

Books

Robert G. Anthony, Jr., Compiler

This is a coffee-table book with a purpose: to generate interest in, and financial support for, the North Carolina Executive Mansion on Blount Square, Raleigh. Published on the centennial anniversary of the mansion's first official occupancy, the volume was commissioned by two non-profit organizations, the Executive Mansion Fine Arts Committee (EMFAC) and the Executive Mansion Fund, Inc., whose goals are to preserve, maintain, and improve the Executive Mansion and to encourage gifts to it. Income from the sale of this commemorative book will be used to further these goals.

In keeping with this purpose, little effort has been spared to produce an informative and highly attractive volume filled with photographs and other illustrations that help to document the history of this official residence and to provide a contemporary tour of the house and gardens.

North Carolina native William Bushong was commissioned to provide the overview (based on the unpublished research of Beth Crabtree, to whose memory his work is dedicated) of the architectural, social, and political history that make up chapters 1 through

4. Beginning with a summary of the nature of executive residences since 1663, Bushong reveals the predictably uneven level of support for such residences, especially in hard times. In the years following the Civil War, for example, state governors had to rent quarters in Raleigh. The Governor's Palace built in 1816 had become too deteriorated for such use.

It was Governor Thomas J. Jarvis (1879-1885) who championed, on behalf of successors unknown, the construction of the present Executive Mansion. Architects Samuel Sloan and A. G. Bauer designed a splendid building in the new "Queen Anne cottage" style. Begun in 1883, the building project employed convict labor and received variable financial support from the state legislature. The mansion was not entirely finished in January 1891 when its first residents, Governor and Mrs. Daniel G. Fowle, moved in.

Supplementing the text with numerous black-and-white photographs, Bushong provides an unusual perspective on the governors and first ladies who followed—the perspective of their private and official lives in the Executive Mansion. The author's purpose throughout is to enhance the reader's awareness of the importance of maintaining a residence facility appropriately designed and furnished for the many social/political duties of the people's chosen top official.

Chapter 5, "A Tour of the House and Gardens," focuses on the mansion as it is today. It was prepared by three authors: Betty M. Baker, Director of Docents; Marie Sharpe Ham, Executive Mansion Curator; and Ham's assistant, Nancy O'Dowd. Their room-by-room descriptions of the areas and furnishings are meticulous and precise. Beautiful color photographs establish without question that the Executive Mansion of 1991 is a well-appointed residence — thanks to the efforts of the EMFAC since 1965. The reader is indeed inspired to support their continued efforts on behalf of this "historical treasure for all North Carolinians," one visited annually by thousands of schoolchildren and made available to various state organizations for social functions.

North Carolina's Executive Mansion is an unusually well done volume. The index is accurate and adequate in coverage. The notes are full and informative. Appendices include a chronological list of relevant legislation, and the names and terms of governors and first ladies who resided in the mansion, as well as lists of project donors and committee members. There is a good selected bibliography.

Recommended for all libraries with North Carolina collections.

— Rose Simon, Salem College.

William Bushong.

North Carolina's Executive Mansion: The First Hundred Years.

Raleigh: Executive Mansion Fine Arts Committee and Executive Mansion Fund, Inc., 1991. 208 pp. \$35.00, plus \$5.00 postage and handling (Executive Mansion Curator's Office, 301 N. Blount St., Raleigh, N.C. 27601-1007; checks payable to Executive Mansion Fund, Inc.). ISBN is not available.



A brutal murder rocked the quiet town of Washington, North Carolina, on July 25, 1988. Lieth von Stein lay in his bed bludgeoned and stabbed to death. His wife, Bonnie, badly wounded, managed to summon help. Her son, Chris Pritchard, was eventually convicted of plotting the murder of his stepfather and the attempted murder of his mother. This book, a "true crime" thriller, examines the case, covering the background, motivation, and lifestyle of Chris and his fellow conspirators, all students at North Carolina State University.

