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Book Reviews

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General Leonidas Polk, C. S. A., The Fighting Bishop. By Joseph H. Parks. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1962. x, 408 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, critical essay on authorities, index. \$7.50.)

This volume is both the story of a man's life and an interpretation of Union and Confederate military operations on the western front.

Leonidas Polk was a native of North Carolina and a cousin of James K. Polk. Soon after his graduation from West Point, where he was "the first cadet ever to kneel during services in the Academy chapel," Polk resigned his commission and entered the Episcopal ministry. Successively, he was a planter in Tennessee, the Episcopal missionary bishop in the Southwest, first Episcopal bishop of Louisiana, and the principal initiator in founding the University of the South at Sewanee, Tennessee.

Although Polk was devoid of active military experience, he conscientiously accepted an appointment by Jefferson Davis in June, 1861, as a major general in the Confederate army. His first significant military act was the unauthorized seizure of Columbus, Kentucky, subsequently sanctioned by President Davis. After commanding troops at Shiloh and in the Kentucky campaign, Polk was promoted to lieutenant general and was engaged in the battles of Stone's River and Chickamauga. Because of heedless exposure to enemy fire, he was killed at Pine Mountain, Georgia, in June, 1864.

By devoting approximately the first half of the biography to Polk's early life and ecclesiastical career, Professor Parks affords the reader an understanding of the bishop-general's heredity, characteristics, family relations, and motivations. In appraising Polk's military achievements, the author concludes that "Polk was a competent corps commander"; but the account of the fighting bishop's three years as an army officer is so interwoven with the general narrative that it is difficult to determine the degree of Polk's competence.

The author is best in his vivid description of the military movements. Reflecting intensive research, the book contains excellent maps and illustrations.

T. CONN BRYAN

North Georgia College

Josephus Daniels Says: An Editor's Political Odyssey From Bryan to Wilson to FDR, 1894-1913. By Joseph L. Morrison. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1962. x, 281 pp. Notes, bibliography, index. \$7.50.)

While the colorful Marse Henry Watterson, editor of the *Louisville Courier-Journal*, and Henry W. Grady, the enterprising editor of the *Atlanta Constitution*, have been considered journalistic spokesmen for the South in the post-Civil War period, Josephus Daniels comes into his rightful place with this detailed biography of the publisher-editor of the *Raleigh News and Observer*. Professor Morrison, of the School of Journalism of the University of North Carolina, has shown what an influential powerhouse Daniels became in his state. A vigorous crusader against the trusts and the railroads, an exponent of tax-supported universities, Daniels was also a key figure in the Democratic party. He led it away from "bourbon" conservatism down the path of liberalism, meeting the challenge of the new economic era at the turn of the century.

It may be that the Negro issue and Daniels' leadership in the white supremacy campaign kept him from being identified nationally as the South's outstanding liberal, but he supported William Jennings Bryan in every campaign and then became a leading advocate of Woodrow Wilson for president. Daniels became nationally recognized as Secretary of the Navy during Wilson's term and later he served as ambassador to Mexico under Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The Morrison biography traces Daniels' life from the time he lived in Wilson, N. C., where his mother was postmistress. Her early influence on his religious and moral thinking and her stimulation of his literary interest are described. Josephus decided early to become a newsman, becoming publisher with his brother of the weekly *Wilson Advance*. Although he attended the University of North Carolina Law School, journalism beckoned, and he began publishing in 1885 the weekly *State Chronicle* in Raleigh. In spite of Daniels' exceptional business ability, he could not make the *Chronicle* succeed as a daily. In fact, he took a government job in Washington to help keep the weekly on its journalistic feet. By 1894 he had the opportunity to purchase, with

a wealthy partner, the *Raleigh News and Observer*, on which he had his eye for some time. Enterprising, hardworking, Daniels drove up circulation until the daily became the largest-circulation paper in the state.

