North Carolina Books

Dorothy Hodder, Compiler

Stephen W. H. Duffy.

Captain Blakeley and the Wasp: The Cruise of 1814.

Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 2001.
348 pp. $34.95. ISBN 1-55750-176-9.

Sandwiched between the American Revolution and the Civil War, the War of 1812 seldom merits our attention. Except for the burning of Washington and Jackson's after-the-fact victory at New Orleans, few people know or remember much about it. To be honest, American military forces were not very successful during the conflict save for the warships of the tiny U. S. Navy. In single-ship battles during the war, the Americans beat the British, the world's greatest naval power, in six of seven encounters. The U.S.S. Wasp, a sloop-of-war under the command of North Carolinian Johnston Blakeley, won one of the most famous of those victories.

Born in Ireland in 1781, Blakeley and his family immigrated to Wilmington when he was two and he spent his formative years in North Carolina, including time at the University at Chapel Hill from 1796–1799. In 1800, he secured an appointment as a naval midshipman and subsequently was posted to various warships fighting the Barbary pirates along the North African coast. From1804–1812, his career slowly progressed as he served on several different Navy ships and finally was promoted to his first independent command.

Congress declared war on England on June 18, 1812, and Blakeley was given command of the Wasp the following month. The Wasp was launched in 1813 and in 1814 Blakeley and his crew received their sailing orders — to proceed to the English coast, harass and capture British merchantmen, and engage and destroy Royal Navy ships as the opportunity presented itself. Between June and September 1814, Blakeley's ship captured thirteen merchant ships, defeated H.M.S. Reindeer, and fought a draw with H.M.S. Avon. In the fall of 1814, Blakeley and the Wasp disappeared without a trace somewhere in the Atlantic.

Stephen Duffy's well-crafted and well-documented narrative provides a wealth of excellent information not only on Blakeley himself but also on conditions in the U.S. Navy during the period 1800–1814. His careful research includes details on ships and personnel as well as on the vagaries of politics and command that influenced the Navy's development. Duffy has a sailor's detailed knowledge of how sailing ships were built and his description of the battle between the Wasp and the Reindeer is superb historical writing. Illustrated with black-and-white photos, this work has an extensive bibliography, copious notes, and an index. University and public library collections and libraries interested in maritime or military history should add this book to their collection.

—John Welch
Enloe High School

Catherine Landis.

Some Days There's Pie.

New York: St. Martin's Press, 2002. 291 pp. $23.95. ISBN 0-312-28384-9.

Catherine Landis's novel *Some Days There's Pie* presents a moving story of friendship between two women, Rose and Ruth.

In her early twenties Ruth escaped from Summerville, Tennessee, with a stereo salesman, married secretly, and moved into her husband's apartment in Huntington, on the east coast of North Carolina. Married life was happy for Ruth until her husband got religion and tried to drag her into it. Yearning for her own free life, Ruth drove away from her husband. In Lawsonville, North Carolina, she met Rose, a legendary 79-year-old newspaper reporter. With Rose's help, Ruth found a job as receptionist and settled down in Lawsonville. Rose's dramatic stories, her strength in facing sickness and death, and her upright character greatly influenced Ruth. Ruth's life and outlook on the world changed greatly as her friendship with the older woman developed.

Landis achieves her delicate narration using simple yet vivid language. The novel portrays detailed aspects and settings of life of a small town in North Carolina. Besides Ruth and Rose, characters such as Rose's daughters Carol and Alma, her friend Cecil, and Ruth's friend and neighbor, Michael, are distinctively and vividly described.

Rose's good moral teachings to Ruth are inspiring. There is sweetness and bitterness, happiness and sadness, ups and downs in life, but if we keep doing the right thing, "one right thing after the other, some times it works out," and we will get our piece of pie some day.

Catherine Landis used to be a newspaper reporter in North Carolina. She grew up in Chattanooga and now lives with her husband and children in Knoxville, Tennessee. *Some Days There's Pie* is her first novel. Recommended for public libraries, school libraries, and academic libraries with recreational reading collections and North Carolina collections.

—Anping (Annie) Wu
University of North Carolina at Wilmington

William R. Trotter.

The Sands of Pride: A Novel of the Civil War.

New York: Carroll & Graf Publishers, 2002. 753 pp. $28.00. ISBN 0-7867-1013-6.