Chris and his friends, James Bartlett Upchurch III and Neal Henderson, lured by an unrealistic plan for an early inheritance, conspired to commit murder. Chris's blood money would finance their pursuit of drugs, alcohol, fast cars, petty crime, and uninterrupted games of Dungeons and Dragons. Chris would stay on campus and establish an alibi. Neal would drive Bart to Washington to kill Chris's parents.

Jerry Bledsoe.

***Blood Games:
A True Account of Family Murder.***

New York: Dutton, 1991.

451 pp. \$22.95. ISBN 0-525-93369-7.

Affluent, intelligent, but unmotivated, these young men were flunking out of college. Their lives were so rooted in fantasy games and drug-induced highs that they had little sense of reality. They planned to "put a whole family to sleep with a few over-the-counter sleeping pills crushed into their hamburgers." Chris would not allow Bart to drive his prized Mustang to commit murder because Bart's driver's license had been suspended. Neal testified that he "didn't fully believe" that anyone would be killed, that it was all a "big joke and we would all go back and joke about it for years to come."

Asheboro author Bledsoe, a writer for the *Greensboro News & Record*, writes in a thorough and objective style. His attention to detail is exhaustive, almost distracting. The tension set in the description of the murder's aftermath is not sustained in the investigation, though this is a minor flaw. Readers will not be deterred.

Like Bledsoe's 1988 best-seller, *Bitter Blood*, this book is a story of family murder. Yet the overwhelming tragedy is not the death, but the emptiness of these young men's lives, even though it seems that life has handed them everything. *Blood Games* will be useful in popular collections at public libraries, as well as in criminology and North Carolina collections. It contains photographs, but no index, appendix, or bibliography.

— Patrice Ebert, Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County

Twelve-year-old Littlejim, the subject of Gloria Houston's novel of the same name, hungered for approval from his North Carolina Blue Ridge Mountains father, who could only see him as "not much of a man." Reading, writing, and public speaking were not deemed manly, but Littlejim was the best at these in the school and his mother encouraged him to learn all he could.

While the situations are powerful—arrival of the first horseless carriage, watching his best friend's father be killed in a sawmill accident, driving and losing control of a runaway team, receiving the comfort and support from the community, and writing about what it means to be an American for the *Kansas City Star* essay competition—the language is stilted, and the few accent examples detracting.

Gloria Houston.

Littlejim.

New York: Philomel Books, 1990.

172 pp. \$14.95. ISBN 0-399-22220-0.

This reviewer could not help wondering why the *Kansas City Star* was so important to European immigrants who settled in the North Carolina mountains. The large type will make the book easy to read for seven-to-twelve-year-olds if it holds their attention. The black-and-white pencil sketches, however, are inviting and complement the text.

Houston, the author of several books for children, including *The Year of the Perfect Christmas Tree*, is originally from Spruce Pine, North Carolina, and Littlejim's story is based in part on the experiences of her father.

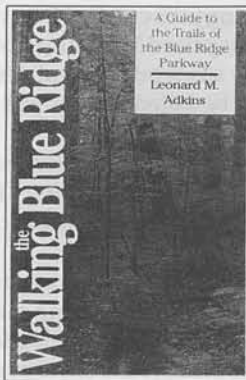
— Diana Young, State Library of North Carolina

The Blue Ridge Parkway and the Skyline Drive are marvels of engineering, roads that blend blacktop and outback to bring humans comfortably in touch with the "deep time" of the Blue Ridge Mountains. They have succeeded beyond the wildest dreams of their visionary founders; today the roads are the most heavily traveled ones in the U.S. Parks system. But in displaying the unique geological, biological, and cultural richness of the Blue Ridge, they only whet the appetite. Cars carry tourists too swiftly, and stop at too few overlooks, to satisfy the truly curious traveler.

Leonard M. Adkins.

***Walking the Blue Ridge:
A Guide to the Trails of the
Blue Ridge Parkway.***

Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1991. 272 pp. \$11.95. ISBN 0-8078-4318-0 (paper).



Mountains to Sea Trail.

