North Carolina Books

Dorothy Hodder, Compiler

Margaret Maron.

Killer Market.

New York: Mysterious Press, 1997.
273 pp. $22.00. ISBN 0-89296-654-8.

Twice every year, the city of High Point, North Carolina, hosts the Furniture Market, now officially known as the International Home Furnishings Market. It is not, as Deborah Knott discovers in her newest adventure, a good time to show up in town without a hotel reservation. Area residents know well that it is also not a good time to try to eat out, rent a car, or fly in or out of the Piedmont Triad International Airport. But even the locals do not know very much about the everyday workings of the Market. The IHFM is not open to the general public, and consequently there is much to be learned by North Carolinians as well as outsiders about this intense, extravagant, and byzantine event. Members of NCLA who have attended the biennial conferences held in Market Square during the past decade may have some jaded recollection of its labyrinthine layout. Can we imagine ourselves there in a big-time, cut-throat, profit-making melee? Perhaps just barely. But this is the world that Margaret Maron portrays in *Killer Market*, a book sure to sell in large numbers at the IHFM for years to come.

Circuit Judge Knott is called to duty in High Point during the spring Market. As she ponders her reservationless status over lunch, she meets an elderly eccentric who knows the Market inside out, the way a spider knows the back and bottom of a closet. A woman of many names (all false), she gives Knott a similarly bogus buyer badge and lures her into the Market. Among the many people she meets are two old acquaintances, one of whom is found murdered later that evening. Near him is Knott's purse, subject of a tote-bag mix-up with the one carried by her mysterious and elusive new friend. While Knott herself is not long regarded as a serious suspect, she remains deeply entangled in the effort to determine who, of the many likely possibilities, succeeded in poisoning the deserving victim. Identifying the killer depends upon Knott's sorting out the extremely complicated set of relationships among the characters—relationships as confusing, convoluted, and illusory as the halls of Market Square itself.

It is a strange experience to read an account that so closely portrays a place one knows — almost as disconcerting as hearing a favorite Verdi opera sung in English. Maron does take license in shaping her setting, but her effort to create an accurate portrayal of the Market in full swing seems to dominate the book. This is both a service to those who want to know what goes on and a bit of a distraction to those who most want to know whodunit. The extent to which the author has labored to master the details of the Market may be seen in the quotations that mark the beginning of each chapter: they come from an 1872 tome, *The Great Industries of the United States*, and often refer to furniture. If each has a subtle relation to the action of the chapter it heads, then this reader (who is, admittedly, slowing down under the hat these days) missed it. This reader also failed to guess the killer, which means the mystery successfully fulfilled its ultimate generic requirement.

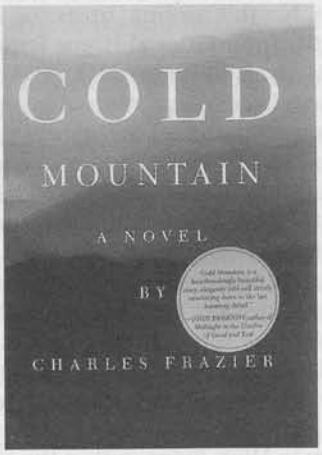
Killer Market is Maron's fifth Deborah Knott novel. Earlier titles in the series include *Bootlegger's Daughter*, winner of the 1993 Edgar, Agatha, Macavity, and Anthony Awards, and *Up Jumps the Devil* (1996), nominated for an Agatha Award. Any North Carolina library with a shred of pride in its fiction and state history collections will have this volume on the shelves. It is the most appealing description of High Point and the IHFM one is likely to encounter, and it's a pretty good mystery, too.

— Rose Simon, Salem College Library

Charles Frazier.

Cold Mountain.

New York: Atlantic Monthly Press, 1997. 368 pp. $24.00.
ISBN 0-7113-679-1.



A journey homeward and a journey toward self, Charles Frazier's *Cold Mountain* is a book of movement. Inman, physically and mentally wounded in the Battle of Petersburg, takes flight from his hospital bed to return to his Haywood County mountain and his love. Ada, mentally and spiritually wounded from the death of her father, starts down a path of independence and self-assurance. With the help of those he meets along the way, Inman struggles to get home and avoid the largely lawless Home Guard. With the help of savvy young Ruby, Ada learns to maintain her farm and experiences manual labor for the first time. In this novel of parallels and opposites, each sojourner receives help and hurt, fortune and pain, grief and joy.

