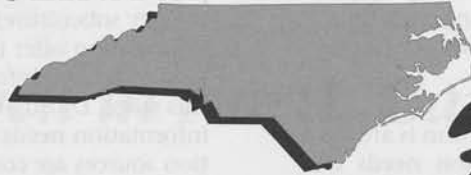


NORTH CAROLINA



Books

Robert G. Anthony, Jr., Compiler

In his introduction to this travel guide, Davis, professor at Winston-Salem State University, author of numerous books on African-American history, and native Tar Heel, states that this "is the first and only guide to Black historical sites and landmarks in North Carolina." Its purpose is to help the reader "see and touch the physical evidence of Blacks' contributions and achievements in this state through their monuments, buildings, churches, landmarks, colleges, and highway markers." Although it is not the only source for such information, Davis's book achieves the author's goal in that it, for the first time, collects the scattered fragments of Black North Carolina history into a single work.

From research and information gathered primarily from the National Register of Historic Places and the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources' Highway Historical Markers Program, Davis provides a work for both the general reader and the casual tourist. Of the book's three parts, Part One, the longest, is a listing and description of historic landmarks and sites throughout the state. Part Two identifies and gives information on highway historical markers commemorating places important in the state's Black history. Black restaurants and bookstores are included in Part Three. A glossary of architectural terms and an index complete the book.

The main strength of this work is that it does serve as the one single-volume source for concise travel information on Black North Carolina. Davis has included much on subjects that have been either completely omitted or given only cursory treatment in other sources. Equally important, though, is the book's function as a quick record of the achievements of and the diversity of experience among Blacks of

this state. This is significant in light of the fact that too many standard histories offer portraits of Blacks as a monolithically downtrodden, uneducated, and helpless group. Even a quick thumb-through of Part Two shows individuals who attained not only statewide but even national prominence. The book will also likely surprise most readers with little-known tidbits of information such as the connection between George Vanderbilt and Black development in Asheville.

Davis's work does have its drawbacks, however. It often suffers from a choppy writing style and the overuse of certain phrases or descriptions. For example, in Part One Davis uses the phrase "this church has played a significant role in the lives of Black People," or some variation of it, to describe several landmarks listed either successively or close together. The reader would have been better served had the author at least said why or how some of these institutions played that "significant role." The absence of accompanying photographs for most entries in Part One will leave many readers at a definite disadvantage in trying to appreciate fully a building's "hipped roof" or "shed dormer" windows. Davis either could have eliminated Part Three or expanded it to make it much more useful as travel information. This reviewer believes, however, that the main focus of this book — the listing and description of the historic sites — is an invaluable contribution by itself.

Overall, Davis has created a useful and very much needed guide. It is an important source for Black North Carolina history, the records and visible monuments for much of which are fast disappearing. For example, even as the author prepared this book, Good Samaritan Hospital, Charlotte's first Black hospital (pp. 105-106), was razed, under protest, to make way for a proposed National Football League stadium. This book is recommended for all public and academic libraries and for those special collections dealing with the South.

— Philip Cherry III, Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County

Lenwood G. Davis.
***A Travel Guide to Black
Historical Sites and Landmarks
in North Carolina.***

Winston-Salem, N.C.: Bandit Books
(P.O. Box 11721, 27106), 1991.
231 pp. \$9.95. ISBN 1-878177-02-8 (paper).



Corporate biographies are a venerable genre. They relate an organization's mythic concept of itself: how one individual (or several), with vision or a sense of purpose, finds a niche in the marketplace, and, through dedication and hard work, builds an empire — the American success story.

First-time authors Winetka and Lesley, editors of the *Salisbury Post*, do a creditable job of this on behalf of their hometown corporation, Food Lion. They weave personal profiles with individual anecdotes into an eventful narrative of how a one-store grocery was transformed into an eight-hundred-unit corporate giant. Originating in a desire to sell groceries to their neighbors at the lowest possible prices, brothers Brown and Frank Ketner converted across-the-board discount pricing (LFPINC—"Lowest Food Prices in North Carolina") and twenty-five of their neighbors' one hundred dollars investments into the Southeast's largest and most profitable grocery retailer. It is a saga of inspiration, dedication, and hard work.

Particularly, hard work. In an industry where long hours are the norm, Food Lion managers work more than anyone — one hundred hours or more per week. So do their employees. Job turnover is high. Morale is questionable. One manager quit because he could not take the hours — work responsibilities allowed time for nothing else. A *Fortune* magazine article asked the company "Do You Work Your Employees Too Hard?" to which Ralph Ketner observed that it took a certain kind of person to work at Food Lion — such as the stock boy who worked so hard and long that his feet bled.