William R. Trotter's latest novel, *The Sands of Pride*, is impeccably researched and a fascinating reading experience. *The Sands of Pride* focuses on the first three years of coastal North Carolina's Civil War. Using both fictional and historical characters, the author draws a vivid picture of North Carolina's Civil War experience. Readers meet Union and Confederate soldiers as well as smugglers, planters, wives and daughters, slaves, free men, politicians, and spies. These characters are so well written that readers who are unfamiliar with the historical characters will have difficulty distinguishing them from the fictional characters. (The author includes a list of characters so that readers can separate the two.)

The setting of the novel is detailed and lovingly written without being an impediment to the flow of the story line, and helps bring to life the various areas the characters visit. The reviewer recognized settings in Wilmington and Fort Fisher, Raleigh, the Piedmont, the mountains, and even Virginia. The reader walks with Wilmington civilians to a Rebel party at the Bellamy Mansion, visits Governor Vance in his office, crawls through the scrub with soldiers, and fights with sailors at Topsail Island.

William R. Trotter based his research on his nonfiction trilogy *The Civil War in North Carolina*, one volume of which was used by Charles Frazier for his novel *Cold Mountain*, and the depth of this research shows. This novel will be enjoyed by adult readers of military and historical fiction, and will especially be appreciated by those with an interest in North Carolina and the Civil War.

— Mary Rose Kleinfeldt
New Hanover County Public Library

Blowing Rock Historical Society.

Post Cards of Historic Blowing Rock.

Boone, NC: Parkway Publishers, Inc., 2002. 136 pp. $25.00 ISBN: 1-887905-54-5.

Picture postcards made their debut in the United States after the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago. On December 24, 1901, the use of the words "post card" was granted by the U.S. government to private printers and the "penny" postcard quickly became one of the most popular and inexpensive means of communication. A perfect marriage with tourism, the postcards in this book portray Blowing Rock, North Carolina, as a wonderful place to experience the natural beauty of the mountains. The Blowing Rock Historical Society borrowed from a number of postcard collectors to produce a representative selection of area scenes from the turn of the 20th century to 1975. Printed in color on fine paper, this book will leave any mountain afficionado "wishing they were there."

— Beverly Tetterton
New Hanover County Public Library

Isabel Zuber.

Salt.

New York: Picador, 2002. 368 pp. $25.00. ISBN 0-312-28133-1.

Salt leads the reader on the life journey of heroine Anna Maud Stockton Barley at the turn of 20th century, from her cheerful and imaginative childhood to her miserable death in her early forties. Anna lived a happy life with her parents, sisters, and brothers in Deerfield, North Carolina, when she was young. Hungering to start a family when she grew up, she married twice-widowed local farmer John Barley and moved to a small village named Faith in western North Carolina. For over ten years in this never-changing village, Anna's life as a wife, mother, and stepmother was hard, boring, and simple. Her only sources of joy came from friendship with several women in the village and reading novels. A move to Queensburg brought her a better house with electric light and inside plumbing, but the community rejected the family and she was lonely for her old friends and kin. In spite of yearning for romance and a different life, Anna stayed with her husband and her children until she passed away in pain and misery in her early middle age.

Although *Salt* reveals the life of a typical farmer's wife raising many children in a small village in the last century as hard and unchanging, it is a beautiful work with a unique and special quality. The story spans the turn of the 20th century, and brings to life many aspects of a farmer's family and community life. Set in western North Carolina, the novel presents beautiful and charming mountain sceneries with forests, trees, creeks, and springs. The author's description of Anna and her family's daily life is as vivid and real as if they were happening before the reader's eyes. Isabel Zuber brilliantly places quotations about salt between chapters to bring out the bitter, sorrowful tales of family separation, connection, community rejection, fighting, and death.

Isabel Zuber lives in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. She is a poet and has published two collections of poetry, *Oriflamb* and *Winter's Exile*. *Salt* is her first novel.

This novel will be a valuable addition to the fiction collection of public libraries and school libraries, and to the recreational reading collection or special collection of academic libraries. It is suitable for collections of southern literature in any kind of library.

— Anping (Annie) Wu
University of North Carolina at Wilmington

Gail E. Haley.

Mountain Jack Tales.

