

Some Looks At Books

By LOCKIE PARKER

A FEAST OF FREEDOM by Leonard Wibberly (Morrow \$3.95). Merry mockery again is the tone of an episode in international affairs by the author of "The Mouse That Roared." This time the scene is the South Seas where two remote islands, Oma Lau and Oma Levi, have been freed from British colonial rule as a move on the international chessboard instigated by the President of the United States one afternoon when having tea with the British Prime Minister.

Now known as the Republic of Oma Lau, the two islands find themselves alone in a large world without protection or subsidies. Quite sensibly they apply to other major powers to take them on as colonies, but no one wants them—besides the United Nations would not approve. Meanwhile money to pay the police and other civil services runs out.

At this point, Chief Metalevi of the lesser island of Oma Levi interprets the new freedom in his own way. A Melanesian of the old school, he decides to return to the ways of his forebears, and his people back him up with enthusiasm. Then the Vice-President of the United States unexpectedly visits Oma Levi on an informal good will tour and—well, you'd never guess and I won't spoil the story.

The author has a gift for light-hearted satire. His characters are delightful caricatures—the bumbling ex-Governor of the colony, a thorough conservative who quite approves of Chief Metalevi, his wife whose erratic conversation is very well done, the nice young American consul whose "only vice was his earnest desire to benefit mankind," and, of course, the too-logical Metalevi.

There is a point to this gay satire—that extremists are always funny and a good idea may not be equally applicable under all conditions. It recalls a debate I once happened to overhear at the United Nations on the admin-

istration of the Trust Territory of New Guinea where most of the inhabitants were even more backward and not a bit eager to change their ways.

ACCIDENT by Elizabeth Jane-way (Harper & Row \$5.95). The accident is the pivot about which the story revolves. It is not a very bad automobile accident nor a very dramatic one, but it becomes almost a literary device with its repercussions on the seven separate characters of the novel. Each chapter belongs to one of the seven and is an introspective study of the play and counterplay on him of the actions of the other six.

The Benedicts are not a pleasant picture of a family. None of them communicate with one another. The father and mother have withdrawn behind their own personal battle lines, his of scorn and selfishness towards the other two, hers of apathy and submission. Steve, their college age son, fuses this static conflict by having an accident which cripples his best friend because of Steve's negligence at the wheel.

It is a novel of delicate character analysis. At the end, the three are somewhat tenuously reunited, each having undergone his own personal trial by fire. Throughout there is some rather rewarding writing such as Steve summing up his own conclusions: "And so I would lie, trying to puzzle it out, alone in the city heat, and feeling strange, something (for the first time) that needed to be done by me, could only be done by me, a human obligation that connected me with everyone and everything and the way it all works. Not to find any sense in it, but to make some. To pull it together and start from there and not forget. To remember. And act in accordance. And build something. Those were night thoughts, big and misty. But I was ashamed of them by day, to choose nastiness and nonsense.

I hope I will be, from now on." —KATHRYN GILMORE

RASCALS' HEAVEN by F. VanWyck Mason (Doubleday \$6.95). This is a big lusty historical novel about the founding of the Georgia colony. The author prefers the term, "dramatic history," and has certainly earned the right to the distinction by his careful checking of facts and conscientiously authentic picture of the conditions, events and major personalities of this unique colony.

The only fictional characters are those he introduces for romantic decoration, two beautiful and spirited girls and the enigmatic Thad Burton, also known as Sakwari-cra, captured by the Indians as a child, preferring to stay an Indian as he became a proud warrior and the leader of his own band.

The historical characters are more earthy and convincing—the tough, tobacco-spitting Indian traders, the hard bitten Rangers who knew the appalling dangers faced by the colony and take on the job of organizing the defense, and General James Oglethorpe practical idealist and superb leader. Then there are the mixed crew of the colonists themselves, taken from English prisons but not, as the author emphasizes, criminals, only unfortunate men imprisoned for debts. Most of them made good citizens.

THE GOLDEN KEEL by Desmond Bagley (Doubleday \$4.95). When the Allies landed in Italy during the last war, Mussolini's vast personal treasure, consisting of four tons of gold, millions in currency and jewels, and some important government documents was moved north in a German convoy. As the convoy neared the Ligurian coast, it vanished. It has never been recovered.

