

## NEW NORTH CAROLINA BOOKS

By WILLIAM S. POWELL

FLETCHER M. GREEN. *Democracy in the Old South and Other Essays*, edited by J. Isaac Copeland. Nashville, Tenn.: Vanderbilt University Press, 1969. 322pp. \$8.50.

Honoring Prof. Fletcher M. Green of the University of North Carolina, this volume of essays which he wrote between 1936 and 1955 was selected and edited by Green's former student, Prof. Copeland. Of the twelve essays included, two have never before been published, while the others appeared in various journals, as introductions by Green to new printings of older books by other authors, or as contributed essays to collections on a unified theme. They are well chosen to illustrate the wide range of Green's interests as well as his skill in research and interpretation, and his style as a writer. They are all Southern in subject and two deal entirely with North Carolina subjects while others touch on North Carolina. *Democracy in the Old South* takes its name from one of the essays. This is a book which will please many readers in its entirety, and others will find one or more of the essays of especial interest.

HUGH F. RANKIN. *The Golden Age of Piracy*. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc., 1969. Illus. 173pp. \$4.95.

North Carolina-born Hugh F. Rankin writes on a subject of North Carolina and wider interest. Piracy flourished in the Atlantic Ocean from the 1630's into the 1720's, and much of the activity centered along the coast of North Carolina. Blackbeard was among the leaders and so was Anne Bonney, the "Lady Pirate." There were others whose path led to the security of our coastal waters but whose chief fame was gained elsewhere. The story of them all is told here, and the perpetual interest in pirates which most librarians have observed among Tar Heel readers suggests that several copies of this new book should be available. If any buried treasure is found because of clues picked up here it may be that two copies will not be enough.

JAMES W. WALL. *History of Davie County in the Forks of the Yadkin*. Mocksville: Davie County Historical Publishing Association (c/o Davie County Library), 1969. Illus. 406pp. \$6.00.

This is a most welcome addition indeed to the slowly growing list of North Carolina county histories. Author Wall, a teacher and a professionally-trained historian, has done a splendid job of research, organization, and writing. The text is interesting and readable, and sources are cited in footnotes. In proper proportion it also contains chronology, lists of officials, and veterans of several recent wars. A descriptive essay on selected sources and a carefully compiled index add to the usefulness of this book.

DAVID STICK. *Dare County: A History*. Raleigh: State Department of Archives and History, 1970. Illus. 64pp. .50¢.

Since 1963 the State Department of Archives and History has attempted to establish a continuing program for the publication of brief histories of the counties of the state. A pilot history of Lenoir County appeared that year; a bit of new life has been breathed into the project with a grant from the Smith Richardson Foundation, Inc. David Stick's history of Dare County is the first to appear, and we understand that two or three others

are scheduled as well as one pamphlet containing very concise sketches of all of the counties. This new history, written for possible use in the schools of the state, is well balanced between early and recent history. It opens with the Roanoke Colonies of the 1580's and concludes with a discussion of tourism and the National Park facilities. The Revolution and the Civil War are covered, as are such other topics as the Wright Brothers, commercial fisheries, and the lifesaving service, all unique to the county. In common with topics to be found in other county histories, there are chapters on religion and education, the formation of the county, and others.

ELIZABETH S. IVES and SAM RAGAN. *Back to Beginnings, Adlai E. Stevenson and North Carolina*. Charlotte: Heritage Printers, Inc., 1970. [Order from Mrs. Ernest Ives, Paint Hill Farm, Southern Pines, N. C.] Illus. 60pp. \$4.50.

This is a handsome little book, very attractively designed and printed (as all Heritage Printers' books are) and with very appealing illustrations. It has many of the good features of a "keepsake book," but it is also a book worth reading. It has something to say to the modern Tar Heel who may be inclined to speak lightly of his heritage. It is about the late Adlai Stevenson and his love for North Carolina, the home of his ancestors. The Stevensons and others of his ancestors once lived in Iredell and Rowan counties, and he often visited his distant cousins there. He delighted in their company, hunted with them, ate with them, and strolled through their ancient churchyards. Stevenson admirers will put this book aside with a sigh of regret that it is so brief, but they will return to read it again and to think about what North Carolina meant to a sincere American.

GEORGE SULLIVAN. *They Flew Alone*. New York: Frederick Warne & Co., 1969. Illus. 168pp. \$3.96.

"Firsts" in flight are the subjects of this book directed to the reader between the ages of 12 and 16. It qualifies as a North Carolina book because of the Wright brothers, of course. The first chapter deals with them. Other subjects covered include the first flight in Europe, the first crossing of the Channel, Lindbergh's flight, polar flight, jet flight, and breaking the sound barrier. A glossary of aeronautical terms and a bibliography will also add to the usefulness of this book for many librarians.

LEWIS W. GREEN. *And Scatter the Proud*. Winston-Salem: John F. Blair, Publisher, 1969. 447pp. \$6.95.

JOHN THOM SPACH. *Time Out From Texas*. Winston-Salem: John F. Blair, Publisher, 1969. 325pp. \$5.95.

Two novels by two native North Carolinians, from the house of a North Carolina publisher and from the presses of Heritage Printers in Charlotte, both issued in November: This must mark an important "first" in the history of publishing in North Carolina. The fact that two other books from this same publisher also won literary awards during "Culture Week" in Raleigh in December, suggest that writing and publishing in North Carolina deserve our attention.

*And Scatter the Proud* is six little novels with contemporary or nearly contemporary settings in and around Asheville and along the Blue Ridge Parkway. A forbidding mountain, rugged and almost impenetrable, Big Lonesome, provides a hint of unity among the stories. Death, funerals, visions of the devil and a white coffin, violence and strange

relationships also suggest some unity. The mountain characters are clearly drawn, their speech is authentic, and the stories told by Lewis Green might well have had their origin in ancient traditional tales. He is a skilled and polished writer. How carefully he writes is not apparent until the reader pauses in the swift flowing prose to note that precisely the right words have been chosen to fit the mood and to advance the story. *And Scatter the Proud* may be recommended to adult readers seeking a good story, wanting to know something of the mood of the mountains, or who appreciate good writing. It should come as no surprise if "Culture Week" in 1970 reveals another prize-winner from John Fries Blair's list.

John Thom Spach, a native of Winston-Salem and author of *Time Out From Texas*, is a graduate of Duke University who now lives in Columbia, S. C. His book is the story of two basketball players from New Mexico and their experiences on a professional team in New York. The book is written in the first person, in a dialect which "anybody with a single solitary drop of Southern blood in him" will understand, the dust jacket claims. My 100% Southern blood is too much. I find it impossible to read; neither the style nor the subject interests me. The dust jacket reports that this is "an absolutely hi-larious account of what happens to Josh and Gabe and to assorted other folks who led fairly normal lives until they met up with the Tucumcari Kinds." When I discovered how difficult it was to read this book chapter by chapter I gave up and started browsing, looking for something "hi-larious," but I failed to find it.