



Points East

By:
Iva Adams

I'm yawning tonight because I stayed up too late last night reading. But oh, what a book. I hardly know where to start describing it. But I grin at the prospect.

Bob Eager, the librarian in Berea, hates it when I do this and sweats that I only do it to cause him a hard time because he only has one copy and 600 people who want to borrow it but God what a book!!!

It's called *Creeker*, a woman's journey and it's written by Linda Scott DeRosier and it has had me 'laughing one night, crying the next and crying the night after that but mostly it has my attention to the point that I could not lay it down.

I'm a big Barbara Kingsolver fan, but Barb writes fiction and interviews, a little romantic Appalachian culture into whatever it is she is writing about.

Creeker is an autobiography memoir that just tells it the way it was or is and makes me so proud to be a hillbilly (as though I needed another reason) that I'm sitting here at this keyboard with a deadline in sight and

wondering whether the editors will let me get away with just grinning my way through the next several column inches.

Let me tell you just a bit about Linda Sue Preston (Lee) Scott DeRosier if you don't already know. She was born, the first of two children, to a coal mining family on Two Mile in Johnson County in 1941 and currently, teaches Psychology at Rocky Mountain College in Billings, Montana. She is a hillbilly, tried and true, and the book is a chronology of how she got from Two Mile to Billings and what happened in between. Along the way she was, and is still, a much respected researcher at Kentucky State University.

She was responsible for the origin of East Tennessee State's highly regarded Appalachian Studies programs. Above all else, she is still one of us and she is an ever so gifted writer.

When I was a freshman at Pikeville College in the Spring of 1968, some guys from New Jersey who lived in my dorm got into a fight

at Jerry's drive-in restaurant with a couple of guys from Island Creek one Friday night.

I don't know the details of the disagreement, but word got put out on Saturday that the Fields Boys from Island Creek were not satisfied with whatever had happened on Friday night and that the "Creekers" were coming to the dorm, en masse, and dragging Marvin Rudnik, Jerry Spavin and George Schultz out into the street and whipping their behinds because they had turned chicken and run after making some unworldly remark to some high school girls that the boys from Island Creek thought to be far more virginal than they actually were.

Rumor had it that the city police, the sheriff's office and the local constable (Shorty Cole who drove a Cadillac with a blue light on top) would turn a blind eye to this invasion because a bunch of "yankie upstarts on the hill" probably needed a whipping anyway.

I finally got around to asking what a "creeker" was because I'd never heard the term and someone told me that they were these ignorant, mean, hillbillies who lived up along the creek roads-out in the county and I started thinking that Blair Branch, where I grew up, was a damn version of Island Creek and even though there was no such term as

"branchers", I figured that the thing for me to do was sneak out of the dorm and join the other side because I knew, if it really did boil down to a fight, Marvin Rudnik and company had a butt kicking coming.

Linda Scott DeRosier is a Creeker who did all right for herself. Her book is side-splitting humorous as she describes her early years. It is honest, though frequently unflattering, as she describes the process that so many of us hillbillies went through denying our heritage when we entered Pikeville College, as she did, on our way to worlds and wonders beyond the bounds of Two Mile Creek and my own beloved Blair Branch at Jeremiah.

Creeker is must reading if you want to understand Appalachian family values. It is not about poverty. It's about facts and the way things were without ascribing any social connotations. It is a concise and articulate element of truth, if you care to listen. It is remarkably hard-to-lay-down and entertaining at the same time.

There's no doubt in my mind that, come December, it will be near the top of everything I've read this year and among my top ten favorites of the decade. Not so much because it is Appalachian, but because it is a dynamic, drop-dead, fantastic piece of writing.

Read this book folks. Truck it

down and read it. Linda Sue (Lee) Preston Scott DeRosier is not struggling for money so you are not doing her any huge favors by purchasing it unless you want to put it between your ears, and that, I believe is what is important to her.

No other Appalachian writer that I know of has been so brutally honest about the realities of being Appalachian. You may even wind up thinking, "I don't know if I like this woman or not?"

But that's okay. This book will open your eyes and make you envision that you might even be so honest, even if you're a yankie.

It is published by The University Press of Kentucky. Cover price is \$31.95. Ask your bookstore to stock it or your library.

What Satch the Scriptures

A question asked by an atheist friend via e-mail - "It is necessary, therefore, to ask, where did God come from?"

If I say that God came from X, you will ask, where did X come from? And if I say X came from Y, you will ask where did Y come from? And if I say Y came from Z, you will ask where did Z come from? You see there has to be a first uncaused cause!

My friend also wrote: "First, life on earth is a result of the explosion of another star five billion years ago." So he has the same problem. Where did that star come from? If you say from Galaxy X, I will ask where did Galaxy X come from? If you say from Galaxy Y, I will ask where did Galaxy Y come from? If you say from Galaxy Z, I will ask where did Galaxy Z come from? You see there has to be a first uncaused cause!

The most reasonable answer to explain life is found in Gen. 1:1 - "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." Faith in an Intelligent Creator, is much more reasonable to believe, than to believe in blind chance & dumb luck, to explain life and the world we live in!

Providence church of Christ

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