HIGH RIVER, Alta. (CP)—W. O. (Bill) Mitchell, one of Canada's best-known authors, thinks a writer should live on his own back doorstep and write about things with which he is familiar.

Each night he wrote long,

toba Quarterly and Bill says the

He attended the University of

While at the university, Bill

Writer To Leave

That's why he lives in this, little Alberta town, 40 miles south In his third year at university, of Calgary.

'at the age of 18, Bill rode the Creator of "Jake and the Kid," rods and hitch-hiked to Montpopular CBC series, and author real where he boarded a Greek of numerous stories with a Prair- freighter and worked his pasie flavor, he works six to seven sage to Europe. On the trip he hours a day at writing. The rest visited England, France and of the 24 hours may find him Spain on a pay-as-you-go plan. doing a wide variety of things, from fishing to cutting meat. diary-fashion letters to

the home decy-freeze.

meat-saw with familiarity and to be a writer. ease. During his university days he worked weekends one term in intention of becoming a doctor, ing, extraordinarily kind and and stagecraft was unique. the fresh meats department of In his second year of pre-medi- delightfully gay. å large Winnipeg store.

in a varied and far-afield life ter cast. which has resulted in his becoming a versatile and successful ing as a writer, he went to Seathe has a wealth of personal ex-istory and play-writing. For perience to draw on for his stor- few years after that he did a

Bill Mitchell was born in Wey- of collecting story material. He burn, Sask., and lived there un-worked in classified advertising til 12 years of age. His mother in 1936 and later became a proand a brother still live there and gram arranger for a Calgary ra-Bill makes frequent visits to his dio station. home town.

At 12 years, Bill developed tu- Alberta in 1940-41 taking educa- idea. bercular wrist condition and his tion and for two years taught doctor recommended a warmer school. climate for the winter. Mrs. Mitchell took her son to Florida met and married Merna Hirtle. latter part of his life.' for the winter and returned to Now they have three children: spend the summers near Regina, Orm, 12; Hughle, 9, and Willa formal record of those years, Bill finished high school in Flor- Lyne, one year. ida and attended the University. The first Mitchell story was pressions of a complex and of Manitoba.

During the early years of his the day Bill and Merna were wrist trouble the future author married. Bill had been submitdeveloped what he terms his ting stories since 1933 and re- Bureau "sense perception, the first stock ceiving a consistent run of re-In trade of a writer." The sense jections. perception of what is going on While writing a feature, "Cow around one and the ability to Heaven," on beef shipment from stimulate the same feeling in the Alberta ranching country

"I used to walk down the long liked High River and decided it street and out of Weyburn on to was where he wanted to live. the unchanging and silent. In 1948, Bill went to Maclean's Business Bureau here has issued Prairie to spend hours there by Magazine in Toronto as fiction a booklet explaining the slang myself in winter and summer, editor remaining there three of fast-talking swindlers to help My first book, "Who Has Seen years. His first novel, "Who their prospective customers recthe Wind," was quite literally out Has Scen the Wind," was publognize them. tobiographical in many portions, lished in 1948 and led to his poI was that little boy out on the sition with Maclean's. Other than bureau, said they will always Prairie, listening, looking and that period, he has lived at High make a slip of the tongue and waiting on the Prairie vastness River. and mystery."

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### Peter Pan Creator Lovable, Baffling Says Biographer

Prince Rupert Daily News

This is another in a series of book reviews arranged for The Daily News Book Page and sponsored by the Book Review Club of the Prince Rupert Public library. It is hoped that the reviews of books from the library by various city residents and presented every week will help stimulate interest and encourage others to use the public library's fiction, non-fiction and reference facilities to a greater extent.

> PORTRAIT OF BARRIE By CYNTHIA ASQUITH (E. P. Dutton & Co. Inc. New York) Reviewed by FRANCES LARGE

Cynthia Asquith first met Sir James Barrie at a dinner party of The Age of Mackenzie his in 1918 and in her diary she wrote him as the "shy, sad, apparently King," holds copy of book One day recently he cut and mother. They were later pub- morose little Barrie." At a second meeting she found him droll packaged half a prime beef for lished in the University of Mani- at times, but he said she had no sense of ease with him.

