

## NEW NORTH CAROLINA BOOKS

By WILLIAM S. POWELL

ROBERT ARNOLD. *The Dismal Swamp and Lake Drummond. Early Recollections.* Norfolk: Evening Telegram Print, 1888. (Reprint by Johnson Publishing Co., Murfreesboro, 1969). [62]pp. Illus. \$3.75.

This is a facsimile reprint from an original copy in the North Carolina Collection in Chapel Hill. Arnold's little book relates facts and fiction concerning the Dismal Swamp in eastern Virginia and North Carolina. Stories which may have had some basis in fact when they were first recorded in 1888 must now be regarded as nothing more than interesting folklore. Tales of fish, snakes, bears, bees and other inhabitants of the swamp, including some bold humans, will provide a variety of interesting fare for the casual reader.

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THOMAS L. CONNELLY. *Discovering the Appalachians.* Harrisburg, Penna.: Stackpole Books, 1968. 223pp. Illus. \$7.95.

The subtitle, "What to look for from the past and in the present along America's eastern frontier," suggests the purpose of this very useful book. In format it is too large to carry on a walking tour, but it can be an extremely informative source for planning a visit to the Appalachians anywhere between Canada and Alabama. There are several general chapters, but chapter 5 deals with the Southern Appalachians. Pennsylvania's highest mountain is 3,213 feet and Maryland's is 3,360, but in North Carolina and Tennessee there are 46 peaks over 6,000 feet. Mountains and peaks are carefully described; native plants and animals are mentioned; and routes and highway numbers are cited.

In other sections of this book North Carolina features are also discussed: wildflowers, trees, highest peaks, Indians, hiking trails, animals, and others. Advice on camp and hiking equipment and a list of available guidebooks will be found helpful. The index is quite inadequate, but used with the rather full table of contents (and a dash of imagination) most of the contents of the book will be opened up for quick reference.

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RAYMOND ALLEN COOK. *Fire from the Flint, The Amazing Careers of Thomas Dixon.* Winston-Salem: John F. Blair, Publisher, 1968. 255pp. Illus. \$6.00.

Thomas Dixon was born in Shelby in 1864. He died in Raleigh in 1946. Between these two dates he was acclaimed, highly praised, and, from some sources, condemned

and damned through an interesting assortment of careers: lawyer, legislator, preacher, lecturer, playwright, actor, novelist, motion picture producer, and real estate entrepreneur. He made and lost vast sums of money. His pioneering efforts in many fields earned him a place in the annals of America. Dr. Cook's biography of Dixon is the first. It is readable and it is factual, but apparently the time has not yet come when Dixon's place in American history can be clearly seen. The last sentence in the book tells us that "Thomas Dixon remains as one of the most versatile, remarkable men of his time, and he speaks to our own with a voice that is disturbing, challenging, and prophetic." His concern with Reconstruction, the Ku Klux Klan, and certain aspects of race relations may sooner be judged than his break with Franklin D. Roosevelt's "New Deal" and his concern over Communism in the United States. These may yet be found to have been prophetic.

This is a book which should be widely read in North Carolina, and by its very subject it should find a place in every library. It is documented, though I feel inadequately so. (The event at Wrightsville Beach which put Dixon on the stage for the first time is completely undocumented, though it may well be accurate.) Citations are annoyingly placed at the end of the book and arranged by chapter so that the reader must check back to learn the number of his chapter and then find the proper place for those chapter notes in the back of the book. A fact-filled book of this kind is incomplete without an index. This is a fault which many librarians and students as well as the general reader will regret.

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HELEN COPELAND. *This Snake Is Good*. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Company, 1968. 181pp. Illus. \$3.95.

Mrs. Copeland lives in Charlotte and this is her second book for boys. Duncan McKenna (who also appeared in his first book) is the main character. He is the composite of Mrs. Copeland's own three sons. He goes from Charlotte to a summer camp in Pennsylvania where he wants to swim, canoe, play basketball and tennis. But his secret hope is to collect some snakes as a surprise for his father who is director of the Nature Museum in Charlotte. Duncan's knowledge of snakes interested everyone at camp: the bully, the counsellors, campers, and Dr. Madison at the infirmary.

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BURKE DAVIS. *A Williamsburg Galaxy*. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc., 1968. 232pp. Illus. \$4.95.