Cold Mountain is at once a love story and a story of war, and more than both of these. We travel with Ada and Inman through alternating chapters that propel us far too quickly toward the conclusion. To describe this novel as merely historical fiction would be doing it a great disservice. Drawing upon oral histories of his own Appalachian mountain family to create his characters, Frazier is able to fashion creatures of depth and feeling. Emotions as raw as Inman's wounds pour from each page. Authentic regional dialect and dialogue give this novel a palpable sense of place and time. For Ada and Ruby's voices, the author turned to period diaries with stunning success. Frazier's great skill both as a researcher and a writer takes us effortlessly and believably from Charleston high society to small mountain town to raging battlefield.

As a work of literary merit, *Cold Mountain* is astonishing; even more so as a first novel. Frazier has made a permanent mark on North Carolina literature and surely will leave many clamoring for more. This story will appeal to a wide audience, bringing something different to each reader. As *Cold Mountain* is sure to be read and re-read for years to come, libraries of all types will want to add several copies of this book to their collections.

— Lisa D. Smith, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

John Buchanan.

The Road to Guilford Courthouse: The American Revolution in the Carolinas.

New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1997. 452 pp. $30.00.
ISBN 047116402X.

To say that *The Road to Guilford Courthouse* is a popular history is not to denigrate it. It is stronger on personalities than underlying causes, more keen on military strategy than on the social make-up of troops and civilians, dramatic rather than analytical, but still very useful on a number of subjects. While cultural and political relationships and tensions within the colonies receive less attention than in other recent works, they are not neglected. War brings out strong personalities, and Buchanan depicts them with skill. Although the title refers to the battle near Greensboro, most of the book deals with South Carolina, and the travels of Lord Cornwallis in North Carolina after Guilford are sketched hardly at all. Buchanan, an archivist, relies more on traditional sources than current historiography but has a good, annotated bibliography and is not afraid of stating his opinion. This is a well-crafted, clearly written narrative history that will inform and delight most readers.

Anyone familiar with the military knows how generals and politicians far from the battlefield love strategy — and how in reality schedules get bollixed. The southern campaigns of 1776 and 1780-1781 illustrate splendidly how impossible grand strategy was in practice. Transportation and communication difficulties hampered and even destroyed 18th century plans and schedules — North Carolina's wet "red clay roads were quagmires by day and frozen moonscapes by night." Terrain and transportation being so critical to military history, the scarcity and small scale of the book's maps are major flaws, while the illustrations are merely portraits of combatants and do little to advance the story. On the other hand, the short biographies added as a

glossary at the end of the text are helpful, and the battle descriptions are often worthy of Bruce Catton.

The Revolution in the South has been unduly neglected, but multi-volume publications such as the *Papers of General Nathanael Greene* (not yet completed, UNC Press) set the stage for more detailed and comprehensive treatments than in the past. Buchanan's *Road to Guilford Courthouse* may well last for a long time as the best introduction to the military aspects of the war in the Carolinas, but his lack of knowledge and analysis of local political, cultural, and social conditions prevent it from being the final word on the American Revolution in our area.

— Patrick Valentine, Wilson County Public Library

Sarah H. Hill.

Weaving New Worlds: Southeastern Cherokee Women and Their Basketry.

Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1997. 440pp. Cloth, $45.00. ISBN 0-8078-2345-7. Paper, $22.50. ISBN 0-8078-4650-3.

A sacred Cherokee tradition is the tale of the woman Selu (Corn) and her gift of maize to humankind "soon after the world was made." It is a story "so sacred that, in the old days' only priests could tell it, and any who wished to hear it had to fast and go to water." "Directly associated with Selu, with women performing their most fundamental tasks and assuming powerful responsibilities, was the basket that the first great mother carried with her each day." If a woman wanted to transport something, she put it into a carrying basket, using a tumpline across the shoulders.

