

Some Looks At Books

By LOCKIE PARKER

IT'S A BIG CONTINENT by Ben Lucien Burman (McGraw-Hill \$4.95). It's sure a big continent, remarked lanky Dust Bowl as they stood on the pier at Key West. "Been all over it—anywhere people that ain't in their right mind go to, that's me." So Burman was unable to resist the invitation to travel a bit with Dust Bowl in his ancient plane. As Dust Bowl picked up odd jobs for his plane from Mexico to the Arctic Circle, Burman himself collected tall stories and racy characters.

The first stop was Okefenokee swamp, chiefly inhabited by alligators and Hard-Shell Baptists. Its products were moonshine and good yarns. Dust Bowl left Burman to explore the swamp with a local guide, said he'd pick him up in two weeks and added, "If you ain't back then, I'll get a alligator and ride out looking for your body." There were moments when this did not seem unlikely to Burman as when he stepped on the Trembling Earth or when the little boats propeller was smashed against a cypress stump.

You can also penetrate with Burman deep into the Southwest and meet the drawing natives of Death Valley "where the earth is so hot the lizards hop about on pogo sticks to avoid burning their feet." He and Dust Bowl went to the Bahamas and consorted with their friendly but superstitious inhabitants, thus adding some choice bits to Burman's collection. What a wonderful time he and Mark Twain might have had swapping tall tales.

They went north, too, following the St. Lawrence to the Gulf, talked to fishermen, lumbermen, trappers, prospectors and to the Eskimos trading at a Hudson Bay Store. You may think you have travelled over a bit of the continent yourself, but you will find here some unexpected corners. Exploring them yourself might be a bit rugged, but you can have fun doing it vicariously with Mr. Burman. He has the gift of reproducing in words, sights and sounds and the flavor of a different life.

DUST IN THE LION'S PAW by Freya Stark (Harcourt \$6.75). This is travel, too, but of a less happy kind, for these are the memoirs of Freya Stark's war experiences. She was employed by the British government to use her knowledge of Arabians the Arabs to counteract Nazi propaganda in the Middle East; later she was sent to the United States to explain from platform and press the British position on the controversial

Palestine question. Made up largely of letters and extracts from a diary she kept, the book lacks the compelling flow of her wonderful travel narratives, but it does give a moving picture of the problems faced by a small group of courageous people in an area of war that was necessarily secondary. She also shares with us her personal reactions so candidly that you understand the exhilaration the challenge brought even when things looked darkest. Then there are fine descriptions of the country and Arab life. Her visit to Yemen whereshe showed films to the Sultan's harem and courted local dignitaries is a good story in itself.

THE WHISPERING LAND by Gerald Durrell (Viking \$3.95). While you are travel-minded, do not overlook this trip to Patagonia. Gerald Durrell, zoologist and collector of animals for zoos or just for himself, writes about his experiences with such verve and charm that you seem to know his strange fauna as well as your own household pets.

This time his destination was a new continent with stranger than ever creatures. Arriving in Buenos Aires, he had a terrific time getting his equipment through customs; but with the aid of two beautiful girls, he finally got it cleared and set off for Patagonia to film penguins, not forgetting to take the girls along. Things got increasingly rugged as they progressed, but eventually they found an immense gathering of penguins "stretching to the furthest horizon where they twinkled black and white in the heat haze." Dazed at first by their numbers and their raucous voices, he decided to concentrate on one family "the Joneses," of whose home life he gives us an intimate account.

One fascinating aspect of this book is that it introduces one to several new animals, for the fauna of South America are unlike those of our own continent, or the lions and tigers of literature. There were guanacos and rheas on the pampas, macaws and seriemas in the tropical forest, ocelots and peccaries. Then there was his prize specimen, the very rare by Geoffrey's cat, that looked so dewey-eyed and innocent and bit and scratched so fiercely.

Life with Gerald Durrell and his creatures is never dull, and this book is more than up to standrad. Illustrated, of course.

Bookmobile Schedule

February 12-15

Monday, Feb. 12, Doubt Chapel Route: John Willard, 9:35-9:40; Frank Cox, 9:45-9:50; F. L. Suttphin, 9:55-10; John Thompson, 10:05-10:15; Clyde Auman, 10:20-10:30; W. E. Jackson, 10:35-10:45; R. L. Blake, 10:50-10:55; Arnold Thomas, 11-11:10; Mrs. Joyce Frye, 12:05-12:15; S. E. Hannon, Haywood, 11:15-11:25; Mrs. Pearl Frye, 12:05-12:15; S. E. Hannon, 12:20-12:25; Coy Richardson, 12:35-12:45; V. L. Wilson, 12:55-1:15; Mrs. Herbert Harris, 1:25-1:30.

