

New North Carolina Books

Suzanne S. Levy
Compiler

Michele Lebar Boone, ed. **SOUTHERN A.R.C.: A GUIDE TO SPECIAL PLACES AND CREATIVE PEOPLE IN THE MOUNTAINS.** Warne, N.C.: Southern Appalachian Resource Catalog, 1980. 82 pp. \$5.00 single copy. \$9.00 1-year subscription.

This small catalog attempts to serve as a guidebook to "special places and creative people" in the Southern Appalachian Mountains, covering the area bounded by Knoxville, Boone, Greenville (S.C.), Gainesville (Ga.), and Chattanooga. It covers such subjects as children and animals, alternate education, homesteading, conservation, energy, arts and crafts, music and drama, recreation, health, restaurants and lodging, and committees. The quality of the articles varies, as they are written by different authors. There is a definite "alternative life style" point of view from the catalog as a whole.

One of the strong points of this publication is its fine, useful index/directory, which gives names, addresses and telephone numbers, and tells a bit about what each person, place or thing does. Another highlight is the art work, graceful and well done.

There is room for improvement in layout (so many advertisements get in the way), and let us hope that whoever checked the "grammar and sentence structure" checks the editor's spelling next time.

This volume, while not the best items available on resources in the North Carolina mountains, is nevertheless a popular type of catalog today and may be worth its cost for the index alone! The publishers plan to issue fall-winter and spring-summer editions which will be numbered volumes 2 and 3.

Alice R. Cotten
University of North Carolina
at Chapel Hill

Eloise F. Potter, James F. Parnell, Robert P. Teulings. **BIRDS OF THE CAROLINAS.** Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1980. 408 pp. \$14.95.

Nature buffs familiar with two other UNC Press publications, *Wild Flowers of North Carolina* and *Amphibians and Reptiles of the Carolinas and Virginia*, will be disappointed with Potter, Parnell, and Teulings' *Birds of the Carolinas*. It is a useful book, full of information, but is just not as well-executed as the other nature books.

The more than 400 species accounts offer the usual information: range (dates of sightings in the Carolinas as well as geographical area), feeding habits, description, and nesting habits (for those birds that breed in the two states).

Many accounts, such as that of the bobwhite, are extensive and detailed, giving interesting habits of the birds. The introductory essays on identification, migration, annual cycle, habitats of the Carolinas, and conservation efforts are very valuable.

Photographs are numerous, but of varying quality. There are some excellent ones — of the American kestrel, Eastern bluebird, tufted titmouse, for instance — but most are fair at best. Many are taken from such a great distance that it is impossible to recognize the bird. For example, the only distinguishing feature of the purple martins pictured is the multi-hole birdhouse they perch on. In others the bird blends so well with the background that the effectiveness of nature's protective coloring is unquestionable. And many photographs are just too small. The reader might find himself using his binoculars on the book as well as on the bird. It will often be necessary to follow the authors' suggestion and consult other books such as field guides for positive identification in difficult cases.

It must be noted that the authors do not intend this book to be a field guide, even though it is similar in content to field guides. They state in the introduction that "*Birds of the Carolinas* is designed to introduce you to the remarkably diversified avifauna of the region and to stimulate your interest in birds." In spite of the problems mentioned above, the book fulfills this purpose, and for that reason is a recommended purchase for general library collections and for bird lovers in North and South Carolina.

Rebecca S. Kornegay
Johnston Technical College

Frances Cumnock, ed. **CATALOG OF THE SALEM CONGREGATION MUSIC.** Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1980. 682 pp. \$30.00.

A catalog is a respected and valuable reference tool but not usually something designed with reading in mind. The work in question here can be used in both of these ways and to an extent that would make it interesting to a wider public than the title would lead you to suppose. The "Salem congregation music" refers to the extensive musical manuscript holdings of the Moravian Music Foundation in Winston-Salem. Frances Cumnock has undertaken the enormous task of cataloging and arranging the collection into a form which will make it more accessible to the musicologist, conductor and performer. If she had stopped here she would have done enough to make all of these folks very grateful but she has added a lengthy introduction which, though primarily designed for the music scholar, contains much interesting general historical information.

