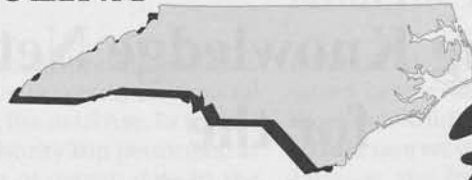


NORTH CAROLINA



Books

Robert G. Anthony, Jr., Compiler

Harry Middleton discovered southwestern North Carolina in 1978, when a case of salmonella poisoning put the kibosh on a drive to West Virginia for trout fishing. The nasty bacteria stopped him almost dead in his tracks—just inside the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, on the banks of the Oconaluftee River. A dazed day later he crawled out of his sleeping bag, cast thirty feet of line into the river, and hooked a fine mountain trout. In his words, he “never made it to West Virginia.”

For over a decade now Middleton has come again and again to these mountains, angling for pleasure and angling for an excuse to enjoy the dark, green solitude of the coves and creeks—Santeelah, Slickrock, Hazel, Snowbird. All that time he has been entering into his journal descriptions of people he has met, notes on local history, musings on natural history, and, of course, stories of fish he did and did not catch. These journal entries provide much of the material for *On the Spine of Time: An Angler's Love of the Smokies*.

Is this, then, yet another book about the curious mountain folk and their colorful ways? No, thank goodness. Much of the book is given over to stories of people, but a New York stockbroker who makes trouting pilgrimages to Slickrock Creek receives as much attention as does Arby Mulligan, “Preaching Friar & Pulpiter & Dr. of Phrenology.” Middleton’s accounts of people—often funny, often touching—are written straightforwardly and compassionately. Mulligan, Tewksbury, Exie Sopwith, and Hattie Gareth are people, not characters.

Is the book an angling guide? Not really, although Middleton describes trout streams in detail, and the experienced angler will find special meaning in mentions of “the little Winston” and a No. 18 Elk Wing Caddis.

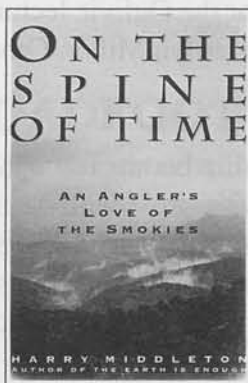
Indeed, *On the Spine of Time* does not fit into any simple category. It is the complex commingling of Middleton’s thoughts and encounters with hard research. Some of the subjects he covers are Horace Kephart’s stay in Swain County, congressional action on wilderness areas in the Park, orogenesis, the history of trout in the southern highlands, continental drift, and acid rain. The wide range of subject matter and the author’s interweaving of it with personal experiences keep *On the Spine of Time* from being an easy read, and Middleton’s mental meanderings are sometimes overlong and abstruse. But the careful reader will find much pleasure and value here.

There is a strangeness to this book—an odd impression of cool, green light over all. It could be an outgrowth of Middleton’s madness, mountain madness, an obsession characterized by “the endless pursuit of high country trout and [the] courtship of solitude.” But more likely it is a sign of the author’s success, for *On the Spine of Time* gave this reader, at least, the feeling of being there, among the light and shadows of a deepwoods creek.

—Becky Kornegay, Western Carolina University

Harry Middleton.
On the Spine of Time: An Angler's Love of the Smokies.

New York: Simon & Schuster, 1991.
237 pp. \$18.95. ISBN 0-671-69141-4.



Picture yourself seated in an easy chair far above the earth. Looking down, you are able to see the changes which have shaped North Carolina as they take place over the vast span of geologic time. Fred Beyer suggests this vivid conceptual tool to his reader before commencing his narrative of the geologic history of North Carolina.

This imaginative aerial perspective is helpful, but, as the epochs pass, many readers may wish for more tangible help than is provided.