Tuesday, Feb. 13, Murdockville Route: R. F. Clapp, 9:35-9:40; P. B. Moon, 9:45-9:50; Edwin Black, 9:55-10; Mrs. Finney Black, 10:05-10:10; W. R. Dunlop, 10:15-10:30; Dan Lewis, 10:40-10:50; Miss Margaret Dunlop, 10:15-10:30; Dan Lewis, 10:40-10:50; Miss Margaret MacKenzie, 10:55-11:05; Earl Monroe, 11:10-11:15; Mrs. Helen Neff, 11:20-11:30; Harold Black, 12:10-12:20; J. V. Cole, 12:25-12:35; Art Zenns, 12:35-12:45; Sandy Black, 12:55-1:05; H. A. Freeman, 1:10-1:20.

Wednesday, Feb. 14, Cameron Route: Sam Taylor, 9:30-9:35; James Hardy, 9:40-9:50; M. M. Routh, 9:55-10:05; T. K. Holmes, 10:10-10:20; Mrs. J. A. McPherson, 10:25-10:35; Mrs. H.D. Tally, 10:40-10:45; Mrs. Archie McKeithan, 10:50-11; Mrs. Kate Phillips, 11:05-11:15; Jesse Maples, 11:25-11:35; Walter McDonald, 12:15-12:25; Mrs. Ellen Gilchrist, 12:30-12:40; Wade Collins, 12:50-1; Lewis Marion, 1:05-1:15.

Thursday, Feb. 15, Mineral Springs, Sandhills Route: W. R. Viall, 9:45-10; The Rev. W. C. Neill, 10:10-10:30; J. W. Greer, 10:40-10:50; Richard Garner, 1:10-1:15; Ed Smith, 1:20-1:30; Frank Cox, Jr., 1:35-1:40; W. E. Munn, 1:55-2:05; T. L. Branson, 2:10-2:15; A. J. Hanner, 2:20-2:30.

SYLVA by Vercoos (Putnam \$4.00). Some years ago David Garnett wrote an enchanting story called "Lady into Fox." This equally enchanting story reverses the process and tells of a fox changing into a lady.

This is a longer story; for it is quite an undertaking to make a real lady out of a fox—one who will pass muster in county society. The physical change was quick enough, just a sudden miracle at the gate of Albert Richwick's garden where the hounds had chased fox. The hounds were completely baffled.

So was Richwick—well, almost. A rather fussy bachelor, he had stepped out, hoping to rescue the fox—he disapproved of fox hunting—and he suddenly found he had an entirely different kind of creature on his hands, a naked girl, scratched and bruised but quite pretty. When he pulls her out of the hedge, she snarls, scratches, bites.

The subsequent development of their relations, and of the little vixen herself is told with humor and a subtle probing of our beliefs as to what is human. There are touches of irony, too, as when Richwick hopefully reads Freud, to find out how to give Sylva some inhibitions. Good entertainment and stimulates speculation.

Grade A dairy farm income in North Carolina rose from \$18,750,000 in 1948 to \$56,500,000 in 1960.

Film On Christ's Life Available For Showing

A film biography of Christ, entitled "The Coming of Christ," has been made available for showing to church, civic, educational and professional groups by United States Steel Corporation. Prints of the 16-millimeter, sound, color film may be obtained on a loan basis without charge, through the District Director of Public Relations, United States Steel Corporation, Box 599, Fairfield, Alabama.

Illustrated by some of the world's art masterpieces, the film is of special interest not only to religious groups, but to students of art as well. Works by Bellini, El Greco, Titian, Michelangelo, Caravaggio, Raphael, Velasquez and others are included. Running time is 29 minutes.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SERVICE
The spiritual significance of events in the life of the Apostle Paul will be brought out at Christian Science church services this Sunday.

Keynoting the Lesson-Sermon on the subject of "Spirit" is the Golden Text from II Corinthians (3): "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty," to be read by the first reader, Roland Delanc of Pinebluff.

CRAFTSMAN'S FAIR
Dates for the Craftsman's Fair of the Southern Highlands are July 16th through the 20th. Sponsored by the Southern Highland Handicraft Guild, the Fair is held in the Asheville City Auditorium. Only the finest traditional and modern handicrafts are featured. Craftsmen make their wares on the floor at the Fair. Audiences may watch the craftsmen at work on the cutting of gem stones, weaving, turning out rugs, silver jewelry, furniture, ceramics and numerous other wares indigenous to this area.

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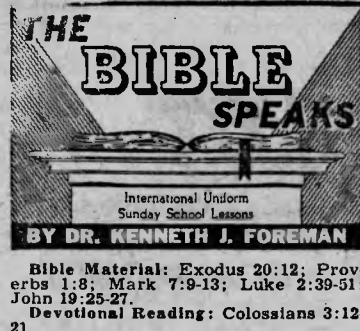
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BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN

To Make A Home

Lesson for February 11, 1962

THE English language is one of very few that have a word for home. Other languages have words meaning family, or house, but not home. It is a Christian word, though we do not see it as such in our mother-tongue, the Jewish faith. The Bible does not say much about the Christian home as such, for of

Dr. Foreman course in Old Testament times there were no Christians, and in New Testament times no writer of those books had been born into a Christian home. It was something quite new. Nevertheless, as was just said we inherit the home, as an institution, from the Jews. We may well be grateful, for no other thing is so fraught with meaning as a true home.