This book is far more than the history of a handicraft. The strands of material culture, belief systems, and history weave into women's life in a marginal society. Cherokee existence was torn asunder during the last two hundred years. The Cherokee nation was reduced from domination of large sections of South Carolina, Georgia, North Carolina, Alabama, and Tennessee, to subsistence on a cluster of small tracts in the mountains of western North Carolina. The religion and political economy of European immigrants suppressed the traditionally matrilocal clans in favor of patriarchal nuclear families.

A similar reduction and shift occurred in Cherokee women's basketry. They used to make most of their baskets from rivercane. Doubleweave baskets were a complex construction of thin strips of carefully slit and pared rivercane. About 500 cane strips, dyed with walnut, bloodroot, or pokeberry, were woven into an inner basket that continued, often in a different pattern, to cover the outside. Said to be capable of holding water, these baskets were commonly used both for storage and for serving such food as "homminy, boiled corn, beans and pease." A good doubleweave basket had much in common with a turtle or a rattlesnake. Banded and cross-hatched in browns, yellows, reds and oranges, the basket was quite tough and extremely beautiful. An example of contemporary doubleweave basketry "survived a fire, water damage, compression and harsh cleaning solvents" with little visible change.

War and European livestock extirpated good cane from breaks around the traditional Cherokee towns. Women found strips of split white oak made good carry baskets or egg baskets to sell. When honeysuckle invaded the South, the Cherokee made baskets of its vines to use or to sell. Because of a shortage of oak, shiny and decorative maple strips were adopted to craft the kind of baskets that tourists would buy. You can buy all four types of baskets today from cooperatives on the Qualla Boundary and Snowbird tracts. Baskets that once sold for 25¢ might sell for $1,000.

This book could serve well as an introduction to the culture of the Eastern Cherokee. It needs a simple diagram of Sequoia's syllabary, one of the most astounding intellectual feats in American history, to support references to the importance of written Cherokee language in tribal history. There are a few minor errors; for example, we see "anjelica" for "angelica" and "quercus" where scientific nomenclature requires "Quercus." The thirty-one page bibliography appears to be comprehensive in the field of Cherokee studies. This, combined with a fine index, makes *Weaving New Worlds* an excellent book on women's central role in the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians. Sarah H. Hill received her Ph.D. in American Studies from Emory University and is serving as guest curator at the Atlanta History Center for a 1999 exhibition on Indians and Georgia.

— Philip P. Banks, Asheville-Buncombe Library System

David Sedaris.

Naked.

New York: Little Brown, 1997. 291 pp. $21.95.
ISBN 0-316-77949-0.

David Sedaris arrived in Raleigh in the 1950s when his father was transferred from Endicott, New York, by IBM. With the move came "a plague of tics," from kissing stairs, head-shaking, and bed-rocking, to a stint with the Broughton High School drama club and as a Dix Hill volunteer; from a trip to Greece with a teen summer tour, to leaving home finally to go to "a state college in western North Carolina where the low brick buildings were marked with plaques reading ERECTED 1974." Throughout his childhood, adolescence, and early adulthood, Sedaris realized instinctively that he was different from the southerners who reluctantly welcomed the northern invasion of RTP, but only gradually did he discern it to be more than his strange accent or his Jewish heritage that set him apart. Being a homosexual in the 1950s and '60s in eastern North Carolina was a fate fraught with cruelty and misunderstanding. Only someone with a perverse sense of humor and an amazing gift for the craft of writing could make these vignettes of a lifelong search for self-realization and self-worth simultaneously funny and painful to read.

Sedaris is a master of character description — his own. And yet, in spite of the title that would lead the reader to assume the author's self-disclosure, the situations are so absurd that we never feel we've come to know the real David. One wonders if his parents possibly could have been as eccentric, cruel, dysfunctional — and lovable — as he describes. Could his tics really have been that extensive, that all-consuming? Likewise, the co-ed quadriplegic he nurses through college — and summer travels — is reflected only as she becomes a vehicle to describe Sedaris himself. As intimate as their contact is, the reader senses no relationship. Only Sedaris is truly described.