North Carolina: The Years before Man, a Geologic History, is organized chronologically. It begins with the formation of the earth in Chapter 1 and moves forward through time and geologic change up to the present day. At the end of Chapter 2 and near the beginning of

subsequent chapters, the author places a partial "geologic time column," identifying for the reader the point in time being discussed. Appendix A provides a complete geologic time table.

The body of the book is divided into six parts. At the beginning of each part, Beyer describes the important events in North Carolina's geologic history being covered in that unit's chapters. First the history of rocks and then the development of plant and animal life is discussed. As one might expect, the treatment of so extensive a period of time must necessarily be general.

Throughout the first two chapters this is done admirably. Specialized vocabulary is defined explicitly and set in bold type. When reading a book that deals with the sciences, one expects to be confronted with unfamiliar terminology. Consequently, a glossary is necessary for the lay reader, but none appears in Beyer's volume. From Chapter 3 onward, specialized terms are not always given in bold type nor are they defined. The reader must often deduce definitions from context or from their usage in several places within a chapter. The absence of a glossary is a serious defect.

Although terms may become familiar through repetition, other flaws hamper the book's readability. Several of the numerous diagrams are inadequately labeled. Color plates that are helpful and often necessary to the understanding of important points are not conveniently placed in relationship to the text. For example, a plate cited on page 28 appears after page 86.

Instead of following conventional practice, with entries alphabetized by authors' surnames, Beyer arranges his bibliography ("Notes") to "reflect the chronology of geologic history." Citations of sources are indicated in the text by numbers placed in brackets, with the numbers referring to the order of the bibliography entries. This is initially confusing when the reader encounters "[12]" as the first such citation in the book.

After the initial chapters, however, the text is more carefully organized and readable. The treatment of barrier islands and Carolina Bays, for example, is very well done. The lack of a glossary and other organizational defects, nevertheless, make *North Carolina: The Years before Man, a Geologic History*, difficult for the general reader. The volume would be a useful supplement to an introductory college geology course, but without the addition of a glossary and more careful editing, it is not recommended for public or secondary school libraries.

—W. Carlton Brown, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Ever since the ninth grade Missy Cord has been planning to go away to college, but now in her senior year she is beginning to question that goal. The strongly expressed disapproval of her crusty grandmother and opinionated Uncle Tate, as well as a new romantic relationship with childhood friend Jim, have made going to college an "if" rather than a "when."

Smart and capable, Missy has worked hard in school and has been named a finalist for a four-year scholarship to Moriah College. As a teacher points out, however, college is a one-way ticket out of Tucker, the small North Carolina town where she has always lived. She knows that once she leaves it is unlikely that she will return or that Jim will wait for her. Does she really want to leave Jim, just when their new relationship is beginning? She is torn between her long-held dreams of the opportunities and challenges college offers, and the comfortable domestic daydreams of staying in Tucker to cook biscuits and wait for a husband to come home to her from work. Although she decides to "throw the fight" by performing poorly in the scholarship interview, a question posed by an interviewer helps Missy realize what she truly wants to do with her life and confirms her desire for a college education.

Missy's fears about being able to compete in college, the complications of young love with its rapidly changing relationships and emotional swings, and her self-doubt and self-consciousness are handled well. Particularly poignant are her mixed feelings when, worried about her attractiveness, she makes a change in her appearance that brings the attention she desires but that also produces in her anger and dismay that outside appearances matter so much.

Where Are You When I Need You? is a realistic portrayal of the difficult choices to be faced while growing into adulthood. It is a captivating and universal story, although without the dramatic tension of Newton's earlier award-winning book *I Will Call It Georgie's Blues*. Natural and believable dialogue and well-developed and convincing relationships help create a narrative that will appeal to eighth through twelfth graders in public and school libraries.

—Pat Siegfried, Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County

Fred Beyer.

North Carolina: The Years before Man, a Geologic History.

Durham: Carolina Academic Press, 1991.
240 pp. \$34.95. ISBN 0-89089-400-0.

Suzanne Newton.

Where Are You When I Need You?

