



I L L I N O I S

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

-

PRODUCTION NOTE

University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign Library
Large-scale Digitization Project, 2007.

BULLETIN

of the Children's Book Center

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LIBRARY • CHILDREN'S BOOK CENTER

Volume IX

March, 1956

Number 7

EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED WITH ANNOTATIONS

- R Recommended
M Marginal book that is so slight in content or has so many weaknesses in style or format that it barely misses an NR rating. The book should be given careful consideration before purchase.
NR Not recommended.
Ad For collections that need additional material on the subject.
SpC Subject matter or treatment will tend to limit the book to specialized collections.
SpR A book that will have appeal for the unusual reader only. Recommended for the special few who will read it.

New Titles

for Children and Young People

- R Allison, Dorothy Kinsella. Helpful
3-5 Helicopters. Melmont, 1955. 23p.
\$1.35.

Brief text and full-page photographs describe some of the peace time uses of helicopters—in rescue work, in fighting forest fires, to spray farms and orchards, in rounding up cattle, for police patrol of beaches and crowded traffic areas, in transporting mail, etc. The book is satisfactory as an introduction to the subject for the middle elementary grades, although readers from the fifth grade up who are interested in the subject will probably prefer the fuller treatment of a book such as Lewellen's Helicopters: How They Work (Crowell, 1955).

- R Arnold, Elliott. White Falcon; illus. by
7-9 Frederick T. Chapman. Knopf, 1955.
246p. \$3.00.

A fictionalized account, based on real fact, of the life of John Tanner, a young white boy who was kidnapped by the Ottawas in 1770 and lived his entire life among the Indians. Several years after his capture, he moved west to

the Chippewas, where he lived for the remainder of his life, winning a place of respect and leadership both among the Indians and the white people of the area. His attempts to get fair treatment for the Indians from the white traders, and his part in the struggle between the Hudson's Bay Company and the Northwest Company make exciting action packed reading. The book would have been more useful as historical fiction had the author given some indication of which parts are real and which fictionalized, or if he had indicated his sources.

- M Baker, Margaret Joyce. Lions in the
4-6 Woodshed; illus. by Marcia Lane-
Foster. Whittlesey House, 1955. 96p.
\$2.25.

Tessa and Steven were bored with life at the home of their primly proper cousins where they were visiting for a few weeks. Then Tessa purchased a small figurine that turned out to possess magic powers and life became somewhat more interesting. The things that happen are not especially exciting, and the author's manner of describing them does not add to their interest or suspense. Even the lions seem quite mundane. An unsuccessful attempt at fantasy that has none of the sparkle or humor of the author's Homer the Tortoise.

BULLETIN of the Children's Book Center. Published by the University of Chicago Press for the University of Chicago Library, Children's Book Center. Mary K. Eakin, Librarian.

The book evaluations appearing in this BULLETIN are made with the advice and assistance of members of the faculty of the Graduate Library School, the Department of Education, and the University Laboratory School.

Published monthly except August. Subscription price is \$2.50 a year. Checks should be made payable to the University of Chicago Press. Correspondence regarding the BULLETIN should be addressed to the University of Chicago Press, 5750 Ellis Avenue, Chicago 37, Illinois.

R Bendick, Jeanne. The First Book of Auto-
4-6 mobiles. Watts, 1955. 65p. \$1.95.
Brief, informative discussion of automobiles,
how they operate, the many uses to which they
are put, something of the history of their de-
velopment, unusual kinds of cars, games for
children to play while riding, safety driving
practices, good passenger manners, and how
to build a model car. The material is entire-
ly new; not a revision of the Tatham book of
the same title, and should prove of interest
to many young readers. Of especial interest
are the diagrams showing how gasoline en-
gines and diesel engines operate.

M Blackstock, Josephine. Songs for Six-
3-5 pence; A Story about John Newbery;
illus. by Maurice Bower. Follett,
1955. 158p. \$2.95.

A pleasant, but very disjointed story based
on the life of John Newbery. The days of
Newbery's country boyhood and early love of
books are recreated with imagination. The
London episodes, introducing Samuel John-
son and Oliver Goldsmith, seem faithful to
the period; however, they are less vividly
presented than the earlier events and seem
to lack unity. The black and white illu-
strations are well suited to the action and back-
ground of the story.

