

New Books

Keeping the Swarm: New and Selected Essays

Are you, or do you know a beekeeper history buff? Here is a beautiful reminiscence you can't help but enjoy!

The book's title essay and other pieces -- including a eulogy -- feature one of the Pacific Northwest's first migratory beekeepers, George L. Mayo from Alder, Washington (1894-1980) and author George Venn's grandfather.

From the gorgeous cover photo by California beekeeper-photographer (and WAS member) Kodua Galieti to the very personal family photos and gentle boyhood remembrances, Venn paints a picture of beekeeping and family forever intertwined.

The very first essay describes Grandpa Mayo's very special gift to his two young grandsons. You can smell the paint and feel the smooth wood and cold metal as the mystery of this most out-of-character event is revealed. Grandpa Mayo made history that day, and it is now recorded for posterity as a bit of background to the life of a man who made far more history than he knew.

Mayo sold his bees about 1962 to Ernie Buchholz, a beekeeper in Snohomish, WA and son-in-law of Howard Graff, owner of Silverbow Honey. George worked for both Ernie and Silverbow during the summers.

Among the essays are also poems, including "Down the Colfax Grade", based on George's memory of moving bees into yards set in massive fields of yellow sweetclover in the Palouse region around Colfax, Washington in the late 1950s, and "Sleeping Upstairs", about the security he felt with his grandparents after his father died.

Keeping the Swarm: New & Selected Essays by George Venn. Paperback, ISBN: 978-1-877655-76-0, 224 pages (6" x 9"), 20 photos. \$15.95 + \$3.50 shipping & handling. Order from Wordcraft of Oregon LLC, PO Box 3235, La Grande OR 97850. For more information, email info@wordcraftoforegon.com.

