

Literary Musings

By Robert G. Mulder

Remember the lilt of "Dominique" which soared to national disc popularity in 1964 bringing its creator, the Singing Nun, to the entertainment limelight? The snappy tune quickly caught on to become the 11th best selling record of that year.

That was ten years ago. This year another singing nun has what promises to be a big hit. She is 36-years old Sister Janet Mead of Australia singing her rock rendition of "The Lord's Prayer." In the last month the record has sold nearly a million copies in the United States, and its popularity is just beginning to grow.

Sister Janet was born in Adelaide, Australia. At seventeen she entered a convent and later taught music and drama at St. Aloysius College. In 1969 she became associated with a musical family, the Van Der Smans, who felt about religious music as she did, and since then she has been traveling with their Christian rock group. Her rock masses have drawn crowds of over 2,000 each Sunday.

For a record company biographer, she recently said: "I see Christ as a person with a vision of drawing all people together in happiness and I see my work as part of His vision, to bring people to God through music. I am grateful to God for the happiness and deep understanding I have found in my life."

In her native country her rendition of "The Lord's Prayer" had sold 50-75,000 copies before it was introduced to the United States.

Former Vice President Spiro T. Agnew has turned novelist among other things. An outline, one chapter, and some sketches were recently given to a senior editor of Random House for consideration, but the firm quickly rejected the proposal.

Robert L. Bernstein, president of the publishing company, states emphatically that "his company has no contract with Mr. Agnew and no intentions of signing one with him."

Agnew's novel concerns a future vice president of the United States who turns out to have programmed for disaster by Chinese Communists. The new author's main character is called Porter Newton Canfield, a wealthy Ivy Leaguer bearing no autobiographical resemblance to his creator who rose from modest origins.

Thought the novel was rejected by Random House, the author may receive as much as \$250,000 advance money, according to Washington Post columnist Maxine Cheshire. Like its author, the novel may not make it by the critics' standards but one may be

assured that novel will make the best seller list.

This is a good year for Women's Liberation. Two hundred years ago on October 25, fifty-one women from half a dozen countries gathered in Edenton, North Carolina, to "declare their indifference to whatever affected the peace and happiness of the country." The ladies were anxious to give proof of their patriotism and signed an agreement to do everything they could do to demonstrate their support of the American cause.

Thus, the Edenton Tea Party is important to the American woman today because the happening is the earliest known organized effort on the part of women in the American colonies.

This important historical event is covered well in a new book by UNC Professors Hugh T. Lefler and William S. Powell. (Colonial North Carolina. New York: Scribners, 1974, 318 pp., \$10.00) The book is a part of Scribners' "History of the American Colonies" series.

Two coastal women have

brought to the reading public a unique volume, North Carolina Bible Records. Compiled and edited by Mrs. Wilma Cartwright Spence and Mrs. Edna Morrisette Shannonhouse, the unexciting title is by no means indicative of the contents.

The span of time itself, from the 11th to the 20th centuries, is impressive, and within the volume's covers are to be found insights mingled with sorrow and humor. About two hundred family Bibles were used in the material carefully gathered over the past few months.

Not only the recorded dates for births, marriages, deaths were used. The compilers found many letters and diaries which had been kept in the old family Bibles themselves. The book, therefore, has historical significance. Notes as to the price of land (50 cents per acre) and one minister's salary (\$60 per year) attest to the important record the volume will surely become.



ARTS COUNCIL DIRECTOR — Ms. Linda F. Penuel of Williamston has been appointed Executive Director of the Northeastern Arts Council. Ms. Penuel will be serving the six-county area of Bertie, Martin, Chowan, Perquimans, Gates, and Hertford. Prior to accepting this position, she was state coordinator for the National Alliance For Arts Education sponsored by the U.S. Office of Education and the JFK Center. Ms. Penuel will be working in the county as well as working within the school system.

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