

Books

Dorothy Hodder, Compiler

If Abel helped Cain run for Governor of North Carolina, the results would come out something like *Answers to Lucky*. In his third novel (following *Littlejohn* and *Fat Lightning*), Howard Owen gives the reader a tightly woven story about the extraordinary pain ordinary people inflict on their closest relations, for the best reasons in the world.

Answers to Lucky is the story of Tommy Sweatt's twin sons, Thomas Edison, or Tom Ed, and Jack Dempsey, or Lucky. Sweatts were 'river rats' in Port Campbell, a fictitious town in fictitious Scots County, somewhere in Eastern North Carolina. When Genie Balcom married Tommy Sweatt and stayed with him in the face of her wealthy family's complete disapproval, Tommy determined that his sons would amount to something to prove the Balcoms wrong. He put a baseball in their crib when they were just home from the hospital, and drilled them constantly in sports from then on. "Boys," Tommy would tell them over and over, 'you got to get up every day mad at the world 'cause somebody's ahead of you. Don't nobody deserve to be ahead of my boys.'"

Neither twin was ahead of the other until third grade, when Lucky contracted polio. Although he recovered enough to walk with only a slight limp, and quickly caught up his missed school work, Lucky might as well have been invisible to his father from then on. Tommy turned all his relentless energy on making a winner out of Tom Ed, and when Lucky's teenage resentment finally boiled over in a vicious attack on his brother, Tommy had him arrested and didn't bother to bail him out.

Lucky drifted in exile for the next several years, eventually falling into college, marriage to a good wife, and uneventful domesticity. Tom Ed went to Carolina, made money as a developer around Port Campbell, ran for mayor, and then set his sights on the Governor's Mansion. When his regular campaign driver dropped out, Tommy summoned Lucky to help his brother, and Lucky, wanting to repair the distance between himself and his twin, complied. It is at this point that Howard Owen begins his story, weaving back and forth between the past and the present as the brothers become reacquainted against

the backdrop of Lucky's memories.

Tom Ed has a couple of problems in his campaign. One is that parts of Westlake, the development where he made his money, were plagued with 'shrink-swell' soil that tended to crack the foundations of the houses. Another is that he cannot win the election without the blessing of the Christian Right, but he is having an affair with Susannah Morgan, trophy wife of Horace Morgan, his principal financial backer, and has gotten her pregnant and paid for her abortion. Unfortunately, Susannah is so indiscreet that Horace, Tom Ed's wife Lucinda, and Tommy Sweatt are all aware of this. Any reader could tell that Tom Ed's ego will wreck his own house of cards, but Owen skillfully prolongs the ride and throws in some unexpected twists.

Howard Owen has captured the nitty-gritty towns of North Carolina, the good old boys at the barbeque fundraisers, the church halls, and the hotel lobbies. He understands the politics, the race relations, the religion, and the hypocrisy. As he peels back the layers of hurt in the Sweatt family and the layers of corruption in Tom Ed's campaign, he makes some room for Lucky's image of himself to heal itself, and he always leaves room for humor. Recommended for public libraries and all North Carolina fiction collections.

Howard Owen.

Answers to Lucky.

New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 1996.
214 pp. \$22.00. ISBN 0-06-017312-2.

— Dorothy Hodder, New Hanover County Public Library

At last, aficionados of North Carolina biography can enjoy a full-length book on the life of William Rand Kenan, Jr. Most natives recognize the name Kenan and associate it with major philanthropical efforts such as the William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust, Kenan Professorships, Chapel Hill's Kenan Stadium, Wilmington's Kenan Plaza, Kenansville's Liberty Hall, and many others. According to author Dr. Walter Campbell, Kenan was more than a generous donor; he excelled as a scientist and businessman, who managed to handle the tremendous fortune that family circumstances brought him.

A Wilmington native, Kenan entered the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as an enthusiastic chemistry student. The University's history is woven in and out of the biography since he spent so much of his life associated with it. While studying under chemistry professor Venable, Kenan was asked to analyze sludge taken from the waste of an aluminum arc furnace in Spray, N.C. He found that the gas given off the sludge was calcium carbide, useful in producing acetylene, a discovery that spawned John Motley Morehead's Union Carbide Corporation.

