

The Reader's Corner

By ADDIE MAY NIXON
City Librarian

"Up, Into the Singing Mountain" by Richard Llewellyn.

In the year 1940 Richard Llewellyn wrote and published a novel called "How Green Was My Valley." The book was very, very popular. I don't know how many copies we wore out here at the library. It also became an Academy Award-winning movie, and many of you will remember the excellent movie that it was. This new book is a sequel to "How Green Was My Valley." Here are new adventures for Morgan as he emigrates from the Welsh mining town, and goes to Patagonia, South America, and lives with a colony of Welsh people — even though they are thousands of miles from Wales they are as Welsh as their miner forbears. The book is written with the same delightful Welsh twist to the language, and is full of Welsh phrases. Sometimes the beauty and aptness of a phrase makes you stop and think. How Morgan becomes very successful as a cabinet maker, and the story of his love for the lovely Lal is very well done. The characterization of the characters is most interesting, and this book will hold your interest throughout from cover to cover. It is based on a real colony of Welsh people in Patagonia. The author has lived among them for several years.

New Books at the City Library:
"Cookbook, New and Basic Recipes" by Ladies Home Journal.

A fine new cook book with every recipe that a cook might want. It is the first cook book published by the Ladies Home Journal, and every recipe has been tested at least three times.

"Nubbin Ridge — My Boyhood on a Texas Farm" by Lewis Noydyke.

This is life on a small farm in the Texas Panhandle in the decade from 1909 to 1919. It wasn't an easy life, but a time of uncomplicated pleasures and family ties. The author recreates these years of his boyhood, and the book is filled with anecdotes of his friends and family.

"The Listener" by Taylor Caldwell.

Taylor Caldwell has written many successful novels. One of her most recent and most popular was "Dear and Glorious Physician," a story of the Biblical Luke. This new book is a religious book also, but entirely different from "Dear and Glorious Physician." The author says no one has time to listen to a person anymore, and feels it is so important. This book is a story of listening, and of the different people who needed to be listened to. This is an inspirational book.

"Wedding Train" by Margaret Scherf.

This novel tells the story of Nellie Thompson who goes to Merfield, Mont., in the year 1902. The unusual thing was that she went to marry sight unseen a cousin. The story tells of all the many things that happened to her before she finally found happiness. This is a light amusing book.

"Robe of Honour" by Alexander Cordell.

This is another novel about Wales, and is written by the author of "The Rape of the Fair Country," which is also about Wales. This one portrays the courage and valor of the men as well as the patient spirit of the women.

"Corporation Wife" by Catherine Gaskin.

This novel by a popular novelist is about a new industry coming to a small town, and it deals with the women who marry the men of modern business — the company they promise to love, honor, and obey.

"Thomas Wolfe a Biography" by Elizabeth Nowell.

This is a fine scholarly book written by Thomas Wolfe's literary agent. She has with "painstaking detail years of research and a loyal devotion, she has

written a powerful yet tender book about a great and irreplaceable American author." This book is deserving of much more space than I am giving. It is truly a great book.

"Progressive Relaxation" by Edmund Jacobson.

This is a second edition of a book that doctors often request their patients to read—and practice. A good book for this tension filled age in which we live.

"The Golden Man" by Frances Richard Lockridge.

This is another who-done-it-for-the-mystery fans. This one has to do with a kidnaping. A good book to help you forget your troubles.

I, BENEDICT ARNOLD: The Anatomy of Treason, By Cornel Lengyel. Doubleday, \$3.95.

Pretty Peggy Shippen, daughter of a Quaker judge in Philadelphia, had two suitors: John Andre, a cultured young Englishman among His Majesty's troops occupying her city and, after their withdrawal, Benedict Arnold, the military commander assigned by Washington.

Her father didn't like Arnold; the officer still had a bad leg wound acquired in the loyal service of his new country; he would rouse up enemies who brought disgrace on him. Just the same, Peggy was as ambitious and unscrupulous as he, and she married him. Even while he passionately fought off charges brought against his ability and his patriotism by Philadelphians he had offended, he was negotiating with the English, with Andre as intermediary.

Washington's formal reprimand tipped the scales, and he plotted in the fall of 1780 to surrender West Point and the person of Washington, too. His mercenary maneuvering, his abominable deceit and callousness were climaxed in the capture and execution of Andre, while Arnold got away with only minutes to spare.

In a gripping tale familiar and yet fresh, too, Lengyel pictures the man who, made of the ruthless stuff of a dictator, gave us our name for traitor.

W. G. Rogers
Associated Press

The American Heritage Picture History of the Civil War, American Heritage, \$19.95.

To be blunt about it, this is a magnificent book—a pleasure to read and a joy to behold. Two years of effort and \$2 million went into the production and the result justifies time and expense in ample measure.

There have been many histories of the Civil War, but never one like this. In scope of text — a panorama of war and its complementary conflicts in economics, politics and social areas—and in pictorial splendor, it is in a class by itself.

Bruce Catton, who is close to becoming identified in the popular mind as "Mr. Civil War," wrote the narrative and that fact is enough to warrant that it is eloquent and moving. There are no sensations in it — nor should there be, for sensation is not within the province of the work—but it is a thorough treatment and the writing has the fluidity of expression that is peculiarly Catton's.

Yes, good though it is, Catton's text must be regarded as secondary to the illustrations. The true magnetism of the book is in 836 pictures—wash, drawings, water colors, etchings, photographs, lithographs and posters, one-third of them in color.

Many of the illustrations never before have been published. In the aggregate, they offer a rare panorama of the period that, as Catton has written, was our greatest emotional experience as a nation.