Naked is a book to read a chapter at a time. As a matter of fact, a few of the selections have been Sedaris monologues on NPR. They are insightful descriptions of the importance of family, the pain of adolescence, the cruelty that society inflicts upon ten percent of its population, and the false assumption that a good laugh will hide all hurt. An important, if emotionally difficult book, *Naked* is recommended for all public libraries — and high schools that can get away with it.

— Frances Bryant Bradburn, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

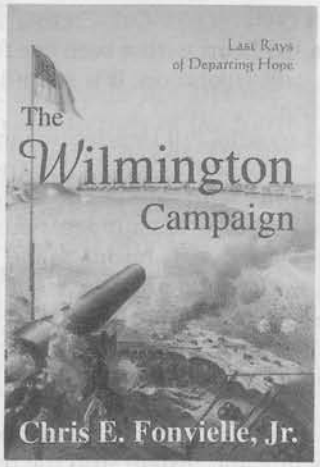
Chris E. Fonvielle, Jr.

The Wilmington Campaign: Last Rays of Departing Hope.

Campbell, CA: Savas Publishing Company, 1997. 623 pp. $32.95. ISBN 1-882810-09-0.

This, the third volume in Savas Publishing Company's "Battles and Campaigns of the Carolinas" series, is a thoroughly documented and well-written addition to the growing number of published studies of the Civil War in North Carolina. Fonvielle's book is a greatly expanded version of his master's thesis at East Carolina University and doctoral dissertation at the University of South Carolina, and it complements the work of Mark Bradley (*Last Stand in the Carolinas: The Battle of Bentonville*, Savas, 1996), Nathaniel Cheairs Hughes, Jr. (*Bentonville: The Final Battle of Sherman and Johnston*, University of North Carolina Press, 1996), and Rod Gragg (*Confederate Goliath: The Battle of Fort Fisher*, HarperCollins, 1991), by clearly showing how the Fort Fisher/Wilmington and Bentonville campaigns were related. More importantly, Fonvielle reminds the reader of the often-forgotten fact that the fall of Fort Fisher and Wilmington rapidly sealed the fate of the Confederacy.

The port of Wilmington, though blockaded by the United States Navy, was a very significant supplier of military and civilian goods during the Civil War because blockade runners routinely evaded enemy ships. During 1864 it became clear to the Union Navy that the Confederate forces' only remaining pipeline of supplies could be plugged by taking Fort Fisher, which guarded the entrance to the Cape Fear River near Wilmington. By early 1865, General Ulysses S. Grant realized that the timely capture of both Fort Fisher and Wilmington could assist General William T. Sherman in his movements through North Carolina to attack the Army of Northern Virginia. An attack on Fort Fisher in December 1864 failed largely because of the refusal of Union naval and land forces to communicate. In a subsequent campaign that began in



January 1865, and culminated in Wilmington's fall in February, Federal troops commanded by General Alfred H. Terry and the naval forces of Admiral David D. Porter not only sealed the last Confederate port, but also made it easier for General Sherman to defeat Confederates at Bentonville and proceed northward with troops from the Cape Fear region.

The author utilizes a host of primary sources to show the significance of the largest combined Union campaign of the war. Effective quotes from letters and other documents enliven Fonvielle's book and reveal much about the character of the campaign's participants—not only the egotistical nature of Admiral Porter and the chronic hesitancy of Confederate General Braxton Bragg, but also the fine qualities of rank-and-file soldiers on both sides. In many cases, the words of these men take on added meaning because their photographs appear throughout the book. Numerous other illustrations, including the fine maps of Mark A. Moore, help the reader understand the action as well as the significance of the fall of Fort Fisher and North Carolina's principal port city.

The Wilmington Campaign, which includes an extensive bibliography and a useful index, could have profited by more careful editing; nevertheless, it is an important book that will interest many patrons of academic and public libraries.

— Maurice C. York, East Carolina University

Dirk Frankenberg.

The Nature of North Carolina's Southern Coast: Barrier Islands, Coastal Waters, and Wetlands.

Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1997.
250 pp. $17.95. ISBN 0-8078-4655-4.