Adkins has aimed above all to produce a practical guidebook both for serious and casual hikers. He classifies trails into six categories according to their difficulty, using descriptions meaningful to car-bound sightseers: "easy leg stretcher," "easy," "moderately easy." Unlike many guidebooks, this one offers no surprises the author somehow did not catch. Adkins himself walked every one of the 120-odd trails, rolling along a measuring wheel to record accurate distance. Each trail description contains a short summary of trail features, often some history of the trail, an estimate of the length, the difficulty rating, and a detailed listing of landmarks along the trail, referenced to the trailhead by tenths of a mile. It is not unusual for an entry on a two-mile trail to cover an entire page or more, with points of interest, warnings, tips on where to park cars, items of seasonal interest, camping restrictions, and descriptions of intriguing sidetrails adding to the detailed trail narrative.

Adkins's commentary and detail make this hiker's *tour-de-force* rewarding armchair entertainment for sedentary readers. Throughout the book the reader will discover captivating summaries of trails like the Bluff Mountain Trail, a stunning walk in the Doughton Park area of the Parkway, and the Maze, a carriage trail in the Moses H. Cone Memorial Park that includes beautiful trees and dog-infested subdivisions in a single twisting two-mile walk. Adkins's detail and pacing transports the reader along the trail almost as if he or she were walking it, a travelogue in the traditional school.

The concerns of bicyclists tackling the demanding topography of the Blue Ridge are quite different from those of even the most dedicated hikers. *Bicycling the Blue Ridge* is an immensely useful book aimed squarely at serious cyclists whose alternative choice to automobiles for Blue Ridge sightseeing requires careful planning and substantial knowledge for success.

Bicycling the Blue Ridge covers both the Skyline Drive and the Blue Ridge Parkway. Like Adkins, Elizabeth and Charlie Skinner bring practical testimony to their book: they have cycled the length of the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Skyline Drive several times. The authors open with an introduction to bicycling the Blue Ridge, then chapters on weather, gear, camping, and lodging, and an inspired overview of the physical condition, terrain, and beauty of "the ultimate bicycling road." They frequently remind the reader that the Drive and Parkway are dominated by automobiles driven by tourists whose eyes often are more on the scenery than the road. Appropriate care and safety precautions (lights, helmets) are required for travel even on this most friendly of roads, where speed limits are low and trucks prohibited.

The remaining chapters break up the long road into segments of varying lengths. Each segment description includes a short summary; detailed elevation profiles; facilities for camping, lodging, bicycle repair, and other necessities (focusing on those that do not require a descent and ascent of the mountain); and rewarding sights accessible to bicyclists along the road. The descriptions begin at Milepost 0, the start of the Skyline Drive, and proceed south (descriptions accommodate northbound travelers, too). Scenic milestones, instructional sidetrips, even the olfactory rewards of bicycling certain sections in the spring and fall (apples and cabbages come to mind), receive their due.

Two natural elements dominate cycling in mountain terrain: weather and elevation.

Elizabeth Skinner and Charlie Skinner.

***Bicycling the Blue Ridge:
A Guide to the Skyline Drive
and the Blue Ridge Parkway.***

Birmingham, Ala.: Menasha Press, 1990. 173 pp. \$10.95. ISBN 0-89732-0903-X (paper).



Flatlanders who cringe at the thought of hills and headwinds will be daunted by the Blue Ridge, a succession of taxing climbs and descents with sometimes dangerous winds rushing over the road at mountain gaps. The book is especially helpful and informative in these areas. Each section provides a thumbnail sketch of elevations, points out especially challenging ascents or particularly rewarding downslopes (what goes up must come down!), and notes where winds and weather conditions have been problematic.

These books are intended for markedly different readers. *Walking the Blue Ridge* offers more inspirational detail and better assists the casual visitor, while *Bicycling the Blue Ridge* is destined to become an invaluable aid to serious cyclists. But both will inspire even the most car-bound tourist to include a trip that uses only two feet or fewer than four wheels.

