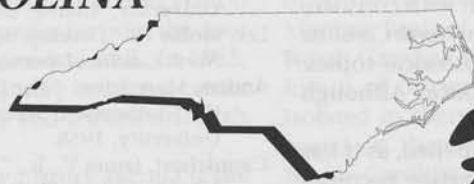


NORTH CAROLINA



Books

Robert G. Anthony, Jr., Compiler

The eastern North Carolina colloquialism, "Thrown away," when applied to an object, place, or individual, means respectively "unwanted," "abandoned," or just "plumb miserable." It is the latter, most poignant interpretation that Flowers evokes in what will undoubtedly stand for years to come as a definitive work on economic and social conditions in eastern North Carolina.

The product of over ten years of research, partially funded by a Ford Foundation grant, *Thrown Away* examines, with the critical eye of the insider, the collective failures of three major reforms occurring from the 1960s to the present: (1) the failure of mechanized agriculture to allow farm tenancy to remain a viable economic alternative; (2) the failure of factories and plants, springing up in thrown away fields, to provide good wages and job security for displaced farmers and hands; and (3) the failure of educational changes accompanying the integration and curricular restructuring of the public schools to reach poor underachievers.

Flowers, the daughter and granddaughter of tenant farmers, documents the tragic reality that, despite attempt at reform, many eastern North Carolinians, both black and white, remain economically and educationally deprived—thrown away. She concludes that low wages, not unemployment per se, in the workplace and the arbitrary grouping of students by ability, rather than mainstreaming, in the public schools are determinative factors which perpetuate the cycle of poverty and underachievement.

Linda Flowers.

Thrown Away: Failures of Progress in Eastern North Carolina.

Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1990.
241 pp. \$24.95. ISBN 0-87049-639-5.



Although Flowers focuses on eight eastern North Carolina counties (Sampson, Wayne, Johnston, Wilson, Nash, Edgecombe, Halifax, and her native Duplin) it becomes increasingly apparent that her findings may be applied equally to other areas of the Tar Heel coastal plain and, indeed, to many predominantly rural counties throughout the South. As professor of English at North Carolina Wesleyan College in Rocky Mount in Nash County, right in the heart of eastern North Carolina, Flowers was uniquely situated geographically to carry out her research. She interviewed tenant farmers and their offspring, students, teachers, and administrators, and offered them, in return, the opportunity to tell their stories in their own words, often unpolished, but always candid and vital.

Flowers's work rests not only on the opinions expressed by interviewees and on her own experience and observations, but also on statistical and analytical reports of municipal, state, and federal agencies. *Thrown Away* includes notes, bibliography, and index, which together provide access to sources cited and consulted. Despite the overall sense of pessimism she evokes, Flowers remains non-judgmental, never accusatory, throughout this most personal and sensitive study. She balances her pessimism with her firm belief that even thrown away eastern North Carolinians are apt to have inherited, albeit in differing proportions, that rare quality of the "farmer's cussedness, his equable and solid understanding of what counts and of who really matters." It is this very inheritance which has driven the daughters of tenant farmers against the odds to achieve and to succeed. Witness the cases of Leontyne Price of Laurel, Mississippi, and Linda Flowers of Faison, North Carolina.

Flowers's *Thrown Away* deserves a place on the shelves of every public library in the South and every academic library in the country.

— Plummer Alston Jones, Jr., Elon College.

What would motivate a grandmother to bury alive her two-year-old granddaughter on the side of a mountain? This question intrigued Maurice Stanley when he was growing up in Haywood County and first learned the story of Nance Dude from his mother. In his first novel, Stanley, who teaches at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and Brunswick Community College and writes a regular column for the *Laurinburg Exchange*, takes the historical account of Nancy Ann Kerley's murder of her granddaughter in 1913 and explains how such a tragic event might have occurred.

The novel chronicles Kerley's life from roughly 1865 until her death in 1952 at the age of 104. Stanley presents a grim picture of the mountain poor at the turn of the century, a society in which the lot of women was particularly bleak. Love in such a situation was as short-lived and fragile as a wildwood flower. After a relatively happy childhood, Nancy Conrad married Howard Kerley, by whom she had a son. But she left him for the wild Dude Hannah, by whom she had a daughter.