Fate must have meant to; Bill Mitchell handles knife and publishing confirmed his desire bring these two together, for personality. He was a man who at a third dinner party. Barrie liked and enjoyed people. His

cine, his wrist trouble recurred "He put me on the best of The work was only one phase and for a while it was in a plas- terms with myself," the author

To round off his formal train-A few weeks later Cynthia Asquith became Barrie's "private, author. Now in his early 40s, the and took a course in short private secretary"—and began an association which was to last | until Barrie's death 20 years variety of things, mostly by way later

Those 20 years were difficult ones for Barric. He had been an intensely industrious as well as i a great creative writer, but at 57 he longed for "one engrossing |

("Mary Rose" and "The Boy David' were the only full length timentality blurs this intimate plays Barrie wrote during the

This book is a delightfully in-Barrie's moods were the exsold to Maclean's Magazine on sometimes baffling but lovable

# readers is what writing consists Bill got his first acquaintance of, he says. with the Highwood country. He FOR CUSTOMETS

CALGARY (P - The Better

any person versed in the "slang. uage" can recognize it and steer;

Included in the booklet are Government Post the words "alagazam" and "airdale." The first is the traditional OTTAWA, (UK10) - Nicholas greeting of confidence men, Monsarrat is resigning from while the second indicates the the United Kingdom Govern-| person to whom it is addressed ment Service with effect from is an "aristocrat" of the frater-

He will be succeeded as direc- If someone refers to a person h tor of the United Kingdom In- as a "sweet pea" or a "lily" it. formation Services in Canada by indicates he believes that per-Donald Kerr at present in son is a chump. An "addict" is a charge of the United Kingdom chump who gets taken once and a Information office in Toronto, keeps coming back for more.

Some of the phrases are in fairly common use in everyday speech. For instance, a "beef,"

and 'ballyhoo." A "capper" is a lure for fake 'auctions and a "clean deal' is a cash sale. A "doodlebug" is a non-scientific gadget for use in ' trying to locate minerals or oil.

When theres a "flyer" out for a "con" man it means there are warrants for his arrest in several communities at the same time. He might try to case the situation by "fitting the mitt" - bribing an official.

A confidence man needn't slook like a gorilla. He might be a "front with glims." That's a man who's well-dressed and apparently well-educated "making v the puch' with eyeglasses. A con man might deal in y green goods" -- counterfelt money-or he might be a "guanay" with a coment deal. A k swindler might be handling fake pearls if he talks about "oysterperries" but if he's selling penells he's a "timber pusher."

An operator with "smallpox" -Is a good one to say away from: as far as others are concerned, , since he is wanted. It doesn't matter if he's a member of the ' papie "parra" working willdo a few nikes of his home or in a corp search' gang of top operators travelling widely.

He had entered university with was at his best, infinitely amus- understanding of the theatre He tried his friends sorely, but

he was very dear to them and perhaps the best part of the book is the description of the summers at Stanway where his friends filled the old country. house to overflowing.

In the midst of them was Barrie . . . playing cricket, organiz. ing the endless games of "shuffles," wielding a lawn croquet mailet with deadly skill . . . at i his wittiest gayest, most en-

No man could have asked more of a loving biographer. No reader can complain that senand sympathetic "Portrait of



BERNARD OSTRY, co-author which came into news when OBC cancelled proposed TV panel discussion on it, CBC which said book just didn't merit a special program, was criticized in House of Commons for action.

EDITOR'S NOTE

While book reviews submitted lo The Daily News "Book Page" by members of the Prince Rupert Public Library "Book Review Club" are of extremely high standard . . . they ARE STILL TOO LONG.

We enjoy putting out a book page for you and many times are hard-pressed to find material of similar vein to keep it all "book page." Therefore toolong reviews make extra work. Thirty to 45 minutes are often spent whittling down a 500-word review to the required 300.

