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# North Carolina Books

Robert Anthony, Compiler

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✓ Melton A. McLaurin. **Separate Pasts: Growing Up White in the Segregated South.** Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1987. 164 pp. \$13.95. ISBN 0-8203-0943-5.

Melton McLaurin, professor and chairman of the history department at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, is the author of several books and articles on southern history. In those works, he has been the detached observer reporting and analyzing the lives of other people. In **Separate Pasts**, however, he departs from this role and chronicles his own life growing up during the 1950s in Wade, North Carolina, a small town near Fayetteville. As a youth, McLaurin thought Wade was typically American; as a historian, he understands that it was instead "an almost perfect microcosm of the rural and small-town segregated South."

From early adolescence until he entered East Carolina College, McLaurin regularly worked in his grandfather's store. There he met and interacted with a cross section of the black community, and there the inadequacies of the segregationist system became most apparent to him. His chief instructor was Street, a black Jehovah's Witness preacher who sparked an "intellectual revolution" in the young boy with his irrespressible desire to learn, to question, and to impart his faith. From others he learned that the paternalism of his grandfather, one of Wade's "best whites," was not uniformly appreciated; that racism was a barrier that prevented people from sharing common concerns; and that the legacy of guilt was not easily resolved.

McLaurin has done a thorough job re-creating the atmosphere of a sleepy small town poised unwittingly on the brink of change. He balances the need to be critical of the town's racial and economic mores with understanding for the conditions under which those mores developed and from which most townspeople could not escape until challenged by outside forces.

The book is well written and can be read on several levels. For those who lived through the 1950s, it will evoke memories of those times; for historians, it can serve as another, albeit subjective, measure of the costs of segregation; and

for high school students, it may be more suited to helping them understand the reasons why the civil rights movement was needed than textbook accounts of the period.

*Robin Brabham, University of North Carolina at Charlotte*

• Benjamin Swalin. **Hard Circus Road: The Odyssey of the North Carolina Symphony.** Raleigh: The North Carolina Symphony Society, Inc. (P.O. Box 28026, Raleigh, N.C. 27611), 1987. 158 pp. \$24.95, plus \$2.50 postage and handling.

Many years before he wrote his history of the North Carolina Symphony, Benjamin Swalin had chosen his title. One day, while the symphony was visiting a small town, a little girl referred to the "hard circus road" that passed by her house. The symphony had traveled miles and miles over hard surface roads to bring their music to all sections of North Carolina. In his odyssey of the North Carolina Symphony, Swalin tells the story of the building of that symphony from its foundation in 1932 through the meeting of the Ford Foundation Challenge grant in 1971.

Benjamin Swalin and his wife, Maxine, came to the University of North Carolina in the summer of 1935, when he was appointed to teach in the summer session. Originally from Minnesota, Swalin studied violin at Juilliard and earned his doctorate from the University of Vienna. During their first year in Chapel Hill, Maxine went to Radcliffe to work on her master's degree in music. Together, they formed a partnership that kept the North Carolina Symphony moving forward throughout its formative years.

The original idea for a state orchestra came from flutist and composer Lamar Stringfield who, in 1931, had founded the Institute of Folk Music at the University of North Carolina. The North Carolina Symphony Society was incorporated December 31, 1932, and Joseph Hyde Pratt was the society's first president. The first concert was given May 14, 1932, in Chapel Hill.

From the beginning, the orchestra included at least one work by an American composer in each concert. In 1934, the orchestra was awarded a grant from the Emergency Relief Administra-

tion. Difficulties with federal funding arose when the support program was transferred to the Works Progress Administration. This made it impossible for the original orchestra to continue, but Benjamin Swalin began working on reviving the symphony in 1937. Finally, on March 16, 1940, the renewed orchestra gave its first concert in Raleigh. The orchestra owes its rebirth to the enthusiastic support of people like Paul Green and Mrs. Athol C. Burnham, who promoted membership drives all over North Carolina.

