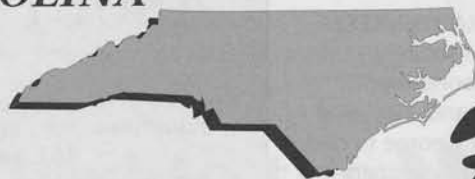


NORTH CAROLINA



Books

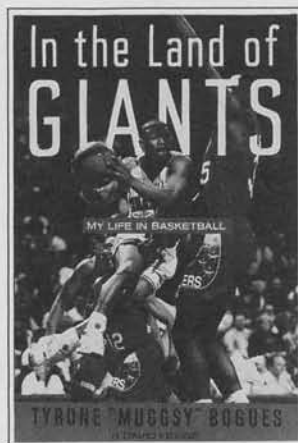
Dorothy Hodder, Compiler

It's tempting to look at "Muggsy" Bogues as something of a novelty act, like a singing dog or a bearded woman. After all, at five foot three inches tall, Bogues is the shortest man ever to play in the National Basketball Association, and that by a wide margin. Combine his small size with his ready smile and his lovable, cuddly public persona and you've got the perfect media creation. The only problem with this view is that, in this case, the dog really can sing. Basketball players around the world consistently have underestimated Bogues and usually have paid the price.

Tyrone "Muggsy" Bogues and David Levine.

In the Land of Giants: My Life in Basketball.

Boston, et. al: Little, Brown and Company, 1994.
233 pp. \$19.95. ISBN 0-316-10173-7.



In many respects, Bogues' life story is similar to that of numerous NBA stars. He was raised in a poor neighborhood in Baltimore and was introduced to basketball on the neighborhood playgrounds and in city recreation leagues. Bogues was a standout at local Dunbar High School, a national prep powerhouse, in the early 1980s, before going on to college stardom at Wake Forest University. He was a first round selection in the National Basketball Association draft and went on to professional fame and fortune.

What sets Bogues off from the crowd, however, is his ability to treat his lack of size as an asset rather than a liability. At every level, Bogues has succeeded in silencing his critics because of his refusal to believe the doubters and his ability to use his assets in a creative manner. One of the quickest players in the game, Bogues excels in a fast-paced, up tempo game that delights fans and wears out opponents. He maintains that the majority of a basketball game is played not in the air, where high-flying giants rule, but rather on the floor, and who rules the floor

but the smallest player?

Although born and raised in Baltimore, Bogues has long ties with North Carolina. After his Wake Forest career, he was drafted by the Washington Bullets, but played only a single season with them before being selected in 1988 by the expansion team Charlotte Hornets. He begins the 1994-1995 season as one of Charlotte's best and most popular players and one of only two original members still with the team.

Bogues tells his story with the assistance of veteran sportswriter David Levine. The prose is workmanlike, conversational, and readable. *In the Land of Giants* is aimed at popular audiences. It does not have an index or bibliography, but does contain a selection of photographs. It is suitable for any general library.

— Jim L. Sumner

North Carolina Division of Archives and History

Dr. Shaffner, a retired professor living in Highlands where he runs a bookshop, has done a signal service in writing a highly literate and commendable history of a small but distinguished library in Macon County. His well-researched history always places developments at the library within the national and even international literary scene but is less successful in fixing the context within general library developments. He is wrong, in fact, to claim it as the "first public library in North Carolina," as the Asheville Reading Club (1879) probably deserves that honor, as the direct ancestor of the Pack Memorial Library. Wilmington and New Bern, which had a series of "public libraries" during the nineteenth century, and Fayetteville, which incorporated one in 1794 but did not maintain it, also have good claims to this distinction. But Southern library history is poorly recorded, and Shaffner can be forgiven for not knowing the professional literature on the subject.

His book, always lively and well-illustrated, footnoted and indexed, and bound in stiff paper, is perhaps of more service to local historians than to librarians. While much attention is given to individual books and people associated with the library and to details of local life and geography, no attempt is made to analyze circulation or patron status or other statistical or social matters. Although little attention is paid to the challenge of integration in the 1960s, Hudson's incorporation into the Fontana Regional Library System in the 1970s is well described from a book lover's standpoint. The writer deserves credit for carrying his story to the present, and if he avoids delving deeply into some controversies, he at least suggests their presence. Highlands and North Carolina have been well served by a book that transcends the type of short, commemorative, and self-congratulatory work that usually passes for library history.

— Patrick Valentine, Wilson County Public Library

Randolph P. Shaffner.