New York: Viking, 1991.
199 pp. \$13.95. ISBN 0-670-81702-3.



The mountains of western North Carolina provide the backdrop for John Yount's new novel, *Thief of Dreams*. Set in 1948, it tells the story of the breakup of Edward and Madeline Tally's marriage, and their eventual reconciliation. Yount narrates his story from three separate points of view: those of Edward and Madeline, and that of their thirteen-year-old son James.

As the novel opens, Madeline has left Edward in Knoxville and has taken James to live with her elderly parents in a small western North Carolina town. Madeline has long felt neglected by Edward, who has a habit of moving the family from place to place every year or so, and of leaving his wife and child for months on end while he travels around the southeast working on construction sites. For Madeline, the last straw is Edward's latest plan to take the family to Pittsburgh for a new job. Frustrated by her inability to make Edward aware of her deep-seated dissatisfaction with their relationship, Madeline decides to seek a divorce and begin a new life for herself and her son.

The rest of the novel traces the reactions of husband, wife, and child to this separation. Madeline's flight takes Edward completely by surprise, and, alone in Pittsburgh, he comes to the realization that his life is meaningless without the wife and son he has neglected for so long. Madeline, meanwhile, gets a job and has an affair with an old high school beau, and, more important, she gains a feeling of control over her own life. A stronger sense of her own identity eventually allows her to see her relationship with Edward more objectively and to have more realistic expectations of marriage in general.

James, upset by the separation from the father he both loves and fears, must cope with the loneliness of being the new boy at school once more. The story's climax comes when James, disgusted by his inability to stand up to the class bully, sets out alone into the wilderness of Pisgah National Forest in an attempt to re-create the Indian coming-of-age rituals about which he has read. Edward and Madeline manage to put aside their differences as they search for their son, and the novel leaves readers with the hope that this family may be able to overcome the damage of the past.

Yount's characters are quite ordinary people, but he is able to portray with great skill and empathy their struggles to understand themselves and each other. Particularly appealing is the sensitive and idealistic James: any reader who has ever had to move to a new school or suffer through a parental divorce can readily empathize with James's difficulties. Even the minor characters in the novel are treated with sympathy and respect. (It is a relief to read a work of fiction which does not portray poor mountain people as eccentric or grotesque.) *Thief of Dreams* gives a realistic picture of the problems inherent in all human relationships; but in the end the bonds between husband and wife, and parent and child, prove strong enough to overcome past mistakes and misunderstandings. Recommended for public and academic libraries.

—Megan Mulder, Wake Forest University

Dawson Carr's new history of the Cape Hatteras lighthouse is made-to-order beach reading. Not only does it deliver the story of North Carolina's most famous lighthouse, it is also chock-full of tidbits about the entire Outer Banks, the history of lighthouses from ancient times, the geologic factors responsible for the Outer Banks, and the mechanics of lighthouses. Yet, the story sweeps along so effortlessly that the reader is apt to feel more entertained than instructed.

The author is adept in discussing a wide range of lighthouse-related topics, from their construction to the current debate on how or even whether to save the Cape Hatteras lighthouse. He knows the subject well, frequently enlivening the text with sidelights on coastal history. North Carolina's current interest in a state lottery as a revenue source, for example, has a precedent in the financing of lighthouses along the coast: "because lotteries were used to pay the initial building costs and taxes on cargoes provided maintenance funds, lighthouses tended to be erected in areas where the local population was large enough ... to support their upkeep. When either of those components was missing, no lighthouse was built."

According to Carr, the impetus for constructing the first lighthouse at Cape Hatteras came from Alexander Hamilton, who narrowly escaped shipwreck there and was said to be the first to call the area the "Graveyard of the Atlantic." Years later, Hamilton steered a bill through Congress that provided for further lighthouse construction—including one at Cape Hatteras—and placed all lighthouses under the supervision of the Revenue Cutter Service, which eventually became the U.S. Coast Guard.

John Yount.