The musical life of the early Moravian settlers in this country was rich and sophisticated to a degree hard to imagine in the context of American pioneer society. But this musical life was inextricably bound with the religious life and, in turn, religious doctrine and precepts influenced every aspect of living. Because of this unique interdependence, examination of the musical documents alone outside of a larger context was not enough and the editor has made a study of

Church records, minutes of meetings and memoirs in order to reconstruct something of the society which produced the music. The results of her study are seen in the introduction, which is a chronological survey of the important personalities responsible for the music in the collection, in such capacities as composer, copyist and musical director. The style is straightforward and factual, necessarily technical, but leavened with flashes of humor showing the individuals behind the history.

I have concentrated on the introduction, which, admittedly, is only about fifty pages out of a long work. The bulk of the book is the catalog itself, the real working reference source. It is well organized with an abundance of musical examples and useful access points. Because of the price, the smaller music collection may consider it too much of a luxury for purchase, but I would certainly recommend it for the larger music library. Outside of the field of music, the work would be of more value to any larger libraries with specialized historical or religious collections.

Gene W. Leonardi
North Carolina Central University

Anthony J. Badger. **PROSPERITY ROAD: THE NEW DEAL, TOBACCO, AND NORTH CAROLINA.** Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1980. 295 pp. \$20.00.

Professor Badger, of the Department of History at Newcastle University, Newcastle upon Tyne, England, has provided us with a solid study of how the New Deal brought renewed prosperity to the flue-cured tobacco farmers of North Carolina. With four out of ten workers in North Carolina still on the farm in 1930, and tobacco being the most valuable crop, the importance of this renewed prosperity to the economic health of the state as a whole is evident.

The author's introductory chapter on how tobacco was grown, harvested, cured and marketed is a model of brevity and clarity. Several black and white illustrations are an aid to the reader in understanding this process. The problems of the farmer, especially with the onset of the depression, are also explained in this first chapter. The bulk of the volume traces what the New Deal did for the tobacco farmer, the process by which the various pieces of legislation were passed and the reactions of the farmers to the acts. Little attention is paid to the manufacturers. That they did not need any special help is demonstrated by the fact that profits rose from \$115 million in 1927 to \$145 million in 1930 and stayed at that level through 1932. The special compensation for the president of the American Tobacco Company rose from \$191,000 in 1926 to \$892,000 in 1931. Shifting from one locale to another, Mr. Badger demonstrates the impact of local, state, national and international affairs on tobacco legislation. For example, the withdrawal of the British Imperial Tobacco Company from the market in September 1939 resulted in tobacco farmers voting for controls that they had just voted against eight months earlier. The British bought, each year, nearly one-third of the total flue-cured production, chiefly the better grades. No critic of the New Deal, Mr. Badger believes it did what it set out to do — improve the economic position of the tobacco farmer, chiefly through crop control. Some critics, such as David Conrad, have faulted the

New Deal for being too limited. They believe a more radical policy that would have done more for the rural poor should have been adopted. However the author presents evidence that shows, insofar as tobacco was concerned, that such a radical policy was never possible. The "choice lay not between a limited tobacco program and one more radical, but between a limited program and none at all."

Through an excellent book overall, there are some irritating features. The use of footnotes is disconcerting. Though a now, unfortunately, accepted practice, the placing of all notes at the rear, even explanatory ones, can cause an unwary reader to miss out on some interesting tidbits. Is not the author's assessment of Guy Owen's *Journey for Joedel* worthy of inclusion in the main body of the work? The use of multiple notes, where several sources are given, makes it difficult to verify a particular fact. The author also could have drawn a greater distinction between flue-cured tobacco and other types of tobacco grown in North Carolina.

