The Times Book Page

THE FIRST READER . . . by Harry Hansen

Winant's Valedictory Tells Tense Story of War Years In 'Grosvenor Square'

"LETTER FROM GROSVENOR SQUARE." By John G. Winant. Boston, Houghton Mifflin, $3.

"WHERE I STAND." By Harold E. Stassen. New York, Doubleday, $2.50.

THAT "peace is indivisible and global" is one of the final messages to the American people from John Gilbert Winant, who represented the United States in Britain during the war. This conviction came to him the day of Pearl Harbor, he writes in his "Letter from Grosvenor Square."

There is tense emotion in this report from the former ambassador, who found himself unable to face life henceforward. He writes unlike the detailed, documented manner assumed by ambassadors when reporting their stewardships. From the day in 1914 when he was sent abroad by President Roosevelt, to the moments with Winston Churchill, prime minister, as war is being declared on Japan, he writes with feeling and invariably associates events with human beings. Mr. Winant could not have written coldly about his task in Grosvenor Square.

# # #

IT IS IMPORTANT for us to refresh our memories today of the close escape from disaster we had in the war. John G. Winant lists four specific moments in 1940 and 1941 when the sands of the hourglass had almost run out and destiny turned the glass in our favor. They were the Battle of Britain, lend-lease, the German attack on Russia and the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

"One other factor came later that was to recast the future for all men—the invention and use of the atomic bomb, but the shadow of it was always there." Mr. Winant makes clear that British and American leaders knew the Germans were engaged in atomic research and "profound anxiety was felt by those who were well informed." He declares that if we had not stood by the European nations we would have faced a militarized world with tremendous power and was convinced that "all aid short of war was no guarantee of security."

# # #

MANY MEN SUCCUMB to the temptation of self-glorification when they write memoirs. They see themselves the center of events. John G. Winant had no vainglory. His book is a record of the job he had to do. It is valuable for portraying the difficulties Americans and British had to overcome to understand one another and work together smoothly. We are English-speaking peoples, but our temperaments and traditions vary greatly.

"It is not enough for those who love peace to talk peace," wrote the Ambassador. "A lover of peace must understand war, its causes and its course. It is not enough to hope. We must also work desperately on practical measures that sometimes seem far short of our dreams." He commends the British civilian population, saying that Britain's house was in order, they were "not a war-weary people but a taut, disciplined, alert nation, restless to be at the enemy."

# # #

REFERRING TO THE days before Pearl Harbor, Mr. Winant recalls the apprehension that existed before the surprise attack. He learned on Dec. 6 that "the Japanese were on the prowl," when two Japanese convoys were reported by British intelligence. This news was sent to the State Department. On Dec. 7 he informed Mr. Churchill that he thought there was going to be war with Japan. Both he and Mr. Churchill were listening to the 9 o'clock broadcast when they heard the announcement of Pearl Harbor, two hours late.

Mr. Winant's bitterness in referring to the calculated depravity and inhumanity of the Axis leaders discloses how deeply this cut him to the heart and with it goes his condemnation of "an appeasement-minded world."

# # #

IN "WHERE I STAND," Harold E. Stassen gives a frank declaration of his political principles that does him credit. His comment on Communists in American life, capital and labor relations and the Taft-Hartley Act, housing, health, small business and other important topics is forthright and explicit.

His steps to combat communism and socialism include the identity of all Communists, constant discussion of issues raised by them, withdrawal of all liberals from Communist-front activities, closing government service to them and secret ballots for labor union members when voting for officials.

Avoiding hysteria and conserving civil rights, he would bring all earnest citizens into the battle. He recognizes New York as the greatest center of Communist activity and inspiration and commends "a vigorous, co-ordinated and comprehensive bi-partisan program" to change the situation, with the help of press, radio and leaders of the people.

