
North Carolina Books

Robert Anthony, Compiler

Ron Morris, with John Feinstein, Barry Jacobs, and Dick Herbert. **ACC Basketball: An Illustrated History**. Chapel Hill: Four Corners Press (P.O. Box 793, 27514), 1988. 320 pp. \$39.95. ISBN 0-9609548-9-9.

ACC Basketball is a lavishly produced, extensively researched, and generally well-written, straightforward account of Atlantic Coast Conference basketball from the founding of the conference in 1953 through the 1988 Final Four. As the title suggests, the book relies heavily and effectively on photographs, many in color, mostly taken from the files of local newspapers or university sports information departments. It also has, however, a strong narrative component. Morris provides a vivid year by year running account of the league's history, augmented by sidebars on selected coaches and players. Several of the sections are written by guest contributors Feinstein, Jacobs, and Herbert, all authorities on college basketball. Despite the dominance of the league by North Carolina teams, Morris is scrupulously evenhanded, devoting roughly equal coverage to the non-North Carolina ACC teams. He also adds a comprehensive statistical appendix and an index of names.

Morris is a journalist by trade. He writes a popular, non-academic history on which the outside world of student protests, Civil Rights, and Vietnam intrudes only lightly. His history is apparently sculpted largely from contemporary newspaper accounts, supplemented with recent interviews. Morris uses quotations often but, inasmuch as the book contains no bibliographical information, it is not always clear when and where the quotations originate. Although focusing on the ACC's outstanding teams, players, and coaches, Morris, to his credit, does not avoid the unsavory aspects of the league's history. Point shaving, recruiting violations, fights, and racial segregation are all covered in some detail.

There are several ways **ACC Basketball** could have been improved. The most glaring deficit is the absence of any discussion of women's basketball in the ACC. Surely Kay Yow deserves at least a mention. Less serious is the handful of

typographical and factual errors that was allowed to slip through. For example, Morris refers to a non-existent 1954 Civil Rights Act (p.108); places Vic Bubas at Duke in 1958 (p.55); and garbles the narrative of UNC's famous 1974 comeback against Duke (p.175). Nonetheless, considering the scope of Morris's task, the book's errors are few in number and minor in impact. Within the given parameters, the authors have done a considerable amount of work and produced a virtually authoritative account of a popular subject. It is suitable for public and school libraries and is not likely to gather dust at either.

Jim L. Sumner, North Carolina Division of Archives and History

William C. Harris. **William Woods Holden: Firebrand of North Carolina Politics**. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1987. 332 pp. \$35.00. ISBN 0-8071-1325-5.

William Woods Holden is one of the great riddles of North Carolina politics, and William Harris, professor of history at North Carolina State University, has taken up the task of solving that riddle—or at least reducing it to manageable size.

Holden's political career was remarkable even by the standards of nineteenth-century American politics. Apprenticed to a printer at the age of nine or ten, Holden learned not only printing but journalism as well. He first came to public attention in the 1830's writing for the *Raleigh Star*, a newspaper affiliated with the Whig party which then dominated politics in North Carolina. He soon made the first of many leaps in his career, purchasing the *North Carolina Standard* and embracing the Democratic party whose interests the *Standard* supported. As editor of the *Standard*, Holden displayed impressive gifts for political invective and maneuver as well as sound skills in newspaper management. Through the paper he made himself one of the most prominent voices of the Democratic party in the State and gained recognition far outside of North Carolina. He was narrowly defeated for the Democratic nomination for governor in 1858.

The stress of Civil War and Reconstruction produced amazing twists in Holden's political life. In the late 1850s he championed Southern rights, but insisted that such rights could best be secured within the Union. Initially he drew back from secession, but ended up supporting North Carolina's break with the United States. With the coming of war, Holden professed his loyalty to the Southern cause, but almost immediately began organizing dissidents—many of whom were former Whigs—into a faction in opposition to the secessionist Democrats who controlled the state. By 1862 this faction had become the Conservative party whose candidate, Zebulon Baird Vance, won election as governor. Holden steadily moved further into opposition to the Confederacy until by 1863 he had helped organize a peace movement which launched him unsuccessfully for the governorship in 1864. At the end of the war, President Andrew Johnson appointed Holden provisional governor of North Carolina, charged with carrying out the president's fairly mild form of Reconstruction. Later Holden repudiated Johnson, embraced the Congressional plan of Reconstruction, helped organize the Republican party in North Carolina, and was elected Republican governor in 1868. As governor he worked to secure the fledgling Republican party and took active measures to suppress the Ku Klux Klan which was, for all practical purposes, the terrorist arm of the old Democrats. After the "redemption" of North Carolina by conservative Democrats in 1870, Holden was impeached, removed from office, and driven briefly from the state. He later returned to his home in Raleigh where he died in 1892.

