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For Release

MY LIFE OF HIGH ADVENTURE by Grant H. Pearson with Philip Newill
Prentice-Hall, 272 pages, \$4.95
Publication Date: February 9, 1962

ADVENTURE ON AMERICA'S LAST FRONTIER

Northern Lights over the land of the Malemites -- Alaska and the wilderness that is home to Grant Pearson is the setting for tales of courage and endurance.

"MY LIFE OF HIGH ADVENTURE," published February 9 by Prentice-Hall, is the true life adventure story of Grant Pearson, one of Alaska's best-known 20th Century pioneers. Philip Newill, author, outdoorsman, and advertising writer collaborated in the preparation of this book.

Grant Pearson went to Alaska in 1925 to find the life he'd dreamed about as a Michigan farm boy. Thirty-five years in Alaska, he served twenty-five in the national park service as Ranger, Chief Ranger and Superintendent of Mt. McKinley National Park. As a member of the famous 1932 Lindley-Liek expedition, he was in the second party ever to reach the top of Mt. McKinley and the first ever to scale both its twin peaks.

As he recounts his pioneering days in Alaska, Pearson tells how he learned to live with Mother Nature and sometimes even outsmarted her. Pearson, as a ranger, often lived alone for weeks at a time in isolated stations. He learned how to build a log cabin and tells how it's done, from clearing the ground to opening the front door-- with a saw.

Pearson's "neighbors" in the wilderness introduced him to a deepfreeze that long preceded Clarence Birdseye. A tunnel into permanently frozen ground proved to be an efficient freezer for pies, meats and vegetables. Winter water supplies were stacked in the form of ice cakes outside the door.

(More)

The lessons recounted in MY LIFE OF HIGH ADVENTURE are many: hike over deep snow at night, when the top has been encrusted by the cold; rub frostbite with bare hands, not with snow; there is little danger of permanent injury from snow blindness.

These, and others, were preliminary lessons. The big one came with the scaling of McKinley, when Pearson learned that "a mountain is never climbed until you are safely down it."

A mountain sets ingenious traps... Unless you back down, a steep slope is more dangerous going down than going up." Pearson learned these lessons the hard way when, while descending McKinley, he nearly plunged to his death and was trapped in a crevasse until he could be pulled to safety.

All the risks were worth it, even though the 23-day upward struggle had put him on top of North America for a mere 30 minutes.

"When you finally get to the top," he writes in MY LIFE OF HIGH ADVENTURE, "there's a special sense of elation and excitement, a fine, free feeling that you, and your companions, standing there with you, are the most important people in the world."

And then there's that surge of loneliness.

". . .I wandered away from the rest. . .I wanted to be alone for part of those 30 minutes, to savor them -- 30 minutes of triumph after years of dreaming that began when I was a boy sitting on a stump in Michigan reading exciting tales of Alaska."

Grant Pearson is now a member of the Alaskan legislature, representing the district that includes the park, his stamping grounds for 35 years of high adventure. When he's not at a legislative session in Juneau, he lives in Nenana, Alaska.

Philip Newill has written many articles on outdoor experiences in the West and Alaska, for national publications including Holiday Magazine and the Saturday Evening Post. He lives and works in New York City.

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Phone: Windsor 7-1000; from New York: BRyant 9-8000

From: Nick D'Incecco, Publicity Director
Jim Byrne, Assistant

Title: "TOUGH MEN, TOUGH COUNTRY"

Author: Ellis Lucia
Prentice-Hall 352 pages \$6.95
Publication Date: October 10, 1963

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FOR RELEASE UPON RECEIPT

TRUE STORIES OF RUGGED PACIFIC NORTHWEST TOLD IN NEW BOOK...

"The Pacific Northwest is excitement and adventure, laced with danger and the sheer grandeur of the landscape. It has developed a hardy breed of men who have conquered the country and now help to maintain it," writes Ellis Lucia in "Tough Men, Tough Country," a new book to be published by Prentice-Hall on October 10th.

Lucia, a Portland, Oregon free lance writer and newspaperman, notes that "these elements also cause the average Northwesterner to carry on a great love affair with his homeland." Such a love affair, that of Lucia's, is displayed in "Tough Men, Tough Country."

Tracing the development of this rugged land, Lucia relates the adventures of the courageous men who formed the frontier, of the outlaws who followed and the vigilantes who meted out their own brand of punishment, and of the men who today fight a continuing battle against the ravaging elements of the Pacific Northwest.

In one of Lucia's stories, that of the totally disasterous expedition of John Jacob Astor's trading ship, the Tonquin, the Pacific Northwest is shown at its destructive best. Battered by coastal storms, short on drinking water, and under the leadership of a ruthless sea captain, the expedition met annihilation at the hands of a savage Oregon Indian tribe.

Others were to follow, undaunted by the terrifying story of the Tonquin's fate. Among these was Sam Barlow, rated highly by Lucia in both bravery and business sense. It was Sam, who was responsible for the completion of the Oregon Trail. By forging a "road" over the Cascade Mountains, Sam opened the trail west to Oregon.

His reputation as an uncanny businessman results from the fact that he then made his "road" subject to tolls. Delighted pioneers flocked his way because as Lucia states, his rates "were cheaper than river fees and the emigrants believed they had a bargain - until they made the trip." (It seems that Sam's idea of a road was little more than a footpath in some places).

In the late 1800's, gold fever hit the Pacific Northwest. With the influx of the gold miners, Lucia states in "Tough Men, Tough Country," "renegades headed north by the thousands to hold up banks and stagecoaches, lift the miner's pokes, pilfer the river cargoes, and resume a free-wheeling way of life." Their head-long rush to the "gold country" was met with resistance from a group of vigilantes, who settled their differences with the outlaws at the end of a rope thrown over the nearest tree limb or saloon rafter. Soon after, the well-worn ropes outnumbered the men, and once again an uneasy peace was in force in the Northwest.

Ellis Lucia brings his love-affair with the Pacific Northwest to a close with his recollections of the "Big Blow of '62," the disastrous Columbus Day storm that "created havoc and loss of life over a thousand miles, and destroyed for days and even weeks the routine functions of modern living." The author indicates that it was a tribute to their heritage, that "the people of the Northwest withstood this test, in what became a rugged adventure for all, when everyone was suddenly his own best hero."

Other stories in "Tough Men, Tough Country" tell of the swimmer who wouldn't quit until he had conquered the torturous Straits of Juan de Fuca, of the heroic helicopter pilot who plucked 15 men from their submerged and battered vessel, of the men who battle snow and slides to keep the railroads running, and of many other Pacific Northwest men of courage.

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Ellis Lucia, newspaperman, publicist, photographer and freelance writer, lives in Portland, Oregon. He frequently contributes articles on the Pacific Northwest to leading national publications. He is the author of two previous books, THE SAGA OF BEN HOLLADAY and KLONDIKE KATE.