Kenan had a promising career with the growing industry, but was sidetracked by the marriage of his sister, Mary Lily, to Henry Morrison Flagler, the famously wealthy co-founder of the Standard Oil Company. Kenan's involvements with Flagler's businesses in South Florida and the Florida East Coast Railroad occupied most of the remainder of his life.

Campbell carefully documents his work using family letters, interviews, reminiscences, and public records. Much of the book centers on the controversy involving the untimely death of Mary Lily and the Bingham family of Kentucky. After Flagler's death, she married Robert Worth Bingham of Louisville. The author is confident that he has solved the question of whether foul play was evident in her death.

A Southerner, Kenan surprisingly settled in Lockport, New York, where he maintained a residence for sixty years. He spent much of his time in New York and Florida taking care of the Flagler businesses. A successful businessman, Kenan continued to surround himself with scientists. It was at his Lockport farms that he created the nation's largest and most advanced private dairy research farm. Here he died in 1965, a lonely old man, leaving an estate worth \$161 million dollars, of which \$95 million went to the Charitable Trust.

This biography is recommended for all public and academic libraries with an interest in the history of UNC-Chapel Hill; of scientific industrialization; of railroad-ing; of Floridian hotels and resorts; of Wilmington and Duplin County, North Carolina; of Lockport, New York; and of the lives of the Flaglers, Bingham, and Kenans and their wealthy friends and enemies.

— Beverly Tetterton, New Hanover Public Library

Worth Carolina is a state particularly proud of its history. Almost every adult Tar Heel can name a dozen or more famous persons, places, or events in the state's past. The Battle of Bentonville is likely to be among the first events mentioned, yet although people know of the battle, few know *much* about it. Reading *Last Stand in the Carolinas* can change that, for Mark L. Bradley has written a comprehensive and accessible account of the Union Army's 1865 campaign in the Carolinas, and the climactic battle of that campaign at Bentonville on March 19-21.

The Battle of Bentonville is a relatively neglected Civil War story, in part because the two commanding generals, William T. Sherman and Joseph E. Johnston, gave little attention to the battle in their postwar memoirs. This silence at the top did not deter Bradley in his quest for the full story of Bentonville. He supplemented research in standard sources, such as *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, with the study of hundreds of diaries and manuscript collections. He has combined that research with extensive knowledge of the battlefield site to produce a work that

Mark L. Bradley.

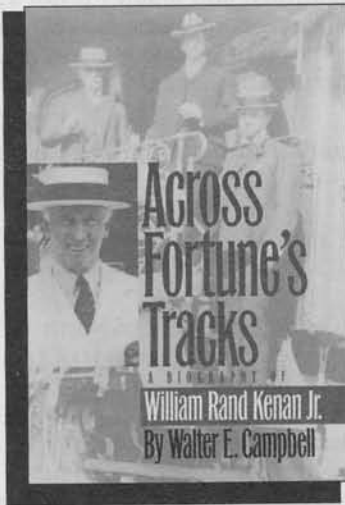
***Last Stand in the Carolinas:
The Battle of Bentonville.***

1st hardcover ed. Campbell, CA.: Savas Woodbury Publishers, 1996. 575 pp. \$29.95. ISBN 1882810023.

Walter E. Campbell.

***Across Fortune's Tracks:
A Biography of
William Rand Kenan, Jr.***

Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press, 1996. 417 pages. \$34.95. ISBN 0-80782268-X.



tells the story of Bentonville at the strategic, tactical, and personal levels. Within the context of a conventional chronological narrative, he explains the strategic significance of the action in the Carolinas, introduces the leaders on both sides, details the resources at their commands, and brings all the participants to the battle site. The three days of fighting are then presented. The initial success of the Confederates, the shift of momentum on the second day, and the failure of the Union forces to crush Johnston's army are described. The thinking of the commanders, the sequence of orders, the ebb and flow of each day's action, and the human consequences of the engagement are covered. Bradley uses quotations from both official documents and personal reminiscences to good effect on almost every page.