As Harris points out, this important figure in North Carolina politics has never received proper historical consideration. Generations of North Carolinians, including more than one professional historian, stereotyped Holden as the apostate scalawag whose talents, twisted by overweening ambition, brought calamity on his state. The revision of Reconstruction history during the last quarter century has produced studies kinder to Holden, and recently sympathetic biographies have appeared by Edgar E. Folk and Horace W. Raper. Harris is the first, however, to deal with Holden's career in its entirety. While he is alert to Holden's failings, Harris is careful to set Holden's public life in the context of the hyperbole and overheated controversy which was as natural to American politics of the mid-nineteenth century as it is foreign today. Above all, Harris is fair to Holden, giving thoughtful and serious consideration to Holden's explanations for his actions. Har-

ris rejects class consciousness as an overall explanation for Holden's behaviour and gives equally short shrift to the notion that Holden sought success to compensate for his illegitimate birth. For all his careful detailing of Holden's career, however, Harris is unable to close with the essential William Holden, probably because Holden left so little behind that would reveal his inner self. Harris has thus laid before us the riddle of William Holden with accuracy, thoroughness, and balance, leaving all those interested in American political history to speculate on the force or combination of forces that drove this fascinating North Carolinian.

Harry McKown, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

- Peggy Payne. *Revelation*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1988. 314 pp. \$18.95. ISBN 0-671-65252-4.

What is a man to do when he gets what he asks for but not exactly what he thinks he wants? This question summarizes the dilemma of Swain Hammond, the intellectual and reserved pastor of a liberal Presbyterian congregation in Chapel Hill. After years of earnestly seeking some sign of God's visible presence in the world, Swain actually hears the voice of God. When he decides to share his revelation with his flock, a year of troubles—but also one of spiritual growth—begins.

After years of free-lance writing for newspapers and magazines, Wilmington native and Duke University graduate Peggy Payne has crafted a remarkable first novel. The novel's sense of place is strong, and the plot is well developed. One scene flows easily into the next, and the pacing is appropriate. Exceptional care has been taken to develop the large cast of characters inhabiting *Revelation*. While the story is told primarily from Swain's point of view, the reader does receive crucial pieces of information from other characters as well.

Like all good novels, *Revelation* operates on several different levels. It tells the story of a person's struggle for faith given a world of doubts. It tells the story of a child's valiant battle to cope with the results of a freak accident which leaves him blind in both eyes. It tells the story of marriages beset by stress and midlife crisis. It tells the story of a church's struggle to understand and finally to minister to the one it had chosen to be its minister.

The world Peggy Payne has drawn for us is filled with love and hate, pain and joy, sin and

redemption. Swain Hammond begins this book as someone who became a preacher "not because of any belief he could actually pin down," but because of the desire for "there to be more to life than he himself had seen or felt so far—something to ease his chronic vague dissatisfaction, something to subdue the irritation which he had always reined in." When the book concludes, Swain has confronted and dealt with many of his personal demons. He has forgiven his parents, his wife, his congregation, and God for not being exactly as he would have them be. Swain has accepted himself and begun to experience joy.

Revelation is a moving, thoughtful novel appropriate for adult fiction collections in any type of library. Ms. Payne has a considerable talent. I look forward to her future novels.