Financing the orchestra was a constant challenge. At first the musicians were paid small honoraria. In 1943, the North Carolina legislature passed the "horn-tootin' bill" giving the orchestra its first state support and making it the first symphony orchestra to receive a recurring state appropriation. Along with the appropriation from the North Carolina legislature, the backbone of financial support was the sale of individual memberships across the state, and, in 1961, a symphony ball was begun as a fund-raising event. In 1966, the symphony was chosen as the recipient of a Ford Foundation Challenge grant, receiving \$50,000 per year for five years while raising \$750,000.

The musicians faced other problems as well. They were scattered across the state, and finding a convenient place to rehearse was impossible. Consequently rehearsals were held immediately before concerts were played, or small regional groups would gather to rehearse. The lack of a permanent home was finally resolved in 1975 when the symphony became headquartered in Raleigh.

Nevertheless, the symphony was faithful to its goal of bringing music to all sections of the state. In 1946, young adult as well as adult auditions for soloists were begun, and the Edward B. Benjamin Award for a composition of restful and reposeful music was instituted. Especially important was the program to bring music to the schoolchildren of North Carolina. Adeline McCall developed the program for use in the schools, including teachers' guides and workshops. Each concert included two songs for the children to learn and sing with the symphony. Between 1946 and 1971 the symphony traveled 201,909 miles and gave 1,706 free concerts for 3,356,694 schoolchildren. Swalin describes the adventures of life on the road, with varying accommodations and problems with concert facilities, including occasional surprise appearances by stray dogs.

Benjamin Swalin's **Hard Circus Road** is more than a history of the North Carolina Symphony. It is a memoir of a career spent bringing music to all

of the people of North Carolina. Swalin's warmth and enthusiasm is evident throughout. The book concluded with appendixes listing members of the original orchestra, presidents of the symphony society, and other useful information. The book is illustrated with attractive black and white photographs. **Hard Circus Road** would be a useful addition to all library collections.

*Anne Berkley, Durham County Library*

Wade T. Batson. **Wild Flowers in the Carolinas**. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1987. 153 pp. \$24.95. ISBN 0-87249-504-3 (cloth); \$11.95. 0-87249-505-1 (paper).

Oscar W. Gupton and Fred C. Swope. **Fall Wildflowers of the Blue Ridge and Great Smoky Mountains**. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1987. 208 pp. \$12.95. ISBN 0-8139-1123-0.

It is hard not to love wildflower books—especially if they document the region's flora and will probably turn a profit for their university press publishers. But just as university presses offer academic fare of uneven quality, wildflower books are not all equally useful or even pleasing to the casual naturalist.

**Wild Flowers in the Carolinas** embodies an earlier approach to the genre. Like the twenty-year-old *Wild Flowers of North Carolina* by William S. Justice and C. Ritchie Bell (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1968; reprinted 1987; ISBN 0-8078-4192-7), it is organized by plant families. Justice and Bell's work follows the order presented in the *Manual of the Vascular Flora of the Carolinas* (A. E. Radford, H. E. Ahles, and C. Ritchie Bell, Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1968), with entries keyed to that work for those seeking a detailed technical description. Batson's work apparently uses the *Manual* as a model, but without citing it. The organization by plant families is botanically defensible but difficult for the uninitiated to use for quick identification of an unknown plant. By comparison, excellent works like the *Audubon Society's Field Guide to North American Wildflowers: Eastern Region* (William A. Niering and Nancy C. Olmstead, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1979) are organized visually—by flower color and form—and are much easier to consult. The photographs are keyed to plant descriptions, organized by family.

