

# The Reader's Corner

By BETTY COTE  
Klamath County Librarian

## Commandant of Auschwitz, Rudolf Hoess.

Rudolf Hoess was ordered to write his autobiography during the period between his trial and his execution as a Nazi war criminal. Careful checking shows that he took great pains to tell the truth so that the book is that of a conscientious official drafting an accurate report of his life's work. Since he was personally responsible for carrying out the orders to exterminate some two million Jews and Auschwitz and had worked in other concentration camps, he knew more about Germany's greatest crime than almost any other man.

This is a horribly unpleasant book, but an important one because it portrays one of the men who planned and executed the abominations of Nazi Germany and he has also added some portraits of some of his more spectacular fellow criminals. The mass executions and concentration camp treatment of millions of Jews and political prisoners are almost unbelievable and the men responsible seem equally or more so.

Lord Russel of Liverpool has written an explanatory and authoritative introduction that should not be skipped by those who read this book. It gives details and evaluations important to keep in mind while reading. The translator's notes are also of interest since they give details regarding the autobiography and other Hoess-written documents which comprise this book, especially regarding its authenticity.

It seems to me that the most important thing about this book is the realization that Hoess was a very ordinary little man, a bureaucrat who became one of the greatest monsters of all time. There is much to be gained as a reminder of the effects of totalitarianism upon the minds of men.

## Citizen of Two Worlds, Mohamad Ata-Ullah.

Autobiography of a Pakistani doctor, mountaineer, and philosopher. Mohamad Ata-Ullah was born a Moslem and has lived a life in which he has learned to reconcile the best of the East and the West. He became a doctor, receiving his education in Lahore and then in London. He has had a life of high adventure in many parts of the world and his autobiography shows himself to be a wise and a witty citizen of two worlds.

## The Jerry Geisler Story, Jerry Geisler as told to Pete Martin.

One of the most spectacular trial lawyers in America tells the story of some of his most famous cases and describes the techniques he has used in defending such clients as Margaret Ryan, Alexander Pantages, Charlie Chaplin and Errol Flynn.

## Samples and Stitches, Mrs. Archibald Christie.

A handbook to the art of embroidery. There are some 250 diagrams of stitches and methods and numerous examples of finished patterns. Needleworkers will find this book a treasure of ideas and instructions.

## The Passionate Sightseer, Bernard Berenson.

This is a beautiful book with fine illustrations of the paintings and scenes discussed in the diaries Bernard Berenson kept from 1947 to 1956 when he traveled to North Africa, Sicily and Italy. On these journeys he saw again many great works of art he had not seen for many years and re-evaluated some of the greatest. Berenson had corrected the proofs for this book before he died at the age of 94 in 1959. This book presents some of his last thoughts on life and art.

## The Splendor of Greece, Robert Payne.

Mr. Payne has written a book for all those who want to read and know more of Ancient Greece, weaving art, history, and mythology with enthusiasm and skill. The scheme of the book is a grand tour of Greece and at

each famous site Mr. Payne describes in detail the ruins to be found and then adds from knowledge and educated speculation so that the site seems to come alive. He also discusses the archeological work and describes Greek treasures of antiquity that have been taken to museums in other countries.

## Matt Field on the Santa Fe Trail, Collected by Clyde and Mae Reed Porter, Edited by John E. Sunder.

This is the 29th volume of the American Exploration and Travel Series. In 1839, Matt Field left a theatrical career for an overland journey from Independence, Missouri, to Santa Fe, New Mexico. This book reprints his journals of this trip and later articles of his written for the New Orleans Picayune. This journal itself is unique because Matt Field chose to record many of his observations in verse form. The articles written later were described by the Picayune as "fanciful relations of real incidents." Readers of Western Americana will want this book.

## Copey of Harvard, J. Donald Adams.

Charles Townsend Copeland was known to thousands of Harvard men as "Copey," one of the greatest teachers of this century. This is the first biography of him to be published, a warmly human account by J. Donald Adams, himself an alumnus of "Copey's" English 12.

## The High Tower of Refuge, Edgar H. S. Chandler.

Dr. Chandler is the director of the Refugee Service of the World Council of Churches and president of the Standing Conference of Volunteer Agencies Working for Refugees. His book is the first complete account of refugee relief throughout the world. It is important to read, to remind ourselves that there are 40 million refugees in Europe and Asia and that there are selfless men and women working to relieve some of this tragic chapter in the history of mankind.

## Jessel Anyone?, George Jessel.

The blurb on the jacket describes this as a grab-bag of George Jessel's best and most representative stories. He writes as he talks about anything and there is biographical detail mixed with this collection of some of his favorite stories and telephone monologues. Toastmasters and "talk makers" will find many tips in this book and others will read it just for the hearty laughs from the most sought-after after-dinner speaker in the world.

## Three Circles of Light, Pietro Di Donato.

A new novel by the author of "Christ in Concrete," which was published 21 years ago and has become a modern classic. Like that first novel, this one is also autobiographical and concerned with the son of Geremie, an Italian bricklayer, and his early life in West Hoboken in the early 1900s. This is an earthy novel stressing the boy Paul's colorful and intense relatives and neighbors.

## BOOK REVIEW TAB—L

### By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

#### The Wilderness Campaign. By Edward Steere. Stackpole. \$7.50.

It is a sure bet, even at this early stage, that studies of battles and campaigns will be an outstanding contribution of the centennial years to Civil War literature. It is an equally sure bet that few, if any, will challenge "The Wilderness Campaign" for sheer all-around quality.

