

church and community affairs. Miss Caudill organized and managed the first book fair in her community. She was Co-founder of the Champaign-Urbana Peace Council and has for many years been active among groups searching for a peaceful solution of international problems. She, also, originated the Hospitality Program for international students at the University of Illinois, a program which has been widely copied on other university campuses of the country.

She has taught at writers' workshops and has spoken before librarians, teachers, and book fair audiences and on radio and T.V. in many states.

Her first book, **Barrie & Daughter** (1943), is based on her early life in the Kentucky mountains. This story depicts cooperative effort on the part of Peter Barrie and his daughter, Fern, in a mountain grocery store. They charge fair prices in protest against the high prices charged by the other merchant, Matt Scollard. Their fair dealings with the people force Matt to deal in a fair way with the people of the community, also. Politics and mountain feuds erupt from the background of this story.

This great story was followed by eleven other books. **Tree of Freedom** was published in 1949, which was runner-up for the Newberry Award and a New York Herald-Tribune Honor Book. This is a story of pioneer Kentucky. In this book we learn the method of homesteading, sense the spirit of family loyalty, and see the spirit of freedom manifested throughout the story. **The House of the Fibers**, published in 1954, also was a New York Herald-Tribune Honor Book. This story relates the experiences of a fifteen year old girl, Monica. Her father sends her to Western Kentucky to spend the summer. She finds life here to be far different from what it was in the city. Through her experiences with her relatives, she acquires a new set of values. This is one of the greatest stories that has been written for children in the twentieth century. **Susan Cornish** (1955) was given the Nancy Block Memorial Award in 1956 as the best juvenile book of the year dealing with intercultural relations. It has been published in French and German. This book, and **The Thread That Runs So True**, by Jesse Stuart should be read by every teacher in America.

She has published eight books, that are for children ten and under. They are: **Happy Little Family** (1947); **School-**

**house in the Woods** (1949); **Up and Down the River** (1951); **Saturday Cousins** (1953); **Time for Lissa** (1959); **Schoolroom in the Parlor** (1959); **Higgins and the Great Big Scare** (1960); and **The Best Loved Doll** (1962).

#### MARGARET COOPER GAY (1900-1957)

When Margaret Cooper Gay (Mrs. Frances Smulders) died at her home in Higganum, Conn. on September 9, 1957, Kentucky literature lost a writer of much promise. While Mrs. Smulders left Kentucky when still in her teens and never returned to live here permanently, she was a loyal Kentuckian and an able interpreter of the Commonwealth's best traditions. At the time of her death she was gathering material for a new historical novel on the pioneer women of Kentucky during the American Revolution. Had she lived, she might well have become one of the most distinguished interpreters of our state in fiction. Her one published full-length novel, **Hatchet in the Sky** (New York, Simon and Schuster, 1954) is not set in Kentucky, but throughout the book there are references which indicate clearly an ineradicable devotion on the part of the author to her native state.

Born in Mount Sterling on January 5, 1900, Margaret Cooper Gay was the only child of the late Stella Cooper (Gay) and Stonewall Gay. Perhaps the most significant influence in her early life was her maternal grandfather, John E. Cooper (1838-1907), circuit judge in Mount Sterling from 1883 to 1903. Margaret and her grandfather were very close; and, according to her uncle, Mr. J. Clay Cooper, of Mount Sterling, she learned many family stories from Judge Cooper and even more important, his love of reading. Judge Cooper was stern and uncompromising on the bench as he was warm-hearted and devoted in his family life. His father had moved from Culpepper County, Va., to Magoffin, County in the early nineteenth century, and here young John Cooper absorbed many pioneer traditions that survived in that eastern Kentucky community.<sup>1</sup> He served in the Con-

1 - An undated, unidentified article in the scrapbook of Mr. J. Clay Cooper, probably from a Mount Sterling newspaper around 1954 or 1955, quoted Mrs. Smulders as saying: "The first American Cooper, John, my great-great-great grandfather, was with Charlie at Culloden, escaped to America and raised the first crop of seed-corn ever harvested by a white man in Kentucky. He went back to Culpepper County, Va., and brought out his family, and Indians scalped and killed him. He was judge in Virginia, and his descendants in every generation have been judges in Kentucky." Mr. J. Clay Cooper states that he is not acquainted with this family tradition. In the same interview Mrs. Smulders said she was a descendant of John Rolfe and Pocahontas on the Gay side. The same statement appears in **Hatchet in the Sky**, p. 495-496.



federate Army and was wounded at Ivy Mountain. He attended Transylvania for two years and later read law in West Liberty.