One can easily forgive authors who published a generation ago when the genre was less sophisticated. And despite its age and inconvenient

organization, Justice and Bell's work is superior to Batson's. Both guides are selective, the earlier offering four hundred plant descriptions, each with a color photograph. The recent work includes more than five hundred descriptions (some brief) but only two hundred color photos. The photographs sometimes lack the clarity and detail in the Justice-Bell work—a serious deficiency for the reader who depends heavily on visual evidence for identification. Wade T. Batson, distinguished emeritus professor of biology at the University of South Carolina, provides a brief (three-plus pages), a glossary of botanical terms, and drawings of flower parts, the latter inferior to Justice and Bell, and inexplicably repetitive (xi-xii). Justice and Bell's introduction is fuller and more informative.

In a modest way, **Wild Flowers in the Carolinas** is useful and attractive. Each entry includes the common and scientific plant name; a physical description, including flowers or fruit; habitat; blooming period; and range. Libraries not concerned about duplicating *Wild Flowers of North Carolina* will want it.

**Fall Wildflowers** sparkles by comparison. Following the example of the Audubon Field Guides, its entries are grouped by fruit color and (uniquely, I believe) organized by order of bloom. Beautifully detailed full-page color photographs accompany its one hundred entries. Entries are a page long and include physical description in non-technical terms (no glossary is needed), as well as the plant's medicinal or culinary value or poisonous nature. Within entries, information on related species is included, expanding coverage to 224 species. Gupton and Swope, members of the department of biology, Virginia Military Institute, and their colleagues at the University Press of Virginia have produced an attractive, well-written volume which belongs in regional natural history collections serving non-specialists. It would be a good companion on a fall hike, and belongs on your gift list come Christmas time.

Marcella Grendler, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Clarence Poe and Charles Aycock Poe. **Poe-Pourri: A North Carolina Cavalcade**. Dallas, Tex: Taylor Publishing Co., 1987. 157 pp. \$11.95. ISBN 0-9618716-0-1.

The Poes, father and son, have succeeded in compiling a lively and unusual collection of vignettes concerning North Carolina. It is a veritable hodge-podge of stories, ranging in subject matter from a biographical sketch of Sir Walter

Raleigh to a discussion of nature and country life in North Carolina. Written in an entertaining as well as an informative style, this volume is destined to take the reader on a picturesque jaunt through time and place. The sketches contained herein provide satisfying and sometimes illuminating glimpses into the lives of some notable people and into the backgrounds of several customs and incidents that have significance in North Carolina.

Those readers already familiar with the life of Sir Walter Raleigh or of Dolley Madison will discover that the Poes, while adding no new information, present their material with a fresh, oftentimes amusing, viewpoint. The authors' solidly researched treatments of these famous figures should give those readers not already acquainted with the glamorous Dolley or with the illustrious career of Raleigh, a pleasurable reading experience. The chapters regarding Washington Duke and Margaret Haulee's experiences among the Indians are particularly well done and enlightening.

The episode entitled "My Three Years as a Shawnee Captive," detailing the adventures of a courageous frontier woman named Margaret Hanley Haulee at the hands of marauding Indians in western Virginia, makes for fascinating reading. Mrs. Haulee, some years after her ordeal, dictated the story of her captivity to a granddaughter, describing life in a Shawnee Indian town near the Ohio River. Her vivid recollections included witnessing what the Indians referred to as a "welcoming," which involved captives being forced to run a gauntlet comprised of Indians armed with clubs and switches, and enduring every blow inflicted upon them. Mrs. Haulee, who had so recently seen her husband fatally shot and her child murdered, was not required to undergo this torture, due to the "compassion of the chief." After three long years of living with the Indians, Mrs. Haulee was redeemed and taken to Pittsburgh; from there, she returned to Virginia. She later married Michael Erskine, and they became the great-great-grandparents of future North Carolina governor J.C.B. Ehringhaus. Margaret Haulee Erskine died at the ripe old age of ninety-two.

Clarence Poe's sketch of Washington Duke presents a clear portrait of a man who grew up in Orange County, North Carolina, with nothing, yet by the end of his life was one of the United States' wealthiest industrialists. In concise language, and utilizing excerpts from Duke's own writing, Poe describes the Duke family's post-Civil War rise in the tobacco industry. Through this vignette, the





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World Wars, and it quickly expanded in the 1920s as progressives urged increasing educational opportunities. In the 1920s, the curriculum grew to include ceramic, chemical, and agricultural engineering. The education, forestry, and graduate schools were also established during this decade, and the first doctoral degrees in rural sociology were awarded.