# # #

MR. STASSEN supports the Taft-Hartley law as a necessary remedy for the inequalities of the Wagner Act, wants strong labor unions and collective bargaining to be sustained and says: "We must never permit the occasional excesses of John L. Lewis to prod us toward nationalization or socialization of coal. He is especially concerned over the handicaps of small business in America and recommends tax revision, simplification of controls and continued opposition to unfair competition.

He declares that Josef Stalin told him the Soviet Union and the United States could co-operate despite their different systems, but he believes the good health of American economies must be maintained by constant vigilance, study and affirmative action. Since he is vitally opposed to nationalizing of any resources, he looks upon socialism and communism as two peas from the same pod.

ATTENTION, LADIES—

Book May Help Job Hunters

"JOBS FOR WOMEN OVER 35" by Julietta K. Arthur. New York, Prentice Hall, $3.50.

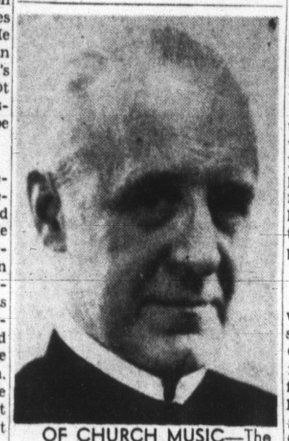
LADIES between 35 and 70, don a dowdy frock and set forth with a scowl to find a job.

And you will not find it, Julietta K. Arthur informs the reader in her new book, "Jobs for Women Over 35."

But cultivate an amiable disposition, middle-aged and elderly women, dress attractively and as befits your age, then take your skills to market, the author advises. And you will be surprised at your luck in getting employment with pay.

You cannot be too selective but must be willing to compromise a bit with your ambition. Your gray hair and experience of life, however, are what some employers are seeking, so "keep your chins up."

The book covers the whole field of possible situations for women who are no longer young. From baby sitters to insurance solicitors there is something available for all types. And in the back of the book Mrs. Arthur has included an appendix indicating full information on many topics of interest to job hunters. (E. R. M.)



OF CHURCH MUSIC—The Rev. Fr. William Joseph Finn, founder of the celebrated Paulist Choristers, who writes of 50 years in the service of church music in "Sharps and Flats in Five Decades," an autobiography to be published Nov. 26 by Harper's.

'Father and Angels' To Be Made Into Film

"Father and the Angels," William Mariners' reminiscences of his father who was a rabbi in Zanesville, O., is to be made into a play, according to Dutton, the publisher. Phoebe and Henry Ephron, last represented on Broadway with "Three's a Family," are at work on the dramatic version, which Producer Herman Shumlin plans to stage early next spring.

New Biography

"The Saint and the Devil: Joan of Arc and Gilles de Rais," a new biography by Frances Winwar, will be published next January by Harper.

Rebecca West's Book

The publication date of Rebecca West's new book, "The Meaning of Treason," has been announced by the Viking Press as definitely Dec. 1.

AN ODE TO ELGIN WATCHES

By R. E. KELSO, Jeweler, 1537 N. Illinois St.

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I've seen a million watches, but none had Elgin fame,
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"CHILD'S PORTRAIT"—This pastel drawing by Clara Epstein, Indianapolis artist, is included in the third group of works by contemporary Indiana artists, which will be on view in Herron Art Museum through next Thursday. Oil paintings by Lee Detchon of Crawfordsville are also in the current exhibit.

# # #

Writers of Children's Books Called 'Pretty Swell People'

HOW CAN one write a story for children? And when you have written one, how can you tell whether it's good enough to print, and whether or not it will become a classic, to be enjoyed by generations of children?

Who could have foretold that the ingenious situations a mathematical don invented for Alice and her friends would make "Alice in Wonderland" one of the most famous of stories? Certainly Lewis Carroll didn't expect that.

Supplying the market with children's books is a commercial matter, as long as you think of it in terms of consignments and discounts.

