

Guide to Books for Young People

EDITED BY MARY GOULD DAVIS

THE *New York Herald Tribune* Spring Book Festival awards will not be announced until after this issue goes to press, but we are deeply interested in the decisions that the six judges will make. We hope that every child, every parent, and every teacher who can spare the time will go to the Metropolitan Museum to see the exhibit. There is beauty and originality in the picture books, fun for the whole family in the folk tales from French Canada, excellent adventure stories and biographies for the older boys and girls.

The members of the Boys' Clubs of America who announced their favorite books last month may still be proud of their good taste. Their medals this year go to books of lasting value. The Boys' Club medals represent a completely spontaneous choice made by the ultimate readers of books for boys and girls. The committee only narrows the children's choice down to the winners. It is interesting that, although only boys voted, one of the certificates went to a book that has a girl as its leading character. Girls have always read boys' books. Boys seldom indorse a girl's book. It was the horse in Fairfax Browney's "Free and Easy" that won them.

While the people of New York flock to the Museum to see the spring books, this reviewer will be down in West Virginia talking about them to a rural audience, and showing as many of them as we can transport to Jackson's Mill.

Picture Books

LOOKING-FOR-SOMETHING. By Ann Nolan Clark. Illustrated by Leo Politi. New York: The Viking Press. 55 pp. \$2.50.

The story of this little burro in Ecuador is illustrated with some of the most appealing pictures in color that Leo Politi has drawn. Lovely background drawings of the banana country, the mountain roads, and jungles are all centered in the humorous, lovable figure of Gray Burro. We do not know just exactly what Leo Politi does to make his donkeys so lifelike and so appealing. No one can meet Gray Burro and follow his journey without loving him. The story is told in a prose that is almost poetry, singing words repeated in a pattern that will especially please very little boys and girls. Gray Burro's search is ended when he finds a little boy struggling along the road under a huge burden of corn-stalks. This is his master. Looking-for-Something has found what he was looking for.

We know of no picture book that gives little children the feeling of one of the South American countries with such color and realism. Both text and pictures are exceptionally good.

SQUIRREL HOTEL. Written and Illustrated by William Pène Du Bois. New York: The Viking Press. 48 pp. \$2.

A series of exquisite drawings and a title page that will satisfy the soul of the most severe art critic illustrate this quaint tale of an old man in Central Park and the hotel that he built for the squirrels there. His first accomplishment was a little portable theatre in which bees played a tune on tiny bells. To bring the bees to the bells he used a sweet-scented rose. To repel them he used a white cotton glove "delicately perfumed with kerosene." This strange old man had once owned a toy shop. It was there that he found the materials for Squirrel Hotel. He built it somewhere in Central Park, but we never know just where. The teller of the tale never finds it although he searches for weeks. And yet, out of the old man's story he has drawn it for this book—a full-page drawing of a little building that reminds us of the famous old hotels at Saratoga, with wide verandas, big windows, and a roof on which three American flags wave in the breeze. It is this picture that the children will turn to; but the story has something to say to grownups as well as to the children. Their favorite

drawing will be the one of the Swiss clown in Paris, Crock, who played on the smallest violin in the world.

ONE MORNING IN MAINE. By Robert McCloskey. New York: The Viking Press. 64 pp. \$2.50.

The same island off the Maine coast that was the background for the meeting of Sal and the bear cub ("Blueberries for Sal") is the scene of this beautiful picture book. The endpapers with their cool greens and blues and the white gulls flying express the very essence of the New England coast. The dark blue ink that is used throughout the book is exactly the color to convey the feel of Maine—the rocks and the pine trees, the shore line and the water. It is right, too, for the interior scenes when the family is getting up and having breakfast. Looking at the breakfast scene we wonder how Sal can bear to turn her back on that enchanting view through the screen door! When the outboard motor fails Sal's father is obliged to row his two small daughters across to the mainland. His expression when the motor fails to start is as funny as the expression on the face of Homer Price when he is struggling with a gadget. The drawing of the village with its church and garage on the little hill above the harbor is typical of so many of the coast villages. Mr. Condon, the storekeeper, and his friends may be found in almost any small store in the State of Maine. As we follow the story of Sal

and her lost tooth we feel as refreshed as though we had spent a day with them on their island. Beauty and humor and the integrity of an artist who is always close to the thing that he dramatizes make this one of the outstanding picture books of this year—and perhaps of many years.

THE THEATRE CAT. By Noel Streatfield. Illustrated by Susanne Suba. Chicago: Rand, McNally & Co. 31 pp. \$1.25.

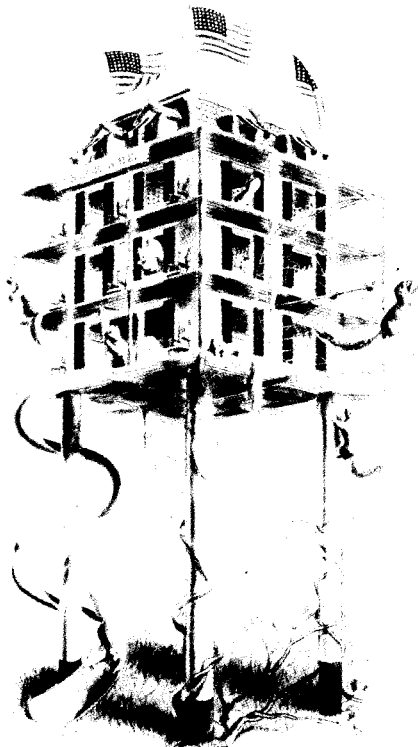
This impossible and amusing tale about Pinkie is a book for grown-up collectors as well as for the children. Pinkie was a theatre cat who disgraced herself by being afraid of mice and redeemed herself by teaching a young, substitute ballet dancer the intricacies of her steps. Selected as one of the fifty books of the year by the Graphic Arts committee, it is charming in format, and Susanne Suba's drawings, in color, of Pinkie make her irresistible. Noel Streatfield is, of course, the author of the popular "Shoes" books for boys and girls.

THE STABLE THAT STAYED. Story by Josephine Balfour Payne. Pictures by Jean Balfour Payne. New York: Ariel Books (Pellegriini & Cudahy). No paging. \$2.

At first the stable was part of an estate that was always kept in perfect order. Not even a mouse dared to come into the stable or an owl to nest in the eaves. Then the family moved to the city and the stable was left alone. Field mice and bats and owls moved into the stable, a stray cat with four kittens, a friendly, lonely dog. It was the home of many animals when the artist, his wife, and three children arrived. They loved the animals. The stable knew that at last it had become a home. The pictures that illustrate generously this pleasant story are printed in sepia and a warm red-brown. They are very attractive drawings—strong, realistic, and graceful in design. The one of the weather vane on the stable, standing sturdily against the wind with the brown leaves blowing about it, is particularly effective.

