PRODUCTION NOTE

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BULLETIN of the Children's Book Center.
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New Titles for Children and Young People


Another story of the two smoke jumpers, Hank Winton and Jim Dade of the U. S. Forest Service. This time they are involved in a feud between some cattlemen and the government Forest Service over the use of grazing lands in forest preserves. Don Buckley, son of one of the cattlemen, has become a friend of Hank and Jim in college and he helps them convince the cattlemen to try the government's conservation plans. Some rustlers and a forest fire add to the excitement of the story. (Gr. 7-9)


More about Ben and Dixie Darby and Tack Ranch. This time the two children borrow $500 from their uncle to buy a race horse that has been spoiled by improper handling. Their parents are not told of the transaction until after it is completed even though the children know their father would object strongly to their borrowing that much money and to their bringing a race horse to the ranch. The children work with the horse during the summer instead of doing their usual chores around the ranch. By fall, not only are the horse's faults corrected but he is found to be a colt of the wild stallion, King, and the children end by selling him for $4,200 more than they paid for him originally. Highly improbable story and some very questionable values in the children's attitudes toward debts. Not recommended. (Gr. 6-8)


Poorly rhymed, coy verse describing various animal families. The effect of the illustrations is lost through the over-personification of some of the animals. Not recommended. (Pre-School)

Bleeker, Sonia. The Crow Indians: Hunters of the Northern Plains; illus. by Althea Karr Morrow, 1953. 180p. $2. (Boho)

The fifth title in Miss Bleeker's series on the various tribes of North American Indians. In a semi-fictionalized style she describes the everyday life of the Crow Indians and their beliefs and customs before the white men came. The last chapter brings the history of the tribe up to the present time. As with the earlier titles, the material in this book is presented in a style that is both interesting and accurate and the book should have as much appeal for individual reading as it will have value for classroom use. (Gr. 5-7)

Block, Irvin. The Tree on the Road to Turnip Town; pictures by Jeanne Bendick. Whitteley House, 1953. 48p. $2.

The life story of an oak tree from the moment it starts as an acorn dropped by a squirrel and pressed into the ground by the foot of a dog that is chasing the squirrel, until it becomes a tree and is cut down for lumber. The style is more often expository than narrative but the material is interesting and will be meaningful for young children. The illustrations are colorful and add to the attractiveness of the book and the understanding of the text. Excellent nature study material. (Gr. 3-6)


The author has written a simple re-telling
of a Bible story and a prayer for each day of the month, with additional stories for Christmas, Easter, and birthdays. There is also a version of the Lord's Prayer written in language that will be more meaningful for young children than is the traditional King James version. The book is designed for home use by parents, one section to be read aloud each night at bedtime. The style is easy enough that most fourth or fifth graders could read the stories for themselves. Suitable for home use. (Gr.1-6)


An ABC book designed for use at bedtime. The text has an uneven rhyme scheme and rhythm, and the choice of words does not always make sense. Too slight and too uneven in quality for the price. Board bindings. Not recommended. (Pre-School)


The story of some of the more important rivers of the world, how they have affected the lives of mankind and how they, in turn, have been affected by the work of men. The style, particularly in the first few chapters, is somewhat disjointed and very uneven. The material could be useful for conservation classes but the writing is too uneven to hold the reader's interest. Not recommended. (Gr.5-7)


Julie is a freshman student at Briarton College where the girls outnumber the boys six to one. This situation makes her unhappy enough to almost quit and go home before the end of the first semester because she seems unable to make an impression on any of the boys. Eventually she has her choice of two so all is well. The book does not give a realistic picture of college life. Few of the characters ever seem to attend classes, except that Julie's chemistry professor uses her as a means for making her an introduction to one of her boy friends. Some of the problems that are presented are real enough but they are given an emphasis that exaggerates them and makes them seem more important than they actually are or should be. The basic problem that the story presents is the same as in Irish - physical attraction versus real affection. Neither the problem nor its handling show originality or depth of understanding. Not recommended. (Gr.6-10)


The third in the series of Toby Heydon stories. The story is very slight and the title misleading for Toby has no more than a mild skirmish or two with either Bross or Dick. The result is a rather dull account of a pleasant but uneventful summer. Not recommended. (Gr.6-10)

Edel, Way. The Story of People: Anthropology for Young People; illus. by Herbert Dansokh. Little, 1953. 179p. $3.

