
Tar Heel Books

Ava Yarrie. *Birds of the Research Triangle Park*. Pigeon Forge, Tenn: Nature Redundancy Press, 1989. 137 pp. \$17.95.

Miss Yarrie has been aptly described as "for the birds," and this latest entry in her avian odyssey does nothing to diminish her reputation. During the past two years, her cleverly constructed wicker aerie, artfully festooned with sea oats, has become part of I-40 commuting folklore. Dangling from the Cornwallis Road overpass, her contraption's thirty foot span was rather disconcerting at first, especially when occupied by the 250-pound ornithologist. Now, however, accidents have lessened, traffic flow is mostly normal, and the bird world is richer for the emergence of this opulent volume.

"Oneness with them, I seek oneness with them" has always been Miss Yarrie's motto, and, because of this patient dedication, some of the region's shyest, rarest species have been photographed for the first time. Working with infrared light and superhuman shutter speeds, she has succeeded in capturing on film the nocturnal mating ritual of the Greater Sludge. Some of the complicated details of this courtship had never before been witnessed. If necessary, this section of the book can be easily detached so school or public librarians need not fear patron reprisals.

The Noyu Tern is also notorious for its elusive and somewhat antisocial behavior. In these pages, documentary evidence now exists for this bird's rather unique tendency to travel for long distances on the roofs of passing cars. The Noyu seems to prefer laying its eggs on the more sporty vehicles, Miss Yarrie informs us. Among the plethora of charts and maps supplied to us by the indefatigable Yarrie, particularly valuable are the ones detailing the fascinating flight plans of the Urban Bustle. This is surely the smallest and most often used migratory path on record as these birds commute from their nesting grounds in Duke Forest to the Research Triangle Park and back daily.

Space permits only a few glimpses into the wonders of this volume. We must hope that Miss Yarrie will soon be out of the Shady Acres Extended Care Hostel and back on the wing again.

Recommended for all libraries interested in being on the cutting edge of bird lore.

Gene Leonardi, North Carolina Central University

Lola Sue Smith-Smith. *Tar Heel Meals for the Health-Conscious* Spivey's Corner, N. C.: Vivamus Press, 1989. 14 pp. \$24.95.

In an era when more and more North Carolinians strive to achieve immortality through the consumption of high-fiber cereals, this offering has been long overdue. The reviewer has personally tried a number of the more than six recipes included in this slim (fourteen page) volume with biodegradable covers. The pages themselves are easily recyclable, and, in fact the final recipe ("Okra Stuffed with Endive-Collard Pate") amusingly requires the use of pages four through ten from the book as a liner for a baking pan.

Particularly mouthwatering was the Mock-Ham in Ersatz-Red Eye Pseudo-Gravy, a vegetarian delight that includes one of several uses for kudzu leaves and vines. This recipe is but one of several that provides culinary delight at Blue-Light Special prices, since many of the ingredients are free (i.e. kudzu leaves), some are common household items (aspirin, Windex), and others can be obtained with little trouble if the cook is a true Tar Heel (low-cholesterol meats like Possum Waffles, good sources of fiber like hickory bark).

Written in an open, amusing style ("Deep frying in Lux Liquid produced a pork chop that was tender, pleasant-smelling, and kind to my hands—but not, alas, edible."), this book is recommended for any chef who has had a recent lobotomy.

Alfreda Fettucine, UNC-Ocracoke

Myrgatroid Cerebellum, Ph.D. *Lost Colony, Lost Continent*. Lizard Lick, NC: Rubber Room Press, 1990. 169 pp. \$12.95.

Myrgatroid Cerebellum is a familiar name to readers of this column. Over the years he has contributed nearly thirty volumes to the canon of North Caroliniana Occult, including such gems as *Is Bigfoot a Yankee?*, *Haunted Treehouses of the*

Outer Banks, and *Human Sacrifices and the ACC Tournament*. In this latest oeuvre, Dr. Cerebellum, nonagenarian professor emeritus of history at Fred's College, has provided us with a snappy new explanation for the mysterious disappearance of the Roanoke Colony.

His argument centers on the correct interpretation of CROATOAN, the only message left by the lost colonists for posterity. Cerebellum suggests that previous scholarly work has been based on a false premise, namely that CROATOAN is to be read from left to right. He points out (correctly, as it turns out) that CROATOAN is NAOTAORC when read from right to left. NAOTAORC, unlike its mysterious mirror image, has a straightforward interpretation in the language once used in the Lost Continent of Atlantis. Loosely translated, it means "Take I-40 East as far as it goes and then keep right on going".