Father and Mother
What does it take to make a home? A modern popular poet wrote, and truly, that "it takes a heap of livin' to make a house a home." Another poet retorted that it takes a heap of plumbin' and a heap of mortgage, and a heap of repairin', and who knows what, to make a home. Indeed this is all true. But before the living and the mortgage and all the rest of it, two people must love each other and want a home together. Homes do not spring up by magic. They are planned. So the Old Testament Scriptures seldom if ever speak of a home (indeed they didn't have the word in the Hebrew language); but they do speak often of Father and Mother. Now a father and a mother do not by themselves make a home. They may both travel and live in suitcases, he may be away so much he seems almost like a stranger when he does come home. Father and mother may achieve nothing but a madhouse, and a divorce as the result of it. But where there is true lasting determined hopeful Christian love, there you have the right foundation for a home.

This does not mean that only with a father-mother combination and partnership, can there be a true home. A mother can carry on—heavy though the burden be—when her husband is taken from her; and a father can carry on (though not so well as a mother) if he has to be father and mother both. Indeed there are homes where there are no children, and where those who live there are not even related to one another. For example, we have the well-known story of how Jesus said from the cross, "Son, behold thy Mother!" and "Mother, behold thy son!" And how John took Jesus' mother Mary into his own home. John and Mary were no relation that we know of; yet we can be sure that their home was a real one. We do not know what John's wife said to this; but it is not likely that Jesus, who must have known John's home situation well, would have said what he did if he thought for a moment that John's wife was a selfish woman. At the very threshold of Christian history, then, we see already what has been multiplied many times over and over—the making of homes by, and for, those whose own homes have been broken by death and disaster.

One of Jesus' puzzling sayings is that one about Corban. The reader may wonder what that has to do with a home. Well, our Lord is speaking of a situation where a man who should be contributing to the home where his father and mother live, makes excuse for not helping them by claiming that he gave the money to the church (as we would say). One point is certainly clear. The home has first claim among all our creditors. For it takes money to support a home. This doesn't mean we all have to be rich. What it does mean—among other things—is that such matters as income, minimum wages, and so forth, are not just "economic" matters. They affect people's ability to make homes at all. A bus broke down in Louisville, Kentucky, last summer. It was filled with migrant workers headed for the cherry orchards of Michigan. Those hard-working people had no money at all, and only the clothes on their backs. They are not covered by minimum wage laws. How much of a home can you have on a migrant's wages? To deny people a decent living is to deny them life's greatest blessing, a home.

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Training Union, 6:30 p.m. Evening Worship, 7:30 p.m.
Youth Fellowship, 8:30 p.m.
Scout Troop 224, Monday, 7:30 p.m.; mid-week worship, Wednesday 7:30 p.m.; choir practice Wednesday 8:15 p.m.
Missionary meeting, first and third Tuesdays, 8 p.m. Church and family suppers, second Thursday, 7 p.m.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH
New Hampshire Avenue
Sunday Service, 11 a.m.
Sunday School, 11 a.m.
Wednesday Service, 8 p.m.
Reading Room in Church Building open Wednesday, 2-4 p.m.

MANLY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Worship Service 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Women of the Church meeting, 8 p.m. second Tuesday. Mid-week service Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.

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Holy Communion, 8 a.m. (First Sunday and Holy Days, 8 a.m. and 11 a.m.)
Family Service, 9:30 a.m.
Church School, 10 a.m.
Morning Service, 11 a.m.
Young Peoples' Service League, 8 p.m.
Holy Communion, Wednesdays and Holy Days, 10 a.m. and Friday, 9:30.
Saturday—6 p.m. Penance.

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Men's Club Meetings: 1st & 3rd Fridays 8 p.m.
Women's Club meetings: 1st Monday 8 p.m.
Boy Scout Troop No. 873, Wednesday 7:30 p.m.
Girl Scout Troop No. 118 Monday, 7 p.m.

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Church of Wide Fellowship)
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Carl E. Wallace, Minister
Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service, 11 a.m.
Sunday, 6:30 p.m., Pilgrim Fellowship (Young People)
Sunday, 8:00 p.m., The Forum.

BROWNSON MEMORIAL CHURCH
(Presbyterian)
Dr. E. C. Scott, Interim Minister
Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Worship service, 11 a.m. Women of the Church meeting, 8 p.m. Monday following third Sunday. The Youth Fellowships meet at 7 o'clock each Sunday evening.
Mid-week service, Wednesday, 7:15 p.m.

METHODIST CHURCH
Midland Road
Robert C. Moore, Jr., Minister
Church School 9:45 A. M.
Worship Service 11:00 A. M.
Youth Fellowship 6:15 P. M.
Worship Service, 11 a.m.
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