BIRTHDAY OF OBASH. Story and Pictures by Audrey Chalmers. New York: The Viking Press. 56 pp. \$2.

We are having some unusual animals for the heroes of the picture books this spring. Last month there was Gwendolyn, the giraffe. This month it is Obash, the hippopotamus. Obash lived in a zoo with his mother. When his first birthday came around no



—By William Pène du Bois
for "Squirrel Hotel."



SMALL-TROT

by *Françoise*

Small-Trot, a French mouse, supports her family by joining a travelling circus. A sprightly tale, illustrated in full color by the author of the prize-winning *Jeanne-Marie Counts Her Sheep*. Ages 4-6. \$2.00

THE BEARS ON HEMLOCK MOUNTAIN

By *Alice Dalgliesh*. Jonathan tries to convince himself that the bears on Hemlock Mountain don't exist, but has a lively adventure with them. Illustrated by Helen Sewell. Ages 5-8. \$2.00



THREE BOYS AND THE REMARKABLE COW

By *Nan Hayden Agle and Ellen Wilson*. An unusual cow brings fame and fortune to the popular triplets, Abercrombie, Benjamin and Christopher. An easy-to-read story illustrated by Marian Honigman. Ages 5-8. \$2.00



PETE'S HOME RUN

By *Marion Renick*. An easy-to-read story for boys and girls just beginning to swing their first baseball bats. Pictures in two colors by Pru Heric. Ages 6-9. \$2.00



Spring Books from Scribners



THE CLEAN PIG

by *Leonard Weisgard*

The clean pig, by his shining example, rehabilitates a broken-down, sooty farm. Amusing pictures, and a pig with real personality. Ages 4-7. \$2.00

At all bookstores

CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS

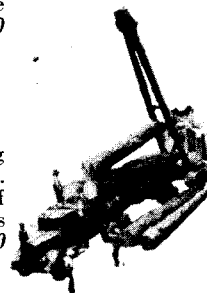
BECKY'S BOARDING HOUSE

A *Brownie Scout Story*. By *Eleanor Thomas*. In this sequel to *Becky and Tatters*, Becky keeps a boarding house—for animals. Gertrude Howe's illustrations are most attractive. Ages 7-10 \$2.00



GIFTS FROM THE FOREST

By *Gertrude Wallace Wall*. The lumbering industry—from tree to finished product. Boys will especially enjoy the close-ups of logging operations. Magnificent photographs by John Calvin Towsley. Ages 8-12. \$2.50



PEPPER

By *Barbara Leonard Reynolds*. A family takes a mischievous raccoon as a pet, with hilarious results. Fun, excellent writing, and pictures by Barbara Cooney. Ages 8-11. \$2.00



TWO AND THE TOWN

By *Henry Gregor Felsen*. The poignant story of a boy and girl who, at seventeen, become the parents of a child. A mature, thoughtful novel for young adults. \$2.50



one celebrated it and it made Obash mad. So he ran away. He wanted *someone* to help him celebrate his birthday, but everyone whom he approached was frightened to death of him until he met the Frizzlewit family who were having a picnic on a very attractive hillside. They were not at all frightened of Obash. When they found that it was his birthday they proceeded to plan and carry out a suitable party for him, complete with birthday cake and one candle. After the party they escorted Obash back to the zoo and were rewarded with a new house for the family and a job for Mr. Frizzlewit as assistant keeper. The drawings of Obash are very, very funny.

THE MERRY MILLER. *Story by Rosalys Hall. Pictures by Kurt Werth. New York: Oxford University Press. 48 pp. \$2.50.*

This is a gay, funny story from France about a young miller who, when he came to take possession of his mill, found that the wife of the former miller was so fat that she could not get out of the living quarters of the mill. There she cooked and ate delectable food—and there she stayed. All the inhabitants of the little French village, including the ducks, pigs, hens, and dogs, attacked the problem in a series of incidents that mount to a climax when the young miller decides to marry Madame Puvret and keep her in the mill where she will cook for him her delectable meals. Original, humorous drawings in black and white and in color accent the humor and vitality of the story. The artist, Kurt Werth, was born in Leipzig and has illustrated various classics for adults.

Books for Younger Boys & Girls

RONNIE. *By Lester Rowntree. Illustrated by Don Perceval. New York: The Viking Press. 189 pp. \$2.50.*

We are told that the story of Ronnie is by a distinguished botanist. Certainly the forest background of northern California is described vividly and in great detail. One longs to see it, to share the beauty of its trees and shrubs and wild flowers. Ronnie himself is an exceptionally well-drawn character. Sturdy and dependable, he carries his share of the work of Aunt Sal's little cabin, using effectively the knowledge of woodcraft that Shotdick, his half-Mexican, half-Indian friend passes on to him. But Ronnie was lonely. When Mr. Thompson and his two boys came up the mountain to camp out for their holiday he found what he had unconsciously been seeking—a family. Because he knew how to camp, how to “boss” the pack-mules, how to protect himself and his companions Ronnie became so popular with the Thompson boys that Mr. Thompson asked him to go back with them to Carmel and spend the winter there. When spring came, Ronnie had to decide whether to stay with the family or go back to the mountain and to Aunt Sal.

LADYCAKE FARM. *By Mabel Leigh Hunt. Illustrated by Clotilde Embree Funk. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co. 128 pp. \$2.25.*

In her new story Mabel Leigh Hunt has succeeded in introducing the race-

prejudice theme without the slightest trace of self-consciousness. The Freedms are Negroes—Big Joe, his wife, Little Joe, and the two younger girls. Big Joe and his wife save enough to buy a small farm in a district where most of the people are white. The description of putting the little town house on rollers and moving it by slow stages to the farm sparkles with the gaiety and good humor of the Freed family. Before they even reach the farm we like and admire all of them. Big Joe was hard-working and ambitious. Little Joe tried to be, in every way, like his father. Mrs. Joe is perhaps the best of the family. Wise, gentle, intuitive, she solved their problems before the children realized there was anything to solve. She carefully saved enough money to buy a dictionary and, every night, she read a page of it to the family, encouraging them to use the unfamiliar words. Mrs. Joe had a poet's appreciation of the beauty and value of words. The Freedms had some hard times, but they succeeded. They were good neighbors and good citizens. Black and white drawings of gaiety and vitality illustrate this fine story.

BOY OF THE PYRAMIDS. *By Ruth Fosdick Jones. Illustrated by Dorothy Bayley Morse. New York: Random House. 140 pp. \$2.50.*

The *Jack and Jill* prize for the best story submitted to that magazine was awarded to this tale of ancient Egypt. It is for the younger boys and girls, and the story was suggested by a picture on the wall of an Egyptian tomb. Kaffe was the son of a prosperous farmer who lived not far from the town of Memphis on the Nile. He and Sari, the little slave girl whom Kaffe bought with his own “copper rings,” helped to uncover the mystery of a theft from the tomb of the Pharaoh's father. It is a good story, told against the background of an Egyptian household with the details that make the family sympathetic and interesting to modern children. It is illustrated with well-designed, appealing black and white drawings.