At this point, Cerebellum's reasoning becomes somewhat more elusive than can be easily described here. We recommend this book as a gift for a child one does not particularly like.

Percival Wombat, Toast Public Library

0. Naturale. **Wooly Worms: Untapped Source of Energy**. Hanging Rock: Aerobic Press, 1989. 823 pp. Free to a good home.

The author calculates that over a zillion barrels of oil could be saved annually if the U.S. consumer were willing to take a more relaxed, low-pressure approach to life. A key to this solution to the federal deficit, the balance of trade, and harmonic imbalance is the adoption of wooly worms as a replacement for internal combustion engines. Naturale points out at length (pp. 666-712) that there are hidden "spin-off" advantages to his plan as well. For example, it can be proven by statistics that the length of wooly worm fur in Ashe County in November has a completely random correlation with the severity of the following winter across the state. This can certainly not be claimed by any of the better-known automobile manufacturers. This book is recommended for pressing leaves, as a reliable substrate for a personal computer, or for knocking intruders on the head.

Buggs Ketchum, Linville College

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Tar Heel Books

Bernie Alexandria. *Abandoned Libraries of the Carolinas*. Solid Waste Site #6: D Press, 1990. \$19.95.

This book was so depressing that I couldn't finish it. In fact, I gave up after Chapter II, "The Skeleton in the Stacks," which described the author's excavation of the former public library of Yella Houndawg, N.C. A three-hanky piece of nonfiction, this is wonderful as a cathartic for older librarians and a horror piece for younger colleagues. Not recommended for those under thirty-five.

Ursa Major, Helms AFB Library

Other Publications of Interest:

Great Potholes of Boone and Asheville. A serious and knowledgeable comparative study of these scenic wonders in two of our most memorable mountain communities. Sure to appeal to patrons planning trips to the area.

Rhymes that Don't, and Rhythms. Several thousand lines of complete drivel alleged to be serious poetry by my ex-wife, which has nothing whatever to do with my opinion.

Little-Used Bike Paths of the Tar Heel State.

The paths followed include one that runs from Cape Hatteras to Ocracoke, the Grandfather Mountain Vertical Mile, and the middle of the right lane of I-40 halfway between Greensboro and Winston-Salem at rush hour on a Friday afternoon during an ice storm.

Thorns of the Carolinas. How to recognize our state's thorn-bearing plants by touch alone. Over two hundred gut-wrenching photographs.

Behind the Barn. A thriller set in (fictional) Bunkum County, N.C. includes KGB agents, Hari Krishnas, and trained black bass. As his enemies relentlessly close in, Ethelred "Lucky" Shrike cowers behind his barn. You'll be ready to shoot him yourself by the time this book staggers to a conclusion.

Life in the Fast Lane. The nightmarish true story of a family trapped in a fuel-efficient foreign-made car when its cruise control jammed at 55 mph. The seven members of the Gerbil family almost starved to death before the vehicle ran out of gas after 6700 miles and 122 hours of perambulation.

Being Really Totally Safe. Which automatic weapons does your cost-conscious family need to ensure safety? Which anti-tank rocket gives the "most bang for the buck," the US-manufactured LAW or the Soviet RPG? Useful chapters for the whole family ("Teaching Your Toddler to Lay Mines"; "Granny Gitcher Gun"; "Uzis Aren't Just for Sissies"; "Dad's Special Napalm Recipe"). Recommended for wealthy paranoids.

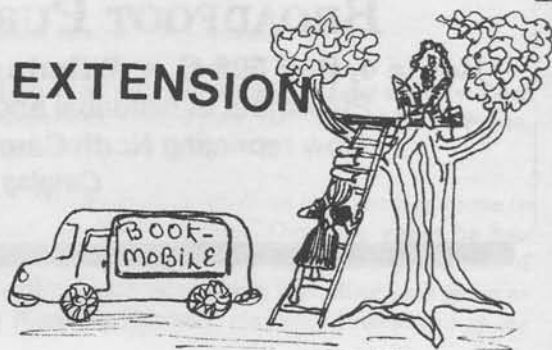
FOR I=I TO 386: READ. This product of the Research Triangle is a major literary breakthrough, the first major work of fiction written entirely in the Basic computer language. Titillating, witty, droll, and colorful, this work is recommended for IBM AT or Macintosh II. Warning: Many passages involve explicit I/O and might offend users with less than 480K of RAM.

