



# Some Looks At Books

By LOCKIE PARKER

"I grew up within an atmosphere of unrelieved poverty, with what Ruth Gordon describes as 'the dark brown taste of being poor' forever in my mouth."

So opens the first act, Moss Hart's **FIRST ACT**, (Random House, \$5.00) to close with the celebrated young playwright moving his family in to New York from the forlorn three-room flat in Brooklyn, and penniless for the last time, stopping at the office of the Music Box Theatre where the smiling ticket-man hands him a check for \$500.

"His smile flashed with the iridescence of stage jewelry," writes Hart, as he said: "A year at least. It's the hottest ticket in town."

Between these two distant points of the emotional compass are some ten years of fierce struggle. Struggle against the almost overwhelming poverty that shadowed the family life but, far more decisive in the end, struggle to achieve what Hart's blood had craved since first he could remember anything: life in and with and for the theatre.

This is an enthralling story: these ten years of struggle. They stretched through his childhood when, starting work at the age of twelve after school hours, he spent every idle moment reading Theatre Magazine and wishing he could get to Broadway for one look, that, he secretly told himself, would be just a starter. By age eighteen he was going to night classes and doing any old job he could get in the day, an interval that finally, in a breath-taking moment, culminated in his getting a job as office boy in a manager's office. In the summers he kept the family finances going, (he was the only one making money) by working as "social director" at summer camps in the Catskills, a series of establishments each more dreadful than the last.

The lowest ebb of his summers of horror found him without money enough (because the so-called manager had fled with the last payroll) to buy a suit. And here Hart's amazingly agile mind shows up in its fullest splendor: Because he had nothing to wear evenings, he hit on the idea of turning his lack into part of the entertainment. He raided the camp's costume trunk and wore a different garb every evening. Playing each part to the hilt, he arranged for the band to give him a fanfare and the right introductory music: a cowboy song when he was wearing chaps and two-guns, a fandango when he appeared as a toreador, and so on. The result was terrific. Though the act he was obliged to put on humiliated his sensitive pride to the core, it was received with cheers by the campers. Which only increased Hart's already rock-bottom estimation of their intelligence and taste.

These were agonizing times for Moss Hart, and there were many such during his hard climb upwards. But, then the climax comes and, after months of work with the famous George Kauf-

man, and agonizing nights during the try-outs of their first production: "Once In A Lifetime," "the final lines of the play were being spoken and then it came—an explosive crash of applause as the curtain fell." From then on, all was roses.

Besides being absorbing for the tension and climax of this American success story, "Act One" is interesting for its descriptions of the life of the theatre. The reader is let into the day-to-day production of a play and into Mr. Hart's views on the theatre from every angle. As his is, besides a witty and engaging mind, a deeply perceptive one, this is a fascinating experience. "Act One" thoroughly deserves its current position at the top of the Best Seller List for Non-Fiction.

**DIPLOMAT** by Charles W. Thayer (Harper \$4.50). This book of Charles Thayer's should go far to offset the unpleasant picture of our Foreign Service given in "The Ugly American." Mr. Thayer does not say that we have made no mistakes, but by the time that we have read his descriptions of the training and responsibilities of our diplomats, we feel the greatest respect and sympathy for them.

Mr. Thayer, a veteran diplomat, opens his book with a vivid picture of the Lebanon crisis in which he took part. He then describes the origins of diplomacy, of which the ordinary reader has known little. He describes the different types of diplomacy practiced by each country since the days of Machiavelli. His explanation of the Russian type makes clear why we have had such difficulty in dealing with them in conferences.

Among the difficulties encountered by our Embassy personnel is the demand on their time made by visiting Americans, many of whom feel that because this personnel is paid by our government there are there to amuse and entertain them. The author ends with a plea for the same recognition of the diplomatic profession as is accorded the soldier, the scientist or the surgeon.