The depression brought most land grant institutions near the brink of financial disaster, with heavy cuts in salaries and facilities. It also brought the establishment of the consolidated university system in North Carolina, with bitter fights over curriculum areas between North Carolina State and the University of North Carolina. The New Deal, however, also created new programs and expanded research.

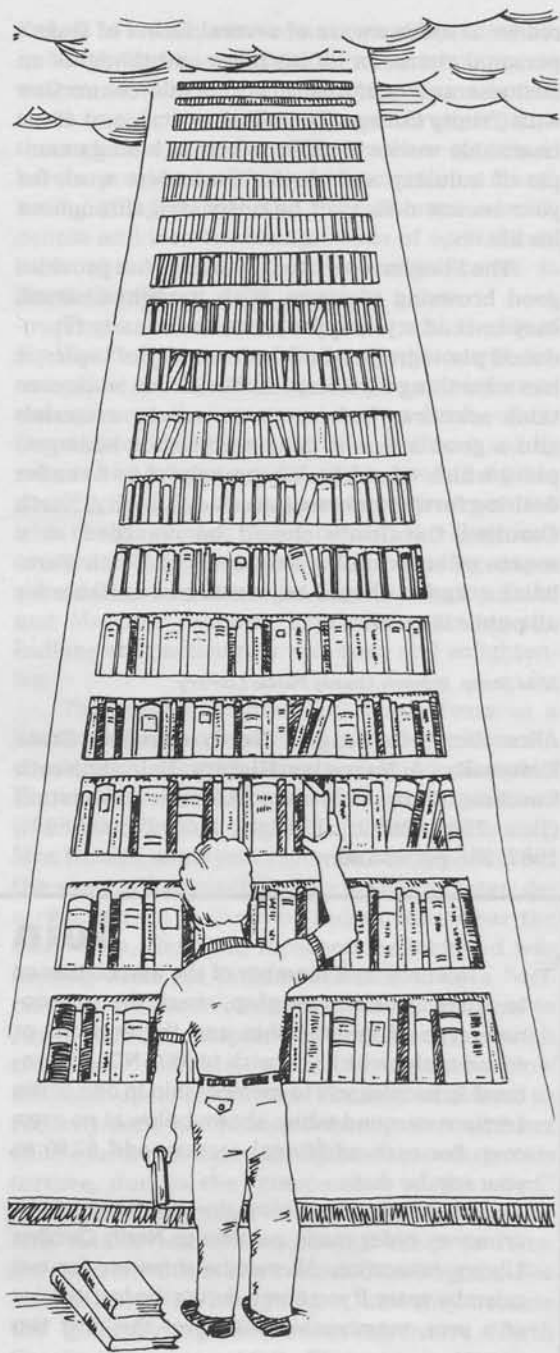
Enrollment exploded after World War II as mature veterans returning to campus created crowded conditions and demanded more student participation in student affairs. During the peak year of 1947, over four thousand veterans attended North Carolina State.

As graduate programs grew, the administration had difficulty persuading consolidated university officials of the need to develop additional programs. One of the most successful programs was headed up by Clifford K. Beck of the Manhattan Project. North Carolina State was the first institution to have a nuclear reactor outside the jurisdiction of the Atomic Energy Commission. The nuclear, chemical, electrical, civil, mechanical, and ceramic engineering programs continued to grow during the 1950s. This decade also saw the establishment of the Research Triangle Institute, with North Carolina State, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Duke University providing support for the development of an industrial research complex.

The 1960s were turbulent times as protests concerning racial integration and the Vietnam War divided the university. Student enrollment grew rapidly, and the physical campus was enlarged. State also developed a full liberal arts program, and student rules were liberalized. Research, grant, and foundation support expanded, and the Research Triangle attracted new science- and medicine-related industries.

