

IPPY BOOK AWARD WINNER, 2008:  
NO CORNER BOYS HERE

By Jean Crozier

PRESS RELEASE

May 26, 2008

***Native Edmontonian and first time author, Jean Crozier, departs immediately for the Independent Publisher Book Awards in Los Angeles, where she will receive a Bronze Medal for her book No Corner Boys Here. The IPPY Regional Book Awards were designed to spotlight the best regional titles from around North America; 688 entries from Canada and the U.S. were submitted in this year's regional competition; a total of over 3,500 entries were submitted in categories that included fiction and non-fiction, children's and adult literature. No Corner Boys Here was selected as an award-winner in the "Best Non-Fiction, Canada West" category. On Friday May 30<sup>th</sup>, Jean will be presented with a Bronze Medal at the Awards Ceremony, 54<sup>th</sup> floor of the Wells Fargo Building in downtown Los Angeles.***

Jean has woven an intricate story of the Thurston's, her extended family. She combined insight and understanding with details of significant historical and political events. The book's early backdrop is southern England in the late 1800's, then moves on to South Wales, where the class system controlled society, and where large land-owners held absolute authority. No Corner Boys Here treads backward in time, through aging photographs, uneven memory banks, illegible parish records, archival repositories and public libraries but always with a personal and human touch. Through Jean's eyes, we peer from the window of St. Mary's church atop the Caerau hill, just beyond Cardiff. We hear the land agents' tales, promises of gold and honey, and oranges in the backyard, told from the caravans that criss-crossed Wales encouraging people to emigrate.

Folio-sized registers at the Pier 21 immigration sheds document the family's arrival in Halifax on April 3, 1927.

The two Thurston adults and their eight children cooked their own meals, ate and slept in one car as the colonist train crossed Quebec, and Ontario and the prairies. The migratory rush was on, hundreds of thousands of people came to Canada, where the joy of owning their own farmsteads was mixed with turmoil. They were just in time for the depression years, pre- and post-war Canada with its restrictions and subsequent hardships. We smell the sweet clover in the Thurston hay fields, taste the preserves, and walk the frozen path to the rural schools.

The eight children uprooted from Wales, as well as the one 'Canadian' child born on the farm at Irma, Alberta are given voice in Volume II. Through their stories, we witness the family's years-long suffering to repay assisted immigration loans; the impact of unsympathetic divorce laws, technological developments and farm electrification; the realities of teaching and of the Anglican ministry in rural Alberta; World War II, the National Resources Mobilization Act, and Alberta's POW camps; the isolated life of those who trapped fur animals in the north.

The historical accuracy of No Corner Boys Here was a major factor in the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation's decision to award Jean Crozier the maximum allowable grant, to provide assistance in publishing this delightfully readable, fascinating story of a real family.

***The story of Fred and Nellie Thurston and family is our story, the tale of everyone's emigrant forefathers, their delights and their struggles, all woven into the fabric of daily life and chronicled with historical accuracy by author Jean Crozier. The photographs and footnotes in each volume provide insight and explanation of world events and the social, economic and political climate. Their inclusion adds flavor to an already intriguing journey.***

**NO CORNER BOYS HERE By Jean Crozier**  
**978097844320-7/ \$59.95 set: Vol I & II / Nonfiction**  
**Published October, 2007**

**Availability:**

**in Edmonton, purchase from Audrey's Books Ltd., the Royal Alberta Museum gift shop, the Provincial Archives of Alberta gift shop, Madeleine's Boutique and Gifts in the Hawkstone Shopping Centre, or directly from the author.**

**in Wainwright, copies are available from the Wainwright Museum gift shop, and in Irma from Irma Lumber and More.**

**in Lethbridge, go to the Galt Museum Gift Shop**

**via the internet from:**

**United Library Services [www.uls.com](http://www.uls.com)**

**OR the author's website: [www.NoCornerBoysHere.com](http://www.NoCornerBoysHere.com)**

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**Further information on the IPPY awards is available at:**

**<http://www.independentpublisher.com/article.php?page=1231>**