Nancy Massey, Hyconeechee Regional Library

- Alexander R. Stoesen. *Guilford College: On the Strength of 150 Years*. Greensboro: The Board of Trustees, Guilford College, 1987. 148 pp. \$35.00. No ISBN. [May be ordered from Guilford College, College Relations Office, 5800 W. Friendly Avenue, Greensboro, N.C. 27410]

Practicality, usefulness, and balance in all are among those virtues in the Quaker tradition used by Stoesen in describing Guilford College, which was established in 1888 and evolved from the New Garden Boarding School founded in 1837. While this book is written in celebration of the sesquicentennial anniversary of the educational institution, the emphasis is on the one hundred-year history of the college. It brings up-to-date an earlier history by Dorothy Gilbert Thorne, *Guilford: A Quaker College*, which highlighted the institution's centennial anniversary in 1937. Stoesen discusses the relationship between the Quaker school and the Society of Friends throughout, as well as Guilford's ties to the Greensboro community.

The book is divided into sections based on the terms of office of the college's presidents, such as "The Years of Lewis Lyndon Hobbs" and "The Years of Thomas Newlin." A final page describes what Stoesen sees as the turning points in the college's history. It would have been helpful had the span dates of each president's term of office been given as part of the section titles. Instead, one sometimes has to read into the text to find the beginning and ending dates of a president's term.

Each section is further broken down into topics that are then briefly discussed. Topics focus

primarily on people, issues, and publications that were of significance during that particular president's tenure. They range in scope from the adoption of a core curriculum in 1928 to flagstone walks. The book's extensive index makes it possible to find information about specific subjects quickly and easily. The book, however, does not include a bibliography; and, while it is implied, it could have been explained more clearly that the college's Friends Historical Collection supplied substantial background material for the work.

Guilford College is heavily illustrated with black-and-white photographs of people, the campus, and memorabilia, the result being a book in the coffee-table tradition. The photographs would indicate a more benign history of the college than that which is actually presented in the text. The history is not only a recounting of the college's good times, but also some of its troubled times. Efforts to modernize facilities, to increase the number of Ph.D.'s on the faculty, to revise the curriculum, and to up-date fundraising endeavors are among the concerns delineated.

Student life is described, including how students have celebrated various holidays such as May Day. Pride is taken in the fact that students of varying abilities and religious faiths are welcomed at the school. The rise and demise of student debating societies and the relaxation of rules relating to students' dress and behavior during the 1960s serve to reflect the college's history against society's concerns and interests.

Stoesen states in the preface that his selection of topics has been "designed to capture as much as possible the essence of Guilford College's past while tying it to the present." It is a charge that he has fulfilled very well. The book is recommended for North Carolina public and academic libraries, and especially for alumni of the college and for those students who think they might be interested in attending Guilford College. On the college's history faculty since 1966, Stoesen is also the author of *A Celebration of Guilford County Since 1890*, Part II of *A History of Guilford County* published in 1981.

Janie Morris, Duke University Library

- Marianne Gingher. *Teen Angel, and Other Stories of Young Love*. New York: Atheneum, 1988. 209 pp. \$17.95. ISBN 0-689-11967-4.

Teen Angel is Greensboro writer Marianne Gingher's first publication after her novel *Bobby Rex's Greatest Hit*, which was named by the American Library Association as one of the Best

Books for Young Adults for 1986. Like *Bobby Rex*, the ten stories that make up *Teen Angel* may be read and enjoyed by young adults, but their appeal is not limited to a younger audience. They are largely about the trials of young love in all its forms—love for boyfriends, teachers, present and absent parents, and even babies lost to the adoption agency. This collection will appeal to the memories and nostalgic feelings of aging baby boomers.

Some of the strongest stories, the "Teen Angel" of the title, "Wearing Glasses," and "Aurora Island," deal with coming of age in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Ginger describes the world of teased hair, harlequin glasses, and Pure Oil Stations without sentimentality. This may be welcome to the young reader in particular, who may be familiar with this era only through films like *Dirty Dancing*. Through the focusing lens of the past, her characters experience crushes on the English teacher, the separation of parents, and the delicious mystery of exploring families unlike one's own—all the processes by which young men and women define for themselves a sense of self.

The stories set in the present, "The Magic Circle," "The Hummingbird Kimono," and "Toy Paris," deal with the same themes—the difficulty of dealing with one's troubled parents and with families that seem to be crazy in general. For the most part, these stories lack the immediacy of the stories set in the past. The exception is "Camouflage," the story of a high school girl who has decided to give up her baby for adoption. Ginger describes a young woman's love for the child she saw briefly, and how she searches for a way to replace the love she surrendered with love for her family and, failing that, for a dying and unwanted pet. It is one of the most moving stories in the group.