While Margaret's early years were most strongly influenced by her grandfather, she enjoyed a healthy, normal childhood and had many friends. She attended Miss Pearl Prewitt's private school in Mount Sterling and was enrolled at Science Hill in Shelbyville in 1913-14. About this time she and her mother moved to New York, and her father died in Michigan in the same period. From 1916 to 1918 Margaret attended St. Walburg's Academy in New York, and here she concluded her formal education. Like her grandfather, however, she knew that the true university is a collection of books, and her lifelong reading habits were a solid foundation for her subsequent literary career.

As a young woman in Manhattan she operated a successful pet shop, a significant point in her literary biography, for she was to become one of the best known writers about cats in the 1940's. Indeed, one of the unforgettable characters in *Hatchet in the Sky*, is the widely traveled Puss, and her only other full-length book was the highly successful *How to Live with a Cat* (New York, Simon and Schuster, 1953). It is a delightful volume that is not only an encyclopedia of cat-lore and cat-care, but also a lovingly written book that will convert inveterate cat-haters. Well over 50,000 copies of the American and English editions of this book have been sold, and it is still in print.

It has not been possible to ascertain detailed biographical data about Mrs. Smulders during the twenties and thirties before she began to publish magazine articles regularly from her Connecticut home, where she settled with her Dutch-born husband, a graduate of the Technische Hochschule of Zurich. One of her first articles in a national magazine is a charming Christmas story, *Three Wise Men on a Raft*, *Collier's*, CXIV (December 9, 1944), 60, 62-64, the tale of three torpedoed American sailors on a raft in mid-Pacific and an oriental boy of seven or eight. The sailors didn't appreciate the lad especially, since they thought he was holding out on the food. Finally he gave his shipmates his package as a Christmas present. It contained no food, but it did have such convenient devices for shipwrecked sailors as a kite, Very lights, a rocket, and a radio. This story was later made into a radio play.

Mrs. Smulder's early literary production quite naturally put strong emphasis on cat literature. There were two articles in *Woman's Day*, *How Smart is a Cat?*, (XI-no.6, March, 1948 - 29 et seq). To *Coronet*, she contributed *Our Friendly Enemy, the Cat* (XXVII - December, 1949, 88-90), and in the *Reader's Digest* she published *Nobody Owns a Cat* (XLIX - (December 1946) - 23-6). For *Charm*, she wrote *Of Dogs and Cats and Birds and Fish* (LXXXIII - no. 1, September, 1950 - 151, 198). Her most successful single article was *\$100 Honeymoon*. *Collier's*, CXXV (June 3, 1950), 32 et seq. It was picked up and abridged by the *Reader's Digest* (LVII (September, 1950) 10-14), and was reprinted in all editions except the Japanese.

Most exciting of all her articles for Kentuckians were three contributions to *Gourmet*: *Christmas in Kentucky*, (IV (December 1944), 14-15, 76-79); *Breakfast in the Bluegrass* (V (February, 1945) 10 et seq.); and *Uncle Arch's Thanksgiving*, (V (November 1945), 12-13, 68, 70-1, 73). In these three charming essays, each of which richly deserves a place in the anthologies of Kentucky literature, she brings together all the best traditions of Central Kentucky manners and customs, eating and living that she learned from her grandfather and actually experienced in her childhood in Montgomery County. She manages to bring out all the latent color in the quiet life of country people in a never-to-be-retrieved pre-atomic, pre-automobile age. Here is the essence of Kentucky tradition, a tradition that is wholly different one from that of the carousing alligator-horse or the goat-tee'd, julep sipping colonel. He who never spent a family holiday in rural Kentucky knows naught of the sweetness of life. Margaret Cooper Gay Smulders and her wonderful old grandfather knew the sweetness of life by heart.