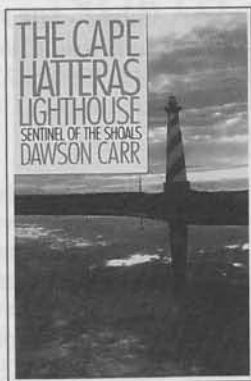
The Thief of Dreams.

New York: Viking, 1991.
227 pp. \$18.95. ISBN 0-670-83802-0.

Dawson Carr.

The Cape Hatteras Lighthouse: Sentinel of the Shoals.

Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press,
1991. xi, 143 pp. \$7.95.
ISBN 0-8078-4319-9 (paper).



Carr captures the flavor of working conditions on the early Outer Banks, where frequently the unpredictable winds and surf made the construction of the Cape Hatteras lighthouse difficult. Despite the best precautions, for example, one shipload of a hundred thousand bricks ended up on the ocean floor. It was said that two men were required for every job—"one to do the work while the other brushed away the hordes of mosquitoes."

The book is amply and thoughtfully illustrated and includes a representation of the Tower of Pharos in Alexandria, a map showing the Cape Hatteras lighthouse's exact radius of visibility, sketches and plans of the lighthouse's construction, as well as many photographs and artists' conceptions of proposed plans to save the lighthouse from the encroaching Atlantic.

The Cape Hatteras Lighthouse frustrates somewhat in that it leaves the reader hungry for more detail. That some points are not fully developed is understandable given the book's length, but it is unclear at times whether more detail is omitted or simply unavailable. Also, the chronology of events is not always clear. The lighthouse's base, for example, seems to have been completed after most of the tower was constructed, and the date of Congress's establishment of the Lighthouse Board can only be deduced as the early 1850s.

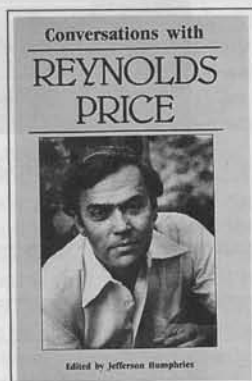
To leave the reader hungry for more is a desirable shortcoming, however, and one can hope that Dawson Carr will continue his work. *The Cape Hatteras Lighthouse* ably fills the need for a compact, readable history of the subject. It is well-suited for college, public, and secondary school libraries.

—Margaretta Yarborough, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

OTHER PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

The twelfth in a series of short histories of North Carolina counties, *Pamlico County: A Brief History*, by Joe A. Mobley, outlines the story of a lightly populated coastal county. Mobley traces the history of this peninsula area from Indian settlement, during colonial days, through Revolutionary and Civil wars, to creation as a county in 1872, and into the late twentieth century. The text is supplemented by illustrations, bibliography, and a thorough index, the latter a welcome feature lacking in earlier books in the series. (1991; Historical Publications Section, Division of Archives and History, 109 East Jones Street, Raleigh, NC 27601-2807; \$8.00, plus \$2.00 postage and handling; 144 pp.; ISBN 0-86526-252-7; paper.)

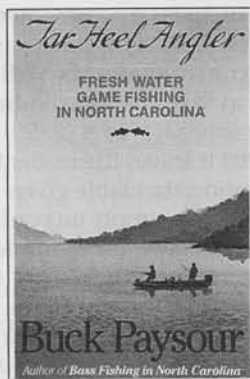
Amy Morris Bradley was already an accomplished woman when she journeyed to Wilmington, North Carolina, in December 1866 to establish a school under sponsorship of Boston Unitarians. In *Headstrong: The Biography of Amy Morris Bradley, 1823-1904: A Life of Noblest Usefulness*, author Diane Cobb Cashman details Bradley's life as pre-war teacher, wartime nurse, and publisher of a soldiers' newspaper. She then examines Bradley's role as founder of several schools for whites in Wilmington, culminating in the highly praised Tileston School, forerunner of Wilmington High School. In 1870, this "Yankee schoolmarm" was appointed New Hanover County School examiner, the first female county official. (1990; Broadfoot Publishing Co., 1907 Buena Vista Circle, Wilmington, NC 28405; 269 pp.; \$25.00; ISBN 0-916107-84-1.)