Boone: Parkway Publishers Incorporated, 2001. 120 pp. $14.95. ISBN 1-887905-51-0.

This reprint of Caldecott Medalist Gail Haley's collection of traditional *Jack* stories is narrated by Poppyseed, a grandmother and storyteller modeled on Ms. Haley's grandmother and other storytellers she has known. The use of traditional wood engravings executed by Ms. Haley and traditional "mountain speech" for the narrator's voice helps to set the stories in their Appalachian home, distinguishing them from their more familiar European precedents. This collection of eight Mountain Jack stories with an additional retelling of "Muncimeg and the Giant" will be enjoyed by patrons of public and school libraries. Includes appendixes on the collection of the stories, wood cutting, glossary of terms, and bibliography.

— Mary Rose Kleinfeldt
New Hanover County Public Library

North Carolina benefits from the numerous retirees who bring exciting personal histories into our communities. In *So Turn the Years*, Leonora Rogers gathers a lifetime of illuminating poetry. An Englishwoman born in Egypt in 1918, Rogers's father was the hydraulic engineer in charge of building the lower Aswan Dam. She lived most of her adult life in England, Southern Africa, and Iowa.

Heir to at least four generations of prodigious watercolorists, Rogers exhibits her own accomplished paintings in the Triangle. Her poems, word paintings themselves, excel at visual clarity and a watercolorist's delicate but technical precision. Having taught herself poetic craft at the feet of British master poets, particularly early twentieth century formalists, she has absorbed their strict power without succumbing to the tedium and overused sentimentalities often found in imitative or amateur work.

Leonora V. Rogers.

So Turn the Years.

Raleigh: Pentland Press, 2001. 81 pp. $17.95.
ISBN 1-57197-279-X.

Rogers's poems are neither imitative nor amateur. They risk much, and one hears, as Hillsborough photographer Elizabeth Matheson observes in her rich forward to this book, those "intrepid and somewhat alarming 19th century travelers" in them. Rogers shares much with those self-sacrificing, self-preserving English, Danish, and Dutch women seduced to the African bush and highlands by romantic, dashing, rainbow-seeking fathers, lovers, and husbands. Doris Lessing, Isak Dinesen, and Olive Schriener all come to mind, who, while living a romance, strengthened their bodies, realized the Self, and made themselves and their lives larger than their men's dreams.

Rogers's life was not without its difficulties, exotic color, and constant change. The poems reflect and narrate it with a steely eye and architectural faith in the poem. She builds each poem as she must paint her landscapes, with a gentle wash that accrues layers of distinguished and distinguishing thought so that at the poem's (and the painting's) end, one finds a whole world created. This is not just news (as Pound, whom she claims not to understand, demands poets give more than), but revealed knowledge (as her countrywoman Denise Levertov required). The world seems fresh, dissected, and yet restored in Rogers's poems.

Given different poetic opportunities in her life, Rogers might have joined the ranks of such poets as H. D., Loy, Levertov, and Rich. There is a brave, exploratory, almost religious vision, with jazz and classical overtones, in the poems. But Rogers, also a scientist, considers mathematics as well in one poem, written for Trachtenburg, the discoverer of Speed Mathematics, and in another poem, "Natural Geometry." Her poems meld abstract thought with natural image in sympathetic, accessible, yet unusual combinations.

One of my favorite poems, "For Adrienne Cecile Rich," captures the essence of Rogers's achievement. She sees Rich's rebellion against male-dominated poetry as a mutual symbol of women "living in the skin of their feelings," unlike their male compatriots, and their "positions staked out within limits / By our choices, our male alter-egos / And our loving commitments." She senses that "Duty and a habit of introspection constrains us," and then with the terrific power of the whole woman concludes the poem: "But we are more than these / We are a real force in the world."

Rogers offers poems of moving romance, of child-birthing and rearing, the natural world ("The Lament"), personal psychology and spiritual-seeking ("Who Speaks for Me"), ironic self-portraits ("The Artist Housewife"), mature love ("Thoughts of an Older Woman" — a masterpiece of erotic memory), and the African veldt, Mexico, the American Midwest, and England. "Reflections," a meditation on mortality, takes place in the bath: "this body … / Rises dripping, ready for the towel — Oh! Angels / Be ready with white towels when I need you." If this is sentimentality, it is a sentimentality of the hard-edged, well-won life, which knows whereof it came, where it has been, and where it goes.

