

Santa's Heroes

SASP

NEWS



December 2022

Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers
P. O. Box 18573
Spokane, WA 99228-0573



Bob Manion

Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers (SASP) began in 1998 when *Chuck O’Conner, Elmer Freeman, Joe Meiners, and Dan Vollmer*, Spokane area authors, formed a club in order to share knowledge and experience with those interested in writing and alternative ways of publishing. Today, SASP is a large non-profit organization dedicated to anyone with interests in any aspect of writing and art. Members include aspiring (and successful) authors, poets, journalists, illustrators, editors, publishers, printers, writing instructors, and many others. Monthly luncheon meetings provide inspiration and education by way of knowledgeable and entertaining guest speakers, and the cheerful camaraderie of people sharing common interests and goals. Membership is open to all who love writing, art, and interesting people.

Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers **meets the second** Thursday of each month at the **Shadle Park Library**, 2111 W. Wellesley Ave., Spokane.

Presentations are slated to begin as soon as possible after **2:00 pm**. After a short break, members and guests relate their accomplishments, mention upcoming activities, and we draw for door prizes. Members and guests must be present to win.

The library does not allow individuals to bring food in, but we provide refreshments such as cake or cookies. We pass the hat, so to speak, to help reimburse whoever brings such refreshments.

Membership benefits include listing on the SASP website, www.spokaneauthors.org. Many members provide short biographies and links to external personal websites, creating more marketing exposure. Current members may list and describe their published works on the SASP website and offer their work for sale at meetings. (Visit the “members” page on our web-site to connect with members’ web-pages. Our “links” page connects to interesting on-line locations, including those of many SASP members.)

Guest speakers inform, inspire, and entertain with a variety of topics designed to provide knowledge about writing and publishing.

SASP members are encouraged to purchase or trade completed works of and with fellow members. They are also encouraged to donate copies of their work as door prizes. Winners of others’ work are expected to provide a review.

Note: SASP no longer transports name tags and display books to and from meetings. Your name tag is yours to keep and maintain. We provide space to display your books, but you must bring them to each meeting.

Submission Deadline: Items to be included in the next edition of SASP NEWS must be received by the editor two weeks prior to the next scheduled meeting. **(October 27th for the November 2022 issue.)**

2022-2023 Officers:

President: *Sue Eller*
(509) 499-2012 author@emilytracemysteries.com

Vice-President and Public-Relations:
Marilee Hudon
(509) 325-9465 mjnoduh2@gmail.com

Secretary: *Linda Sonntag-Noble*

Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, and Web Master: *Dave McChesney*
(509) 325-2072 (h) daveeva@comcast.net
(509) 768-6178 (c)

Advisory Board:

Member: *Chuck Lehman*
(509) 299-7802 cmlehman4@yahoo.com

Member: *Esther Hildahl*
mr.inky@yahoo.com

Member: *Bob Weldin*
(509) 327-2897 minersquest@comcast.net

“Like” the SASP Facebook Page:

www.facebook.com/pages/Spokane-Authors-Self-Publishers/1640079982945679

“Join” the SASP Facebook Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1646364128981815/>

“Follow” us on Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/AndAuthors>

Contact us at: authors@spokaneauthors.org

Cover: **Santa’s Heroes** by SASP member *Bob Manion*

OUR NEXT MEETING!

We are scheduled to meet at 2:00 pm. on Thursday, December 8th at the Shadle Park Library, 2111 W. Wellesley Ave., Spokane. We will be in the Events Room, which will open at 1:00 pm. This will be our normal location and time for the next year.

At our December 8th meeting we will continue our yearly tradition of an Open Mic Session. This is an opportunity for members and guests to share a little of their writing with the rest of the group.

We ask that presentations be limited to no more than five minutes. A signup sheet will be available.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT



The Weather Outside is Frightful

Well, fellow writers, I could use all the old clichés about winter weather, but I think the radio stations have already done that. My message to you is, “Take heart! The shortest day of sunshine is fast approaching, and soon the days will begin to seem longer, although each day will still consist of 24 hours.”

