

NEW CAROLINA BOOKS

LEGETTE BLYTHE. *Call Down the Storm*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1958. 320 pp. \$3.95.

This is LeGette Blythe's fifth novel. In it he has both a story to tell and a serious point to make. In 1876 young Claiborne Cardell comes home from medical school to begin his practice and to take over the management of the family place, "Holly Grove," near Hortonsville (Huntersville, N. C.). He hires Sarah Gordon, a quadroon, to be his cook and housekeeper. It is after he loses out in his courtship of Melissa Osborne that trouble really starts for Claiborne. Sarah has twins, the doctor loses his friends, he takes to drinking too much, his practice doesn't amount to anything, and the plantation itself goes from bad to worse. Sarah and the doctor raise an octoroon family, but tragedy surrounds the lives of all of them. Only the daughter Cleo leaves "Holly Grove" and thus escapes the sin of miscegenation. From here the story passes through the years to the present when a great-granddaughter of Cleo's and a descendant of Melissa's meet in the Hortonsville of today. He is a liberal, and she is opposed to integration. Herein lies the author's moral.

ROBERT A. BOWEN. *Tall In The Sight Of God*. Winston-Salem: John F. Blair, Publisher, 1958. 372 pp. \$4.95.

In 1771, after the Battle of Alamance, Ajax Arvane decides to move to the mountains of Western North Carolina. He obtains Modesty Valley from the Indians more or less illegally and moves his family to their new home. It is due largely to his ambition that the valley progresses so well. Three generations later his great-grandson, Robin Arvane, follows in Ajax's footsteps. His first big job is to fight in the Confederate Army, and he proves himself an able soldier and officer. After the war he uses his energy and ambition to lead the valley in rebuilding. Along with such serious matters as raising a family and operating a country store, Robin has time for lighter pastimes. Mr. Bowen, an Asheville newspaper man who died on August 14, has pictured an interesting family and valley in a struggle for survival.

BETH G. CRABTREE. *North Carolina Governors, 1585-1958, Brief Sketches*. Raleigh: State Department of Archives and History, 1958. 137 pp. ports. \$1.50.

These brief biographical sketches of all of North Carolina's governors are a welcome addition to a growing collection of North Carolina reference books. Pictures, where one is known, illustrate the sketches. A very useful summary table at the beginning of the book gives the names of all governors, dates of birth and death, place of birth and burial, residence, occupation, term of office, and party affiliation. The arrangement of the sketches within the book is chronological, but an alphabetical "Contents" serves as an index.

JONATHAN DANIELS. *Prince of Carpetbaggers*. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1958. 319 pp. port. \$4.95.

Here is the fascinatingly-told story of a gentleman carpetbagger — "Prince of Bums," he was called. General Milton S. Littlefield, late of Sherman's Army, joined with some respectable Southerners to exploit not only the South, but Yankees, Englishmen, and even Dutchmen. After the climax on Black Friday, September 24, 1869, involving not only the New York brokerage houses but the South as well, both sides were glad to forget him. Of this book Bruce Catton has written: "I think you did a really first-rate job not only in describing General Littlefield's career but in bringing to light the usually ignored factors that were operating during the

carpetbag era. We need to get a much clearer picture of that rather dreadful period . . . and I know of nothing that succeeds so well in making the whole thing understandable, and in presenting it as a significant chapter in American history, as your book does."

HARRY GOLDEN. *Only in America*. Cleveland: The World Publishing Company, 1958. 317 pp. \$4.00.

Charlotte's Harry Golden has written a book which reached the top place on the nation's non-fiction best seller list. "Harry Golden could happen only in America," Adlai Stevenson has written. "Where else could a Jew from New York's lower East Side turn up in such a place as Charlotte, North Carolina, with his effervescent *Carolina Israelite*? Mr. Golden's lively personal journal always leaves me in a gale of mirth or with a knitted brow — or both! This heavy thinker with a light heart is one of America's secret weapons, and I commend his book to all who seek like and joy." Here are nearly two hundred short articles, comments, observations, or recollections on nearly as many subjects. Some are humorous, some are serious, others quite factual, but all are interesting and reveal something of the American who wrote them.

WILLIAM G. HAAG. *The Archeology of Coastal North Carolina*. Baton Rouge, La.: Louisiana State University Press, 1958. 136 pp. illus. \$3.00.

This is the second of the Coastal Studies Series under the general editorship of James P. Morgan of the Louisiana State University. In 1954 the Coastal Studies Institute contracted to make a comprehensive survey of the Cape Hatteras area of the Carolina coast. The work was to include the archeology, cultural geography, botany, coastal morphology, and geology of the region. Here we have a detailed report, together with pictures, of the work on Hatteras, Ocracoke, Bodie, Colington, and Roanoke Islands, and along Albemarle Sound and the Neuse River.

S. HUNTINGTON HOBBS, JR. *North Carolina, An Economic And Social Profile*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1958. 380 pp. Tables \$6.00.

This fact-filled source book brings together information on North Carolina's human and natural resources, economic progress, and institutions. From the geology of the Blue Ridge to the fisheries of the coast; from the methods of processing pulp to the number of wage earners in the tobacco industry; from the number and kinds of colonial settlers to the problems of present-day tenant farmers — all are presented here.