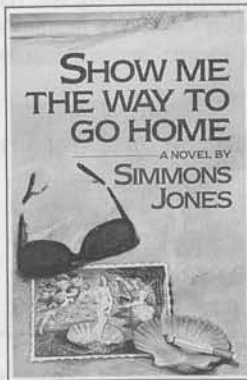
— John E. Ulmschneider, North Carolina State University

Show Me the Way to Go Home, a first novel by Simmons Jones, is a fanciful and charming narrative about the threads of lives unraveling and being rewoven in new patterns during one hectic, hilarious, and heart-rending summer in the North Carolina coastal town of Milford and neighboring Bladens Beach. Rome, Italy, also figures prominently. Strangers come to town, natives depart, marriages are terminated, new relationships and liaisons are formed, the life of the theater beckons, deaths occur, and alcohol is often "the only available means of transportation." This is a tale of a relatively short span of time in which some characters who assume their lives will proceed dependably from a known past through a known present to a predictable future are rudely jolted. Many find their lives intertwining in unexpected ways.

Simmons Jones.

Show Me the Way to Go Home.

Chapel Hill: Algonquin Books, 1991.
323 pp. \$19.95. ISBN 0-945575-41-6.



The varied cast of characters includes: Ned Trivett, confirmed bachelor and nonpracticing poet, returned to rusticate in his sleepy hometown after a youth of riotous living; his former accomplice, Graziella, Principessa di Brabant of Rome, née Grace Jamison of Mobile, running both from the wolves and with the pack; Julian Johnson Warren, also known as Mister Jukes, prominent Milford realtor and southern gentleman whose wife, younger brother, John Thomas, and protégé and partner, Skinner Bates, all have deserted him; Laura Warren, Julian's estranged wife, also called Mislark, who longs to fly away on the wings of the dramatic arts; Julian Johnson Warren, Jr., known as Jubie, their son, a lonely, loving, and loquacious child, simple, God's gift and curse; Susan Bates, Missook, Skinner's to-be-deserted wife, the Foolish Virgin wanting to be both Botticelli's Venus and a Wanton Woman, given to talking to herself at length; Skinner, a selfish, handsome bad boy grown to be a selfish and decadent man; Brother Reeves, an amiable and benignly amorous Soldier of God; and Jake Cullen, Ned Trivett's guest from California, a man with no past and Hollywood blond hair, an enigmatic hustler and visitor by profession whose role may be to save them all.

Jake and the Countess, newly arrived strangers to Milford, are the catalysts that set the plot in motion, although the circumstances in which their presence intercedes or interferes have deeper roots in the past. This is not a book that belabors the past, however. The author, our narrator, gives us enough history to put the necessary flesh on the bones of the present, but he does not overembellish. Much of what we learn about the characters comes through their current thoughts and conversations and, occasionally, their letters.

Show Me the Way to Go Home is a suggestive and intriguing narrative, rather than an obvious one. As one of the reviewers quoted on the book jacket says, the novel is "eloquent and antic, a bit like Lewis Carroll writing *Summer and Smoke*." There is some Harold Pinter here, too, by way of subtext. Jones's writing style occasionally can be a bit precious, but he makes up for it by the genuine though wry humor and the wit and pathos of his characters and their lives, eccentric though some of these may seem. We can sense his affection for them, and share it, even for the ones like Skinner and the Countess, whom we might not want to touch with a barge pole. One small complaint this reviewer has with the jacket is that it reveals a couple of facts that would have been better left to the reader's discovery.

Show Me the Way to Go Home is an entertaining and comic book, and an engaging one. Ned Trivett's disastrous and drunken luncheon at the Milford Country Club is a gem in itself, especially to anyone who knows the worst of the southern country club milieu. This book would be appropriate for public and academic libraries, especially those supporting southern fiction collections.