Enough about time and the weather. Let’s talk about our December meeting. It’s a time to share a short excerpt from a work in progress, or a teaser from a book we’ve already published, or whatever is relevant to the group and you are willing to read aloud.

Please keep your turn at the microphone to about five minutes. Dave will have a signup sheet ready when you walk in the door, so be brave and bring something to read.

The December meeting has always been a less formal event and a time of fellowship with friends. In that atmosphere, we hope to allow plenty of time for visiting, munching on cookies and other treats, and listening to others’ words of wisdom or whimsy.



We will have a short business meeting to discuss the January speaker and have a drawing for our usual book giveaway. Being one of the worst offenders, I decided that for penance I should host a short exercise in writing book reviews. Bring a pen. I’ll provide paper. We can then give the results to Dave, who can post them on our website. Don’t worry. I’ve allotted only 15 minutes for the exercise.

I look forward to seeing your smiling faces Thursday, December 8, at the Shadle Library. The room opens at 1:00 p.m., and we have to be cleaned up and out of there by 5:00 p.m. Stay warm, stay safe, and I’ll see you then.

Sue Eller, President

FROM OUR VICE-PRESIDENT

Attention authors!

This month’s meeting is all about us. Everyone who wishes will be given time to read from their latest or greatest works. We do this every year, however, as we are now partnered with the library, the public has more access to us. With that in mind, I suggest that anyone who will be reading from



any published books bring a few copies to sell in case your reading catches someone's fancy.

Drive safe, stay warm, and we'll see you soon!

M.J. Hudon, Vice-President/ Public Relations

FROM YOUR EDITOR, WEB-MASTER, TREASURER

Merry Christmas! Happy Holidays! Happy New Year! It's that time of year again when we expect Holiday celebrations, snow, and of course our annual open mic session. This popular event is fast becoming a SASP tradition, as it allows our members (and guests) to share a snippet of their work with the rest of us.

If you are interested in sharing something, you may want to practice beforehand and time yourself to make sure you don't go over the five minute time limit. While we



don't plan on timing to the second, we want to ensure that all who wish to read something have an opportunity to do so.

I stepped away from our members list sequence for this month's featured cover, as I wanted something appropriate for the

Holidays. Next month should see us back on track.

It's time to think about dues for 2023. You need to be current in your dues to be listed on our Members Page on the web-site, and to have a link to your Member Web-Page.

Paying dues is easy. You can pay at any SASP meeting, or you can send a check or money order for \$15.00 to:

Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers
P. O. Box 18573
Spokane, WA 99228-0573

I check the mail weekly, and if we receive any dues payments, I take those payments directly to our financial institution for

deposit. I also try to notify anyone who pays that the dues payment has been received... usually by way of e-mail.

If your personal situation means paying dues will pose a financial hardship, please contact a SASP Officer or Advisory Board Member. We will see what we can do to accommodate you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dave McChesney".

OUR NOVEMBER 2022 MEETING

Compiled by Dave McChesney

Thursday November 10th found members of Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers gathering at the Shadle Library. Those attending included Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Larry Danek, Mary DeBored, Betty Deuber, Sue Eller, Dennis Held, Esther Hildahl, Bob Hildahl, Marilee Hudon, Dave McChesney, and Carl Northrup. Joining the organization was Pete Quint, while Kay Comer-Lupton and Floyd Schreider attended as guests. We also were fortunate to have the presence of an interpreter to help any in attendance who may have hearing disabilities.

Our guest speaker was Terrace Hahn Metzger, whose novel, **Attached**, recently debuted. She talked about how she had come to write the story and how doing so related to her career as an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner. She mentioned working with Creators Institute, which has ties to hybrid publishing. Terrace noted that the entire project pushed her out of her comfort zone. She also stated that books are considered new if they have been out and on the market for two years or less.

