

my own experience. The Deseret Book Company has been most cooperative in handling my books with Iranian backgrounds, but in March when I enquired regarding the sale of my *Over the Mormon Trail* in an Ogden bookstore the head of the department told me that the book wasn't even listed on the Deseret Book Company's distribution list. This is a carefully researched book which was published in Chicago and which has been read by perhaps a hundred thousand boys and girls in school and public libraries throughout the United States and Canada.

Bookcraft and Deseret Book Company have certainly made a start in the right direction. Perhaps it is now up to the readers to applaud this start through support of these ventures.



## SHORT NOTICE

*Highlights in the Life of President David O. McKay.* By Jeanette M. Morrell. Salt Lake City, Utah: Deseret Book Co., 1966. xiv, 318 pp. \$4.95.

Readers often judge a book by what they expect or hope for rather than by the author's stated objective. The President's sister's objective was "to share with others some highlights in my brother's life as I have viewed it," and this book does just that. Anyone who expects a penetrating biography or a Carl Sandburg style evocation will be disappointed, though one day either would be a marvelous undertaking for a biographer. Instead Jeanette McKay Morrell has selected from the extensive and intensive life of an outstanding man a number of events and highlighted them, for the most part in chronological order.

Some readers may feel that the author's repeated expressions of praise were unnecessary inasmuch as merely recounting the life of President McKay is praise enough. But the book does make a fine contribution in gathering together key events in the life of the Prophet. Much of the material could have been found in the public press by the diligent sleuth but was not readily available for the general reader until now.

Some "highlights" for this reader:

—Quotes from President McKay's personal journals, demonstrating his mastery of the language. (It is known that the President has kept extensive journals, some of the contents of which, it is hoped, will one day be published.)

—A very touching letter from a grown man to his brother, recalling the intimate memories of two young boys growing up in a country home. A masterpiece!

—Chapters on his concern for little children and kindness to animals.

—“Every member a missionary”—an idea which waited long for its day. President McKay propounded it at least as early as 1923 while European Mission President in Great Britain.

—Interesting, generally unknown, personal details about his visit to the White House in 1964, including President Johnson’s comments on the food served at lunch.

—Insights into President McKay’s contributions to new Church practices. Example: “Suggested missions be visited more frequently by members of the Council of the Twelve, adding that, generally stakes were far better prepared to go without such official visits than were the missions.” A very interesting book could be written on President McKay as innovator.

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