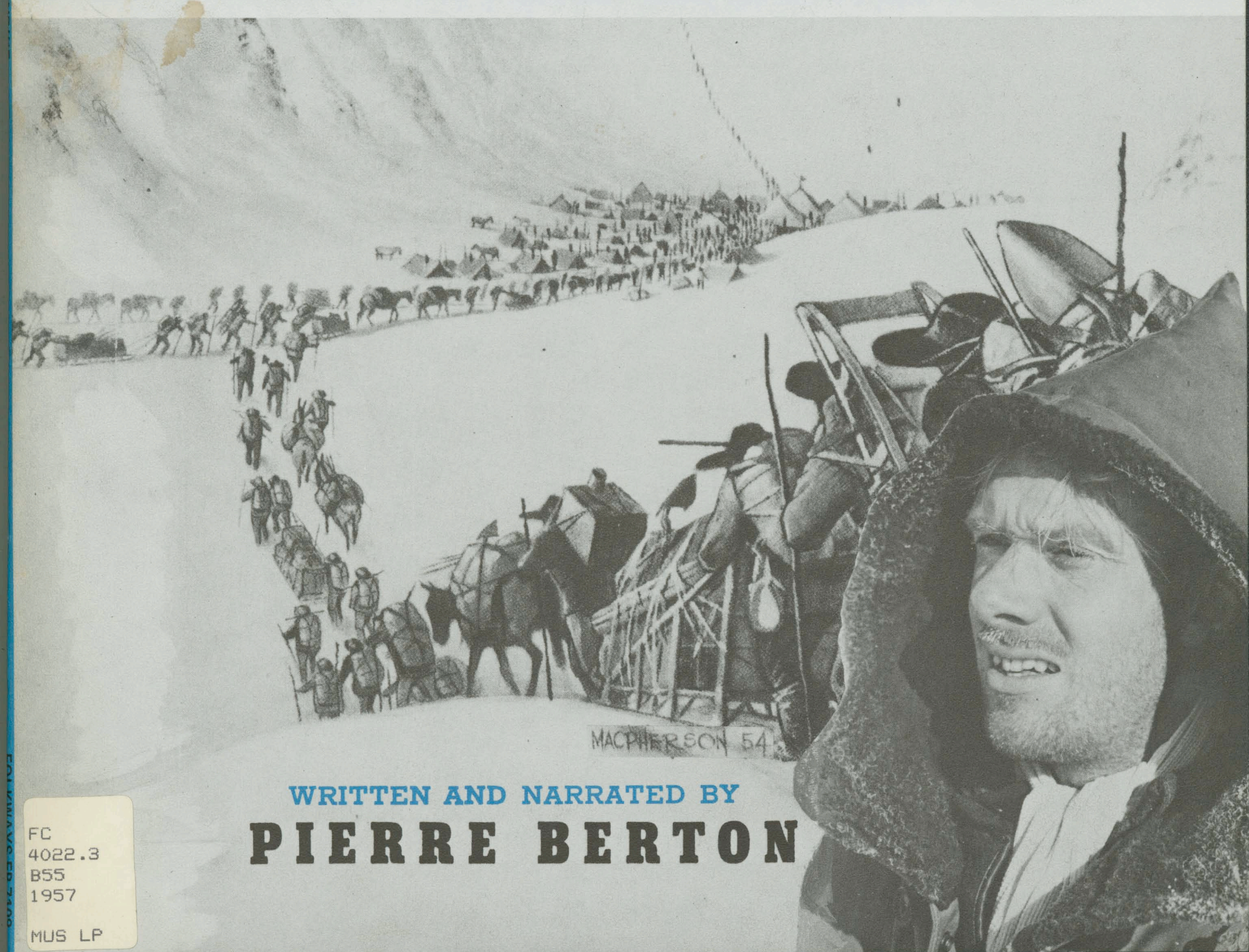


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THE STORY OF THE KLONDIKE

STAMPEDE FOR GOLD—THE GOLDEN TRAIL



WRITTEN AND NARRATED BY
PIERRE BERTON

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1957

MUS LP

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THE STORY OF THE KLONDIKE

