

New North Carolina Books

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RICHARD WALSER. *Thomas Wolfe Undergraduate*. (Durham: Duke University Press, 1977). \$8.75.

Richard Walser's book on Thomas Wolfe's career at Chapel Hill (1916-1920) is concise, which is one way of saying that it is well-written, well-handled, and well enough so it makes selecting a signal merit about it onerous. Nevertheless, one might settle on the book's successful tracing of a development, a growth and a change as one of its most admirable accomplishments. For Walser does this, not only with Thomas Wolfe, taking the writer from his freshman year through graduation, but he also manages to capture a vivid impression of a university in transition as well. The result is something more than a sketch (though it is not a complete and subtle portrait) of both. A reader will see Wolfe emerge as a type—one of many bright, hopeful young men (and a few women) involved in college composition on the subject of "Who I Am," late hour bull-sessions, "society initiations," nebulous dreams, football cheers, and the issue of school spirit; but he will also perceive these things (and more rigorous pursuits) as involving Thomas Wolfe and no other.

Mr. Walser seems in touch with people. Personal interviews with Wolfe's contemporaries at the University have contributed in good measure to his grasp of his subject, and he obviously knows much. But

he seems wise as well, and for the most part his picture of the just-about-to-burgeon Wolfe and Chapel Hill is rendered with understanding and humor. Perhaps the best illustration of this touch is reflected in his treatment of Wolfe's relationships with four different professors. Each of these men receives a chapter, one for each of Wolfe's years as a student at Chapel Hill; and one is left with the idea, really, that it is, after all, people who validate institutions, as it is people who make books.

In view of this, and keeping in mind his generally unpatronizing flavor, one of the summarizing remarks that Walser makes about those formative years for Wolfe at the then villagelike campus does strike one as a little atonal: "What is important," he writes of Wolfe's association with the four teachers, "is that there in that Southern wilderness, under Bernard, Greenlaw, Koch, and Williams, he (Wolfe) flourished like a palm tree in Arcadia." Walser rounds out this observation by maintaining that, in letting Wolfe "race against himself at his chosen speed, they were wise, enlightened men." When one reads this estimate of the four and ruminates over the statement that, in October 1919, though the University had enrolled, by Walser's accounting, only 1350 souls, 608 of these were in the English department, one really wonders about "progress and wilderness."

But by any accounting, Walser's work is a solid, capable contribution. It is a book that will be enlightening to those engaged by Thomas Wolfe, of course, but it is also one that will interest those who seek insight into educational and cultural change. This book belongs in every North Carolina library.

Richard M. Morton

MASON P. THOMAS, JR. and L. LYNN HOGUE. *Kids and Cops: Law Enforcement Services for Children in North Carolina*. (Chapel Hill: The Institute of Government, 1974). 124 pp.

The preface to this book states that it is "designed to meet the practical needs of a law enforcement officer working with children in North Carolina." As such, it is quite technical, and is probably of limited interest to the average reader. The book focuses on concrete information about the mechanics of the North Carolina juvenile justice system and provides a somewhat idealized version of how that system is supposed to function. An excellent summary of North Carolina juvenile law is given, along with a review of the constitutional rights of children. There is also a review of official policies and procedures concerning juvenile arrest, detention, diversion from juvenile court, and the handling of special cases such as runaways and child abuse. An appendix contains extensive quotations from the North Carolina General Statutes relevant to juveniles.

A more general discussion of the North Carolina juvenile justice system may be found in an earlier publication: *As the Twig is Bent: A Report of the North Carolina Juvenile Justice Corrections System*, (Raleigh: North Carolina).

Thomas J. Bernard

ADELAIDE FRIES, STUART THURMAN WRIGHT and J. EDWIN HENDRICKS. *Forsyth: The History of a County on the*

March, Revised Edition. (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1976). \$6.95.

This revised edition of the original volume published in 1949 was sponsored by the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Bicentennial Commission. Most of the material of the earlier edition has been retained; however, it has been rewritten. The result is a county history that is better than most of those I have seen in recent years. The chairman of the publications committee was a professional historian and he has done a commendable job in arranging the material. Familiar historic periods are used and the social and economic affairs of the county are discussed in each period. The reader can follow rather easily the history of the county from the coming of the Moravians down to the present day.

