

New North Carolina Books

By WILLIAM S. POWELL

RUTH CARROLL. *From the Appalachians, A Portfolio of Drawings and Paintings*. New York: Henry Z. Walck, 1964.

Four of Ruth Carroll's lovely paintings in color and five in black and white are included in a portfolio with a 12-page biography of the artist and description of the pictures by her husband, Latrobe Carroll. They're all suitable for framing or for exhibition, and many a young reader will recognize something from *Beanie* or *Tough Enough* or another of the Carrolls' books.

ROBERT B. DOWNS. *Famous Books, Ancient and Medieval*. New York: Barnes & Noble, Inc., 1964. 329pp. \$3.95 cloth, \$1.95 paper.

Dr. Downs, Lenoir native, is Dean of Library Administration at the University of Illinois, and the author of a number of books both professional and literary. This one, however, is a happy combination of the two categories. He has selected 108 books which have exerted a profound influence on history, culture, civilization, and scientific thought from the ancient Egyptian Book of the Dead to Chaucer. Each of them is described, summarized, and appraised in highly readable essays which will tempt many readers to widen their field of knowledge by examining the whole book which Dean Downs describes so temptingly.

East Carolina College Publications in History, Volume I, Essays in American History. Greenville: Department of History, East Carolina College, 1964, 182 pp. \$1.50.

Six scholarly and well documented studies in American history, three of which deal with North Carolina subjects, make up this first volume in a promising new series in the field. Written by members of the faculty at East Carolina College, the essays deal almost entirely with the nineteenth century. Those dealing with Tar Heel subjects are: "The Railroad Schemes of George W. Swepson," by Charles L. Price; "Progressivism and Agitation for Legal Reform in North Carolina, 1897-1917," by Joseph F. Steelman; and "Piedmont and Mountain Political Newspapers of North Carolina, 1850-1859: A Compendium," by John C. Ellen, Jr.

BERNICE KELLY HARRIS. *Southern Savory*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1964. 256 pp. \$5.00.

In nearly forty delightful little essays, most of them under a dozen pages, Mrs. Harris depicts many aspects of country and small town life in North Carolina, generally for several years on both sides of 1900 but some are more recent. There are stories of childhood games and visiting neighbors, of food, of weddings, of death and funerals, of white people and Negroes who knew and loved each other as individuals, and stories about the everyday life of North Carolinians. This is a good bedside book or one to be kept handy to the breakfast table for reading with the last cup of coffee before rushing off in the morning. It's guaranteed to make a modern Tar Heel yearn for the good old days or to remember with affection (or some other emotion) something that happened in his youth or in the 1940's. Mrs. Harris writes equally well of both periods.