

Acton library looseleaf



Back in the hungry and thirsty Thirties, Acton harbored a notorious entrepreneur nicknamed the King of the Bootleggers. This was the town's main claim to fame. None of its citizens since have ever exceeded the notoriety achieved by the canny moonshiner and his tribe, whose illegal stills were reported operating in all kinds of unlikely locations.

The King of the Bootleggers played the lead role in a variety of fascinating legends—some fearsome as well—which are comical when judged by the standards of today's permissive society. He was both bogie man and folk hero. His alleged exploits did much to enliven the humdrum existence of law-abiding Actonites.

Skimming through the library's newish Foxfire Book revived rather dim memories of the businessman who catered to the thirst of high and low—for a price. There's an educational chapter on how to moonshine, although the enterprise is not recommended. High school teacher Elliot Wigginton, the editor, ventured with some of his high school students into the Southern Appalachians.

Toting tape recorders and cameras, they documented a rapidly disappearing part of American culture. The book contains some of the most exciting material they unearthed. If you want to laugh while learning, this is the book for you. Besides moonshining, there is practical information on hog dressing, log cabin building, faith healing, snake lore, hunting and planting by the signs.

If illicit hooch is not your bag, how about improving your Oenology. Oenology means—as this writer discovered today—the knowledge and study of wine. Australia and New Zealand Complete Book of Wines is the title of a handsome big book recently presented to the library. Writer Len Evans who tells it on 528 pages is well qualified to deal with the subject. He is "an established professional wine consultant chairman of a syndicate of vignerons, restaurateur, a lecturer and broadcaster on wine and food, and Australia's most widely read wine writer."

Soon, one hopes, it will be dandelion time. For doring amateurs who toy with the idea of making their own wine, there are six books available on local shelves. They are: The Art of Making Wine, by Anderson, Stanley & Hull; Champagne is for Breakfast, by George Bain, former Globe and Mail columnist; The Simple Science of Wine and Beer Making, H. E. Bravery; Winemaking at Home, Homer Hardwick; The complete

Home Winemaker & Brewer, Bernard Turner; Six Books on Beer and Winemaking.

Unless Mother Nature is up to one of her weird tricks, it should already be spring in Cornwall, their busiest time for author and flower farmer Derek Tangye and his wife, Jeannie. Both ex-Londoners, Derek used to be in M15, while Jeannie was a press officer for the Savoy Hotel group. The couple forsook their sophisticated stressful London life, moved to Cornwall and began flower farming without any previous experience or knowledge. Inevitably they made mistakes, some of which are recounted in Cottage On A Cliff, described by one critic as "a literary pleasure."

Mr. Tangye evokes the atmosphere of Minack so lovingly and adroitly that the reader can almost smell the scents of Cornwall, can almost see fields of daffodils blowing in the wind. Besides cherishing the land, Derek and Jeannie are animal lovers, and the former tells of their pets in earlier books: A Gull on the Roof; A Drake At The Door; A Cat in the Window; A Donkey in the Meadow; Lama. The Tangye stories are guaranteed to make ex-Britons homesick.

"Oh to be in England, now that April's here!" Another sure formula for springtime nostalgia is to read In Britain. The current issue of this magazine has articles and pictures about Suffolk.

Librarians as well as readers feel lost sometimes in a welter of new writers about whom they know nothing until delving into their novels and thrillers. Therefore it's a pleasure to welcome a familiar author's new book. Elizabeth Ferrar's latest mystery is A Pretty Pink Shroud, and the newest Catherine Aird, also a thriller is Parling Breath. Ferrar and Aird are British writers, and no one can top the British in turning out very readable mysteries. For John Le Carré spy addicts, The Honourable Schoolboy is a must. Retund George Smiley is back again doing his thing as Acting Head of British Intelligence (The Circus).

Signs of spring at the library? Redwing blackbirds and grackles came back two weeks ago, to join ducks and squirrels around the squirrel trees (library feeding stations). For some reason the robins are later this year. So far only two fat library robins have been spotted by the staff.

The school creek is running free, and first to take advantage of the ice-free waters was a pair of mallards bobbing and ducking in courtship ritual. Even mud looks beautiful after a long winter of white stuff.



SOME 300 PUBLIC SCHOOL students from Acton and area participated in the annual Rotary Skate-a-thon on Sunday. Each student got pledges per lap. Half of the money raised will go to the Rotary Club, which in turn goes back into the town through various projects. The other half goes to the schools.

HRCA withholds payments

Halton Region Conservation Authority is withholding 15 per cent of its payment to Skyway Engineering for construction of a triple chairlift at Kelso because the lift wasn't completed in the time agreed.

Last fall HRCA contracted to pay Skyway \$165,000 provided construction was completed within 60 days. But the lift did not begin operation until March 11. Skyway claims delay in the delivery of parts for the lift made it impossible to complete construction in the time specified.

The authority is withholding payment of \$24,750 until its losses and liabilities have been assessed. Earlier the authority held back more than \$81,000, but all but the 15 per cent has been released.

Meanwhile, Glen Eden ski area at Kelso had brought in a profit of \$104,567 by the end of February. This amount exceeds last year's revenue for the same time period by almost \$65,000.

Vandals hit service stn.

A total of \$1,723 in damages was done by thieves and vandals to John's Texaco Station on Mill Street last week.

A patrolling policeman noticed entry had been made into the service station via the bay door. A truck camper was also damaged when suspects attempted to drive the vehicle through the bay door.

Police state \$23 in coin was also taken.

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