

New North Carolina Books

by William C. Burris
Guilford College

ALGIE I. NEWLIN. *The Battle of New Garden*. (Greensboro: The North Carolina Friends Historical Society, 1977). \$2.00

Students of the Battle of Guilford Court House, fought over a two-hour period on the afternoon of March 15, 1781, know that skirmishes occurred earlier in the day. As a rule, military histories pass over these little preludes to main events and they are rarely, if ever, studied and analyzed. Records are usually non-existent and this explains the neglect, but the loss is real. Such was the case with the skirmishes along New Garden Road on the morning of March 15 until the publication of this little volume. Algie I. Newlin has given us an excellent account of this battle, carefully researched and well written. It is good military history, and no account of the Battle of Guilford Court House is complete without it. Libraries that maintain collections in North Carolina history should not overlook it. Orders may be

directed to The Quaker Collection, c/o The Guilford College Library.

BETTY IRENE YOUNG. *The Library of the Woman's College, Duke University, 1930-1972*. (Durham: The Regulator Press, 1978). \$7.50.

In 1924 James B. Duke gave the money that made possible the transformation of Trinity College into Duke University. When the new university campus was built the Woman's College was created on the old campus, later to be known as the "East Campus." In 1972 the Woman's College was merged into the University — thus ceasing to exist as a separate entity. This book is an account of the life of the Woman's College Library during these years, the problems of money, identity, and function. It is especially good in its discussion of the building and protection of an outstanding art collection. Though it has been written as something of a tribute to Lillian Griggs, the first librarian, it is also a

chapter in the history of a great university. It has value as a commentary on one important aspect of the changing nature of higher education for women in American institutions. College and university libraries should add it to their collections.

ARDIS KINZEY. *To Defend A Form: The Romance of Administration and Teaching in a Poetry-in-the-Schools Program*. (New York: Teachers and Writers, 1977).

I must confess to a mild but persistent scepticism about grant-funded programs in the Arts in the public schools. Too often such programs are mere vehicles for the artists, platforms for the display of long neglected genius. Unless the artists are unusually effective teachers, and most of them are not, very little of value remains after the money is spent. This is especially true with poetry programs because the poetic is such a private, personal, individual thing. Poetry does not lend itself to group expression or group fun as does drama, band, choral work, and athletics. Does this suggest that poetry programs should not be funded and attempted? Certainly not. They should be continued and expanded, at least until the public schools begin to employ teachers who attempt to accomplish the same ends. This account of a group of poets working in the schools of North Carolina should certainly convince us of that fact.

The problem is not the poetry programs discussed by Ms. Kinzey. The problem is the crassness, the blandness of public schools where so little is done to encourage sensitive children to become themselves. Nothing does this quite so well as poetry, and nothing is as much

neglected in the education of public school teachers as this art form. Ardis Kinzey and her colleagues are trying to compensate. Her book is valuable; it belongs in every school library and every school teacher should read it.

ANN DEAGON. *The Guilford Review*. (Greensboro: Guilford College, 1977).

The Guilford Review focuses on interdisciplinary issues of human concern. Issue number 6 deals with the question of "Women in Change." Earlier issues have concentrated on "Certainty and Uncertainty", "Women and Mythology", "Myth in Multiple Perspective", "Poetry and Fiction", and the "Creative Process in the Arts and Sciences." Creative writing is its central concern. High school and college libraries might find it useful and interesting for students in creative writing class. The subscription price is \$5.00.

RUTH P. BARBOUR. *Cruise of the Snap Dragon*. (Winston-Salem: John F. Blair, Publisher, 1976). \$8.95.

ELERY A. LAY. *Trek to the King's Mountain*. (Durham: Moore Publishing Company, 1976). \$7.95

SUSAN SIBLEY. *Woodsmoke*. (Winston-Salem: John F. Blair, Publisher 1977). \$8.95.

WILLIAM O. STEELE. *The Cherokee Crown of Tannassy*. (Winston-Salem: John F. Blair, Publisher, 1977) \$7.95).

These are books for young readers. The first three are historical novels, the fourth a historical work. It uses the techniques of fiction and imagination to enhance an interesting story. All are good; school and public libraries should certainly consider them.