

*The Last Pioneers.* By MELVIN LEVY. (New York: Alfred H. King, 1934. Pp. 368. \$2.50.)

A picturesque romance, bordering on extravaganza, *The Last Pioneers* seems to attempt to be at the same time a serious sociological study. It covers the third of a century beginning with the gold days in Nome and ending with the financial debacle of October, nineteen-twenty-nine.

According to a foreword: "The people in this book are imaginary. So is Puget, the city. Indeed, on the spot which I visualize as its site, there is another and different town."

In spite of this statement, any person familiar with the scenery of Seattle and the more notorious characters and episodes in its history will readily identify the sources from which material has been taken. This material has been used with appreciative abandon and without literalism, as a modern artist uses pure color. Landmarks of local history swim into view strangely transformed. The big fire, for instance, occurs on the first night of the new century, and the episode of the Mercer girls is changed into the arrival of a shipload of prostitutes during the gold-rush days. Not all the incidents are taken from Seattle history. The dock-massacre derives from Everett.

No decent people appear among the characters, with the single exception of the one resembling Seattle's most distinguished minister who figures in a recall election. The so-called "churchy people" appear briefly in the same connection. The central character is a Jewish hotel-keeper who at various stages in his career is a gambler, pimp, receiver of stolen goods, the brains of a vice ring and, ultimately, a millionaire. His best friend is the town's richest man, a banker, sub-divider of real estate, traction magnate, "sawdust baron" and war-time patriot. An assortment of other rascals circulate through the novel. What holds it together and gives it unity, like light over a picture, is the yellow lure of gold. The age of get-rich-quick is the subject, and the pursuers of riches, who exploit human passion, greed and folly are the last pioneers.

CHRISTINA D. SMITH

---

*Heaven High—Hell Deep.* By NORMAN ARCHIBALD. (New York: Albert & Charles Boni, Inc. 1935. Pp. 350. \$2.50.)

The day after Norman Archibald celebrated his twenty-third birthday in his home in Seattle, the United States declared war.

He was one of the first to enlist in the flying corps. *Heaven High—Hell Deep* recounts his adventures during the next two years: enlistment, the drilling period, combat experience over the French and German lines, and finally a prisoner of war in Germany.

The exultant enthusiasm for adventure, the assumed carelessness about death and the despair and degradation of the prison experience are all told in a rapid, breath-taking narrative. While the book does not deal with the Pacific Northwest, it will be of special interest to the readers of the *Quarterly* because of the author's association with this locality.

JOHN S. RICHARDS

---

*Broncho Charlie, a Saga of the Saddle.* By GLADYS SHAW ERSKINE. (New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Company, 1934. Pp. 316. \$3.00.)

This volume purports to give the true life story of Broncho Charlie Miller, the last of the pony express riders. The book is made up of stories told to the author by Broncho Charlie himself after he had passed his eightieth birthday. The stories are well told but this writer would not wish to vouch for the absolute veracity of the various yarns, or withhold credit from the author for making the most of the material.

---

*A List of Trading Vessels in the Maritime Fur Trade, 1820-1825.* By JUDGE F. W. HOWAY. (Ottawa: The Royal Society of Canada, 1934. Pp. 11-49).

This reprint from the *Transactions* of the Royal Society of Canada (Volume 28, 1934) represents the fifth and final installment of the Author's List of vessels in the maritime fur trade, 1785-1825. Students of Pacific Northwest History are under deep obligations to Judge Howay for the scholarly and sustained research that has brought to completion this basic study of the Northwest fur trade.

---

*Bonneville The Bold.* By WALTER MEACHAM. (Portland, Oregon: The Author, 1934. Pp. 47. \$0.50.)

Bonneville's adventures and explorations in the Old Oregon country are here retold to satisfy the interest aroused by the construction of the Bonneville Dam on the Columbia River.