

New North Carolina Books

By William S. Powell

BELL, THELMA AND CORYDON: *North Carolina*, New York, Coward-McCann, Inc., 1970. 128 p. Illus. \$4.29.

This is a volume in the publisher's States of the Nation series and is a description of the State of North Carolina today. The first chapter is a survey of the state followed by chapters on the Outer Banks, the Coastal Plain, the Piedmont Plateau, and "The High Land." The text is very readable — with just a little history woven in — and will give the 12-16-year-old reader a very good idea of what it is like to live in North Carolina. An interesting selection of pictures, some useful maps and diagrams, and an appendix packed with interesting facts and statistics will prove useful to reader and young researcher alike. A few minor errors and an occasional word or phrase that a North Carolinian would not use should be blamed on a New York editor rather than North Carolina writers.

GRIFFIN, WILLIAM A.: *Ante-Bellum Elizabeth City: The History of a Canal Town*. Elizabeth City: Roanoke Press, Inc., 1970. 160p. \$6.50.

Written as a master's thesis at East Carolina University, this is a splendid example of local history at its best. Pasquotank County in which Elizabeth City is located is one of the oldest counties in North Carolina; the county seat which is the subject of this book dates only from 1793, however. Yet the author dips back into the seventeenth century to set the stage for his study of the ante-bellum city. Although it is packed with information of interest to the general reader as well as the specialist, this book is, nevertheless, very readable. All aspects of local history are covered including local government, business, newspapers, religion, education, and culture. Especially commendable is the concluding chapter entitled "Excitement in a Small Town" in which there is an account of the many things which made life interesting: the capture of a local ship by the British just before the War of 1812, a threat of yellow fever, the presence of outlaws in the community, heated election campaigns, parades, celebrations, murders, and the fear of slave uprisings. The text is carefully documented, there is a classified bibliography, and the index is full and accurate.

HUMMEL, RAY O., JR., editor: *Southeastern BroadSides Before 1877, A Bibliography*. Richmond: Virginia State Library, 1971. 501 pp. Illus. \$10.00.

This bibliography is the result of a committee of the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries and, of course, includes more than North Carolina. Each of the ten included states is listed in its own section and with its own index. Almost seven hundred North Carolina broadsides are described in considerable detail and indexed to make the information in each entry more readily available. This is an excellent reference tool which should prove useful in all but the smallest libraries of the state. Holdings of the University of North Carolina Library, Duke University Library, and Wake Forest University Library are included.

LAZENBY, WALTER S., JR.: *Paul Green*. Austin, Texas: Steck-Vaughn Company, 1970. 44pp. \$1.00 paper.

This is a very good short biography of Author Paul Green with an account of his scholarly activity and concise accounts of his plays and other published works. A selected classified bibliography of Mr. Green's works will be found especially useful.

MOORHEAD, JOHN D.: *Construction in the Carolinas, 1920-1970*. Charlotte: Associated General Contractors of America, [1970]. Illus. \$5.95.

The 50th Anniversary of the formation of the Associated General Contractors of America was the occasion for the publication of this book. Experience growing out of World War I when contractors working at Fort Bragg had to deal with more than a hundred organizations suggested to President Wilson that a national organization of general contractors was desirable. This is the history of the Carolinas Branch of that group and it is an interesting account of the erection of many important North Carolina buildings, highways, dams, and other engineering projects. There are numerous interesting pictures including the Green River Bridge, the highest in the eastern United States.

RUSKIN, GERTRUDE: *Sequoyah, Cherokee Indian Cadmus*. Weaverville, N. C.: Crowder's Printing Press, 1970. 156pp. Illus. \$4.95. (Order from Mrs. Sidney H. Ruskin, 2663 Fair Oaks Road, Decatur, Georgia 30031.)

Perhaps the term "keepsake" might be appropriately applied to this little book. It contains a brief biographical sketch of the great Indian leader, Sequoyah, who prepared an alphabet for the Cherokee Indians. A play, "The White Man's Magic," in which Sequoyah is the leading character, follows. Pictures, programs, and information on the celebrations of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Sequoyah held during the period of 1960-1962, since the exact date is unknown, are also included. There also are numerous historical pictures. Perhaps one of the most interesting portions of this book is the one in which the author recounts her unsuccessful attempts to find the grave of Sequoyah in Mexico.

WALSER, RICHARD: *Literary North Carolina, A Brief Historical Survey*. Raleigh: State Department of Archives and History, 1970. 137pp. Illus. \$3.00.

From the state's foremost authority on the subject we now have a splendid narrative account of literature in all its forms in the state. The scope is broad yet the account is factual and readable. The first four of the seventeen chapters are chronological accounts beginning with the earliest explorers and concluding with writers of the Civil War period. Two chapters are devoted to novelists and poets of an early period and two more to those of more recent times. Historians, humorists, folklorists, short story writers, historical novelists, and writers for young people have separate chapters. Thomas Wolfe also rates a complete chapter to himself, and finally there is one on supporters and patrons of literature in North Carolina. Numerous illustrations and a full index contribute to the usefulness of this attractive and well bound book.