

into a potpourri of seeming afterthoughts. I would like to see the authors write a follow-up article synthesizing their views on the overarching philosophical questions raised in the book: What is the Mormon

philosophy of education? Is BYU, as portrayed by the authors, an accurate embodiment of Mormon educational attitudes and philosophy? Are those attitudes and philosophy evolving? And should they?

## BRIEF NOTICES

*Mormons & Gentiles: A History of Salt Lake City* by Thomas G. Alexander and James B. Allen (Boulder, Colorado: Pruett Publishing Co., 1984), 360 pp.

NOT SINCE *The History of Salt Lake City and Its Founders* by Edward W. Tullidge, published in 1886, has a serious history of Utah's capital city appeared. While many areas of Utah history have received extensive study in recent years, Salt Lake City has been mainly bypassed.

BYU history professors Thomas G. Alexander and James B. Allen have attempted to remedy this situation with their new book *Mormons & Gentiles*, part of a series in Western urban history.

Chronologically, they trace the growth and development of the city, treating not only political, but also social, commercial, and cultural history. Based on city council minutes, newspaper accounts, oral histories, etc., the authors often shed light on unfamiliar aspects of the city's history. Particularly interesting are the chapters on the twentieth-century city.

The text is not annotated but each chapter contains a useful bibliography.

*Supporting Saints: Life Stories of Nineteenth-Century Mormons* edited with an introduction by Donald Q. Cannon and David J. Whittaker (Provo, Utah: Religious Studies Center, Brigham Young University, 1985), xvii, 412 pp., \$12.95.

SUPPORTING SAINTS adds another needed volume of information on the lives of early Utah Mormons. The volume has two purposes: (1) to show the diverse lives of early Utah pioneers and (2) to show that

persons who were not always in the limelight made important contributions. Authors and subjects were chosen to give a broad view of nineteenth-century Latter-day Saint experience.

Chapters include information on Rachel R. Grant, mother of Heber J. Grant; William Howells, the first LDS missionary to France; Andrew Jenson, LDS historian; Martha Cragun Cox, a schoolteacher; Truman O. Angell, architect of the Salt Lake Temple; Richard Ballantyne, who served a mission to India from 1849-1856; John Lyon, territorial librarian for sixteen years and a poet; Lucy Hannah White Flake, polygamous wife and early colonizer on the Arizona frontier; Elijah F. Sheets, who served as bishop for forty-eight years of the Salt Lake Eighth Ward; Edward Hunter, early Presiding Bishop of the LDS Church; Emmeline B. Wells, editor of the *Woman's Exponent* and early suffragist; Jacob Spori, an early missionary to Switzerland and educator; and Angus M. Cannon, who served as Salt Lake Stake president for twenty-eight years.

*The Book of Mormon: A Guide to Christian Living* by Lowell L. Bennion (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1985), vii, 130 pp., \$8.95.

BENNION, RETIRED DIRECTOR of the LDS Institute of Religion at the University of Utah, feels that "the Book of Mormon is not a textbook in any science, not even a historical account or a theological treatise, but a religious record of three migrations to the Western Hemisphere." He stresses that the Book of Mormon should be read for what it teaches about life.

This book emphasizes that rather than delving into mysteries—many of which will not be answered in this life—one should live basic, Christian principles. Discussed are such subjects as responding to suffering, serving others, withstanding temptation, obtaining joy, humility, and repentance.

*The Occult in America: New Historical Perspectives* edited by Howard Kerr and Charles L. Crow (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1983), 246 pp., \$16.95.

THE OCCULT IN AMERICA contains ten chapters which examine a wide range of subjects including witchcraft in seventeenth-century Andover, occult religion among eighteenth-century black slaves, nineteenth-century spiritualism, feminist perspectives on the occult, and "ultra-terrestrial" UFO theories.

The book includes a chapter entitled "The Occult Connection? Mormonism, Christian Science, and Spiritualism" by R. Laurence Moore. According to the author, "The aim of this essay is to provide an estimate of the appeal of occultism in nineteenth-century America by examining the permeation of magical and esoteric ideas into three religions that were launched during the nineteenth century: Mormonism, Christian Science, and spiritualism."

*Circle of Fire* by Herbert Harker (Salt Lake City, Utah: Bookcraft, 1985), 229 pp., \$9.95.

