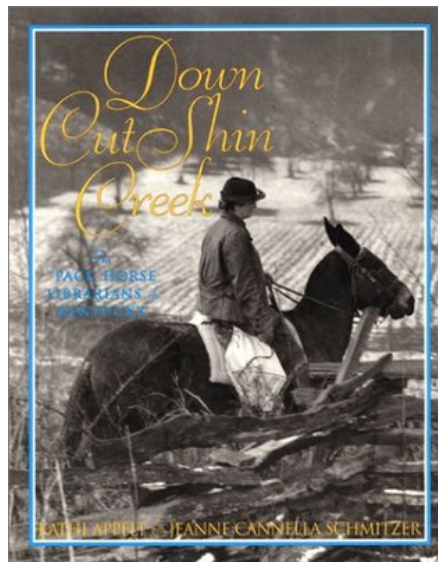




Down Cut Shin Creek: The Pack Horse Librarians of Kentucky

Kathi Appelt , Jeanne Cannella Schmitzer

Download now

Read Online ➔

Down Cut Shin Creek: The Pack Horse Librarians of Kentucky

Kathi Appelt , Jeanne Cannella Schmitzer

Down Cut Shin Creek: The Pack Horse Librarians of Kentucky Kathi Appelt , Jeanne Cannella Schmitzer

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 Progress 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.

Down Cut Shin Creek: The Pack Horse Librarians of Kentucky Details

Date : Published April 24th 2001 by HarperCollins

ISBN : 9780060291358

Author : Kathi Appelt , Jeanne Cannella Schmitzer

Format : Hardcover 64 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, History, Childrens, Juvenile, Writing, Books About Books, North American Hi..., American History

 [Download Down Cut Shin Creek: The Pack Horse Librarians of Kentu ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Down Cut Shin Creek: The Pack Horse Librarians of Ken ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Down Cut Shin Creek: The Pack Horse Librarians of Kentucky
Kathi Appelt , Jeanne Cannella Schmitzer

From Reader Review Down Cut Shin Creek: The Pack Horse Librarians of Kentucky for online ebook

Abby Johnson says

This photo-filled book will appeal to any lover of books. The pack horse librarians are truly inspiring with their dedication to improving the lives of people in their community. I certainly take my wonderful library for granted. When I do an outreach program, it entails getting into my car, driving to a school or preschool and bringing a bag of books from our abundant collection. These librarians who rode and walked 20 miles to bring a meager selection of tattered books to a one-room schoolhouse... well, they're an inspiration.

This should be required reading for all librarians and anyone who loves their library.

Read more on my blog:

<http://abbylibrarian.blogspot.com/200...>

Kaya says

Something about this book left me proud to be a woman, an educator, a horsewoman, a mountain person, and a citizen of a country with enough vision to implement a program like this. I confess, history is not a big passion of mine, but this book hooked me, and therefore I'm confident it will hook my students too.

Tirzah says

This 58-page book is full of interesting facts and photographs about the lesser-known Pack Horse Librarians, who carried books to those living in the Kentucky mountains during the Great Depression. Reading this certainly puts things in perspective and it's interesting to contrast American poverty in the 1930s to American poverty nowadays. I highly recommend to teachers, parents, and librarians to introduce this historical book to their children as it will teach them about the difficulties the Depression produced and how determined, brave people overcame some of the difficulties through serving and helping others.

Beth says

A children's book -- but very good nonetheless. 4 stars only because I wanted more detail about the project, which I'd probably find in an adult book. It was a hard job being a pack horse librarian, traveling in all types of weather for many hours a day, but the rewards were great -- putting books and information in the hands of people of all ages, even if you couldn't read (some couldn't -- and either had someone read to them or asked for picture books). Homes were in portions of Kentucky that were mostly impassable except by foot or horse. This is a time before electricity was available in many parts of Kentucky, so entertainment options were few, Books filled that purpose.

Debra says

A 55-page look at how the WPA program of the Pack Horse Librarians of Kentucky was envisioned by Eleanor Roosevelt and implemented to provide women in remote areas with work during the Depression and a way to "feed people's minds". Wonderful photographs on almost every page make the text come alive. Most of the book is based on the interview of Grace Caudill Lucas, a former pack horse librarian, who shared her story with the author in the fall of 1999. The authors make the story of these intrepid women who rode long miles several times a week into remote areas with steep hills and deep hollows to deliver books to families that had no access to the written word come alive. These riders had to overcome the natural suspicion of these remote families who were very protective of what ideas these books and pamphlets might be putting into their children's minds as well as cope with the difficulties of the trail and the excesses of the weather.

The other amazing side story was how the books were gathered to start and continue this project plus the loving care and repair that enabled the project to continue. In all, a most interesting sidelight into a lesser known aspect of the time, place and effect of the WPA.