The Battle of the Wilderness on May 5-6, 1864, brought the great commanders, Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant, against each other for the first time. On that point alone, it makes a mark in history. But it has other claims to attention—the high drama of the conflict itself, in the dark and tangled thickets south of Virginia's Rapidan River; the fact that it brought an end to Union retreats and frustrations, and was

the beginning of the bludgeoning which took Grant to Appomattox.

This is not a book for the casual reader who wishes only to be entertained; he would quickly bog down in the myriad tracing of brigade and division movements. But for any one who has even slight interest in military strategy and tactics, for the Civil War fan, for the lover of history, it is rewarding in rare dimensions.

Edward Steere, a former artilleryman and an experienced historian with the National Park Service, has dug to the bedrock of research—the field messages of the commanders and their subordinates. He has traveled the battlefield, studied it almost inch by inch. The feeling is inevitable as you read: This is the way it must have been.

There is opportunity aplenty here for those who still are fighting the Civil War battles. Lee, the author says, had a chance for smashing victory but overlooked or neglected it. And, in the aftermath, Steere challenges the contention that Lee divined Grant's purpose and forestalled him at Spottsylvania. Lee sent his advance to Spottsylvania, Steere says, not to foil a new thrust but in the belief that he was chasing a retreating army.

No review would be complete without mention of the maps. There are plenty of them, glory be, and they splendidly illuminate and complement the text.

Robert D. Price

#### Marilyn Monroe. By Maurice Zolotow. Harcourt, Brace. \$5.75.

"Let's Make Love," "Some Like It Hot," "The Prince and the Showgirl," "Bus Stop," "The Seven Year Itch"—roles in such films as these have given Miss Monroe the reputation of being a shocker, and a genius. The press has been friendly and unfriendly; directors have hailed her as great—though she could drive them to drink; her immeasurably large public takes Marilyn Monroe as MM as m-m-m-m-m-m! as sex.

This is not the first book about her, but it is the most serious and probing. You hear rumors of her wit, and her book learning, but almost nothing here corroborates them. Her successes, however, are demonstrated and so is her sexiness, even to the oily old fellow who took advantage of her when she was 9, and even to the nude photographs.

Zolotow properly makes her marriage to playwright Arthur Miller the climax of his story, and her career to date. But he pulls too much of a surprise, at least for me, in rating Miller the non-intellectual of the two. This is a remarkably frank appraisal of a famous woman set matter-of-factly against what to us innocent New Yorkers seems like the very lurid land of the Hollywood film colony.

#### THE SQUEEZE: Cities Without Space. By Edward Higbee; foreword by Fairfield Osborn. Morrow. \$5.95.

America, Osborn warns, is becoming in many ways less "habitable." Not so good a living place for leisure, work, health or happiness. Higbee explains that we misuse space. The city, he says, is the most characteristic creation of a society; "our cities show what we are." Around them stretches suburbia. Then there are recreation areas perhaps as distant as the shore. What we do with all these, says Higbee, and with the associated circulation systems, is bad and gets worse.

There were temple cities, and cathedral cities; we have work cities. At bottom they no longer collect enough money to solve their problems, and they desperately need state and federal help. But the main point is, what to do with money if they get it, and Higbee's general indignant conclusion seems to be: Anything but what they do with it now.

He deplores the too little park space; the failure to buy up cheap for future use adjacent fields and pastures bound to be developed and become expensive; the subsidizing of highways as against the taxing of railroads handling so many more passengers; the indis-

criminate parking on streets that are public property; the demolition of slums to make way for, eventually, more slums; the ill-planned suburbs.

Some figures shock you. Land costs for a piece of road 20 years ago could have been \$20,000 but are now 30 million dollars; new building in ancient Rome sets aside three to four times as much recreation space as new building in modern New York; the Maine-to-Texas coast is 3,700 miles long but only 240 miles belong to the public and not all of that is for general use. He approves Chicago—his telling examples are taken from all over the country; rid-

## POET'S CORNER

### A LEGEND

Once there was a towering mountain  
High above the tall Cascades,  
How it fell is told in legends—  
A story of an Indian maid.

In this mountain, say the Indians  
Were two Gods of Earth and Fire  
And they loved the Chieftain's daughter  
To win her was their one desire.

The princess made her own decision  
Choosing Skell and not Liao  
For she dearly loved the sunshine  
And did not want to live below.

This made Liao very angry  
And he rumbled for revenge  
Fire he made, and made Earth tremble  
For this slight he must avenge.

But the God of Rain came pouring  
No more need the Maklachs quake  
He poured water on Mazama  
And formed our lovely Crater Lake.

When you gaze upon its surface  
Note the island and mark well  
It's Liao's head just out of water,  
That's the story Indians tell!

Yes, there was a towering mountain  
High above the tall Cascades  
And now it's filled with blue, blue water  
To help a lovely Indian maid,  
Leola Thompson,  
2417 Darrow Street.

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cludes New York's Robert Moses for his \$3 million dollars cross-town elevated highway; regrets that planning in general is entrusted to highway engineers; wishes Lincoln Center for the Creative Arts faced Central Park instead of being buried back in a onetime slum area.

Space is the key to every aspect of a community's life, he says, and he proposes ways for its wise use.

If you ride or walk, own your home or rent, live in town or suburb, and if you wish you didn't, this crusading book tells you how to get out from under.

W. G. Rogers

### AGGRESSIVE ANIMAL

The salt water crocodile is the bulkiest of living reptiles in Australia's tropical streams. This 30-foot monster is fiercely aggressive and will go out of its way to attack man.

### HIGHEST

Highest mountain in Canada is Mount Logan, 19,850 feet high. This peak in the Saint Elias Range is the second highest mountain in North America.

*It is written!*  
**GEORGE VANDEMAN**

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