INTRODUCTION
DESCRIPTION OF TERRITORY
DAWSON CITY
THE KLONDIKE VALLEY

Library of Congress Catalogue

Card No. R 59-131

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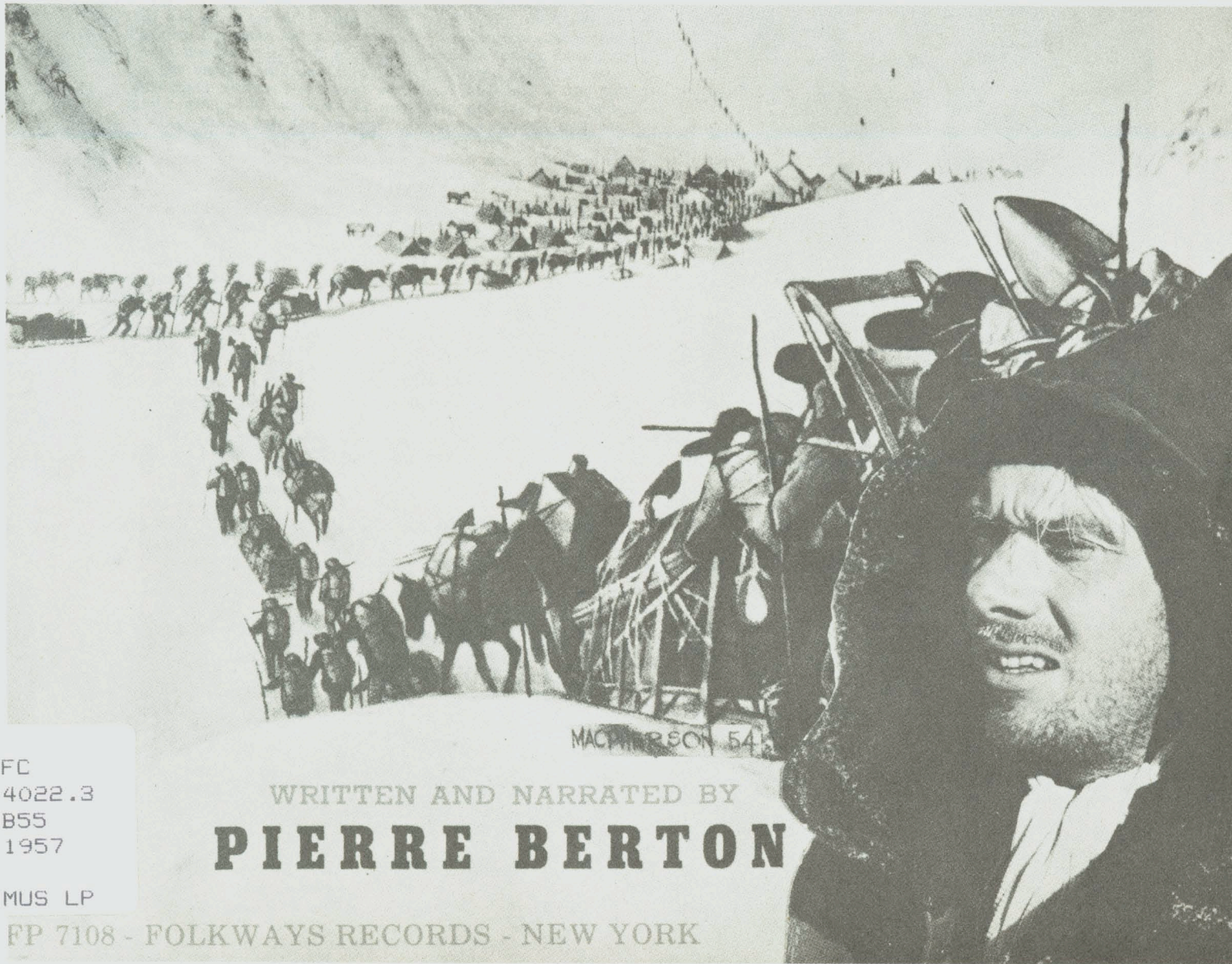
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MACPHERSON 54