Last Stand in the Carolinas includes endnotes, an extensive bibliography, and an index. The volume also contains three dozen maps by Mark A. Moore. These maps are exceptionally clear and well done. They greatly assisted this reader in understanding the lines of battle and the strengths and vulnerabilities of the various units.

Bradley is a freelance writer and historian, and this is his first book. He originally intended to write a complete history of Sherman's and Johnston's armies in the Carolinas, doing for military operations what John Barrett did for civilian affairs in *Sherman's March through the Carolinas*. As Bradley conducted his research, he found that the story of Bentonville alone would require a full book. The author is now working on a second volume that will cover these same two armies from Bentonville until Johnston's surrender to Sherman at Bennett Place on April 26, 1865.

Although the length of the volume is daunting, and Bradley is not a writer of the caliber of James McPherson or Shelby Foote, *Last Stand in the Carolinas* is likely to become the standard work on the Battle of Bentonville. It is a necessary purchase for college, public, and high school libraries in the state.

— Eileen McGrath, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

In his impressive new book *Schooling the New South*, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill History Professor James Leloudis (co-author of *Like A Family: The Making of a Southern Cotton Mill World*) examines the development of a statewide system of graded schools in Progressive-Era North Carolina. The work centers on the struggle to move from the locally-controlled common school to a statewide education system (ideally) based on professionalism and standardization. The book's theme is the battle between defenders of a local society based on tradition and parochial control and those favoring a society governed by the marketplace, in hopes of training good citizens for a modernizing New South.

Leloudis pays primary attention to the politicians, educators, and social activists who shaped educational development at the turn of the century. He gives detailed accounts of Edwin Alderman, Charles McIver, and James Joyner's political-style campaigns to bolster educational reform in local communities. The analysis of McIver's founding of the Greensboro Normal and Industrial School for Teacher Training provides perhaps the most vivid reading in this well-written book. The role of women's groups is also addressed. Using the gendered metaphor of "women as housekeepers," Leloudis argues that women's groups were very effective in overcoming local opposition; by promoting slow, less overtly challenging changes (such as better buildings and grounds) and working with local communities, they became "the reform movement's passport into the otherwise insular world of the neighborhood school."

A disturbing paradox of Progressive-Era Southern school reform was its ties to white supremacy. Leloudis points out that it was the Fusionist government of the mid-1890s that opposed, and nearly derailed, attempts for a statewide graded-school system. This paradox is placed in clearer context in the chapter on "the

James L. Leloudis.

***Schooling the New South:
Pedagogy, Self, and Society in
North Carolina, 1880-1920.***

Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press,
1996. xvii, 338 pp. \$39.95 . ISBN 0-8078-2265-5.

riddle of race." Early 20th-century Democrats, particularly the Aycock Administration, saw developing black education as crucial to a program of race-based social control, diverting attention from questions of political equality, and eventually, stemming black emigration. Together with Northern philanthropic groups, reformers promoted industrial education to train blacks to be good workers and subservient citizens. Leloudis correctly argues, however, that primary credit for the development of black education goes to local black communities, which raised significant amounts of the necessary money and often battled authorities for control over the direction of black education. For all sides involved, schooling for blacks occupied a dangerous middle ground between social control and the assertion of black group rights.

Schooling the New South is a work of first-rate academic scholarship. Leloudis makes effective use of a wide range of archival materials and secondary sources, and includes a detailed notes section, bibliography, and index. This book is important reading for anyone interested in Southern educational history and/or the Progressive Era, and is also very appropriate for anyone with a general interest in North Carolina history.