R Bleeker, Sonia. The Chippewa Indians;
5-7 Rice Gatherers of the Great Lakes;
illus. by Patricia Boodell. Morrow,
1955. 157p. \$2.

Following the same pattern as her other books
on American Indian tribes, the author has pre-
sented an interesting, readable, semi-fiction-
alized account of the ways of living of the
Chippewa Indians, with the emphasis on the
events of their life before the coming of the
white man. The final chapter summarizes the
history of the tribe up to modern times.

NR Blyton, Enid. The River of Adventure;
5-7 illus. by Stuart Tresilian. St. Mart-
in's, 1955. 277p. \$2.75.

Eighth title in the author's "Adventure" ser-
ies. This time the four children, Bill and
Mrs. Cunningham are in Syria, where the
children are recuperating from a severe
bout of flu and Bill is on the trail of an inter-
national spy. During the course of the story
the children are lost in an underground cav-
ern, find an ancient temple and all its trea-
sure, and, of course, capture the spy. In ad-
dition to the poor writing and melodramatic
plot, the story contains objectionable attitudes
toward the Syrians and a tone of white superi-
ority that is unworthy of modern children.

NR Brady, Rita B. Christine Bennet: Chemist.
7-9 Abelard-Schuman, 1955. 205p. \$2.50.
Christine Bennet is a high school senior who
is determined to follow in the steps of her
dead father and become a chemist. She faces
opposition at home in the person of her grand-
mother, who considers chemistry a poor career
for anyone and certainly not appropriate for
a girl. At school the chemistry teacher is
prejudiced against women chemists and accepts
Christine in his class only because the princi-
pal forces him to do so. Christine proves her-
self by inventing a new perfume that wins her
a promise of a job with a cosmetic company,
and causes the chemistry teacher to break
down and confide in her the whole sad tale of
his life. Superficial characterizations and too
easy solutions to the problems raised.

Ad Brown, Frances Williams. Captured
4-6 Words; The Story of a Great Indian;
illus. by L. F. Bjorklund. Aladdin,
1954. 192p. (American Heritage
Series). \$1.75.

A readable, although not especially inspired
biography of Sequoya, the Cherokee Indian
who spent most of his life in an attempt to
create a method for writing the Cherokee lan-
guage. In spite of the predictions of white
scholars that such a written language was im-
possible, and in spite of the opposition which
he received from his own people, who thought
him to be insane, Sequoya persisted and even-
tually created a syllabary that made it pos-
sible to write the Cherokee language. The
story is easier to read than the Coblenz Se-
quoya (Longmans, 1946) but is a more super-
ficial treatment of the subject.

NR Clark, Electa. The Dagger, the Fish and
6-8 Casey McKee; illus. by Clifford
N. Geary. McKay, 1955. 218p. \$2.75.

Young Casey McKee arrives for a visit at the
estate of his wealthy and eccentric uncle,
John Bounder, to find the place in an uproar
over the mysterious disappearance of a box
of treasures from India. There follows a very
routine mystery involving a butler who turns
out to be an FBI agent in disguise, a prince of
India who is trying to recover his family's
stolen jewels, two thugs, and a comic-book
policeman. In addition to the typed characters
and stock situations, the book suffers from an
exceedingly arch tone and from such negative
attitudes as the idea that detectives have a right
to pry through the private belongings of other
people, without their knowledge, or that house-
breaking is no more than a "boyish prank"
when it is done by the prince in an attempt to
recover the jewels.

NR Cockefair, Edgar A. and Ada Milam. 4-6 The Story of You. Milam Publications, 1955. 34p. \$2.

An introduction to sex education for the young child. The writing tends to be sentimental; there is too much text for the casual questioning of very young children and not clear enough detail to satisfy older children. The illustrations and jacket are, unfortunately, excessively ugly and the binding is quite weak.

Ad Colby, Carroll Burleigh. First Camping Trip. Coward-McCann, 1955. 48p. \$2.00.