Karen says

This book really makes you appreciate how easy we can obtain library books now..krb 3/26/16

Luann says

I've wanted to read this ever since I read That Book Woman, so I was happy to come across it on the shelves at my new library. What a great book! The text is straightforward and simply written with wonderful photographs spread throughout.

The pack horse librarians of Kentucky were a hardy group of women! I wonder what they would think about the problems libraries are facing now? Although seeing the hardships they faced really helps to put some perspective for me on the tough times we face today. I don't have the budget I would like for new books, but I can check out multiple books to every student and still have full shelves. And I don't have to ride a horse through freezing rain to get those books to my patrons. Every librarian or fan of libraries should read this book!

Devin says

WPA stamps are out by the USPS. I bought some because I liked how they looked, but it wasn't until reading this book that I learned that WPA stood for Work Projects Administration. It was created by FDR in 1935 to "put people to work" and "to promote social and cultural awareness with art, theater, and literature." As a result, pack horse librarians were hired to take books to people living in the eastern Kentucky mountains, and it was this book for kids that told their story.

Robinson Crusoe and poetry by Robert Louis Stevenson were some of the most-favored books of the kids. My most-loved part was the fact that some people were too proud to accept a book even though they would return it on the next go-around. Because of this, they would often give the librarian a recipe or a quilt pattern in exchange for a magazine or book. The recipes and patterns were then put in a scrapbook and would be put

in circulation for other "library" users.

Just like today, the pack horse librarians listened to what the people wanted and tried to create collections based on needs.

I THINK this book was weeded from my school's collection because of an old copyright and low circulation. It's one of those books that is heart-warming, but that kids just aren't too interested in reading on their own. It's a great before bed book that an adult could read to a little.

Krista the Krazy Kataloguer says

What some people will do to get books into the hands of patrons! Every librarian should read this. Combine it with *My Librarian is a Camel* by Margriet Ruurs.

Sandi says

Compare today's hard financial times with the Great Depression and get some perspective. Also look at how the American people responded to adversity by stepping up to the plate and working to help themselves and others. Hopefully our new President can rekindle some of that American pride and spirit.

Amanda Tero says

Filled with original pictures and flowing text, I found this to be a very enjoyable non-fiction read and helpful for a research book. There is a chapter that takes you through a day in the life of a horseback librarian, a chapter that explains all of the bookish details, and other chapters that give a good glimpse into this time in history.

This is a good basic introduction to the horseback librarian. It is by no means exhaustive, but it is thorough for the length of book that it is.

Friend of Pixie (F.O.P.) says

Why: We just read the lovely picture book "That Book Woman," a fictional account of one boy learning to read because of a "pack horse librarian." In a historical note in the back of that book, it mentions web sites and books about the WPA and the pack horse librarians of Kentucky. I'd never heard of them! Apparently this recommended book has many great photos taken at the time and I'd like Logan to see those. The text is for older kids, but we might read a bit of it here and there and I know that I myself will read the whole thing!

Chris says

This book is geared towards children and young adults. It does not, however, talk down to them and can be easily read by adults.

Appelt and Schmitzer shed light on a little known part of the New Deal. In Kentucky, women were hired to transport books by horseback to out of the way places. It's a very interesting book and looks at what the work entailed as well as the influence it had in the future.

If you are are interested in libraries or horses, this is a good book.

Lydia says

A interesting look at one of the many programs FDR put into place during the Great Depression to get people working again. Following the norm for these programs job descriptions, it is hard, somewhat dangerous work, but unlike most of the other programs (the construction of roads, dams, bridges, trails, etc.) this job was mostly filled by women.

I am, of course, biased to be favorable to this book as it combines two things I love, books and horses; and having gone to college in Kentucky, I can imagine the terrain (and weather) these riders and horses would have faced. One of the most interesting aspects of the book I found was the "exchanges" and "scrap books". People weren't comfortable with the idea of getting books and magazines for nothing (even knowing they would be returning them) so they would share recipes or patterns with the librarians, some of whom collected them into scrap books, which they would enter into circulation for the library!

Anyway, a good look at the time period from a different perspective, and though the conditions of the people aren't "watered down", it isn't depressing like a lot of 1920's books.

Content notes: No language issues; women are mentioned being pregnant, but no sensuality; danger from weather and moonshiners is mentioned, but other than the librarian getting very cold on her route, not seen during the story. Of interest: the librarian prays and sings hymns as she's going about her route, which the author does not paint in a negative light.

Heidi says

This is a juvenile non-fiction book. Not generally something that I read, but it was about a program of the WPA during the depression that I was not aware of at all before reading it. It has sparked my interest to learn more.