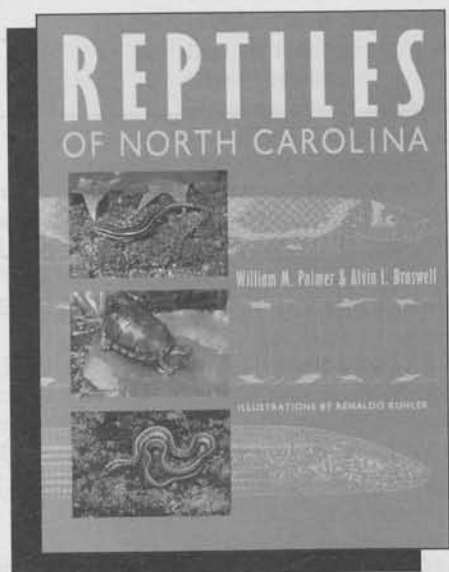
— David A. Strong, Department of Sociology,
Indiana University, Bloomington

Reptiles of North Carolina is a definitive piece of work that reveals just about everything anyone would want to know about the subject. Published for the North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences, the book is a must-have for educators, researchers, reptile enthusiasts, and natural history buffs.

William M. Palmer and Alvin L. Braswell.

Reptiles of North Carolina.

Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press,
1995. xiii, 412 pp. \$49.95. ISBN 0-807888-2158-6.



Palmer and Braswell are without question outstanding authorities on the subject of reptiles in general and North Carolina's reptiles in particular. William Palmer is Director of Research and Collections at the North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences, and Alvin Braswell is Curator of Lower Vertebrates at the Museum. Their combined twenty-plus years of work in the field and laboratory have given them an insight into North Carolina reptiles that few people, if any, can match.

Palmer and Braswell's exhaustive study of the state's reptiles constitutes a library in one volume. Far too large to call a field guide, it belongs wherever work is being done with reptiles. Where a field guide generally has a paragraph or two and a range map for each animal it describes, *Reptiles of North Carolina* devotes pages to the natural history of each of the 71 reptile species (21 turtles, 12 lizards, 37 snakes, and 1 crocodilian) alive in the state today. Each entry describes the animal's appearance, including known variations of each species, and the habitats the animal occupies with interesting notes about the animal's habits. The authors chose to use only metric measurements in their descriptions, which may be a minor obstacle to some readers. The narration is supported by outstanding pen and ink drawings by museum illustrator Renaldo Kuhler, and the book includes an excellent section of color photographs.

Reptiles of North Carolina is highly recommended for school, public, and academic libraries, as well as for all natural history enthusiasts.

— Andy Wood, North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher

* Due to a computer glitch, Dorothy Hodder needs the addresses and phone numbers of all persons who have reviewed, or are interested in reviewing books for this section. Please refer to Editorial Staff on page 43 for reply address. —
Thank you.



Edgar Wyatt states in his book *Growing Up in Raleigh* that children don't change much from one generation to the next. In a light, oral tradition of social history Mr. Wyatt depicts a young boy's life in a small capital city of a modest southern state in the twenties and thirties. Some of the topics range backward to a time not so distant in the South. Elderly warriors could still be seen rocking on the porch of the Old Confederate Soldiers' Home. Other shadows of "the recent unpleasantness" loom in the story of old Mrs. Baker, who always paid the eight-cent fare for the streetcar with a dime, but refused to accept the change because the pennies bore the face of Abraham Lincoln. Time did not move fast enough to blow away tradition, and history crowded the streets of Raleigh.

Time and technology were, however, stirring. Telephones with numbers ranging from two to four digits passed through the Raleigh switchboard. The Smoke Shop on Fayetteville St. received the big league baseball scores inning by inning on ticker tape, and the scores were then written on a chalk board outside the shop — up-to-the-minute news for sports fans. Atwater-Kent radios beamed in "Little Orphan Annie," Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy; 78 RPM records quickly spun out a tune on the Victor Talking Machine, better known as the Victrola. Cars, which were still a novelty, were becoming an innate masculine preoccupation. Boys, then as now, could identify with alacrity the different makes of cars. Only the names were different: Hudson, Essex, and The Reo Flying Cloud.