Extreme poverty caused by the inability of the men in the story to provide for their families, as well as the degradation of the women, provides the background for the tragic death of little Roberta Ann Putnam. Unable to get a fair trial for the murder, Nance Dude pleads guilty to the lesser charge of second degree murder and, at the age of sixty-five, is sentenced to fifteen years of hard labor. She serves her sentence (hard labor is what she has been used to all of her life) and is released at the age of eighty. She returns to the mountains and lives there as a recluse until her death at 104. Afterwards, she becomes a legend used to threaten misbehaving children: "Nance Dude's gonna get ya!"

Stanley's spare prose heightens the impact of the story. His use of the folk song "Frail Wildwood Flower" and the ballad "The Three Little Babes" skillfully enriches the tale. The latter, sung on the eve of Nance's crime, recalls the heritage of poverty from England, where desperate parents sent children they could no longer care for away to "school" only to have them worked to death.

Fictionalized newspaper articles at the beginnings of chapters and photographs of the real Nance Dude and the crime scene heighten the novel's feel of reality. Stanley's postscript discussing his background sources completes the book, which has been published in a small, convenient size on acid-free paper. Highly recommended for academic, public, and high school libraries.

— Anne Bond Berkley, Durham County Public Library

Constructed primarily with state funds, the 223-mile North Carolina Railroad was the state's longest railroad, largest business corporation, and leading source of revenue during its years of independent operation. Leased to the Richmond and Danville Railroad in 1871 and then the Southern Railway system in 1895, the NCRR still operates as part of the Norfolk Southern Corporation.

With *The North Carolina Railroad, 1849-1871, and the Modernization of North Carolina*, Allen W. Trelease, professor and chair of history at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, offers a thorough examination of the organization, construction, and operation of the North Carolina Railroad (NCRR) during its independent years. With this publication, he provides the first extensive study of the NCRR since Cecil K. Brown's *A State Movement in Railroad Development: The Story of North Carolina's First Effort to Establish an East and West Trunk Line Railroad* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1928).

Organizers conceived the NCRR to be a catalyst for modernization within the state. With its east-west route from Goldsboro to Charlotte via Raleigh and Greensboro, the railroad, they hoped, would divert business from ports in Virginia and South Carolina to those at Wilmington, New Bern, and Beaufort. In reality, the NCRR became an important north-south link through connections in Charlotte and Greensboro, especially during the Civil War when it served as a vital part of the supply line for the Army of Northern Virginia—not to mention as an escape route for Jefferson Davis and the Confederate cabinet near war's end.

The railroad also helped define the urban Piedmont Crescent. New cities attributed to the NCRR include Durham, High Point (so named for being the highest point on the line), and Burlington (née Company Shops), which began its history as the NCRR's repair shops and headquarters.

Trelease examines all aspects of the early NCRR: organization and construction; roadbed,

Maurice Stanley.

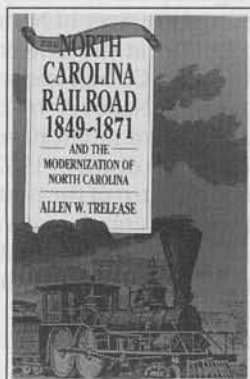
The Legend of Nance Dude.

Winston-Salem: John F. Blair, 1991.
253 pp. \$17.95. ISBN 0-89587-081-9.

Allen W. Trelease.

The North Carolina Railroad, 1849-1871, and the Modernization of North Carolina.

Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1991.
486 pp. \$37.50. ISBN 0-8078-1941-7.



rolling stock, and physical structures; management and finance; labor, especially the role of African-Americans, free and slave, in construction and operation; passenger and freight services, including development of through traffic with other railroads; and operations during the Civil War. The author supplements the narrative with maps, illustrations, and tables.

Trelease concludes with an assessment of the impact of the NCRR on the economic and social development of North Carolina, particularly the Piedmont Crescent. As he points out, Interstate 85 parallels the NCRR from Durham to Charlotte, with the state's major airports in Raleigh-Durham, the triad of Greensboro-Winston-Salem-High Point, and Charlotte. An extensive notes/bibliography section (ninety-seven pages) documents research in primary and secondary sources, including the records of the North Carolina Railroad Company, newspapers, railroad publications, scholarly and popular works about the NCRR and of American railroading, and studies on economic growth and development.