In 1971 all fifteen state universities were merged into a single system, with considerable power residing in a central board of governors. The turbulence of the previous two decades subsided, and State underwent another period of sustained growth.

Reagan's volume compresses almost one hundred years of university history into a brief,



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well-written volume, which includes a sound bibliography. The book does, however, lack feeling. By comparison, after reading a similar history of East Carolina University, a reader has a definite feeling and admiration for Robert Wright and Leo Jenkins, the two men who most shaped that school. The reader of Reagan's book also does not learn much about student life during the various stages of State's development.

The photographs for the volume are typical head shots of administrators. These could have been supplemented by visuals showing student life, without duplicating an earlier N.C. State pictorial history.

Academic libraries, nevertheless, should consider purchasing this book because of its sound research, and public libraries will find the volume of interest to State alumni.

*Morgan J. Barclay, East Carolina University*

Jan DeBlieu. **Hatteras Journal**. Golden, Colo.: Fulcrum, Inc., 1987. 181 pp. \$15.95. ISBN 1-55591-010-6.

In 1985, author DeBlieu moved to the Outer Banks and took up residence in Rodanthe on Hatteras Island. She kept a journal as she studied the natural history, ecology, flora and fauna which populate Hatteras. This lovely book is the result.

The book opens with a fierce storm. DeBlieu writes about the history and background of the island as she waits for the nor'easter to blow through. This is a fitting analogy for the precarious life one must live on Hatteras, "little more than well-developed shoals colonized by a few hardy species of plants." Much of the book deals with stories of the fiercely independent and self-reliant people who inhabit this island. We read about the shipwrecks and lifesaving crews of old, the women who hand-tied fishing nets, and we learn about today's watermen, storekeepers, meteorologists, and wildlife researchers.

Environmental concerns feature prominently in this book. DeBlieu takes us to Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge to count nesting tern eggs. We also learn how a craze for feathers in the millinery trade of the 1870s depleted flocks of the lovely egrets, herons, and terns. We travel south to Bald Head to observe the endangered loggerhead turtles crawl up the beach to lay a clutch of eggs, which volunteers will immediately move to safer ground. DeBlieu addresses the chronic reality of beach erosion and human attempts to thwart it. She notes the price Hatteras is paying for com-

mercial development, both on the island and farther inland. Logging for pulpwood and draining swamps for farmland affects water run-off, which affects salinity in the sound, which in turn jeopardizes wildlife. Construction of beach resorts and exclusive homes will render the traditional Outer Banks lifestyle obsolete and quaint.

This eminently readable book will appeal not only to armchair travelers and vacationers who love the Outer Banks, but it will also serve students of ecology, conservation, natural history, and wildlife. It is recommended for high school, college, and public libraries, and special North Carolina collections. Index, map, and bibliography appended.

*Patrice Ebert, Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County*

Jacqueline Burgin Painter. **The Season of Dorland-Bell: History of an Appalachian Mission School**. Asheville: Biltmore Press (Orders to Author, 12 Jones Street, Sylva, N.C. 28779), 1987. 304 pp. \$24.95 (cloth); \$18.50, plus \$1.25 postage and handling (paper).

Ms. Painter's first book is a good read and a valuable addition to the history of Hot Springs, Madison County, and of Presbyterian mission schools in western North Carolina. The Dorland-Bell school, started by Luke Dorland and taken over by the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church, USA, educated western North Carolina girls from 1887 to 1942 and boys until 1926. Jacqueline Painter, whose father was a student at Dorland-Bell, has written a fascinating history of the school, the missionaries, the students, and their families. A picture emerges of the town of Hot Springs, a fashionable resort surrounded by rural mountain communities, before public schools existed in the area, and of the changes with the arrival of schools and roads.