Brief text and illustrations give basic pointers for the beginning camper. Covers such items as selecting a camp spot; kinds of shelters and how to erect them; camp beds, lights, fires, furniture and gadgets; camp cooking; first aid; and what to do if lost. One statement in the first aid is misleading and could be dangerous, i.e. "Apply tourniquet . . . and release only under doctor's orders." Less detailed than the Pashko, Boy's Complete Book of Camping (Greenberg, 1951) or the Roberts, Real Book About Camping (Garden City, 1953).

R Colver, Anne. Yankee Doodle Painter; 6-8 illus. by Lee Ames. Knopf, 1955. 176p. \$2.75.

A fictionalized account of the painting of the picture, "The Spirit of '76", by Archibald M. Willard. The story is told through the experiences of young Will Colver, nephew of Willard, and also a real person. The book becomes almost more of a biography of Colver than of Willard, although its main emphasis centers around the years leading up to the painting of the picture and an account of its reception at the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition. The author has created a vivid picture of life in late-nineteenth century Ohio as well as interesting characterizations of Will Colver and Archibald Willard.

NR Cutler, Samuel. Famous Pioneers; illus. 4-6 by William Moyers. Gabriel, 1955. 64p. (A Trumpet Book). 25¢.

Brief accounts of some of the exploits of eighteen famous frontiersmen, from Daniel Boone to Wild Bill Hickok. The style of writing is mediocre and there is no life or vitality to the episodes. The same information is to be found in the Dorian and Wilson Trails West and Men Who Made Them (Whittlesey, 1955) where it is better written and more interesting reading.

R Darling, Louis. Seals and Walruses. 4-6 Morrow, 1955. 63p. \$2.

An interesting discussion of the physiology of seals and walruses, their ways of living, and their value to mankind. The style of writing is readable, the illustrations are attractive, and the book will make a useful addition to materials on nature study and on conservation.

R Dodge, Natt N. & Zim, Herbert S. The American Southwest; A Guide to the Wide Open Spaces; illus. by Arch and Miriam Hurford. Simon & Schuster, 1955. 160p. (A Golden Regional Guide) \$1.95.

First title in a series of guides to the regions of the United States. The book is intended as a handbook for the visitor to the Southwest and emphasizes the kinds of information that would be most helpful to tourists. Contents include: natural wonders, Indian villages, historic sites, scenic routes, guide maps, public parks, minerals, animals, birds, trees, and flowers. Interesting information and colorful illustrations make this a useful book. Some sections include bibliographies of materials for further reading on specific subjects.

NR duJardin, Rosamond (Neal). Showboat Summer. Lippincott, 1955. 192p. \$2.50.

In this third book about the Howard twins, Pam and Penny, the girls are spending their summer on the showboat, Regina, an old river boat used by Harwood College as a summer workshop for drama students. Penny is, as usual, deep in her love affair with Mike. Pam is wavering between Jeff, whom she thinks she loves, and every other personable young man who comes within two feet of her. There is the inevitable rivalry between Pam and another girl, resolved, at the end, in a flood of tears, remorse, and complete reformation. The setting is interesting, but the story suffers from a contrived, well-worn plot; superficial characterizations; negative values expressed in many of the actions and relationships; and a complete lack of maturity in the main character. In her own way Pam is just as obnoxious as the girl with whom she feuds, but the author evidently approves her brand of immaturity and ill-manners.

Ad Evans, Eva (Knox). The Adventure Book of Rocks; illus. by Vana Earle. Capitol, 1955. 93p. \$2.50.

An introductory book designed to interest young readers in the hobby of rock collecting and identification. The text touches briefly

on how rocks are formed, how to identify the various kinds of rocks, some unusual beliefs regarding stones, and the basic equipment needed to begin a hobby of rock collecting. There is a section of excellent photographs of various rock specimens; and the final section includes the typical rocks to be found in each state, a brief bibliography for further reading, a list of supply houses for equipment and specimens, and a glossary of the more common rocks and minerals. Adequate as an introduction, but not detailed enough to serve as the only book on the subject.

R Evernden, Margery. Wilderness Boy.
7-9 Putnam, 1955. 218p. \$3.