Following a short break in which members had a chance to speak directly with our guest and perhaps purchase copies of her book, we resumed our meeting. Since we had received very few ballots for our annual election, we called for a show of hands to vote in the slate of officers and Advisory Board

members. (All positions were continued as they had been before, with the same individuals holding the same positions.)

Sue Eller spoke briefly about setting up and using a Square card reader, which is fast becoming a necessity for those selling books at craft fairs and the like. She said that the company charges 2.75% per transaction, or \$2.75 per \$100.00.

Several members announced upcoming events. That coming weekend, November 12th and 13th, Larry Danek, Marilee Hudon, and Sue Eller were scheduled to be at the Mead High School Craft Fair. Carl Northrup and Dave McChesney would be at the Ridgeline High School Craft Fair on those two days. Tiffani Harvey would be there on Saturday while Bob and Esther Hildahl would participate on Sunday. Bob and Esther planned to be at the Medical Lake Community Church on Saturday the 12th. They are also scheduled to be at the Deer Park grade school on Saturday, December 3rd from 9 to 4.

With all other business concluded, we drew for door prizes and departed to our individual lives.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday the 8th of December. As we do every year, this will be an open mic session in which members and guests are encouraged to share a brief excerpt of their work. Presentations should be no more than five minutes or so in length.

MEMBER WEB-PAGE GUIDE

1. Name and photo/headshot
2. Brief biography
3. Links to web-site, blog, or other on-line locations.
4. Information about any books published.
 - a. Book cover shot/thumbnail
 - b. Brief description/blurbs/reviews
 - c. Amazon ASIN, ISBN or other
 - d. Locations where available.
5. Send as much information as possible to: daveeva@comcast.net, or authors@spokaneauthors.org, or Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers P. O. Box 18573

Spokane, WA 99228-0573

Check out other member web-pages at www.spokaneauthors.org. Click on the "Members" button and then on the member's page you wish to view.

Contact your web-master if your page needs to be updated or corrected

SASP BOOKS ON AMAZON/KINDLE

Many SASP members' books are on Amazon and/or Kindle™ (We print short parts of the list on a rotating basis. The complete, and hopefully up to date list is available on the web-site, under "NEWS")

(Contact the editor/web-master at daveeva@comcast.net or at authors@spokaneauthors.org to get your Amazon/Kindle books listed)

To speed your search, add the provided ten digit numerical or alpha-numerical code (ASIN) to: [www\(dot\)amzn\(dot\)com/dp/](http://www(dot)amzn(dot)com/dp/)
Example: www.amzn.com/dp/B008TXC332
or: www.amzn.com/dp/1936178044

If you are overseas or shop in a different Amazon Marketplace, the URL will be as required for that location, but the ASINs, the number provided here will remain the same.

Various SASP members

Celebrating Spokane Authors:

A Collection of Poetry, Essays, and Short Stories

B077GBTQ67 1978483619

D. Andrew McChesney:

Beyond the Ocean's Edge: A Stone Island Sea Story

B008TXC332 1432780379

Sailing Dangerous Waters: Another Stone Island Sea Story

B00HF9Y05K 1478721898

Darnahsian Pirates: The Third Stone Island Sea Story

B09FFJSSGC B09BC9P9WL

James Parry:

Book All the Teachers: An Irreverent Ride through Middle School

B00US5918V 1501042211

Bob Weldin:

The Dry Diggins Club

0578106825

Sue Eller:

Return from Armageddon

B005JVAJKQ 1477655727

Meadowlark Madness **B0097D599I 1479181714**

Send in the Drones **B07TFDFVS9 1726834662**

The Gluten Free Gourmand

B00TRBKT9U 150853134X

Taming of the T-Bird **B00S2ZDIQTQ 1505963982**

Short Trips to Alternate Universes

B08P342L5V B08P3QTJQL (pb)

Beth Camp:

The Mermaid Quilt and Other Tales

B0090VHKBC 1479180971

Standing Stones **B00I3RYFW6 1494772434**

B01ATPTL5U (audio)

