

BOOK REVIEWS

Two delightful books for kids

By **BOB WALCH**
Special to The Herald

Created by the Carmel husband and wife team of Leonard Filgate and Susan Yost-Filgate, "Rip Squeak and His Friends Discover The Treasure" is a superb sequel to the first picture book in the series, "Rip Squeak and His Friends."

Beautifully illustrated by Leonard Filgate, this second adventure finds the foursome — two mice, Rip Squeak and his little sister Jesse, their tabby friend Abbey and Euripides, an overdressed frog — off on a treasure hunt.

Euripides, who has an incredible wardrobe, piques the group's thirst for exploration by reading them a pirate story. When a map falls out of the volume, Jesse exclaims, "Oh, wow, we found an adventure!"

Once they have raided an old trunk filled with various

scarves, shirts and vests, the friends are properly attired as pirates so they can begin their search for treasure. With Euripides leading the way, Rip "the navigator" reading the map and Abbey bringing up the rear, the quest begins.

As they head into a deep thicket surrounding a nearby pond, the intrepid adventurers fear meeting some "icky-wicky crawly things." Fortunately, they only encounter a few hungry ants, some friendly ducks and a dragonfly.

Before they can say "X marks the spot," the treasure hunters stumble upon a magnificent "find."

You'll have to read the book to find out what Rip and his buddies discovered, but Susan

Yost-Filgate's message is clear — "treasure" can have many different meanings.

The illustrations of Rip and his friends are so delightfully rendered that the artwork will be featured later this year at "The Los Angeles Times Festival of Books." Filgate's

illustrations also are available as limited edition prints in more than 40 galleries throughout the country.

Another well-designed book for youngsters 2 to 6 is Lauren Thompson's "Little Quack." This Children's Book-of-the-Month Club Main Selection incorporates a "quack-u-lator" in the text so that the reader can hone his or her counting skills.

Mama Duck has decided it's time her five children leave the nest and venture into the nearby pond. With much prodding, Widdle, Waddle, Piddle and Puddle all eventually end up in the water. The smallest and most timid member of the family, Little Quack, is left behind as his brothers and sisters enjoy paddling around with their parent. Eventually all the siblings are reunited as Little Quack finally takes the plunge.

Using illustrator Derek Anderson's "quack-u-lator" at the bottom of the book's pages allows the reader to keep score of how many ducklings are in the water. The graphic also provides numeral recognition.

"Rip Squeak and His Friends Discover The Treasure"

by Leonard Filgate and Susan Yost-Filgate, Rip Squeak Press, \$16.95.

"Little Quack"
by Lauren Thompson, Simon & Schuster, \$14.95.