The North Carolina Railroad, 1849-1871, is highly recommended for academic and public libraries. Trelease has written the definitive history of the NCRR during its formative years. With the expiration of Norfolk Southern's lease in 1994, as well as the resurrection of passenger service between Charlotte and Raleigh, this publication proves timely.

— Randy Penninger, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

From Sylva to Wilmington; from the early founding of America to the present; from the beginnings of the world in Indian mythology to its possible destruction, *Our Words, Our Ways: Reading and Writing in North Carolina* by Sally Buckner introduces young people to North Carolina's literary heritage. Designed to complement the state's eighth grade history curriculum by following the history of North Carolina through its poetry, legends, short stories, and book excerpts, *Our Words, Our Ways* is a classic example of careful content integration. Buckner has garnered selection after selection by North Carolina authors to illustrate and expand on the state's history, from Wilma Dykeman's story of the death of Dr. Elisha Mitchell on the mountain he loved, to John Ehle's description of the beginning of the Civil War battle at Chancellorsville, to Suzanne Britt's contemporary, contrasting definitions of "Beach People/Mountain People."

Compiling this textbook was yeoman's work. Defining North Carolina authors as either 1) people who "spent most of their early lives—the years which formed their attitudes, values and personalities—in this state," or 2) ones who "spent such a large part of their lives here that they can be said to have absorbed the North Carolina experience and/or to have contributed a great deal to the Tar Heel literary scene," Buckner has gathered 116 literary selections which range from traditional to serendipitous. The White Doe legends of Virginia Dare and a tale of O. Henry are juxtaposed with poems about the polio summers of the 1950s and three memories of the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Noted adult authors Thomas Wolfe, Clyde Edgerton, Gail Godwin, and Reynolds Price are included with YA (Young Adult) authors such as Suzanne Newton, Sue Ellen Bridgers, and Doris Betts and newspaper writers like Tom Wicker, Kays Gary, Jerry Bledsoe, and John Parris. Even David Brinkley and Andy Griffith merit selections! And if your favorite author is not found within the body of the text, he or she will be included in the short biography section, "A Showcase of Other North Carolina Writers."

While Buckner may be faulted for too few multicultural selections—topics by and about African-Americans make up approximately ten percent of the selections, and other ethnic groups are not singled out—overall this textbook does exactly what it intends. It introduces North Carolina students to "a broad cross section of human life as it is written about by authors in this state . . . writings which can in one way or another make your lives better." The pity is that this textbook was published a year too late to be considered for the 1991-96 literature adoption by the public schools textbook adoption committee. It offers the potential to do what North Carolina teachers and education leaders have sought so long to do: integrate the study of history and literature into a stimulating, relevant curriculum for young people which will not only encourage an appreciation and love of our North Carolina heritage, but also will help these teens understand their place in their communities, state, nation, and world.

— Frances Bryant Bradburn, East Carolina University

Sally Buckner.

***Our Words, Our Ways:
Reading and Writing in
North Carolina.***

Durham: Carolina Academic Press, 1991.
616 pp. \$30.00. ISBN 0-89089-401-9.

Rawley Pendergraft, Galax Tuttle, Zerle Kitcheloe, Virgil Rummelhart: these are but some of the extraordinary—yet quite ordinary—people you will meet in *The Rat Becomes Light*, a collection of fourteen tales by North Carolinian Donald Secreast. Set primarily in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, this is the most original collection of its kind since Breece D’J Pancake’s similarly bizarre West Virginia mountain tales.

In this his first work of fiction, Secreast proves a powerful stylist as he probes and explores the lives and psyches of various employees of the Chalfont Furniture Factory. This monstrous, throbbing hub of activity, virtually the heart and soul of the small community of Boehm, North Carolina (it exists on no map, yet you’ve passed it on every interstate in the country), serves the author well as a memorable setpiece. Always looming within sight and never silent, it stands as an indomitable and merciless life force, placing food on every table—but capable of mangling unwary limbs.