1979 in Smothering Skunk. A novel that blows the veil of respectability off a fictional North Carolina town. Behind a thin veneer of middle-class American life, there lurk people who drink milk straight out of the bottle, don't signal before turns, and check books out of the public library. This one will keep you running to the bathroom until the final paragraph.

Mentioned at all:

Our Friend the Boll Weevil
North Carolinians Who Moved to the Falklands
I Ate My RV
My Dog, My Truck and My Gun
" " Salutes Illiteracy
Siegfried at the Circulation Desk
Coach V and the Alien Point Guard
Kernersville
1001 Uses for Chiggers
When the Outer Banks had Drive-In Windows
Defenestration at the Dean Dome
Offensive Driving Techniques for 18-Wheelers

EXTENSION



Library News Briefs

So You Think You Got Problems?

In Berkeley, CA, two patrons of the University library have sued 18-year-old reference assistant Tina Cogg for \$2.5 billion. The two allege that her failure to provide them with a copy of the prophecies of Nostradamus quickly enough prevented them from "calling in Beings from a Higher Plane" to halt the October 13 earthquake. Their lawyer, Edgar Earthman, told reporters that the city authorities are considering criminal charges of negligence and disturbing the peace. His clients are also reported to be seeking revenge by calling upon "just retribution by the Flame Beings of the Ninth Dimension." Ms. Cogg is paid \$3.35 per hour.

No Comment from Quayle

The State Library Association of a large, rectangular state recently passed a resolution that urged their congressional representatives to lobby for a Constitutional Amendment. The proposed amendment would name the Librarian of Congress as successor to the Presidency.

I Used to Know All That

HyperTech Inc. president Billy Smith, 12-year-old self-made billionaire microchippette designer, called a news conference to display a prototype of a new micromicrodevice that "just come to me, y'know?" Billy said as he proudly held up his latest miracle invention on the tip of his right index finger in a high wind.

The new device, the only one of its kind, contains the contents of the national libraries of all members of the United Nations as well as the state libraries of the Vatican, Monaco, Antarctica, Oz, Erewhon, and several low-orbiting satellites. It is easily accessed by all major microcomputers, telephones, calculators, copying machines, and manual typewriters, costs 9 cents to manufacture, and is just over 1/1000 inch on a side. It can be found somewhere in the eastern part of Utah. A reward is offered.

IdentiBook: New Aid to Librarians

An NCLA intelligence agent has uncovered an innovation in the publishing industry that promises great benefits to librarianship. A major publishing house, in a cost-cutting measure, now produces all hardcovers with identical bindings.

All IdentiBook® volumes are 9.5 x 6.5 inches, gray in color, and have no information printed on the spine. They also lack frontmatter, title pages, and page numbers, all "frills that simply add to our competitors' inflated costs," said company president John Smith. Still more impressive is the fact that all books now have the same length, 256 pages. Shorter works have been supplemented with randomly-inserted blank sheets while longer works have simply had their final sections omitted. "Nobody really reads books that long anyway," commented a company official on condition that he not be identified.

The Zero Option

City fathers in a large North Carolina city were gratified to find that after severe staff cuts the city library was well within revised budgetary guidelines. The previous director had resigned in protest over the eighty-five percent funding cut, stating that the remnants of the library staff could not deal with a collection of nearly a million volumes. A new director was hired after a long search. The director's previous experience in librarianship was somewhat limited (he lived near a library branch, though he had never visited it) and officials were not sanguine about his chances of successfully directing the facility.

In fact, they found to their surprise that in the new director's first year the library was in the black by a substantial \$790,000. A grateful mayor called the director to her office for congratulations. When questioned about innovative techniques that led to the massive surplus, the director modestly (and somewhat obscurely) referred to an unexpected windfall of overdue fines.

The following year, the library income was \$3,277,000, eclipsing traffic fines as a source of revenue. The city government then ordered an audit of the library accounts to determine how to produce similar dramatic changes in other city service departments.

While most budget figures were well within expected margins, one line item drew careful attention. The library had realized a seven-figure income from sales of discarded books.