In this novel three men—two of them former prisoners of war in Italy—evolve a plan for finding the treasure, getting the gold out of Italy and disposing of it. Ingenious the plan is, but there is always the unexpected, and the pace gets fast and furious.

The author is British and has been living since 1947 in South Africa where the story starts. Already successfully published in seven countries this adventure tale should find many American readers.

Bookmobile Schedule

May 25-28
Monday, Roseland, Colonial Hts. Route: R. E. Lea, 9:30-9:40; Larry Simmons, 10-10:25; Dr. Morris Caddell, 10:30-10:45; R. E. Morton, 10:50-11:05; Mrs. Viola Kirk, 11:10-11:20; Calvin Laton, 11:25-11:35; Marvin Hartzell, 11:40-11:50; W. R. Robeson Jr., 11:55-12:10; W. M. Smith, 1:40-1:50; J. J. Greer, 1:55-2:15.
Tuesday, Niagara, Lakeview, Eureka Route: W. M. Sullivan, 9:30-9:40; C. S. Ward, 9:45-10:25; Ray Hensley, 10:20-11:30; Mrs. E. W. Marble, 11:45-11:55; Dunrovin, 12:25-12:35; Bud Crockett, 1:30-1:45; Homer Blue, 1:55-2:15; Mrs. C. B. Blue, 2:20-2:25.

Wednesday, Union Church Route: J. M. Briggs, 9:30-9:40; Clifford Hurley, 9:45-10; Parkers Grocery, 10:10-10:15; Howard Gschwind, 10:20-10:30; Mrs. O. C. Blackbrenn, 10:35-10:45; Jack Morgan, 10:50-11; Mrs. M. D. McIver, 11:30-11:40; Arthur Gaines, 11:45-11:55; Wesley Thomas, 12:05-12:15.

Thursday, Glendon, High Falls Route: R. F. Wilcox, 9:35-9:50; Eli Phillips, 10:05-10:15; W. H. Maness Jr., 10:25-10:35; William Seawell, 10:45-10:55; Presley Store, 11-11:10; Norris Shields, 11:20-11:30; Ann Powers Beauty Shop, 11:45-11:55; Preslar Service Station, 12-12:05; Edgar Shields, 12:10-12:20; Wilmer Maness, 1:15-2:15.

Library Gets Two Memorial Books

Two memorial books have recently been added to the collections at the Southern Pines Library, according to the librarian, Mrs. Stanley H. Lambourne.

Given by Mrs. C. Howard Allred, they are: "The Birds and the Beasts Were There: animal poems" selected by William Cole with woodcuts by Helen Siegel, given in memory of Mrs. Ida Behner, mother of Mrs. John Sullivan; and "The Heritage of Music" by Katherine B. Shippen and Anca Seidlova, illustrated by Otto van Eersel (tracing Western music from its earliest primitive manifestations to the sophisticated atonal compositions of today). This book was given in memory of Mrs. R. L. Van-Alstine.

THE BIBLE SPEAKS

International Uniform Sunday School Lessons
BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN

Christian Citizens

Lesson for May 24, 1964

Background Scripture: Judges 9:5-15; Luke 20:18-28; Romans 13:1-7; I Peter 4:12-16.
Deviotional Reading: I Timothy 2:1-8.

"THANK GOD for the policemen!" "Thank God for the soldiers!" you might not expect to hear such remarks, but they have been uttered, with the deepest sincerity, by many desperate people. A city in China, deserted by the government's troops, and not yet in reach of the rebel army, might for two or three dreadful days be without government of any kind. Mobs did what they pleased.

Dr. Foreman Likewise in America, citizens of certain southern towns have had to live through nights of terror when the state police were nowhere and again mobs did what they pleased. So people who never even noticed policemen or soldiers, before, thank God for them once they have had the experience of living without any government at all.

The Government

Wherever human beings live in settled communities, there you will find government of some kind. Historically there have been all kinds, and we can see all kinds in the world today at the same time. At the time the New Testament was being written, all of its writers lived under the Roman Empire, though no Bible writer was a citizen except Saint Paul. Now the absolute monarchy which was the form of the Empire at that time, was not what an American would like. There is no possible way of changing the Emperor.