That is not to say the book’s overall tone is grim. There is plenty of humor and while it often goes beyond Flannery O’Connor or Carson McCullers in terms of grotesqueness, Secreast is ultimately sympathetic with these hard working, sad people—never condescending.

In luminous prose of utter clarity, Secreast welds the daily and the surreal into a seamless whole. A woman’s determination to pursue a long-planned liaison in Myrtle Beach (this Promised Land by the sea recurs in occasional sidetrips) becomes horribly complicated when a deep, painful splinter is embedded in her palm. In another tale, one that is reminiscent of Gabriel Garcia Marquez’s fever dreams, a pathetic, hounded worker forms an unholy alliance with a witch in order to exact revenge on his co-workers, with truly disastrous results. And in “Bently in Her Basement,” which is an amazing horror story, a young woman experiencing marriage and motherhood for the first time is forced to comprehend the fact that she is slowly dying from her husband’s callous obsession with spray painting old cars (“the fumes became so thick that eyelashes would stick together”).

Yet, in spite of all this gloom, there is a strong current of redemption running through these tales—almost every one is a testament to perseverance and inner peace. Secreast has an uncanny feel for the sounds and textures of Appalachia, as well as the daily routines of its inhabitants. He’s got about everything right, from the pineapple sandwiches packed up for a night at the triple-feature drive-in to a late night marathon of poker. Appropriate for fiction collections in public and academic libraries, *The Rat Becomes Light* is a weird and wonderful book.

— Sam Shapiro, Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County



The Rat Becomes Light.

Donald Secreast.
New York: Harper & Row, 1990.
217 pp. \$18.95. ISBN 0-06-016440-9.

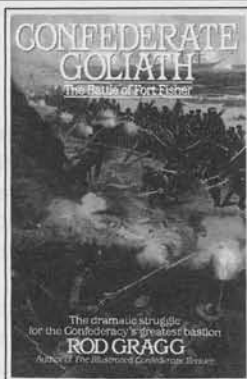
This quote from the diary of Sgt. Kenneth R. Maddrey, 17th Regiment North Carolina Infantry, 24 December 1864, is an apt description of this definitive history of the battles in December 1864 and January 1865 that led to the fall of the sand and sod-built coastal fortification, Fort Fisher. The author has written five books, but with this one has found his place among Civil War historians. The struggle for Fort Fisher, which guarded Wilmington, North Carolina, the South’s last surviving seaport, has been told here in a readable and interesting fashion.

This book is not only the story of the fort and its fall, but also that of commander Colonel William Lamb, whose entire military life was concerned with the building of the fort and its final defense. There are also character studies of generals William Chase Whiting and Braxton Bragg, and brief vignettes of admirals and generals, enlisted men and officers, soldiers and seamen. These interesting pen pictures place the individuals, both Yankee and Rebel, in their proper relationship to the battle. The reader is there on the parapets and with the soldiers and sailors during the struggle for the fort. The initial construction of Fort Fisher and the war-changed community of Wilmington and its importance to the Confederacy are also presented. The author has comprehensively covered his subject, and another monographic treatment of this struggle is unlikely for some time to come.

The epilogue gives the reader the rest of the story of the main participants and the fort. The appendix contains a list of the Union and Confederate forces engaged in the 13-15 January 1865 battle and a list of the U.S. Navy forces at both battles.

Confederate Goliath: The Battle of Fort Fisher.

Rod Gragg.
New York: HarperCollins, 1991.
343 pp. \$25.00. ISBN 0-06-16096-9.



The author's extensive bibliography of books, manuscripts, theses, official records, articles, and newspapers contains all the relevant and current sources available. His lengthy and adequate chapter footnotes also show that his sources were not just consulted but were also used in a skillful manner. The book includes over fifty photographs of the fort and battle participants. There are also two maps and an adequate index.

This book should be in every North Carolina collection, and Civil War and military historians will certainly want this well-written and documented history for their shelves.

The brief quotation at the beginning of this review is the last entry of the reviewer's great-grandfather's diary. Mr. Gragg's excellent work brings to life once more those Yankee shells and tells the full story of the struggle they decided.