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FP 7108 - FOLKWAYS RECORDS - NEW YORK



PHOTO BY KEN BELL

Mr. Berton was born in the Yukon and raised in the Klondike and on the accompanying record he tells personal stories about this colorful corner of North America--its lively history and its colorful present. He has been all through the north of Canada, from Baffin Island to the Alaska border and, as a construction gang laborer and member of a thawing crew for the Yukon Consolidated Gold Corporation, had plenty of opportunity to study the history of the region with which he was so intimately connected. His concentrated research on the goldrush period produced Stampede for Gold, a book for teen-age boys and girls. This illustrated volume tells all about the gold rush, the fabulous fortunes that were made and lost, the hardships and adventures on the trail and the strange and motley crew of men and women--all the way from Swiftwater Bill Gates to Soapy Smith--who made up the army of one hundred thousand stampedeers that swept north in 1897-98.

A newspaper writer since his boyhood, Mr. Berton was assigned by the Vancouver Sun in 1947, to seek out the legendary "Headless Valley" of the South Nahanni river, a supposedly tropical paradise in the Northwest Territories of Canada. After a 1500-mile trek in the worst cold spell in history, Mr. Berton's party reached their objective and the resulting newspaper series, front-paged all over the world, won a special award from the International News Service which called it "the greatest true-life adventure story since the war."

Mr. Berton is at present managing editor of Maclean's, Canada's National Magazine. He has written two other books, The Royal Family and The Mysterious North and is at present working on a long history of the Klondike. He makes his home in Toronto but continues to visit the northern parts of the continent regularly.

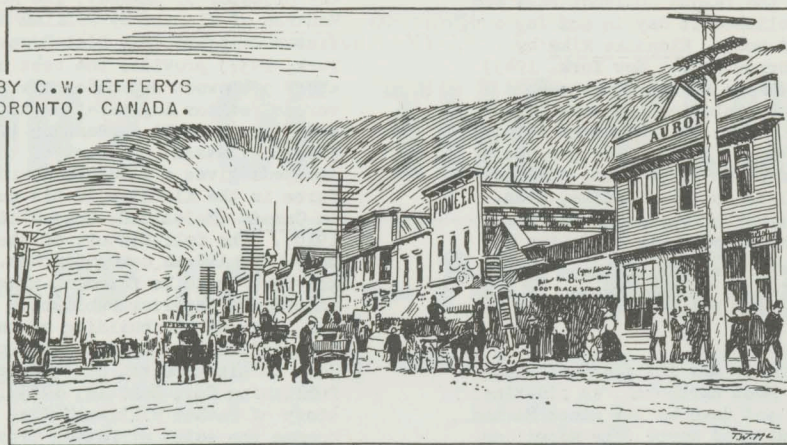
Stampede for Gold can be ordered from Alfred A. Knopf, New York City, (price \$3.00) or in Canada (as The Golden Trail) from The Macmillan Company, Toronto.

Pierre Berton, author of Stampede for Gold¹

¹published in Canada as The Golden Trail by The Macmillan Company comes by his knowledge of the Klondike gold rush naturally. In 1898 his father climbed the Chilkoot Pass with the rest of the stampedeers, built a raft on Lake Bennett, and floated down to Dawson City in search of gold.



PICTURE OF DAWSON CITY BY C.W. JEFFERYS
THE RYERSON PRESS - TORONTO, CANADA.



Front Street, Dawson, 1897

Those boys and girls who have listened to this record and read the author's account of the Klondike Gold Rush in STAMPEDE FOR GOLD may want to delve further into the fascinating history of the gold rush days. There are well over one hundred books available in the public libraries dealing with some aspect of the stampede, but the ones mentioned below have been selected because the author found them especially interesting.

Because the great stampede covered so much geographical area, there are only a very few books that deal with every aspect of it. One of the most interesting of these was written by a man who was there; Tappan Adney, the correspondent for Harper's Illustrated Weekly, who built his own boat and floated down the Yukon river in the fall of 1897. Adney however, did a great deal more than merely relate his own experiences; he collected all kinds of stories on the spot, and because he kept his eyes and ears open his book The Klondike Stampede of 1897-98, published by Harper's in 1900, is still one of the best on the subject.

