

The Reader's Corner

Book reviews from the Klamath Falls City Library—Mrs. Adie May Nixon.

Mountains Ahead by Martha Ferguson McKeown.

This is the story of Harmony Harrow and her trip to Oregon in 1847. Harmony, the child of wealthy parents, had her big Conestoga Wagon filled with family treasures. Her young husband was traveling with his family, and their background was entirely different from Harmony's. Harmony had been used to her own way, and found it extremely hard to fit into the hard life that was to be hers.

Her Conestoga was too heavy to get over the mountains, and she had to lose her possessions, one by one, and at last even the big Conestoga became too unwieldy in crossing a river and turned over. The blurb says, "This is a chronicle of human travail of mind, body and spirit." As the months go by Harmony matures from a spoiled, undisciplined girl to a strong and understanding woman.

The members of the wagon train are vividly pictured, and while there was cowardice and greed, there was also tenderness, generosity and a spirit of humanity that rises to heroism at times. This is a novel that tells of the woman's part in the trek across the mountains to Oregon. The author is a native Oregonian whose grandfather came to Oregon in a covered wagon. She has written several books about Oregon. She lives in Hood River, where she teaches in the high school.

Exodus Revisited by Leon Uris.

This is a book of superb photography with commentary on each page. It portrays the same profound feeling for the land and people of Israel as has stirred millions of readers of the author's great novel "Exodus." In this book is shown the promise of modern Israel as it reveals lonely deserts, bustling cities and new factories. Its holy places are sacred to three religions. Fishermen still cast their nets in the Sea of Galilee as they did in biblical times and have continued to do ever since. Mr. Uris concludes with "Israel is the light of a new dawn. As in ancient days, she is again a bridge from the world of darkness to a world of light."

A Simplified Guide to Collecting American Paper Money by Fred Reinhold.

This is a companion to the popular "Simplified Guide to Collecting American Coins." It is a history of American currency and the story behind the prominent events depicted on the different bills. It traces the growth of paper money from its beginning in China to its distribution in this country. As a hobby, it creates much historical interest and is also profitable. The book includes a catalog of every important U.S. bill, giving the approximate value. Colonial, Confederate and foreign currencies are described.

Cyrus, the Great by Harold Lamb.

A great legendary figure is brought to life again in this biography of Cyrus, the Great, King of Persia, who lived in the sixth century B.C. the author has presented a majestic story. It is almost a clairvoyant revelation of an ancient world of myth and superstition and of history mixed with fantasy. The king is a tough son of a tough father, fighting and conquering the Medes and Babylonia and threatening Egypt.

A Long Row to Hoe by Billie C. Clark.

The author relates in this interesting story of the early days of rural life when the river was his closest companion. The advent of spring and autumn marked the passage of time, and as the river rose and fell it brought spoils from upstream. Men moved with the fluctuations of nature, not against it. In this setting, which has practically vanished, few had much education. Schooling beyond the second grade was a luxury. Boys became men when they

could swim the Ohio, and work back through the currents. This rural life receded with the advancing and growing cities.

The Doubleday Pictorial Library of Science, prepared and edited by outstanding scientists.

An exceptionally fine reference book on chemistry, physics and astronomy which deals with the historical development of the sciences. It explains the simplest substances found in nature, elements, and goes on to explain the anatomy of atoms and other up-to-the-minute information on recent scientific advances. The chemistry section closes with a chapter on the role the atom plays in our lives today, and both the astronomy and physics sections give the same wealth of knowledge and illustrations. A special 30,000 word glossary, describing science terms, plus a ten page index are included. This book contains unlimited information for the aspiring young scientist, as well as the advanced student.

The Taste of Courage, edited by Desmond Flower and James Reeves.

Here is an amazing and moving story of the greatest war in history, 1939-1945, edited by two Englishmen, one of whom served as a major, commanding tank destroyers. In the words of these editors, the book is "a chronicle of how it actually felt to be alive twenty years ago; to see, to hear, to smell, to feel the war at first hand." Every phase of the war, beginning with the invasion of Poland and ending with the Japanese surrender is covered, together with the feelings and experiences, gathered at first hand, from housewives of London and Berlin, of Germans creeping through frozen Russian territory, and of American and British soldiers storming the Normandy beaches. Altogether it gives the reader a complete running account of the war when the fate of the world hung in the balance.

Now We Are Enemies by Thomas J. Fleming.