This volume is a companion to Dirk Frankenberg's earlier description of the northern coastal region of North Carolina, *The Nature of the Outer Banks: Environmental Processes, Field Sites, and Development Issues, Corolla to Ocracoke.* Frankenberg, a professor of marine science at UNC-Chapel Hill, is intimately familiar with the North Carolina coast and the natural processes that have shaped it and its biological communities.

The subtitle, "An ecotourist's guide to the North Carolina coast, from Portsmouth Island to Calabash," is an apt description of this book's focus. Frankenberg begins with a concise but thorough description of the many processes, especially geological, physical, and biological, that have shaped the features of the coastal region. An average lay person might have a little trouble with a few of the concepts and terms, but a somewhat more experienced "ecotourist" would most likely have the background needed to understand the scientific explanations Frankenberg provides, especially since he has done an excellent job of beginning his discussions of natural phenomena from first principles.

The first section of the book provides a thorough description of the plant communities one would encounter in the distinct habitats typical of the coastal region. Plants, the author argues, won't run and hide as animals will, and provide the best indices of the physical, geological, and biological conditions dominating each habitat.

The second section of the book is a tour guide of the many fascinating natural areas and sites worth visiting in the southern portion of the North Carolina coast. Frankenberg's thorough familiarity with and love of the Carteret County coast comes through well, and there are truly some wonderful places to see there. The southeastern portion of the coastline is not quite so exquisitely described, but then it has also suffered somewhat more from the pressures of human development and offers correspondingly fewer unspoiled habitats to enjoy.

This book will serve quite well as a guidebook for someone interested in sampling the natural treasures of the southern North Carolina coastal region. Frankenberg provides many photographs, maps, and sketches to illustrate both his background material and the guidebook section. He also lists an extensive bibliography of references and more detailed descriptions of particular locales for those who wish to delve further. The book was finished after Hurricanes Bertha and Fran struck this region, and the author discusses their impacts and warns that some of the routes he describes may be altered or unusable in their wake.

The book finishes with an epilogue that discusses the issues raised by human development of this portion of the coastline, one of the last such areas along the East Coast to experience rapid growth. As human interests wrestle with nature more intimately, our rules, regulations, and philosophy of managing the interaction become even more important to consider as we visit these last wild places.

— Lawrence B. Cahoon, University of North Carolina at Wilmington

Susan S. Kelly.

How Close We Come.

Wilmington: Banks Channel Books, 1997. Paper, $10.95. 189 pp. ISBN 1-889199-00-1.

How Close We Come is a novel written from the heart with a keen eye for themes of women's friendships, betrayal, and separation. It is a familiar and comfortable story, yet one that reveals truths.

The story is told by writer and suburban wife, Pril Henderson, and concerns her ten-year friendship with neighbor Ruth Campbell as they raise families in Greensboro, North Carolina. With humor and poignancy, the two women experience the ebb and flow of daily life, with its children, husbands, and neighbors as well as its intimacy and loss. Eventually, Pril must grapple with Ruth's sudden desertion of her husband, and face her own feelings of abandonment and the dilemma of whether to testify against her closest friend. Her experience leads her to a new understanding of how close people ever really come to one another.

Both Pril's and Ruth's characters are fully realized. The two women come to life with an honesty of feeling and insight into the human heart and mind. They speak in clear and knowing voices. The author has written a novel that rings true and illuminates life's most tender and touching themes.

Author Susan S. Kelly is from Rutherford, North Carolina, and a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her short stories have been cited for numerous awards including the Pushcart Prize and the Iowa Woman's fiction contest. *How Close We Come* is the winner of Banks Channel Books' Carolina Novel Award, which was established to encourage excellence in fiction writing by North Carolina authors. Recommended for all libraries with popular fiction collections.

—Joan Sherif, Northwestern Regional Library

Clyde Edgerton.

Where Trouble Sleeps.

Chapel Hill: Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, 1997. 280 pp. $18.95. ISBN 1-56512-061-2.