While Dr. Morrison mentions the fact that Daniels liked the William Randolph Hearst paper, the *New York Journal*, a study will show that Daniels was, indeed, the North Carolina version of the crusading yellow journalists of the period—Hearst and Joseph Pulitzer, publisher-editor of the *New York World*. For, while Hearst was battling the railroads in California and New York and Pulitzer was attacking the trusts in St. Louis and New York, Daniels conducted similar campaigns in the South. Morrison might have linked up Daniels with these national figures to show that his journalism was part of a nationwide trend and pattern. These editors of dailies were responding to similar economic and political conditions, laying the foundations for the magazine muckrakers, such as Ida Tarbell.

Morrison, however, has given us a scholarly picture of the main political developments in North Carolina at the end of the nineteenth century and the beginning of this one, showing the important role Daniels played in these battles and changes. We hope he continues his research to bring the history of the *Raleigh News and Observer* beyond the Wilsonian period, where he now stops.

SIDNEY KOBRE

Florida State University

Boss Cermak of Chicago: A Study of Political Leadership. By Alex Gottfried. (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1962. xiii, 459 pp. Index. \$6.50.)

Professor Alex Gottfried, a political scientist at the University of Washington, has done a painstaking analysis of Mayor Anton J. Cermak whose body took a bullet intended for President-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt on the night of February 15, 1933, at Miami. The fact that the Ford Foundation, the Walgreen Foundation, the University of Washington, and Avery Leiserson invested time or treasure in this excellent biography of the immi-

grant boy from Czechoslovakia who rose to the position of Mayor of Chicago is both a tribute to the politician and the scholar.

Cermak was the master political craftsman who industriously built a machine that still operates successfully in Chicago. On the national scene, he effectively waged war against Prohibition with its attendant evils and perhaps did as much as anyone to bring about its repeal. Of particular interest to Floridians is chapter XIV on "Martyr Mayor." In twenty pages Professor Gottfried dispels in a conclusive manner the surmise that Al Capone was responsible for Cermak's death. Quite possibly Capone disliked the staunch opponent of Prohibition, but the analysis of the testimony of Guiseppe Zangara, the trigger man, plus his character appraisal, points to the Italian immigrant's being a paranoiac who hated those in power.

It is ironic that Zangara who felt cheated by his lack of opportunity for an education finally succeeded in killing a powerful official—one who on his death bed muttered to FDR and others that he hoped whoever succeeded him would make his first duty the payment of money owed the Chicago teachers.

The book should be a welcome addition to the reading lists of those who teach Florida and United States history, state and local government, or sociology.

ERNEST H. JERNIGAN

Central Florida Junior College

The South and the Southerner. By Ralph McGill. (Boston: Atlantic-Little, Brown & Co., 1963. 307 pp. \$5.00.)

If Ralph McGill does not add substantially to the store of Southern historic facts, at least he puts in sharper focus those we already have. His perspective can be most helpful to those who want or need to understand a region that is trying to cure itself of social schizophrenia. The author is well qualified to tell such a story, and he tells it in the warmest of human terms. As editor and columnist of the *Atlanta Constitution*, Mr. McGill has been in the front ranks of those who insist that forced segregation and "second class citizenship" for the Negro have no place in any enlightened society. He is paying the price of such lead-

ership; racists damn him as a communist, fellow traveler, and a traitor to the South.

The critics miss the point, of course; Mr. McGill does not disparage "the Southern way of life"; he believes simply that there is room among the magnolias for humanism. He yearns for a nobler South that respects the dignity and rights of each individual as a matter of course. It is a characteristic that Mr. McGill does not seek, in this blending of personal memoir and history, to counter-attack those who hold contrary views. On the contrary, he seeks to understand and communicate the complex emotions that are being brought into play. Toward that end, a splendid contribution is the chapter called "The Conscience of the South." Here Mr. McGill recognizes the contributions of Southern writers toward an honest self-appraisal. He quotes a fellow Georgian, novelist Carson McCullers, as telling him: "All of us seek a time and a way to communicate something of the sense of loneliness and solitude that is in us - the human heart is a lonely hunter - but the search of us Southerners is more anguished. There is a special guilt in us, a seeking for something had - and lost. It is a consciousness of guilt not fully knowable, or communicable. Southerners are the more lonely and spiritually estranged, I think, because we have lived so long in an artificial social system that we insisted was natural and right and just, and all along we knew it wasn't. The fact we bolstered it with laws and developed a secular liturgy and sacraments for it is evidence of how little we believed our own deceptions."