But there's more to it than that. Authors of children's stories seem to be a group apart from other authors. Of course there is a percentage of hacks making them.

But I have met many who have the light of inspiration in their eyes. They are intensely interested in children, from tots to teen-age youngsters; they enjoy talking with them and they write with them in mind. I think authors of children's books are pretty swell people.

How do they find plots for stories? Here are two examples.

# # #

CATHERINE BESTERMAN, whose book title we adults will shorten to "The Quest of Johnny Longfoot" (Bobbs Merrill, $2) is a young matron of looks and charm who fled from Poland before Hitler with her husband, a journalist.

In the United States her husband served in the Polish embassy as long as his country remained free; now the Bestermans are naturalized Americans. In Poland she had toyed with the idea of adapting a folk tale about the shoe king's son and introducing some quaint cats, for she is fond of Angoras.

She did no more with the story until after the war, and then she wrote in English. She gave Johnny Longfoot a series of adventure prompted by her own travels in foreign lands. I'm sure children love a lad who travels about with talkative animals. Warren Chappell has drawn the illustrations.

# # #

WHILE Mrs. Besterman starts with folklore and adds incidents suggested by her experiences, Rose Oller Harbaugh starts with experience and practically turns it into folklore in "Eddie Elephant Has a Party," illustrated by Susanne Suba (Rand McNally, $1). For this is a true story, already a legend in the country's department stores.

Rose Oller Harbaugh is known to authors everywhere for her hospitable book section in the store of Marshall Field & Co., Chicago. A few years ago F. Peter Sachs of the Container Corp., wrote "Eddie the Elegant Elephant," and to dramatize it an inspired publicist brought a circus elephant into the book section, several floors above street level.

Everything went well until time for leaving, when Eddie wouldn't go. He was fascinated by the store. He took in the candy section and the rug section, and after candy he ate some decorative ears of corn.

When they eased Eddie toward the elevators and the stairs, he wouldn't budge. They had to build a special ramp over the stairs in order to lead him out.

I don't imagine Mrs. Harbaugh or anyone else thought at the time that this incident would become literary lore. It was a headache when it happened.

Now Eddie's autographing party is a happy story for youngsters and the manager of the book section herself will have to autograph books.

# # #

THE finest book in this category is not a book for children but about children's books. It is "Illustrators of Children's Books, 1744-1945," compiled by Bertha E. Mahoney, Louise Payson Latimer and Beulah Filmsbee, and it has a special appeal for editors, illustrators, critics and collectors. (The Horn Book, Inc., $15.)

The great days of illustration in 19th century England; the early American pictures in children's books; Howard Pyle and other famous illustrators; graphic processes and the changing modes are described here by such authorities as Anne Thaxter Eaton, Jacquelin Overton, Robert Lawson, Maria Cimino, Helen Gentry, Philip Hofer, Hellmut Lehman-Haupt, May Massee and Lynd Ward.

There are biographies of living authors and a bibliography of illustrators of children's books. Paper used for the board covers carries an attractive design by T. N. Cleland.

# # #

HERE THEY come. Since it is quite impossible to give space to more than a few titles today, other titles will be listed from time to time in the weeks before the holidays.

Ogden Nash's verses about animals and insects have been set to music by Vernon Duke in "Ogden Nash's Musical Zoo." I don't know what this is going to do to Junior's spelling (sea gull rhymes with eagull), but maybe he will see the fun, too. No, Ogden's rhyme about the turtle isn't in it. Drawings by Frank Owen. (Little, Brown, $2.50.)

All the ballads about Robin Hood—there are very, very many, have been put into a book, "Song of Robin Hood," with arresting original decorations by Virginia Lee Burton. Edited by Anne Malcolmsen, music arranged by Grace Castagnetta. You'll be hearing more about this book, which possibly will have a greater appeal to adults, although intended for children. (Houghton, Mifflin, $5.)

