



Some Looks At Books

By LOCKIE PARKER

LET US BEGIN. The First 100 Days of the Kennedy Administration. (Simon — Schuster \$1.95).

Reading this before and after the President's urgent message to Congress of May 25th, I was struck by how long he had been preparing for that message. Even before his election, he was defining in his mind the areas of national interest where he felt prompt action was needed and, before his inauguration, beginning to pick men for "task forces" to investigate and report on these areas swiftly and discuss with him the proper course to take.

His message of last week was the culmination of weeks of study, fact-gathering, consideration of possible courses of action. The story is told by Martin Agronsky and Sidney Hyman in one of the articles of this collection. It is further dramatized by skillful photographers who catch the participants in characteristic poses or, in some cases, photograph effectively the situations with which they have to deal—unemployed miners in West Virginia, student sit-ins in the South, starving children in Kasai.

Necessarily this book was rather hastily prepared. Much of it is devoted to photographs and the essays are uneven in quality and quantity. The first, by Eric Goldman, professor of history at Princeton, describes the emotional mood and intellectual climate of the present regime in Washington, finding it quite different not only from the group around Eisenhower but also from the Liberals of the Roosevelt administration. The new men around Kennedy are relatively young men, born in the twentieth century, whose "first real experiences were fighting World War II and living and thinking during the East-West clash." Goldman believes they are tougher, more hard-headed than the old time Liberal and will be more effective at getting things done and more realistic in dealing with Russia and other foreign problems.

Barbara Ward writes on the state of international affairs today and the challenge they offer to America. She says that the Kennedy Administration has shown "a new imaginative perception of the policies involved" and bears out her statement by citing four innovations in approach already made.

Ira Wolfert briefly but effectively analyzes changes in our farm and industrial economies since 1900 and the necessity for fresh thinking in the government's regulation for our domestic economy. He is convinced that the new group in Washington is equipped to provide this. Briefer articles deal with the Peace Corps, war in Laos and Civil Rights. All in all we get a useful summary of the first strenuous, hopeful days of this administration and an overall view of aims, methods and personalities.

THE CHATEAU by William Maxwell (Knopf \$4.95). Here is a book that shows rare qualities of perception and a felicitous talent for expressing shades of feeling. Perhaps there should be some other word for books of this sort than "novel"; for plot is practically non-existent and action of the mildest. Yet the author captured and held my interest completely by the slow unfolding of human personalities getting acquainted with each other, warmed or chilled by each other's responses.

Harold and Barbara Rhodes, a young American couple, are making their first trip to France in 1948. They are friendly, interested in people, pleased when strangers seem to like them. After some preliminary sight-seeing, they go to live for two weeks in a chateau near Tours. It is there that they become most interested and most baffled by the French. The landlady, an impoverished aristocrat, alternately charms and exasperates them, and the maze of her family relations intrigues them. How they make tenuous connections with other guests, some of which develop and some of which disappear, forms a strangely absorbing narrative.

SERENGETI SHALL NOT DIE by Bernhard and Michael Grzimek (Dutton \$6.95). This is an impassioned plea for the preservation of wild life in Africa. It was general knowledge that there were thousands of animals and birds in the Serengeti National Park in Tanganyika, and that the Masai tribesmen, who also live there, were making serious inroads. Dr. Grzimek of the Frankfurt Zoo and his son, Michael, set out to find out just how many animals there were and to estimate what would hap-

Mrs. Ladu Given Grant For Study

Through the Superintendent of Moore County Schools, Robert E. Lee, Mrs. Lena B. Ladu has received a grant at Western Carolina College, Cullowhee for study this summer.

She will spend five weeks, June 12-July 14, observing, attending seminars, and doing research on the superior child, at the junior high school level.

Mrs. Ladu did some pioneer work in this area of learning when she taught in the Greensboro City Schools. This year, at West End, she has taught a group of "above average" seventh graders.