THE TALKING CAT AND OTHER STORIES OF FRENCH CANADA. *Retold by Nathalie Savage Carlson. Pictures by Roger Duvoisin. New York: Harper & Bros. 87 pp. \$2.*

These stories were told by Michel Meloche, the great, great uncle of Nathalie Carlson. They bring delightfully to life a little village in French Canada and its people. We meet them first in the story where a bold skunk creeps into Tante Odette's outdoor



—By Aubrey Chalmers from “Birthday of Obash.”

New MORROW JUNIOR BOOKS

Ages 12 up



Jeb Ellis of Candlemas Bay

by RUTH MOORE

This shorter version of Ruth Moore's magnificent novel, *Candlemas Bay*, makes young Jeb the central figure. "Strong in the background of the Maine coast, it is an excellent story for older boys and girls." — *Saturday Review*. Illus. by William N. Wilson. \$2.50

The Big Stretch

by DUANE DECKER

This is the story of how Stretch, the former bat boy and now the new first baseman, makes his teammates believe in him. Rich in inside baseball lore, it is a welcome addition to the Blue Sox saga. By the author of *Fast Man on a Pivot*, etc. \$2.50

Champlain of the St. Lawrence

by RONALD SYME



"Good adventure reading for boys . . . a worthy companion to this author's *Bay of the North* and *Cortes of Mexico*." — *N. Y. Herald Tribune*. Illus. by William Stobbs. \$2.50

Captive of the Mountains

by ARTHUR D. STAPP

An adventure story of the Pacific Northwest, by an experienced mountaineer, who "catches exceedingly well the feel of the mountain country — its majesty, wildness, and treachery." — *A. L. A. Booklist*. \$2.50

Betsy's Napoleon

by JEANETTE EATON

This true story of Betsy Balcombe's friendship with Napoleon on the island of St. Helena is back in print again. A May selection of the Catholic Children's Book Club. By the author of *Gandhi*, etc. \$3.00

Ages 10 up

Copperhead Hollow

by GERALD RAFTERY

At Camp Lenape Jim secretly wondered how anyone could be interested in Steve's strange hobby. But it was Steve's knowledge of minerals that led the boys to the discovery of valuable uraninite in Copperhead Hollow. \$2.00

David's Hundred Dollars

by CATHERINE WOOLLEY

"Miss Woolley shows a boy learning that money can be a responsibility." — *N. Y. Times*. Illus. by Iris Beatty Johnson. \$2.50



Ages 8-10

Briar, A Collie

by MARGARET S. JOHNSON

The story of a collie from Ireland who finally finds someone to love and look out for. Illus. by the author. \$2.00



Lightning and Thunder

by HERBERT S. ZIM

All about thunderstorms, explained in clear text and beautiful pictures. Illus. on every page by James Gordon Irving. \$2.00

Country Garage

by JERROLD BEIM

A story with fine illustrations, many in color, showing types of tools and the functions of a filling station. "Bound to delight little boys." — *N. Y. Times*. Illus. by Louis Darling. \$2.00

Ages 4-8



The New Fire Engine

by JAY HYDE BARNUM

How Engine No. 3 became a useful part of the village fire department. "Lively story . . . amusing pictures . . . well-balanced excitement." — *N. Y. Times*. Illus. by the author. \$2.00

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THE STABLE THAT STAYED

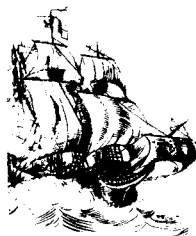
BY JOSEPHINE BALFOUR PAYNE

Illustrated by Joan Balfour Payne • The gay ninety stable stood lonely and deserted until all-kinds of animals and a jolly family took over — bringing fun and good times with them. A beautiful picture-story book in unusual colors.
Ages 3-6 \$2.00



CUB SCOUT TEXT AND PICTURES BY SANFORD TOUSEY

Rewarding adventures with the Cub Scouts — and how a young boy comes to love the ideals and rules of this worthwhile group. Handsomely illustrated in four colors and black and white.
Ages 7-10 \$2.00



THE KING'S BEARD BY LEONARD WIBBERLEY

Illustrated by Christine Price • Spain and England were battling for the New World's riches — and two 16-year-old lads warn Queen Elizabeth of danger and sail with Drake on a history-making voyage. A lively, historical tale with many real people. Ages 12 up \$2.75



MINING THE IRON MASK BY GEORGE CORY FRANKLIN

Illustrated by William Moyers • A noted Western author's tribute to the perseverance of our younger generation — how two boys face the rugged experiences in a mine in the mountains to earn their college tuition. Ages 10-14 \$2.50

THE ROOKIE FROM JUNCTION FLATS BY JOE WEBSTER

Illustrated by C. L. Hartman • He was the most awkward player on any field — this St. Louis Brown rookie from Arkansas. Children will laugh at him, weep for him, and share his excitement at being a part of a big league ball club. Something different in baseball books for older boys. \$2.50



AT ALL BOOKSTORES

ARIEL BOOKS Children's Book Division,
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—By Roger Duvoisin for "The Talking Cat."

oven, posing a problem that it takes the entire village to solve. Then we can hear about Madame Roberge and her hen—a story that shows the shrewdness, the wit, and the gullibility of a French peasant woman. Uncle Michel tells two ghost stories that will be particularly good to bring to a Hallowe'en Story Hour. In fact, this book is made for storytellers. It has humor, atmosphere, and clearly drawn characters. Roger Duvoisin's drawings are an integral part of it. They, too, have humor and atmosphere.

KNAVE-GO-BY. By C. Fox Smith.
Illustrated by Ian Ribbons. New York: Oxford University Press. 187 pp. \$2.

This is an English adventure story of a boy who was wrecked on the Cornish coast in the early years of the nineteenth century. He loses his memory and goes through a series of adventures until he is discovered by the lawyer who has charge of his grandfather's estate and identified. The illustrations are so badly reproduced that it is rather difficult to judge their value.

PEANUTS FOR BILLY BEN. Written and Illustrated by Lois Lenski.
Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co. 128 pp. \$2.

WE LIVE IN THE SOUTH. The same.

As the first two volumes in a new series by this author-illustrator, called Roundabout America, these books will be welcomed by a wide audience. After the Newbery Medal "Strawberry Girl," "Judy's Journey," and many other regional stories which

were for slightly older readers, these new books live up to expectations. They are sympathetic, simple stories which spotlight typical conditions in different sections of our country.

As its title indicates, the story about Billy Ben concerns peanut growing. In a simple text and many illustrations the sights and sounds, joys and hardships of life on a share-crop plantation in Virginia come alive.

