

# Southern Seen

Sometimes in church a sermon gets a bit boring. The best thing to do when that happens is to find a good stained-glass window and stare at it. The light from outside gets through, but the world doesn't. It is a scene of many colors, but tells only one story.

American religion, with its many churches of rainbowed hues, is much like that window. Each color has a life of its own, but each also fits indispensably within the larger picture. We are blessed by our proximity to faiths and religious traditions not our own.

Take the gentle but faceless Amish, for example. Many of us may not share their persistence with farming, their suspicion of technology, their communal sharing, their resistance to higher education, and their separatist life. In *The Riddle of Amish Culture* (John Hopkins University Press, 1989), Donald B. Kraybill has helped us to see better these invisible people for whom a photographed face is idolatry. His detailed portrait of the Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, Amish takes us out of suspicion of their peculiarities into appreciations and praise.

Some similarities between the Amish (thriving and growing today) and the Shakers (virtually extinct) will be readily noticed—separatism, self-reliance, dress, disdain for the frivolous, hard work. The Shakers, that American group that arose in the late 18th century, grew and prospered in the 19th century, and evaporated by the 20th, have been made more plain to us by Flo Morse's *The Shakers and the World's People* (University Press of New England, 1987 paperback). This is a carefully organized scrapbook of statements about Shakers by Shakers themselves and by others outside of that world. What suddenly dawns is that we know people in our own time who have no idea they are Shakers. The idea of Shakerism isn't extinct at all.

The Quakers, those people of such "gentle persuasion", have been more visible in American history than either the Amish or the Shakers, although probably thought no less peculiar outside the Friends' meeting houses. Quakers may be without violence but they have not been without conflicts. One of the worst was the great split of 1827-28 which H. Larry Ingle traces in *Quakers in Conflict: The Hicksite Reformation* (University of Tennessee Press, 1986). This internal struggle between rural and urban Quakers was over what weight personal, traditional countryside practices should carry as compared with central authority and adaptation to the city. It is a saga told, with a different cast of characters, in almost every American religious group. Prominent among the reformers was Elias Hicks, for whom the movement was named. His cousin, Edward, is bet-

ter known, having been the painter many times of the "Peaceable Kingdom" lion and lamb lying down together. Among the Quakers, peace would not return to the peaceful for over a century.

The Pentecostals have also struck mainstream religions as "different", though they share many characteristics of mainstream faiths. Separated from society more by economy and by geography than by choice, they are best known outside their churches for the exuberance of their worship, something for which the otherwise meek Shakers were also known. Elaine J. Lawless gives us a fine sample of faith, drawn from one church in southern Indiana, in *God's Peculiar People: Women's Voices & Folk Tradition in a Pentecostal Church* (University Press of Kentucky, 1988). She finds the worship far more loose and unstructured, and she especially appreciates the roles of women in a church usually thought dominated by men. Most of the men work in a dangerous quarry nearby, and the church fills important needs for reassurance and confidence among the wives.

Mountain religion has always had its share of outside onlookers, too. Howard Dorgan, a communications professor, spent a dozen years studying, respectfully and almost reverently, the religious services of different Baptist groups in the mountains: Free Will, Missionary, Primitive, Regular, Old Regular, and Union Baptists. In *Giving Glory to God in Appalachia: Worship Practices of Six Baptist Subdenominations* (University of Tennessee Press, 1987), Dorgan's hearing skills catch the rhythms and phrases and the nuances of tight-lipped people who open up to their God. He passes no judgments upon their theologies. He appreciates each for its part in the stained glass window of American religion.

So, too, is there appreciation by eleven other scholar-visitors studying independent churches in North Carolina, in a book edited by Ruel Tyson, Jr., James L. Peacock, and Daniel W. Patterson. *Diversities of Gifts: Field Studies in Southern Religion* (University of Illinois Press, 1988). What makes these churches unique is something these students call "gestures", a word widened to include sermons, hymns, testimonies, and local custom, prevailing against sameness, central hierarchies, and social service.

In the stained-glass window of faith, each fragment fits. Were each seen in itself alone, it would perhaps seem oddly shaped and non-functional. Perhaps it is we who seem "peculiar" to them. In the whole rainbow spectrum of Protestantism, each seems much less "peculiar". Each has an understandable and appropriate place.

## Fine From Page 1

Texasgulf has not taken an active role in this issue, except to provide information for those seeking approval of the provision, a spokesman said.