The North Carolina State Board of Education, recognizing the values of such a program, has included it in its biennial budget for 1961-1963. This is now being considered by the General Assembly.

pen if their range was restricted by the proposed boundaries of the Park. In a low-flying airplane they counted the animals—367,000—and studied their migrations.

The book is beautifully written with dramatic stories of the animals and is illustrated with excellent photographs, some in color and some in black and white. We get an unforgettable view of these wild, free creatures and the magnificent country through which they roam. Dr. Grzimek makes it clear that he is pleading not only for the animals but for what the preservation of such areas means to the spirit of man.

THE WILDERNESS STONE by Robert Nathan (Knopf \$3.50). Robert Nathan has written this one in an autumnal mood. There is nostalgia for the fine days of his youth and his friends of that era—the poets, writers, artists who were in their glory in the twenties. To be sure, this is fiction and the man who "knew these people is "Edward," but they are the same people Nathan knew and they frequented the same places Nathan did in New York, Cape Cod, Paris.

Edward talks of those times to Miranda, a young woman who has an apartment next to his in southern California. Most of all he talks of his best friend, Bee, a poet who died young, until Bee becomes to Miranda the man she could really have loved. From then on the story becomes that special mixture of the familiar and the fantastic that only Nathan can brew. We see the past become daily more real and desirable to Miranda, until she seems able to go into it now and then. Mingled with this we get Edward's—or Nathan's—personal reflections on life and love, reality and imagination.

Bookmobile Schedule

June 5-8

Monday, June 5, Doubs Chapel Route—John Willard, 9:35-9:40; Frank Cox, 9:45-9:50; F. L. Sutphin, 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; Elmer Vest, 11-11:10; Arnold Thomas, 11:15-11:25; Mrs. Joyce Haywood, 11:30-11:40; Mrs. Pearl Frye, 12:20-12:30; S. E. Hannon, 12:35-12:40; Coy Richardson, 12:50-1; Vernon Lisk, 1:05-1:20; V. L. Wilson, 1:25-1:40; Mrs. Herbert Harris, 1:50-2.

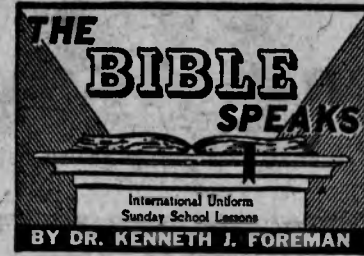
Tuesday, June 6, Murdocksville Route—R. F. Clapp, 9:35-9:40; Mrs. P. B. Moon, 9:45-9:50; Edwin Black, 9:55-10:05; Mrs. Finney Black, 10:10-10:20; W. R. Dunlop, 10:25-10:40; Dan Lewis, 10:45-10:55; Miss Margaret McKenzie, 11-11:10; Earl Monroe, 11:15-11:20; Mrs. Helen Neff, 11:25-11:40; the Rev. W. K. Fitch, 12:20-12:30; J. V. Cole, 12:35-12:45; Art Zenns, 12:50-1; Sandy Black, 1:05-1:15; E. F. Whitaker, 1:20-1:30; H. A. Freeman, 1:35-1:45; John Lewis, 1:50-2.

Wednesday, June 7, 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 McKeithen, 10:50-11:05; Mrs. Kate Phillips, 11:10-11:25; Mrs. James Lane, 11:35-11:45; Jesse Maples, 11:55-12:05; Walter McDonald, 12:45-12:55; Mrs. Ellen Gilchrist, 1-1:10; Wade Collins, 1:15-1:25; Lewis Marion, 1:30-1:45; Lynn Thomas, 1:55-2.

Gov. Sanford to Speak At PJC Commencement

Gov. Terry Sanford, an alumnus of Presbyterian Junior College, Class of 1934, will deliver the commencement address at Presbyterian Junior College at its final commencement exercises, before merging its program into that of St. Andrews Presbyterian College in Laurinburg. The public is invited to hear the Governor at 11 a. m. Monday, June 5, in the Presbyterian Junior College auditorium at Maxton. Sixty-four graduates are scheduled to receive diplomas or certificates.