The book is full of similar macho anecdotes. That particular stock boy became a vice-president. Another sued the company for violating his retirement benefits. Management extols its discount pricing, its centralized distribution, and its many innovative cost-cutting ideas. But the payoff seems to be long-term: promotion earns longer hours, profits go into the company, stock pays little or no dividends. Retirees do participate in profit-sharing—if they last that long.

Everything goes into growth. Food Lion is one of the largest grocery chains in the country. But the most successful? And who shares in that success? Company expansion occurs in areas traditionally short of skilled workers and employment opportunities. Winetka and Lesley report every stock split and profit margin; they say little about salary or benefits. While the management remains American, the Belgium firm Establisement Delhaize owns controlling stock. The lack of footnotes and references further the doubt. In an economy searching for winners to emulate, the Food Lion story will continue to be scrutinized. This book is just the start.

— William Fietzer, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Dpsychologists tell us that the primary human needs are water, food, and shelter, in that order. Next in their estimation is — to borrow a word from Uncle Frank, the storyteller in *Barking at a Fox-Fur Coat* — "proliferating." Then comes, in the unsubstantiated opinion of this reviewer, storytelling and music. Both have become such major industries in our civilization that we do not even think about how much they fill our daily lives. Just as home-cooking is superior to opening a can or a frozen dinner, however, a real live storyteller is a welcome treat amid a diet of television dramas and sitcoms.

Donald Davis, author of *Barking at a Fox-Fur Coat* and the earlier *Listening for the Crack of Dawn* (August House, 1990), is a professional storyteller who, after serving twenty years as an United Methodist Church minister, now travels and performs full-time. He has been featured at the World's Fair, the National Storytelling Festival, and the Smithsonian Institution. His stories draw upon the rich heritage of the Appalachian Mountains where he was born and raised, on the unique personalities of his relatives and neighbors, and on the humorous incidents involving passers-through. But they are not limited to that locale. Take for example, the story of the remarkable foxhound whose prowess for sniffing sixty-year-old tracks ends in a used clothing shop in Baltimore. Uncle Frank's low-key cleverness inspires the entire personnel of the Springfield, Missouri, post office to clean up the grounds or lose their jobs, or so they are led to believe.

The only thing missing from these delightful stories is the master storyteller himself, telling them in person. But they are so well written that the reader easily can imagine the glint in the eye, the mischievous smile twitching at the corner of the mouth, the vocal inflections building excitement, anticipation, and hilarity at an unexpected turn of events.

Mark Winetka and Jason Lesley.

Lion's Share: How Three Small-Town Grocers Created America's Fastest Growing Supermarket Chain and Made Millionaires of Scores of Their North Carolina Friends and Neighbors.

Asheboro, N.C.: Down Home Press, 1991.
265 pp. \$19.95. ISBN 1-878086-07-3.

Donald D. Davis.

Barking at a Fox-Fur Coat.

Little Rock, Ark.: August House, 1991.
206 pp. \$19.95. ISBN 0-87483-141-5 (cloth);
\$9.95. 0-87483-140-7 (paper).



In the tradition of American folklore, the stories contain an element of the preposterous, as well as truth. They recite events that bear a similarity to incidents in our lives and remind us of the foibles, pranks, and quirks of our own lives and of those around us. Those who have hitched rides with strangers understand the panic that poor little Buchanan, the North Carolina State University student trying to get home for a visit, feels when Uncle Frank decides to teach him a lesson about hitchhiking that he will never forget. Those who have pulled pranks on their grade-school teachers chuckle at Uncle Frank's boyhood escapade, especially when it ends in his comeuppance.

The seventeen stories in this collection will delight people of all ages, whether they are being read personally or being listened to as someone else reads them. In an appendix, the author gives credit to the family background that inspired the stories. "[F]amily stories are usually joint efforts.... All of them...have had a few chips carved by most everyone who ever regularly told them."(p. 203)

This book is suitable for any library serving general readers.

— Alice Wilkins, Sandhills Community College

As we hastily crisscross our state on business or leisure trips, few of us are aware of the vast historical epic that lies beneath our very feet. The story of our state, written in a beautifully complex geological web, stretches far beyond the written record and the tangible artifact to a distant age when epochal events shaped our rock and soil structure. *The Geology of the Carolinas*, whose avowed purpose is to give a coherent picture of the geology of both North and South Carolina, unravels various threads of that web through the light of modern scientific inquiry.