A more recent book, which makes use of later sources as well as personal diaries, is Kathryn Winslow's Big Pan-Out (W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., New York 1951). It gives a good over-all account of the gold rush. Another recent book High Jinks on the Klondike by Richard O'Connor, (The Bobbs-Merrill Company Inc., New York, 1954) gives a lively account of the dance-hall period of the rush and tells some witty stories about many of the famous Klondike characters.

There are several books that give good accounts of the Yukon and Alaska in the days before the great stampede--when the Klondike was merely a salmon stream and the Yukon river was almost as remote from the world as the moon. Clarence L. Andrews' The Story of Alaska (The Caxton Printers Ltd., Caldwell, Idaho 1938) gives a good overall account, from the point of view of a historian and so does Old Yukon by the Hon. James Wickersham (Washington Law Book Co., Washington, D.C., 1938). Wickersham was a famous Alaskan judge and historian and he has collected many tales of the early days in this volume.

But most readers will find that the personal accounts of men on the spot make livelier reading. Don't miss Early Days on the Yukon by William Ogilvie (John Lane Company, New York 1913) for a first hand account of both the pre-gold rush days and the discovery itself. Ogilvie, a government surveyor, was there when it all happened. So was M.H.E. Hayne, a North West Mounted Policeman, who tells all about it in Pioneers of the Klondike (Sampson, Low, Marston & Co., London, 1897). Hayne was in the first group of Mounties to reach the Yukon. And William B. Haskell was mining on the Yukon river before the discovery of Klondike Gold. He is a first rate story teller and his lively book Two Years In The Klondike and Alaskan Goldfields (Hartford Publishing Co., Hartford, Conn. 1898) gives one of the best pictures of life before, during and immediately after the great strike. Another man who was there before George Cramack struck it rich was a dog driver and mail carrier named Arthur Treadwell Walden; his book A Dogpuncher On The Yukon (Louis Carrier & Co., Montreal, 1928) not only covers the pre-gold rush period but goes on to describe Walden's adventures on the Chilkoot and White Passes and on the frozen Yukon river during the great stampede. Because he had a fast team of huskies, Walden was everywhere and saw everything. Like most old-timers he tends to exaggerate a bit, but his stories make good reading.

There were many trails of '98--and each trail has its chronicler. There are two wonderful books by men who took the all-water route to the Yukon by way of the Bering Sea, and went through fantastic adventures as a result. The first is Cheechako Into Sourdough by Thomas Weidemann (Binsford & Mort, Portland, Oregon, 1942). Weidemann was just a youngster when he shipped north in 1897--in fact they called him "The Klondike Kid". He faced shipwreck, starvation, frozen exile and a host of other adventures before he finally reached the gold fields. The second book is Yukon Voyage by Walter R. Curtin (The Caxton Printers, 1938). Curtin was involved in the only mutiny on the Yukon river and his stories about Pat Galvin, the millionaire sourdough and his fabulous ship The Yukoner, have to be read to be believed.

There are many books about the famous Chilkoot Pass and the black line of men who climbed it day in and day out, like so many ants on a sand-heap. Klondike Mike by Merrill Denison (William Morrow & Co., New York, 1943) tells the story of one man, Mike Mahoney, who packed enormous loads over the pass including (it says here) a piano! My Seventy Years by Mrs. George Black, (Thomas Nelson and Sons, Ltd., New York, 1938) is the personal account of a remarkable woman who climbed the Chilkoot and spent the rest of her life in the Klondike, eventually becoming Canadian Member of Parliament for the Yukon district. Another good account is by Julius M. Price, an Englishman who went over the Chilkoot and told about this and later experiences in From Euston to the Klondike (Sampson, Low, Marston, 1898).

