



## Some Looks At Books

By LOCKIE PARKER

**EDGE OF THE WOODS** by Heather Ross Miller (Atheneum 1964). A poet may weave designs of beauty out of strange materials. This novel of life in the Uwharrie Mountains area of North Carolina is essentially that of a poet in language and in the ability to evoke far-reaching associations from the familiar features of farm life. Here is an old farmhouse on a summer afternoon—"All around the meadows and fields shimmered with heat . . . The house was drugged on sunlight, subdued, deafened by an ancient charm of time and the slow, sure passing of the seasons."

The story is told by Anna Marie, a story of childhood impressions and of events that shocked the child, events which Anna Marie had kept shut close within her until she married and her growing love and trust in her husband enabled her to unlock the door and release them. The dominant figure in the tale is Paw Paw, Anna Marie's grandfather, a dour but powerful man—"He was a stingy old man with a soul of tempered steel, forged and pressed out of the Southern wilderness, born unwilling to a life of proud poverty where his heat of mind and proneness to anger were his only inalienable rights, his only pursuit of happiness."

The author's sensitiveness to

sun and shadow, leaf and flower, her recollections of the physical sensations of a child walking barefoot in the warm dust or wading on a frosty morning, plus her compassionate probing of the mysteries of the human spirit, make this a rare book.

Heather Ross Miller grew up in the Uwharrie country and knows well those ancient hills where deer still roam, the farms of the bottomlands, the country stores and churches. At the University of North Carolina in Greensboro she studied under Randall Jarrell. Her verse has appeared in several periodicals. This is her first book.

**THE AGE OF CHIVALRY** by Sir Arthur Bryant (Doubleday \$6.95). This is the second volume in the series, **THE STORY OF ENGLAND**. Written by the eminent historian, Sir Arthur Bryant, this book takes the story from 1274 through one of the most dramatic centuries in history.

The author sees it as "a crowded and formative time that saw the first evolution of Parliament, the genesis of the legal profession, the legislative reforms of Edward I, 'the English Justinian,' and the beginnings of an English establishment. . . From 1294 until Richard II's marriage with a French princess more than a century later, England was almost continuously at war with either France, Scotland or Castile, and, at times, with all three. These years were fraught for her with alternating achievement and disaster. They saw her greatest military defeat, Bannockburn, and her most astonishing victory, Crecy. On the morrow of that triumph she was struck down by a calamity comparable to that which would today follow a nuclear war. Recurring three times in a generation, the black death halved England's population."

Despite wars and plague this was also a great period in building cathedrals and churches, and it saw the genesis of the Inns of Court, of Oxford and Cambridge colleges and the emergence of English as the national speech

## Bookmobile Schedule

October 5-8

Monday, Doubs Chapel Route: John W.illard, 9:40-9:45; Frank Cox, 9:50-10; F. L. Sutphin, 10:05-10:15; John Thompson, 10:20-10:30; Clyde Auman, 10:35-10:45; L. M. Hart-sell, 10:50-11; W. E. Jackson, 11:05-11:10; Arnold Thomas, 11:15-11:35; Mrs. Joyce Haywood, 11:40-11:50; S. E. Hannon, 11:55-12:05; The Rev. Don Braten, 12:45-12:55; Mrs. Herbert Harris, 1:05-1:15; Coy Richardson, 1:20-1:30; Robert Richardson, 1:35-1:45; V. L. Wilson, 1:50-2:50.

Tuesday, Murdockville Route: R. F. Clapp, 9:35-9:45; Edwin Black, 9:55-10:05; Tom Clayton, 10:10-10:20; W.R. Dunlop, 10:25-11; Dan Lewis, 11:05-11:15; Earl Monroe, 11:20-11:30; Mrs. Helen Neff, 11:35-11:45; Harold Black, 12:30-12:45; Art Zenns, 12:55-1:05; Sandy Black, 1:10-1:20; Mrs. Lillian Whitaker, 1:25-1:35; H. A.

with its literary expression in the poetry of Chaucer.

Sir Arthur Bryant belongs to the grand tradition of readable English historians; he writes history as literature in a form equally acceptable to the specialist and the layman. Reviews of the first volume, "Makers of England," were uniformly enthusiastic about "the sheer compelling sweep of his imagination" and "the best kind of scholarship which is painstaking and yet avoids pedantry." The second volume fulfills the promise of the first that we would have in these books the best short history of the English people. Sir Arthur is now working on two more volumes of the series.

**KING OF SQUAW MOUNTAIN** by Hal Borland (Lippincott \$4.50). This classic animal story was originally published in 1938 as "Wapiti Pete." In this new edition Hal Borland, author of "When the Legends Die" and other fine books about the West, has revised the text primarily to clarify some matters of natural history.