The production of the book is up to the usual high standards of the UNC Press. All public and college libraries in the tobacco-growing sections of North Carolina should have this work. Public libraries outside of the tobacco area may find this of limited use unless they have a strong North Carolina collection.

Peter R. Neal
Durham County Public Library

Richard Walser. **NORTH CAROLINA LEGENDS.** Illus. by Bill Ballard. Raleigh: North Carolina Division of Archives and History, 1980. 76 pp. \$2.50 paper. \$6.00 hardcover.

Richard Walser, a well-known author and compiler of North Caroliniana, has drawn together in *North Carolina Legends* forty-eight of the state's legends, Indian myths and folk yarns. Beginning with Indian tales such as "Large Turtle" and proceeding through such traditional favorites as "Brown Mountain Lights" and "Tar Heels" to "Governor Bob Scott Tells about Governor Fowle's Ghost," Walser has included a variety of stories that will appeal to widely diverse tastes.

The legends are short (rarely more than a page long) and simply told; the collection is varied and interesting. At the end of the book Walser has included a section entitled "Notes and Sources" where he details the sources he has used and lists books for further reading. Recommended for public and school libraries.

Diane Kessler
Durham County Schools

Walker, Percy. **THE SECOND COMING.** New York: Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 1980. 359 pp. \$12.95.

The Second Coming is really three stories in one. There is the plot centering around Will Barrett, a modern Richard Corey, a man who has everything and finds none of it to his liking. Retired early in Linwood, North Carolina, the multi-millionaire Wall Street attorney spends his days playing golf and carrying on his late wife's charitable works. He falls victim to an affliction similar

to petit mal epilepsy and, during disease-induced trances, this "talented, agreeable, wealthy man" experiences intense sensory flashbacks to his childhood, adolescence and his father's suicide. Barrett himself idly contemplates suicide, finding the world and life around him "more senseless and farcical with each passing day."

Against this tale of alienation and anomy is juxtaposed the story of Allison Huger, a young escapee from the nearby Valleyhead Sanitarium. Allie, diagnosed as a schizophrenic and veteran of numerous electroshock treatments, is an innocent, someone who "flunked ordinary living." She is no ordinary person. She settles in an old greenhouse on property she's inherited, and there she lives a Robinson Crusoe-like existence, making do with what's on hand to make her greenhouse more habitable. This part of the novel is a delight. Her hoisting and loving resurrection of an old, wood-burning kitchen stove is my favorite part of the book. Allie's encounters with the real world—a man who is "into" running, a dissatisfied auto mechanic and others—and her struggle with language as other people use it are also delightful.

Inevitably, Will and Allie meet. Each makes a strange kind of sense to the other, and they fall in love. This pairing of an ailing, disenchanted older man with an enchanted (surely not schizophrenic) innocent—who is, incidentally, the daughter of his college sweetheart—is improbable, but gladdens the heart. So also does the ending, which will satisfy the most confirmed romantic. *The Second Coming* is highly recommended for adult fiction collections in public and academic libraries.

Diane Strauss
University of North Carolina
at Chapel Hill

Warren Ashby. **FRANK PORTER GRAHAM: A SOUTHERN LIBERAL.**
Winston-Salem, N.C., John F. Blair, 1980. 386 pp. \$20.00.

Two decades have lapsed since Warren Ashby, a professor of philosophy at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, conducted ten interviews with seventy-three-year-old Frank Porter Graham. Considering the length and varied nature of Graham's career, as well as the complexity of the issues Graham struggled with, the long gestation period of *Frank Porter Graham: A Southern Liberal* does not seem excessive. The author spent the time necessary to produce a thorough biography of a great North Carolinian.

Ashby describes his subject's career as a public servant in relation to his character and beliefs. The reader learns that the philosophy of Woodrow Wilson and the atmosphere at the University of North Carolina fostered the development of Graham's devotion to democratic principles and his selfless attention to the needs of other human beings. Whether discussing Graham's purposeful post-graduate study in the field of economic history or his tireless efforts to promote understanding and good will among men, the author succeeds in revealing that his subject's brilliance was rooted in simple concepts such as equality, humility and freedom.

