



Bess has a cart and two goats. She likes to ride in her cart. See how the goats pull! Bess is so big, I think she should walk up the hill. The goats love Bess, for she feeds them, and is kind to them.

HOOTS
EXCITING NEW YEAR — Every year presents the exciting prospect of a fresh start and the opportunity to improve on past performance. The year 1977 promises to be a good one for public libraries in North Carolina with two state-wide planning sessions already on the calendar.

Every public library director in the state — the heads of regional, county and municipal library systems — has been called to a two-day meeting on January 10th and 11th. It has not been announced as a part of the agenda, but it is hopeful that the Pettigrew staff members will be given an opportunity during those two days to meet the new Secretary of Cultural Resources, Sara Hodgkins of Southern Pines.

The other meeting of librarians which has been scheduled is for an intensive study of community needs. Because he has had previous experience in community assessment work and is interested in learning all he can about the needs of the people served by the Pettigrew Regional Library, has been appointed Wayne Henritze, the new Perquimans County Librarian, to attend the training institute with the Gray Owl.

A limited enrollment has been requested by the expert who is instructing the surveyors. Each regional library is allowed two participants and only a few other librarians will be accepted into the program which is being funded by federal money (Library Services and Construction Act — LSCA for short).

SCREECHES

NOT ON LIST — Speaking of federal money, the proposed library building for Tyrrell County was not on the recently published list of Public Works projects approved. Pending official notification, it can only be assumed that the building project was among the majority of projects which were turned down for one reason or another.

McGUFFEY'S ECLECTIC Readers, a primer and six other "graded" books were arranged in order of difficulty. Most classes in the frontier West or South, where they were most popular, were held in one-room schoolhouses. Students read one volume until they mastered it, then advanced to the next. Texts often contained lessons on behavior and firmly upheld the moral standards of the time.

The Holiday Open House given by Peggy Griffin in Columbia afforded to see several of the Library Board members as well as county officials soon after the list appeared in local papers. They all agreed that this apparent set-back should not mean the end of efforts for a new library.

McGuffey Reader Helped Out West

WASHINGTON — When the West was still wild, "A" stood for ax and "O" was for ox. Millions of Westerners who tamed the frontier with ax and ox learned how to spell them thanks to McGuffey's Eclectic Spellers and Readers.

The McGuffey series of readers, begun in 1836, was still popular in the early 1900s and at one time permeated school systems west of the Alleghenies and south of the Mason-Dixon line, the national Geographic Society says.

TAUGHT BILL TO READ
 The familiar maroon and gold volumes have taught countless Americans to read and spell. More than 270,000,000 copies have been sold to date, and they have never been out of print. Celebrating the 140th anniversary of the Readers, Van Nostrand Reinhold,

McGuffey's current publisher, recently gave the Smithsonian Institution two original plates from the 1879 edition of the Readers.

"Amazingly," says Robert E. Ewing, Van Nostrand's president, "the books are still used by schools in several states, and the trend is growing. Perhaps it's a desire to get back to basic values and reading fundamentals."

More than just textbooks, the Readers stress the moral values of their times and, above all, politeness and civility.

"Ned is not a good boy," scolds a passage in McGuffey's Eclectic Primer. "I do not think he likes to go to school or to church. I saw him try to kill a quail with a stone. The quail is too quick a bird for that, and Ned did not hurt it; but I know that a good child would not try to kill a bird."

Changing methods of education began the decline of the Readers in the 1920s, but William Holmes McGuffey, who was responsible for the series, was never forgotten.

REMEMBERED BY MANY

A McGuffey Reader Club still meets annually at Brushy Run, West Virginia, and there is a McGuffey Museum at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, and a McGuffey School, both near the McGuffey Elm Trees, under which the author sat to write his first two volumes. Many other streets and schools in America have been named for the educator.

Henry Ford was so taken with McGuffey that in 1937 he had the 1857 version of the Readers reprinted and distributed sets of them to McGuffey lovers throughout the United States. He also bought the

McGuffey family home and barn near Youngstown, Ohio, and he used materials from the barn to build a schoolhouse of the McGuffey era. Both buildings are in Greenfield Village, Michigan.

McGuffey was born in Pennsylvania, but spent most of his life in Ohio. He rose from professor of ancient languages at Miami University in Ohio to president of Cincinnati College and later president of Ohio University. He ended his teaching career at the University of Virginia as a professor of moral philosophy.

Although royalty payments from his famous Readers had ceased long before he arrived in Virginia, McGuffey eventually received some additional funds for later revisions.

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