Confronted with what was by now a considerable concern, the director readily admitted that he had been systematically selling off the collection. He defended his actions vigorously, noting that the smaller collection meant that the staff could be reduced and that since fewer books were borrowed service hours could be cut back, further cutting costs. "Besides," he said as he was led away by attendants in white uniforms, "it's a lot brighter in

there than it was with all those books blocking the sunlight."

He has denied renting newly-opened areas of the stacks to family members for picnics and camping.

New Nuclear Concern

The director of the Los Alamos Public Library has reported that radiation from nearby nuclear tests has had an unexpected effect on books and periodicals.

"At first, we thought they were just typos," he said. "I mean, you've got to figure it's a typo if a volume of *Moby Dick* starts with 'Call me Fred.'"

But staff members began reporting more serious problems, such as hardcovers turning into paperbacks, and periodicals whose covers said *Reader's Digest* but contained articles from *The Astrophysical Journal*.

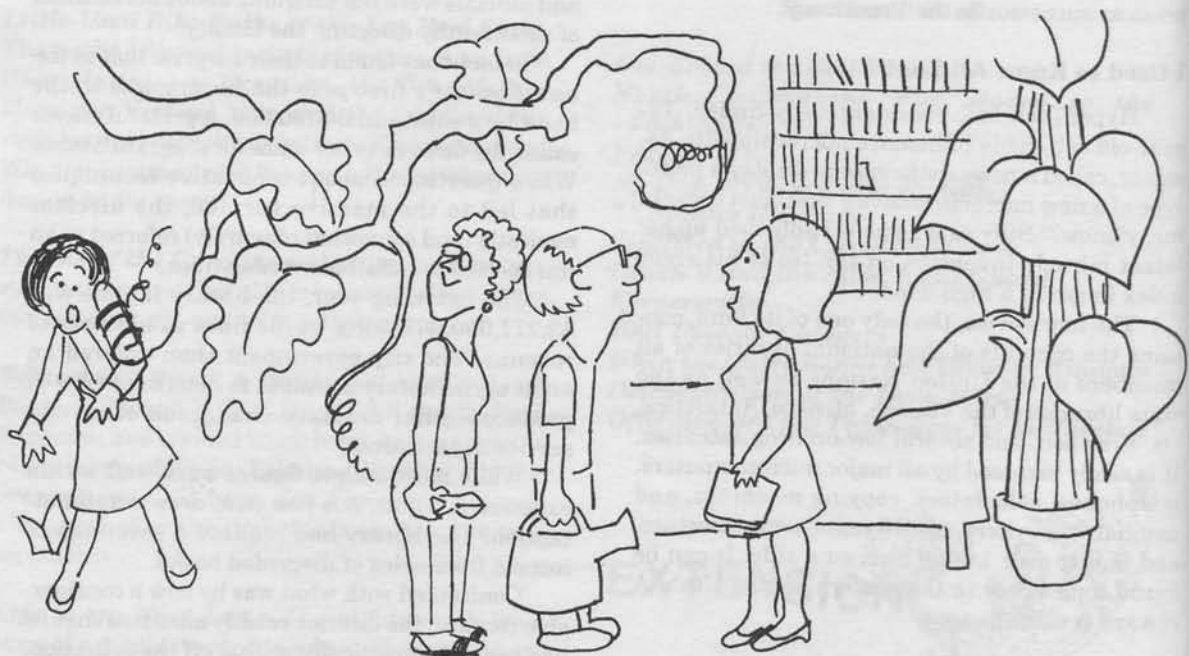
"There's no question about it," said the LAPL director. "They're mutating. No telling where it will end." He shook his head sadly as he slithered back into his office. ■

Credits for this Issue

Drawings are by **Melinda Munger**, formerly Children's Librarian at the Onslow County Public Library in Jacksonville, N.C., and now COordinator of Children's Outreach Services for the Miami-Dade Public Library System in Miami, FL. The drawings first appeared in *Down East*, a publication of the Loose Region.

Bookmark designs are contributed by the **Forsyth County Public Library** in Winston-Salem, N.C.

"False Advertising" is courtesy of **Harry Tuckmayer** and **Dorothy D. Hodder** (the creator of Dorph). Harry is Headquarters Librarian and Dorothy is Public Services Librarian at the New Hanover County Public Library in Wilmington. Both are members of the *North Carolina Libraries* Editorial Board. ■



The Garden Club's doing a wonderful job and we're very grateful, but might I suggest a lighter hand with the fertilizer?