Tar Heel native Burke Davis has written this book as the sixth in a series of popular histories of Williamsburg and Tidewater Virginia in the eighteenth century.

Mr. Davis has been a special projects writer for Colonial Williamsburg since 1960. Here he has drawn twenty delightful pen portraits of as many prominent Virginians from the late seventeenth and very earliest eighteenth centuries into the early nineteenth. Included are such stars as Francis Nicholson; Alexander Spotswood; William Byrd II; John Murray; Lord Dunmore; George Washington; Edmund Pendleton; George Mason; Thomas Jefferson; Patrick Henry; and George Rogers Clark. Each sketch contains the essential biographical data, but they all are much more than that. The subjects come through as active humans with wills of their own. The lives they led and the contributions they made to Virginia and to America are recounted in readable text.

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LURA D. DICKSON. *Great Smokies Wonderland for Boys and Girls*. Seymour, Indiana: Dickson's Inc. (P. O. Box 368), 1968. 134pp. Illus. \$3.95 cloth; \$1.75 paper.

The "wonderland" nature of the Great Smoky Mountains comes through clearly in Mrs. Dickson's book. It is generously illustrated with photographs and attractive drawings in black and white and in various sepia shades. Sections on different subjects are brief but well written, filled with facts, and followed (in many cases) by questions designed to lead boys and girls into further discussion of the subject. Although it probably will not be obvious to young readers, there is a logical arrangement to the book. Geography comes first with brief portions on the landscape: mountain building, erosion, bluffs, waterfalls, streams, and so on. Next are bits of interesting information on wildlife, both plants and animals. The different birds, animals, insects, trees, flowers, ferns, vines, and mushrooms are covered. The seasons of the year, pioneer settlers, old water-powered mills, and modern accommodations each have their place. Throughout the book there are readable little stories of the doings of animals and birds. This is a book to please teacher, child, and parent. And the moderately complete index will open some of its contents for use in quick reference in the library.

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MARY MYERS DWELLE. *A Sketch of the Life of Queen Charlotte*. Charlotte: Heritage Printers, 1968. 29pp. Apply.

Mrs. Dwelle has prepared a very pleasant little tribute to Queen Charlotte on the occasion of the bicentennial of the City of Charlotte. There is a sketch of the life of Queen Charlotte and some interesting "glimpses" at various aspects of her life. Other honors accorded her and a list of known portraits form other portions of this attractively printed and bound keepsake.

ORVILLE L. FREEMAN and MICHAEL FROME. *The National Forests of America*. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1968. 191pp. Illus. (many in color). \$12.95.

Numerous maps and illustrations, several lists of National Forests and other features, and a well organized text combine to make this an attractive and useful book. The text is readable, even inspiring in many places, and the subject one of wide interest. Conservation of natural beauty is the book's central theme, but use and enjoyment by the public are also featured. There is much pure history, natural history, and contemporary history (the results of Job Corps activity, for example) here, and it will interest a wide range of readers. Those who are seeking only the North Carolina information will discover that the Linville and French Broad Rivers and the headwaters of the Savannah River have received the attention of the Interdepartmental Scenic Rivers Study; that there are four National Forests in the state (Croatan, Nantahala, Pisgah, and Uwharrie) covering more than 1,124,000 acres; that there are two Wilderness Areas (Linville Gorge and Shining Rock); and seven areas designated for protection because of scenic, historical, or geological importance (Craggy Mountain, Ellicott Rock, John's Rock, Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest, Look Glass Rock, Whitewater River Falls, and Glenn Falls). But in finding these bits of information the reader with even the slightest curiosity will discover many interesting facts about other areas as well.

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BERNICE KELLY HARRIS, editor. *Southern Home Remedies by the Creative Writing Group of Chowan College*. Murfreesboro: Johnson Publishing Co., 1968. 120 pp. Illus. \$4.95.

Facts for these bits of folk medicine were collected by Mrs. Harris' Creative Writing Group and put in good style for practice and experience. They contain much interesting folklore and a good bit of humor. They will provide entertainment for the idle hour.

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FRED T. MORGAN. *Ghost Tales of the Uwharries*. Winston-Salem: John F. Blair, Publisher, 1968. 152pp. Illus. \$4.50.