It is the life story of a magnificent bull elk in the Wind River country of Wyoming—the adventures of his youth, his growth in strength until one autumn he defeats all challengers and becomes leader of the herd. Then it tells how he fought for his herd through the years with the heart of a hero and the craft of Ulysses. Much of the story is told by an

Freeman, 1:40-1:50. Wednesday, Cameron Route: C. R. Bennett, 9:45-9:50; M. M. Routh, 9:55-10; E. F. Carter, 10:05-10:15; Lloyd Thomas, 10:20-10:25; Mrs. J. A. McPherson, 10:30-10:35; Mrs. H. D. Tally, 10:40-10:45; Mrs. Archie McKeithen, 10:50-11; Mrs. Isabelle Keithen, 10:50-11; Mrs. Isabelle Thomas, 11:05-11:15; Mrs. Ellen Gilchrist, 11:20-11:30; Wade Collins, 11:35-11:40; Lewis Marion, 11:45-11:55; Mrs. M. D. McIver, 12:45-12:55; Arthur aGines, 1:05-1:15; Wesley Thomas, 1:20-1:30; R. D. Poindexter, 1:40-1:50.

Thursday, Mineral Springs, Sandhill Route: W. R. Viall, Jr., 9:40-10:10; Rev. W. C. Neill, 10:20-10:40; J. W. Greer, 10:45-11:15; Mrs. E. T. McKeithen, 11:20-11:35; S. R. Ransdell Jr., 11:40-11:50; Richard Garner, 1:15-1:30; Mrs. Bertha Harms, 1:40-1:50; Frank McDonald, 1:55-2:05; Ed Smith, 2:15-2:45; Mrs. W. E. Munn, 3-3:10.

artist who had gone to the mountains to paint and who watches not only the elk but their deadliest enemy, a greedy sheep owner who brings in sheep by the thousands and is gradually destroying the elk's grazing land. Hal Borland writes with all his usual felicity of phrase and keen appreciation of nature.

**FAIRY ELVES, A Dictionary of Little People with Some Old Tales and Verses about Them** by Robin Palmer and Pelagie Doane (Warlick \$3.95). This is a treasure for a person of any age who is interested in fairy lore. From the tomtes of Sweden to the rakshas of India, the authors have gathered precise information on more than forty species of fairy folk, their sizes, shapes and habitat, their temperaments and what mortals may expect from them. A picture accompanies each definition.

The tales and verses are also rare pieces—at least, all but one was new to me. From Germany comes "The Honey Feast"; from France, "Drak the Fairy"; from Gotland, "The Troll's Invitation" and so on through a list that includes many countries. The stories are on the hearty side and have substantial plots. They are not for the very small child. Aside from reading them yourself, pick an imaginative child eight to twelve. A full page illustration in glowing colors illustrates each story and adds notably to the dramatic impact.



## Letters Into Books

Lesson for October 4, 1964

Background Scripture: I Timothy 1:1-11; II Timothy 1:1-2; Titus 1:1a, 4. Devotional Reading: Philippians 2:14-24.

"WHAT IN the world were you reading from?" one of the congregation asked the preacher. They had had a service of ordination at which a number of new church officers had been installed, and the preacher had been reading from the New Testament in a modern (Moffatt's) translation. "I was reading from First and Second Timothy," the preacher replied to the man's question.

"Never heard of Timothy anything like it," the questioner went on. "Best thing on church officers I ever heard. I had had no idea what Timothy and Titus were all about."

Who?

The short "Books" we call Timothy, Titus and Philemon, were originally letters. Who wrote them? This may not be the most important question but it is one of the most interesting. We run head-on into long arguments when we ask flatly: who wrote these letters? (There's no problem about Philemon; we shall come to that in time. But Timothy I and II, and Titus, present a problem.) The early Christians who adopted these books into the then still growing New Testament (so new it did not have a name) thought that Paul wrote them. Careful study given by many scholars over many years has shown, however, that in large sections of these books the ideas and the way they are expressed, and what is most remarkable—the very words used, are distinctly different from the known letters of Paul. We can sum up the evidence by saying that there are parts of these letters which read (in Greek, the language in which they of course were written) exactly like Paul and are almost certainly from his pen and mind. There are other sections which do not read like Paul. A conclusion reached by many is that either some one else wrote the letters, quoting extensively from Paul; or that Paul wrote the original letters, and either he or some editor added material from some one else.

What?

The what is more important than the Who? What are these letters-into-books concerned with? What problems do they bring out? What answers do they give? What good are these very ancient letters to the living church today? Such questions will be with us for the next three months. We can give a sort of short statement here at the beginning as to what these small books are all about. They deal with leadership in the church.

Why?

But why this interest in leaders, all of a sudden? The reason is simple. The earliest Christians had no formal organization. They could not have conceived that they would need one. For Jesus was coming soon, they all thought. Today in the church you may hear the expressions like "our children's children" or "future generations" or the "future of man." The earliest Christians would have thought such expressions nonsense. But as time went on and the church's first leaders grew to be old men, it was clear that there would have to be some thinking done about the future years. Some one had to pass on the Gospel. Some one had to be sure nothing of the good in the early years of enthusiasm should be lost. Some one had to be in charge. Some had to preserve the tradition. Some one had to make certain the teachings of Christ and his apostles were not forgotten nor distorted. Time was passing—had indeed passed—when they could say, "We'll dash off a note to Paul or Peter or some one who knew Jesus and they'll tell us." A new generation was growing up. It was felt then, and it is true today, that Christianity could go to nothing, in one generation, unless wise plans were made. So the usefulness of these "Pastorals" is as new as the continuing need for Christian leaders for every generation.

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