Then and Now

So there was nothing much then that an individual could do about the Roman government. For the common man, politics did not exist. The only thing he could do was to accept the government, obey the laws, pay the taxes, and live as much of a Christian life as the situation permitted. Paul in speaking about government did not speak to government. That would have been of no use. His advice was intended to be practical. He counseled people in Rome to obey the Roman authorities and pay their taxes and be glad the government had a big sword to keep down mobs and criminals. Does this advice, given under a government harsher than that of East Germany today, have anything to say to us today? It certainly has much to say to Christians living under dictatorships today. But what about free America? Here the government is you, you and the officials you elect. If you get a Tiberius by mistake you can correct that mistake at the next election. You can write to your representatives in government, you can get attention if not immediate action. And of course you, like the ancient Romans can pay taxes cheerfully and obey the laws and respect the law-enforcing arm of government. In a short sentence: As a Christian, you have a responsibility to your community to do all in your power to see that your city, county, state and nation are well and effectively governed.

What about Tyrants?

Almost ever since the days of Paul, his words about obeying the "powers that be" have been used to defend tyrants from criticism and attack. Kings in the Middle Ages thought they had a divine right to be kings. Political bosses today are less religious than ancient kings, but just as greedy for power, to get and to keep it, as any Roman Caesar or any modern dictator. Did Paul mean, by his exhortation to obedience, that we are to take meekly any Napoleon or Hitler or Mao who comes along? Does Christianity support tyranny? No; said the early Christian martyrs, who died horrible deaths rather than obey the government's demands that they burn incense to Caesar or to pagan gods. No, said the Puritans to King Charles I. No, say the Hungarian freedom fighters. A tyrant is one who by his tyranny has lost the right to be considered a power "ordained of God."

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Attend The Church of Your Choice Next Sunday

- METHODIST CHURCH**
Midland Road
A. L. Thompson, Minister
Church School 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Youth Fellowship 6:15 p.m.
WCS meets each third Monday at 8:00 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 10 a.m., Worship service 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. PYF 9 p.m.; Women of the Church meeting 8 p.m. second Tuesday. Mid-week service Thursday 7:30 p.m., choir rehearsal 8:30 p.m.
- EMMANUEL CHURCH (Episcopal)**
East Massachusetts Ave.
Martin Caldwell, Rector
Holy Communion, 8 a.m. (First Sundays 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, 4 p.m.
Holy Communion, Wednesday and Holy Days, 10 a.m. and Friday, 9:30 a.m.
Saturday 4 p.m., Penance.
- THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (Church of Wide Fellowship)**
Car. Bennett and New Hampshire
Carl E. Wallace, Minister
Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service, 11 a.m.
Sunday, 6:00 p.m., Youth Fellowship
Women's Fellowship meets 4th Thursday 12:30 p.m.
- ST. ANTHONY'S CATHOLIC**
Vermont Ave. at Ashe St.
Father John J. Harper
Sunday Masses 8, 9:15 and 10:30 a.m.
Daily Mass, 7 a.m. (except Friday, 11:15 a.m.); Holy Day Masses, 7 a.m. and 8:30 p.m.; Confessions, Saturday, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. each month.
Men's Club meeting: 3rd Monday each month.
Women's Club meeting: 1st Monday, 8 p.m.
Boy Scout Troop No. 873, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Girl Scout Troop No. 118, Monday, 8 p.m.
- OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH**
Civic Club Building
Corner Pennsylvania Ave. and Ashe St.
Jack Deal, Pastor
Worship Service, 11 a.m.
Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
L.C.W. meets first Monday 8 p.m.
Choir practice Thursday 8 p.m.
- BROWN MEMORIAL CHURCH (Presbyterian)**
Dr. Julian Lake, Minister
May St. at Ind. Ave.
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 Fellowship meet at 7 o'clock each Sunday evening.
Mid-week service, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
- FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**
New York Ave. at South Ashe St.
Bible School, 9:45 a.m., Worship Service 11 a.m., 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 support, second Thursday, 7 p.m.

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