

New North Carolina Books

Maurice C. York
Compiler

W. Reece Berryhill, William B. Blythe, and Isaac H. Manning. **Medical Education at Chapel Hill: The First Hundred Years.** Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina School of Medicine, 1979. 210 pp.

Raleigh Mann, comp. and ed. **Medical Education at Chapel Hill: Centennial Alumni Directory.** Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina School of Medicine, 1979. 302 pp. \$32 set. (Order from Ms. Colette Batten, Medical Alumni Association, 231 Macnider Bldg. 202-H, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N. C. 27514)

This handsomely boxed set, which contains numerous illustrations, commemorates the centennial of the University of North Carolina School of Medicine. The first volume is basically an historical compilation from original sources and is designed to be an overview beginning with the earliest efforts at medical education which are associated with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Its account ends in 1978. The second volume lists graduates of the School of Medicine, housestaff of North Carolina Memorial Hospital, graduates of the University Curriculum in Biomedical Sciences, and graduates in the Medical Allied Health professions. Each listing includes full name, degree, degree year, specialty, codes for MDs, and present address. The School of Medicine alumni listing also includes photographs of the graduates by degree year. The set is appropriate for North Carolina collections or as a reference source in large public or academic libraries.

Michael D. Sprinkle
Wake Forest University

Gene Furr. **Images: The Outer Banks.** Text by Cameron McRae. Chapel Cinehaus Publications, 1981. 96 pp. \$25.00 (Library discount: 20%. Order from publisher at 604 Tinkerbell Road, Chapel Hill, N. C. 27514)

Images: The Outer Banks gives a contemporary cameo portrait of the Outer Banks of North Carolina and life on them. It is well-balanced between text and photographs and gives a good introduction to as well as a review of this unique part of North America. Division titles — "Beginnings," "A Way of Life," "The Coast Nearby," "Tourists," "The Future" — indicate the areas of emphasis.

The text is sometimes more lyrical than the photographs. Mr. Furr is an award-winning photographer for the *Raleigh News and Observer* and the *Raleigh Times*, and his photography for *Images* reflects his journalistic approach. He excels in composition and treatment of subject, but the consistent high contrast of the photographs, including those in color, could bother some readers.

Of special interest are several character studies of Outer Banks craftsmen. Mr. Furr's photographic style catches the harshness of life on the Outer Banks as seen in the faces of its people. At the same time, these faces emanate a serenity which is the result of being neither conquered by nor the conqueror of Nature but rather of having made peace through acceptance of and willingness to work through what may come.

Mr. Furr has received over one hundred awards in state, regional, and national competition. He was named North Carolina Press Photographer of the Year in 1977. He has served as guest lecturer at colleges and universities, and was 1977 president of the North Carolina Press Photographers Association.

Mr. Furr states his purpose as an attempt to record in photographs and text what will "... change and be a part of the past." He takes a slice of time on the Outer Banks and preserves it in this book.

Images: The Outer Banks will serve readers who are planning to visit the Outer Banks and those who have visited them. This makes it especially appropriate for high school libraries, public libraries, and North Carolina collections. Although it includes material of an historical nature, it is primarily a book of photographs. Schools and colleges offering courses in photography would find it useful. The price of the book, with today's tightening budgets and inflation, might be prohibitive to most libraries that already have similar materials in their collections.

Donald R. Richardson
Hyde County Schools

Donald R. Lennon and Fred D. Ragan, eds. **Politics, Bar and Bench: A Memoir of U. S. District Judge John Davis Larkins, Jr.** New Bern: The Historical Society of Eastern North Carolina, 1980. 204 pp. \$15.00 (Order from the society, P. O. Box 1734, New Bern, N. C. 27560)

This engaging memoir of the life and work of United States District Judge John D. Larkins, Jr., began as an oral history project of the staff of the East Carolina Manuscript Collection. Following the completion of the interviews, Donald R. Lennon, director of the Manuscript Collection, and Fred D. Ragan, chairman of the Department of History at East Carolina University, undertook to transform some twelve hours of interviews into a coherent historical narrative. The readability and high interest of this work attest to their success.

Judge Larkins' long career of public service has spanned some of the most exciting decades in the history of North Carolina. Starting out as a fledgling attorney at Trenton in 1930, Larkins found himself drawn to politics and was elected the youngest member of the North Carolina Senate in 1936. During the nine sessions that he sat in the senate, he served as president pro tempore and chairman of every major committee. Rising quickly in the ranks of the Democratic party, Larkins chaired numerous Jefferson-Jackson Day dinners; he served as secretary and later chairman of the state Democratic party and as a Democratic national committeeman. He sought the Democratic gubernatorial nomination in 1960 but was defeated in the primary. The following year, Larkins was appointed United States district judge for the Eastern District of

North Carolina by President John F. Kennedy. During his time on the bench, Larkins presided over the highly controversial school integration cases and other civil rights questions. He also ruled on environmental issues and important narcotics and smuggling cases before taking senior judge status in 1979.