—JANE H. TOWNE

**MY FRIENDS THE MISS BOYDS** by Jane Duncan (St. Martin's \$3.95). I like everything about this book except the title. The Miss Boyds are really just incidental to the upbringing of Janet Sandison by Tom, the hired man, and her Uncle George on the highland croft of Reachfar. To be sure it was Janet's grandmother who really commanded the whole clan, and worthy of command she was, but Granny was often a bit austere and remote, so for confidential conversations on new situations that a child of nine encountered, Janet depended on Tom and her bachelor uncle, whom she found unfailingly helpful.

Now make no mistake—this is not a book about a cute child. This is a novel of character and strong Scotch character at that. Seen through the dawning aware-

## Bookmobile Schedule

January 5-8  
Tuesday, January 5, Robbins Route: K. C. Maness, 9:30-9:40; Mrs. Janie McNeill, 9:50-10; Marvin Williams, 10:05-10:15; G. S. Williams, 10:20-10:30; Mrs. Etta Morgan, 10:35-10:45; Mrs. Frances Brewer, 10:50-11; James Allen, 11:15-11:25; Mrs. Audrey Moore, 11:30-11:40; Miss Beatrice Sheffield, 11:50-12; Talc Mine, 12:05-12:15; Vernon Allen, 12:20-12:25; Wilmer Maness, 1:15-1:30.

Wednesday, January 6, Little River Route: James McKay, 9:40-9:55; J. R. Blue, 10:10-10:15; John Baker, 10:10-10:15; George Cameron, 10:20-10:25; Alex McFayden, 10:35-10:40; Brooks Store, 10:45-10:50; Kenneth Womack, 10:55-11; Malcolm Blue, 11:05-11:20; J. W. Smith, 11:25-11:30; D. L. McPherson, 12:20-12:30; J. Riggsbee, 12:40-12:50; Will Hart, 1:1-1:20; Clara Brooks, 1:25-1:30; Mrs. Mary Pope, 1:40-1:50.

Thursday, January 7, Eagle Springs-West End Route: Eagle Springs Post Office, 9:50-10:15; Eagle Springs School, 10:20-11:05; West End Post Office, 11:15-12; L. H. Chessom, 12:05-12:10; John Campbell, 12:15-12:30; A. J. Hanmer, 1:10-1:20; T. L. Branson, 1:25-1:30; W. E. Munn, 1:35-1:50.

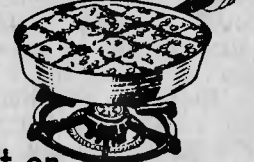
Friday, January 8, Jackson Springs Route: W. E. Graham, 9:50-10; Jackson Springs Post Office, 10:05-10:10; James Hicks, 10:20-10:25; Mrs. Betty Stubbs, 10:30-10:40; Mrs. Geneva McLeod, 10:45-10:55; Carl Tucker, 11:05-11:15; Mrs. Margaret Smith, 11:25-11:35; Mrs. Edith Stutts, 11:40-11:50; Philip Burroughs, 12:30-12:40; J. W. Blake, 12:45-1:05; Miss Adele McDonald, 1:10-1:15; George Hunt, 1:20-1:25; Ed Smith, 1:30-1:40.

ness of a growing child we get a candid view of the family at Reachfar, the local gentry, the doctor, the dominie, the shopkeepers and fisherfolk of Achraggan and, of course, the Miss Boyds who were silly city folk and Lowlanders at that. We see this community functioning in peace and in war and under more poignant stresses that are strictly local.

Miss Duncan, who must be a Highlander herself, gets a wonderful flavor out of the Scotch idiom and has given us a gallery of characters whom we can both love and admire, not too common a feature in current novels.

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## World Mission

Lesson for January 3, 1960

CHARLES Darwin, the famous scientist, is reported to have said, "If I am ever cast adrift on a savage island, I hope it will be one where Christian missionaries have got there first." Dr. Pitt Van Dusen during World War II wrote a book called "They Found the Church There," describing some of the many times Allied troops had been astonished to find Christians in the least likely places. A young paratrooper lost in New Guinea, expecting nothing better than to be eaten by cannibals, would hear the sound of a familiar Christian hymn, something he used to sing in Sunday school. When he made his way toward the sound, he discovered not cannibals but ex-cannibals, now changed men because Christ had come to their village.

