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# STORIES of New Jersey

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FEDERAL WRITERS' PROJECT of the WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

1060 Broad Street, Newark, New Jersey

BOOK WEEK  
November 14 to 20, 1937

"Reading, the Magic Highway to Adventure" is the theme chosen for the 1937 observance of Book Week. Boys and girls--and men and women who have kept the spirit of youth--have always thrilled to tales of adventure. The great explorers and pioneers who went in search of new worlds and new wealth, the fierce pirates who increased the terrors of the unknown seas, Lindbergh charging alone across the Atlantic in his open cockpit plane, Admiral Byrd facing the long Antarctic night in a lonely hut--all have furnished material for many an absorbing story.

This year New Jersey children are to have a dramatic presentation of that well-loved adventure tale, Treasure Island. From November 11 to 15, inclusive, the play will be presented by the Federal Theater Project at Fuld Hall in Newark. After that the production will tour the State. This play, adapted by Jules Eckert Goodman from Robert Louis Stevenson's famous story, ran in New York for a season. The play is produced as a series of illustrations from an open book, with authentic costumes of the 1740 period.

## ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

To Robert Louis Stevenson books were indeed the highway to adventure. He liked to read books of adventure, and he liked to write them, but most of all, had his health permitted, he would have liked to live the life of the heroes he described.

In an effort to regain his health Stevenson came to America and in 1888 spent several weeks at Manasquan on the Jersey coast. He was then at the height of his fame as a leader of the romantic novelists. Will Low, the painter whom Stevenson had met in France, knew Manasquan well, and it was he who arranged for the writer, accompanied by his mother and his stepson, to stay at the Union House. On damp days, of which there were many, he spent much time in his room working on the novel The Master of Ballantrae. He usually wrote in bed, protected from draughts by a Mexican blanket with a hole in the center through which he slipped his head.

On sunny days Stevenson took long walks by the river wrapped in his dark cloak, or with his stepson Lloyd Osbourne and Will Low, sailed in the catboat. Low gives a description of one of these trips in his Chronicle of Friendship, published in 1908.