

Review of *From Emporia: The Story of William Allen White*

From Emporia: The Story of William Allen White

By Beverley Olson Buller

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Reviewed by Sue Blechl, Director, Emporia Public Library

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Emporia's most well-known citizen comes to life in this engaging book. William Allen White, editor of the *Emporia Gazette* for almost 50 years, has left a lasting mark on Emporia, on Kansas, and indeed, on America. Until now, most of the biographies of White have been written more for the scholar and the researcher than the general public. Author Bev Buller has created a book that can be enjoyed and appreciated by children, teens and adults.

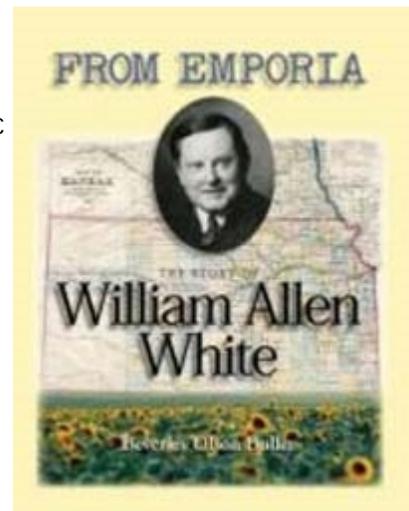
From its cover and opening sections, the reader is drawn into the book. Turning the pages one by one to browse the attractive and enlightening illustrations, photographs, and sidebars, one can't help getting a true sense of what life was like in Emporia and Kansas in earlier days. With interest piqued by the colorful and charming design of the book, the reader can begin to enjoy the story told through the text, a story of humble beginnings and far-flung adventures and accomplishments, all centered on the small city of Emporia.

Each of the fourteen chapters focuses on an aspect of White's life. We learn about family, career, adventures, and honors. Buller has skillfully selected details of home and lifestyle, along with personal anecdotes and quotes to showcase the real White family. William Lindsay and Mary Katherine, the White children, play prominent and poignant roles, especially with the tragic death of 16-year-old Mary from a riding accident.

The author is very effective in choosing White's words and letting them speak for themselves. There is humor and self-deprecation throughout the book.

Buller begins her book's introduction: "These days, William Allen White's name is not often heard outside his home state of Kansas. In his lifetime it was heard around the world." With the publication of this appealing illustrated biography, White's interesting life and reputation can be shared with a broad group of people in Kansas and beyond. Well done!

Bev Buller is a teacher and librarian in Newton, Kansas, and is a member of the William Allen White Children's Book Award Selection Committee. This is her first book.



For further reading:

Autobiography of William Allen White

Home Town News: William Allen White and the Emporia Gazette by Sally Foreman Griffith

William Allen White by E. Jay Jernigan