The reader learns in this book, the story of Bunker Hill, through a series of vivid episodes, how good men on both sides had struggled to compose the bitter quarrel between the Colonies and England before it was too late. It compassionately brings alive personal stories of men on both sides and dispels the distortions which have long clouded the battle. These men were later to be known as either American or British, and their lives had been closely entwined. It was a day of poignant exchanges between some friends; there was the moment of terrible battle and the courage of all men concerned.

Proposed Mill Won't Affect Park--Maurine

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Maurine Neuberger, D-Ore., apparently believes a proposed paper mill on the Oregon coast will not interfere with a nearby proposed national park.

Her administrative assistant, Lloyd Tupling, said Mrs. Neuberger advised him by telephone that she was favorably impressed with what she saw on an inspection of an International Paper Co. mill at Panama City, Fla., Wednesday.

That company proposes to build a mill at Gardiner, Ore., piping waste material into the ocean and building dams to raise the level of some nearby lakes.

The lakes are in the area Mrs. Neuberger has proposed for the Oregon Dunes national seashore. Tupling said Mrs. Neuberger appeared satisfied that the proposed Gardiner plant would not be incompatible with the recreation area.

Here Are Hints For Decoration

By VIVIAN BROWN

AP Newsfeatures Writer

American women take a great deal of pride in decorating their homes, even when professional help is used. But structural defects and other snags to successful interior decorating are likely to foil the best decorating plans. A small living room is one of the most frustrating problems in home decoration as this letter indicates:

"When we bought our house the room looked large enough, but when we moved furniture into it the room seemed to shrink. We painted the walls white hoping the room would seem bigger, but it made our furniture, Early American, look gruesome. Is there any solution to this problem?"

The best idea in decorating a small room is to shoot for coziness rather than trying to achieve an illusion of size. The answer lies in (1) using lighter scaled upholstered furniture such as two seater sofas, perhaps one either side of a fireplace or large window; (2) using warm toned paints such as yellow; (3) avoiding too many colors in the room; (4) dressing up walls with good decorative plaques or other wall art and perhaps using a large mirror in a spot where it will give the illusion of space without creating decorating problems; (5) planning proper lighting to achieve restful effects; (6) using wallpaper to achieve coziness. If paper is warm-toned and the pattern small, the effect will be charming. Large patterned wallpapers in small rooms should be left to decorators, but these too paradoxically can achieve coziness.

Here's one where guests threaten the furniture:

"I bought some authentic Queen Anne dining room chairs and had them covered in very expensive French white brocade. I am faced with a terrible dilemma — how to keep the chairs clean when we have guests. Two guests at a recent buffet dinner spilled coffee on the covers. I saved the covers by removing the stains immediately, but I may not be so fortunate next time. Would it seem ridiculous to cover these chair seats with plastic covers when I have company?"

It does seem to defeat the purpose of dressing up your home expensively, if you must cover up your furniture. There is a protective process that may be used on fabric and it is said to repel stains, but this must be applied to the fabric before it is used. If the seat covers could be removed and treated, you should have no further worries. Discuss that possibility with the people from whom you purchased the fabric.

The cost of fabrics stymies this homemaker:

"I have planned to slipcover a sofa and use the same fabric at the windows. When I found the fabric which seems perfect for our living room, we discovered we would need 60 yards, if we included the windows, which makes the idea prohibitive. The background of the fabric is brown and it has a number of other colors in it — turquoise, gold, rust, nutmeg. The other colors in my room are red and gold, walls are a pale green, and the rug is gray. Would it seem odd to have draperies of another color and material. I could buy them ready-made at a fraction of the cost of buying the other material."

It could be even more flattering to your room to have a solid color with so many colors in the fabric. A pretty light shade of gold, or a red rust shade if that is the "red" in your room, could be the answer. Gold is a good color because it can blend in with so many colors in the event you change your room color scheme.

Here's a man helping hand:

"My husband is an artist and wants to paint designs on new draperies and valances for our casement windows. What is a good fabric to use for that purpose." I have seen sailcloth used very

successfully for this purpose with a stencil of a simple ivy-leaf pattern. If one uses the proper paints and controls the design there shouldn't be too much difficulty in getting satisfactory patterns on sailcloth.

And here's a rug problem:

"Large heat registers in our living room spoil the appearance of our floors and prevent us from using regular rugs. Does it hurt rugs to be too close to these heat registers?"

Many people use rugs up to and even partially over registers. If the rug has a good pad and is rugged, it should be able to withstand the heat.

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