Readers who enjoyed *Bobby Rex* will note that in "No News," Bobby Rex's younger brother Leon is allowed to tell his own story—his feelings after Bobby Rex has left home for the first time. The first story, "The Kiss," is the oddest and the weakest. It has a fairy tale-like unreality compared with the realism of the other stories. *Teen Angel* would be an appropriate selection for either a young adult or a general fiction collection.

Roberta Engleman, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

William L. Carpenter and Dean W. Colvard. *Knowledge Is Power: A History of the School of Agriculture and Life Sciences at North Carolina State University, 1877-1984*. Raleigh: North Carolina State University, 1987. 527 pp. \$16.00. No

ISBN. [Order from Agricultural Communications, Campus Box 7603, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina 27695-7603.]

In *Gulliver's Travels*, Jonathan Swift wrote that the man who doubled the yield for grain and grass was more useful than "the whole race of politicians." *Knowledge Is Power* is the story of one institution—the School of Agriculture and Life Sciences at North Carolina State University—that has done much more in little over a century than even Swift could have envisioned.

Carpenter, a member of the Department of Communication at NCSU for over thirty years, and Colvard, head of the Department of Animal Science and dean of the School of Agriculture at NCSU, are personally familiar with the key personalities and development of the school's story. In addition, Colvard, as president of Mississippi State University and chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, has had firsthand experience in how state institutions of higher education operate.

Knowledge Is Power has four sections: the founding, the maturing, the blossoming, and the projected future of the school. The first two sections, covering the period from the 1870s through World War II, speak of the origins, development, and consolidation of the three agencies that eventually formed the school—the agricultural experimental station, the department of agriculture at NCSU, and the agricultural extension service. It is a story of fits and starts caused by the force of events within and outside the agencies.

The last two sections, extending from 1945 to 1985, tell of the triumphs and the promise of the institution. After an account of the leadership's development after the Second World War, the book follows with a topical account of the major areas of contribution in this period. The cumulative effect was the transformation of the school into a modern research, teaching, and extension facility that aided the agricultural revolution in North Carolina.

The authors, personally familiar with many sources at NCSU, relied upon tape-recorded interviews with sixty-four longtime leaders of the school as well. The book also contains over 135 black-and-white photographs, a complete index, and a guide to sources. The last is incomplete, but the chapter notes provide access to an extensive bibliography.

Knowledge Is Power is a comprehensive and thorough history of the School of Agriculture and Life Sciences at NCSU. Since it focuses on a narrow base, it has limited use as a reference book in

academic and public libraries. It could, however, make a fine contribution to collections on North Carolina agriculture and higher education in the general collection.

James Rogerson, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Reynolds Price. *Good Hearts*. New York: Atheneum, 1988. 275 pp. \$18.95. ISBN 0-689-11973-9.

The main characters in Reynolds Price's novel *Good Hearts* are Rosacoke and Wesley Beavers, whom Price created in his first novel, *A Long and Happy Life*. That earlier novel, published in 1962, concerns their courtship and marriage. This latest book picks up when they have been married for twenty-eight years. Essentially, it deals with what happens to them when Wesley, at fifty, discovers that he is not destined for greatness. The novel describes Wesley's flight from home and Rosa's efforts to end her dependence on her husband and only love. Both of them are forced to confront their unfulfilled dreams.

Three weeks after Wesley leaves without a word, Rosa is assaulted in her own house by a rapist. She retreats to her childhood home to recover. Meanwhile, Wesley has begun a relationship with a young woman in Nashville. The voice of the novel alternates between Rosa's diary (addressed to Wesley, if he should ever come back) and Wesley's encounters and thoughts, and eventually incorporates the viewpoints of several other characters. These other people turn out to be far more surprising and interesting than the protagonists. Rosa's supposedly dimwitted younger brother, with the unlikely name of Rato, is a favorite. Another is a mind-reading waitress with pink hair and a sad story in a roadside diner outside of Asheville.

The resolutions of Rosa's and Wesley's crises are not particularly surprising or satisfying, but there are some unexpected twists in the story as a whole. The interest in the story, for this reviewer, was mainly in the minor characters. Rosa and Wesley just were not convincing.