The maps are striking—artistic birdseye views of the battlefields on which troop movements are depicted with unusual clarity. Even more striking is a group of

color photos of Civil War battlefields, taken today but at the season and hour and in the weather of the battles. There are 84 such photos and the cameramen have blurred or avoided all signs of modernity, so that they startlingly catch the mood and atmosphere of the fields of war.

The editors of American Heritage have made a superb contribution to the war's centennial literature. Robert D. Price

Tourist in Africa, By Evelyn Waugh. Little, Brown, \$3.75.

"I have to winter abroad," says this English author, and at the start of 1959 he set out from chilly London for Genoa, Port Said, Tanganyika and the Rhodesias, Cape Town and then Southampton and home just in time for spring.

This is a record of people from Stanley to contemporary native leaders, and there are cutting reflections on the gifts bestowed by whites on blacks, the "pacification" by Europeans of Africa, and race prejudice. But mostly this rounds up an infinite number of intimate oddities — women cook meals, officials wear open shirts, shorts and monocle, the plumber stays to dinner, the elephant twitches its ears menacingly at the autoists, signs urge modest dress instead of Bikinis on the European ladies who a genera-

tion before covered black nakedness with Mother Hubbards.

It's the informality of this account that will charm you most. If it tells who took the 19 photos, I missed it; but the photographer could have been too ashamed to admit it. W. G. Rogers

Heaven Knows Who, By Christina Brand. Scribners, \$3.95.

Jess M'Pherson, about 38, was murdered in the home of her employer in Glasgow sometime during the night of July 4, 1862. The record of the trial of Jessie M'Lachlan, about 28, the M'Pherson woman's dear friend, as the murderer, has been called by an expert "the best murder trial I ever read." Miss Brand, author of nine crime novels, writes a completely factual account of the case.

It was a brutal killing; the author even spares hardened mystery-story readers the more gruesome details. A meat cleaver, a hammer or both had inflicted multiple wounds, and blood was spattered around on floor and walls, in Jess M'Pherson's bed, and even on shirts laid away in a drawer.

Miss Brand carefully pictures the background: Jessie M'Lachlan wed to an often absent sailor, with one child, desperately poor, and sickly; Jess M'Pherson, stout enough to fight off a man's ad-

vances if she wanted to though not always wanting to; James Fleming, for whom she worked, aged, arrogant, demanding; and lettered plans of the two floors in the Fleming home and the street on which it stood.

In that long night July 4 to 5, several people passed the windows behind which the dreadful crime was committed. In the day or two afterward, Jessie M'Lachlan ran about town mystifyingly mailing packages, redeeming pawned articles, bringing home odd bundles and carrying them off to dispose of them. But James Fleming resorted to puzzling behavior, too, like finding the body inexplicably late, answering the doorbell before he was supposed to be up in the morning, and changing his routine so that even the milkman's boy noticed. Both Fleming and Jessie M'Lachlan are arrested; Fleming is freed so that by Scotland's curious laws he can testify; Jessie is brought to trial before a hostile judge.

Two-thirds of this is trial, and a gripping one: The sharp probe of the lawyers, the witnesses now angry, now muddled, the prejudice of the the bench, the desperation of the prisoner. Pick this up and you'll read till the gavel brings it to a thrilling end.

W. G. Rogers
Associated Press

Put "MAGIC" In Christmas Giving!



DON McNEILL'S FAMILY ALBUM OF FAVORITE HYMNS
... a collection of more than 100 hymns... each complete with words and music, \$3.95
Beautifully illustrated.

THE FAMILY ALBUM OF FAVORITE POEMS ... 16 books in this one husky volume, totaling more than 500 poems. \$4.95

PROFILE OF AMERICA ... Edited by Emily Davis. Forwarded by Charles Lindbergh. An autobiography of the U.S.A. with more than 200 selections that eloquently express the mood and spirit of all that is American. \$4.95

PICTURE HISTORY OF WORLD WAR II ... More than 900 emotion-charged photographs present an unforgettable record of the most destructive period in mankind's history. \$7.95

PILLSBURY'S BEST OF THE BAKE-OFF COLLECTION ... best 100 recipes for breads, main dishes, cakes, cookies, pies and desserts that won a million dollars in Bake-Off prizes. Reg. Edition \$4.95
deluxe thumb-edition \$5.95

CULINARY ARTS INSTITUTE ENCYCLOPEDIA COOKBOOK ... new revised deluxe edition. Thousands of tested recipes and practical suggestions on meal planning and preparation. \$5.95

ALL CATS GO TO HEAVEN ... a 512 page collection of some 50 short stories ranging from "Puss in Boots" to Emile Zola's "The Paradise for Cats." \$4.95

GAUDENZIA: PRIDE OF THE PALIO by Marguerite Henry ... swift-moving story of Gaudenzia, half-breed Arabian horse and her victory in the race of the Palio, centuries-old yearly event in Siena, Italy. \$3.95 for age 9 up.



THE GENERAL FOODS KITCHENS COOK BOOK ... over 1000 recipes. \$4.95

THE REAL MOTHER GOOSE ... beloved familiar verses plus the famous and colorful Blanch Fisher Wright illustrations. \$2.95

"TELL ME" BOOKS by Mary Alice Jones. Tell Me About Christmas, Tell Me About God, Tell Me About Jesus ... each a wonderful book for children. each \$2.50

ALBUM OF HORSES ... Marguerite Henry describes 22 important breeds. \$3.95

Other wonderful stories by Marguerite Henry. **BLACK GOLD AND BORN TO TROT** each \$2.95

RAND McNALLY BOOK OF NATIONS ... covers every country of the globe. Hundreds of full-color pictures. \$3.95

Shaw Stationery Company
729 MAIN "Gift Headquarters" Ph. TU 2-2586