## Tea-holds

One of the most thrilling sights this writer has seen in recent years was a book, in fact two books—though he could read neither one! One of these was the first book of any kind printed in one of the Miao languages (Miao rhymes with a cat's meow). Some young missionaries, trained in the study of primitive languages, have for the first time in history put this Miao language into writing so that these mountain tribes, living in the border-lands between China and Thailand, can learn to read, and in time read the Bible. This new book is only a primer, but it is a kind of toe-hold for the Christian missionaries. The other book is a reprint of the first New Testament ever printed in Korean. Seventy-five years ago, to be a Christian in Korea called for the death penalty. No missionary could go there. But in China this Testament was printed in the Korean language, and smuggled into Korea by the "Christian Underground."

## Small Beginnings

The story of Christian missions is long, and thrilling. The only people who do not get a thrill out of it are the people who get no thrill out of Christianity itself. A church member who says, "I believe in Christ but not in missions" is as good as saying "I don't believe in Christ." The Christian religion is a missionary religion, which is to say it is for all men everywhere, it is not "American," "white," "occidental" any more than it is Asian, yellow or oriental. Missionaries have gone everywhere, that is to say into all sorts of places. But what we call foreign missions, or world missions, began with the day when two men set out from the city of Antioch headed west. They were the best and ablest men in that church, they were its associate pastors as we would call them. They had been, so to speak, city missionaries in the metropolis of Antioch. Now the church sent them out. But the church did not send them until they were sure this was the will of the Holy Spirit. The thought of sending these men came as an inspiration, and the church recognized it as such. So Paul and Barnabas became the first real "foreign missionaries" in history.

## Target World

"Go into all the world," Jesus had said. There is no "here" or "there" for Christian missions. If an American Christian goes to share Christ with the Koreans, he is a "foreign" missionary; if a Korean comes here for the same purpose he is a "foreign" missionary too. (That is one reason why some churches do not speak of "missionaries" home or foreign but of "fraternal workers.") Preaching a Gospel sermon to a Spanish-speaking congregation in Texas is "home" missions; preaching the identical sermon to a congregation in Mexico is "foreign" missions. Its geography that draws the line. There is no line, really. That first "foreign missionary" party started by going to the old home of Barnabas himself, where they would have (in our lingo) "connections." But the world is always the target. Places and countries may be barred to us, for shorter or longer times. But the church sets no limits for itself. Wherever in the world there are people, there the Good News of God is needed, and there Christ's men will joyfully go.

(Based on outlines copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A. Released by Community Press Service.)

## W. T. McNeill Succumbs At 76

William Thomas McNeill, 76, died at his home, Route 1, Eagle Springs, Friday after an illness of several months. Funeral services were held at 2 p. m. Sunday at Union Grove Baptist Church with the Rev. Bennie Maness officiating. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Survivors are his wife, Mrs. Beulah Wallace McNeill; nine daughters, Mrs. Nora Garner of Mount Gilead, Mrs. Thelma Kennedy of Seagrove, Mrs. Dora Kennedy of Route 1, Robbins, Mrs. Margie Hussey of Route 2, Robbins, Mrs. Rilly Marley and Mrs. Dorothy Brewer of Route 1, Eagle Springs, Mrs. Nettie Reynolds and Mrs. Lorene Hussey of Robbins and Miss Maxine McNeill of the home; five sons, Marvin of Route 1, Biscoe, Richard of Route 3, Carthage, Clarence of Route 1, Eagle Springs and Paul and Roy of the home; two sisters, Mrs. Betsy Albright of Route 2, Seagrove and Mrs. Rilly Kidd of Bennett; one brother, Causey McNeill of Highfalls; 42 grandchildren and 27 great-grandchildren.