Years of Stone **B00LF3FY4S 1500129585**

Rivers of Stone **B077M1TFLP 1545217491**

The Seventh Tapestry

B08GJ8VRGL B097SKDWRF (pb)

Poetry in a Time of Pandemic

B0889TDKR2 B088LKFB6G

Kate Poitevin:

Saving Tir Gaeltacht (part One) **1986153959**

Saving Tir Gaeltacht (part Two) **1986179486**

Saving Tir Gaeltacht (part Three) **1986179923**

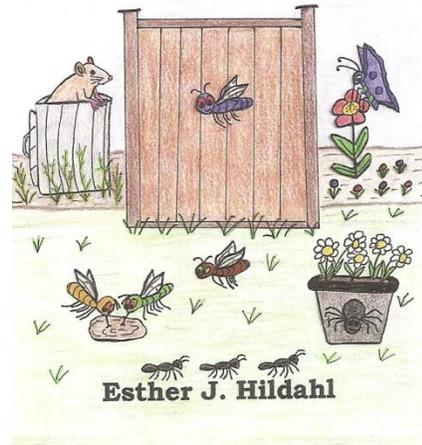
FEATURED BOOK REVIEWS

If you have read a fellow SASP member's book, don't forget to write a review so we can include it on our web-site and here in our newsletter. (To be honest, your editor has a number of reviews to write, hopefully in the near future.)

Reviews here and on our web-site are most often reviews of books by our members, reviewed by our members. Some may be reviews our members have written of other books, and on occasion they are of our members' books written by someone outside the group.

(We are going to step away from our usual sequence and start with a couple of updated reviews.)

Poopie the Fly and Friends



Reviewed by Rhonda Cordes (a fan)

I've finished reading *Poopie the Fly and Friends*. What a clever and creative book! My favorite thing about it is the way the author weaves education and life lessons throughout the story and still keeps it entertaining. I enjoyed reading it very much.

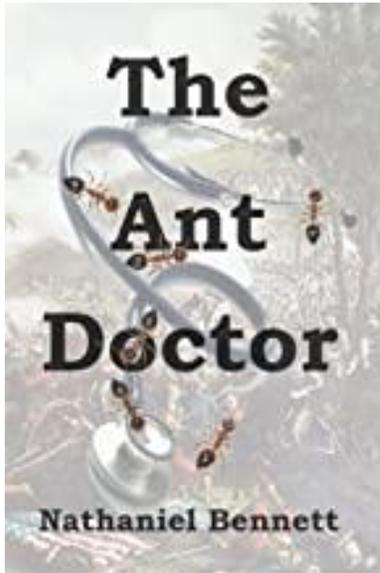
Reviewed by Linda Sonntag-Noble

I initially bought this book for my granddaughters: ages 4, 6 & 9, but I wanted to read it first. Before I knew it, I was laughing at the wonderful characters this author created from no less than flies, a spider & even a praying mantis!

It is a wonderful story of how Poopy, the bluebottle fly, survives various near-death experiences, including - but not limited to - being eaten alive to getting trapped in a dark, spooky spider-filled forest to standing up to a bully as he discovers his inherent worth. He survives because he listens raptly to his teacher to "be aware of your surroundings" always and to trust your instincts.

Not only does this story keep you on edge, wondering if Poopy will make it, it teaches many scientific facts about ants, butterflies, spiders and, of course, flies. It teaches children (and adults) that flies (and

other insects) are not ALL bad, but sometimes do honorable things like help a friend, inspire others, and even pollenate flowers! I even believe that children will love the main character so much because of their love of the word “poop” and bathroom jokes, because the author never shrinks from telling it like it is, ie., flies like poop!



Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

I purchased *The Ant Doctor* because I liked its cover and title. I was anxious to read it to see who or what the ant doctor was. The story began with a young man lying in the hot sun in pain. He thinks he may have been shot but wasn't sure. He ached all over, was miserable and worst of all, he had this sensation of crawling all over his body. After a while, he discovered, to his horror, that the crawling sensation was due to red ants, and they were eating him alive!

