

Books for Children, a Gift Tradition

By MARIAN TRAINOR
Special Writer

In many families, books at Christmas are a tradition. They take their place right along with the other luxury items which are bought only at this festive time.

Books make shopping easy. There is no worry about sizes, colors or repetition. That does not mean that they can be bought thoughtlessly. Some time should be spent on the selection so that the book you give suits the interests of the receiver.

However, selecting the right book for the right child is not difficult. Bookstores abound with beautiful books for every age and taste.

IF THE CHILD on your list is very young, he will be delighted with a Christmas story such as "Mr. Willowby's Christmas Tree" by Robert Barry (McGraw Hill)

Written in jouncing verse and illustrated with gay pictures, it tells a delightful story of how Mr. Willowby shared his tree with all the animals in the forest and even Mistletoe Mouse who placed at the top of her sprig "if you please, a star made out of cheese."

"The Lamb and the Child" by Dean Frye (McGraw Hill) is a colorfully-illustrated book which tells the Nativity story in an English setting, with touches of pleasant humor.

ANY CHILD will love the "Christmas Nutschell Library" by Hillary Knight (Harper Row). This boxed set of four tiny volumes, just the right size for a Christmas stocking, contains Clement Moore's "Night Before Christmas," a story of eight coy animals, an ABC book of holiday preparations and a parody of the "Twelve Days of Christmas."

Stoo Hample, author of "The Silly Book" which enthralled so many young children, has written

a Christmas story about "Doodles the Deer-Horse" (Harper-Row). Doodles loved Christmas but had never once had his stocking filled. His adventures when he enters a department store to speak to Santa and remedy the situation make a delightful tale.

IF YOU ARE looking for a book that not only will have year-round

Extra Contest Blanks Offered

More kids than one in your family, and they all want to enter The Birmingham Eccentric's Christmas Coloring Contest? Additional copies of the entry blank page will be available Friday in the lobby of The Eccentric, 1225 Bowers.

interest but will also suit any age, you can't do better than "The Birds and the Beasts Were There," a volume of animal poems selected by William Cole (World).

It contains 300 animal poems selected by a master anthologist. Animals of every kind and size make their appearance in moods that range from nonsensical to the reverent, from the playful to the lyrical.

Other books that will delight the young child are "The Clown Said No" by Misha Damjan (Whittlesey), a charming story of circus people and animals, illustrated in brilliant colors; "Where The Wild Things Are" by Maurice Sendak (Harper & Row), a unique book of fantasy; "Walter The Lazy Mouse" by Marjorie Flack (Doubleday), recounting the story of Walter whose extreme laziness causes amazing consequences.

NEW BOOKS are fine, but the old tales which are forever new still remain favorites. This year new collections of old favorites abound.

Among many from which you may choose is the Macmillan "Andersen's Fairy Tales" containing 53 stories.

"Middle" years' readers have a variety of tastes. Some still cling to stories of fancy and imagination. For those, good choices are "The Big Goose and the Little White Duck" by Mendert DeJoh (Harper & Row), who has won so many awards for excellence as a children's writer, tells the story of a big gray goose who was bought for dinner but won a place in the family as a pet; "Little Plum" by

Romer Godden (Viking), another favorite author, whose main character, a Japanese doll, resolves a conflict and brings two children together in happy friendship; "Danny Dunn, Time Traveler" by Jay Williams (McGraw-Hill) another adventure of durable Danny who takes his readers back 200 years to the 18th century.

FOR THOSE who like history with their story, any one of Random's Landmark Books such as "The War In Korea" by Robert Leckie or a Landmark Giant such as "The American Indian" by William Braden, or Harper's "Breakthrough Books" such as "Appomattox" by Burke Davis, will be welcomed.

Sports lovers will like any one of C. Paul Jackson's books. Mr. Jackson has played and coached most sports. He has studied and written about them and is an authority on their latest developments and rulings.

AMONG MANY of his books are "World Series Rookie," "Bud Plays Junior or High Football," "Bud Plays" (See BOOKS, 6-D)

Music Guild Series Hosts Albion Choir

The Albion College Choir will perform a program of Christmas music at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday as part of the Cranbrook Music Guild series.

The concert will take place in the Kingswood School Auditorium, Bloomfield Hills, and is open to the general public.

The Albion Choir, under the direction of David Strickler, is composed of selected voices and performs music infrequently heard. Strickler has chosen a program of ancient and modern carols and will feature the Mozart "Coronation" Mass, K.317.

He holds a graduate degree from the Eastman School of Music and has been associated with Albion for 21 years.

A LOCAL student participating in the concert is Karen Sleda of Bloomfield Hills.

Show and concert members of the Cranbrook Music Guild will usher and act as hostesses at the afterglow punch in the school dining room.

Tickets for the concert will be available at the Kingswood auditorium prior to the performance.



AN AUDIENCE of first and second graders in the Franklin Elementary School library listens to guest storyteller Mrs. Helen Williams of Rochester. Her visit was in conjunction with Children's Book Week recently. More than 300 books were purchased for the school by parents during a Book Fair.

'Billy the Kid' Show Opens

Continuing their policy or original works only, the Raven Readers Theatre has returned with an abbreviated version of the new musical melodrama, "Billy the Kid," Dec. 3, 4, 5.