— John R. Woodard, Wake Forest University

"They didn't yet realize the ragged way people fall out of love and how it is never completely done."

Early in this second novel by Duke creative writing teacher Elizabeth Cox, the stage is set for the playing out of a rite of passage all too common these days—the movement from traditional nuclear family through separation and divorce to a new configuration of disparate human beings.

We see this unraveling mostly through the eyes of wife/mother/artist Molly Hanner—or rather we experience it through her minutest thoughts, feelings, and sensations, for there is no minimalist detachment here. Cox takes great care to develop not only the wife/husband dynamic, but also Molly's unique relationship with each of her children: Joe, sixteen; Franci, twelve; and Lucas, seven. These children take up just as much psychic space in Molly's world as do adults. Much of the substance of that world consists of quotidian vignettes: Lucas licking baking bowls until his mother says, "Why, I won't even have to wash this, you've made it so clean"; Franci's birthday slumber party; Joe persuading his mother to keep him supplied with Doritos, then accusingly demanding why she doesn't "ever object to the kind of food we eat" like other parents.

And each child, in the midst of various other growing pains, has his/her own way of dealing with Dad's moving out. Joe alternates between bravado and a censure of his mother born of confusion and anger. Franci emerges from her budding adolescent self-preoccupation to question the new situation in a straightforward, matter-of-fact way: "Is it for good? . . . Did he leave for good? . . . Will we still live here? I mean, in this house?" Lucas's reaction reflects a seven-year-old's literal-mindedness: "He told her there was an Indian Guide meeting for fathers and sons and he didn't know what he would do now. He talked as though his father had died." These responses magnify the growing distance between Molly

and husband Will like ever-widening ripples in a once tranquil pool.

The time of the novel is "the year of Halley's comet," a noted event which signals Molly's interest in the stars and in Ben McGinnis, her astronomy teacher. His persistent interest in her is both reassuring and unsettling, pushing her to face "the fevered delight she felt with [him]" as well as her "inexorable caution."

Meanwhile, Molly tentatively develops a new bond with her recently widowed father. He introduces into her life Louise and Sig Penry, whose mission of taking in abused and homeless children is in jeopardy from the threatened enforcement of laws that would close their "home" down. This unshakably determined couple, full of love and hope, along with a strange hermit-like man named Zack Belcher, draws Molly out into the broader world, the world of infinite variety and possibility and heartaches borne and survived.

Yet the events involving Zack and the Penrys, though they pull Molly beyond her insular family constellation, remain a little too peripheral, like parallel stories that only occasionally intersect. The true catalyzing event in the reweaving of the emotional fabric of the Hanners' lives is the disappearance and possible death of son Joe, a crisis that reconnects Molly and Will and brings the whole family closer in new ways. The resolution of this episode could have belly-flopped into melodrama in the hands of a less skilled writer, but Cox brings it off beautifully, an indication of her willingness and ability to take dramatic risks and emerge the stronger for it.

Though the story is set in a North Carolina mountain town, place does not exert the overriding influence it does in Lee Smith's or Fred Chappell's mountain novels. Nor does it have the down-home flavor of the works of Clyde Edgerton or Kaye Gibbons. But this is by no means a criticism. In fact, this novel, written in the language of our larger American culture, will appeal to readers looking for modern realistic fiction as well as to those who eagerly devour anything local in flavor and origin. *The Ragged Way* assures Elizabeth Cox a secure place in the current North Carolina literary renaissance.

— Jane Dyer, Chapel Hill Public Library

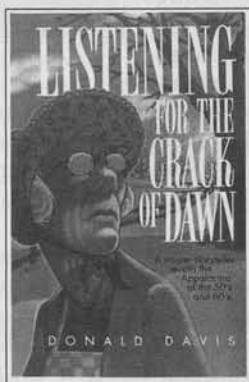
Elizabeth Cox.

The Ragged Way People Fall Out of Love.

San Francisco: North Point Press, 1991.
203 pp. \$18.95. ISBN 0-86547-446-X.

Donald Davis.
***Listening for the
Crack of Dawn.***

Little Rock: August House, 1990.
220 pp. \$17.95. ISBN 0-87483-153-9.



