excellent and handsome manual is a worthy initiatory volume to what should prove a fascinating and useful series.

—JOHN T. WINTERICH.



—From "The Vermont Story."

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