Leisure time of sixty years past contrasts sharply with today's activities and sports passions. Basketball was considered a "sissy" sport! Contact football in winter, and all day, drop-in, drop-out baseball games in summer occupied the neighborhood kids quite well. Less intense exercises included marbles, which required a special argot— "taws," "dinkies," "aggies," and "steelies."

The basic traits of childhood do not change drastically over generations, but life and activities in a given place do. Herein will lie the charm of related events for some readers and the disinterest in the book for others. A child who will mature in the second millennium could certainly marvel at the simpler, slower pace of the 1920s and 1930s. Another young reader accustomed to the stimulation of the information age may not read beyond the first chapter. The book's most interested audience will be the people who shared these times and this place. *Growing up in Raleigh* would be a social history resource in an elementary or middle school and a trip down memory lane for certain patrons of public libraries.

— Juanita Winner, Wrightsville Beach Elementary School

Edgar M. Wyatt.

Growing Up in Raleigh: Childhood Memories of Life in the Capital City During the Great Depression.

Raleigh: Wyatt Classics, Inc., 1012 Vance Street, Raleigh, NC 27608, 1996. 146 pp. \$14.95. No ISBN.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

In *See Rock City: A Story Journey Through Appalachia*, Donald Davis spins more of the delightful, folksy stories about boyhood in Sulphur Springs, North Carolina, that first charmed readers in *Listening for the Crack of Dawn* (1990). (1996; August House Publishers, PO Box 3223, Little Rock, AR 72203; 247 pp; cloth, \$22.95; ISBN 0-87483-448-1; paper, \$12.95; ISBN 0-87483-456-2; audiobook, \$12.00; ISBN 0-87483-452-X.)

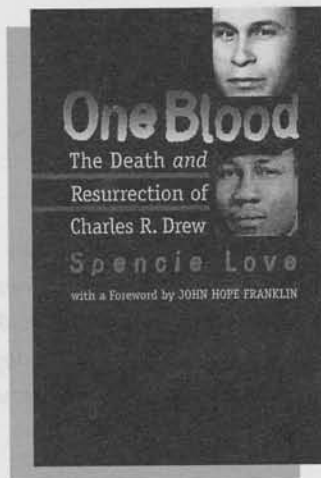
To Make My Bread, Grace Lumpkin's novel (originally published in 1932) about Appalachian mountaineers driven to work in the milltowns by hard times, has been reissued in the University of Illinois Press series, *The Radical Novel Reconsidered*. It is considered to be one of the major works on the Gastonia textile strike. (1996; University of Illinois Press, 1325 South Oak St., Champaign, IL 61820; xliii, 384 pp; paper, \$14.95; ISBN 0-252-06501-8.)

Michael McFee, professor at UNC and editor of the fine anthology *The Language They Speak is Things to Eat: Poems by Fifteen Contemporary North Carolina Poets*, has published his fifth collection of poetry, *Colander*. His intelligent and unpretentious poems evoke the lives of working Carolinians, campus scenes and politics, and homely instruments like elevators, address books, pencils, and clotheslines. (1996; Carnegie Mellon University Press, Box 21, 4902 Forbes Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3799; 80 pp; cloth, \$20.95; ISBN 0-88748-224-4 ; paper, \$11.95; ISBN 0-88748-224-4.)

The sixth and final volume of the *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*, edited by William S. Powell and containing 456 entries in the letters T - Z, completes the most comprehensive state project of its kind. Dr. Powell has worked on the *Dictionary*, which includes the first detailed biographical information for many of the individuals profiled, since 1971, with the help of approximately 1,500 volunteer contributors. (1996; The University of North Carolina Press, PO Box 2288, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-2288; vii, 302 pp; cloth, \$49.95; ISBN 0-8078-2225-6.)

A Boat For All Seas: The Simmons Sea-Skiff will charm boating enthusiasts and local historians. Written to accompany an exhibition at the Cape Fear Museum in Wilmington by guest curator David W. Carnell and museum curator Barbara Rowe, this is a brief account of T.N. Simmons's outboard motorboat, which he built in his Myrtle Grove shop between 1950-1972. Adaptable for use in lakes, rivers, salt marshes, or the ocean, the Simmons Sea-Skiff has been a favorite recreational boat all along the East coast. (1995; Cape Fear Museum, 814 Market St., Wilmington, NC 28401-4731; 32 pp; paper, \$7.00; no ISBN.)

