

Through
THE
Looking
Glass

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New Bernians who were at the University of North Carolina while Thomas Wolfe was a student there probably remember that he was frequently seen scribbling in a notebook.

The Asheville giant continued the habit after he became an internationally praised literary figure, as the result of two novels published during his lifetime.

"Look Homeward Angel" and "Of Time and the River" reveal much of the turmoil that forever remained within Wolfe. His many notebooks, detailing random thoughts and even the most trivial incidents in his life, disclose a great deal more.

The rangy mountaineer was a man of strong feelings. He left behind him, when he died prematurely, a number of unmailed letters written in rage. Having gotten the bitter venom out of his system, it is apparent that he was content to let it end there.

It is, perhaps, safe to say that no writer, important or unimportant, ever jotted down as complete play-by-play account of his own life as Wolfe did. His every move, his every notion, and every who and what was recorded in one of those notebooks.

As one reviewer points out, even when he went to a party where he hated to be present, he made a list of all the guests there and preserved it. In Hollywood, when he became famous, he wrote down the name of every person he met, stars and extras alike.

Strange and anguished indeed was Thomas Wolfe, but what a way he had with words. Charles Laughton, who ranks high among the actors of our time, classed portions of the author's writings with the phrasing of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, and delighted in reciting them.

If you've read his novels, read them again. If you've never read them, do so. Every North Carolinian owes it to himself to become acquainted with the literary works of a fellow Tar Heel who was something of a genius, but as deeply saturated with human frailty as mortals far less talented.

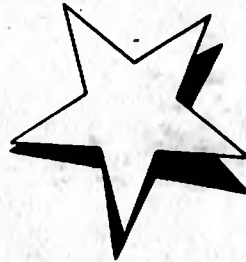
Last weekend the editor of The Mirror received a copy of an anonymous letter addressed to "Mr. L. B. Pate, Chairman, Board of Trustees, Craven County hospital. It was signed, A CONCERNED CITIZEN.

It was noted at the bottom of the typewritten letter that copies were also sent to the State Bureau of Investigation, The Sun-Journal, WCTI-TV, WHIT, WRNB, and the Raleigh News and Observer.

We gave the letter the waste basket treatment given all anonymous letters that come to us, whether we approve or disapprove of the contents of the communication sent us. The only CONCERNED CITIZEN we're concerned about is one who has the courage to sign his name to any letter he writes.

We feel sure that the author of the anonymous letter referred to will read this column and all other portions of The Mirror this week, hoping to see in print what he wrote. We are most

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