Ghost tales seem to have a special fascination for Tar Heels. Several volumes of them have been published in recent years, and they are much in demand in libraries around the state. This new contribution to the field contains twenty carefully written stories, highly polished to sustain the suspense to the very end. I suspect there must be more than a grain of truth and fact in many of them. I doubt that a living human being could create some of these stories as pure fiction. Their setting is the Uwharrie Mountains of Montgomery, Randolph, and Stanly counties, interesting and mysterious remains of

ancient peaks higher than the Alps which have been worn down through thousands of years. Thinly settled and with vast uninhabited tracts, these mountains suggest many of the remote areas of England where ancient ghost tales have been handed down for centuries. Like ballads which crossed the Atlantic, some of these tales must have their counterpart in the Mother Country. But the Uwharrie impression on them is unmistakable.

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CHARLES NORMAN. *Discoverers of America*. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Company, 1968. 322pp. Illus. \$7.95.

Aside from its North Carolina connections, every library in North Carolina should have this book on its general merits. It is a delightful account of the discovery of the American continent, told largely in the words of the discoverers. Incorporating their own distinctive phrases and careful (or careless) comments with his own linking narrative, Mr. Norman presents us a charming book of discoveries from 1492 to the mid-1600's with a nine-page epilogue picturing the country in the 1750's when the Ohio Country and the Mississippi Valley were being explored. A chapter on "Florida of the Indies" contains material on Spanish explorations in and near the Carolina area, but his nearly 100 pages on "Raleigh's Virginia" will probably be of greatest interest to Tar Heels. This section sets the Elizabethan explorations of the North Carolina area in their proper perspective in the whole range of American discovery. Raleigh's Amadas and Barlowe, Ralph Lane, and John White expeditions and colonies are interestingly discussed. The site of Jamestown which lay within Raleigh's Virginia and England's first permanent American colony are also discussed in this chapter. Contemporary illustrations throughout the book add greatly to its interest.

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WILLIAM S. POWELL. *Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill, A Students' Guide to Localized History*. New York: Teachers College Press, Columbia University, 1969. 41pp. .75c.

Directed to students and teachers at about the eighth grade level, this pamphlet contains a chapter devoted to generalities concerning the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill region of the state followed by separate chapters on each of the three cities. These contain historical information and facts about the current activities in each. An annotated bibliography and "Objectives for Field Trips" are also given. Finally, there is a chapter on The Research Park with a brief annotated bibliography.

LOU ROGERS WEHLITZ. *Memory Is A Star*. Philadelphia: Dorrance & Company, 1968. 62pp. \$3.00.

This volume is designed as a memorial to Mrs. Wehlitz's husband who died in 1964. It contains a brief story of his life and nearly fifty original poems by the author, his wife. Some of them have appeared previously in *The Fayetteville Observer*, *The News and Observer*, and other newspapers and magazines. Her friends will remember Mrs. Wehlitz as the former Lou Rogers whose book, *Tar Heel Women*, is often consulted in many libraries throughout the state.

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## NEW PUBLICATIONS (Continued)

the reading habit from the elementary school level to the college level. All "members of the teaching profession who are interested in promoting a well-informed public who find in the printed page a source of both information and pleasure" will find this publication to be of value.

*A Dictionary of Administration and Supervision*, by Ivan S. Banki, is available for \$4.78 (libraries receive a 20% discount) from Systems Research, Box 74524, Los Angeles, California, 90004. The dictionary is a reference guide to current terms which department heads, educators, administrators, supervisors, or students of administration meet in their readings, or in planning, organizing, leading, directing, coordinating, or otherwise influencing individual and intergroup relations. Entries are in alphabetical order and there are many *see* and *see also* references. A sample entry is: FLOW PROCESS CHART—A graphic device which is used for the classification and analysis of organizational activities in terms of the various individual operations-transfers-delays-inspections points-storages. in order to make such activities as feasible, economical, and efficient as possible.

*The Language Arts in Childhood Education* by Paul C. Burns and Alberta L. Lowe is a 1966 Rand McNally publication which sells for \$7.00. It explores "significant issues and questions which need serious study by pre-service and in-service teachers and supervisors who are concerned with the language development of children." Oral communication (conversation, discussion, storytelling, and creative dramatics) and written communication (creative and functional) are extensively covered in this gem of a book which has been adopted as a college text in many institutions of higher learning. It ought to be a part of the professional collection of every elementary school library.