A seldom treated episode in American history, the Whiskey Rebellion of 1794, told through the experiences of young Jonathon Garrett who found himself torn between two loyalties in the struggle. Dr. Daniel Garrett, the uncle with whom Jonathon lived, bitterly opposed the rebellion, and Lachlan McClintock another, equally well-loved uncle, was one of the leaders. At first Jonathon sides whole-heartedly with the rebels, and through his experiences the reader is given a vivid, well-drawn picture of the times and of the struggle to define the extent and limitations of the newly organized government of the United States. Interesting period fiction and a well-paced adventure story.

Ad Faulkner, Nancy. Pirate Quest; illus. by
7-9 Harve Stein. Doubleday, 1955. 256p.
\$2.75.

An adventure story set in the days of Blackbeard, the pirate. Young Ian McDonald had sworn vengeance on the pirates after they caused his father's death, and he chafed against his apprenticeship to a doctor in the colonies, both because he did not want to study medicine and because the work kept him from hunting down the pirates. In due course of events he learned to appreciate the possibilities of his work, and he was on hand to see Blackbeard's defeat and death. Adequate period fiction, not overly strong in plot construction or characterizations.

R Frascioni, Antonio. See and Say; A Picture Book in Four Languages. Harcourt, 1955. 30p. \$3.00.

A picture book designed to introduce young children to languages other than their own. Each page contains several pictures, with the appropriate word for each given in English (printed in black), Italian (printed in blue), French (printed in red), and Spanish (printed in green). A guide to pronunciation is given

with each word. At the end there is a page of common expressions given in the four languages. This is a book to be enjoyed by young children for its colorful, unusual illustrations and for the sounds of the words. In the upper elementary and junior high schools, where general languages are taught, the book would have interest and value to show the similarities in spellings and sounds among the four languages.

M Gág, Flavia. Fourth Floor Menagerie.
5-7 Holt, 1955. 174p. \$2.75.

Barbara Jean Gregg and her cousin, Hoagy, are interested in animals and refuse to let the fact that they live in a fourth floor apartment in New York City deter them in their efforts to build a menagerie. They do compromise to the extent that they specialize in small animals—canaries, hamsters, crickets, and the like. The story of their activities in gathering and caring for their animals is slow-paced and quite dull in spots. The characterizations are not always consistent, and the illustrations do not always match the text.

NR Govan, Christine (Noble) and West, Emmy.
4-6 The Mystery at Shingle Rock; illus. by
Frederick T. Chapman. Sterling, 1955.
192p. \$2.50.

An implausible mystery involving a group of pre-adolescent children, an abandoned mine, and a horse thief. The children resent the fact that their older brothers and sisters are allowed to participate in the big race at the annual Horse and Pony Show while they are barred as being too young. They set out to prove themselves capable of doing great deeds and end up by capturing a horse thief and discovering some bonds that had been stolen many years before. Melodramatic and too dependent on coincidence.

NR Grant, Bruce. Davy Crockett, American Hero; illus. by William Timmins.
3-5 Rand McNally, 1955. 28p. (A Giant Book). \$1. Also available in the 25¢ edition. (An Elf Book).

A very brief introduction to Davy Crockett, emphasizing one, fictionalized episode from his early years and with the sketchiest of outlines for his later years and death. The pictures are pretty rather than realistic. The author's one concession to reality is in the constant use of the word "b'ar", but since this is the only word of dialect that is used, the result is stilted unnatural dialogue. Text and illustrations are exactly the same in each edition, the only difference being in the page size, and the corresponding difference in type and picture size.

Ad Grimm, Jakob Ludwig Karl. Grimm's

- 4-6 Fairy Tales; retold by Rose Dobbs; illus. by Gertrude Elliott Espenscheid. Random House, 1955. 64p. \$1.00.

Re-tellings of eight favorite tales from Grimm: The Hare and the Hedgehog, The Shoemaker and the Elves, The Sleeping Beauty, The Brave Little Tailor, Snow White and Rose Red, The Musicians of Bremen, Rumpelstiltskin, and The Golden Goose. The illustrations are of very average quality, but the stories are quite suitable for reading aloud, and the book will make an adequate, inexpensive edition for home or library use.