Professional storyteller Donald Davis has adapted several of his tales to the written word and added new ones to form a cohesive group of stories about small town life in the Appalachia of the 1950s and 1960s. Each of the tales centers on the same unnamed narrator, his immediate and extended family, and the sometimes eccentric inhabitants of Sulphur Springs, North Carolina.

In the title story, "Listening for the Crack of Dawn," the reader is introduced to the narrator's ancient great-aunt Laura, "a floater" who lived with the family in alternate months or until his mother decided it was time to "float" Aunt Laura to Aunt Hester's house for a visit.

Aunt Laura was the "oldest living thing he had ever seen" and the first adult in his life who loved him no matter what he did. She had never married, not because she disliked men, but because she had "a prior commitment, a greater love. Aunt Laura was absolutely and totally in love with Dental Scotch Snuff, and if getting married meant that she had to give up dipping snuff. . . well, no man on the face of God's earth was worth that."

Aunt Laura is one of several eccentric yet captivating characters appearing in these stories. As the narrator comes of age, we become acquainted with tiny, bird-like Miss Daisy Boring, the fourth grade teacher who threw out the textbooks to take her class on a dazzling year of imaginary world travel—with students planning the trips; hiring the guides for their journey down the Amazon; sailing their ship across the equator, around Cape Horn, and across

the Pacific; calculating distances, latitude and longitude—never realizing they were actually learning math, spelling, and reading skills along the way.

Then there was Daff-Knee Garlic whose "peculiar but interesting defect of birth" allowed him to run as fast backward as he did forward; and "Long-lip" Medford, the rural mail carrier who could talk you to death; and Hoxie Gaddy who sold motor oil, sewing machine needles, candy, and soft drinks, which he called "dopes," from his Store-on-Wheels.

Among the more conventional characters is Carrie Boyd, the narrator's tormentor in first grade, and his date to the Christmas dance their senior year of high school; and Red McElroy, his accomplice in loading "bird missile" balloons with yellow and green baby food to be thrown at passing cars.

Davis has managed to evoke a sense of the depth of personal connections, the strong intergenerational ties, and the mischievous innocence so much a part of small town life in that era. With the current nostalgia for all that belongs to the 1950s and 1960s, this book should appeal to adults who remember those days and to younger readers who seek a more personal understanding of the period.

— Katherine R. Cagle, Reynolds High School, Winston-Salem

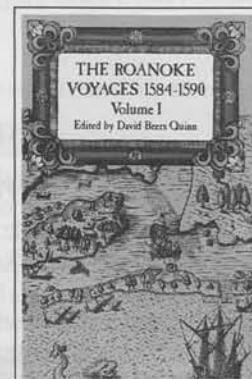
OTHER PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

Royal governor from 1765 to 1771, victor over the Regulators at the Battle of Alamance, and builder of the elaborate Governor's Palace at New Bern that today bears his name, William Tryon played a critical, if relatively brief, role in the history of colonial North Carolina. In *William Tryon and the Course of Empire: A Life in British Imperial Service*, Paul David Nelson offers a scholarly examination not only of Tryon's North Carolina tenure but also his later service as royal governor of New York, major general in the British army during the Revolutionary War, and post-war friend to Americans who had remained loyal to the Crown. Nelson depicts Tryon as an able administrator confronted by the collapse of royal authority in America, "a pawn of forces entirely beyond his control." (1990; University of North Carolina Press, P.O. Box 2288, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27515-2288; 250 pp; \$24.95; ISBN 0-8078-1917-4.)

Before Freedom: 48 Oral Histories of Former North and South Carolina Slaves, edited by Belinda Hurmence, combines in a single inexpensive paperback edition, *Before Freedom, When I Can Just Remember: Twenty-Seven Oral Histories of Former South Carolina Slaves* (Winston-Salem: John F. Blair, 1989) and *My Folks Don't Want Me to Talk about Slavery: Twenty-One Oral Histories of Former North Carolina Slaves* (Winston-Salem: John F. Blair, 1984). [For a full review of the latter, see *North Carolina Libraries* 43 (1985): 56.] Hurmence selected the oral histories included from the massive collection of interviews conducted in the 1930s with former slaves by the Federal Writers' Project. (1990; Penguin, 375 Hudson Street, New York, NY 10014-3657; 201 pp; \$4.95; ISBN 0-451-62781-4; paper.)