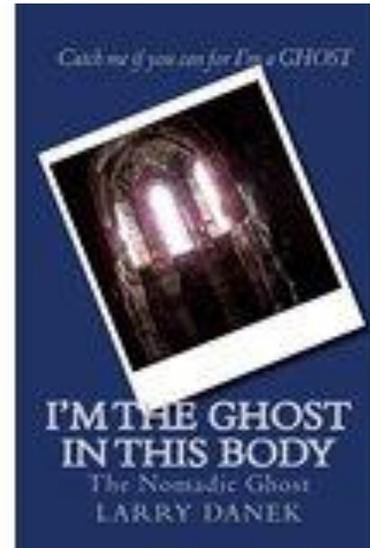
His name is Daryl Hagen. And thus, began the story of his and his family's history. It's a good story of the Old South, the evil institution of slavery, slave catchers, abolitionists, and the Civil War.

This book is well-written, full of interesting characters, both good and evil. And it has a satisfying ending. I recommend this book for one and all.

Reviewed by Larry Danek

I took this book to read while on a round trip flight of three hours each way. I planned to read one half in each direction but found it hard to put down. I finished the book in my hotel room despite a hectic schedule. This Civil War era novel was well researched and quite entertaining. I did find the book wasn't written in a straightforward way and bounced around a bit through different time periods. It caused me to stop and think back to where the current chapter related to a past one. It didn't stop me from enjoying the book and I highly recommend it.

(And now, back to our regular sequence)



Reviewed by Sue Eller

Not just another ghost story...

As the nomadic ghost was drawn into a recently expired body, I was drawn into his story. Author Larry Danek masterfully relates the tale of a spirit being who struggles to take charge on the physical plane and strives to tame the mental chaos of memories from past and present lives. This story could only be told from the perspective of the nomadic ghost himself, and Danek masterfully weaves a tale of cold-blooded murder and revenge

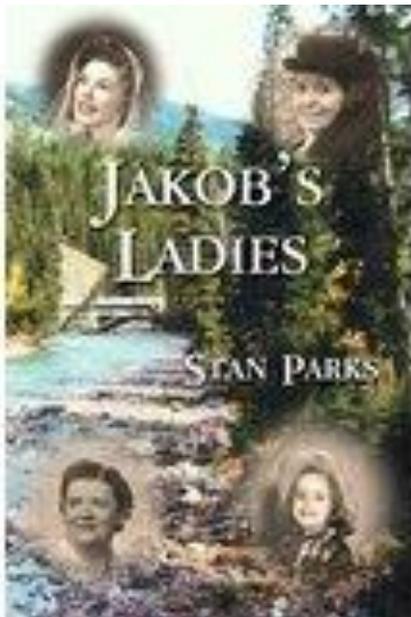
contrasted with compassion for some down-and-out but decent people who need his help.

Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

The ghost has inhabited many bodies in the past. Now he occupies the body of a young Chicago man mistakenly gunned down in a gangland firefight. When medical personnel pronounce the body dead, he uses his ghostly abilities to revive it and makes his way to St. Louis.

Aided by other ghosts that do not inhabit any bodies he sets out to eliminate those involved in drugs and other nefarious activities. Along the way he aids a number of people he has met, including a hit man sent by a drug lord to take him out. Once he has his affairs in order he realizes it is time to leave this body behind and move on to another one.

This proved to be an interesting read. Danek's take on the spirit world is unique and well thought out. It is the first in a series, with the third story, *RUNAWAY GHOST* being recently published. This reviewer looks forward to reading the remaining stories.



Reviewed by E. J. Deuber

The book cover of *JAKOB'S LADIES*

gives a curious view of the story and complements the information in the blurb on the back cover giving an accurate impression of a story.

SUMMARY:

Even though, his mother had already had his life planned as well as had chosen his bride, young Jacob Miller, a graduate of dental college leaves his home in Milwaukee for Sheridan, Wyoming. His first office located in a back room of the local MD's office seemed a bit dreary, but he felt grateful to have any place to work. He and Doctor Kelly become great friends. Assisting Doctor Kelly in many surgeries, Dr. Miller DDS discovers he's also a good surgeon.