- SpC Harris, Joel Chandler. The Complete Tales of Uncle Remus; comp. by Richard Chase; with illus. by Arthur Burdette Frost. Houghton, 1955. 875p. \$5.

The complete, unabridged tales of Uncle Remus, gathered from the original eight volumes. Because of the excessive use of dialect these stories have long been used by storytellers only, rather than for independent reading by children. In this volume size adds a further complication to use by children. The book will make an excellent addition to a storyteller's collection, but the Favorite Uncle Remus (Houghton, 1948) is still a better volume for use by the few children who can handle the dialect.

- Ad Henry, Marguerite. Wagging Tails; An Album of Dogs; illus. by Wesley Dennis. Rand McNally, 1955. 64p. \$2.95.

Twenty-two breeds of dog presented in brief text, full-page, full-color illustrations, and black-and-white marginal drawings. The illustrations are better than the text, which tends to be on the maudlin side. The information is not as detailed as in the Megargee, Dog Dictionary (World, 1954) or the Tatham, World Book of Dogs (World, 1953), but for libraries needing additional pictorial material of this kind the book will be adequate.

- R Hyde, Margaret Oldroyd and Edwin. 6-9 Where Speed Is King; illus. by Clifford N. Geary. Whittlesey House, 1955. 144p. \$2.50.

A discussion of the various sports involving speed: airplanes, bicycles, boating, bobsleds, horses, hot rods, ice yachting, models, pigeons, racing cars, skate-sailing, skiing, sports cars, track, swimming, and water skiing. Health and safety factors involved in each sport are included, and some of the personalities identified with each sport are introduced. An interesting presentation of the subject.

- M Jackson, Dorothy V. S. Rising Star. Lip-7-9 pincott, 1955. 181p. \$2.75.

When eighteen-year-old Honora (Honey) Bayloe came to Florida to spend the winter with her aunt and uncle, she found it difficult at first to adjust to new people and new situations after having spent three years in a tuberculosis sanatorium. Her interest in the race horses which her uncle owned, and especially her interest in Friday's Child, a partially lame horse that her uncle gave to her, helped her to learn to live a more normal life and to accept the disappointment of having to give up her dreams of ever becoming a concert singer. There are some good aspects to the way in which Honey makes her adjustment. The characterizations are uneven and the plot is somewhat dependent on coincidence.

- SpR Johnson, Crockett. Harold and the Purple Crayon. Harper, 1955. 64p. \$1.75. yrs.

Fantasy of a small boy who decides to go for a walk one night. He uses his purple crayon to draw all the things necessary for a successful walk—a moon, a path, houses, the ocean, a boat, a mountain, a balloon, and finally his own room again. Imaginative children (the book is not for the literal-minded child, or adult) can appreciate Harold's adventures, and they may even be tempted to imitate his drawings on the nearest flat surface. Children living in houses with solid color walls should, perhaps, be given a large piece of drawing paper along with the book. Nursery school teachers and parents should find this a book that is fun to use with children to stimulate them in their own imaginative adventures.

- SpC Jones, Mary Alice and Smallwood, Kate. 2-4 Prayers and Graces for a Small Child; yrs. illus. by Elizabeth Webbe. Rand McNally, 1955. 32p. (An Elf Book) 25¢..

A collection of 22 simple prayers and graces for young children. The illustrations and the tone of the writing incline toward the sentimental, but the book could be used in home or Sunday School libraries where this type of material is desired.

- R Koch, Dorothy. I Play at the Beach; pic-2-5 tures by Feodor Rojankovsky. Holiday yrs. House, 1955. 28p. \$2.50.

Bright, sun-washed colors picture the activities of a small girl at the beach, and show the strange creatures she finds there. A book for reading aloud to the pre-school or kindergarten child.

- SpC Kripke, Dorothy Karp. Let's Talk About K-3 Right and Wrong; pictures by Bobri. Behrman, 1955. 33p. \$1.50.