The book's six parts chronicle Graham's life and pursuits in the context of time and place. Ashby shows how Graham affected and was affected by his surroundings, whether as student, labor dispute mediator, president of the

University of North Carolina, civil rights advocate, U. S. Senator or United Nations emissary. Thirty-six pages of notes and bibliographic essays at the rear of the book underpin each part of the biography with primary sources available at repositories from New York City to Tuskegee, Alabama.

Several minor flaws detract from the book's general excellence. Ashby's writing style, though technically sound, is somewhat tiresome. A plethora of lengthy quotations, several of which are incorrectly transcribed (a random check of four quotations revealed three of them to have errors), contributes to this aspect of the book. Ashby errs when he states on three occasions between pages seventeen and twenty-two that Graham was a member of the Philanthropic Society at the University of North Carolina (he joined the Dialectic Society).

Despite these and a few other slips, this attractively bound volume with a pleasing format, sixty-two photographs and an adequate index should be purchased by academic and public libraries. Because of Graham's effect on modern North Carolina history and his advocacy of traditional American values, high school librarians may want to purchase *Frank Porter Graham: A Southern Liberal* for use by advanced students.

Maurice C. York
East Carolina University

Buck W. Yearns and John G. Barrett, eds. **NORTH CAROLINA CIVIL WAR DOCUMENTARY**. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1980. 365 pp. \$17.95.

"it is A bad chance for me for your wages is So low an every thing So high I dont See how I can live here much longer. I dont get no help now I did get 25 dollars about the last of August an that was not half A nuf but I under Stand there is no more to come." (page 267, *North Carolina Civil War Documentary*).

So wrote a loving and worried wife to her husband, then serving in the Confederate Army, on December 30, 1863. This and many other fascinating original documents make up an excellent documentary history of North Carolina during the War Between the States. The authors have attempted to put together a well rounded group of original materials including official records, correspondence, pamphlets, manuscripts, diaries, newspapers, etc. More importantly, they have attempted to include materials dealing with the social, economic and political aspects of life during this period. Less than one-third of the material deals with military events, as the editors rightly felt that this historical side of the war had received more than enough coverage over the years.

Each of the twenty sections such as "The Economy of Scarcities," "Church and School" and "Life Goes on at Home," begins with a short concise historical introduction to set the scenes and provide background for the documentary material that follows. Good indexing and an adequate bibliography make this volume a good selection for all types of libraries, especially those with North Carolina or Civil War collections. The editors more than fulfill their hope to "... present a viewpoint of life behind the front lines that expository writing could never achieve."

Ridley R. Kessler, Jr.
University of North Carolina
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Dennis B. Fradin. **NORTH CAROLINA IN WORDS AND PICTURES.** Illus. by Richard Wahl. Maps by Len W. Meents. Chicago: Childrens Press, 1980. 48 pp. \$8.65.

Written for the very young reader, this attractive hard bound book tells the story of North Carolina in one sweep. It is amazingly broad yet, at the same time, very concise. No words are wasted. The state's geography and history are covered, related in simple sentences with words in italics that might require a bit of help from an adult. The pronunciation of some unfamiliar or long words is also indicated. While it is not overburdened with details, the essential facts are included: Virginia Dare, the pirates, the Wright brothers' airplane, Daniel Boone, the USS North Carolina, tobacco, textiles, the state capitol, the Charlotte Motor Speedway and much more, of course. Several maps and diagrams, a list of facts about the state, a chronology and a good index help to make this an ideal book to introduce young Tar Heels to their state. The colorful and well chosen photographs and drawings (including several made by John White in the 1580s) will effectively add to the understanding of North Carolina that words can start. If you are looking for myths, tradition and folklore, go elsewhere; offer this book to your patrons with a curiosity about the past and an interest in the present. It will help to prepare them for other more advanced books to which they will soon move from this good introduction.

William S. Powell
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