

Newest Coastal Waterway Guide Is Author's Best To Date

BY ERIC CARLSON

Ten years after he introduced cruising boaters to the watery wonderland of coastal North Carolina, Claiborne S. Young has finally completed his long journey home.

Each fall and spring, thousands of automobiles make an annual pilgrimage up and down Interstate 95 between the Northeast and Florida. At the same time, a hundred miles to the east, there is a parallel migration of boats motoring back and forth along the Intracoastal Waterway.

Most of those pavement-plying travellers remember North Carolina only as a place to find a roadside hotel amidst a long series of silly "South of the Border" billboards. Likewise, for decades, boaters merely plodded up and down "the ditch" between Norfolk and Calabash, stopping only to refuel or to drop anchor for the night.

In his first book, *Cruising Guide to North Carolina*, Young offered his readers something more. He convinced migrating boaters to slow down as they passed through the Tar Heel State, to take side trips, to sample the rich history and natural beauty of North Carolina's backwaters, and to enjoy the journey as much as the destination.

The guide quickly became a "must-have" volume, both for veteran ICW passage-makers and the many "wannabe" cruisers who navigate their dream boats from the warm comfort of a living room recliner.

Young offered something for both. Those who needed hard facts about dangerous inlets, tricky channel markings, safe anchorages and all-night marinas could find the in-

REVIEW

Cruising Guide to Coastal South Carolina and Georgia

By Claiborne S. Young
1992
John F. Blair, Publisher
428 pp., \$24.95

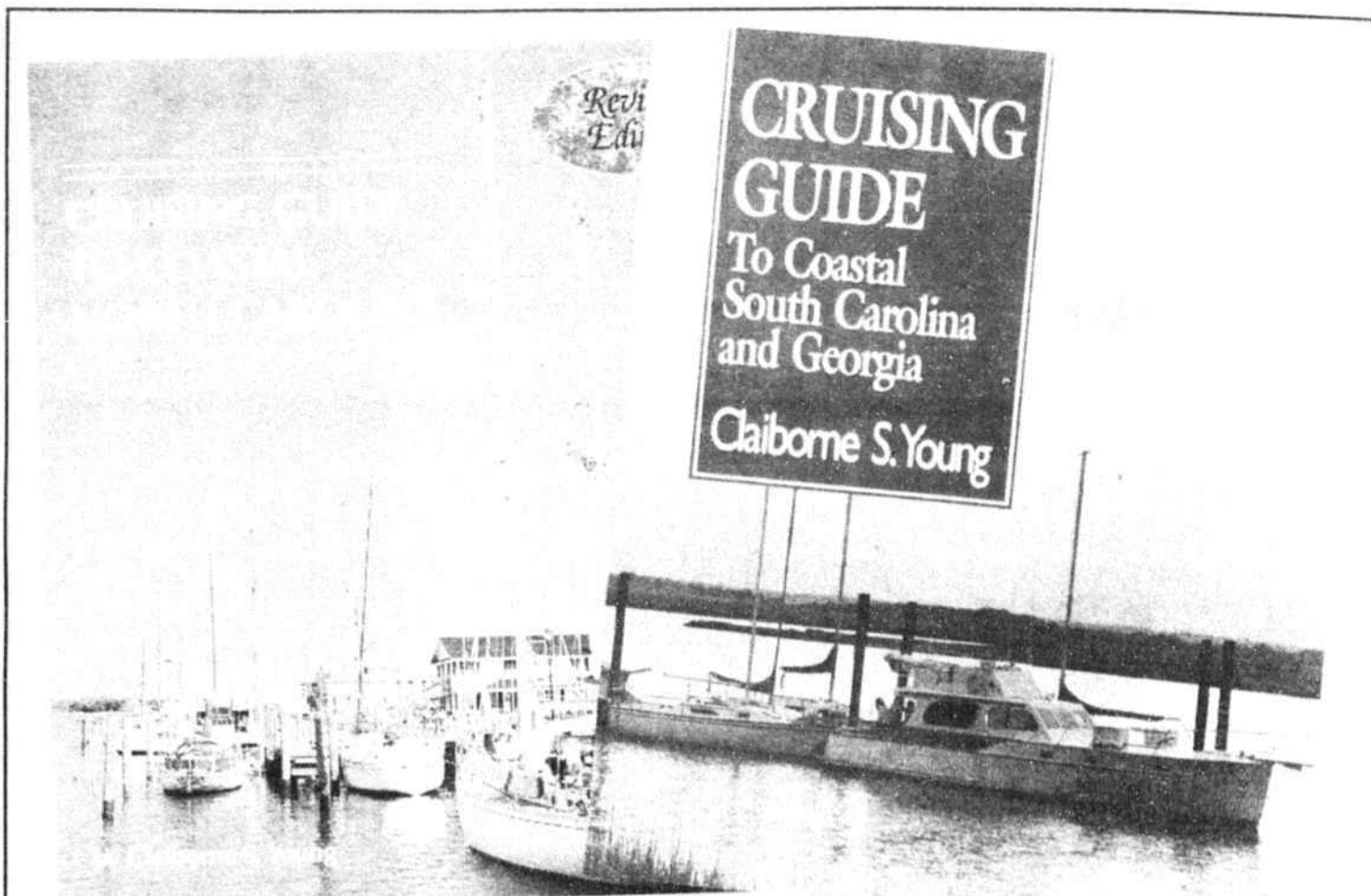
formation presented in no-nonsense language highlighted in easily identified gray-shaded boxes. A list of recommended nautical charts was likewise set off at the beginning of each chapter.