An interesting discussion of the origins and cultural development of mankind. The author, an anthropologist, draws in large measure on her own experiences in living with and studying people at home, on her observations and the writings and teachings of Franz Boas. Using examples drawn from cultures all over the world, both "primitive" and "civilized", she shows how foolish it is to think that some cultures are good and some are bad when they are all simply different ways in which man tries to get along in the world. In the last chapter she examines some of the ideas about "races" that have evolved through the years and explains in terms that will be meaningful for young people how the results of scientific investigation have exploded the theory of the superiority of any one group. (Gr.7-12)

Edell, Celeste. A Present from Rosita; illus. by Elton Faz. Lippincott, 1953. 179p. $2.75.

Twelve-year-old Rosita, her ten-year-old brother Victor, her older brother Pablo, and her mother move from their home in a small Puerto Rican village to New York City where Pablo has a job with an orchestra. The story of Rosita's and Victor's adjustments to a new way of living and especially to new school situations could have been an interesting story. Unfortunately the characters have no reality and the story moves so slowly the reader's interest is lost. Not recommended. (Gr.5-7)


Ships at Work; illus. by Manning deV. Lee. Garden City, 1953. 93p. $1.50.

Two more titles in the "At Work" series. The machine book includes machines that are used in building roads and houses, machines that are used on the farm and in mines, machines for lifting, hauling, digging and pushing. The ships book is less detailed than the block, Real Book about Ships (see above) but it will serve as an introductory book for the subject. The illustrations are uneven in quality; those in Ships at Work are much more informative than are the ones in Machines at Work. Both books could be useful for readers at the fifth grade level, but the semi-fictionalized style and the lack of spacing between the sections makes the books difficult to use. The book on ships will limit the usefulness which the books might otherwise have had as remedial reading material. (Gr.5-7)


Real stories of real spies from the Israelis who went into Palestine during the time of Moses to modern atomic spies. The author has managed to de-glamorize his subject without having it lose any of its appeal for young readers. He makes clear the place of espionage in the modern world without creating the atmosphere of fear and suspicion that too often accompanies discussion of spies and war.
A somewhat likeable character and there is interesting material about the purposes and ideas back of the Owen movement. (Gr.-9)

The little red fire engine had been replaced by a large, modern engine. Then one New Year's Eve when the firemen were all celebrating, a fire broke out and the little red fire engine was the only one around to put it out. The villagers discharged the men who drove the modern engine and the mayor who hired them, and reinstated the little red engine. The plot lacks originality and both the style of writing and the illustrations are too sophisticated for the picture book age. Not recommended. (Pre-School)


Herold, J. Christophe. Joan, Maid of France; illus. by Frederick T. Chapman. Aladdin, 1952. 241p. $3. Poorly written, uninspired biography of Joan of Arc. The Boutil de Monvel, Joan of Arc (Century, 1938), although less detailed, is still the preferred edition for it gives to Joan a reality and a dignity that are lacking in the Herold book. Not recommended. (Gr.7-9)

Johnny, the smallest boy on his town's Little League team, takes his brother Hank's place when Hank comes down with the mumps just before the crucial national championship game. In spite of his small size and an ill-fitting uniform, Johnny is the team's winning the Little League World Series. A highly contrived story with little to recommend it except that it is about baseball. Not recommended. (Gr.3-5)

Re-issue of a book first published in 1926. This edition is still the best version of the Ulen'spiegel legends that has been done for children. Each chapter can be used as a separate anecdote, but at the same time there is enough continuity to hold the reader's interest throughout the book. Fun for individual reading, for reading aloud, or for storytelling. (Gr.5-6)