In somewhat the same style as her Let's Talk About God, the author presents brief, simple explanations of what is meant by right and wrong and some reasons why it is important for children to learn to distinguish between the two. Examples are chosen from experiences that are likely to be fairly common among young children. The concepts are presented on a child level; the text is too difficult for most young children to handle alone. A book that will have its greatest value for home and Sunday School use.

NR Lane, Frederick A. Patrol to the Kimber-
7-9 leys. Prentice-Hall, 1955. 218p.
(A Lodestar Book) \$2.75.

A contrived, poorly-written story of Australia that attempts to combine a history of Australia and a description of its geography, natural resources, flora and fauna, with an adventure story involving a spoiled, wealthy young tenderfoot and three outlaws. Glen, the tenderfoot, as might be expected, comes through in the end and helps to capture the outlaws. In spite of the excitement of the chase through rugged country, the story becomes so bogged down with factual details as to seem slow-moving and dull.

M Leaver, Florence. Secret at Star Point;
4-6 illus. by Harve Stein. Whitman, 1955.
48p. \$1.75.

When their clubhouse was washed away in the spring floods, the five boys who comprised the membership of the Explorers' Club tried to think of a means whereby they could be allowed to use Star Point Island in the nearby Pine Lake State Park as their headquarters. They were slightly deterred by the thought of the caretaker, Indian John, a cantankerous man who did not like boys. However, they won his support by discovering a cave containing evidence that the tribe to which Indian John belonging had once lived on Star Island. Once his point was proved, the caretaker immediately changed from a sour to a pleasant character and helped the boys obtain permission to build their clubhouse on the state property. This is more of a short story than a full length book and would have its greatest appeal for readers wanting a "small" book. The characters are one-dimensional and the plot lacks originality.

R Lee, Tina. Manners To Grow On; A How-
4-6 To-Do Book for Boys and Girls; pic-
tures by Manning Lee. Doubleday,
1955. 96p. \$2.50.

A book of manners for elementary school children. The rules are kept simple, and the situations are, for the most part, within the realm

of normal, everyday experience for most children, with an occasional glimpse of situations that will be encountered as the child grows older. The book is not especially attractive; the heavy black type and red paragraph headings tend to give the pages a monotonous, too-full, crowded look. However, the information is useful and is presented in a style that will be meaningful for children.

R Lenski, Lois. San Francisco Boy. Lippin-
5-7 cott, 1955. 176p. \$3.

A regional story set in San Francisco's Chinatown. The Fong family have only recently moved to San Francisco from Alameda. Nine-year-old Mei Gwen likes city life, but her elder brother, Felix, hates San Francisco and longs to return to Alameda. Through the story of Felix's adjustment to his new life, the author presents a well-rounded, sympathetic picture of Chinese family life and of this segment of San Francisco.

NR McCracken, Harold. Winning of the West;
5-7 illus. by Lee Ames. Garden City Books,
1955. 64p. \$2.00.

A very superficial account of some of the men and events that went into the taming and settlement of the West, from Daniel Boone to Buffalo Bill. The brevity of the text leads to some oversimplifications that are mis-leading and there are occasional statements that do not agree with more scholarly accounts of the same events and people. The illustrations are neat and tidy, but the people are too well-pressed to be realistic.

M Moore, Vardine (Russell). Mystery of the
4-6 Bells; illus. by Alcy C. Kendrick.
Westminster, 1955. 156p. \$2.75.

Slight mystery story involving a lost will, a pet monkey and a group of children with an ambition to form a dramatics club. The children are faced with the problem of no place to meet and in trying to solve that problem they succeed in finding the lost will to Captain Gabe's estate and restoring the house to its rightful owner. Their reward is the use of the carriage house on the estate grounds as a club house and theater. The writing is not distinguished.

M Neurath, Marie. The Wonder World of Long
3-5 Ago. Lothrop, 1955. 36p. \$1.75.

A very brief introduction to the subject of prehistoric animals. The author has traced the development of animals from very earliest times to the beginnings of mankind, with little or no use of technical terms. In so far as it goes, the material is interesting, but it will not satisfy young readers who have had some of the more detailed, more technical books on the same subject, such as the Bloch, Dinosaurs (Coward-McCann, 1955).

