

NEW CAROLINA BOOKS

JANE BARRY. *The Carolinians*. Garden City, New York: Doubleday & Company, 1959. 318 pp. \$3.95.

This is Mrs. Barry's second novel, but her first with a Carolina setting. Although she lives on a farm on the Hudson River, the author spent three years in historical research as she prepared to write this story of Loyalists and rebels in Carolina during the American Revolution. Both Carolinas figure in the plot and families with divided loyalties are the theme for the story. The Battle of Guilford Court House is the culminating scene for many dramatic events.

JAMES S. BRAWLEY. *Old Rowan, Views and Sketches*. Salisbury: The Author, Box 1234, 1959. 32 pp. \$2.00 (\$1.00 to libraries) Paper covers.

Interesting pictures and drawings of houses, churches, and public buildings from Rowan County's past illustrate a running text which takes the reader on a historical tour of the county. Some of the pictures are recent, revealing the loving care which has been lavished on many of the buildings. Others are old views, in some cases of buildings no longer standing. Aside from being an attractive picture-book, this brochure is an example of a means of presenting local history which might well serve as a model for writers in other Tar Heel counties. It also restores our faith in Rowan County and Salisbury in particular; the recent destruction of a number of interesting old buildings in and near the business center of that county seat might have been taken as an indication of a lack of interest in things historic. We see now that much is left, and we hope that this study will impress upon those concerned that reminders of our past are worthy of preservation.

CLAIR A. BROWN. *Vegetation of the Outer Banks of North Carolina*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1959. 179 pp. \$3.00. Paper covers.

By way of introduction to this study there is a fascinating historical discussion of the Outer Banks, particularly in connection with the early forests and with the more recent beach erosion work. The botanical-ecological reconnaissance, of which this is a report, was made with two points of view in mind: (1) habitats — sea beach, dunes, sand flats, tidal marshes, and ponds; and (2) geographic locations — Ocracoke Island, Roanoke Island, Currituck Peninsula, and Currituck Banks. Separate sections of the report are devoted to Cape Hatteras, to salt spray injury, and to plant materials used for sand binding. Finally there is a catalogue of plants observed on the Outer Banks during August of 1955. There are fifty illustrations with full explanatory captions.

INGLIS FLETCHER. *Pay, Pack, and Follow, The Story of My Life*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1959. 308 pp. \$4.50.

Mrs. Fletcher's Tar Heel friends will be glad to have this autobiography; it proves that the stories we have long heard about the exciting life she lived before coming "home" to us are true. Her kind words and obvious love for this state will endear her all the more to those of us who have followed with interest the development of her series of novels dealing with early North Carolina. But whatever one's connections are with Inglis Fletcher and her books, this volume can stand on its

own merits. It is a readable autobiography of one whose early days were spent "in an atmosphere which retained a degree of elegance carried over from Victorian and Edwardian days," whose early life was spent in mining camps (hence the title), and who has travelled widely both at home and abroad. The flowing, readable style of the novelist is admirably suited to autobiography, and Mrs. Fletcher's latest book is truly one that is hard to put down.

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DOROTHY KOCH. *Let It Rain!* New York: Holiday House, 1959. [25] pp. \$2.95.

Mrs. Koch, a native of Ahsokie and a Chapel Hill elementary school teacher, has written another delightful little story for young children. A boy and girl find things in the house with which to amuse themselves on a rainy day and finally go outside to explore mud puddles, raindrops, and wet trees for themselves. "This is a book," the jacket tells us, "that will help children form a sound attitude toward the events of nature."

Large type and handsome colored illustrations will lead the young reader along.

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RUTH L. MACE. *Guidebook for Trustees of North Carolina Public Libraries*. Chapel Hill: Institute of Government, 1959. 88 pp. \$2.00 (10% discount on 5 or more copies).

Miss Mace, a member of the staff of the Institute of Government, has drawn up a guidebook which will fill a long standing need. An introduction presents some of the highlights in the history of North Carolina's public libraries. Separate chapters are devoted to the following topics: The Board of Trustees: Selection, Duties and Responsibilities, Conduct of Board Meetings; The Goal of the Board, A 'Good Library,' and What Constitutes a 'Good Library?'; The Board's Operating Framework: Law and Government; Financing the Library; and Control of the Library; Policy Considerations Which the Board Will Face. Appendices present the text of the general North Carolina state library law and other pertinent legislation, a bibliography of useful books for a trustee, sample by-laws, and a sample performance budget.

This *Guidebook* is the result of cooperation among several groups — the North Carolina Association of Library Trustees, a committee of the Public Libraries Section of the North Carolina Library Association, members of the State Library staff, and members of the staff of the Institute of Government. The generous assistance of the Institute in making this trustee publication available as one of its regular guidebook series is a great asset to the public library program of North Carolina.

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NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION. *Reference Materials for School Libraries*. Raleigh: The Department, 1959. 109 pp. .50¢ Paper covers.

This bulletin is designed to serve as a guide to principals, teachers, and librarians in selecting and using reference materials in North Carolina schools. It describes recommended reference materials including dictionaries, encyclopedias, yearbooks, directories, handbooks, indexes, bibliographies, textbooks, manuals, atlases, and many individual volumes on varied subjects. The approximately 700 titles are arranged by subject according to the Dewey Decimal classification. Within each subject area, titles on varying levels of difficulty are included. A special section presents North Carolina material. This bulletin was prepared under the direction of Cora Paul Bomar,

State School Library Adviser, and her assistant, Mary Frances Kennon, with further assistance from Beatrice Holbrook, librarian of the Hugh Morson Junior High School, Raleigh.

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TALMAGE POWELL. *The Smasher*. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1959. 148 pp. \$2.95.