If word gets out, public libraries will find this book leaping off their shelves, and academic libraries should well consider the usefulness of such a book for literary, women's, and cultural studies.

—Jeffery Beam
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Though many readers of American history are familiar with the basic story of Sir Walter Raleigh and the Lost Colony of Roanoke Island, few realize that the island was later to become an important landmark in the history of African American freedom from slavery. Patricia Click, in her book T*ime Full of Trial: The Roanoke Island Freedman's Colony, 1862-1867*, traces the history of the freedmen's colony on Roanoke Island during and after the Civil War. Drawn from many areas of North Carolina and beyond, liberated slaves made their way to Roanoke Island where they were promised a home and protection.

This is a story of a refugee people caught in, as Click notes, "a complex and intriguing mixture of evangelical, traditional republican, and abolition sentiments that were tempered by the crucible of the military experience." Click's book is more than the story of the freed slaves; it is also the chronicle of northern evangelical protestant missionaries struggling to perform their benevolent work while being frustrated by the military administration. Though the military had the ultimate authority in the "contraband camps," religious missionaries took an active role in many of the human services, especially education. Amid "wretched and chaotic conditions" fraught with administrative corruption, lack of food, unpaid wages, and abuse of the colonists by the very soldiers who were meant to protect them, many of the refugees from slavery nevertheless gained useful literacy and other skills from the missionaries while on the island.

Patricia Click, an associate professor in the Division of Technology, Culture, and Communication at the University of Virginia, and author of *The Spirit of the Times: Amusements in Nineteenth-Century Baltimore, Norfolk, and Richmond*, delivers a well-documented, much-needed history of a little-known aspect of the Civil War and Reconstruction in North Carolina. She employs numerous primary resources, such as unpublished diaries and private papers, as well as records from the National Archives. Her book includes copious endnotes, a thorough index, a bibliography, and an appendix of key documents, lists, and letters. *Time Full of Trial* is an essential addition to North Carolina public and academic libraries, as well as libraries that seek to have a more complete picture of the American Civil War and the African-American struggle from slavery to freedom.

Patricia C. Click.

Time Full of Trial: The Roanoke Island Freedman's Colony, 1862-1867.

Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2001. 205 pp.
Cloth, $49.95. ISBN 0-8078-2602-2.
Paper, $18.95. ISBN 0-8078-4918-9.

— Allan Scherlen
Appalachian State University

In 1885 John Haymes Mills founded the Thomasville Baptist Orphanage to provide a Christian environment for children, most of whom were very young and had lost one or both parents. The original intent was to keep the children for a short time, but most ended up living there to adulthood. From these beginnings, Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina has changed its focus many times and grown from a single location to campuses and group homes from the mountains to the coast. A photograph on every page greatly enhances the telling of this broad and yet very personal history. It is the hope of the author that *A Place for Miracles* will share the "map of our journey, our learning, and our successes," so that readers will find "both inspiration and models" for similar endeavors.

Michael C. Blackwell.

A Place for Miracles: Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina.

Boone, NC: Parkway Publishers, 2002.
238 pp. Cloth, $19.95. ISBN 1-887905-50-2.
Paper, $14.95. ISBN 1-887905-49-9.

—Beverly Tetterton
New Hanover County Public Library

Sharlene Baker, editor.

Racing Home: New Stories by Award-Winning North Carolina Writers.

Durham: The Paper Journey Press, 2001.
193 pp. $16.95. ISBN 0-9701726-1-3.

In this collection of short stories, 18 award-winning North Carolina authors share their creative reactions to the phrase "racing home." Sharlene Baker, a creative writing professor in the Triangle and author of *Finding Signs*, conceived the idea for and edited this work. She recognizes in her note from the editor that the short story is "losing ground" and that "short story writers are some of the most highly gifted — and unnoticed — artists walking among us in the US." This compilation is not only an introduction to some fresh voices from around the state, many of whom will be new to readers, but also a tribute to the vanishing art form of the short story.