When *Hatchet in the Sky* was published Kentuckians quickly recognized Mrs. Smulders as one of their own. She was invited to speak at the 1954 Conference of the Kentucky Library Association, and she was recognized in the state press.<sup>1</sup> *Hatchet*, as she called her book for short, is a rousing adventure story of the period of the Conspiracy of Pontiac.

It is based on a tremendous amount of detailed research

1. Jan Howerton, "Miss Gay's Novel Called For Research and Rescue", *Courier-Journal*, 2, October, 1954 (with pictures). In Mr. J. Clay Cooper's scrapbook there is an earlier, undated clipping from the *Courier-Journal* entitled "Travel With Cats is No Trouble For This Author" with a picture of Mr. and Mrs. Smulders.



in some of the greatest libraries of America and is, if nothing else, a full justification for any librarian who collects rare Americana. At the same time, *Hatchet* reveals a high level of competence in the novelist's trade, a fine sense for realistic character portrayal, swiftly moving narrative, some truly distinguished nature descriptions, and easy, natural dialogue. Those who have read *Hatchet* can properly understand the loss to our state and national literature when Mrs. Smulders died. No other Kentucky novelist has ever been established so firmly in our literary traditions by the publication of a single work of fiction.

#### A. B. GUTHRIE, Jr. (1901- )

A. B. Guthrie, Jr., was born in Bedford, Indiana, on January 13, 1901, but after six months moved to Choteau, Montana, where he grew up. His father was first a high school principal and then a newspaper man and encouraged Guthrie in his interest in the West and in journalism. After a year at the University of Washington, Bud Guthrie transferred to the University of Montana and received his degree in 1923. After a few years, he joined the staff of the *Lexington Leader*, in Lexington, Kentucky, staying with them for 20 years to become executive editor. During this time his interest in writing fiction grew, and was fostered by Theodore Morrison, the author and teacher, when Guthrie won a Nieman Fellowship at Harvard in 1944. His first novel, *The Big Sky* (1947), was begun at Harvard and finished shortly afterwards, and Guthrie, encouraged by its reception, began free-lancing in 1947. Since 1947, in addition to three notable books, *The Way West* (1949); *These Thousand Hills* (1956); and *The Big It* (1960); he has written numerous short stories and magazine articles, also, he has taught at various writers' conferences. Mr. Guthrie, with his family, has for several years lived in Great Falls, Montana.

In addition to his short stories and novels, Mr. Guthrie has written motion picture scenarios, including the highly successful *Shane*.

Mr. Guthrie was awarded an honorary Literary Doctorate from the University of Montana in 1949 and also received the Pulitzer Prize for literature in 1950.

In his four major books, the West is portrayed to us in a very realistic manner. In the novel, *The Big Sky*, the old West of the early nineteenth century with fur trapping in the upper Mississippi River Country is made to live again. *The Way West* is a narrative describing a group of people following a wagon train from Independence, Missouri, to the Oregon territory. *These Thousand Hills* deals with the subject of cattle raising on the large ranches in Montana in the latter part of the nineteenth century. *The Big It* is a group of short stories of the West. This group of stories range from the beginning of the nineteenth century to about the middle of the twentieth century. In these stories the old West lives again with all its humor and excitement.

#### FRANCES OGILVIE (1902-1942)

Frances Ogilvie was born in Princeton, Caldwell County, Kentucky, on October 25, 1902. She attended the Princeton High School and also Hamilton College for Women at Lexington, Kentucky, of which she was a graduate.

Frances and Mr. Earle M. Nichols, an attorney of Madisonville, Kentucky, were married on January 20, 1937. Mrs. Frances (Ogilvie) Nichols died at her home in Madisonville on November 16, 1942. She began writing at a very early age, as she always had a very definite desire to write and always knew that she wanted to be a writer. She wrote a great number of short stories but only one was published. This story was published in *Cosmopolitan*, some three or four years before her death.

During the summer of 1939 she made a trip to Guatemala for the purpose of obtaining information and background for either a novel or several short stories on Guatemalan life. At that time her health was failing, and because of this fact, she was never able to write, either the novel or the short stories she intended.

Frances Ogilvie wrote several novels, but submitted only one to a publisher. This novel, entitled *Green Bondage*, was published in 1931. It is one in the series classified as *Night Rider stories*. The inspiration for this novel was the *Tobacco Wars* that were being fought in and around Princeton and