

'Don't judge a book by its cover' takes on new meaning

I recently read an article written on the topic of de-selecting books in the library.

In the article, the author pointed out that it is very easy to want to remove the old, grimy books from the shelves and leave the new, shiny books that are in perfect condition. In reality however, the more mucky the book, the more it is being.

With this thought in mind, I went around the library and looked for some of the grimmest books on the library shelves. Try one; it might just be the best book you've ever read.

Mucky Book #1 — apply latex gloves before reading. *Kids Sure Rite Funny* by Art Linkletter. If you remember Art, you will remember the way in which he related to kids. In this book, Art publishes a collection of funny quotes that kids have written in school. For example, "Protons are found mainly in meat and electricity."



Jeff Friesen

• Library Link

Mucky Book #2 — looks like someone kicked this book down the street. *A Woman of Substance* by Barbara Taylor Bradford.

Emma Harte Lowther Ainsley is one of the richest and most powerful women in the world. She was impoverished at birth but overcame her setbacks to become extremely rich. What she lacks however, is something that can't be bought with money: happiness.

Mucky Book #3 — looks like someone was practicing sorcery on this book. *Dragonflight* by Anne McCaffrey. Anne is one of the most

recognizable names in the fantasy genre. Planet Pern is in danger of being destroyed by the deadly silver Threads.

Threads kill everything they touch when they fall to the ground. Only a dwindling number of dragons and a girl named Lessa have the power to stop them.

Mucky Book #4 — wear a respirator. *The Sacketts* by Louis L'Amour. This three-in-one novel is one of the most popular series written by Louis. The Sackett Family is clannish, tough, honest, and always in the thick of trouble. If you are a

fan of the Western genre or like to dabble in different genres, this book is a must-read.

Mucky Book #5 — been there done that. *Miss Maggie and the Doctor* by Una Troy.

This story is set in the seaside Irish village of Ballybeg. Bill Drummond has recently moved into Ballybeg from London to take over the practice of the late Dr. Peters. Attempting to adjust to his new surroundings, Dr. Drummond finds the answer in Miss Maggie. The quirky plot leads the reader through the dynamics of the many different (and zany) characters that live in Ballybeg.

Mucky Book #6 — time for a new cover. *Cheaper by the Dozen* by Frank Gilbreth. If you haven't read the book or seen the movie, pity on you. This is a very true and entertaining book about a family with 12 kids.

I'm sure the author Mr. Gilbreth

didn't have to think too hard to find a plot in a story about raising 12 kids.

Extremely Mucky Book #7 — a sickly yellow color. (was that the original color?) *Reader's Digest: Complete Do-it-yourself Manual*. If you need help with any routine house maintenance, this appears to be the book of choice. This book is very thorough and comprehensive. Fortunately, all muckiness is lim-

ited to a little bit of elbow grease.

The point of this article is, when you come to the library this week; don't judge a book by its cover.

Pioneer Memorial Library is located at 375 W. 4th St. and open seven days a week. Summer hours are as follows: Monday through Wednesday, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Thursday, 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Book chronicles Lawrence lynching of three black men

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) — On the night of June 10, 1882, a mob of angry white men forced their way into the Douglas County Jail, dragged three black men out of their cells and marched them down to the Kansas River bridge.

In a matter of minutes all three were dead, swinging from the ropes below the bridge.

The lynching took place in Lawrence only 20 years after Quantrill's pro-slavery raiders had sacked the city during the Civil War, and 123 years before the U.S. Senate issued an apology for failing to pass lynching laws. The incident also represents a dark piece of Lawrence history that few people today know about and which has received little publicity since. Two twin sisters, Cindy Schott and Kathy Schott Gates, found that out while researching and writing their book about the lynching, "Boys, Let Me Down Easy."

"At first, I was surprised," Kathy Schott Gates said. "When I thought about it more, however, I was not surprised."

A liberal town like Lawrence, founded as a stronghold against slavery, does not like something like this in their past."

The sisters began working on the book in 1982 after they heard about the lynching from their uncle, George Kaull. Cindy Schott, who

now lives in Belton, Mo., had planned to write a book about the colorful characters and events that made up life along the Kaw, or Kansas River. She considered her uncle, a longtime river fisherman, one of those characters.

But Kaull, now dead, suggested another story. "He said, 'Why don't you write about poor old man Vinegar,'" Cindy Schott said.

The incident that led up to the lynching involved prostitution, robbery and murder. Pete Vinegar was not involved in any of that, but he was in the wrong place at the wrong time. Vinegar and his family had a bad reputation around Lawrence. They were dirt poor. His wife, Eliza, died at a young age, leaving her husband with seven children. The children often walked about town begging businesses and individuals for money, food and clothes. Sometimes they resorted to stealing.

Vinegar's daughter, 14-year-old Margaret "Sis" Vinegar, was a prostitute. One of her clients was David Bausman, a rich white farmer from the southern Douglas County area of Globe. On the night of June 1,

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1882, Sis Vinegar met Bausman to do some business under the Kaw River bridge. Waiting in the darkness were two black men, Isaac "Ike" King and George Robertson, who had conspired with Sis Vinegar to rob Bausman. Armed with a metal bar, hammer and stick, they attacked Bausman and beat him to death. Sis Vinegar would maintain that she had pleaded for the men not to kill Bausman.

Bausman's body was pulled out of the river on June 5, 1882. An investigation by Sheriff Henry B. Asher led to the Vinegars, King and Robertson. It turned out that Robertson had bragged about what was going to happen with Bausman to four youths ranging in age from 12 to 17. Those youths also were hidden in the darkness the night of

the murder and saw it take place.

King and Robertson were apprehended after a massive county manhunt and taken to jail. Also taken to jail were Sis Vinegar and Pete Vinegar. They remained in jail following a coroner's inquest and a preliminary court hearing, even though there was nothing to indicate Pete Vinegar had been involved.

"I think the town was just fed up with Pete Vinegar and his family," Cindy Schott said. "They thought it was an opportunity to get rid of him, too." The last to be hanged was King, saying "Boys, let me down easy." They did, and he died slowly, strangling to death. No one was prosecuted for the lynching. Pete Vinegar was buried in a "paupers field" area at Oak Hill Cemetery, Cindy Schott said.

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