"We live in the South" pictures four localities. The first story tells of a "poor white" family in the piney woods of what is perhaps Mississippi. Each story is located on a hand-drawn map. Poignantly appealing is the second story of a little Negro girl with heart trouble who lives in South Carolina or Georgia, very poor but sheltered by family love and loyalty. Then come the problems of the little son of Louisiana fisherfolk. A brief episode in a slightly more prosperous home in a Florida orange plantation completes the quartette.

We keep referring to these stories in pictorial terms because the direct narrative and the many drawings by the author create the feeling that the reader has actually shared the life that she describes.

—CORNELIA ERNST ZAGAT.

THE TUGBOAT MYSTERY. By Mary Adrian. Illustrated by William Moyers. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co. 123 pp. \$2.

Librarians and booksellers will testify that there is just as devoted a following for children's mystery stories as there is for the adult "who-done-its." Indeed there is a real need for fairly easy, well-written stories that will satisfy this group. This book is a not altogether successful attempt to provide such fare.

Two nine year old boys with the help of a younger sister succeed in proving that a favorite uncle who works on a tugboat is not responsible for an accident which might have cost him his life. To tell a story that relates mainly to the doings of grown-ups in terms that are simple enough for the younger boys and girls is a difficult assignment. In this case, the characters have little individuality, the color of waterfront tugboat life does not register, and the writing has the stilted sound of a school reader. —CORNELIA ERNST ZAGAT.

CRAZY CASTLE. By David Severn. Illustrated by J. Kiddell-Monroe. New York: The Macmillan Co. 179 pp. \$2.

In the tradition of Arthur Ransome's stories about enterprising Eng-

Random House

BOOKS FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

Boy of the Pyramids

By **RUTH FOSDICK JONES**. "A first-rate adventure tale of two children, an Egyptian lad and his girl slave and playmate, who help solve a mystery and bring a criminal to conviction."—*Virginia Kirkus*. Winner of the *Jack and Jill Magazine* prize contest. Illustrated by **DOROTHY BAYLEY MORSE**. A Junior Literary Guild Selection.

Ages 9 to 12, \$2.50



Old Rosie

THE HORSE NOBODY UNDERSTOOD

By **LILIAN MOORE** and **LEONE ADELSON**. Especially written for third-graders to read to themselves. "The story provides action and adventure integrated with excitement and thrills. Studies have shown that these ingredients appeal to children."—*J. Wayne Wrightstone, Director of Educational Research, New York City Board of Education*. Illustrated by **LEONARD SHORTALL**. A Junior Literary Guild Selection. \$2.00



The Golden Trail

By **MARGERY EVERNDEN**. A colorful and authentic story about young Ramon Morales, who traveled from Mexico with the famous expedition that founded the city of San Francisco in 1776. "Fills a definite gap. Recommended."—*Library Journal*. Illustrated by **LYND WARD**.

Ages 10 to 14, \$2.50



Baseball Is Their Business

Edited by **HAROLD ROSENTHAL**, Baseball Columnist, N. Y. Herald Tribune. Ten great baseball personalities discuss some of the careers that baseball offers: **Fresco Thompson** on SCOUTING; **Ernie Harwell** on BROADCASTING; **George M. Weiss** on FRONT OFFICE; **Red Patterson** on PUBLICITY; **Gil Hodges** on PLAYING; **Charles F. Berry** on UMPIRING; **Jim Beach** on TELEVISION; **Dick Young** on REPORTING; **Eddie Sawyer** on MANAGING; **Allan Roth** on THE STATISTICIAN. \$2.50

At all bookstores, **RANDOM HOUSE**, New York



CHESTNUT SQUIRREL

By **Henry Steele Commager**. Illustrations by **Lisl Weil**. Chestnut is a completely engaging young squirrel whether he is looking for trouble or getting out of it. **Lisl Weil** adds to the fun. Ages 6-10. \$2.00.

ONE KITTEN TOO MANY

By **Bianca Bradbury**. Pictures by **Marie C. Nichols**. Tabby, a Siamese kitten, gives a badly needed lesson in manners to a tiger Kitten who tries to take over the kitchen. Ages 3-8. \$1.50.

THE TUGBOAT MYSTERY

By **Mary Adrian**. Illustrated by **William Moyers**. Tom stows away aboard a tugboat and manages to solve the mystery that almost cost his uncle his job. Ages 7-10. \$2.00.

THE TROJAN WAR

By **Olivia E. Coolidge**. Illustrated by **Edouard Sandoz**. A vivid retelling of the war between the Trojans and the Greeks, the heroes who fought it, the gods who looked on. Exciting and fresh. Ages 12 up. \$3.00.

JIM BRIDGER

By **Shannon Garst**. Illustrated by **William Moyers**. An illiterate blacksmith apprentice became one of the greatest scouts of the west after a career as fur trapper, Indian fighter, and trader. Ages 12 up. \$2.75.

LOVE ME, LOVE ME NOT

By **Phyllis A. Whitney**. Illustrated by **Arlene K. Thomson**. Sue wanted a husband and a home but until they materialized she needed a job. In a test kitchen she finally found a place for her talents. Ages 12 up. \$2.75.

MAUI'S SUMMER

Story and Pictures by **Arnold Edwin Bare**. Maui's wishes come true when an American family takes him on a trip through his home islands of Hawaii and he earns a sailboat. Handsome three color pictures and valuable material on Hawaii. Ages 4-8. \$2.50.

BERNARD AND HIS DOGS

By **Claire Huchet Bishop**. Illustrated by **Maurice Brevannes**. A handsomely illustrated story of **St. Bernard**, the son of a nobleman who gave up his riches to become a monk and founder of the famous hospice in the Alps. All ages. \$2.00.

DELAYED STEAL

By **Frank Waldman**. Illustrated by **Vincent Sullivan**. Billy Tyler came up to the big leagues despite the opposition of his father, manager of the New York Yankees. Real ball playing and authentic background. Ages 12 up. \$2.00.

SIDNEY HILLMAN

By **Jean Gould**. A really unusual book — the biography of a labor leader who fled czarist tyranny and came to America, fought the sweat shops and became a great leader in the welfare of working men and women. Ages 12 up. \$3.00.

MISTER STORMALONG

By **Anne Malcolmson** and **Dell J. McCormick**. Pictures by **Joshua Tolford**. The Paul Bunyan of the seas, skipper of the mighty *Tuscarora*, inventor of most modern seagoing equipment, hero of seafarers everywhere, comes to life in a wonderfully salty book. Ages 8-12. \$2.25.

lish children and their adventures, this mystery of a stolen pony is solved by four independent young people with the help of cooperative adults. The valiant spirit of the four as well as the spirited plot and the understanding of people and their motives will probably make this as popular in America as it is in England. There is information about how to disguise a horse that will appeal to young readers and, although grown-ups may wonder how gypsies get around enough to be villains in so



many English books for children, the children themselves find them satisfying.