Lennon and Ragan open *Politics, Bar and Bench* with an excellent introduction in which they outline Larkins' life and place his political and legal careers in perspective. The text of the volume—the judge's reminiscences arranged chronologically—is supplied with good footnotes and an index. In their attempt to create a personal memoir from the materials on hand, the editors are most successful. By utilizing the judge's candid and entertaining style, they provide a unique, behind-the-scenes view of the individuals involved in some of the most important political and judicial decisions made in North Carolina and the nation during the past fifty years. In addition, there is much anecdotal material that furnishes insights into the characters of many of the state's leaders. Finally, there emerges a portrait of Larkins himself: a man who relished the excitement of the political life and who sought to carry out the difficult duties of a federal jurist. This is an excellent book and is highly recommended for legal collections, academic libraries, and the larger public libraries.

James Elliott Moore
Cumberland County Public Library

Mary E. Mebane. **Mary**. New York: Viking Press, 1981. 242 pp. \$12.95.

In her autobiography, Mary Mebane, who teaches at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, writes of survival and of breaking out of a life with no future and no options. Her decision early in life to be different leads to disappointment, fear, and alienation, but ultimately to triumph.

Though born Black and poor in 1933 in Durham County, Mebane excels without the help of her family or peers. She quickly learns that those around her have chosen to survive by "not knowing, not seeing—and certainly, not saying anything at all about what [the world] was really like." But Mary refuses this passive acceptance of the status quo. Two factors play major roles in Mary's escape from the tedium of daily life which entraps her mother. An avid reader, Mebane learns to live in the world of books and her own fantasies. An equally valuable lesson is that "protest is the most effective way of stopping unfair treatment."

Throughout *Mary*, the imagery is that of the senses: the pleasure of "a drink of cool well water from a sweet-tasting gourd"; "the clear, full soprano tones of one voice . . . like a crystal glass bell." The most enjoyable scenes are those references to the rituals of rural culture which include the Saturday night dose of senna, redevye whiskey, and the wearing of a flannel cloth to ward off colds. The most painful passages are those describing the incidents of racial hatred in the white community.

Mary is composed to some degree of individual pieces written for the *New York Times* and for this reason sometimes lacks cohesiveness. This does not detract from the overall readability of the book, however, and I heartily

recommend it for school and public libraries as a vivid portrayal of life for a Black girl in the pre-civil rights South.

Nancy Snowden
Henderson County Public Library

Lois Smathers Neal, comp. **Abstracts of Vital Records From Raleigh, North Carolina Newspapers 1820-1829**. Spartanburg, S. C.: The Reprint Company, Publishers, 1980. 944 pp. \$50.00.

Librarians, genealogists, and historians will be pleased to learn that Lois Smathers Neal has completed volume two in a series that will cover the period from 1799 to 1915. The second volume adheres to the same format and maintains the high quality of Neal's first volume (see review in *North Carolina Libraries*, Spring, 1980). This work contains a few differences, however. A weighty tome, it contains 6,520 abstracts—thirteen hundred more than in volume one. Owing to the more regular appearance of death notices during the 1820s, volume two relies less heavily on news items giving proof of death. The *Raleigh Minerva* ceased publication in 1821, so Mrs. Neal uses the semi-weekly *Register*, which began in 1823. (It is interesting to note that this paper never has been abstracted or indexed.) Keep'em coming, Mrs. Neal!

Maurice C. York
East Carolina University

Leslie Banner Cottingham and Carol Lowe Timblin. **The Bard of Ottaray: The Life, Letters and Documents of Shepherd Monroe Dugger**. Banner Elk, N.C.: Puddingstone Press, 1979. 226 pp. \$7.00.

"Ottaray" is the name given to the western North Carolina mountains by the Cherokee Indians. It is fitting that one of the first spokesmen for this region is called "The Bard of Ottaray." Shepherd Monroe Dugger (1854-1938) spent his life in the North Carolina mountains in and around the community of Banner Elk. He was a businessman, orator, farmer, geologist, engineer, surveyor, mine operator, and the first superintendent of schools in Watauga County. More importantly, he is remembered as the author of *The Balsam Groves of the Grandfather Mountain* and *The War Trails of the Blue Ridge*. Dugger's style of writing in these works may be the best example of the worst excesses of the florid, highly romanticized writing of the late nineteenth century. However, his insights into the lives of the early settlers of this region and his loving descriptions of the beauty of the mountains cannot be discounted.

This biography completes the series of volumes on Dugger issued by Puddingstone Press. (The others were reprints of *Balsam Groves* and *War Trails*.) In it the authors have attempted to defend Dugger's work and to place it in perspective. They acknowledge his excesses of style and perhaps have coined a new word "Duggerism" to describe extravagant, unwieldy prose. Yet they go on to show that while critics often labeled Dugger's writing unintentionally humorous, Dugger was very conscious of the humor in the stories he was telling and exaggerated his descriptions to bring about that effect.

The actual biography and analysis of Dugger's work cover only the first sixty-six pages of the book. The remainder is made up of supporting documents, letters and photographs relating to Dugger's life. Also included are two, brief unpublished manuscripts by Dugger that were among his papers. The authors have made an exhaustive and detailed study into the life of one of North Carolina's little known authors and have documented his contributions to the cultural history of the mountain people of North Carolina. Those public and college libraries with large North Carolina collections will want to consider purchasing this book.

*Carolyn Jamison
Appalachian State University*

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