How much of the Piedmont — the most heavily industrialized section of North Carolina — is still in forest land? What is the kilowatt potential of the state's water resources? What is its tax structure? When can the farmer expect rain, and when can he look for the first frost-free days? Who are the people of the Coastal Plain, and what do they do for a living? What are their possibilities for the future? Is North Carolina getting the most out of her farm land? When did the state's textile industry get its start, and who started it? The answers to these and many, many more questions are contained in this book.

"The chief purpose of this book," Professor Hobbs points out in the Preface, "is to present North Carolina as accurately and as faithfully as possible. There is no intention unjustly to criticize nor is there any attempt to glamorize the state. Throughout the book the author has attempted to offer constructive suggestions."

FRANCES BENJAMIN JOHNSTON AND THOMAS TILESTON WATERMAN. *The Early Architecture of North Carolina*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina

Press, (1958). 290 pp. Maps, illus. \$15.00.

Originally published in 1941, and having been out of print for the past five years, the appearance of this book, newly set from type but with the same handsome photographs which made the initial printing so popular, is an occasion worthy of a celebration.

It is a scholarly yet completely readable history of the development of building design and construction in North Carolina from the early eighteenth century to the end of the 1850's. Over 280 superb photographs made by the late Frances Benjamin Johnston illustrate the text by Mr. Waterman, an architectural historian. Diagrams of buildings and reproductions of contemporary maps of some early North Carolina towns help to tell the story of our building to the fullest.

Some new material has been added in this printing on Tryon's Palace and a few of the captions have been altered.

OSCAR THEODORE BARCK, JR., AND HUGH TALMAGE LEFLER. *Colonial America*. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1958. 767 pp. \$7.50.

It is, of course, the magic name of Hugh T. Lefler which makes this a "North Carolina book." While an "outsider" probably would not be aware of it, North Carolina comes in for its full share of consideration. The sixteenth century attempts to settle our coast are related in the chapter on "The Beginnings of English Colonization," and there is a chapter devoted wholly to "The Carolina Proprietary."

Much new material, the result of scholarly investigation during the past few years, has been incorporated in this new history of the colonial period. And the book is organized differently than the usual history; for instance, there are chapters on such interesting topics as "The Labor Problem in the Colonies," "Colonial Travel, Transportation, and Trade," "The Life and Interests of the Colonists," and "Revolutionary Local and State Governments."

A classified bibliography as well as bibliographies by chapter, plus a detailed index, combine to make this a useful reference tool as well as a readable history.

BEN DIXON MACNEILL. *The Hatterasman*. Winston-Salem: John F. Blair, Publisher, 1958. 276 pp. Drawings. \$5.00.

We became enamored of this book even before opening the front cover. The dust jacket is attractive and printed in just the proper bluish-green hues appropriate for a book about Hatteras. The book itself is equally appropriately bound in greyish-green cloth with one of the delightful Claude Howell sketches on the front cover. Other Howell sketches decorate the headings of each chapter as well as the title-pages — for the first double spread is devoted to the title. Until we are faced with visible evidence to the contrary, we declare this to be the most beautiful book so far produced in North Carolina. Heritage Printers, Inc., of Charlotte did the printing.

Finally, in his own homespun style Ben Dixon MacNeill gives us his impression of Hatteras and the people who live and have lived there. It's a delightful combination of fact and fiction, of folklore and history. A review in *Newsweek* called it "a story that is as fresh as the wind off the ocean."

ARCHIBALD RUTLEDGE. *From the Hills to the Sea, Fact and Legend of the Carolinas*. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Company, Inc., 1958. 201 pp. \$4.50.

The subtitle explains the contents of the book which the author tells us is made up "from stories told me by members of my family, by friends, by dwellers in the deep woods and the wild mountains, by plantation Negroes. I do not insist on the veracity of every word. Many of the details I have introduced may not hew exactly to the line. The past fades, details escape us, and we have to reconstruct as best we can."

Both Carolinas, of course, figure in Mr. Rutledge's latest book but the following are strictly North Carolina in interest: "Cherokee Princess," "The Lost Colony," "Alas for Theodosia," "Was He Marshal Ney?" "The Rose of Sharon," "Blood on the Mountain Laurels," and "The Baffling Bald Mountains."

INA WOESTEMEYER VAN NOPPEN. *The South, A Documentary History*. Princeton, N. J.: D. Van Nostrand Company, Inc., 1958. 564 pp. \$6.75.

Dr. Van Noppen is a professor of history at Appalachian State Teachers College. She has compiled a fascinating collection of source materials to produce an interesting, easy-to-read, and often exciting first-hand account of Southern life from 1528 to the present. The author's brief introduction to each section and document lets the reader know precisely what he is studying and how it relates to other materials.

As the first volume ever devoted to a documentary history of the South, this book illustrates the significant role which the South has played in American development. It clearly traces the changes which have occurred in Southern society.

The readings are taken from diaries, letters, fiction, travel books, and speeches. There are sections devoted to such topics as "Education in the Old South," "Literature in the Old South," "Bourbon Rule," "Progress in Industry and Agriculture," "The Farmers' Revolt," "The Southern Negro," and "The South Has Changed." An extensive bibliography and an index complete the book.