In his writings - newspaper, magazine, and book - Mr. McGill is more than a ray of intellectual light; he is a beacon which doesn't always pierce the fog, but never ceases the effort. Last year this reviewer stopped overnight at the Atlanta-Biltmore Hotel, where several Negro delegates to a professional convention were registered as guests along with their white colleagues. From my room I could see the spires of Georgia Tech, which a short time before had enrolled, without violence, its first Negro student. Looking out the window, I remember thinking, "If it hadn't been for Ralph, these things would be longer and harder coming."

In one sense, Mr. McGill *is* the South's conscience; he believes the Southerner is pathetically self-divided: "The more sensitive Southerner often is self-embarrassed by a realization that

he has accepted unquestioningly some aspect of his community life which he rejects." Insight of that sort gives one the feeling that the McGill commentary is not exclusively Southern, but applies to the human heart anywhere. His book is more than regional in scope; it is a timely and important American book. It qualifies also as a humanist document that knows no geography.

EMMETT PETER, JR.

Leesburg, Florida

Folklore Keeps the Past Alive. By Arthur Palmer Hudson. (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1962. viii, 63 pp. \$2.50.)

This beautifully printed and interestingly written book is comprised of lectures delivered by Dr. Hudson at Mercer University in the Eugenia Dorothy Blount Lamar Memorial series. Keeping faithful to the purpose of the endower, "to provide lectures of the very highest type of scholarship which will aid in the permanent preservation of the values of Southern culture, history and literature," Dr. Hudson focuses each of his lectures respectively on these three aims.

In the first lecture, built around a theme taken from Keats' well-known line "The Poetry of earth is never dead," Dr. Hudson presents two folksongs - "The Holly Bluff" and "Perry Merry Dictum Domini." In discussing the cultural milieu that nourishes these songs, Dr. Hudson expresses a zest for the poetry of earth, a nostalgia for seedtime and harvest time on the Mississippi farm of his boyhood. He yearns for the simple things of life: flutes made from bamboo canes, handmade drums of opossum pelt, cornstalk fiddles and rosin bows, and songs like "The Holly Bluff" sung by his Negro friends. "Perry Merry Dictum Domini" - related to the well-known riddling ballads from the Francis James Child collection of traditional English ballads - is the finest American recovery of what remains of these Old World pieces. His presentation and discussion of this variant, together with those of others found in America, is a welcome addition to ballad scholarship.

The second lecture presents American history as it is re-created in folksong. Here we find folksongs footnoting certain

events, movements, and social history. The Battle of Quebec, the Boston Tea Party, the sea battle between the *Bonhomme Richard* and the *Serapis*, the Battle of Lake Erie, Jackson's victory at New Orleans, the Battle of Fredericksburg, the rebel spirit of the Civil War era—all find their way into folksong collections of the South.

Dr. Hudson's gift as a research scholar manifests itself in his third lecture - "Folksongs in American Poetry and Fiction." Lucidly and convincingly the reader is led to an awareness that American literature is infinitely richer because of the ballad and folksong tradition from which it has drawn substance. Marshall-ing a striking amount of evidence, he shows that folksongs have appealed to and influenced American poets as separated in time and place as Royal Tyler and Robert Penn Warren. Similarly, this author convincingly points out that fiction writers of the South have drawn heavily upon folksongs to add color and picturesqueness to their writing, to describe characters and give local color, and to enhance theme, structure, and atmosphere in their fiction.

In fine, this excellent series of lectures demonstrates not only that "the poetry of earth is never dead" but that folklore keeps a warm humanism of the past alive and vital.

ALTON C. MORRIS

University of Florida

Race and Reason; A Yankee View. By Carleton Putnam. (Washington: Public Affairs Press, 1961. viii, 125 pp. Index. \$3.25).