Most of the selections in *Racing Home* feature realistic fiction, such as Robert Wallace's "Shocking Ernest Hemingway," in which Hayden writes letters to his girlfriend about treating Ernest Hemingway's depression with electrotherapy. Readers subtly learn who the real patient is. In Vivian Hague Satterwhite's "Stranger Now," a young girl babysat by elderly Miss Verdie witnesses the woman being shot and robbed by her own son, and overhears the woman tell the police who the perpetrator may — or may not — be.

Other authors lead readers down alternate paths such as the supernatural, in Christopher Farran's Faustian "This Blood's for You." Race driver Ronnie has never won a race until he makes a pact with the Dracula-like L.T. Penry of Penry's Mattress Warehouse. Dark humor also plays a part in Farran's story, as it does in "Fish Camp" by Joseph Bathanti, when some country locals mistake a medievalist professor for movie star Titus Clay. Mystery holds a place in MariJo Moore's "Siren's Voices," in which teenage Siren hears scented voices telling her to warn her mother about her affair with Judge Ripley. These voices seem to know a lot about what is going on in town when Siren's mother is arrested for the judge's murder.

The compilation incorporates a range of characters, settings, time periods, and themes, allowing readers to absorb one story after another and eagerly await finding out how each author uses "racing home." The stories contain strongly developed characters, and their real strength lies in their consistent high quality. *Racing Home* belongs in every academic and public library with a North Carolina collection. As Randall Kenan notes in the foreword, this work proves that North Carolina continues to produce extraordinary writers.

— Angela Leeper
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

Michael Hill, ed.

Guide to North Carolina Highway Markers.

Ninth Edition. Raleigh: Division of Archives and History, Department of Cultural Resources, 2001.
243 pp. $14.00. ISBN 0-86526-298-5.

The North Carolina Division of Archives and History has released the ninth edition of its *Guide to North Carolina Highway Markers*, updating the list for the first time since 1990. The highway marker program was authorized by the General Assembly in 1935. The first state marker was planted by a roadside in Granville County on January 10, 1936, to honor John Penn, one of North Carolina's three signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Unlike previous editions, the new guide sorts markers by county. Related photographs and county maps have also been added to this edition. Today there are more than 1,400 markers across North Carolina, including at least one in each of the 100 counties. Every Tar Heel library should have one or more copies of this important guide.

— Beverly Tetterton
New Hanover County Public Library

Sally E. Hadden.

Slave Patrols: Law and Violence in Virginia and the Carolinas.

Harvard University Press, 2001. 340 pp.
$35.00. ISBN 0-674-00470-1

Dr. Hadden has fleshed out her Harvard dissertation into a worthy publication covering colonial experiments in slave patrols, their development and spread because of growing fear of slave uprisings and reprisals, and the people who joined such patrols. She makes clear distinctions between rural and town patrols, and notes but does not fully discuss why whites owners allowed slaves as much discretion and personal freedom as they did. Non-owners, it would appear, were more likely to insist on patrols and to belong to a patrol than slave owners themselves. The book is organized thematically and is especially good on handling the attitudes of the slave patroller and the slave. A final section insists on continuity between the slave patrols and post-Civil War town police and the Klan. Little or nothing is said about areas that did not have patrols or promoted them only at times of crisis.

Hadden has been most diligent in doing her research: notes take up about a third of the book, which also includes an index and a few illustrations, but no maps. Nonetheless, she extrapolates conclusions about a large area from very scattered evidence over a wide period of time. She musters her story well and makes a significant contribution to pre-war southern history. This book belongs in all North Carolina college libraries and in larger public library collections.

— Patrick Valentine
Wilson County Public Library

Marjoleine Kars.

Breaking Loose Together: The Regulator Rebellion in Pre-Revolutionary North Carolina.

Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2002. xi, 286 pp.
Cloth, $49.95. ISBN 0-8078-2672-3.
Paper, $19.95. ISBN 0-8078-4999-5.

In her first book, Marjoleine Kars takes a look at the group of pre-Revolutionary North Carolinians who were known as the Regulators. Taking their name from a movement in England of 1655, the Regulators set out to regulate and reform government abuse: "Regulators saw themselves not as enemies of government but as its true defenders." It was the "malpractices of Granville's court officers and public officials" that led this group of North Carolinians, composed mainly of the farming class, to seek reform of the system of taxation and court procedures that oppressed and impoverished them. They felt that the system lacked checks and balances, which led to abuses and extortion by the sheriffs who were appointed to collect taxes yet seemed never to pass the taxes on to the royal government.