"Miss Kelly," by Elizabeth Sanxay Holding, illustrated by Margaret S. Johnson, is the story of a tiger cat that could talk. (Morrow, $2.)

—H. H.

COURAGE—Gaar Williams captioned this drawing, "There is nothing today like that period of uncertainty when you tried Dad's old-fashioned razor for the first time." It is one of 90 reproductions of the late Hoosier cartoonist's nostalgic drawings in "Among the Folks in History" (Chicago, Rand McNally, $2).

BEST SELLERS?

Two Novels Promise to Ring the Bell

"THE TAMARACK TREE." A novel. By Howard Breslin. New York, Whittlesey House, $3.

"RED PLUSH: THE STORY OF THE MOORHOUSE FAMILY." A novel. New York, Farrar, Straus, $3.50.

NEW candidates for the best-seller list are two new novels now being distributed by the major book clubs: "The Tamarack Tree," by Howard Breslin, choice of the Literary Guild, and "Red Plush: The Story of the Moorhouse Family," by Guy McCrone. Both dip into the 19th century, the first story being located in Vermont of 1840, and the second in Great Britain of the 1870s.

Howard Breslin, who served an apprenticeship writing radio scripts, has carried some of the directness and simplicity of radio into "The Tamarack Tree."

While at Stratton, Vermont, he became interested in a marker near a forest clearing locating the spot where Daniel Webster addressed thousands of Vermont farmers at a rally for William Henry Harrison and John Tyler, the Whig candidates of 1840.

# # #

INTERESTING HIMSELF in the life of the period, he spun a tale of emotional conflicts, of love that did not run smooth and sin that received the wages of death, against the movement of men who gathered for the big political rally. A tall tamarack on the site is a sort of focal point, the tree that grows in Stratton.

Mr. Breslin's story proves that, while it is easy to make a running narrative out of rural customs and political history, it is harder to grasp the intensity of violent personal conflict and partisan politics. He writes with a light touch over both routine and highly dramatic episodes.

# # #

THERE IS THE HALTING love affair of Lovina Chester and Charles Chittenden, the first ardent, the latter reluctant; there is the complication caused by Thomas Jefferson Dunbar, Virginian who comes to Stratton with his black manservant to hear Daniel Webster speak.

There is the clandestine affair of Zilpha Brayton and Isaac Mead, brought to a bloody end by Zilpha's husband, Lem, who in turn gets involved in a bloody encounter with a bear while the dogs are on his trail.

Amusing local customs are worked in, such as the first hot tub of the spring for the Chester girls, but the total effect of its story is more like that of a movie scenario than of a portrayal of vital hours in the personal and political life of the Vermonters of 1840.

# # #

WE HAVE BECOME so accustomed to bitterness, brutality and lechery in highly publicized novels, that a story in which the characters observe the reticences of civilized life seems front-page news.

This rare object is "Red Plush," by Guy McCrone, the story of a Glasgow family and the choice of the Book of the Month Club. I am sorry to record, however, that the whole well-behaved business gets a little tepid.

A family jealous of its place in the world of property is not a novelty. In "Red Plush" Arthur Moorhouse is a Glasgow provision merchant of the 1870s, and Bel, his wife, manages the fortune of relatives by the arts of suggestion and appeals to loyalty.

She draws her young brother-in-law David away from his true love, Lucy, and pushes him into marriage with the heiress of the Dermott shipping business. But she fails with her half-sister Phoebe. Phoebe marries the strong-willed Henry Hayburn, who takes her to Vienna where he represents a reaping machine.

The life of the Moorhouse family fills a great many pages, but much of it is untrue. Mr. McCrone uses as one of the Vienna episodes the burning of the Ring theater, which was last met in the pages of a Jacob Wasserman novel.

John P. Marquand says the story is in the best of an old and proved tradition, but for those of us brought up on John Galsworthy, and his American successor, Mr. Marquand, it will be rather skimmed milk.—H. H.