Dorland started as an elementary school with many students in their teens since there had been no schools in the county. When public schools were established for the lower grades, Dorland-Bell became a high school. In the early years, students were taught reading, writing, arithmetic, Bible, agriculture, domestic arts, and nursing. Natural science was taught using local flora and fauna. Study was made as interesting as possible to encourage students to stay at the school, but those who used tobacco or whiskey were sent home.

The missionary teachers were hardworking and demanded hard work from their pupils. They



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were concerned that the young people in their charge follow their concept of a moral social life, yet they valued opportunities for fun. For example, the Christmas program with Santa Claus, toys, and a Christmas tree was so important that in 1903, when smallpox closed the school for December, the gift giving was done in February by St. Valentine. Commencement exercises were a time for families to gather, spend the night, and enjoy the program and party atmosphere. Women and some of the men were housed in the school; others slept in their wagons.

Julia Phillips, headmistress (1887-1914), showed understanding of the local barter economy, wisely trading clothes from "mission barrels" for school provisions. This encouraged the development of a market for farmers and craft workers and gave them added incentive to increase production, thereby improving living standards. Julia Phillips pioneered; Lucy Shafer, proving to be a capable teacher and administrator, (1914-1923) expanded the campus and carried on the farm. Lindsay Hadley, as superintendent from 1923 to 1926, relaxed social restrictions. Ruth Taylor (1927-1942) kept the school afloat during the Depression and financial problems at the Presbyterian Board. When rumors came that Dorland-Bell might be closed, she courageously waged a campaign to raise funds and publicize the need for the school while stretching the food budget until the decision to close was final.

The book contains numerous photos of students and an appendix which lists students and staff and gives short histories of county families. It also includes a catalogue from the Bell Institute at Walnut.

It is good to read the story of a mission school from the viewpoint of a member of a western North Carolina family, an author who shows the strengths and errors of the missionaries and their need for help from local people. Although a bibliography of the many sources Ms. Painter refers to in the book and an index would have been useful additions, *The Season of Dorland-Bell* is appropriate for libraries collecting material on western North Carolina, missions, and women's history.

Barbara Hempleman, Warren Wilson College

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John Lane Idol, Jr. *A Thomas Wolfe Companion*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1987. 205 pp. \$37.50. ISBN 0-313-23829-4.

John Idol, professor of English at Clemson University, provides in this short volume an extremely useful guide to the life and writings of Thomas Wolfe. Though designed for those who are just beginning to read Wolfe, this book doubtless will be bought and used often by Wolfe devotees as well.

The book includes a chronology of Wolfe's life; a bibliography of his published writings; and short chapters on his life, themes in his writings, his editors, and his critics. About forty pages are devoted to a descriptive and analytic bibliography of the works. For each work, Idol provides standard bibliographic information, a statement about current availability, and comments on structure, themes, symbols, and critical reception. Idol's essays are not meant to be exhaustive, so he suggests appropriate sources of further information. A glossary of character and place names is helpful to both the beginner, who is not quite sure who Esther Jack is, and to those more experienced readers who simply want to check a minor place name. Appendixes include a brief but useful listing of sources of information about Wolfe and an annotated bibliography of secondary works. There is an index.

*A Thomas Wolfe Companion* brings together basic information about Wolfe's life and work and will indeed become a companion to anyone reading Wolfe. As one who deals continually with materials by and about Wolfe, I welcome this new reference guide. It is well done, and it was needed. This book would be an appropriate addition to school libraries serving sixth grade and above and to all Tar Heel public and academic libraries.

Alice R. Cotten, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

### Other Publications of Interest

Sir Walter Raleigh, best known to Tar Heels for his role in organizing English colonizing efforts along what is now the North Carolina coast, was a multifaceted man. Soldier, sailer, courtier, politician, poet, historian, as well as explorer, he has long fascinated students of Elizabethan English history and culture. *Sir Walter Raleigh, an Annotated Bibliography*, compiled by Christopher M. Armitage (University of North Carolina Press, 1987, 236 pp., \$14.95, ISBN 0-8078-1757-0, cloth), provides clear proof of that continuing interest. This exhaustive annotated bibliography contains

approximately two thousand items arranged into chapters—i.e., works written by or attributed to Raleigh, biographies of him, and treatments of Raleigh in painting, music, fiction, and poetry. There is also an index to the entries by author or selected topic.