Some time ago, Alabama allocated several thousand dollars for the purpose of researching the alleged intrinsic inferiority of the Negro as compared to the white man. Against a backdrop of scholarly trappings, an obliging professor piled conjecture upon irrelevancy and irrelevancy upon half-truth and wrought a paper "scientifically" supportive of the instinctive wisdom on matters anthropological of the Alabama legislature. I suppose that massive resistance, the die-hard segregationists' first line of defense against the U.S. Supreme Court, having gone the way of the Maginot Line, and violence as a combative tactic having been rejected by the overwhelming number of Southerners, the development of a

new missile against the Supreme Court was inevitable. The missile is Science. Not, of course, the science of "foreign" scientists (Mr. Putnam is suspicious of foreign born scientists), or of scientists who belong to a "racial minority group," but the science of ideologists whose craftsmanship is custom tailored to their social views (Mr. Putnam qualifies).

Carleton Putnam, self proclaimed "Northerner," and a college graduate (the assurance is welcome), has been acclaimed resonantly in some southern political forums. He has been amiably ignored in southern academic forums. Still, whether for the amusement of scholars or for an insight into Mr. Putnam's brand of science, a look-see at this book is harmless, although admittedly one's time might elsewhere be spent in the more serious reading of comic books.

Scientist Putnam is convinced that Negroes and whites are not equal, indeed there is "no such thing as equality even between two leaves on the same bush." Further, he opines, the race issue is not a matter of "*difference*, but of inferiority and superiority" (shouted italics are Putnam's). Mebbe, mebbe not, but the race issue is not and has not been predicated on the question of whether or not Negroes and whites are carbon copies of each other, but rather on whether, under our Constitution, let alone under the Judeo-Christian ethic, Negroes ought have equal opportunities.

The author attempts to explain how "integration, is playing into Communist hands." That Communist propaganda has actually exploited the United States' segregation, not its integration, is either unknown to our author or simply uncomprehended, his college degree notwithstanding.

Putnam is no innovator. The abandonment of angry racism in favor of "scientific" racism is not without precedent. When southern and eastern Europeans immigrated to the United States in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, there were custom-tailor scientists in the academic bleachers tsk-tsking the immigrants "inferior stock." And, to be sure, the American Indian might well have been dismayed by the physically inferior spectacle of the pallid settler from western Europe. Happily, however, the immigrants of all our American centuries have acclimated to and helped forge America, the tsk-tskers notwithstanding. And I sus-

pect that the Negro will continue to develop his constitutional rights notwithstanding the Putnams, who, unwittingly to be sure, *are* amusing if nothing else.

NATHAN PERLMUTTER

Miami, Florida

Guide to Federal Archives Relating to the Civil War. By Kenneth W. Munden and Henry Putney Beers. (Washington: The National Archives, 1962. x, 721 pp. Appendix, Index. \$3.00.)

The publication of this *Guide* is another contribution to a widespread effort to make generally available most of the significant documents of American history. No archival material is printed in this volume, but the authors have been most successful in producing a descriptive guide that will aid scholars with their research in the official records of the United States Government relating to the Civil War. The *Guide* is not limited to the 1861-1865 records, but describes the extant archives of all those Federal agencies which continued to produce documentary information of the war period and its aftermath even into the present century.

The *Guide* is well organized. The records are listed and described in sections corresponding to the Federal agency that created them. Congressional records are given under the Senate and House committees and the various joint committees of Congress. The records of the Department of the Treasury are presented under the many different offices of the department. The troublesome records of the "Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands" of the War Department are made quite approachable with the aid of the *Guide*. Each section gives a brief historical account of the agency concerned, its duties, and its place in the U. S. Government's organization. Bibliographical aids and documentary publications which may serve as additional reference aids are also listed. Another particularly useful feature about the book is an appendix which lists in numerical order the record groups that contain records described in the *Guide*. The excellent index fills 106 double-column pages.

This *Guide* is complete and definitive. All students of American history should become familiar with it and the companion *Guide to the Archives of the Government of the Confederate States of America*, now being compiled, before beginning any work with official records of the Civil War.

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