Little Benders

"In the year 1789 . . . forty-seven determined Scots set out in a wagon train from the Carolina coast, intent upon finding highlands akin to their native Scotland. By some chance, when they were well into the southern Appalachians, they came across a deep gap, a high-walled narrow pass, and they went through to discover a tiny valley. There was no ready exit by wagon train and so they took this as a good omen. At least it was the only omen available; not one of these obstinate Scots would retrace his path. Without further ado or apparent thought to the matter, they broke soil, built cabins, erected a church and called their community Little Ben."

The Little Benders, in Joe Knox's collection of short stories of the same name (Lippincott, $3.00), are as hardy, self-sufficient and independent as their 18th century forebears. To Jonathan and his brother Pete, growing up in their North Carolina mountain village of a few scattered houses, a church, a school and a store, the world outside is a strange and improbable place, represented by such phenomena as the Sears, Roebuck catalog, a Wellesley graduate who comes to teach, and the occasional airplane that flies over the valley. But life in Little Ben is full of drama; of occasional tragedy and much lusty comedy; of poetic beauty and of sordid ugliness. The reader will long remember Miss Emma Grisby and her preoccupation with funerals, Mr. Sod Winters who attributes his great age to apple-cured tobacco; and the other men, women and children so lovingly portrayed here. This is not great writing, but the author knows his mountain people and his Scottish-Americans and he tells of them with humorous and affectionate understanding.

—Mary Cutler Hopkins
Public Affairs Librarian
University of North Carolina Library
Chapel Hill

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HELP WITH CAMPAIGN AGAINST JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

The Children's Bureau of the U. S. Office of Education has asked the cooperation of North Carolina libraries in a national campaign against juvenile delinquency. By obtaining, displaying, and making available books, pamphlets, magazine articles, and films and by aid to discussion groups the librarian can stimulate interest, understanding and activity in the community served. ALA and the Federal Security Agency are working on a new, selective bibliography of such materials; and ALA is preparing a leaflet that will offer suggestions to the librarian on how to use the materials and otherwise to help in the campaign. Any librarian may receive a bulletin called NEWS NOTES ON JUVENILE DELINQUENCY and the other material as issued by asking to be put on the mailing list. Address Dr. Martha M. Eliot, Chief, Children's Bureau, Federal Security Agency, Washington, D. C.

AUDIO-VISUAL WORKSHOP TO BE HELD PRIOR TO ALA SUMMER CONFERENCE

Librarians will be able to study the major problems and newest developments in the audio-visual field at a special workshop to be held in Los Angeles, June 19-21, for the three days preceding the American Library Association's Summer Conference there.

The workshop is being sponsored jointly by the library schools on the Berkeley campus of the University of California and at the University of Southern California, and by the American Library Association's Audio-Visual Board.

Persons interested in further details should write Irving Lieberman at the School of Librarianship, University of California, Berkeley 4, California.