Since the book was written as a part of a patriotic celebration it does not dwell on things that should not be celebrated. The focus is on progress, improvement and optimism. Though a short chapter is devoted to the "Black Community," the history of black people is not here. The history of "politics" in Forsyth County is here. The dark and sorrowful side of people's lives is not here. But given the purpose of the book, this is not really to be expected. All things considered, it is a good county history. Every library that maintains a collection of county histories should order it.

PATSY MOORE GINNIS and J. L. OSBORNE, JR. *Rough Weather Making Good Timber*. (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1977). \$9.50.

Interest in oral history has increased in recent years. Unfortunately, once recordings are made they are too often filed away in libraries; few people hear them. This book is a good example of how oral history can be shared with the general

public — put the recollections into a book. Ginniss set out to record the recollections of the rural people of North Carolina about times past. Osborne, an artist, travelled across the state looking for scenes that retained the flavor of the old days. The interviews and illustrations provide an experience in nostalgia that should not be missed.

The oldest person interviewed was ninety, the youngest fifty-three. Though most of the interviews were done in the western counties, enough entries came from the Piedmont and East to balance the picture. In addition to first-hand accounts, the entries include family stories and legends that date back to the Revolution. Ginniss has done very little editing, presenting the material just as it came from the people. She has arranged the material in a most interesting and effective fashion. The result is an unusually successful account of the old days in North Carolina.

This book will be of interest to both local historians and the general reader. It is recommended to all North Carolina libraries.

SHARON SHAW. *Auctions*. (Winston-Salem: John F. Blair, Publisher, 1977). \$3.95.

JOHN FOSTER WEST. *Wry Wine*. (Winston-Salem: John F. Blair, Publisher, 1977). \$3.95.

Sharon Shaw and John Foster West have lived a while; their poetry reveals experience and reflection, sorrow and hopefulness, acceptance and optimism. Both link emotion with intellectual ideas, rarely succumbing to esoteric metaphors, strained associations or artzy-smartzy graphics. These poets fulfill what is perhaps the first obligation of the poet — communication with the reader.

Ms. Shaw writes of time, balance, sleep, love, marriage, leaving, death and forgetting. Her writing is disciplined and re-

strained; her skill with language allows her to put just the right edge on the feelings she is expressing. The result is a series of thoughtful yet moving poems that provoke an emotional response in the reader: "Yes, those are my feelings, my thoughts, my remembrances." Some of the poems speak to what may be called, for lack of a better term, the female dilemma. But there is no anger, shouting or self-pity here, only the sharing of one of life's experiences: *The quiet times will come again/ water and land will make amiable patterns/ and the furies lie at rest*. Sharon Shaw does not cobble for effect; her poems are real. They are intuitive, imaginative and personal. Poets who are compelled to write about personal intimacies can take a lesson from this woman.

Readers of this journal are probably familiar with the Appalachian themes of John Foster West. His "prose-poetry" in *This Proud Land* stands out in my mind as one of the most successful efforts to capture the spirit of mountain people. *Wry Wine* touches on the mountain experience, but extends far beyond regional interest.

These poems have a masculine robustness about them — a taste for "cheap red," a lust for beautiful young women, love and respect for one's mate, tenderness toward children, a protest against old age. Many of the poems are personal, but West does not allow deeply felt emotions to ruin his poetry: *And I am jealous for a moment's beat/ because I cannot see/ which hug is for the father's bones inside/ and which is for the mother-cloak I wear*. A lesser poet, given the circumstances, would have slurped a bit here, yanked at the reader's sympathy and spoiled the effect.

West writes about distinctions, but does not preach about them: youth and age, life and death, lust and love, male and female, dreams and reality. Yet, he does not mince his words in telling the reader

where he stands: *Your brand of equality is for the birds —/ male penquins who freeze their asses/ squatting on Antarctic ice hatching the deserted eggs/ dropped by their liberated mates./* Buy the book and read "Other Helens, Other Troys," for an even stronger point of view.

In my judgment, Shaw and West stand high among North Carolina poets. Every library should purchase their books.

JOSEPH C. SLOANE, (Ed.). *The American Situation: The Camera's Century*. (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1975). \$9.95.

The case for photography as an art form has long been made. But anyone who still doubts should be persuaded by the camera-studies in this superb little volume. Prepared under the auspices of The Ackland Art Center at Chapel Hill, it is a study in pictures of the people of America. The purpose of the book is "to suggest something of what it has meant to be an American over the past century." The faces here are compelling: old and young, rich and poor, black and white, male and female. The selections reflect the immense variety of American life; each picture a study in culture and humanity. The American drama is revealed in such pictures as "Boys in a Water Hole," "Mill Boys," and "Coal Miner's Child." The photographs range from a rural scene near Wadesboro to the Ramapo Mountains and the streets of Chicago and New York. A thousand words cannot describe a picture; you must see these yourselves.