'Crescent City' Heads December Omnibook

"Crescent City," William E. Wilson's recent novel (Simon & Schuster), heads the list of abridgments in the December issue of Omnibook.

Other books presented in abridged form in the magazine include: "Alexandra," by Gladys Schmitt; "Dirty Eddie," by Ludwig Bemelmans, and "More Interesting People," by Robert J. Casey.

Ilka Doing Biography

Ilka Chase will continue her autobiographical reminiscences in a new book to be titled "Free Admission," which Doubleday will publish in the spring.

New Atlas Published

A revised and enlarged edition of "Hammond's New World Atlas" has been published by Garden City Publishing Co. Originally sold at $50, the book is priced at $16.95 in the Garden City edition.

2 Mystery Titles Added

Two new mystery titles have been added to Popular Library's 25-cent reprint series: "Design in Evil," by Rufus King, and "Said the Spider to the Fly," by Richard Shattuck.

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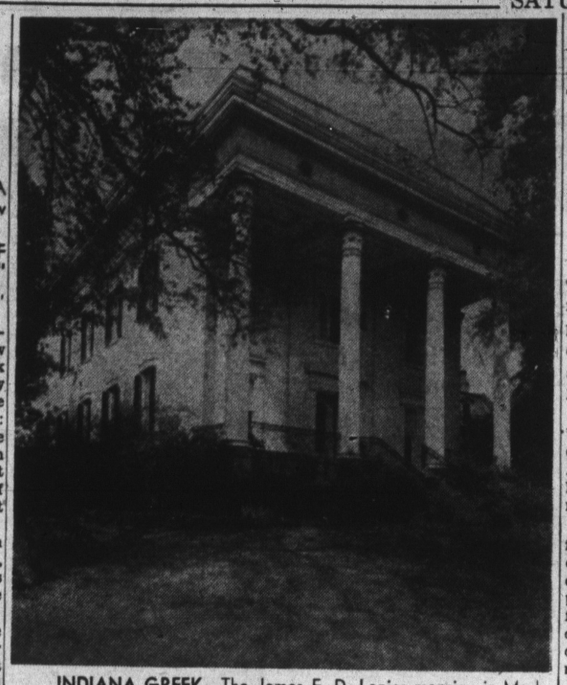

INDIANA GREEK—The James F. D. Lanier mansion in Madison, built 1844, typifies Midwestern classic-revival architecture of a century ago. This view is one of numerous illustrations in "Historic Midwest Houses," a survey of landmarks in 12 states, by John Drury. (Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, $5.)

Diary Reveals Patton Used Words, Bullets Alike—Freely

"WAR AS I KNEW IT." Based on the diaries of Gen. George S. Patton Jr. Boston, Houghton Mifflin, $3.75.

GEN. GEORGE S. PATTON JR., the man who said "I believe in fighting until lack of supplies forces you to stop—and then digging in," will go down in history as the most outspoken of Army commanders. Douglas Southall Freeman, the biographer of R. E. Lee, says Patton used words as he used fire—to get results quickly. Even the editing of his explosive phrases has not taken the pep out of "War as I Knew It," which is based on his diaries.

I don't know how many more books about the campaign into Germany—or books about Patton, for that matter—the public can absorb, but each one seems to have a special quality. Gen. Patton's running account is naturally full of Patton. From this we learn:

That there were times when he was frightened; in fact he said he didn't know a soldier who wasn't.

That he could hold his words back. In Cairo the British officers were very much interested in his reaction to Gen. Montgomery, "but I was very careful in what I said and refused to be drawn out."

That he had a sense of humor and liked to tell a story even if it was on himself.

That he used English as he used ammunition, freely and against the rules, writing such jargons as: "I used to get disgusted with, and still depreciate, the way our troops had of being kicked off places."