The type of the book is smaller than our type for children's books, but boys and girls will probably not object to it.

—**CORNELIA ERNST ZAGAT**.

JOHN'S JOURNEY. By **Grace Allen Hogarth**. Illustrated by **Nora S. Unwin**. New York: **Harcourt, Brace & Co.** 214 pp. \$2.50.

Mrs. Hogarth, the American mother of two English children whom she brought to this country to spend a summer vacation with their grandmother, writes this story as a sequel to "Lucy's League" which described the family's methods of raising funds for the trip. The details in the crossing as tourist passengers on the *Queen Elizabeth* and in the train trip to Hyannis on Cape Cod and the happy holiday life there are convincing. Boys and girls will enjoy the differences in speech and custom which the English children noticed. Unfortunately, a slight mystery is brought in that, with rather unconvincing dialogue, is contrived to bolster the plot. Without it, however, the story would be what the children call a "travel book."

Nora Unwin's line drawings have caught the atmosphere of the children and of the American background.

Books for Older Boys & Girls

THE PORT OF MISSING MEN. By René Prud'hommeaux. Illustrated by Raffaello Busoni. New York: The Viking Press. 192 pp. \$2.50.

This new mystery story by the author of "The Sunken Forest" brings in Steve Larrup, the hero of the earlier book. It tells of Dave Brant who supposedly inherits an estate called the Port of Missing Men on the Connecticut coast. A pair of criminals try to take over the estate as a "hide-out" for their confederates. The original owner pretends to be dead, but appears in opportune moment to Steve and Dave and a young girl cousin of Dave's who is one of the chief characters in this pleasant tale. With the help of the family lawyer the criminals are ousted and rushed into the welcoming arms of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The end-papers map the Port of Missing Men and there are black and white illustrations.

SYBIL LUDDINGTON'S RIDE. Written and Illustrated by Erick Berry. New York: The Viking Press. 128 pp. \$2.50.

Sybil Luddington lived in "York State" in the days of the Revolutionary War. Her father was a Colonel in the Continental Army and, while he was fighting, the family mill was silent. Sybil and her sister lived with Aunt Pheba in her cabin across the road. They were as busy as bees, working for Aunt Pheba, caring for the cows and oxen, training the colt, Star, who was full of mischief. But the colt had the right spirit. It was Star that carried Sybil on that wild night ride when she warned the farmers that the British were in Danbury, only fifteen miles away. Safely home again, Sybil gave Star a new name. "Not Star, not Brownie. We'll call him *Freedom*," she whispered to Ricky.

This is a good story of a brave and high-spirited American girl. The black and white drawings by the author-artist are good, too.

THE KING'S BEARD. By Leonard Wibberly. Illustrated by Christine Price. New York: Ariel Books. 198 pp. \$2.75.

The title of this fine story is culled from a remark of Queen Elizabeth when Drake dashed into the harbor of Cadiz to destroy part of the Span-

WONDER TALES OF HORSES AND HEROES

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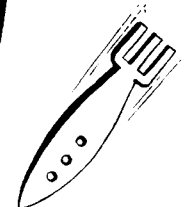
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—End-paper from "The King's Beard."

ish Armada. "Nay, Cousin Francis," said the Queen to Drake, "thou has singed the King of Spain's beard." The setting of the story is Devonshire, London, Windsor, the ships of Drake's fleet, and the Spanish fortress of Matagorda. The hero is young John Forrester, the son of an English nobleman who has been captured by the Spanish, forced to slave in the galleys, and then confined in the fortress. A smuggled message is brought to John by an American Indian who, too, had been captured by the Spanish. The message warns the Queen that the Armada is being prepared to attack England, and Drake immediately sets sail for Cadiz. John and his friend, Roger, go with him. The battle in Cadiz harbor, the dramatic freeing of the galley slaves, the scenes in the fortress dungeon and in the underground torture chamber are "strong meat." The book is for the older boys and girls. It is an exceptionally well written, exciting story with a good historical background and convincing characters. It is illustrated with effective black and white drawings.

RIM-ROCKED. By E. D. Mygatt. Decorations by Peter B. Andrews. New York: Longmans, Green & Co. 215 pp. \$2.50.

Here is a modern Western, where the cowboys ride in cars and planes and the prospectors pack geiger counters. But human nature is as usual and the cast is conventional: three Eastern schoolboys, an old prospector, crooks, sheriff, and a benign

millionaire promoter. Dave, Stuart, and Ned had much to learn when they reached the Wyoming ranch, and among other things they discovered that the bank was about to foreclose the mortgage and throw lovable old Rocks McGinty out in the cold. No siree! Those three boys went into a huddle and came out fighting. What they did and how they did it makes a fairly exciting story for lower teenagers. The characters are well developed and there is considerable to be learned about that part of the country as it is today.

—MERRITT P. ALLEN.

ELEPHANT TOAST. By T. Morris Longstreth. Illustrated by Heyman Fay, Jr. New York: Macmillan Co. 222 pp. \$2.50.

This is the story of a boys' camp in the Maine woods, told by Keets, a youngster of fifteen. It was not just another camp for it had a ghost, a cook possessed of divine culinary skill, two unfriendly but fascinating neighbors, and an elephant that Keets bought at auction for five cents. How they all worked together, willingly and otherwise, to pull the camp and its mumps-ridden director out of the red is a tale that never lacks for ingenuity and rare forms of suspense. The humor is abundant and the characters are well developed. As relief from the endless stream of adventure and sports stories it is worth the price.

—MERRITT P. ALLEN.

TRADERS NORTH. By Wilson MacArthur. Illustrated by William

Stobbs. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. 246 pp. \$2.50.

Michael Winfield accepted an opportunity to go exploring. The year was 1667 and the expedition was the first one sent out by the Hudson's Bay Company to establish a foothold in the far north fur company. They did it and the next year went back with the company's first governor and the makings of the great enterprise that would eventually bring all of Canada under British rule.

The factual background is excellent and there are such vivid historical characters as Pierre Radisson and Sieur des Groseilliers to work with and, too, there was the vast unexplored wilderness that was supposed to contain the Northwest Passage. Despite such a wealth of material, one has a feeling that the author did not make the most of its possibilities. A little more attention to the "feel" of the country, a bit of humor now and then and less overstarched conversation might be wished for. However, it is a sincere and authentic account of how the greatest of all fur companies came into being.

—MERRITT P. ALLEN.

MINING THE IRON MASK. By George Cory Franklin. Illustrated by William Moyers. New York: Ariel Books (Pellegrini & Cudahy). 204 pp. \$2.50.