For the arm-chair adventurer, the skipper at anchor or the cruising crew member relaxing between watches, Young also offered a wealth of information about the passing waterway scene. General location maps, scenic photographs, historical sketches and personal observations made each passing channel junction an invitation to adventure.

Readers were amazed to learn that our state has the largest freshwater sound in America (the Albemarle) and the largest land-locked coastal water in the United States (Pamlico Sound). Young enticed boaters to leave the ICW and explore the Pungo, the Neuse and the Cape Fear rivers, convincing many a southbound cruiser to linger long into our enchanting Tar Heel autumns.

Encouraged by the success of his first book, Young compiled a series of Cruising Guides: to Coastal South Carolina, to Eastern Florida, to the Northern Gulf Coast and to Western Florida. However, the short but intriguing Georgia coastline was left conspicuously absent.

Then in September 1989, Hurricane Hugo slammed into South Carolina and dramatically altered



Claiborne Young's cruising guides are indispensable for serious boaters and lots of fun for arm-chair sailors, too.

(i.e. destroyed) many of the docking opportunities, anchorages, marina facilities, restaurant stops and anchorages along the Palmetto coast. Faced with a need to update his earlier work, Young took the opportunity to plug the hole in his lower ICW series with the 1992 *Cruising Guide to Coastal South Carolina and Georgia*.

It's arguably his best one yet. Young has taken to heart the adage that "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" by keeping intact his original concept: to provide a useful naviga-

tional aid that simultaneously speeds your passage while tempting you to stop and smell the roses.

Young's latest guide uses the same approach, but with significant improvements.

For the helmsman trying to keep one eye on the day markers and the other on a chart, the navigational tips have been made more easy to read by using a lighter background shading and clearer typeface. Chart lists are boldly outlined. Each passing marina is given its own box of information, with channel depths, docking facilities and maintenance capabilities.

For those hours in between,

Young has expanded his historical references to make the passing scene even more difficult to pass. For example, he devotes a full 40 pages to Charleston, with a detailed history, a suggested walking tour, and dining suggestions. He even ventures up the city's three major tributaries, tempting boaters to explore the Wando, the Cooper and the Ashley Rivers.

Once across the Savannah River, Young opens a new world to cruisers, most of whom have never seen beyond the first bend of those inviting marsh-lined creeks leading inland from the Georgia sea islands. His descriptions of these alluring backwater anchorages are liable to keep many a southbound sailor gunkholing late into December.

Local boaters will appreciate Young's descriptions of Little River ("an undramatic section of the waterway") and the tedious-but-treacherous Pine Island Cut ("one of the least attractive sections of the entire ICW"). But he also tempts us to journey a bit further and explore the Waccamaw River, "considered by many to be one of the most beautiful sections of the ICW."

Obviously, the *Cruising Guide to Coastal South Carolina and Georgia* will be a necessary addition to the shelves of any vessel that makes the annual ICW migration. But it's also an enjoyable read for boaters who can only dream of making the trip.

Crossword Puzzle Solution

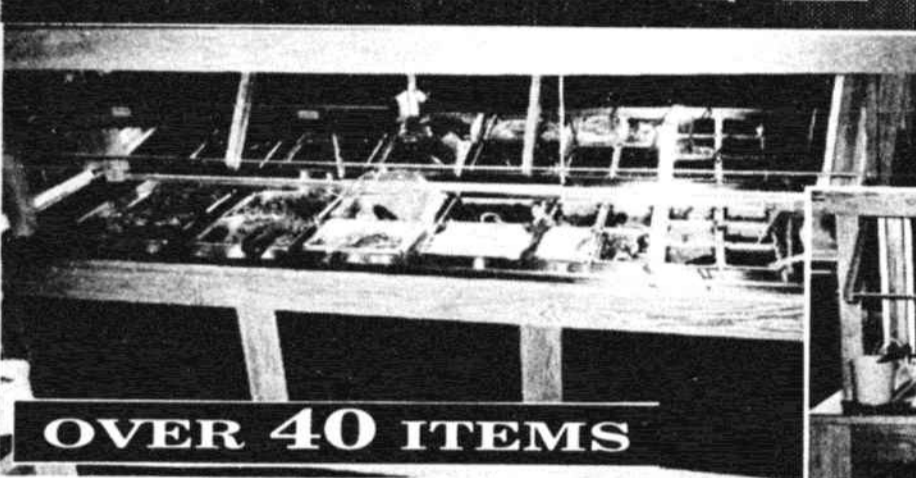
ACROSS

1. Tempt 5. Beard 8. River
9. Spree 10. Aisle 11. Apron
12. Dare 15. Verbal 17. Fired
18. Stolen 20. Camp 25. Marsh
26. Waive 27. Owing 28. Never
29. Right 30. Night

DOWN

1. Tested 2. Mirror 3. Tread
4. Avert 5. Branded 6. Absorb
7. Diesel 13. Aft 14. Win
15. Vex 16. Arm 17. Ferment
18. Slower 19. Outing
21. Acting 22. Plight
23. Crave 24. Shorn

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