# # #

GEN. PATTON had great contempt for soldiers who "hit the dirt." He believed that the Germans profited by this habit. They would concentrate their aim on a spot and when the attacking Americans arrived there, put on a sudden burst of machine-gun fire, often into the air. The soldiers would hit the dirt, whereupon the Germans would toss shells on the fatal spot. The surest way to get out of a tough spot is to go forward, says Patton.

He prescribed ridicule as the greatest weapon against battle fatigue. "If soldiers would realize that a large proportion of men allegedly suffering from battle fatigue are really using an easy way out, they would be less sympathetic," says he. This throws light on the slapping incident. Gen. Patton had no sympathy for weakness and did not know where to draw the line between demoralization and malingering.

All through the record of fighting Gen. Patton has time to record amusing remarks and incidents. One night a shell, falling near Patton and another officer, turned their talk to religion. "General, my people have been Catholics for more than 3000 years," said the other officer. "What, B. C. Catholics?" asked Patton. "The officer replied, "Yes sir."

# # #

"NEVER TELL people how to do things," writes Gen. Patton. "Tell them what to do and they will surprise you with their ingenuity."

This leads me to an anecdote in a footnote added by Col. Paul D. Harkins, editor of "War As I Knew It."

Maj. Gen. C. R. Huebner of the 5th corps was sitting down to dinner when he received orders that his corps was assigned to the 3d Army under Patton. "Well, I'll give us just 12 hours before Gen. Patton calls up and tells us to attack something," said he. The soup was still hot when the chief of staff called Gen. Huebner to the phone saying Patton was on the wire. The conversation went like this:

"Hello, Huebner?"

"Hello, General. How are you?"

"Fine. Where in hell have you been since Sicily?"

"Oh, we've been around making a nuisance of ourselves."

"I'm sure glad you're back with me again."

"Glad to be back, General."

"I want you to attack Pilsen in the morning. Can you do it?"

"Yes sir."

"Fine, move fast now. We haven't got much time left in this war. I'll be up to see you. Goodbye."

"Goodbye."

As Gen. Huebner returned to his meal he remarked: "Well, I missed that one. Instead of 12 hours, it was 12 minutes. We attack Pilsen at daybreak."—H. H.

PLAYING THE HORSES—Walter A. Steigleman, associate professor of journalism at Indiana University, who writes about the sport of kings in "Horseracing: the Biggest Money Sport of All Time." Prof. Steigleman's investigations into the intricacies of the gambler's favorite sport have taken him to all the major racetracks in the country (Prentice-Hall, $3.50).

Lockridge Novel Reaping Riches

Ross Lockridge Jr., formerly of Bloomington and author of a forthcoming novel, "Raintree County," has had a remarkable streak of author's luck, according to Paul S. Nathan in Publishers' Weekly for Nov. 15.

In addition to winning Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's $150,000 prize for his novel, Mr. Lockridge has had it accepted as the January Book-of-the-Month Club selection. "This means that the fortunate author can count on $25,000 on top of his basic award . . . and whatever his rake-off from Metro may be on book sales over 25,000 copies," Mr. Nathan writes.

"Raintree County" will be published early next year by Houghton Mifflin.

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WARNING TO U.S.—

Aid Needed To Keep China Democratic

"LAST CHANCE IN CHINA." By Freda Utley. Indianapolis, Bobbs-Merrill, $3.50.

By PARKER LA MOORE
Scripps-Howard Staff Writer

"IF A billion Asiatics are harnessed to the war machine of expanding communism, the forces of democracy will be as outnumbered as the British when they faced Nazi-dominated Europe alone."

That is the warning in Freda Utley's new book, "Last Chance in China." It is a scathing review of American foreign policy in the Far East, from the beginning of Japanese aggression until the present.

"Our choice in China as in Greece is not one between democrats and dictators," she writes. "It is a choice between those who could be persuaded and assisted to transform their countries into democracies and those who are irrevocably committed to the support of Communist tyranny."