One of North Carolina's most celebrated twentieth-century writers reflects on his own work and on literature in general in *Conversations with Reynolds Price*. Volume editor Jefferson Humphries has gathered fourteen interviews with Price published between 1966 and 1989 in various literary journals, newspapers, and small magazines. He also adds a previously unpublished interview he conducted with Price in 1986. The result is an in-depth examination of Price's literature sure to delight and entertain the writer's many fans. (1991; University Press of Mississippi, 3825 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, MS 39211; 294 pp.; \$29.95, ISBN 0-87805-482-0 (cloth); \$14.95, -483-9 (paper).)

A special fiftieth anniversary edition of the classic *A Southern Garden*, by Elizabeth Lawrence, has been published by the University of North Carolina Press. The much-praised book, appropriate for gardeners from Virginia to Texas and along the West Coast, was largely based on Lawrence's gardening experiences in Raleigh and Charlotte. Illustrations include several newly commissioned watercolors depicting scenes of Lawrence's Charlotte garden. (1991; University of North Carolina Press, P.O. Box 2288, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-2288; 251 pp.; \$24.95, ISBN 0-8078-1962-X (cloth); \$16.95, -4355-5 (paper).)

John F. Blair, Publisher, has published a paperback edition of William R. Trotter's trilogy, *The Civil War in North Carolina*. [For reviews of the individual volumes—*Silk Flags and Cold Steel: The Piedmont*, *Bushwhackers: The Mountains*, and *Ironclads and Columbiads: The Coast*, see *North Carolina Libraries* 47 (1989): 126-127, 262-263, and 48 (1990): 227-228.] (1991; John F. Blair, Publisher, 1406 Plaza Drive, Winston-Salem, NC 27103; 385 pp., 338 pp., 456 pp.; \$12.95 each vol.; ISBN 0-89587-086-X, -087-8, and -088-6 (paper).)



In *Tar Heel Angler: Freshwater Fishing in North Carolina*, Buck Paysour advises on where to, how to, and even a little why to wet a line in the Tar Heel state's unusually varied and rich fresh waters. Informative, entertaining, and at times witty, the longtime Greensboro newspaperman weaves tales of personal fishing experiences with descriptions of especially promising ponds, lakes, rivers, streams, and coastal waters. He also includes a list of over one hundred fifty North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission-maintained boat launching ramps. (1991; Down Home Press, P.O. Box 4126, Asheboro, NC 27204; 180 pp.; \$13.95; ISBN 1-878086-03-0 (paper).)

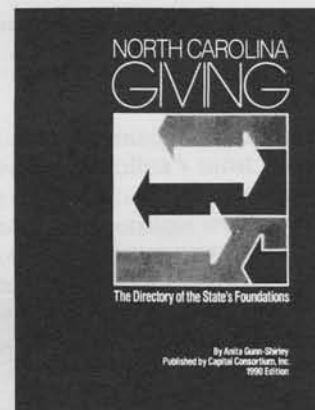
With *A Directory of Audiovisual Services in North Carolina Public Libraries*, the Audiovisual Committee, Public Library Section, North Carolina Library Association, provides an overview of the audiovisual collections and services in the 101 public library systems in North Carolina. Through tables and lists, detailed information is given on audiovisual collections, ranging from acquisitions budgets to circulation policies to collection sizes and materials formats. Names and complete addresses for contact persons at individual libraries and sources for free 16mm films and videotapes are also included. (Copies of the *Directory*, an expansion of one published in 1983, may be obtained for \$10.00 each from Angeline Suhr, Head, Film Services Branch, Division of State Library, 1811 Capital Boulevard, Raleigh, NC 27635. Check payable to NCLA/AV Committee.)

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