

that seagulls are lazy creatures in dire need of reform. Now, I don't know about "Middle America," but I have always liked seagulls just the way they are. They eat crickets. Where would Brigham and the Saints have been had the seagulls been converted earlier to clicking-off power-dives for fun and profit (no pun intended). No, I like gulls as they are, and if they don't sell as many cars that way, well, I can stand the loss.

Jonathan Livingston Seagull: make a point to miss it, unless an illiterate Rod McKuen (intentional redundancy) in feathers (not too difficult to imagine, really) is your idea of a good time.

Brief Notices

DAVIS BITTON

Frontier Tales: True Stories of Real People. By Juanita Brooks. Logan, Utah: Utah State University Press, 1972. Western Text Society Special Publication. 57 pp. \$2.00.

Juanita Brooks has long been known as a remarkable story teller. This thin volume contains eight of her stories, whose flavor is suggested by their titles: "Sam's Courtship"; "The Buckskin Pants"; "A Young Business Man on the Trail"; "Wabash, A Night In a DeLamar Saloon"; "A Strange Hiding Place"; "Mary Platte and the Molasses Barrel"; "The Joke was on the Town"; and "Griz."

Mormonism's Negro Policy: Social and Historical Origins. By Stephen G. Taggart. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1970. Second printing, paperback, 1972. 76 pp. \$2.50.

Already reviewed in *Dialogue* (winter, 1969), this small volume is now available in an attractive paperback format. The thesis is suggested by the conclusion: "To suggest that Negroes are under a divine curse, that a black skin is any less desirable than a white one, or that Negroes are in any way morally inferior is to accept and perpetuate the erroneous scriptural argument utilized by Southern fundamentalism. Its consequence also is to compromise the moral quality of Mormonism by accepting a substantial hindrance to the primary mission of the Church — the promulgation of Christ's gospel of love and brotherhood."

Profiles of the Presidents. By Emerson R. West. Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Company, 1972. 375 pp. \$5.95.

This book has no scholarly pretension yet offers several features that will undoubtedly make it popular among Church members. For each President of the Church from Joseph Smith to Harold B. Lee the author has compiled some pictures, personal experiences, a testimony, and selected quotations. For each of them also there is a brief profile and a chronological chart. As a thought-provoking addendum, Mr. West has added "Questions About the Presidents": which President was the tallest? Which traveled the most? Which had the most children? Which was born a British subject? etc. Answers are provided.

Faith Precedes the Miracle. By Spencer W. Kimball. Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Company, 1972. 364 pp. \$4.95.

The title page uses the phrase "based on discourses of Spencer W. Kimball," which indicates that these are not simply printed sermons. Elder Kimball draws on the sermons but "mold [s] them into a contemporary statement." Seldom are these sermons pedestrian; rather they are unusually well written, sensitive and memorable. Elder Kimball's son, Edward L. Kimball, provides an appreciation in the Preface.

L is for Indian: An Alphabet for Little Saints. Rhymed by Laurel Ulrich. Drawn by Dell Fox. Durham, N.H.: The Tree House Publishing Company, 1972. 52 pp. \$1.50.

A building fund project that should sell well as a gift item. The drawings and the verse are affectionately humorous. D is for Deacon. F is for Fast Day. I is for Iron Rod. K is for Kolob. And so on. The title comes from the following: L is for Indian./Now that isn't right./Good Mormon children/Can spell L. Copies may be ordered from the publisher at 3 Ryan Way, Durham, N.H. 03824.

To the Glory of God: Mormon Essays on Great Issues. Edited by Truman G. Madsen and Charles D. Tate, Jr. Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Company, 1972. 234 pp. \$4.95.

A *Festschrift* volume dedicated to B. West Belnap, late Dean of the College of Religious Instruction at Brigham Young University, the work contains twelve articles by Latter-day Saint scholars. As usual in such volumes the result is uneven. Contributors are Hugh W. Nibley, C. Terry Warner, Reed H. Bradford, Neal A. Maxwell, David H. Yarn, Jr., Truman G. Madsen, Chauncey C. Riddle, Robert K. Thomas, Leonard J. Arrington, Martin B. Hickman, Richard L. Anderson, and Monte S. Nyman. Especially interesting to *Dialogue* readers will be Nibley's "Brigham Young on the Environment," Arrington's "Centrifugal Tendencies in Mormon History," and Hickman's "Reciprocal Loyalty: The Administrative Imperative." Unfortunately the work is marred by typographical errors.

THE HERESIES WE SHOULD FEAR ARE
THOSE WHICH CAN BE CONFUSED
WITH ORTHODOXY.

— Jorge Louis Borges