***Good Reading Material,
Mostly Bound and New:
The Hudson Library 1884-1994.***

Highlands, NC: Hudson Library of the Highlands,
N.C., Inc., 1994. 256 pp. \$23.95.
ISBN 0-9640078-3-5.

Coastal North Carolina is a seasonal home to approximately four hundred species of birds and is a popular location for bird watchers from all parts of the country. Beginning with a survey of the area, Fussell examines the climate, the physiography, and the habitat of the northern coast, the Albemarle and Pamlico section, the Outer Banks, and the central and south coast sections. A study of the terrain shows the reader why certain species are likely to be found in a specific area. The list of birds is annotated briefly and describes the season when they are likely to be present and the coastal section to which they are attracted.

The real joy of this work is the section of guide maps that occupies most of the book. Meticulous in detail, the narrative accompanying each map almost guarantees success to even the novice birder. Information in each entry includes the name, address, and telephone number of the wildlife preserve or agency (if there is one) and any other pertinent information needed to reach the location, no matter how remote.

Following the map section, the author presents more than eighty pages of detailed information on 141 of the most sought after birds and gives their usual schedule and location of appearance. This thoroughly rewarding book concludes with graphs of each bird's monthly frequency of appearance.

The author includes both a species and a subject index. The table of contents lists each site and agency described. This could be the only book one would need to enjoy the birds of coastal North Carolina, but because of the lack of detailed illustrations, one must be a veteran birder to use it alone. A frequent user also may find the book bulky, which may be a problem when carrying it in the field. The book does not claim to be a field guide, but it certainly could be one of the best with the addition of color drawings. Appropriate for the general public.

The author is an environmental consultant and the author of *Finding Birds in Carteret County*.

— Judie Stoddard, Sampson-Clinton Public Library

John O. Fussell, III.

***A Birder's Guide to
Coastal North Carolina.***

Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1994.
540 pp. Cloth, \$29.95. ISBN 0-8078-2146-2.
Paper, \$16.95. ISBN 0-8078-4453-5.

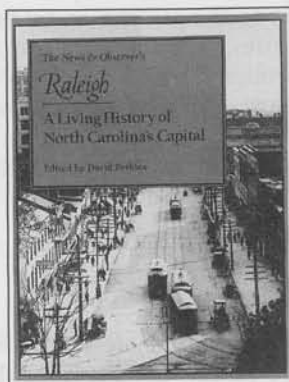
Imagine driving through the streets of Raleigh accompanied by a chatty tour guide. He points out street signs, historical buildings, and schools while relating interesting tidbits and folksy stories about passing landmarks. *The News and Observer's Raleigh* offers the armchair tourist a similar view of the capital.

This informal history is based on a 1991 supplement to the *News and Observer*, commemorating the city's two hundredth birthday. Perkins, who is Book Editor for the *News & Observer*, added an index, photographs, additional articles, and excerpts from diaries and journals. The volume is divided into four parts emphasizing Raleigh's beginning, the Civil War and Reconstruction, the early nineteen hundreds, and the 1960- period of urban expansion. Accounts of Union Civil War occupation, a hog-killing day, a typical boy's day in the 1880's, and life in the once prosperous black community on Hargett Street are a few of the eye-witness perspectives that make this book enjoyable. Vignettes of important Raleigh educators, philanthropists, builders, politicians and businessmen are presented along with their civic contributions. The differences in ambiance between Old Raleigh within the 440 Beltline and New Raleigh to the North are amusingly explained.

David Perkins, ed.

The News and Observer's Raleigh: A Living History of North Carolina's Capital.

Winston-Salem: John F. Blair, 1994. 202pp. \$22.95
ISBN 0-89587-121-1.



Appropriately, several articles about the Raleigh newspaper business are included. The political role that newspapers have played in the capital is discussed from its beginning with two presses in 1799, through the tumultuous Civil War era with fifteen papers, to the present dominance of the Daniels' *News & Observer*. Readers who see Raleigh's preeminent newspaper as the voice of liberal Democrats will find support from such quotes as "since ...1894, the N&O has endorsed only two GOP candidates in general elections."

Perkins recommends Murray's *Wake — Capital County of North Carolina* as the best source for authoritative information, and explains that his different "goal was to create a history that lived and breathed." Consequently, the N&O's *Raleigh* is an appropriate purchase for school, public, and academic libraries as a more readable introductory history of the capital area.