"Billy the Kid" was especially written for presentation at Vanguard Theatre two years ago with an original musical score by Morton Zieve and lyrics by Rudy Simons.

Since that time, the book, based on a turn-of-the-century hit by Walter Woods, has been completely rewritten by Tom Douglal, and many of the songs have been replaced as well.

The Raven run is in the nature of a tryout as plans are afoot for summer stock and off-Broadway productions of "Billy" next year.

SEVERAL DETROIT professional singers and actors have been assembled for this hour-and-a-half excerpt. Included are Tom McClelland and Carol Smith who just played leading roles in the Detroit Civic Center Theatre's sell-out production of "Music Man."

McClelland is a former Arthur Godfrey Talent Scout winner and has also played the national night club circuit. Miss Smith, a student

with operatic soprano Marilyn Colow, has played many leading roles with the Civic Center Theatre. Elizabeth and Rubin Weiss are also highlighted in "Billy." In addition to their professional theatrical background, Mr. and Mrs. Weiss are commercial actors, heard on innumerable radio and television commercials.

AL VINOCCUR, Detroit advertising executive, plays the title role of "Billy" with Pat Lysinger opposite him as the heroine.

Vinoeur wrote, produced and sang in stage shows in Europe for the Army and has written and performed in New York night clubs and television.

Miss Lysinger comes to "Billy" fresh from her performance as the heroine in "The Drunkard" at The Stables Theatre.

She has also played important roles at Vanguard Theatre, and Windsor International Theatre and won a scholarship to the American Theatre Wing in New York.

Completing the cast assembled for "Billy the Kid" are Edgar L. "Bud" Brown, another actor-performer from the Detroit Civic Center Theatre, and Joe Marrocco, Wayne State University student who has appeared in several productions there.

"BILLY THE KID" is a unique vehicle, as it is played "straight." It is neither a parody or a burlesque.

Composer Morton Zieve has staged this presentation and will be at the piano for the performances, certain at 9:30 p.m.



Choral Music Fills the Air

(Above), five Bloomfield Hills High School students have been chosen for the Michigan Chorale in auditions at the University of Michigan. The 68-member chorale, representing 40 schools, will tour South America next summer. Getting in some vocal practice at BHHS, with Clarence A. Luchtmann, chairman of the music department, are

(left, from Luchtmann) Jeff Keith, John McKenzie, Sara Peterson, Bill Pinkerman and Chuck Leffler. (Below), William DeMaria, head of the vocal music department at Berkley High School, directs the Berkley Madrigal Singers in a performance held Sunday at The Raven Gallery in Birmingham.



B'ham Musicales Plans Program

The 60-voice chorus of the Birmingham Musicales, directed by Alice Engram, will be featured at the club's Dec. 12 meeting.

The First Presbyterian Church will be the setting for a program of Christmas music of many types. The piano accompanist for the chorus is Mrs. Philip Whelan.

PLAYING WITH the chorus in several numbers will be violinists Mrs. William Hohmeyer and Mrs. Walker Conrad. Organ soloist Mrs. Howard Ritter completes the program.

Chairman of the day is Mrs. Clark Pardee. The tea chairman is Mrs. Henry McQueen, and hostess chairman is Mrs. Lawrence Middleton.

The program will begin at 1:30 p.m. It is an open meeting which will be followed by a tea in the church social hall.

ART FOR ART'S SAKE

What Are Adults Made Of? —Of Life's Experiences!

Sugar and spice and everything nice, that's what little girls are made of... but what about adults? What are they made of?

Name Third Judge

Betty Conn, sculptor, who also teaches children's classes at the Bloomfield Art Association, has been announced as the third judge for The Birmingham Eccentric's Christmas Coloring Contest. Other judges are Glen Michaels, supervisor of the Cranbrook Young People's Art Center, and Ethel Simmons, arts editor of The Eccentric.

children; of hopes, fears, joys and sorrows, of needs and wants. In short, people are made of experiences.

Experiences are happenings that modify humans (all animals). An experience is dramatic, like first learning to read; the first step in sharing stored human experience.

An experience is the imperceptible but continuous influence of a painting hung forever in the same spot, or your everyday dishes, or the shape of your pillow.

EXPERIENCE is knowing that your family cares about details too rival to mention to others. Experience is struggling with a

new art form, wondering what it means to you. You delve into your store of experiences for guidance in adding this new one.

Many events occur that are unseen and unfelt. Events occur "right before your very eyes" that are unperceived. We've seen too much, don't understand it or aren't interested. It is the happenings to which one responds that become effective experiences.

Realizing that anyone can walk by & paint, passively, experiencing it or not, artists have developed art happenings. The viewer, surrounded and engulfed by the "work" is assaulted by sensations. (See ADULTS, 7-D)

Color Film Gives Tour Of Ireland

Robert Mallett, a former foreign newspaper correspondent and lecturer of the Burton Holmes Travel Lecture Organization, will bring his color film "Ireland — a Grand Tour of the Emerald Isle" to The Community House, Birmingham, at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Show and concert members of the Cranbrook Music Guild will usher and act as hostesses at the afterglow punch in the school dining room.

Tickets for the concert will be available at the Kingswood auditorium prior to the performance.

A LOCAL student participating in the concert is Karen Sleda of Bloomfield Hills.

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