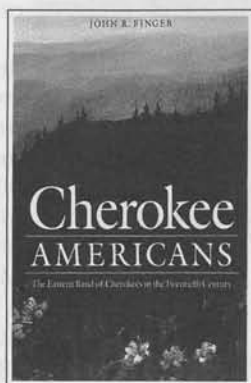
— Cynthia Adams, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

A great deal of historical, anthropological, and sociological scholarship has been focused on the Trail of Tears and the removal of the Cherokee Nation to present-day Oklahoma. Additionally, considerable research has been done on the tribal culture — mythology in particular — of the Eastern Band of Cherokees during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Much less literature exists on more recent Eastern Cherokee history, however, and on the continuing challenge to preserve a unique Indian ethnology and tribal integrity in the face of accelerated acculturation brought about by individualism, factionalism, and a market economy.

John R. Finger.

***Cherokee Americans:
The Eastern Band of Cherokees
in the Twentieth Century.***

Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1991.
247 pp. \$35.00. ISBN 0-8032-1985-7.



John R. Finger, professor of history at the University of Tennessee, has admirably redressed some of this imbalance in his latest work, *Cherokee Americans: The Eastern Band of Cherokees in the Twentieth Century*. This volume is a fine sequel to Finger's previous book (1984) titled *The Eastern Band of Cherokees, 1819-1900*.

In *Cherokee Americans*, the author's investigative approach is "both chronological and thematic." The book consists of nine chapters which open with an overview of the Eastern Band in 1900; move quickly into the effects of the Progressive Era; examine divisive and sometimes interrelated conflicts over the legal aspects of Cherokee citizenship and the potential private allotment of Qualla Boundary and other Cherokee lands; illuminate cultural and economic transition in the 1920s and early 1930s; explore the programs of the Indian New Deal; describe the significant impact of the establishment of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park on Cherokee life and livelihood; scrutinize the ever evolving legal status of the Eastern Band in terms of the federal government; and analyze how the powerful forces of self-determination, acculturation, political factionalism, and a tourist economy affect the lives of Cherokee Americans. The book also contains a section of annotated notes, as well as a bibliographic essay, which are equally useful to both the interested reader and the academic historian.

The strength of this text is Finger's balanced examination of the most pervasive and difficult issues confronting the Eastern Band: 1) how to retain an Indian identity in a country dominated by white Americans and 2) how properly to define the complex legal relationships among the Eastern Cherokees, the federal government, and the state of North Carolina. The author also covers well the continuing tribal conflict over what blood quantum constitutes a "real" Cherokee. Only one minor fault is readily discernible with this work. The book would have been improved by more illustrations and photographs complementing the narrative.

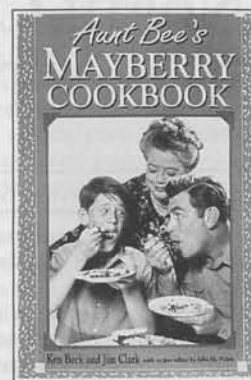
John R. Finger's *Cherokee Americans: The Eastern Band of Cherokees in the Twentieth Century* is a comprehensive and insightful Indian history that merits acquisition by larger public libraries and academic institutions.

— Jesse R. Lankford, Jr., North Carolina Division of Archives and History

OTHER PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

First published in 1930 and now available in a new paperback edition, *Strike!*, by Mary Heaton Vorse, was the first and is considered the best of the six novels inspired by the violent workers' strikes in 1929 at the Loray Mill in Gastonia, North Carolina. The book, written as an account of the experiences of two northern journalists, incorporates in its story many of the major people, institutions, and events at Gastonia. There is the mob destruction of strike headquarters, tolerated by the militia; the forceful breaking up by police of picketing and parades; the eviction of strikers from their homes; the killing of the police chief; and the murder of a prominent female strike leader. The conclusion draws on the real-life massacre of six strikers at Marion, North Carolina, which was also the scene of bloody conflict during the widespread labor unrest in the southern textile industry during the 1920s. Vorse's novel depicts the frustrations, hopes, anger, and determination that characterized many workers in this bitter period in southern labor history. (1991; University of Illinois Press, 54 East Gregory Drive, Champaign, IL 61820; 236 pp.; \$15.95; ISBN 0-252-06217-5; paper.)