The University of North Carolina Press has also recently published **A Guide to Ocean Dune Plants Common to North Carolina**, written and illustrated by E. Jean Wilson Kraus (1988, 72 pp., \$4.50, ISBN 0-8078-4212-5, paper). After a short discussion of the ocean dune environment and how certain plants can survive there, the author gives brief descriptions and other facts about, plus illustrations to help identify, more than fifty trees, shrubs, vines, herbs, and grasses.

Although published some time ago, **The History of the Piedmont League (1920-1955)**, by David F. Chrisman, is still available for purchase (Author, 717 Milford Mill Road, Pikesville, Md. 21208, 226 pp., \$10.95, paper). Initially a North Carolina-dominated circuit, the league at various times included as member cities Asheville, Charlotte, Durham, Greensboro, Henderson, High Point, Raleigh, Rocky Mount, Salisbury, Wilmington, and Winston-Salem. Chrisman describes pennant races and star athletes, batting averages and team locations and relocations, and concludes with eleven pages of statistics on teams and individual players.

The Historical Publications Section of the North Carolina Division of Archives and History (109 E. Jones Street, Raleigh, N.C. 27611) has recently released **Addresses and Public Papers of James Baxter Hunt, Jr., Governor of North Carolina, Vol. II, 1981-1985**. This 745-page volume, the latest in the Division's series of governors' documentaries that began with Thomas W. Bickett (1917-1921), covers Hunt's second term. It includes his inaugural address, messages to the General Assembly, selected speeches and statements, and a roster of executive orders. Also included is a register of political appointments for both Hunt terms. Libraries may request copies at no charge, but are asked to submit \$2.00 for mailing costs.

As part of its Young Authors Project, the North Carolina Council of the International Reading Association this past winter gathered eight thousand recipes and stories and poems about food from schoolchildren across the state. Selecting the works of about two hundred fifty young

authors and illustrators, the Council then produced **Seasoned with Love: Stories, Poems, and Recipes with that Tar Heel Flavor** (Orders to Cris Crissman, Central Regional Education Center, 2431 Crabtree Blvd., Raleigh, N.C. 27604, 1988, 74 pp., \$8.00, plus \$1.00 postage, paper). Recipes range from catfish stew to "creamed monkey meat on toast" and, along with the stories and poems, offer a sample not only of Tar Heel cuisine, but also of the humor, legends, and loving ties between generations that characterize the people of the state.

## Honorary and Life Membership in NCLA

The 1988-1989 Honorary and Life Membership Committee requests your recommendations for persons you consider worthy to be honorary or life members of NCLA. Suggestions should be accompanied by a biographical sketch, including contributions to libraries or librarianship. These suggestions should be sent to the Committee Chairperson by January 31, 1989.

The NCLA by-laws provide for the Honorary and Life Membership Committee to seek suggestions from all members and to recommend names for these honors to the Executive Board at the Spring Workshop prior to the Conference.

Criteria for selection are as follows:

1. Honorary memberships may be given to non-librarians in the State who have rendered important services to the library interests of North Carolina. Honorary memberships should be given at a time considered appropriate in relation to the contribution made.
2. Life memberships may be given to librarians who have served as members of the North Carolina Library Association and who have made noteworthy contributions to librarianship in the State. These memberships are limited to librarians who have retired.
3. Contributions of both groups should have been beyond the local level.

Please send your recommendations to:

Waltrene Canada, Chair  
Honorary and Life Membership Committee  
F. D. Bluford Library  
NC A&T State University  
1601 E. Market Street  
Greensboro, NC 27411