## BETTER PAY

Prices paid for picking cotton this year, compared with prices paid a year ago, were higher. The average price for picking 100 pounds of seed cotton in North Carolina was \$3.40 this year. Last year, the average price was \$3.20. For the nation as a whole, the average price this year was \$2.80.

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The Church is the greatest factor on earth for the building of character and good citizenship. It is a storehouse of spiritual values. Without a strong Church, neither democracy nor civilization can survive. There are four sound reasons why every person should attend services regularly and support the Church. They are: (1) For his own sake. (2) For the sake of his community and nation. (3) For the sake of the Church itself, which needs his moral and material support. Plan to go to church regularly and read your Bible daily.

Day	Book	Chapter	Verses
Sunday	Palms	90	1-2
Monday	Palms	77	13-14
Tuesday	Philippians	2	12-13
Wednesday	John	15	10-12
Thursday	Palms	1	1-2
Friday	Ephesians	5	1-2
Saturday	Romans	9	35-39

Come January first, you're going to get a present... a glorious present of 365 bright, uncluttered days.  
What you do with them is largely up to you. Each day of the year is now a blank page in the notebook of your life — and only you can fill it.  
Don't clutter up the first page by making a lot of useless resolutions. Instead — spend that time by going to church.  
Turn to God the first day of the year, and stay with Him. Put your faith in Him, and in His church. With His help, you can make this year the finest one you've ever lived.

**"WE LIKE TO THINK..."**  
During the past year several new industries have come to Southern Pines and, by the looks of things, more are on the way. This means more jobs for local folks, more funds circulating in local pockets, more good citizens coming here to live...  
During the past year a dozen or more drives have been held here for funds in support of better health, better education, to alleviate human need...  
During the past year more people have come here to live, attracted by what they hear or have read of the climate, the sports, the pleasant living, the charm of a friendly, attractive community...  
News of all this appears regularly in the columns of this newspaper and we like to think that The Pilot lends a hand in such good causes.

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**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
New York Ave. at South Ashe St.  
Maynard Mangum, Minister  
Bible School, 9:45 a.m. Worship 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 suppers, second Thursday, 7 p.m.

**METHODIST CHURCH**  
Midland Road  
Robert C. Mooney, Jr., Minister  
Church School 9:45 A. M.  
Worship Service 11:00 A. M.  
Youth Fellowship 6:30 P. M.  
Junior Fellowship 6:30 P. M.  
WCS meets each third Monday at 8 P. M.  
Methodist Men meet each third Thursday at 8:30 P. M.  
Choir rehearsal each Wednesday at 7:30 P. M.

**THE CHURCH OF WIDE FELLOWSHIP**  
(Congregational)  
Cor. Bennett and New Hampshire  
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)  
Cheves E. Ligon, 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.

**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, 5:30 a.m.  
Church School, 10 a.m.  
Morning Service, 11 a.m.  
Young Peoples' Service League, 6 p.m.  
Holy Communion, Wednesdays and Holy Days, 10 a.m. and Friday, 9:30.  
Saturday—8 p.m. Penance.

**ST. ANTHONY'S CATHOLIC**  
Vermont Ave. at Ashe  
Sunday Masses: 8 and 10:30 a.m.; Daily Mass 8:10 a.m. Holy Day Masses, 7 & 8 a.m.; Confessions, Saturday, 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.; 7:30 to 8 p.m.  
Men's Club Meetings: 1st & 3rd Fridays 8 p.m.  
Women's Club meetings: 1st Monday, 8 p.m.  
Boy Scout Troop No. 873, Tuesday evening 7:30 p.m.  
Girl Scout Troop No. 118, Monday, 8 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**  
Rev. Malcolm Anderson, Pastor  
Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Worship Service 11 a.m. Women of the Church meetings, 8 p.m., second Tues. Mid-week service on Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Wednesday, 8:15 p.m. Men of the Church meeting, 8 p.m. fourth Wednesday.