AWARDED THE Association for Mormon Letters 1985 prize for fiction, this novel paints a loving but unsparing portrait of the people in a little Canadian community called Lone Rock during the 1930s. There is something of an *Our Town* feeling to the fascination of ordinary lives touched by and remembering a great event. In this case, it is the fire that burned down Dan McHugh's house (and presumably his wife) coupled with Wally Doone's heroic efforts to plunge into the structure, and his subsequent institutionalization when he in-

sists on writing a letter to God and demanding an answer.

But the fire is more than literal. Yarn Taylor, who has made a career of shiftlessness, finds himself so touched by the innocent grace of his new-born daughter that he finds himself promising restitution—and meaning it—during the meeting where she is named and blessed. Woodrow Williams, possibly the man most genuinely seeking spirituality, finds himself shooting Dan's dog. Gentle Jake Ellis, who has always lived his life on the fringes, gives up a dream of joining the Church when a brief moment of shared passion with an Indian woman touches his life. This book is for everyone who has inherited any feeling for small-town life.

*Today, Tomorrow & Four Weeks from Tuesday*, by Carol Lynn Pearson (Salt Lake City, Utah: Bookcraft, 1983), 117 pp., \$5.95.

IN THIS IRRESISTIBLE coming-of-age story, Carrie flees to a kibbutz in Israel, partly because she has always wanted to and partly because Ted "is a Utah insurance salesman and I don't want to buy. I don't want to be signed, sealed, and delivered to anybody. . . . Marriage locks doors. Utah locks doors. I can breathe better out here. And I want to do something—heroic."

So she learns Hebrew, plucks chickens, fights a fire, picks oranges, thinks a lot about her Great-great-grandmother Sarah's handcart, comforts Hadassah when a girlfriend is killed in an accident with a grenade, reaches out in love to an impoverished Palestinian woman, and discovers when Jim approaches her that she doesn't want sex—even with love—without marriage and when Joseph offers her both love and marriage that her roots are too firmly embedded in Utah to consider transplanting to Israel. Meanwhile, stodgy Ted is writing poetry and reading *The Secret Life of Plants*.

So what can she do when Ted shows up on her twenty-first birthday with twenty-

one red roses and spreads out a picnic of pita sandwiches and 7-Up in a field of sunflowers?

*Latter-day Science Fiction 2* edited by Benjamin Urrutia (Ludlow, MA: Parables, 1985), 188 pp.

THIS IS THE SECOND COMPILATION by Urrutia for the LDS science fiction fan. The book includes an introduction by Hugh Nibley entitled "Science Fiction and the Gospel" in which he states that "the history of science itself is the foundation of Science Fiction" and that "Science Fiction uniformly describes life in worlds in which 'science' is king — meaning the scientist. In this kind of world is fulfilled the dream of the sophist, in which there is no room for any but one kind of thinking. This is the one world of John Dewey, which he carried to its logical conclusion."

The compilation contains approximately thirty short stories and several poems. It includes: "Joseph Smith's Dialogue with the Devil," "Stoaway" by Merle H. Graffam, "Heinlein and the Latter-day Saints," "More Extraterrestrials" by Peter C. Nadig, "The Children of Michael" by Scott S. Smith, "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood" by Jack Weyland, "The Conversion of Aurelian McGoggin" by Rudyard Kipling and "LDSF in Retrospect" by Scott S. Smith.

*Leverage Point* by Gerand N. Lund with Roger Hendrix (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1985), 288 pp., \$9.95.

THIS FAST-MOVING STORY takes Marc Jeppson, a rather bored professor of Arabic who is coping with life as the widowed father of two delightful little boys, and plunges him up to his neck in the high-tech, fast-moving, and morally ambiguous world of Alex Barclay, arms merchant, who expounds a persuasive power theory he calls leverage.

Though Marc is LDS, the closest the novel comes to dealing with a Mormon setting is a Cub Scout pinewood derby. Instead Marc shuttles between California, Colombia, Washington, and the Middle East, providing smooth entry to Arab princes. Drug deals, kidnappings, sophisticated snooping devices, the FBI, the Israeli secret service, and a few hit men enliven his trail.

He also has a few choices of his own. When an engineered heart attack forces the reins of Alex's empire into his hands, he has to decide whether to hold the deal together or blow the whistle on a would-be murderer. He also has to choose between being a success on Alex's terms or being a success as a father. And oh yes, he also has to choose between Jackie, Alex's high-powered secretary, and lovely Valerie, the young woman who cares for his sons.

Despite the improbability that Alex would have literally no organization beyond his secretary (that is, someone more eligible than Marc, an employee of a few weeks, to turn to), this book has a lot of exciting plusses going for it. The perfect escapism for your next vacation weekend.