— Christine L. Thomson
Saint Mary's College

With the publication of Jim Grimsley's *Winter Birds*, once again Algonquin Books brings the reader of serious fiction a stimulating novel with a North Carolina connection. This strongly autobiographical novel traces the experiences of an eight-year-old entangled in the family founded by a habitually drunken and violent man and his abused wife. He writes of a family plagued by a catalog of problems, including hemophiliac sons and a physically and economically crippled father. The family also has a mother whose strength maintains a balance within that family, and provides her children with a protected area in which to survive.

Jim Grimsley.

Winter Birds.

Chapel Hill, NC : Algonquin Brooks, 1994. 209 pp.
\$18.95. ISBN: 1-56512-075-2.

The book is narrated by the older Danny, telling the story to his eight-year-old self and pinpointing the source of personal courage that will permit him to survive. He finds that courage in claiming his mother's terrible self-honesty as his own. Grimsley provides vivid portraits of characters recognizable beyond their personal circumstances, in prose so in tune with the human voice that the reader will want to search out performances of his plays and enjoy listening to his facility with speech.

Jim Grimsley is a playwright and writer-in-residence at the 7Stages Theatre of Atlanta, Georgia. He is the recipient of Newsday's George Oppenheimer Award as the best new playwright of 1988.

Winter Birds is his first novel. It is an excellent choice for public and university library fiction collections and may be considered for high school collections where there are sufficiently mature readers.

— Nancy Schell Scott
Eastern Wayne High School

When Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Mary Oliver said, "A mind that is lively and inquiring, compassionate, curious, angry, full of music, full of feeling, is a mind full of poetry," she could have been describing the minds of the fifteen contemporary North Carolina poets chosen by poet Michael McFee for this sumptuous anthology. McFee, who has published four books of poetry, includes his own poems in the anthology along with the work of Betty Adcock, A. R. Ammons, Maya Angelou, James Applewhite, Gerard Barrax, Kathryn Stripling Byer, Fred Chappell, William Harmon, Susan Ludvigson, Heather Ross Miller, Robert Morgan, Reynolds Price, James Seay, and Jonathan Williams.

Michael McFee, editor.

***The Language They Speak is
Things to Eat:
Poems by Fifteen Contemporary
North Carolina Poets.***

Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1994.
270 pp. \$24.95 cloth. ISBN 0-8078-2172-1.
\$12.95 paper. ISBN 0-8078-4483-7.



McFee's anthology provides a generous sampling (eight to twenty-six poems) by each poet, giving us more than a taste of the stylistic diversity of this gifted group of writers. The work included was done between 1973 and 1993 by poets who have published at least two full-length books during that period. How did McFee decide who was a North Carolina poet? Several poets were born elsewhere; a number have lived outside the state for years. According to McFee, they are North Carolina writers "because they choose to be so ... it's as if — by birth or longtime residence — North Carolina has chosen *them*, and they are working out that odd bond in concentrated lines and words, in the distilled spirits of poetry." Many of the poems do deal with the dialectic between landscape and consciousness, but this is not a collection of "local color" writing.

The stylistic variety of these voices is striking. The book makes a reader feel lavished with its exacting perception and precision of voice. From Barrax's "faith with roots" and Stripling Byer's exuberance in "Wide Open, These Gates" to the luxuriance of mind at play in Harmon's intelligent work, the poems push against what is expected in Southern literature, and while breaking what is expected, end up giving us a new vision of North Carolina poetry, of *all* poetry. This is a wonderful collection of many years of serious work. I agree with McFee when he states that these poems are "direct and engaging, rich in image and character and story and humor, with a genuine love of place."

Recommended for public and academic libraries.

— Kathleen Halme
University of North Carolina at Wilmington

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Other Publications of Interest

For poetry collections, *The North Carolina Poems of A.R. Ammons* is an important acquisition. Ammons, a native of Whiteville, is a professor at Cornell University and the recipient of numerous honors and awards for his poetry. The opening poem sets the tone for the collection: "I went back / to my old home / and the furrow / of each year / plowed like / surf across / the place had / not washed / memory away." The volume is edited by Alex Albright, who also wrote a brief afterword. (1994; North Carolina Wesleyan College Press, 3400 N. Wesleyan Blvd, Rocky Mount, NC 27804; 119 pp; paper, \$10.00; ISBN 0-933598-51-3-)

The Honest Account of a Memorable Life: An Apocryphal Gospel is Reynolds Price's retelling of the life of Jesus, an assignment he gave to a seminar class studying the gospels of Mark and John, and completed with his students. Beautifully published in a limited, numbered edition, it will give readers an uncommon glimpse into the faith of an author to whose work questions of faith are central. (1994; North Carolina Wesleyan College Press, 3400 N. Wesleyan Blvd, Rocky Mount, NC 27804; ix, 46 pp; cloth, \$25.00 plus \$2.00 shipping and handling; ISBN 0-933598-52-1; signed, \$50.00 plus \$2.00 shipping and handling; ISBN 0-933598-X.)