Any boy between the ages of ten and fifteen who is interested in mining will get much from this book. Some of it is almost too technical, but a glossary offsets that. Roy and Frank, two Colorado high school boys, set out to earn college money by working a pack train of burros carrying copper ore from the mine to the railroad. That supplies considerable excitement, but the boys soon get a chance to buy an abandoned mine and after that they go ahead in truly amazing manner. They have unbelievably good luck but they deserve it and no one can begrudge them their ultimate success. A good outdoor story that glorifies enterprise and honest hard work.

—MERRITT P. ALLEN.

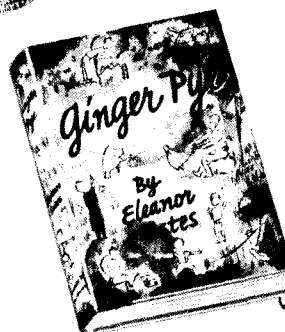
SOUTH SEA ADVENTURE. By Willard Price. Decorations by Peter Burchard. New York: The John Day Co. 243 pp. \$2.75.

For youngsters who want one adventure after another with no pause for breath, here it is. Hal and Roger Hunt are sent to the South Pacific to collect specimens for a rich man's aquarium and also to report on a secret bed of pearl oysters that have been

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By MARY STOLZ. "An original fantasy for younger boys and girls . . . This tells, with charm and humor, of an Irish elf who is the last of his race."—*Saturday Review*. Illustrated by PEGGY BACON. Ages 6-10. \$2.00

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By CHARLES NORMAN, author of *Mr. Upstairs and Mr. Downstairs* and *The Crumb That Walked*. Jane Jonquil learns what it was like when Mr. and Mrs. Jonquil were children. "Charmingly written."—*Virginia Kirkus*. Illustrated by MARGARET BLOY GRAHAM. Ages 5-10. \$2.00

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By MARJORIE PARADIS. Timmy was timid about many things—until he came face to face with danger. An amusing story of the blend of happy and fearful times in the life of a real boy. Illustrated by MARC SIMONT. Ages 10-12. \$2.50

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planted on an unmapped island. The existence of the pearls is known to a crook who joins the party disguised as a missionary. Against this background plenty of things happen. The villain maroons the heroes on an island that supports only a few palm trees and no visible drop of fresh water. They have only one knife, no matches, not even a fishhook, yet they build a raft complete with sail, and put to sea. Adventure rides with them; they fight sharks, devil fish, hurricanes, and waterspouts until finally, with the raft reduced to two logs, they are left in the middle of the South Sea without food, water, or protection from the sun. But these indestructible kids are not licked and the last paragraph in the book promises a whole new batch of spine tingers in a forthcoming volume.

—MERRITT P. ALLEN.

BLACK TIDE. By Carl D. Lane. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. 222 pp. \$2.75.

Though most of the action takes place on or near shore, this is a pirate story of ships, dead men, and buried treasure. But they are modern pirates who use motor boats, tommy guns, and radar, and the treasure is oil deposits under the floor of the Gulf of Mexico. Len, Ted, and Am, three boys from Maine, are cruising off the coast of Texas in their sloop when they bump into two rival outfits that are drilling for oil in the ocean bottom. The gang is tough and abduc-

tions, gunfights, and murders take place at a rate that makes exciting enough reading for anyone.

It is a good story, not only in itself but for the great amount of information it gives about boats, navigation, and the technique of off-shore oil drilling. There are many excellent diagrams that will interest modern boys.

—MERRITT P. ALLEN.

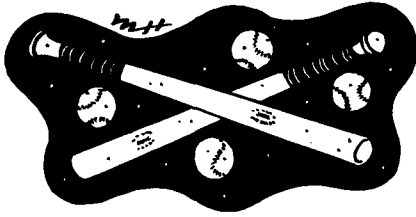
CAPTIE OF THE MOUNTAIN. By Arthur D. Stapp. New York: William Morrow & Co. 187 pp. \$2.50.

Johnny died in a mountain climbing accident because help was slow in reaching him. As a sort of memorial to him his pal Chris decided to show the public how such tragedies might be averted by the use of the smoke signals he had learned about from Al, his aviator friend. With two other boys he went into the Olympic National Park in northwestern Washington to stage a demonstration. But Al mistook their act for the real thing and landed his plane on a small mountain lake to help them. When he found he could not take off again things looked bad and grew rapidly worse until it became necessary to use another smoke signal in deadly earnest.

It is a carefully written story and contains a great deal of interesting information about mountain climbing as practised in the Western national parks.

—MERRITT P. ALLEN.





Sports

SOUTHPAW FLY HAWK. By Addison Rand. Decorations by W. B. Ricketts. New York: Longmans, Green & Co. 183 pp. \$2.25.

This is an exceptionally good baseball story for younger boys. Eddie Hadley is eighteen and just out of High School when he is "called" as a pitcher for the Minneapolis Millers. He learns the secret of team play and becomes a really great out-fielder with the prospect of playing with the Giants in the Big League.

CLOWN AT SECOND BASE. By C. Paul Jackson. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Co. 250 pp. \$2.50.

The story of Bucky Bushard's experiences as second baseman for the Detroit Tigers. It is a "Big League" story with an appealing hero who learns that a sense of humor is sometimes misplaced in professional baseball.

WRONG-WAY ROOKIE By Richard Wayne. Philadelphia: Macrae-Smith Co. 189 pp. \$2.50.

This is an amusing, original tale of a boy who would insist upon playing professional baseball in spite of the fact that he made every mistake known to the baseball handbook.

CRACK OF THE BAT: Stories of Baseball. Selected by Phyllis Fenner. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. 160 pp. \$2.50.

A collection of baseball stories selected from well-known writers like John R. Tunis, Stephen Meader, Jackson Scholtz, etc.

TY COBB: Baseball's Greatest Player. By Gene Schoor with Henry Gilfond. New York: Julian Messner. 181 pp. \$2.75.

This is an excellent biography of a great American sportsman, and a history of baseball from the early years of the century to today. Ty Cobb retired in 1928, but his influence on sports is still strong.

BOBBS-MERRILL BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE SPRING 1952

The Happy Moomins

By TOVE JANSSON. Translated from the Swedish by ELIZABETH PORTCH. Everybody knows what trolls are, but Moomintrolls — well, that's a different matter. This is a sunny story (it has to be sunny because Moomintrolls only come out in the sunlight). Illustrated by the author. Ages 6 to 10. \$2.50

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By BERTRAND SHURTLEFF. The popular "AWOL" author tells an exciting story of "Operation Rescue" in Alaska, against a backdrop of the treacherous, challenging Polar icecap. Illustrated by Diana Thorne. Ages 12 up. \$2.50

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DELAYED STEAL. By Frank Wald-
man. Illustrated by Vincent Sulli-
van. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co.
150 pp. \$2.

