



MAYNARD FERGUSON



**Leisuretime
Book Reviews**

APPLE TREE LEAN DOWN
Mary B. Pearce. St. Martin's.
494 pages. \$10

"Apple Tree Lean Down" reflects a special talent that seemed so abundant once upon a time — the art of story-telling. This book is the kind English teachers once used as an example of what a good novel is all about — or should be.

It's an intertwined trilogy set in England during the beginning of this century and it can best be described by thinking of it in terms of "Gone With the Wind," or "A Tree Grows In Brooklyn." This book won't have the impact that "GWTW" or "Tree" did because it isn't in that class. But it has many similarities, the major one

being the over-all mood created for the reader from beginning to end.

Other similarities include the long time-period it spans and an intimate narration of the lives of the characters and their relationships with each other.

The first "book" of this novel concerns the growing-up of a headstrong young girl in the home and business of her paternal grandfather. She and her widowed mother had moved there upon the death of her father, who had been estranged from his father.

The second story is about a congenial, hard-working man who helps a spinster regain lost prestige by taking the lead in rebuilding a rundown farm into the quality producer it once was.

The third section centers around an "adopted" relative of the girl in the first book and his relationship with a daughter of the man in the third "book," thus drawing all the loose ends together.

The description of the plot might seem a little involved and dull. But that would be a false and unfortunate assumption. Many books today seem to stress a strong and unusual plot, apparently a technique for survival in the competition. But in this book, the craftsmanship of the writer is the strong point. "Apple Tree" is quite simply a gentle story told so lovingly and well that it becomes transformed into a personal gift from the author to the reader.

—DUDLEY LEHEW
Associated Press

A CHRISTMAS FEAST
James Charlton and
Barbara Gilson
Doubleday.
415 pages. \$7.95

Any book that promises a feast has a hard promise to fulfill, but this one does it admirably.

"A Christmas Feast" combines the wit of Ogden Nash with the classical style of Charles Dickens, the rustic poetry of Robert Frost with Laura Ingalls Wilder's childhood recollections.

A trip to the old west with Bret Harte and to far away lands with Hans Christian Anderson are other treats laid before the reader about to feast on this collection of Christmas tales and poems.

A kidnapped Santa Claus, a disillusioned fir tree, a dying match girl and a young couple who are so poor they only have gifts of love to give are the subjects of these favorite stories.

The collection is geared to the whole family, some stories for little ones, some for older children, some for teenagers and adults. There is something for everyone, such as any good feast should have.

—LINDA DuVAL
GT Staff Writer

Maynard Ferguson Conducts Local Band Clinic, Concert

Maynard Ferguson, a legendary name in jazz, and his band will conduct a clinic and appear in concert Nov. 20 at Doherty High School. School District 11's Department of Music Education is sponsoring the clinic and concert.

A native of Verdun, Quebec, Canada, Ferguson began his musical training at age four, and at nine he was enrolled in the French Conservatory of Music in Montreal.

His first training was on piano and violin. At the conservatory he studied saxophone, clarinet and trombone before settling on the trumpet as his principal instrument. He organized his first band when he was fifteen; the average age of band members was 30.

Ferguson came to the United States in 1948 and played with several of the big bands of the era, but it was with the Stan Kenton band that he first gained the attention of jazz audiences. He left Kenton in 1953 and after a stint with Para-

mount Pictures formed his first U.S. band.

When he felt audiences were no longer interested in the kind of music he was playing, he broke up the band in 1967 and went to England where he played with an all-star British band. With the help of a British musician, he formed a new band that toured Europe and recorded an album that achieved success in the U.S.

The reception of "M.F. Horn" convinced Ferguson that American public and especially the younger people listeners offered new audiences that were ready for his music and he returned to the U.S.

"I believe in change," Ferguson says. "I never try to recreate an image of yesterday. Everything we play is new. Even the few old standards we play have been rearranged to recreate a new today feeling."

The day-long program, Nov. 20, opens at 8 a.m. with competition among high school stage bands from District, the surrounding area and southern

Colorado. The bands will perform from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1-2 p.m. Awards will be presented to the two outstanding bands and the two outstanding soloists.

From 2:30 - 4:30 p.m., Ferguson and his band will conduct a clinic. The stage band competition and clinic are open to the public and the admission is \$1.

Performances by the two winning high school bands, starting at 7:15 p.m., will precede the 8 p.m. Ferguson concert. Tickets are \$3 in advance and \$4 at the door and are available from members of all five District 11 high school bands. The event is nonprofit.

Wilson to Solo

Knight News Service
Brian Wilson of the Beach Boys will perform solo Nov. 27 on TV's "Saturday Night Live." Another Beach Boys' member, Dennis Wilson, will star in a movie called "Pratt Rat."

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Brian Moore, the Ulster-horn writer, sets his latest novel, "The Doctor's Wife," in the sunshine of France, a refuge for Sheila Redden as she escapes from the bombs of Belfast and the dullness of a dead-ended marriage.

Moore is a skillful story teller, and "The Doctor's Wife" is compelling reading. It is a worthy successor to his first novel, "The Lonely Passion of Judith Hearne," but it does not quite equal the high standards set by that first extraordinary tale.

"Judith Hearne," published 21 years ago, was a story of lost opportunities. "The Doctor's Wife" is a story of opportunities taken.

Dr. Kevin Redden and his wife, Sheila, had planned a second honeymoon to the French Riviera, but Dr. Redden is delayed by war casualties, ailing colleagues and his own reluctance to visit a foreign country.

Mrs. Redden, 37, too attrac-

tive and too educated for her husband's comfort, goes on ahead to France. Alone on the French Riviera, she falls in love with an American 12 years younger than she. For the first time in her 16 years of marriage, she has an affair.

Finally, she must choose between making a new life for herself or returning to the old life with her 44-year-old husband and her 15-year old son.

Moore's characters are believable and likeable, people the reader cares about. As in "Judith Hearne," he is especially good in characterizing women. Few male novelists draw their female characters so well.

"The Doctor's Wife" blends pure, simple reading-for-pleasure with the nagging shadow of the continuing civil strife in Northern Ireland and the heavy symbolism of the struggle to find one's self-identity.

—EARLEEN FISHER TATRO
Associated Press

THE DOCTOR'S WIFE
Brian Moore. Farrar, Straus & Giroux.
277 pages. \$8.95