As his clientele grows in Sheridan, he travels once a year to a nearby town and offers his service. He also provides dental care to the local Indian Nation. About the time he rents an office of his own, he realizes he's in love with Liz, the local schoolteacher. They marry against his mother's wishes. (Have Conflict with religious preference.) When their baby, Beth Ann is born about a year later, they expect to live happily ever after. Real life intervenes. On Beth Ann's second Christmas, Liz succumbs to cough and fever.

"Jakob was emotionally broken, numb, as he received mourners."¹

Although struggling with Liz's death, Jakob continues to take loving care of Beth Ann with the help of the housekeeper. When members of the community convince him to participate in community affairs, he becomes a well respected community servant, and leader in the annual *Sheridan Fair*.

At seven years old, Beth Ann begs her daddy for a pony. He thinks about buying her a pony. At the perfect time, Jakob runs into an old acquaintance, Geraldine Widicker. Jakob and Liz had met James and Geraldine Widicker several years before at a birthday party for Oliver Henry, the owner a large ranch that was an overnight ride from Sheridan.

At their first meeting, Geraldine discovers Jakob is a widower and Jakob learns she's a

¹ JAKOB'S LADIES. PAGE 203

widow who now owns the Oliver Henry ranch and raises horses on it.

EVALUATION:

Kudos to Stan Parks. This story seems more like a memoir than a novel. The style used in introducing and developing characters is believable and charming, but sometimes too sweet. The plotting timely. This Western novel is unusual because the hero is a dentist rather than a sheriff, or marshal, and it replaces the theme of lawlessness with one of late 1800 early 1900 dentistry.

The vernacular dialog interrupts the story sometimes, but the clichés identify the period.

Unable to know what year this story began until page 116 was frustrating; I kept flipping pages to find out. I would have like to have seen Beth Ann have a closer relationship with her maternal grandparents.

Gary Cooper strutted along the streets of Sheridan, Wyoming as Dr. Jakob Miller. I recommend Stan find a professional writer of western movie scripts.

Reviewed by Robert G. Hildahl

Jakob Miller arrived by stagecoach in Sheridan, Wyoming in 1895, just having graduated from the Chicago College of Dental Surgery. Sheridan was a frontier town expecting the railroad to arrive within a few months. Then Sheridan would really start growing.

The last Sheridan dentist had died four years ago. The local doctor, Doc Kelly, rented Jakob his storeroom for a dental office. Later, Jakob found an old barber chair in need of repair to use for his dentist chair. After doing a few more things to get his office ready, Jakob was ready for business.

Zeke, Jacob's first patient, walked in, grinning his toothless smile. He wanted to buy *some of those store bought teeth*, but he didn't have enough cash to pay for them. So he offered to take Jakob elk hunting in the Bighorn Mountains in exchange for his teeth. Jakob agreed.

On their hunting trip, Jakob was able to shoot a large elk. But later he was attacked by

a big grizzly bear. Zeke shot the bear, but not before it shredded Jakob's right arm.

Jakob met his wife-to-be, Liz, the local schoolteacher, who helped take care of him as he recovered from his injury. Eventually they were married and moved into a small one room cabin. They were both very happy.

As time went by, Liz gave birth to a daughter, Beth Ann, and they were able to move into a much larger house. Then their happiness took a tragic turn when Liz became very ill and died, leaving Jakob and Beth Ann, who was only two years old at the time. With the help of his housekeeper, Chucha, Jakob was determined to raise his daughter by himself.

However, five years later, Jakob fell in love with Geraldine, one of England's aristocrats living in Wyoming. Beth Anne loved her, too. Before they were to be married, they traveled to England so that Jakob could meet Geraldine's family, which they did. But due to circumstances, Jakob returned home alone.

Will this be the end of their relationship? Will Geraldine ever come back to Wyoming? Will they ever get married? Read and find out.