This is the first book of an Asheville writer who has had about 400 short stories and novelettes in nationally circulated magazines. It is a novel of suspense, the story of a husband's search for the killer of his wife.

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HUGH F. RANKIN. *North Carolina in The American Revolution*. Raleigh: State Department of Archives and History, 1959. 75 pp. .50¢ Paper covers.

This is one of a series of publications of the Department of Archives and History designed to meet the request of citizens of the state, largely public school pupils, for information about various aspects of our history. The author is a North Carolinian, a candidate for the Ph. D. degree in history at the University of North Carolina, and a member of the history faculty of Tulane University. He has written a concise, scholarly, and readable account of North Carolina in the American Revolution. A number of interesting illustrations are included and there is a list of books for additional reading. It will perhaps be considered especially worthwhile that the author has identified in parentheses (by its modern name or nearest modern town) those places mentioned in the text by their earlier names.

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LEOLA MYRICK ROSS and PAUL S. BALLANCE, editors. *Guide to North Carolina's Periodical Literature*. Winston-Salem: The Editors, Box 356, Salem Station, 1959. 157 pp. \$5.00. Paper covers.

This is a continuation of the very valuable series begun in 1946 and which ended in 1949 after the appearance of four volumes. It is subtitled "A Cumulative Author and Subject Index Covering Material in North Carolina Publications From January 1955 Thru December 1957." Fifty-three periodicals are indexed by author and subject. Most of the material indexed, naturally, relates to North Carolina, but non-North Carolina material is also included since this is an index of North Carolina-published periodicals and not just of North Carolina subjects.

The usefulness of this index to all librarians is readily apparent. We are all indebted to Mrs. Ross and Mr. Ballance, both librarians themselves, for their service to us.

An examination of the index reveals a few "kinks" which experience may help the editors eliminate. Book reviews, for example, are entered under the name of the reviewer and under the subject BOOK REVIEWS. But nowhere is the author indicated. North Carolina History and its various subdivisions apparently is ignored completely by the indexers. An article on the Battle of Bentonville by Jay Luvaas in the *North Carolina Historical Review*, for instance, is indexed under Luvaas and Bentonville, but there is no entry at all under CIVIL WAR or any related subject which it has occurred to us to examine.

An occasional indication of an error which may have resulted from haste may be seen. Hugh T. Lefler's article entitled "A Description of 'Carolana'" is entered as "A Description of Carolina," and so far as is readily evident there are no subject entries for the very valuable historical document represented by this title.

Under the subject LEGENDS we find a reference to an article "How Ocracoke got its name" and another entitled simply "Jugtown." These two articles do not appear, however, under the respective subject entries OCRACOE and JUGTOWN. But there are author entries for both articles. Indexing is, indeed, a tricky business.

A little more care in proofreading would have resulted in a more attractive index, and we hope the experience gained in preparing this volume will result in more carefully prepared indexes yet to come.

HENRY SAVAGE, JR. *Seeds of Time*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1959. 312 pp. \$4.50.

Mr. Savage, a retired Camden, S. C., lawyer is also the author of *River of the Carolinas: The Santee*. In his present book, as its subtitle indicates, he attempts to give us "The Background of Southern Thinking." In a very clever fashion he summarizes Southern history in a series of chapters with such titles as "The South Becomes Part of the World," "The South Becomes Part of a New Nation," "The South Becomes a Kingdom," "The South Becomes a Nation," "The South Becomes a Conquered Province," "The South Becomes a State of Mind," "The South Becomes the New South," and so on. Against the broad sweep of Southern history, which Mr. Savage obviously knows well, there is much detail. It is his purpose to probe "the complex and curiously tangled roots of Southern thinking, roots buried deep in political, economic, and social history." It is reminiscent of Wilbur J. Cash's *The Mind of the South*.

As has happened before, the early history of what became North Carolina is slighted. We are led to believe that the first settlement in the Lords Proprietors' province of Carolina was made at Charleston in 1669. The creek on which the Regulators met Governor Tryon's colonial troops in battle is called "Alamance River." And a careless indexer has misspelled General Greene's given name. These minor flaws, though, will in no wise detract from the value of Mr. Savage's penetrating study of the background of the South's present state of mind.

GEORGE F. SCHEER and HUGH F. RANKIN. *Rebels and Redcoats*. New York: The New American Library, 1959. 629 pp. .75¢ Paper covers.

This is a complete reprint of the book which appeared in a hardcover edition in 1957. Both authors are North Carolinians and, although the whole story of the Revolution is here told in the words of participants, there is much about North Carolina.

MANLY WADE WELLMAN. *Ride, Rebels!* New York: Ives Washburn, Inc., 1959. 180 pp. \$2.95.

Chapel Hill author Wellman gives us here the second book in a trilogy about the gallant exploits of Clay Buckner and the other Confederate Iron Scouts of Jeb Stuart's cavalry scouts. In a story for young people he tells of the action during 1864 in Northern Virginia. Mr. Wellman, an expert on the period and a master storyteller, gives the reader an interesting insight into how the Civil War was fought.

DANIEL JAY WHITENER. *North Carolina History*. Oklahoma City: Harlow Publishing Corporation, 1958. 291 pp. \$3.68.

This volume was written to be used as a textbook in North Carolina history, but it was not adopted by the Textbook Commission. It is arranged by Units with questions and projects following each unit. A bibliography arranged by unit makes up Appendix I. The Index must be used with caution. Apparently nothing between pages 152 and 180, the sections dealing with the Civil War ("War for Southern Independence," it is called) and Reconstruction is indexed. Numerous black and white illustrations, some of them not exactly pertinent to the subject, are included.