"If in the judgement of the General Assembly, they deem this an appropriate use of the money, I certainly think those of us who are in Beaufort County would be pleased with the action," Rann Carpenter of Texasgulf said.

At the urging of Chapin, the provision was attached to an oil spill recovery bill sponsored by Basnight.

The spill recovery bill proposes to hold the oil industry liable for damages to the state's environment from oil spills or other related accidents. It also would give businesses such as motels and restaurants the right to collect damages from oil companies for income lost because of a spill or other accident.

The bill was introduced in the state senate after the tanker Exxon Valdez ran aground March 24 spilling millions of gallons of oil in Alaska's Prince William Sound.

It was approved as part of the senate's expansion budget package.

Other fines have been returned to home counties, Chapin said, but this use of an environmental fine is "unprecedented in the state."

## Drilling From Page 1

The bill was written to protect a portion of California's coast, but Congressman Walter B. Jones attached an amendment requiring Mobil to make a full environmental impact statement.

The bill, with the Jones amendment, was to have been taken up in the U.S. Senate when that body reconvened this week.

Part of LegaSeas next effort will be to lobby North Carolina senators Jesse Helms and Terry Sanford to support the bill, Ms. Mizell said.

As part of the lobbying effort, Mickey Baker of Ocracoke mailed the second part of a petition this week to Helms, Sanford, Jones, Gov. Jim Martin, state Sen. Marc Basnight and Secretary of the Depart-

ment of the Interior Manuel Lujan. Ms. Baker said the petition was signed by 2,134 residents and visitors. She has also distributed "thousands" of pre-addressed postcards to be mailed to the six governmental officials.

"Our ocean and our beaches are worth fighting for," Ms. Baker said. "We want to be able to enjoy our beautiful place."

The group is sponsoring a public meeting at 7:30 p.m. July 19 on Ocracoke at the school gym. State and local officials and oil exploration experts will hold a panel discussion and answer questions. Meeting organizer Debbie Wells has asked Mobil to send a representative to the meeting.

The civil penalty was for more than 1,500 apparent violations of air quality standards. Environmental management, a division of NRCD, assessed the fine against Texasgulf Dec. 17, 1986.

The company filed a petition Jan. 16, 1987, challenging all of the proposed penalty and sought a hearing before an administrative law judge.

Texasgulf acknowledged two emission "incidents" but questioned the state's right to levy a penalty. It denied the others occurred.

The firm settled out of court before the hearing was held.

# NCSU Soil Scientist Makes Marshes For Studying Ecologies

His clay is the debris of human endeavor and from it Dr. Stephen W. Broome makes an environment for birds, fish and any number of other creatures.

Consider a five-acre slab of Eagle Island in New Brunswick County just across the Cape Fear River from Wilmington. The island is composed largely of the sand and clay that once hugged the bottom of the area's waterways.

It is a depository for the soil dredged from those waterways. Broome has supervised the transformation of a five-acre portion of the island into the beginnings of a salt marsh.

Broome, a soil scientist at N.C. State University is an expert on coastal marshes and dunes. He has lent his expertise to numerous projects aimed at creating these often fragile environments.

Eagle Island is the site of his most recent effort. A salt marsh is being developed on the island, Broome said, in order to mitigate the loss of other wetlands that will occur with expansion of Wilmington's port facilities.

Such wetlands are an important ecological element in the coastal environment and creating new marshes helps preserve the quality of that environment, Broome said.

Work at the Eagle Island site began in early May. Broome said he wanted to create a marsh within an intertidal zone, or area that floods

each day as the tide comes in.

The first step, he said, was to grade the area to create the kind of gentle slope that leaves the entire area under water at high tide and the majority of the site above water at low tide.

Working under a contract with the N.C. Ports Authority, Broome, research associate Dr. Christopher B. Craft and research technicians Carlton Campbell and Larry Hobbs planted six species of marsh grass and sedges. The trick, Broome said, is to plant the right kind of grass at the correct elevation in relation to the tide.

The site was planted primarily with different species of *Spartina* grass. Black needle rush and two species of bull rushes were planted at elevations throughout the site in an effort to determine where these plants grow best.

Scientists now realize that marshes are an important part of the estuarine environment, the area where freshwater rivers flow into the ocean.

The marshes serve as nurseries where fish and other marine animals are born and grow.

