

New North Carolina Books

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ISABEL M. WILLIAMS and LEORA H. McEACHERN. *Salt—That Necessary Article*. (Wilmington: [Privately printed,] 1973. 190pp. Maps, diagrams. \$7.95. (Order from Book Department, Belk-Berry Co., Inc., P. O. Box 1320, Wilmington, N. C. 28401.)

The work of Mrs. Williams and Mrs. McEachern dealing with the history of the Lower Cape Fear area is widely known. They are careful in research and competent in writing, and they have produced a book that would do justice to a professional historian. It deals with the salt industry in their region from 1662 when the Lower Cape Fear was first carefully explored through the period of the Civil War. Union blockaders restricted the importation of salt, and the local production of this most necessary article became important to the state and the Confederacy. In thirteen chapters the subject is covered quite thoroughly yet interestingly. Printed and manuscript sources, personal papers and official documents, and suitable secondary sources were consulted and are cited in footnotes. In spite of the fact that this is entirely a local production, it is well written, attractively printed, and well bound. It is a production that would reflect credit on an experienced, published historian and an established press, and it merits the attention of librarians, book collectors, and North Carolinians in general.

GEORGE LAYCOCK. *Wild Animals, Safe Places*. (New York: Four Winds Press, 1973.) 178pp. Illus. \$5.88.

As "civilization" spreads across the remaining open areas of the United States

there are fewer and fewer safe places for wild animals. This book discusses the animals (including birds) which have found a safe refuge in four preserves. North Carolina is not included, and only by the greatest stretch of the imagination can this be counted a North Carolina book. It is so interesting, however, (yet designed to appeal to the 10 to 14-year-old) that it is worth mentioning here for the few Carolina references which it contains. The Carolina parakeet, alligators, and pelicans, all of which once flourished here, are mentioned in connection with this locale. One of the photographs is credited to Jack F. Dermid, now with the United States Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, but formerly with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

THAD STEM, JR. *The Tar Heel Press*. (No place: [North Carolina Press Association], 1973.) 309pp. \$7.50. (Order from: North Carolina Press Association, Mrs. Margaret Harper, Secretary, Southport, N. C. 28461.)

The first newspaper in North Carolina was published in the summer of 1751. Thad Stem's new book, written not to mark that anniversary but the centennial of the establishment of the North Carolina Press Association in 1873, is a fascinating account of newspapers, editors, the news, advertising, and a host of other subjects from the date of the first colonial newspaper to Watergate. This is not only a history of journalism, it is also a history of events in North Carolina. The author has clearly examined long runs of countless

papers in the state and culled the important and the trivial. The range of topics is staggering: the development of flue-cured tobacco, the origin of the "tea-dance," the first book review page, the earliest (and secret) chapters of the N.A.A.C.P., unionization, two Carolina-Duke football games in one season, the only Rose Bowl game not played in Pasadena, why the American Legion flourished, and so on. The names of notable people, not all of whom were journalists, appear on nearly every page. This fact-filled book is also readable and will jog many minds into pleasant recollections of events not too long past. The readers in the future, however, will be disappointed to discover that the index is directed only to the journalist; it is an index of newspapers and of newspapermen only. The treasure of fact and lore, state-wide in origin and from all times, cannot easily be retrieved.

WALTER B. WEARE. *Black Business in the New South*. (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1973.) 312pp. Illus., bibliography. \$10.95.

Subtitled "A Social History of the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company," this study was originally prepared as a doctoral dissertation in history at the University of North Carolina. It has been described locally as one of the best dissertations ever submitted to the Department of History. It is, of course, a history of the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company in Durham, formerly Black-owned and still Black-managed, but this book is considerably more than that. It contains a great deal of accurate and interesting Black history — business, church, educational, and social. The rise and development of several Negro newspapers, biographical information on many notable leaders of the race, and recent trends in race relations are among the countless topics covered. There is an excellent classified bibliography and a careful index. *Black Business in the New South* is a volume in a series called "Blacks in the New World" edited by August Meier, and judging by

Professor Weare's work a high standard of excellence has been set. Librarians hard pressed to provide their patrons with readable and reliable Black history should watch for additional titles in the series.

MANLY WADE WELLMAN. *The Kingdom of Madison*. (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1973.) 222pp. Drawings by Frank Holyfield. Bibliographical notes. \$8.95.