The neighboring White Pass also has its share of historians. The liveliest is Mont Harthorne, an old-timer whose salty prose has been set down by his niece Martha Ferguson McKeown in The Trail Led North (The Macmillan Company, New York, 1948). Two other good accounts which dealt not only with the White Pass trail but with later events in Dawson City are Twelve Months in the Klondike by Robert C. Kirk (William Heinemann, London, 1899) and Northern Lights to Fields of Gold by Stanley Searce (Caxton Printers, 1939), which also has a love story running through it.

The most harrowing of all the Klondike books is the tale of a group of men who tried to reach the goldfields by crossing the terrible Malaspina Glacier on the southern underbelly of Alaska. Most of them died in the attempt but one, Arthur Arnold Dietz, lived to tell the tale and his book Mad Rush for Gold in the Frozen North will make your hair stand on end.

Of the mass of books dealing with the various All-Canadian routes that led out of Edmonton, Alberta and over the mountains to the Klondike, there are three that are especially readable. Wild Horses and Gold by Elizabeth Page (Farrar & Rhinehart, New York, 1932) tells about a group of Wyoming cowboys who decided to drive a herd of horses to the Klondike. Some went by way of the Peace River country but others went all the way north down the great Mackenzie virtually to the Arctic before they struck over the Rat River divide and thence to Dawson in a great semi-circular journey. An even more exciting book is Angus Graham's The Golden Grindstone (Chatto & Windus, London, 1936) which tells of the adventures of a Montrealer named George Mitchell who tried to reach the Klondike by the Wind river divide and lived with wild Indians for a winter, suffering many hardships and adventures. Another intriguing story of privations along the Mackenzie and Rat River divide is Emily Craig Romig's personal memories A Pioneer Woman in Alaska (The Caxton Printers, 1948).

Most of these books end their story in the Klondike regions and give a colorful account of life in Dawson City in 1898 and 1899. Jeremiah Lynch's absorbing book Three Years in the Klondike (Edward Arnold, London, 1904) covers the whole of Dawson City's hey-day from 1898 to 1901, when the gold rush frenzy began to die down. And Two Women in the Klondike by Mary E. Hitchcock (G.P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1899) gives a detailed account of Dawson City at the very peak of the gold-rush from the rather special point of view of two wealthy lady tourists.

For those who'd like to know more about Soapy Smith,

the Dictator of Skagway, The Region of Soapy Smith, Monarch of Misrule by William Ross Collier and Edwin Victor Westgate (Sun Dial Press, Garden City, New York, 1937) provides the best single account. The story of Dawson's pioneer newspaper and its controversial editor Eugene Allen is told in The Klondike Nugget by Russell A. Bankson (The Caxton Printers, 1935). Samuel B. Steel, the boss of the Mounties, during the stampede gives a lively picture of the famous police force in the Klondike in his autobiography Forty Years in Canada (McClelland, Goodchild, Stewart Ltd., Toronto, 1918). The full history of the pioneer trading company, the Alaska Commercial Co., before, during and after the rush is to be found in Flag Over the North by L.D. Kitchener (Superior Publishing Company, Seattle, 1954). The story of the building of the famous White Pass Railroad is told by F.B. Whiting, the surgeon on the job, in his memoirs, Grit, Grief and Gold (Peacock Publishing Co., Seattle, 1933). And the very moving story of Father William Judge, the Jesuit priest who became the saint of Dawson City is recounted by his brother Charles, in An American Missionary (The Catholic Foreign Mission Society, Ossinings, New York, 1907).

For those who would like to follow the history of Dawson City and the fortunes of those who stayed behind in the years following the gold rush, the author recommends his mother's memoirs I Married the Klondike by Laura Beatrice Berton (Little Brown & Co., Boston, 1954) which chronicle the twenty five years following the Klondike stampede. An account of Dawson and the Klondike today is to be found in Pierre Berton's recently published The Mysterious North (Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1956).

Many of these books carry illustrations showing what the Klondike and the various stampede trails and boom towns looked like in the early days. The best photographic book on the subject is Ethel Anderson Becker's Klondike '98 (Binfords & Mort, Portland, Ore., 1949) which contains those amazing pictures taken and developed on the trail itself, by E.A. Hegg of Seattle.

Pierre Berton
Biographical Material for Folkway Records



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