Kars presents this work in a logical chronological order, while focusing on particular aspects of Colonial North Carolina life. Her study is divided into three sections: Economics, Religion, and Politics — each interesting as a cause of the eventual Battle of Alamance, the penultimate blow to the Regulator cause described in her final section, "War."

Kars's use of quotes from letters, diaries, and contemporary publications is intriguing. The reader becomes well acquainted with Regulator Herman Husband, British Royal Governor Tryon, and Tryon's close friend Edmund Fanning. Kars is adept at describing the hardships that drove North Carolina farmers to protest and to lash out at a government impervious to the corruption that impoverished a large portion of the population.

Breaking Loose Together is indexed and includes a bibliography of unpublished, primary, and secondary sources. It is lightly illustrated. The author's in-depth treatment of many aspects of colonial life give the reader a full view of what it was like to be a farmer in pre-Revolutionary North Carolina. Recommended for libraries with a concentration in North Carolina history. The author's scholarly treatment of the topic lends itself well to academic libraries, while the easy-to-read format makes it a good choice for public libraries.

— Caroline Keizer
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

I. Harding Hughes, Jr.

My Valle Crucis: The 1930s.

Valle Crucis, NC: The Mast General Store, 2002. 178 pp. $14.95. No ISBN. Call 828-963-6511 for purchase information.

Valle Crucis (pronounced Valley Crew-sis) is a jewel in the crown of mountain peaks adorning northwestern North Carolina. Today this beautiful valley located a few miles from Boone reflects contemporary culture, with stylish boutiques and passing cars blaring rock music. For many years, however, it was virtually undiscovered. Roads were few and the terrain was difficult. Some summer visitors came to board with residents of the valley, but it was a quiet rural community.

The author, who has previously published a general history of Valle Crucis (*Valle Crucis: A History of an Uncommon Place*, Mast General Store, 1995), spent his childhood summers there. Reverend I. Harding Hughes and his wife Josephine first visited the valley in the summer of 1924, when their son was less than a year old, and decided to build a summer cottage of their own. Young Greensboro architect Lorenzo Winslow, who later served as "Architect to the White House" in the nation's capital from 1933 to 1952, was retained to design a rustic dwelling. In 1926 the Hughes family moved into the cottage they named Tapawingo, "house of joy." It had no insulation, no telephone, and no electricity, and required the fording of two creeks during wet weather, but they loved it.

The author chronicles life in Valle Crucis during the Depression era and afterward, telling stories of the local families, institutions, and activities that framed their lives. The schools, churches, stores, recreations, and the difficult times that were weathered with grace all form a picture of a small community of hardworking people who respected and helped each other. Hughes remembers blackberry pickings, dances at the Mission School, going to church, evenings spent playing board games or listening to his father's ghost stories, his friend Herman Burkett's "important knowledge" about fishing and snakes and the lay of the land, and outings to Grandfather Mountain and Dutch Creek Falls. Good cooks abounded — don't read the mouth-watering descriptions of meals at the Taylor and Mast homes on an empty stomach! He recounts the effort that was required to get an education, with children walking steep paths over mountain ridges and fording streams on foot bridges to get to school in all kinds of weather. He chronicles the histories of the "first families" of the valley — the Taylors, Masts, Schulls, and Bairds — as well as others who lived way up the "hollers."

My Valle Crucis is an interesting combination of informal reminiscence and careful research. While the writing style resembles a casual conversation, the book is well-documented and each source of information is footnoted. A bit of gentle editing would have tightened the story here and there and a map of the places mentioned would be helpful, but this is a charming tale with a rhythm of its own. The accompanying photographs add much to the text, and the subject index is quite useful. The author interviewed many people who lived or spent summers in Valle Crucis and quotes them at some length, to the benefit of the narrative. One hears again and again that life was hard but the people good. It was a time and place of strong family values and a sense of community. To many, their time in Valle Crucis was heaven on earth.

My Valle Crucis is recommended to all libraries whose readers would enjoy a sprightly, easy-to-read story of life in a tiny North Carolina mountain community during the Depression. It makes one wonder whether life today, with its emphasis on consumer goods, is much of an improvement after all.

—Suzanne Wise
Appalachian State University