This is a rousing story of Billy
Tyler, the son of the manager of the
Yankees, who came back from war
service in Korea to find that his father
was opposed to his playing profes-
sional baseball. Billy went through
discouraging months of playing with
semi-professional teams in Central
America. Then he played in Florida
with the Yankees and with the De-
troit Tigers. The story ends with a
thrilling, tense game in the race for
the pennant which Billy and the
Tigers won.

SCRUBS ON SKATES. By Scott
Young. Drawings by James Ponter.
Boston: Little, Brown & Co. 218 pp.
\$2.75.

The scene of this story of ice-
hockey is Canada. Pete Gordon is
transferred to a new high school
where there is no hockey team. He im-
mediately starts to get one together
and he and his team mates prove that,
even under difficulties, a good team
can be developed. One of the out-
standing characters in the story is a
Polish boy, Bill Spuniska.

Animals

BIG MUTT. By John Reese. Philadel-
phia: The Westminster Press. 190 pp.
\$2.50.

This is an unusual story of a mon-
grel dog who was born in New York
and taken by a man and his wife on
a long automobile trip through the
West. During a raging blizzard, he
was dropped from the car in the Bad
Lands of North Dakota. Big Mutt
was almost as large as a horse. He
had the hunting instinct of his Great
Dane and Alsatian ancestors. Left to
himself in the Bad Lands this in-
stinct dominated him and he lived
by killing and eating sheep. Then into
his story comes the man—Dwight
Jerome, the son of a rancher, a boy
who had an almost uncanny knowl-
edge of animal psychology. The main
plot of this fine story is the struggle
in Big Mutt between his wild instinct
and his devotion to Dwight. When an
unusually stormy winter brought the
fierce Canadian wolves to the ranches,
it was Big Mutt who attacked and
killed them. When he was accused
of killing sheep, it was Dwight who
proved that the wolves were respon-
sible. In many ways, the story of
Big Mutt can be compared to the



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standing, the author has looked into the
heart of a boy and written of what she
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fires . . . the conflict between "book larnin"
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great Scotch story, "Bob, Son of Battle." Without being in the least sentimental, it has both drama and pathos. Big Mutt is an exceptionally good dog character.

BOY, AN OZARK COON HOUND.
By Colonel S. P. Meek. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. 238 pp. \$2.50.

An animal hero drawn by Colonel Meek is always interesting, whether it is a horse or a dog. In this story Ol' Dawg and his son, Boy, are appealing animal characters; but here it is the man hero who has the greatest appeal. Greg Oliphant came back from the war in the Pacific outwardly normal but inwardly wrecked. The very sound of an airplane sent him into convulsions of fear. Greg went deep into the Ozark hills and bought a deserted farm, hoping that in the hard work and isolation his tortured nerves would mend. It was old Uncle Fred McHarney and his hound, Ol' Dawg, that brought release to Greg. Uncle Fred's homely philosophy, his serene faith, and the companionship of Ol' Dawg and Boy brought back his self-confidence and self-respect. The coon hunts when Greg and Uncle Fred—and Ol' Dawg—trained the impulsive

Boy are so vividly described that we see and hear and feel every detail, from Ol' Dawg's splendid, bell-like baying to the coon's eyes shining through the dark from a tree.

This is, in many ways, the best story that Colonel Meek has written—and he has written many good stories.

STRING LUG THE FOX. By David Stephen. Illustrated by Nina Scott Langley. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. 174 pp. \$2.75.

This is a life story, laid in Scotland, of a dog fox—larger, stronger, more subtle than the English red fox. David Stephen is a naturalist. The story proves his keen observation and his knowledge of wild life. The story of String Lug brings in not only the birds and beasts, but the men of the Scottish Highlands. It is rich in atmosphere and, as the fox meets his friends and his enemies, dramatic in action. It is illustrated with a number of delicate drawings and has a very attractive cover jacket in color.

ESCAPE FROM THE ICECAP. By Bertrand Shurtleff. Jacket Drawing and Illustrations by Diana Thorne.



—By Barbara Cooney for "Too Many Pets."

Indianapolis: The Bobbs-Merrill Co. 282 pp. \$2.50.

This story is a sequel to "Two Against the North." It tells of the two huskies, Huskie and Spareribs, and their masters, veterans of the K-9 Corps in the Pacific during the Second World War, and their rescue of two American flyers brought down on an ice-floe near Wrangel Island. The plot includes a plan by Russian spys to obtain secret instruments developed by the United States Army. It is a



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modern, exciting tale that will probably appeal to grown-ups as well as to the older boys and girls.

TOO MANY PETS. By **Mary M. Aldrich**. Illustrated by **Barbara Cooney**. New York: The Macmillan Co. 66 pp. \$2.

This is an amusing story for younger boys and girls, with funny, clever illustrations. Father Gay insisted that the Gay family had too many pets. Mother Gay and Ann and David liked animals and enjoyed taking care of them. In spite of Father Gay's weak protests—because he was really a soft-hearted man—a family of mice, an extra cat who became a "sitter" for the family's cat's eight kittens, two dogs, and a pair of guinea pigs were added to the Gay establishment. They all settled down and, apparently, "lived happily ever after."

SIMPLIFIED DOG BEHAVIOR FOR HOME, CAR AND STREET. By **Fred Otté, Jr.** Cleveland: The World Publishing Co. 189 pp. \$2.

The author of this comprehensive guide to the care and training of dogs is the founder of a national correspondence course on dog-training. His own kennels are in Pennsylvania. His book has a glossary, and covers all the phases of a dog's development.

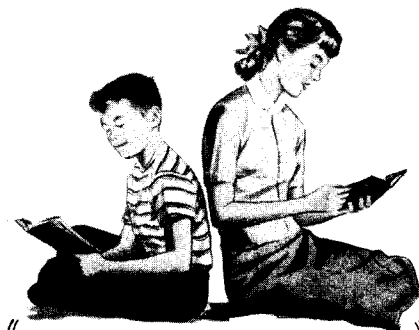
Out-Of-Doors

THE FIRST BOOK OF SNAKES. By **John Hoke**. Pictures by **Paul Wenck**. New York: Franklin Watts. 69 pp. \$1.75.

This is a very attractive book with excellent illustrations. It is a field guide to North American snakes and it gives a brief history of snakes in general. Mr. Hoke takes it for granted that snakes can be interesting and rewarding pets, but he is careful to warn us not to interfere with poisonous snakes—unless we are experts.

LET'S FISH. Written and Illustrated by **Harry Zarchy**. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. 160 pp. \$3.

A guide to both fresh and salt-water fishing, this is for every fisherman of every age. It tells us about the necessary equipment, about the conditions found in various parts of the country, about the hazards and joys of fishing. It has a bibliography called "Fisherman's Bookshelf" and an index. The drawings show the



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from "In Yards and Gardens."

proper way to hold a rod and the probable actions of the fish when he is on the line.

IN YARDS AND GARDENS. Written and Illustrated by Margaret Waring Buck. Nashville: Abingdon-Cokesbury Press. 72 pp. \$3.