In *Ham Jones, Ante-Bellum Southern Humorist: An Anthology*, editors Willene Hendrick and George Hendrick have collected writings by one of North Carolina's most significant authors of the picturesque local-color humor popular in the South of the first half of the nineteenth century. A journalist and lawyer, as well as writer, Jones was reared in Stokes County and settled as an adult in Salisbury. In his humor, he depicted the people and events he encountered in his legal and newspaper careers, especially the lives of poor whites. His stories were widely printed and repeated orally in his day. The editors of the current anthology hope their compilation will introduce him to a new generation. (1990; Archon Books/Shoe String Press, P.O. Box 4327, Hamden, CT 06514; 137 pp.; \$23.50; ISBN 0-208-02272-4.)

Between 1584 and 1590, Sir Walter Raleigh promoted a series of exploratory voyages to North America. Although centered on Roanoke Island in present-day North Carolina, these explorations took Englishmen to a number of places in the Caribbean and along the Atlantic coast of the continent. Reprinted recently in an inexpensive two-volume paperback edition, *The Roanoke Voyages, 1584-1590: Documents to Illustrate the English Voyages to North America Under the Patent Granted to Walter Raleigh in 1584* gathers the contemporary documents generated in the planning, executing, and reporting of those explorations. These documents, edited by David Beers Quinn, vividly illustrate the fascination and excitement the New World held for Europeans. Included are letters patent, signet letters, abstracts from parliamentary proceedings, commissions, other government documents, extracts from published accounts by explorers, maps, and various miscellaneous items that make this an indispensable collection of primary source material on the early European exploration of America. (1991; Dover Publications, 31 East 2nd Street, Mineola, N.Y. 11501; 1,004 pp.; 2 vols. @ \$14.95 each; ISBN 0-486-26512-9 and 0-486-26513-7; paper.)



The dustjacket blurb for the latest volume (*Volume 4, L-O*) in the *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography* series does not exaggerate. This truly is "the most comprehensive state project of its kind" and, as reference librarians throughout North Carolina can attest, an invaluable source for information on notable Tar Heels. The 592 entries in volume 4, like those in the earlier volumes, provide brief sketches of deceased individuals who contributed significantly to the history and heritage of North Carolina. (1991; University of North Carolina Press, P.O. Box 2288, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27515-2288; 415 pp.; \$49.95; ISBN 0-8078-1918-2.)



North Carolina's treacherous coastal waters have claimed many a ship as victim, earning the area the sobering nickname "graveyard of the Atlantic." In *Guide to Shipwreck Diving: North Carolina*, Rob Farb offers useful information to individuals seeking a first-hand look at the remains of ill-fated ships off the Tar Heel coast. Included are thorough descriptions of twenty-five of "the best sunken vessels awaiting the adventurous diver in North Carolina waters"; photographs of shipwrecks, divers, relics, and marine life; state and federal laws regulating diving and underwater archaeology; tips for underwater photography; and other instruction to the would-be diver. (1990; Pices Books/Gulf Publishing Company, P.O. Box 2608, Houston, TX 77252-2608; 120 pp.; \$15.95; ISBN 1-55992-030-0; paper.)

Down Home Press has recently published a paperback edition of *A Passionate Preference: The Story of the North Carolina School of the Arts*, by Leslie Banner. [For a full review, see *North Carolina Libraries* 45 (1987): 156-57.] (1991; Down Home Press, P.O. Box 4126, Asheboro, N.C. 27204; 438 pp.; \$14.95; ISBN 1-878086-01-4; paper.)

The April 1991 issue (Vol. 68, No. 2) of the *North Carolina Historical Review* includes "North Carolina Bibliography, 1989-1990." This bibliography of approximately five hundred entries is the latest in an annual series that lists books about North Carolina subjects or by or about North Carolinians, natives or current residents. The *Review* is a quarterly publication of the North Carolina Division of Archives and History. (Historical Publications Section, Division of Archives and History, 109 East Jones Street, Raleigh, N.C. 27601-2807.)