Thursday, June 8, Mineral Springs, Sandhills Route—A. J. Hanner, 9:45-9:55; T. L. Branson, 10-10:05; W. E. Munn, 10:10-10:20; Ed Smith, 10:50-11; Richard Garner, 11:10-11:25; Pinehurst Nursing Home, 11:35-11:50; J. W. Greer, 12:45-1:05; the Rev. W. C. Neill, 1:10-1:55; W. R. Viall, 2:10-2:25.



BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN

Bible Material: Nehemiah 8 through 10; Ecclesiastes 1:12-16; 3:1-14; 5. Devotional Reading: Psalm 42:1-5.

What's It About?

Lesson for June 4, 1961

WHAT'S it all about? Once in a while we sit down and ask ourselves that question. It's the biggest question there is—or it can be, depending on what you mean by the little word "it." A football stadium with 22 men running this way and that, in the middle of it, and with 100,000 plainly crazy people filling all the seats—you can explain the game and you can maybe explain why the viewers act crazy.

Dr. Foreman, a school, a hospital, and so forth, you can understand them after a fashion. They fit in, they make sense.

But does life make sense? Bits and pieces of it do. But what's life all about? Does life, my life, your life, the life of mankind, fit into any conceivable pattern, or is it a meaningless madness in the midst of an empty universe?

A Strange Book
The strangest book in the Bible was written by a man who was haunted by this question. Does life make sense, and if so, what? The book called Ecclesiastes tells of this man's search for the meaning of life, and of his conclusions. What makes the book strange is not the question. It is the answers that are strange, or rather the answer. For his main conclusion is that we don't know. The writer of Ecclesiastes is what might be called a tired cynic. He had tasted the cup of life and found it bitter, or rather he had tried to drink and found the cup empty. One mournful refrain comes over and over—"all is vanity and a striving after wind." Vanity—not meaning to say pride, but emptiness. Life is like a man trying to catch the wind. He can't do it and even if he could, he would still have—nothing. The wheel of life goes around and around, till "all

things are full of weariness."


Few Certainties
And yet life, even for this strange old man, is not entirely a swamp. As it is in a real swamp, so it is with life, here and there in the bog are small solid islands. Some of these islets of certainty he names. (At least for him they are certain.) One is the fact, which he feels he has to accept, that this life, for all its good, has evil to match. Light and dark—good and evil—cause for rejoicing and cause for mourning—seem to have their settled places. There is a time for everything, he says, and then he lines up good-and-bad pairs, such as weeping and laughing, killing and healing, losing and seeking, hate and love, war and peace. This is one of the certainties of life, that not all of it is good. Ecclesiastes more than hints that we might as well admit this and make the best of it. Man cannot figure out what God has done; so the thing for men to do is to enjoy themselves as long as they live. If sorrow is real, so is joy. Furthermore, it is possible to work at something, and to enjoy what one has done. In short, this tired old cynic is not altogether a cynic, because he does believe in a few things. One bit of wisdom we can take from him at this point is that there are unpleasant features of life that cannot be changed. Waste no time quarreling with life; accept it!

Fear God!
One of the strange features about Ecclesiastes is that the author, who believed so little that was good, still did believe in God. It was not a high faith that he had. It was nothing like the faith (for example) of a Saint Paul. God for Ecclesiastes is not a Companion, he knows nothing of God's love. "God is in heaven and you upon earth," he says, "therefore let your words be few," that is, God is so far away that you'd better not say too much about him, he lives in a different world. Nevertheless, though God cannot (this man thought) be known or loved, he can be feared. You can make vows to him, you can do some service for him. God has no pleasure in fools; so don't be one. Empty words grow many; don't pour out more talk. Just live the best you can in the world as it is. If this seems too dark a world, remember Ecclesiastes hasn't the last word in the Bible!

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