Once again, Clyde Edgerton takes us to rural Listre, North Carolina, the setting for his previous bestsellers *Raney* and *Walking Across Egypt*. It's 1950 and passing traffic has little reason to slow down except for the blinker light at the intersection. The town crossroads includes the flintrock general store, the Pendergrass Auto Shop and Grill, the grocery, Train's Place (a filling station where the men gather to drink beer), and the store where the Blaine sisters sell chickens and ice (except during thunderstorms when they close up shop and drive over to their married sister's house to wait for the weather to clear). Down the road is the Listre Baptist Church where Pastor Crenshaw wrestles with temptation and contemplates using the congregation's Lottie Moon offering for local instead of foreign aid. And all around the crossroads are the homes of the people who live in the town and who come alive through Edgerton's narrative.

Life is simple here, although six-year-old Stephen Toomey thinks that right and wrong were easier to understand "a long time ago when the Bible was a place and a time together." His mother reads to him from *Aunt Margaret's Bible Stories* and takes him to the prison to visit the electric chair, believing that it's never too early to teach her boy what will happen if he commits a sin or breaks the law. Jack Umstead's mother should have done the same for her son. Driving a stolen car through Listre, Jack stops for gas and then lingers a while to find out what he can take from the inhabitants of this sleepy little community. He chats up the locals, romances the town's sweet young thing, and learns what it means when Trouble, the filling station bulldog, takes his nap indoors. But this devious, smooth-talking man with his pencil-thin mustache is no match for Edgerton's array of town characters.

Religious hypocrites are artfully revealed and the eccentricities of the good, everyday characters are cheerfully described by a writer who understands, remembers, and loves this rural world and the sound of its people's language. Listre is the fictionalized version of the town where Edgerton was born and raised, so he knows it well. He's a fine and funny storyteller, and the book should be read aloud for full enjoyment of the rhythm and cadence of the speech of people who would sound exactly like this if only they weren't just characters in a book. *Where Trouble Sleeps* will make the reader want to sit in the Listre School grandstand on Friday nights, eat popcorn, and watch the picture show, all for 25 cents.

—Frannie Ashburn, North Carolina Center for the Book, State Library of North Carolina

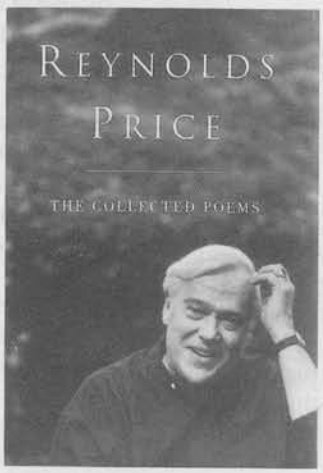
Other Publications of Interest ...

Academic and public libraries will want to acquire ***Guide to Research Materials in the North Carolina State Archives: County Records***. The new eleventh revised edition describes county records stored by the State Archives in over 9,000 bound volumes, 21,000 boxes of loose records, and 24,000 reels of microfilm. It has been painstakingly corrected, and record titles have been standardized. Similar records have been grouped together for the convenience of the researcher in this edition, rather than listed alphabetically. (1997; Historical Publications Section, Division of Archives and History, 109 E. Jones St., Raleigh, NC 27601-2807; vii, 363 pp.; paper, $15.00, $3.00 postage; ISBN 0-86526-273-X.)

Civil War collections will be pleased with ***Moore's Historical Guide to the Battle of Bentonville***, by Mark A. Moore. Moore drew the maps for *Last Stand in the Carolinas: The Battle of Bentonville*, by Mark L. Bradley (reviewed Spring 1996), and intends this book to be a companion volume which will orient battlefield visitors, through detailed maps, photographs, and descriptions, to the troop positions and maneuvers noted on the 29 historical markers in the battle area. Also includes the battles of Monroe's Crossroads and Averasboro. (1997; Savas Publishing Company, 1475 South Bascom Ave, Suite 204, Campbell, CA 95008; 92 pp.; paper, $12.95; ISBN 1-882810-15-5.)

A Garden of One's Own: Writings of Elizabeth Lawrence gathers more than 50 articles written between 1932 and 1978 for gardening magazines, newsletters, and plant society bulletins, as well as excerpts from personal letters, by the well-known landscape architect and author of *A Southern Garden*. It is edited by Barbara Scott and Bobby J. Ward. (1997; University of North Carolina Press, P.O. Box 2288, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-2288; xviii, 281 pp.; $24.95; ISBN 0-8078-2349-X.)