The text is written at about a fourth grade reading level, and the poor arrangement of text and illustrations on many of the pages makes the material even more difficult for young readers.

M Nevins, Albert J. The Adventures of Duc
7-9 of Indochina; illus. by Kurt Wiese.
Dodd, 1955. 276p. \$2.75.

Fifteen-year-old Duc lived with his family in the rich farming country of the Red River delta of Indochina. There was a Christian community, and a peaceful life, until the Vietminh forces began raiding the countryside. During the following year or two Duc saw his brother and father killed, lost track of his mother and sister, was himself captured by the Communist forces, and finally won a commission in the Vietnam army. The jacket describes the book as a "case history" and it, unfortunately, reads more like a case history than a piece of fiction, although the characters are all fictional. The lack of reality in the characterizations keeps the book from being good fiction, and it has too many fictional elements to be satisfactory as a factual account of the war in Indochina.

R Parker, Elinor M., comp. 100 Poems
7-12 About People; illus. by Ismar David.
Crowell, 1955. 234p. \$3.

An appealing, well-selected collection of poems, most of them taken from the works of well-known poets, and all of them presenting portraits of people, real and fanciful, with a nice blending of humor and seriousness. The contents are divided into ten sections: Under Twenty; My Fair Lady; Lives in Sunshine; Lives in Shadow; From the Hills, from the Roads, from the Sea; "All That's Past"; People from History; From Storybook and Legend; Some Strange Characters; and The Poet Himself. An attractive volume that will make an excellent addition to home or library poetry collections.

Ad Power-Waters, Alma. The Story of Young
7-9 Edwin Booth; foreword by Eva Le-
Gallienne; with photographs. Dutton,
1955. 192p. \$2.75.

A readable, although not especially noteworthy biography of Edwin Booth, beginning with his youth when he first went on tour with his father and continuing to the time of his come-back after the tragedy of his brother's murder of Lincoln. The author never quite succeeds in bringing her characters to life, although she has given a moderately interesting picture of the theater world of the period. Readers who are especially interested in Booth and his period will find the Ruggles, Prince of Play-

ers (Norton, 1953) a somewhat more difficult and a better written biography.

Ad Reiss, Manfred. Flying the Atlantic. Abe-
4-6 lard-Schuman, 1955. 36p. \$2.25.

Detailed description of a stratocruiser making the flight from London to New York. Includes how the plane is constructed, the instrument panel, passenger quarters, time changes, etc. An interesting presentation. The text is too difficult for readers below the fourth grade to handle alone, and is made even more difficult in places by having the text printed over wavy lines and dots.

R Scheele, William E. The First Mammals.
5-9 World, 1955. 128p. \$4.95.

- Using a style and format similar to his Pre-historic Animals, the author presents a history of the development of early mammals. The book begins with a general discussion of mammals, how they differ from other animal forms, a comparison of early and modern mammals, problems in searching for and identifying fossil mammals, and the domestication of mammals by mankind. The remainder of the book is devoted to a detailed description, in text and pictures of 57 different mammals, from the earliest Cynognathus, a mammal-like reptile, to the modern Blue Whale. An excellent book and one that will be read with enjoyment wherever there is interest in the subject.

R Selsam, Millicent (Ellis) and Morrow, Betty.
3-5 See through the Sea; pictures by Wini-
fred Lubell. Harper, 1955. 47p. \$2.50.

A brief, interestingly presented account of the kinds of plant and animal life to be found at various depths of the sea. Begins with the tidal area of the shore and moves out to the depths of mid-ocean. The illustrations are both attractive and informative.

NR Sinclair, Kenneth L. Lost City of the Sun;
7-9 decorations by Victor Mays. Funk &
Wagnalls, 1955. 265p. \$2.75.

Melodramatic story of the search for a lost Indian city that is supposed to be kind of missing link in the history of the Indians of Four Corners country. Gard Elman became involved in the search when he attempted to help seventeen-year-old Brian Telford, a young Easterner who was obviously in the clutches of a gang of gunmen. With Brian, Gard set forth to find the lost City of the Sun by following the directions on a clay tablet that Brian's father had deciphered. It not only told how to find the city, but also gave the real reason why the Indians moved from their various pueblo homes—a reason that had baffled archeologists for years.