POOLE, HERBERT (Ed.). *Academic Libraries by the Year 2000: Essays Honoring Jerrold Orne*. (N.Y.: Bowker, 1977). 205 p. \$15.95.

It is very difficult to review a volume produced to honor Jerrold Orne, who well merits the Festschrift. If one criticizes the contents, the reader might assume one

was criticizing the honoree. However, assured, such is not the case. Suffice it to say that the authors in the volume are prestigious and all have written well.

One of the questions to be answered is "Do we really need another predictive volume considering all those that have gone before?" I would answer yes, since this volume zeroes in and stays relatively zeroed in on the academic library picture. The volume is well organized progressing in papers from the general to the specific. The first paper by Ed Holley sets the stage in terms of looking at past events in academic funding and enrollment and using these to point us toward reality.

A thoughtful paper by Damon Hickey on the impact of instructional technology on academic libraries puts that section into context and emphasizes the isolation of the library from the classroom in most academic institutions, with some exceptions such as community colleges. This paper leads almost automatically into the paper by A. P. Marshall on the librarian as educator.

The Marshall paper acts as a minor state-of-the-art on the librarian as educator. We are led from the passive, through library orientation, to active teaching subject areas. He emphasizes the fact that it is societal pressure for equality, and changes in the social structure that have made it possible for librarians to act as educators and break out of the mold of institutionalism.

David Kaser uses a point in time, 1969-1970, as a transition point in academic library administration which can be used to foretell the trend. The scholar-librarian with a doctorate becomes less important than the administrator with political and managerial skills. Although well and scholarly written, I believe the article would have been enhanced had Mr. Kaser included the footnotes for the people cited throughout.

The chapter by Herbert Poole and Thomas Mott deals with the application of operations research to library administration. It provides a short background and definition of operations research, its history, its differences from scientific management. It tends to ignore the relationship between systems analysis and operations research. It provides a gamut of techniques for particular types of problems, and then does sample exercises to demonstrate how various techniques are to be used. Bibliographically they have tended to ignore the worst of Morse, Raffel and Shishko, Buckland, etc. However, articles such as this are needed in the library literature, and it is hoped that the *Festschrift* will be indexed by the various abstracting and indexing services so that practitioners will be able to locate this valuable paper.

Richard Dougherty's predictions on the personnel outlook are timely and deal with different training requirements, different numbers and tasks that will be needed and is generally pessimistic. As in most of the articles, the optimism of the past has now yielded to a factual look at the data rather than the hope, and shows a need for real professionalism as well as a larger knowledge base.

Beverly Lynch deals with the employment and status of women in academic libraries. She states that the past is a good predictor of the future. Her conclusion is that "The emphasis on publication and research will lead some women to invest additional degrees, plan their career strategies early, and work full time. These women will advance along with men into the higher-level and higher-paying positions in academic libraries."

Lester Asheim speculates about the required education for future academic librarians. He includes among his speculations a clearer separation of professional from non-professional tasks, the need for

theory before skills, a redefinition of core curricula which resemble skills courses, and discusses a vocation versus a career.

William Webb sees, in terms of collection development, an almost linear growth continuum in terms of numbers of publications, their price increases, inflation in terms of currency, more microforms, more reprints, more data bases and technological innovations, more students, more governmental involvement. He does not see the student growth as quite linear. However, given the speculations Mr. Webb makes, and given the economics, he sees more bureaucratization and less effectiveness.

Virgil Massman then discusses college library collection development. In this article, we find that the prime change will be the applications of technology to do and provide what had been primarily physical operations. Some stabilization in library size and in collection size is to be expected. Less dispersion in reviewing is also to be expected.

Lawrence Livingston takes a look at what standardization efforts have been made, what they mean for national networking, and what we might expect in terms of various kinds of standard identifications for people, books, and journals.

The volume ends with an article by William Welsh dealing with technology and a national bibliographic data base. His article expands on Livingston's and also provides some speculations about telecommunications.

The references in all the articles are relatively current (when there are references). The *Festschrift* also includes a biography of Jerrold Orne and a bibliography of his writings. Because of the diversity of articles, there is something in this volume for every library educator or academic librarian.

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