The "good eatin'" of Mayberry, that imaginary yet very real Tar Heel town visited regularly via the small screen since 1960 by millions of Americans, is now available to all fans of "The Andy Griffith Show." In *Aunt Bee's Mayberry Cookbook*, Ken Beck and Jim Clark have collected over three hundred recipes of foods served by the residents of the fictional town, plus other "Mayberry-style" dishes contributed by lovers of the program. There are even a couple of all-time favorite—but not recommended—concoctions, such as Kerosene Cucumbers. Illustrated with photographs from the television series, the cookbook also includes sidebars of dialogue from show episodes. (1991; Rutledge Hill Press, 513 Third Ave. S., Nashville, TN 37210; 244 pp.; \$12.95; ISBN 1-55853-098-3; paper.)



In *Durham, My Hometown*, native and lifelong resident George E. Lougee, Jr., has gathered a number of his favorite columns from a forty-six-year career writing for the *Durham Morning Herald*. The result is a collection of pen pictures depicting a variety of the people, places, and events that have helped define life in the Bull City. With his stories of revered civic and business leaders, sports heroes, landmark public buildings now lost to the wrecking ball, Duke University personalities, and other highlights, plus observations about everyday life, Lougee presents an affectionate look at life in his city. (1990; Carolina Academic Press, 700 Kent Street, Durham, NC 27701; 259 pp.; \$19.95; ISBN 0-89089-435-3.)



Nature Guide to the Carolina Coast: Common Birds, Crabs, Shells, Fish, and Other Entities of the Coastal Environment by Peter Meyer is an attractive handbook of information about the wide variety of marine life along the North and South Carolina shores. Animals (and some plants) are identified by common rather than scientific names, with several descriptive paragraphs on those frequently encountered. Numerous pen and ink sketches, plus more than one hundred color photographs, supplement the text. In addition, Meyer comments briefly on the coastal environment, conservation issues, and seafood. Also included are a list of scientific names for coastal creatures, a bibliography of recommended reading, a glossary of terms used in the text, and an index. (1991; Avian-Cetacean Press, P.O. Box 4532, Wilmington, NC 28406; 148 pp.; \$13.95; ISBN 0-9628186-0-7; paper.)

A paperback edition of *Lee's Maverick General: Daniel Harvey Hill* by Hal Bridges, a book previously out of print, has recently been published by the University of Nebraska Press. Hill, a Davidson College faculty member and head of Charlotte's North Carolina Military Institute prior to the Civil War, proved to be one of the Confederacy's most controversial generals. Several military historians have argued that he was a brilliant leader, but one whose impolitic remarks about his superiors were primarily responsible for his loss of command. Bridges's book is a largely sympathetic study of the military career of Hill, who after the war authored several important southern periodicals. (1991; University of Nebraska Press, 327 Nebraska Hall, 901 N. 17th St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0520; 323 pp.; \$11.95; ISBN 0-8032-6096-2; paper.)

The beauty of Roan Mountain, a five-mile-long ridge 6,285 feet in altitude that runs along the North Carolina-Tennessee border, has attracted man for centuries. Indians frequently visited the site, fascinated by its balds, large meadow-like areas lacking the ordinary forest growth. According to one legend, battling Indians shed so much blood that the native rhododendron was turned from white to red. Spanish explorers, early European and American botanists, white settlers seeking homesites, and modern backpacking hikers have all marveled at "the Roan's" varied flora and the spectacular vistas it offers. In *Roan Mountain: A Passage of Time*, Roan Mountain State Park (Tenn.) ranger Jennifer Bauer Wilson relates both the natural history of and the story of man's fascination with this scenic wonder. (1991; John F. Blair, Publisher, 1406 Plaza Drive, Winston-Salem, NC 27103; 162 pp.; \$9.95; ISBN 0-89587-082-7; paper.)