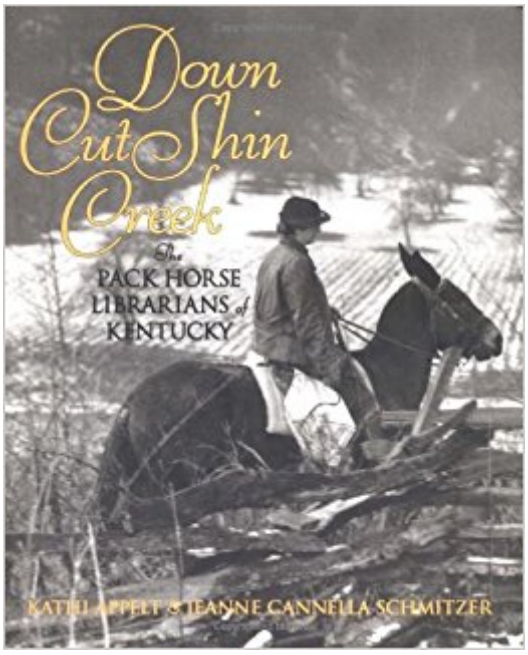
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Down Cut Shin Creek: The Pack Horse Librarians Of Kentucky



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Synopsis

It’s 4:30 in the morning, and the "book woman" and her horse are already on their way. Hers is an important job, for the folks along her treacherous route are eager for the tattered books and magazines she carries in her saddlebags.During the Great Depression, thousands lived on the brink of starvation. Many perished. In 1935 President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Works Progess Administration under his 1933 New Deal initiative. The WPA was designed to get people back on their feet. One of its most innovative programs was the Pack Horse Library Project of Eastern Kentucky.Thoroughly researched and illustrated with period photographs, this is the story of one of the WPA’s greatest successes. People all over the country supported the project’s goals. But it was the librarians themselves -- young, determined, and earning just $28 a month -- who brought the hope of a wider world to people in the crooks and hollows of Kentucky’s Cumberland Mountains.

Book Information

Age Range: 8 and up

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Customer Reviews

Grade 4-6-Imagine a cold, steep trip up a mountain path; it is icy and a light rain falls. A woman is riding an old horse and has a bag full of books to deliver. The families she stops to see are waiting for her, a one-room schoolhouse full of children greet her at the door. One woman walks nine miles to meet her and exchange her books and magazines. This is a day in the life of a pack-horse librarian. From 1935 to 1943, local Kentucky women were paid a meager salary as part of the WPA to do just this. Appelt and Schmitzer present an in-depth look at this unusual book-delivery system.

With clear, thorough information, they take readers back to Depression-era Appalachia. Details of the project, such as why local women were the best choice to deliver the books, how materials were obtained, and how the delivery circuit worked, are offered in a readable format. The authors capably describe the isolated and poverty-ridden lives of the Kentucky mountain folk. Generously illustrated with black-and-white photographs, this book paints a complete picture of one WPA project. Extensive source notes are included. Pair this fascinating title with Rosemary Wells's Mary on Horseback (Viking, 1999) for an intimate look at the Appalachian region during the Great Depression.Angela J. Reynolds, Washington County Cooperative Library Services, Aloha, OR
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Gr. 6-9. Unlike WPA programs that built roads, bridges, and other public projects across the country, the work of the Kentucky pack-horse librarians is practically unknown. These women and men rose before dawn and followed dangerous mountain trails to deliver books, magazines, pamphlets, and scrapbooks to the schools and homes of some of America's poorest people. Appelt and Schmitzer's slim but evocative account finally gives these early outreach librarians their due. The detailed text and accompanying photographs re-create a time of extreme hardship and explain how dedicated folks built a valuable service by pulling together resources from donations and discards. Although not a necessary purchase, this exploration of a forgotten bit of history will add dimension to regional collections and be of value to larger collections of works on the Great Depression. A rich, well-documented bibliography is appended. Randy MeyerCopyright Ã Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Intended as a child's book, DOWN CUT SHIN CREEK: The Pack Horse Librarians of Kentucky is filled with photos of the program established during the Depression of the 1930's. The story is significant in outlining the plight of ravished coal-mining communities in the rugged hills and valleys of eastern Kentucky. The story and photos will interest casual readers, historians and fiction writers for the human interest shown.I read Shin Creek in the company of a novel inspired by it: WONDERLAND CREEK by Lynn Austin. While the latter is a "Christian novel," it is not too strong on its "message." Well written by an experienced author, details and plotlines flourish around an unusual plot. Alice lives life through her books until she answers the muddy horse-back riding and difficult challenges of serving people eager for books, in need of help and worn down by the hard-times they experience.

Who would have guessed? This short book is very informative and I'm guessing very few adults today have any idea of what it took to keep information flowing in the early years of the past century. The determination of these people, mostly women, is admirable and almost extraordinarily unbelievable when compared to today's "easy" solutions. Readers who might want to read this book should also consider reading up on the Butterfield stage stories and the difficulty in passing mail and communications in the US until the highway system and air commerce was finally introduced.

Remembrance of depression era librarians.

This is a small book with good information and pics of the pack horse librarians of Kentucky. My sister in law loved it so much, she ordered her own copy. It is interesting to see how important these horse riding librarians were to the hill people of Kentucky.

I really enjoyed reading about the pack horse librarians. I heard about them in a novel, and had to read the whole story. I also reported on this book in my book club. They all loved it too. Everyone in America needs to know all about our history.

I drive bookmobiles in Colorado, so I am very interested in books about mobile library service. This is about getting materials to the outlying areas of Kentucky during the U.S. Depression. I should never complain again when my laptop service goes down.

Wonderful book with excellent historical pictures - love it - wish it was longer.

This is a lovely snapshot of a time of struggle in our nation - and the brave women who went above and beyond to give others the wonderful gift of reading.

Download to continue reading...

Down Cut Shin Creek: The Pack Horse Librarians of Kentucky Conducting the Reference Interview: A How-To-Do-It Manual for Librarians, Second Edition (How to Do It Manuals for Librarians) Specialty Cut Flowers: The Production of Annuals, Perennials, Bulbs, and Woody Plants for Fresh and Dried Cut Flowers Cut by Cut: Editing Your Film or Video Measure Twice, Cut Once: Simple Steps to Measure, Scale, Draw and Make the Perfect Cut-Every Time. (Popular Woodworking) The Cut Flower Patch: Grow your own cut flowers all year round Cards That Wow with Sizzix: Techniques and Ideas for Using Die-Cutting and Embossing Machines - Creative Ways to Cut, Fold,

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