The Collected Poems by Reynolds Price brings together his poetic output of 36 years, including three previously published collections (*Vital Provisions*, 1982; *The Laws of Ice*, 1986; and *The Use of Fire*, 1990) and introducing a new one, *The Unaccountable Worth of the World*, written in large part during Price's struggle with spinal cancer. Readers familiar with his novels will recognize many familiar themes, presented in the form that, according to the author, follows the shape of his life most closely. (1997; Scribner, 1230 Ave. of the Americas, New York, NY 10020; xxiv, 472 pp.; $37.95; ISBN 0-684-83203-8.)



Against Distance is a collection of poems by Peter Makuck, Distinguished Professor of Arts and Sciences at East Carolina University and editor of *Tar River Poetry*. His subject is landscape, often the coastal waters of North Carolina, and his portraits are both clear and complex. (1997; BOA Limited Editions, 260 East Ave, Rochester, NY 14604; distributed by Consortium, 1045 Westgate Drive, Suite 90, St. Paul, MN 55114; 95 pp.; cloth, $20.00; ISBN 1-880238-44-6; paper, $12.50; ISBN 1-880238-45-4.)

Sparta With a Hoe is the third in Chapel Hill native Gina Kaiper's series of novels tracing North Carolina history through the lives of women, continuing the family saga begun in *I Shall Never Speak* and *The Story of Lina Holt* (reviewed Winter 1995 and Spring 1996.) Sparta is Lina's youngest daughter. Her story begins with her marriage to a neighboring farmer in 1911, and follows her through motherhood and widowhood, through the relatively prosperous 1920s and the desperately difficult early 1930s. (1997; The Days & Years Press, P.O. 10667, Pleasanton, CA 94588; 249 pp.; paper, $14.50; ISBN 0-9645206-4-8.)

Raleigh-area writer Cherry L.F. Johnson's first novel is ***Half Moon Pocosin***, the story of a young farm wife in eastern North Carolina during the Depression. Cindy dreamed of living an independent life as a single teacher, but her parents pushed her into an unrewarding marriage with hardworking, taciturn J.D. Her struggle to live with the farm's isolation, monotony, and hard work is lightened by the companionship of her baby daughter, and what she comes to identify as the sympathetic ghosts of J.D.'s mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. (1997; Academy Chicago Publishers, 363 W. Erie St., Chicago, IL 60610; 167 pp.; cloth, $20.00; ISBN 089733-438-8.)

Public libraries along the coast will have requests for ***Southport: A Novel of Second Chances***, by Edward P. Norvell, a Salisbury attorney, in which young Todd Field leaves home (a tobacco farm in Duplin County) as soon as he finishes high school to escape an alcoholic, abusive father and a sexually predatory farm manager. Hitching a ride to Southport, he gets a job as a hand on a charter boat. After an aborted love affair with a rich girl from Raleigh, he drinks heavily, does drugs, and has a lot of casual sex. Hard work and the love of surrogate family pull Todd out of his slump, and he sobers up, buys his own boat, and marries the daughter of a local seafood restauranteur, resolving to be a better father than his own. This Horatio Alger tale includes as much local history, folklore, and fishing lore as it does story, making it more useful to tourists than your average beach book. (1997; Research Triangle Publishing, PO Box 1130, Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526; 255 pp.; paper, $12.95; ISBN 1-884570-68-2.)

Taste of the Triangle: A Guide to the Finer Restaurants of Raleigh, Durham, Cary and Chapel Hill with Recipes covers 45 restaurants. Author Juli Brown, who has worked in several restaurants as pastry chef, sous-chef, and manager, provides brief descriptions and introductions to the chefs, along with their favorite recipes and wine selections. (1997; Down Home Press, P.O. Box 4126, Asheboro, NC 27204; 224 pp.; paper, $14.95; ISBN 1-878086-56-1.)

Correction: To order *Weavers of Dreams*, from author Paul R.Kearns, M.D. (reviewed Spring 1996), write to 715 Oakdale Dr., Statesville, NC 28677-3447. I apologize for any inconvenience caused by the earlier error in address.

— D. Hodder