

LORGNETTE

Quarterly Review of Children's and Young Adults' Books

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Grade Level

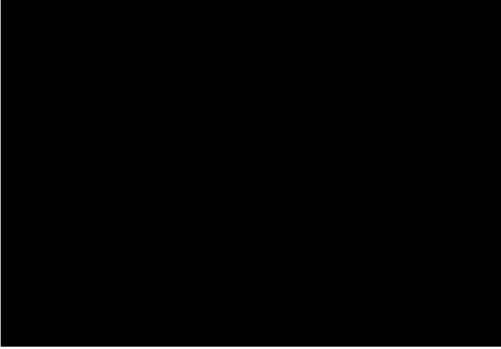
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Book Review: MOVING THE MILLERS' MINNIE MOORE MINE MANSION: A TRUE STORY

This book is the interesting and true story of how a mansion was moved by rolling it on giant logs. (No really, it actually happened.) It all started in Bellevue, Idaho around the year 1870 when silver was found on the land. The land became a mine and was owned by John "Minnie" Moore. The mine was called the "Minnie Moore Mine." A man named Henry Miller ended up buying the mine, and he became very rich. He got married and decided to build his wife a huge mansion in Bellevue. Henry and his wife lived a good life and had a son together. But eventually, Henry died. His wife, Annie, needed a way to start making money again. One good way to make money back in those days was to raise pigs, so Annie bought some pigs in order to breed and sell them. However, in Bellevue there was a rule that people were not allowed to keep livestock in their yards. Annie did not want to give up her pigs or her house, so she decided to move her house to a spot outside of town where she would be allowed to have pigs. Moving a house is not an easy task. But they were able to roll the house on logs pulled by a team of horses to a location a few miles away from town. And the house is still there to this day!

For such a whimsical tale, it may be hard to believe that it is also a true story. For anyone who thinks "history is boring," this book will be a nice surprise! The illustrations and humorous style of writing will keep readers engaged. The story itself sparks curiosity for how one might move a house in our day and time. The book does lack photographs or evidence of the real story of





the Miller's mansion. It would have been nice to see photographs or renderings of Henry Miller and his wife Annie, or a photograph or newspaper clipping of the house being rolled on logs. Nowhere in the book does it mention where the author first learned of this story or why he chose to write about it. That could have helped make the historical part of the story more real to readers.