# # #

CHINA CANNOT be expected to carry the major burden of maintaining "a world strategic line between two power systems," Miss Utley contends. "Only American political, economic and military aid can enable China to pull herself out of the slough of despond . . . and give the battered, weak and demoralized Chinese government . . . the strength to prevent the Communists from dragging China step by step into Russia's orbit."

And as China goes so will go Asia, in her opinion.

Miss Utley places responsibility for many of China's present difficulties at the door of the United States.

President Roosevelt's secret deals at Yalta "made the whole war against Japan meaningless," she writes. "The successive 'truces' arranged by Gen. Marshall were like patches on running sores. . . . The Communists continued to destroy railways, mines and industries. Inflation proceeded unchecked. . . . By withholding economic aid from the national government until it came to terms with those who profited from China's economic crisis, we put the Communists into a position in which they could blackmail the government."

# # #

MISS UTLEY, best known as an English radical writer, first went to China in 1928 as a secret agent of the comintern. Later, after six years' residence in Russia, she renounced communism and became an American citizen. She presently is in the political department at Princeton University.

Many of her conclusions are highly controversial. But she has done a good reporting job in this book, bolstering many of her most startling statements with direct quotations from principals in the Far Eastern drama.

The author does not pretend to say that any one day will mark a decisive turning point in China. But it is her belief that that country's destiny and our own will be decided in the near future. And she is convinced that a policy which seeks to please everybody and which supports China only with reservations will not be a winning one.

New Yule Books For Children

Children's books for Christmas are reaching The Times book page in increasing numbers.

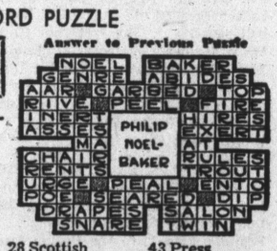
A Christmas addition to Simon & Schuster's Big Golden Books is "The Golden Christmas Book," compiled by Gertrude Crampton, with illustrations by Corinne Malvern. It's a luxurious volume, with plenty of color, containing stories, poems, puzzles, games and suggestions on tree-trimming and other Christmas activities for children ($1.50).

Other items in the same publisher's Christmas list include "Judy and Jim: A Paper Doll Story Book," by Hilda Miloche and Wilma Kane (the dolls are printed in color on pasteboard perforated for easy detachment—$1), and four new titles in the Little Golden Book series: "Animal Babies," Walt Disney's "Uncle Remus" and "Peter and the Wolf" and "Singing Games" (25 cents each volume).

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Riding Actor

HORIZONTAL
1,4 Pictured Western star
10 Constellation
13 Poem
14 Animals
15 Gallon (ab.)
16 Fly
18 Petitions
19 Fork prong
20 Wandering
22 Epic
24 Proceed
25 Musical note
26 Mouselike mammal
29 Condition
33 Hasten
34 Give (Scot.)
35 Dropsy
38 Coral island
40 While
41 Accomplish
42 Crown
46 He is a —— star
50 Sea eagle
51 Brain passage
54 Back of the neck
55 Land parcel
56 He acts on the silver ——
58 Pigeon pea
59 Compass point
60 Brought up
61 Cloth measure

VERTICAL
1 Flower
2 Aroma
3 Period of time
4 Regius professor (ab.)
5 Hops' kiln
6 Antelope
7 Dutch city
8 Headstrong
9 Steamship (ab.)
10 Exchange premium
11 Hindu queen
12 Fish sauce
17 Storm
19 Waste allowance
21 At this time
23 Bitter vetch
26 Her
27 Concealed
28 Scottish sheepfold
30 Past
31 Sesame
32 Lamprey
36 Manufactured
37 Peer Gynt's mother
38 Bustle
39 Village
42 Remove
43 Press
44 Poker stake
45 Rodents
46 Indian
47 Ordered
48 Gem
49 Shout
52 Malayan coin
53 Ever (contr.)
56 Senior (ab.)
57 North Dakota (ab.)

Answer to Previous Puzzle