Kohler, Juilly H. Harmony Ahead; illus. by Peter Burohard. Aladdin, 1952. 198p. $2.50.
Young Allan Ward found himself in rebellion against his father and all schoolmasters when his interest in shells conflicted with his father's determination to train him to take over the family's business concern, and the schoolmaster's determination to teach him higher mathematics. After he was expelled from the Franklin Latin School, his father sent him with the group led by Robert Owen that had set out to found the socialistic community of New Harmony. It was Mr. Ward's hope that in this group his son would eventually settle down and learn to accept discipline. Before the group had reached Indiana, Allan had come to an understanding of his father, but he did not give up his ambition to spend his life studying shells. The story ends with the arrival of the Owen group at New Harmony. A somewhat slowed-paced story, but Allan is a likeable character and there is interesting material about the purposes and ideas back of the Owen movement. (Gr.7-9)
Sequel to *Rookie Goutpaw.* Of especial interest is the picture that is given.

When Binnie Hone and her family moved into a new neighborhood they all had difficulty fitting into the community. Binnie did her share, and more, in the assimilation process by writing up a local fair for the city paper, raising funds for a South Dakota Indian school, and embarking on other community projects. The writing is without literary quality. The characters are unrealistic - especially Binnie who does too much too successfully for a girl her age. The illustrations do not always match the text. Not recommended. (Gr.7-9)

Meadowcroft, Enid (LaMonte). *The Story of Andrew Jackson,* illus. by David Hendrickson. Grosset, 1953. 182p. $1.50. (Signature Books)
The author has omitted everything about Jackson that would make him seem less than perfect, and as a result has made him seem considerably less than real. There is no mention of the violent temper that several times came near to ruining his career or of his several duels, not all of which were above question. Coy's *The Real Book About Andrew Jackson* (Garden City, 1952) and Foster's *Andrew Jackson* (Scribner's, 1951) are better written and more accurate biographies and are equally easy to read. Not recommended. (Gr.7-9)

A contrived, didactic fantasy of two children who take a pancake on a world tour to show him that people eat pancakes (or food resembling pancakes) all over the world and therefore everyone should love everyone else. A dull and confusing story that tries so hard to be subtle that it ends by being unintelligible. Not recommended. (Gr.5-7)

Mother Goose. *The Big Treasure Book of Mother Goose,* illus. by Alice Schlesinger. Grosset, 1953. 27p. $1. (Big Treasure Books)
A mediocre edition of Mother Goose rhymes with highly sentimental illustrations that are not always suited to the text. For an inexpensive edition the *Provenza's Golden Mother Goose* (Simon and Schuster), is preferable. Not recommended. (Preschool)

A not-very-new variation on a well-worn theme. Mac McCarthy and Red Saunders are among a group of cowboys hired by Hudson, a rather stupid dude from Chicago, to capture the famous wild Palomino stallion. After considerable trouble the men capture the horse and then decide he is too good for Hudson so they turn him loose. Poor writing and typed characters. Not recommended. (Gr.7-9)

Ten-year-old Sarah was the rebellious daughter of a Methodist minister. She resented being expected to serve as a model for the other children, but even more she resented always having to wear second-hand clothes. The story of her tenth and eleventh years is one of heights of joy and depths of unhappiness told with a sympathetic understanding of young girls and their problems. The setting is a small New England town at the turn of the century but Sarah's problems are not limited to any one section of the country or any one period of time. (Gr.4-6)

Insipid biography of Theodore Roosevelt that fails to give the reader any clear idea of what the man was really like. The writing is carelessly done - in one place the author has Roosevelt's sister praising *Little Women* three years before the book was written. There is no good biography of Theodore Roosevelt at an easy reading level, but this one is too poorly written to fill the need. Not recommended. (Gr.5-7)

Brief introduction to astronomy. The material is too sketchy for the book to do more than arouse the curiosity in the subject so that he will go on to more detailed presentations. There are, however, some excellent illustrations explaining light years, eclipses of the sun and moon, and the seasons that would be useful for astronomy units. (Gr.5-7)

In her second story of the Revolutionary War, Emma Patterson has again chosen the theme of a young man's difficulty in deciding which side to follow. Eighteen-year-old Dirk Hollenbeck felt a strong obligation toward his Tory landlord, Roderick Stone, because of the help Mr. Stone had given the Hollenbeck children after their parents died. Although he eventually decided in favor of the colonists, the choice was not lightly made and Dirk never allowed his emotions to overtop his sense of obligation. The story is somewhat different from most stories of this period in that Dirk never joins the army and the only battle described are those that take place in the vicinity of the Stone farm. Of especial interest is the picture that is given
of the effect of war on families living in the path of the armies and on those living in neutral zones where they are a prey to the undisciplined elements from both armies.  