A companion volume to the successful "In Woods and Fields," this describes in text and drawings the trees and shrubs and flowers, the insects, snakes, and small animals that may be found in yards and gardens in North America.

FAMOUS NATURALISTS. By Lorus J. and Margery J. Milne. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co. 178 pp. \$2.50.

One of a series of biographies that are useful reference books for a school or public library, this tells a brief story of the life and work of famous naturalists, from the seventeenth century to today. It is fully indexed and is illustrated with photographs.

THE FLYING NATION: The Story of the Bees. By Dorothy E. Crowder. Illustrated by Helen Haywood. New York: Roy Publishers. 156 pp. \$2.50.

This importation from England tells the story of a year in the life of the bees. It characterizes the bees individually, showing how they divide the work, how they are governed, how they plan for the four seasons of the year. The style in writing is a bit heavy and it has no humor. On the other hand, it gives an authentic picture of the year-round activities of a bee colony.

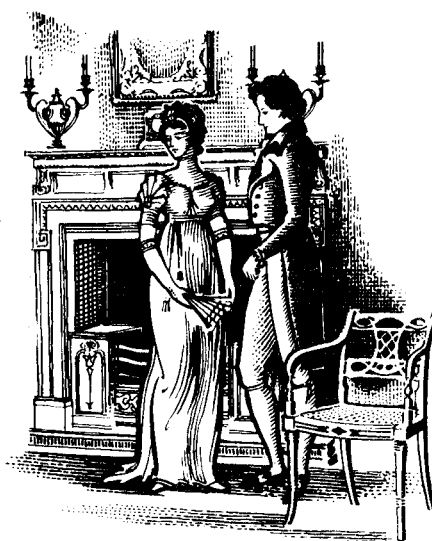
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THE WORLD

(Continued from page 16)

vague that it is hard to know whom he is talking about. He writes rather as if the American Government were an ignorant continuum stretching from, say, the Pentagon on the left to Senator McCarthy and General MacArthur on the right. He makes almost no distinction between foreign policy as proposed by the administration and as disposed of by the Congress. Does he mean that men like Averell Harriman, Charles E. Bohlen, and George Kennan don't understand "the essence of Stalinist techniques"? Does he think the State Department regards the European Payments Union, the European Defense Community, the Benton Amendment, the land reform programs in Japan and Korea, the Point Four Programs as "ipso facto Communist"? Certainly they smack more than a little of change.

In view of our alleged exclusive commitment to military superiority, how does he explain the repeated fights that the Truman administration has been conducting for economic and technical assistance programs? The President's recent message on the Mutual Security Program came out too late for Mr. Lens's book; but nothing in his book would prepare the reader for that message—a message which says, in more moderate language, many of the things Mr. Lens shouts wildly at the top of his voice.

The fact is that the real bottleneck in our foreign policy has been the Congress of the United States. Mr. Lens's book is to the good if it helps build fires under the Congress. It is bad insofar as it contributes to the impression, so fashionable in certain liberal quarters, that the makers of American foreign policy are a gang of dunderheads, reactionaries, and militarists. Since Mr. Lens rarely bothers to discriminate, it is hard to tell what he thinks himself. It is great good fun, of course, to shoot the engineer; and very often engineers need shooting. But it is well to find out what they are about and where they are going before letting fly just *pour le sport*. One must respect the earnestness of intent which makes some of "The Counterfeit Revolution" so useful. On the subject of Communism, Mr. Lens is often sound and informative. I only wish he had taken as much trouble to find out what the American Government is really up to.



Our New War

BATTLE REPORT: THE WAR IN KOREA. By Captain Walter Karig, USNR, Commander Malcolm W. Cagle, USN, and Lieutenant Commander Frank A. Manson, USN. New York: Rinehart & Co. 520 pp. \$6.

By S. L. A. MARSHALL

IN KOREA, the November battle along the Chongchon River was the real crisis of the 1950 campaign, for its result largely canceled what had happened before and its after-effects conditioned everything that has happened to the present moment.

Pertaining to that pivotal event, these quotes are lifted from Chapter 32 of "Battle Report": "At ten o'clock on the morning of November 27, after delaying for nearly three weeks, General Walton H. Walker's Eighth Army jumped off on its much-vaunted offensive. . . . The Chinese waited until advancing Eighth was within gun range and cut loose all along its perimeter. . . . Two days after the offensive began the II ROK Corps collapsed. . . . Within the short space of three days the Chinese were mounting a counter offensive of their own."

Now compared with that description, consider the established fact of what *really* happened. The Eighth Army offensive began at six o'clock on the morning of November 25. By nine, o'clock that night it had stalled under the counterweight of an already rigged and going enemy offensive. Within the first twenty-four hours II ROK Corps, in the center, was disintegrated. By

ten o'clock on the morning of November 27 (which the authors cite as the starting hour) the Eighth Army was already defeated.

Though these are errors of considerable magnitude, they would not be worth mention if they were not representative of the careless handling and sloppy research which is reflected throughout this book.

One chapter is called: "The Pusan Perimeter Defined." Most of it is a description, not more vague than inaccurate, of the Communist soldier's method in war, how he moves, keeps supplied, achieves concealment, etc. There are also some notes on the fight at Pohang, which make it appear like an alley brawl between opposing Korean forces scrapping briefly for local ground instead of a prolonged and complex key portion of the maneuver by which the NK's tried unsuccessfully to squeeze toward Taegu from the northeast corner. When the chapter closes, the Pusan Perimeter remains undefined. In fact, this epic defense is hardly touched upon.

So what we have here in the main is neither good history nor intelligent fiction; it is romance with an official blessing.

During World War I, Philip Gibbs authored a best seller on war by collecting a vast miscellany of anecdotes and bits from the record, pasting them together, overlaying them with reference points roughly representative of the chronology of the war, and then titling the product, "Now It Can Be Told." In World War II, the Navy put this same technique on a mass production basis. It was largely the inspiration of the late Secretary Frank Knox, a news publisher with a weakness for columnists. A team of Navy officers went to the task of rounding up the war in the way that a staff of feature story writers might do it, with more attention to human interest and color than to the mainstream and accuracy of detail. There were five volumes. The stuff was brisk, occasionally informative, always entertaining. But when it was called, "Battle Report," and carried the notation that it was "Prepared from Official Sources," a well-meant effort rang hollow.

With some changes in the team, the Navy has simply extended the World War II project to a covering of Korea. This volume has about the same quality as the others. It is good reading for a light summer day. There are many stirring glimpses of brave men and good ships in action. No doubt it is good public-relations stuff for the Navy. But it is impossible to take it seriously as an information source on the Korean venture.

Colonel S. L. A. Marshall, member of the editorial staff of The Detroit News, was European theatre historian for the U. S. Army in World War II.