The boys' adventures run the gamut of the melodramatic, from gun battles to a bit of Indian witchcraft, but they do find the city, subdue their enemies, and help to establish the city as a National Park. Stock characters and a far-fetched, melodramatic plot.

SpC Smither, Ethel Lisle. First To Be Called
3-5 Christians; illus. by Kurt Wiese.
Abingdon, 1955. 80p. \$1.50.

Seven stories retold from the Acts of the Apostles, and one based on Paul's letter to Philemon. The episodes are recounted in a simple, rather uninspired manner. The book might have some value for Sunday School collections where highly simplified versions of the Bible stories are wanted, but will have little appeal for general reading.

R Taylor, Don Alonzo. Old Sam, Thorough-
5-7 bred Trotter; illus. by Lorence F.
Bjorklund. Follett, 1955. 160p. \$2.95.

A story of homesteading in the Dakota Territory. The account, told in the first person, deals with the experiences of two young boys, Johnnie and Lee Scott, and their pet horse, Old Sam. The horse had been a famous trotter until a broken leg spoiled his looks and caused his owner to think that he would never run again. He was given to the boys, who never doubted his ability to outrun any horses in the country. The plot, involving the training of Sam and his winning of a harness race, is not especially original, but the setting is vividly portrayed and Johnnie and Lee emerge as very real and likable boys.

NR Tregaskis, Richard. Guadalcanal Diary.
7-9 Random House, 1955. 180p. (A Land-
mark Book). \$1.50.

A drastically cut version of Tregaskis's adult book of the same title, with added sections to show how the battle for Guadalcanal fitted into the whole Pacific war pattern. Although the deletion of some of the more earthy sections of the original could make this version more acceptable for use with immature readers, the results of the cutting are generally detrimental rather than improving. The author's artless style, which kept the original text from being as vivid and memorable an account as it might have been, has not been improved by the drastic cuts, and there is even less suspense or feeling of reality to this version than there is in the original.

NR Uhl, Robert. Treasures in the Depths.
7-9 Prentice-Hall, 1955. 217p. (A Lode-
star Book). \$2.75.

An unsuccessful attempt to combine information about deep-sea diving with an adventure story involving a search for lost treasure ships. The writing is carelessly done, the characters are stereotyped, the situations are contrived to bring in details of all aspects of deep-sea diving, and the author fails to give real proof to his implication that all professional salvage men are crooks or worse. Floherty's Deep Down Under (Lippincott, 1953) is a better factual presentation of the subject, and Crisp's The Haunted Reef (Coward-McCann, 1952) is a better story of deep-sea diving.

NR Verral, Charles Spain. High Danger; illus.
7-9 by Clayton Knight. Sterling, 1955. 192p.
\$2.50.

A poorly written, melodramatic story of the early days of commercial flying in this country. Eighteen-year-old Greg Walker ran away from his guardian who was determined that he should become a lawyer and give up all thought of flying. Greg ended up in Wyoming involved with a bank robber, a murder, and some cutthroat competition for the government air mail contract. A contrived plot and unrealistic characters.

M Watson, Jane Werner. The True Story of
1-3 Smokey the Bear; pictures by Feodor
Rojankovsky. Simon & Schuster, 1955.
26p. (A Big Golden Book). \$1.00.

The story of the bear cub who was rescued after a forest fire and became the national symbol of forest fire prevention. The first part of the story is an interesting, straight-forward account of Smokey's life. However, at the end the author switches abruptly to a coy tone and a personification of Smokey that leaves him neither real bear nor human.

NR Willis, Richard and Irene. Rosie's Josie;
2-4 illus. by Robert Willis. Childrens Press,
1955. 28p. \$1.50.

Slight, very obvious story of a chef who calls his car Josie. The car serves him quite well until one day when he forgets to put any gas in the tank. When the car stops the chef cannot figure out why until he starts serving meals that night and remembers that cars too must be fed. Cartoon-ish illustrations.