Price's style is somewhat self-conscious. For example, he introduces this book with a sort of prologue in which he tells the reader that Rosa and Wesley have "hearts as good as any you've met." But in the story that unfolds, they seem pretty ordinary. Maybe that is Price's point. And maybe that is why they are so unconvincing.

Good Hearts is Reynolds Price's sixth novel. He has also written several volumes of stories, two books of poetry, a volume of essays, and a play. With his novel, *Kate Vaiden*, Price won the

National Book Critics Circle Award for best novel of 1986. He is a North Carolina native and a graduate of Duke University, where he has been teaching English since 1958.

Those who like Price's fiction will certainly want to read *Good Hearts*, and fans of his first novel will be eager to see what he does with this sequel. His credentials as a North Carolinian and as a prize-winning author make this a necessary purchase for most libraries in the state.

Elizabeth White, Asheville-Buncombe Library

Other Publications of Interest

The Climber's Guide to North Carolina, by Thomas Kelley, is sure to please those adventure-some souls who scale mountains and cliffs for pleasure. This 257-page, paperback book is not a manual for the beginner but a detailed guide to sites in the Tar Heel state for the experienced climber. "Topos" (essentially impressionistic climbing "road maps") are provided for the various sites. Symbols, numbers, and abbreviations indicate pitches, a subjective rating as to difficulty, estimated length of time to complete, and other site characteristics. For some sites, topos are supplemented by written descriptions and black-and-white photographs. (Earthbound Books, P.O. Box 3445, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27515-3445, \$19.95, no ISBN, paper).

John F. Blair, Publisher, has reprinted *The American Indian in North Carolina*, by Douglas L. Rights, a work considered by many to be a classic in North Carolina historiography. First published by Duke University Press in 1947 and reissued by Blair in 1957, but out-of-print for the past ten years, the book traces the history of Indian tribes in what is now North Carolina. Concentrating on the period from initial contact with Europeans (with Spanish explorers led by Hernando de Soto and English colonists attempting to settle Roanoke Island) through the forced removal of the Cherokee during the infamous "Trail of Tears," Rights provides much information on Indian folklore, mythology, habit, and customs. The 298-page, indexed book also contains over a hundred black-and-white photographs of projectiles, utensils, archaeological sites, depictions of Indians, and maps. (John F. Blair, Publisher, \$14.95, ISBN 0-89587-066-5, paper).

Blair has also recently issued a revised and updated paperback edition of *Island, Capes, and Sounds: The North Carolina Coast*, by Thomas J. Schoenbaum. (333 pp., \$12.95, ISBN 0-89587-059-2, paper). First published by Blair in

1982, the book is an entertaining account for the general reader of the history, geology, and ecology of the coastal region, combined with a thoughtful discussion of environmental issues. [For a full review, see *North Carolina Libraries* 40 (1982):273-374.]

Early maps and mapping are the subject of the latest publication sponsored by America's Four Hundredth Anniversary Committee. **Mapping the North Carolina Coast: Sixteenth-Century Cartography and the Roanoke Voyages**, by William P. Cumming, is a detailed and extensively footnoted study of maps that were or may have been available to the planners of ill-fated English settlements during the 1580s on Roanoke Island. Cumming discusses how the inaccuracies and mistaken assumptions in contemporary maps misled these planners and the explorers and colonists they sponsored to expect vastly different

geographic conditions than those actually encountered, with significant implications for the colonizing efforts. Maps described range from the earliest dated and surviving one of the New World, drawn in 1500 by Juan de la Cosa who accompanied Christopher Columbus on the latter's second voyage in 1493-94 and who made three later voyages, to the more accurate maps of the North Carolina coast that resulted from knowledge gained during the Roanoke Island colonizing attempts. Illustrations of twenty-eight maps or sections of maps are included in this scholarly but readable work. (Published for the Committee by Historical Publications Section, North Carolina Division of Archives and History, 109 E. Jones Street, Raleigh, N.C. 27611, 143 pp., \$10.00 plus \$1.50 postage and handling, ISBN 0-8652-232-2, paper).

Children's Book Week

November 14-20, 1988

Would
you
call
Mother
Goose
a
bigot?

BANNED
BOOKS
WEEK
SEPTEMBER 24-
OCTOBER 1, 1988

