

CHAPTER II

BIOGRAPHY OF THE AUTHOR AND SYNOPSIS OF THE STORY

A. Biography of Allan W. Eckert

Allan W. Eckert was American Novelist. He was also famous as poet, screenwriter and playwright. He was born on January 30, 1931 in Buffalo New York. None of his family member was a writer. Eckert's Father, Edward dead when Eckert was very young, and his mother, Ruth took him to Chicago. He grew up in poverty. To earn money during young ages, he took a variety of jobs. He was fireman, postman, private detective and assistant of cook in air force flight. He also became a farmer and factory worker.

In 1948, Eckert graduated from Leyden Community High School in Franklin Park. Four years later, in 1952 he graduated from University of Doyton (OHIO). His first job was an editor in the National Cash Register Company's Factory Newsletter. Eckert started to learn seriously about writing.

In 1955, Eckert was started his professional career in writing when he was nominated on seven separate occasions for the Pulitzer Prize in literature because he published thirty nine books. in 1985, he was recipient of an honorary degree as Doctor of Humane Letters from Bowling Green State University in Ohio. In 1998 he received his second honorary doctorate, also in Humane Letters, from Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. In addition to his books, he had written and had published over 150 articles, essays, and

short stories, as well as considerable poems, a major outdoor plays and screenplays for several movies.

Most noted for his historical and natural history books, Dr. Eckert's works have been translated into thirteen foreign languages around the world. A number of his books have been selected of Reader's Digest Condensed Books and several have been major book club selections. The seven of his books that have been nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in literature include *A Time of Terror: The Great Dayton Flood* (history), *Incident at Hawk's Hill* (fiction), *The Silent Sky* (fiction), *The Frontiersmen* (history), *Wilderness Empire* (history), *The Conquerors* (history), and *A Sorrow in Our Heart: The Life of Tecumseh* (biography)

B. Synopsis of the Story

This story began with small family in Knoll Hawk's hill. This family had six members, they were William MacDonald as father, Esther as William wife and their four children. They were John, Beth, Coral and Benjamin MacDonald.

The last child of William was Benjamin MacDonald. He was six years old. Benjamin MacDonald was especially small for his age. He was afraid to talk with others and the citizen around his home thought he was unmoral or has some type of physical illness.

Benjamin MacDonald was unique and weird, he could imitate animal's acts and he also could make sounds like the animals. Many people in town thought the son of William and Esther MacDonald was crazy.

In his age, actually he went to schools like others. But, his family doubted their son. They were awarded based on Benjamin MacDonald's condition.

All day he spent the time at home, he was quite silent and he imitated all animal around him like mice and birds.

One day, he went out too far from his home. He walked while look animal which he found it, he met a bird and imitated it. He didn't realize where he was. He didn't know what he should do.

Benjamin MacDonald explores and survives in wild area. He met a female badger the the female badger allowed him to live with her since Benjamin MacDonald could imitated her. He lived with the badger as badger's children. He ate together and survives his live until their family found him and Benjamin MacDonald started to talk with his family and other but sometime he still imitated animal's act as usual.