Broome and two colleagues — Dr. Ernest D. Seneca, head of NCSU's botany department, have been involved in marsh and dune establishment and restoration since 1969.

Broome described the work as "applying agronomic principles to a natural system."

## Coast From Page 1

when it combined the Lifesaving Service and Revenue Cutter Service. In 1967, it was transferred from Treasury to the U.S. Transportation Department.

In North Carolina, the Coast Guard operates eight shore stations, one base at Fort Macon, one air station at Elizabeth City and a Marine Safety Office in Wilmington.

Four stations — Coinjock, Hatteras, Oregon Inlet and Ocracoke — and 150 guardsmen fall under Group Cape Hatteras command.

Four stations — Hobbucken, Swanboro, Wrightsville Beach and Oak Island — work under the command of Group Fort Macon.

The Fort Macon and Cape Hatteras groups are part of the Coast Guard's 5th District that extends from New Jersey to North Carolina. The district headquarters is in Portsmouth, Va.

The Coast Guard is an armed force of the United States and is equal in status to the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps. In peacetime, the Coast Guard serves within the Department of Transportation. During a war or by presidential decree, it reports to the U.S. Navy.

Initially, the Coast Guard followed in the footsteps of its parental organizations and confined its duties to rescue and intercepting contraband. During Prohibition —

1920 to 1933 — guardsmen worked to apprehend liquor smugglers.

After Prohibition and World War II, the Coast Guard's primary responsibility shifted to aiding navigation and safety at sea.

During the 1970s, smuggling reappeared. But rather than liquor, this time the illegal merchandise was multimillion-dollar shipments of marijuana and cocaine.

Nationwide, on an average day, the Coast Guard seizes 3,500 pounds of marijuana and 35 pounds of cocaine worth about \$6.5 million.

Also, on an average day, guardsmen help other agencies confiscate another 243 pounds of marijuana and 26 pounds of cocaine worth \$3.5 million.

On average, they arrest two smugglers daily and seize a drug vessel every two days.

The effort expended by the Coast Guard to apprehend drug smugglers has increased four- to five-fold in the last 10 years, Ward says. And with the increase in drug traffic has come increased danger for guardsmen because drug smugglers are frequently armed.

Now boarding officers must be trained to know drug laws, proper boarding procedure, drug detection and recognition and self-defense. Often Coast Guard officers are trained alongside U.S. Customs agents in detection methods.

## VOA From Page 1

not directed toward them," Moss said of Americans who seldom tune in to the broadcasts.

"Studios are in Washington (D.C.) and the transmissions are beamed by satellite to Greenville."

Once here it is translated into digital signals and sent once again by satellite to stations in Bangkok, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka or it is broadcast to Latin America.

But the question that is most often asked is why North Carolina? Why was a site selected in rural North Carolina to serve as the global clearinghouse of programs originating from Washington?

"We wanted to have as few ionospheric hops as possible, therefore we wanted a site on the east coast," Moss said in referring to the upper part of the atmosphere full of charged particles that can affect shortwave reception.

Moss added that land is not as expensive as in the northeast where most operations were

prior to VOA's move to the state in 1961.

VOA has 2,400-acre sites near Washington and Blackjack and a 600-acre site near Greenville. At each of the sites in Blackjack and Washington are five 500,000-watt and three 250,000-watt program transmitters, and one 50,000-watt and two 40,000-watt communication transmitters. The communication transmitters are used for teletype transmissions and to relay programs to other stations.

But the sites here in North Carolina do more than just transmit, they listen as well. Radio Iran, Radio Libya and the BBC are all monitored to keep abreast of what is going on throughout the world. Some foreign programs are taped to provide VOA announcers models to listen to in order to improve their own on-air dialects. And what better place to pick up other country's transmissions than from the most powerful radio station in the free world.

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# CLASSIFIEDS

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## Dawson/Coward Reunion Aug. 12

The Dawson/Coward families will hold their 19th annual reunion Aug. 12.

The reunion will be held in the recently renovated Vanceboro Community Center. The reunion begins at 11 a.m.

Those attending are asked to be prepared to discuss and revise the family tree. All relatives and friends are invited to attend the reunion.

For more information, contact Naomi Pierce at 244-0161 or at Rt. 2, Box 209, Vanceboro, N.C. 28586.

## FINAL YARD SALE! RELOCATING

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