History collections in the state also will be enriched by *Postcards of Old Wayne County, NC*, compiled by Sarah Manning Pope and Emily Newman Weil. It features full-sized, color reproductions of picture postcards from Wayne County during the period 1905 to 1950, each with a descriptive paragraph. (1995; Wayne County Historical Association, PO Box 665, Goldsboro, NC 27533; 67 pp; paper, \$20.00 plus \$3.50 shipping and handling; no ISBN.)



In *One Blood: The Death and Resurrection of Charles R. Drew*, Spencie Love traces the story of the famous black scientist Dr. Charles Drew. A pioneer researcher on the use of blood plasma, Dr. Drew died in 1950 after an auto accident in rural North Carolina. Although he was treated at Alamance General Hospital, rumors quickly spread that he had died because a whites-only hospital had refused him treatment. The author traces the origins of these rumors, in the context of segregation. (1996; The University of North Carolina Press, PO Box 2288, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-2288; xix, 373 pp; cloth, \$29.95; ISBN 0-8078-2250-7.)

Harriet Hill tells the heartbreaking and uplifting story of the death of her teenage son and the support she found in faith, family, and friends as they all grieved for him in *For the Love of Robert*. (1995; Marblehead Distributing, 2408 Ridge Rd., Raleigh, NC 27612; vi, 113 pp; cloth, \$12.00; ISBN 0-943335-05-1.)

True crime collections will have to have *Deadly Goals: The True Story of an All-American Football Hero Who Stalked and Murdered*. Wilt Browning, sports columnist for the Greensboro News & Record, painstakingly traces the sordid path (marked by steroid-boostered bodybuilding and unpredictable rages) of Pernell Jefferson from his home in Benson, North Carolina, to football stardom at Guilford College, to washing out after a brief training stint with the Cleveland Browns. Along the way he charmed numerous women, only to degenerate into jealousy, abuse, stalking, and eventually murder. (1996; Down Home Press, PO Box 4126, Asheboro, NC 27204; 240 pp; cloth, \$21.95 plus \$2.00 shipping and \$1.12 North Carolina sales tax; ISBN 1-878086-55-3.)

A guidebook for public libraries with outdoors-loving borrowers is James Bannon's *North Carolina: A Guide to Backcountry Travel & Adventure*. He covers the state's parks, forests, swamps, lakes, mountains, and wilderness areas in detail, providing directions for accessing the areas and contacts for maps and information where available, and describing outdoor activities to be enjoyed. (1996; Out There Press, PO Box 62092, Durham, NC 27715; xviii, 386 pp; paper, \$16.00; ISBN 0-9648584-0-1.) John Hairr concentrates on history in *From Mermaid's Point to Raccoon Falls: A Guide to the Upper Cape Fear River*. (1996; Averbosoro Press, PO Box 482, Erwin, NC 28339; 123 pp; paper, \$9.95 plus \$1.00 shipping and handling; ISBN 1-888879-50-5.)

Civil War collectors should notice *Guns for Cotton: England Arms for the Confederacy*. Thomas Boaz offers an account of the blockade runners who supplied the Confederacy following the blockade of Southern ports ordered by President Lincoln in April 1861. Little attention is paid in this account to North Carolina's blockade runners, or to the role of Governor Vance. (1996; Burd Street Press, PO Box 152, Shippensburg, PA 17257; 86 pp; paper, \$9.95; ISBN 1-57249-004-7.) Lee Jacobs of Salisbury has compiled personal accounts of Civil War soldiers, officers, and civilians in *Cry Heart*, to help modern Southerners appreciate the heroism and sacrifices of their forefathers. (1995; John Culler & Sons, PO Box 1277, Camden, SC 29020; 424 pp; cloth, \$29.95; ISBN 1-887269-06-1.)