We repeat that 30'lines, each ten words long, make 300 words. Anyone wishing to use Daily News copy paper on which to write their reviews can have it by calling at the editorial rooms (upstairs). That too will make your job and ours easier.

If you write 450-word reviews, don't blame the editor if your review doesn't look, the same as when it left you, when it's chopped down to 300 words. It's your review and we'd prefer to run it exactly as you wrote it.

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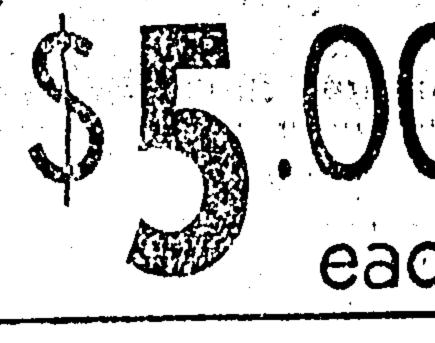
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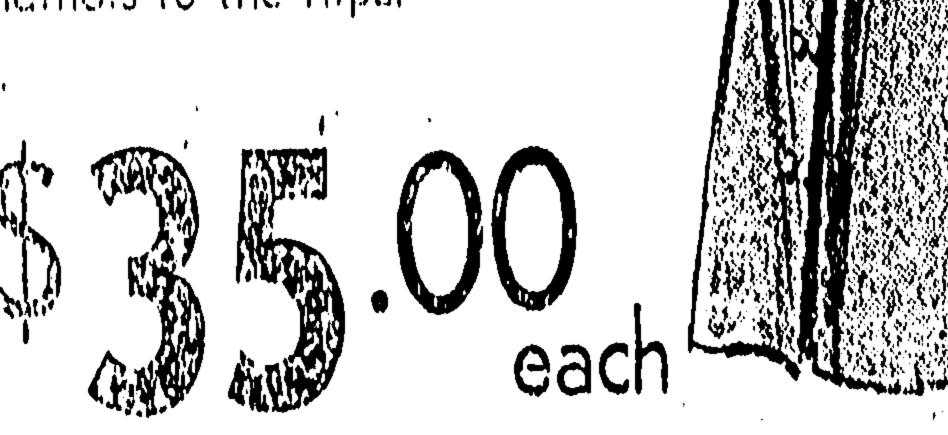
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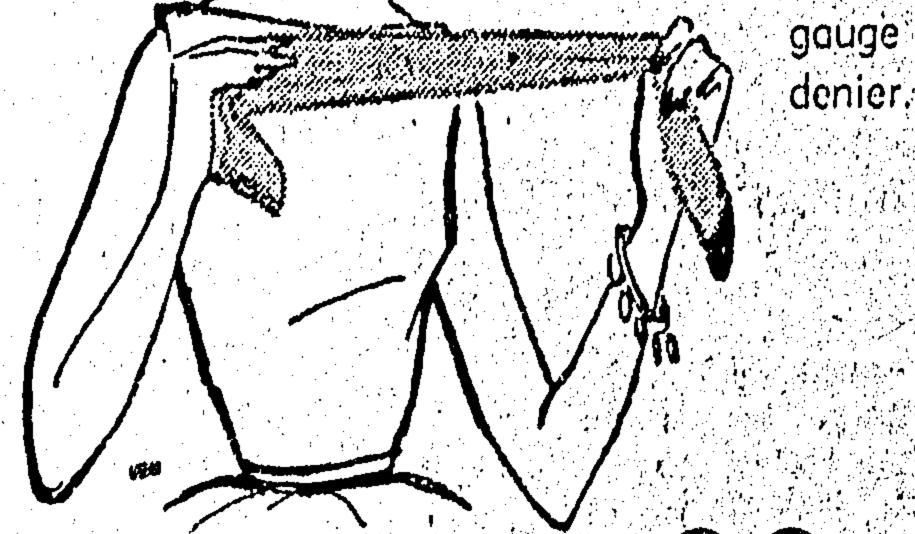
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