County histories vary in plan and effectiveness. Some are genealogies, if the truth were admitted, some are compilations of statistics and lists of names, a few make an attempt at a chronological recitation of events, and now Manly Wellman has added a new form. This is a book of fact and flavor, to be read as one would read a novel or a fascinating travel book. Reading it is a pleasant experience. Madison County, high in the mountains of western North Carolina on the Tennessee border, is unique among the counties because of its isolation, its vast store of folklore, the special qualities of its people, and the beauty of its scenery. It is, indeed, a kingdom unto itself. The spirit of the place is clearly communicated to the reader in the author's version of many unusual events, some bloody and others not. Frank Holyfield's mood-setting drawings are lovely and have also been published separately in a portfolio.

INA W. VAN NIPPEN and JOHN J. VAN NIPPEN. *Western North Carolina Since the Civil War*. (Boone: Appalachian Consortium Press, 1973.) 437pp. Illus., bibliography. \$12.95.

Western North Carolina has changed more rapidly and completely in the past century than any other part of the state. The authors, members of the faculty of Appalachian State University, have made a detailed study of the region which includes two dozen of the state's western-most counties, a portion of the famed and much-maligned "Appalachia," and recorded their findings in seventeen chapters. A

prologue presenting a hasty survey of the region's geography and its history from the eighteenth century is followed by the text divided into three main categories: The People and Their Homeland; A Changing Society (religion, education, literature, folklore, medicine, and other topics); and A Developing Economy (transportation, agriculture, lumbering, business, and tourism, among others). The very subject of this book dictates that it must be in every library in the state. It will prove handy for reference in answering many questions about this interesting and important part of North Carolina.

HORTON COOPER. *North Carolina Mountain Folklore and Miscellany.* (Murfreesboro: Johnston Publishing Company, 1972.) [168]pp. Illus. \$5.95.

HUBERT J. DAVIS. *'Pon My Honor, Hit's the Truth, Tall Tales from the Mountains.* (Murfreesboro: Johnson Publishing Company, 1973.) 112pp. Illus. \$4.95.

To folklore lovers these two little books will be just so much treasure. They contain traditional and original stories, remedies, definitions, and ballads. Old photographs and an artist's drawings illustrate them.

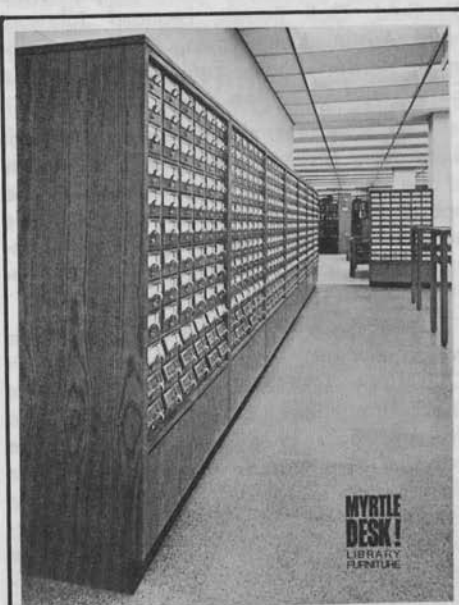
HENRY C. BRIDGERS, JR. *East Carolina Railway, Route of the Yellow-hammer.* (Tarboro: T & E Publishers of Louisville, Carolina Division, Box 429, 1973.) 211pp. Illus. \$9.75.

The East Carolina Railway, incorporated in 1898, operated over a forty-mile track between Tarboro in Edgecombe County and Hookerton in Greene County until it was acquired by the Atlantic Coast Line in 1935; from that date until the last run was made on November 16, 1965, it continued to serve the communities along its line. The line was almost exclusively the brainchild and the possession of Henry Clark Bridgers yet it was responsible for the creation of three towns along its route and had an associated corporation for every two miles of its mainline. This is a delightful volume of local history; its large number of old photographs will enthrall rail-

road buffs while its appendix of names, statistics, locomotive descriptions, and other information will prove useful to a variety of regional readers.

Sketches of Early Watauga. Sketches by Peggy Polson, stories by Betty McFarland. (Sponsored by the Boone Branch, American Association of University Women, 1973.) Unpaged. Paper, spiral binding. \$7.50. (Order from Mrs. N. H. Shope, 508 Grand Blvd., Boone, N. C. 28607.)

This booklet, approximately 13 by 10 inches in size, contains eighteen pen and ink sketches of homes, public buildings, churches, stores, mills, and the like, in Watauga County, each printed on heavy stock suitable for framing. A one to two-page text describes the structure or relates its history.



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