

New North Carolina Books

By

William S. Powell

JOYCE PROCTOR BEAMAN. *Broken Acres*. Winston-Salem: John F. Blair, Publisher, 1971. 145pp. Illus. 3.95.

Mrs. Beaman, librarian at Saratoga Central High School in Wilson County, has written an interesting and believable account of a 12-year-old girl's summer on a local tobacco farm. Accurate description, believable situations, and realistic conversation combined with a story which moves from one highlight to another, provide a book that will entertain and for young people not acquainted with life on an Eastern North Carolina tobacco farm, it will also be educational. Blacks and whites work and play together and share a common destiny and mutual concern for each other — something which has existed in this part of North Carolina for generations but is little understood outside the region.

The bold wood-cuts (or are they linoleum?) are too crude to illustrate the story and do not even decorate the book. The vivid imagination of young people who read the book will conjure up more adequate mental images; these "illustrations" should have been rejected.

ROSS E. HUTCHINS. *Hidden Valley of the Smokies, with a Naturalist in the Great Smoky Mountains*. New York: Dodd, Mead & Company, 1971. 214pp. Illus. 6.50.

Dr. Hutchins, resident of Mississippi and former director of the State Plant Board and Professor of Entomology at Mississippi State University, has explored a hidden valley in the heart of the Great Smoky Mountains along Little River which rises on the northern side of Silers Bald. An expert nature photographer, his combined skills have enabled him to produce a scholarly, readable and attractive book which will appeal to young and old as well as to the amateur and authority on mountain botany, zoology, history and lore. Writing in an informal, chatty style arranged like a journal, Dr. Hutchins takes his reader along numerous trails and shows him in words and pictures the wonders of this isolated and undisturbed area. Flowering plants and trees, ferns, mosses, butterflies, ants, deer, chipmunks, snakes, and other forms of wildlife are presented. The author's delightful style and his impressive range of knowledge in many fields have produced a book to read for pleasure and to use for reference.

BRUCE ROBERTS. *The Carolina Gold Rush*. Charlotte: McNally and Loftin, Publishers, 1971. 80pp. Illus. 4.50.

Before the California gold rush of 1849 North Carolina was the nation's leading gold-producing state. The Carolina gold rush began after a 17-pound nugget was found in Cabarrus County in 1799 by a farmer's son. From then until the 1940's gold was mined in North Carolina and a United States mint even operated in Charlotte at one time to coin some of the gold into money. The facts about numerous mines which operated in both Carolinas is told here in word and picture and there is an adequate bibliography for additional reading. A recent map of the gold producing region gives the exact location of the most productive mines. It is difficult to believe that the resources of this book will not provide all of the information anyone might require on the subject.

GLEN ROUNDS. *Once We Had a Horse*. New York: Holiday House, 1971. Unpaged. Illus. 3.95.

From his present home in the Sandhills, Glen Rounds recalls an interesting summer from his childhood in South Dakota when a gentle cow pony, too old to work on the range, was put to work keeping the grass cropped around the house. One morning a cowboy casually lifted him and his sister onto the horse's back and gave them a taste of horse-back riding. This little book in easy words and appealing pictures tells of the summer activities when two children learned to mount and stay mounted on a patient old horse.

HERBERT SNIPES TURNER. *The Dreamer, Archibald DeBow Murphey*. Verona, Va.: McClure Printing Company, 1971. 259pp. Illus. 7.95.

Dr. Turner, a native of the Hawfields community in Alamance County, is a retired member of the faculty of Mary Baldwin College who lives in Staunton, Virginia. This carefully researched and well written book is the result of nearly a lifetime of interest in Archibald DeBow Murphey (1777-1832), one of North Carolina's foremost boosters of all times. Murphey's ideals and dreams for the state, his public addresses and publications, and his generosity with his own funds to advance the cause of an improved state came to naught during his own life, but they reached fruition in after years. It was on the plans first set forth so clearly by Murphey that constitutional reform made possible a better government for the state. His plans for transportation and education brought the state to a position of national eminence by the time of the Civil War and were the basis on which the modern systems were established. His hope for improved health for the state's people and his ambition for a detailed history of North Carolina eventually became realities. In these and in other areas Murphey was a prophet who pointed the way to greatness for the state, but who saw none of them realized during his own life.

This is a biography which should be in every library in North Carolina: public, school, college and university. No collection in North Caroliniana will be complete without it, and no Tar Heel truly conversant with the history of his state who does not know of Murphey's contributions.

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Professional Association," analyzes characteristics of the membership of the Association for Educational Communications and Technology.

Mary Frances K. Johnson's fall schedule included trips to Chicago for a meeting of ALA divisional journal editors with the ALA Publishing Board (October 25), and for the fall meeting of the AASL Board of Directors, November 5-6. On September 27, she served as speaker for the regional meeting of school librarians, Virginia Education Association, in Roanoke, and she will serve this fall as consultant to the Tennessee Technological University year-long institute on "Improved Use of the Media Center in Reading Instruction," an HEA, II-B institute for training in librarianship. Mrs. Johnson

contributed the article on school libraries for a symposium, "Libraries Look to the State Agency," published in the July-August issue of *American Libraries*, and an article on "The Home's Job in Reading for Primary Children," commissioned by the National Reading Center for a summer-fall newspaper article series.

Correction

Gremlins apparently attacked one line of type in the last paragraph of the UNC-G section, "Library Education News," in the Summer 1971 issue. The first two sentences should have read as follows:

The Report of the University Ad Hoc Committee on Instructional Media was submitted to Chancellor James S. Ferguson on July 1, 1971. This sixty-three page report is a comprehensive account of the work of a University committee over a period of a year and a half.