Gr.7-9


Fifteen-year-old Dave Johnson and his adopted Indian brother Joe Rock set out to take Dave's father's herd of cattle from their home ranch 120 miles across the desert to winter pasture. Trouble started almost before the boys were off their home range and continued through the winter. They faced rustlers, outlaws, a robbery, a slugging, an attempted murder, and innumerable blizzards—practically a crisis per chapter. Too much sensationalism and not enough character or plot development. Not recommended.  

Gr.7-9

Shneider, Herman. Follow the Sunset; by Herman and Nina Schneider; pictures by Lucille Coroos. Doubleday, 1952. 43p. $2.75.

A picture book in which rhythmical text and colorful illustrations are used to show the young child how might follow day to day throughout the world. The book will require considerable explanation by an adult for young children to grasp fully the nature concepts that are presented. Songs and lullabies from all over the world are included with music that is simple and easy to play and sing.  

K-Gr.3


Simple explanation of the basic principles of bridge playing for beginners, young or old. The explanations are clear and easy to follow and there are many illustrative examples and practice hands. Summaries of point count bidding and scoring tables are given on the end-papers. The same information is included in the text but in less concise form.  

Gr.7-9


Fourteen-year-old Jim Blake left his home near Nashville, Tennessee to try and find his father who was reported to have been captured by the Creek Indians while fighting with Jackson's army. Jim's search led him first to Alabama where he met the Indians who had captured his father, and then to New Orleans where his father was serving under Andrew Jackson in the fight against the British. Good historical fiction, smoothly paced and with enough suspense to hold the reader's interest.  

Gr.7-9


Brief accounts of some of the early religious leaders in the United States and Canada. The style is exceedingly pedestrian. Crowded pages and small print further lessen the value of the book. Not recommended.  

Gr.7-9

A lively, sometimes humorous and always interesting discussion of the history and present day use of 40 musical instruments of band and orchestra. The author brings in some of the composers who have been responsible for promoting various of the instruments and some of the problems in composition that each of the instruments raises. From outstanding instrumentalists of the NBC Symphony, the New York Philharmonic Symphony, the Boston Symphony, and others, she has gathered information about the special aptitudes required for playing each instrument and some of the problems that each raises. Anyone interested in music could get enjoyment and information from the book, but for complete understanding the reader should have some musical background. (Gr.7-9)


The Connors had moved many times since Mrs. Connor died and each time had been a step downward. Their final move, however, seemed to them all a happy one. The new apartment was in one of the East River housing developments and although the apartment was small the building was clean and new. Sixteen-year-old Morgan Connor was especially pleased with the new place for on her fell the burden of caring for nine-year-old Ned, thirteen-year-old Julie, and their dreamy, impractical father. The Connors were poor but not depressed by their poverty, into the story of their struggles is woven the bitter-sweet relationship of a family where personalities differ and there is not often understanding between parent and children, but where there is a strong underlying current of affection that holds them together despite their differences. The characters are very real people, not completely good and not completely bad. Morgan, the heroine, for example in a teen-age novel, for she is neither very pretty nor very bright, but the reader is drawn to her with a feeling of real understanding and sympathy for her problems. The author writes with a maturity and a depth of perception that are as welcome as they are rare in books written for teen-age readers. (Gr.9-12)


Brief but absorbing account of LaSalle and his efforts to settle the country along the Mississippi River. This is a less detailed biography than the Nolan, *LaSalle and the Grand Enterprise* (Messner, 1951) but it is equally interesting and has an added appeal in the excerpts from LaSalle's letters and reports. (Gr.6-8)


