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Book Review: Moonshiners and Prohibitionists: The Battle Over Alcohol in Southern Appalachia

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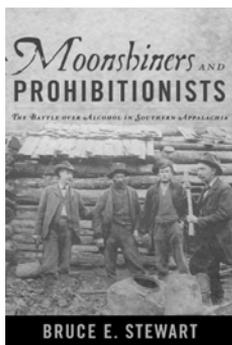
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Readers of Sullivan's book will find a woman's life story that fascinates and illuminates a dedication to serving and a dedication to the belief in the need for personal spiritual fulfillment. It is possible that few Baptist women in the 1800s had been to China but they believed sharing the message of Christianity around the world was their duty. Lottie Moon's legacy may be that women who never traveled beyond the borders of the United States came to believe in and support a woman who took the spiritual life that sustained them and passed it to those in need in a far away country.

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Stewart, Bruce E. *Moonshiners and Prohibitionists: The Battle Over Alcohol in Southern Appalachia*. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2011. 325 p. ISBN 978-0-8131-3000-2 \$34.50

Growing up in North Carolina and hearing about "moonshine" and its appeal to family members who compared it to the current "spirits" in the local ABC store, I was fascinated by the possibility of learning the history that Stewart's book promised on battles over alcohol in Southern Appalachia. Books and movies and jokes and family stories of "moonshine" and its powers to endow its consumers with a level of

intoxication not possible with local ABC store brews, were rampant in my childhood. Stories of the brew were cautionary and balanced by the stories of how my family and kin called moonshine a brew of the devil and a path of sin to all who followed in its addition.

My grandmother and aunts were members of Temperance Unions. They marched into saloons and used brooms to sweep out the customers, bar stool sitters, bar tenders and any in their path as they yelled, "Don't sell alcohol!"

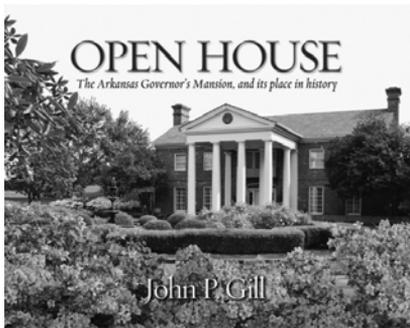
Members of our church recount how they heard a sermon each Sunday on the evils of "the drink" and harrowing stories of fiery furnaces. Some told of preachers who warned them that they would be met at the Pearly Gates by St. Peter who will say, "you were told about the evils of drink and philandering and did not listen. Your behavior is recorded in the book of deeds so you are condemned to the fiery furnace." To a young girl, this meant no streets of gold and no ivory mansions! Moonshine and spirits were not for me!

Stewart's complex and complete investigation of the history of the development of brewing and selling of spirits in Appalachia, from the Ulster Scots to later days' regulated distillers, gives a valid picture to point to the true story of the rise and fall of moonshine and prohibitionists. The true story proposed by Stewart is that the rise and fall of moonshiners and prohibition was an economic and not a religious movement. True the churches and their members were involved in trying to bring sobriety to the citizens of the towns and villages in Appalachia but the idea and implementation of controlling the economy that arose and resulted from the "moonshine" industry

made a greater impact upon the historical scene.

Stewart's research is in-depth, colorful, spiked with historical figures, and filled with data charts that are helpful to any scholar of North Carolina history and its historical trends and issues. As an economics text, it is colorful and engaging reading. As an historical text, it is well documented and enlightening.

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Gill, John P. *Open House: The Arkansas Governor's Mansion and its Place in History*. Little Rock: The Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, 2010. 230 p. ISBN-10: 1-935106-26-0. \$50.00.

The matchless piece has connection to the Southern USA since the masterwork is a discussion of the governor's mansion of Arkansas in Little Rock. The writing style is outstanding and easy to understand with numerous quotes from Arkansas governors and their wives and children on living in the beautiful palatial mansion. The perceived interest to the readership of the journal is superior. The vividly captivating one

hundred twenty-five photographs of the exterior and ninety-seven lovely photographs of the interior of the mansion along with the splendid details enchant readers of *Southeastern Librarian* particularly librarians to visit the mansion to educate themselves with the history and to see the magnificent house and scenery. Ninety-one other pictures show the governors and people residing and participating in the activities at the glamorous mansion. The superb content comprises Contents, Foreword, a family tree of Arkansas Governor's Mansion First Families 1950-2010, *Rosewood Construction, Renovation, Mercè Furnishings, Sitting on a Neighbor's Porch, Neighborhood, That Old House Mansion Commission, Association/Operation Expenses, Cinderella Life in the Mansion, Liza The Kitchen, You Ain't Ready Trusties, Come Run Our House Administrator/Staff, I'll Take #3 with a Coke, Security, Trick or Treat Holidays and Weddings, Ole Red Pets, We Accept with Pleasure Public Events, Warriors' Reunion Visitors, Rosemary Punch Gardens*, and the End of Your Beginning *Conclusion, Appendix 2010 Arkansas Mansion Governors, Commission, Association, and Staff, Endnotes, and Photographs and Illustrations*.

Agnes Bass Shinn, President of Arkansas Federation of Women's Club wanted a residence for the United States Arkansas governor. Judge James M. Shinn and Agnes obtained one hundred thousand dollars in 1947 to create the house and an additional ninety-seven thousand dollars in 1949. The palace resides on 8.27 acres and is where a blind school stood. It is listed with the National Register of Historic Places. The mansion is Greek Revival and the inside is Georgian and colonial. The famous opulent mansion's Grand Hall where numerous parties and functions occur was developed