I enjoyed reading *Jakob's Ladies*. It tells a very good story. It's never boring, and I recommend it to one and all.

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

This story begins in the 1890s when Jakob Miller, a recent graduate of the Chicago College of Dental Surgery, and against the advice of his parents, arrives by stagecoach in the frontier town of Sheridan, Wyoming. He sets up his temporary office in a storeroom rented from the town's only doctor, Doc Kelly. A repaired barber chair becomes his dentist chair. After putting an ad in the local newspaper announcing that he is open for business, his career as a dentist begins.

Being the only dentist in town, he has lots of patients. He helps anyone who comes to his office needing dental care, including the Indians that live outside of town.

Some of his patients can pay and some cannot. Zeke, one of his first patients, can't pay for the "store-bought" teeth he wants, so he makes a deal with Jakob to take him elk hunting in the Big Horn Mountains in exchange for his teeth.

The hunting trip is successful until the end when Jakob is attacked by a grizzly bear and his career as a dentist almost comes to an end. However, one good thing comes out of this experience and that is that he meets Liz, the local schoolteacher, who helps nurse him back to health. They fall in love and get married. After a while they are blessed with a baby girl that they name Beth Ann.

The railroad comes to Sheridan and the town grows and becomes more prosperous. Jakob loves Sheridan and grows with the town, becoming more involved with its local government. When business slows down Jakob decides to go to Buffalo, a town about forty miles from Sheridan, to make some extra cash fixing teeth. They don't have a dentist there and he has many patients, but he waits too long to come back and gets caught in the first winter blizzard. Snow is everywhere and he barely makes it back home.

Doc Kelly is Jakob's best friend, and they help each other out, even doing complicated surgeries together! Liz spends much of her extra time teaching adult education to those who want to learn how to read and write. Eventually, Jakob and his family move into a larger house.

When Beth Ann is two years old, the family's happiness is shattered when Liz becomes very ill and dies. Jakob is heart-broken but determined, with the help of his housekeeper, Chucha, to raise his daughter by himself.

Five years go by. Then Jakob discovers love again with Geraldine, an English lady, currently running a ranch in Wyoming. Beth Ann loves her, too, especially after she gives Beth Ann a horse and teaches her how to ride. Jakob and Geraldine speak of marriage and go to England to meet her aristocratic family.

But things happen beyond Jakob and Geraldine's control, and Jakob comes back

home to Sheridan alone. He doesn't hear from Geraldine and is left wondering if he will ever see her again.

I enjoyed reading *Jakob's Ladies* and was very impressed with all the work that went into it to make it the great story that it is. I liked that Parks told the history of dentistry at that time. It was very interesting and made me realize, being a person who has had lots of dental work done during her lifetime, that I am so thankful that I didn't have to go to the dentist in those days! Also, the characters were well written--very believable. And after reading this book, I really feel that I know what the town of Sheridan was like in the 1890s.

I recommend this book for anyone who likes a little history, a love story, adventure, and humor.

Reviewed by Joyce Caudel

Jakob's Ladies is a delightful story about a young dentist trying to establish his dental practice in Wyoming in the 1800's. Mr. Parks has a way of describing the hardships of the early west that is very believable. The book is full of colorful characters both male and female.

Jakob's Ladies are as follows: Margaret, his mother. Alice, an old girlfriend, his mother won't give up on. The beautiful school teacher, Elizabeth, who nursed him back to health after a bear attack and later became his wife. Lillian Massey, better known as Diamond Lil, a patient. At her request, he put small diamonds in several of her front teeth. Beth Ann, the daughter that gave him a reason to live after his dear wife, Liz, passed away. Chucha, the Polish housekeeper, whom Jakob soon learns he can't manage without. Lady Geraldine, an English aristocrat and owner of a near-by ranch, steals the heart of Beth Ann and soon steals Jakob's heart also.

Jakob's Ladies is a fun read. As a modern-day dentist, I'm sure Stan enjoyed writing about dentistry in the early west.