Billy Patton went to Geiselot College because of the reputation of its Basketball team. He worked hard to make the varsity team, succeeded, and then became involved with a gambling ring. Expelled, but not succumbing to their offers, he reported the affair to the District Attorney's office and then worked with the D.A. until the case was broken. The author has written a good case study of how gamblers work in fixing basketball games but he has not written a novel or even a good story. The documentary style, typed characters, and obvious plot spoil what might have been a good and a useful story. Not recommended. (Gr.9-12)


Eleven-year-old Bridget had in her mind a picture of just the house where she wanted to live. For a time it seemed possible that she would get her wish and then family problems and illnesses made the possibility seem very remote. Bridget's moods changed as frequently and as drastically as the family fortune, but each change left her a bit more grown up and ready to assume her responsibility in the family. A nice family story set in England near the Welsh Border Country and told with the full flavor of English ways of living and talking. (Gr.8-10)


Mary Conroy flouted convention when she jilted Zach Topley, son of the town's leading citizen, and married Armen Neff, a newcomer who was regarded by most of the townspeople as a "no-body". A small town such as Topley, Missouri in the late 1860's would not stand for such conduct and reacted by ostracizing Mary and her husband. Finally, in desperation, Mary persuaded Armen to go to the Colorado gold fields to try to make his fortune, leaving her in Topley until after her baby was born. She again ignored convention by starting out to join Armen without waiting for him to return for her. Her party on the trek consisted of her twelve-year-old brother Tom; her nineteen-year-old sister Daisy; her Uncle Thad, a gambler; his wife Belle, who had earned Topley's displeasure by divorcing her first husband; and the baby. The group set out and overcame innumerable hardships on the way but eventually Mary and Armen were re-united. An unusually realistic piece of period fiction that skirts but never quite gives way to melodrama. (Gr.8-12)


Willy Willy is a baby elephant who can never remember what his mother tells him. One day he runs away from home, tangles with a lion, and as he tries to escape remembers and puts into practice all he has been taught. The illustrations are colorful and pleasing but the story is labored and unimaginative. Not recommended. (Pre-School)
minute from sure disaster. There is also a
detective in disguise who falls in love with
one of the teachers in the school. Stereotyped
and mediocre. Not recommended. (Gr. 3-7)

Wilson, Hazel (mutchins). The Story of
Lafayette; illus. by Edy Legrand. Grosset,
A simply written, mildly interesting
biography of Lafayette. The account takes him
from his boyhood through his trip to America
at the age of sixty-four. Although the book
does not succeed in making Lafayette seem a real
person, it does give the essential facts about
his life and will be acceptable for young
readers. (Gr. 5-7)

Zia, Herbert Spencer. The Sun; illus. by Larry
Another excellent nature study book in
which a simply written text, diagramatic illus-
trations, and a large, clear (but not primer
size) type combine to make a book that should
be read with interest and profit by students
from the fifth grade through high school. The
author begins with facts about space travel
that are familiar to many modern youngsters and
shows why travel to the sun will never be
possible. He then discusses the nature of solar
heat, how man has learned to measure and
analyze the sun's gases, and uses that are made
of the sun's heat and light. (Gr. 5-12)

**Instructional Materials. Supplementary Reading
And Sources of Materials**

The materials listed here are not available
from the Center for Children's Books. Orders
should be sent to the publishers of the
individual items.

Association for Childhood Education Interna-
ACER, 1200 15th Street, N.W., Washington, 5,
D.C. 1952. 31.
A classified list, annotated and graded.

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Bibliography. Federal Security Agency,

Dale, Edgar. "Reading - One Way To Communicate."

Davis, Hubert J. "Teaching Reading the A-V
D. 1952.

Dobch, Edward W. and Margarette P.
Folk Stories pub. by Garrard Press.
Animal Stories Champaign, Illinois
"Gay" Stories
Simply written stories that are easy enough
for beginning readers and that have been used
successfully with retarded readers at the high
school level.

Fine, Benjamin. "The Truth about Schoolbook
D. 1952.

Freeman, Warren S. ed. Annotated List of
Phonograph Records (K-8th). Children's Reading