A practical purchase for travel collections is *North Carolina Getaways: A Guide to Bed & Breakfasts and Country Inns* by Don Vandeventer. The author includes seventy inns and B&Bs where he has stayed, giving each a two-page description with photographs. The western part of the state receives better coverage than the eastern in this chatty guide. Regional maps and indexes to inns and major tourist attractions are included. (1995; Down Home Publications, PO Box 1899-B, Candler, NC 28715, distributed by John Blair, 1406 Plaza Drive, Winston-Salem, NC 27103; 192 pp; paper, \$14.95; ISBN 1-886443-00-9.)

Public libraries serving the sportsman will want *Coastal Fishing in the Carolinas: From Surf, Pier, and Jetty* by Robert J. Goldstein. The author covers equipment, bait, tackle, and casting techniques used in fishing from the beach and from piers and jetties, as well as detailed descriptions of the fish to be caught. There is a section called "Where to Go" with numerous fairly detailed maps and tips leading to the best fishing spots. Telephone numbers are included for fishing piers, and restaurants and accommodations are mentioned in passing. Appendices include lists of manufacturers, fishing clubs, sources of information, a well-illustrated section on fishing knots, and an index. (Revised edition, 1994; John F. Blair, 1406 Plaza Drive, Winston-Salem, NC 27103; xi, 190 pp; paper, \$12.95; ISBN 0-89587-117-3.) Also, especially for the western part of the state, consider *Trout Streams of Southern Appalachia: Fly-Casting in Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee* by Jimmy Jacobs. This is a detailed creek-by-creek list with maps and photographs, and includes a list of sources for more detailed maps, and an index. (1994; Backcountry Publications, an imprint of The Countyman Press, PO Box 175, Woodstock, VT 05091-0175; 335 pp; paper, \$17.00; ISBN 0-88150-303-7.)

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Genealogy collections will be interested in *Family Burying Grounds and Abandoned Church Cemeteries in Guilford County, N.C. and Immediate Environs* compiled by O. Norris and Rebecca H. Smith. Originally published in 1978 and long out of print, it has been corrected and updated. (1994; Guilford County Genealogical Society, PO Box 9693, Greensboro, NC 27429-0693; vi, 41 pp; paper, \$10.00 postpaid plus \$.65 NC sales tax; no ISBN.) Also, *The Old North State in 1776*, Volumes I and II with Index, by The Rev. Eli W. Caruthers, D.D., has been republished. It is based on Reverend Caruthers' interviews with many of North Carolina's participants in the military and political action of the Revolutionary War period. (1994; Guilford County Genealogical Society, PO Box 9693, Greensboro, NC 27429-0693; v, 247 pp; paper, \$20.00 postpaid plus \$.65 NC sales tax; no ISBN.)

A response to the Little Rascals Daycare Center trial is Margaret Leong's *Magical Child Molestation Trials: Edenton's Children Accuse*. She has included poems, testimony and comments by the children and adults involved in the case. This collection and others are available in self-published editions. (1993; New York Literary Press, PO Box 483, Chapel Hill, NC 27514; unnumbered; paper, \$5.95 plus \$1.65 handling; no ISBN.)

A cookbook with an unusual twist is *Creative Writing-Cooking: Recipes from the Authors You Love* compiled by the Writers' Group of the Triad and edited by Nancy Gotter Gates. Most of North Carolina's finest contributed, so the reader can compare cornbread recipes from Fred McLaurin, Clyde Edgerton, and Tim McLaurin, or duplicate the Pork Liver Cupcakes that Lilian Jackson Braun makes for her cats. Most contributors contented themselves with brief remarks and one recipe (Stephen King's two-ingredient Lunchtime Gloop beat out Dave Barry's Toast with Peanut Butter for briefest entry.) A few of the recipes originally were worked into novels by their authors, notable among these being T. Coraghessan Boyle's Baked Camel (Stuffed). Indexed. (1994; Down Home Press, PO Box 4126, Asheboro, NC 27204; 176 pp; paper, \$13.95; ISBN 1-878086-30-8.)

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