The volume's nineteen chapters include topics such as plutonic rocks, metamorphisms, various stratigraphies (e.g., paleocene, eocene), surficial geomorphology, and mineral resources. Each chapter is written by professional geologists associated with major universities or the United States Geological Survey and who are actively researching in this field. In each chapter, past geological studies are summarized and brought up to date, and differing interpretations or unresolved scientific problems are pointed out.

The work is amply illustrated with finely done geologic maps, tables, charts, line drawings, and, occasionally, photographs. While there is a colored geologic map on the front cover of the book, all internal illustrative material is in black and white.

There are summary pages listing figures and tables used to illustrate the work. Additionally, there is a forty-six-page bibliography, an index to field trip guidebooks published by the Carolina Geological Society, and a general

index to the volume.

The Geology of the Carolinas is definitely a work for the serious student or the professional researcher interested in this topic. The authors are writing for a scientifically literate audience who are acquainted with geological, chemical, and mineralogical terminology. This volume is most suitable for academic and special collections that serve faculty, students, or researchers in the above-mentioned fields and/or other libraries that house full collections of Caroliniana materials.

As the title indicates, this work was planned as a fiftieth anniversary volume of the Carolina Geological Society. The editors and authors of the varied chapters have succeeded magnificently in giving a coherent view of the current geological knowledge of the Carolinas. They and the members of the Carolina Geological Society can be justifiably proud of this important contribution to the "history" of our area.

— John Welch, North Carolina Division of State Library

What drives a retiring, indecisive, unmarried professor into a determined frenzy of activity that transports him geographically from western North Carolina to London and back, emotionally from resigned aloneness to deeply satisfying marriage, and psychologically from estrangement from his roots to mature integration of all he has experienced? Mid-life crisis? Sex? Revenge? Self-redemption?

For the answers — and more — read Michael Malone's *Foolscape*, a delightful comedy of academe, theater, and self-discovery. Native North Carolinian and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill graduate Malone has authored six generally well-received novels, and this seventh will only add to his reputation.

J. Wright Horton, Jr., and Victor A. Zullo, ed..

***The Geology of the Carolinas:
Carolina Geological Society
Fiftieth Anniversary Volume.***

Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1991.
406 pp. \$49.95. ISBN 0-87049-662-X.

Foolscape is humorously barbed but not malicious satire targeting academic politics, scholarly narrowness, research trendiness, willful donors, publishing politics, theatrical games-playing, and regional stereotypes. But foremost, it chronicles the occasionally traumatic, often hilarious, but ever maturing evolution of one Dr. Theodore Ryan. Son of peripatetic entertainers, Ryan has fled his childhood rootlessness to seek stability as professor of Renaissance drama at Cavendish University in Rome, N.C. As Ryan admits, "I like my theater on the page, not the stage."

Michael Malone.

Foolscape.

Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1991.
392 pp. \$19.95. ISBN 0-316-54527-9.

But theater intrudes nonetheless. Taunted into acting in a faculty production and galvanized by the news that a former nemesis is to be director of Cavendish's new performing arts center, Ryan takes a fateful step. A play he once penned he unveils to America's "greatest living playwright," Joshua "Ford" Rexford, of whom Ryan is the official biographer. (And what a subject Rexford is: a larger-than-life philandering drunk who nevertheless has won four Tonys and three Pulitzers.) Exit Ryan's life as a spectator.

After he and Rexford revise the play, *Foolscape*, which depicts Sir Walter Raleigh as he awaits execution in 1618, the old playwright steals it away to England. In pursuit, Ryan begins to act with an uncharacteristic decisiveness. He serendipitously recovers his play, but Rexford kills himself in an auto accident. Ryan, momentarily left aimless, then embarks on a meaner project: to pass *Foolscape* off as a long-lost and unknown play written by Raleigh himself. Can he fool the expert — retired Oxonian Renaissance scholar Dame Winifred Throckmorton, whom Ryan has idolized for years? Will he sacrifice his integrity for a moment of notoriety? Suffice to say, the resolution allows Theo a clouded triumph on the stage and a new-found integration of his theatrical, academic, and personal selves.

Malone's well-conceived play-like structure carries the plot smoothly. Five scenes are divided into chapters titled as stage directions and headed by wonderfully apt epigrams. The characters are numerous and diverse, and though some are thinly drawn, all function to enhance the story's success.

Foolscape belongs in any public or academic library, and should be required reading for all academics, particularly the opening chapter's account of the English faculty meeting. If that does not bring self-recognition, nothing will.

— Robert Dalton, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



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