

## REVIEWING THE LATEST BOOKS

BY WILBORNE HARRELL

**THE YEAR'S AT THE SPRING.** A Book of Poems by Ruth Vail. Banner Press, Emory University, Georgia. 78 pages. \$2.50.

Someone has said, "Let me write a nation's songs and I care not who rules them." A poet is a singer and his or her work are songs of the highest character. And women have been singers in verse from the songs of Sappho, to Elizabeth Barrett Browning and on to the more modern work of Edna St. Vincent Millay.

Ruth Vail of Edenton, a poet and writer of no small powers, has turned out another book of poems and thereby added her songs to the work of the illustrious women who have written and sung down through the ages. The Year's At The Spring is Mrs. Vail's second book of poems, her first, River Acres, published several years ago, was received with enthusiastic acclaim by both critics and press. The Year's At The Spring is a much better book and will, I believe, place Ruth Vail among the top-ranking poets of today.

In The Year's At The Spring Mrs. Vail has made effective use of both metered and free verse, adapting the technique best suited to each poem. In fact, this book differs from River Acres in just this essential preference for the perfection of the metered form.

The Year's At The Spring is easy to read and understand, as Mrs. Vail employs, in the main, the simpler verse forms throughout the book. There are several sonnet forms and many 4 to 8 line technique arrangements. But she shows mastery of her medium by employing masters that range from the subtlety of free verse to the simplicity of the quatrain.

When Mrs. Vail breaks the barrier of rigid technique and soars into the realm of free verse, she does so only when what she has to say will not conform to the confines of accepted forms. Only a master may take liberties with art, and being a craftsman in the art of verse making, Mrs. Vail, with impunity, breaks the barrier of form without outraging art.

The last portion of The Year's At The Spring is given over to songs and verses for children. Many great poets have achieved their greatest efforts in verses for childhood—consider Robert Louis Stevenson's A Child's Garden of Verses and the unforgettable poems of Eugene Field. In this poetic role Mrs. Vail writes with tenderness and understanding, and these few

poems are, within themselves, a minor triumph and a worthy contribution to the literature of childhood.

Published by the Banner Press of Emory University in Georgia, The Year's At The Spring in format, binding and printing presents a work of art. Bound in green boards with gold typography this book has a beauty in perfection that is only equalled by the beauty of the contents.

The Year's At The Spring will become a permanent addition to Verse-Craft, the Banner poetry bookshelf, which is a series of outstanding books of verse by writers of recognized merit.

Lawrence W. Neff, Book Editor of the Banner Press, has this to say about The Year's At The Spring: "Mrs. Vail's poems are exceptionally rich in imagery, with discriminating and pleasing effects which can scarcely be duplicated in contemporary poetry. In presenting graphic pictures highlighted by vivid phraseology she attests gifts mounting oftentimes to positive genius."

### Damp Litter Presents Problem For Poultry

Poultrymen should use extreme care in keeping their poultry houses free from damp litter. R. S. Dearstyn, head of the State College Poultry Science Department, has warned.

Dearstyn said that not only is dry litter necessary for the health of the birds, but it also reduces the number of dirty eggs.

The use of hydrated lime as a corrective for damp litter has been practiced with good results in most instances. Hydrated lime should be used exclusively, at the rate of one pound to each four square feet of floor space. The lime should be carefully worked into the litter with more added as needed.

Frequency of application depends upon the weather, number of birds, and the food and water intake. Caution should be exercised when lime is first applied so that the dust from the lime does not saturate the air. This condition could retard egg production.

Dearstyn said that poultrymen should check these causes for damp litter: (1) overcrowding of houses

which results in large accumulations, and the floors, (5) leaks in the roof, of moist droppings (2) improper ventilation (3) an excess of laxative materials in the diet, (4) improper house construction which may lead to seepage of moisture from the walls

and the floors, (5) leaks in the roof, windows, or the water containers, (6) the billing of water by birds from the water containers, and (7) continuous saturation of the atmosphere with moisture which often occurs during



**SMARTY PANTS**  
It's time for vacation cruises, and the fashion designers are outfitting vacationers with trim sports outfits. The girl at left wears Bermuda shorts and midriff shirt of crisp, cotton "clipper" cloth. At left, denim mid-calf "smarty pants" team with a coordinated knit blouse with diagonal stripes. Both cotton sports ensembles are designed by Stephanie Koret of California.

prolonged rainy spells. He emphasized that proper ventilation removes moisture from the house and is the best single preventive of damp litter.

### Fumigation Ordered For Sweet Potatoes

Orders were taken last week by the County Agent, C. W. Overman and Assistant County Agent Robert Marsh for chloropectrin, commonly called tear gas, which is used for fumigating sweet potato houses. This must be done prior to the storage of sweet potatoes. Owners of storage houses in Chowan County have been using this material for several years and have found it to be very effective.

It is relatively cheap, easier to use and far more effective than the old method of burning sulphur candles for fumigation purposes. Precaution must be used in handling the tear gas as it is very irritating to the person who applies it unless he is careful. The directions on the container should be followed carefully.

### COLORED SCHOOL NEWS

The Hornets of Edenton High under their new Coach Wilson accomplished a new coach's dream by winning the first game of the season. The score was 6-2 over Trenton High School. The score doesn't tell much of the fight that went on between two teams so equally matched. As one noticed, the fundamentals of the game were instilled into each team. Therefore, a few breaks in any way might

have brought about a change in the outcome of the game.

The winning and only touchdown came by a pass that was thrown by the right halfback, of Trenton High eleven which was batted around by two or more players before Hedgebeth, center of Edenton High, tucked in the oval and with a couple of good blocks was able to go the distance of 55 yards.

Trenton High got its two points by catching a Hornet behind the goal line, where they had held the Trenton High eleven.

Poor kicking throughout the game kept each team in trouble.

### Little Too Well

Walking through the woods, the artillery officer was surprised to see a number of men climbing trees and crawling through bushes.

"What's the great ideas?" he snapped. "What do you men think you are doing?"

"Well, sir," said the sergeant, "we have camouflaged the gun so well that we can't find it."

### Carpentry Work

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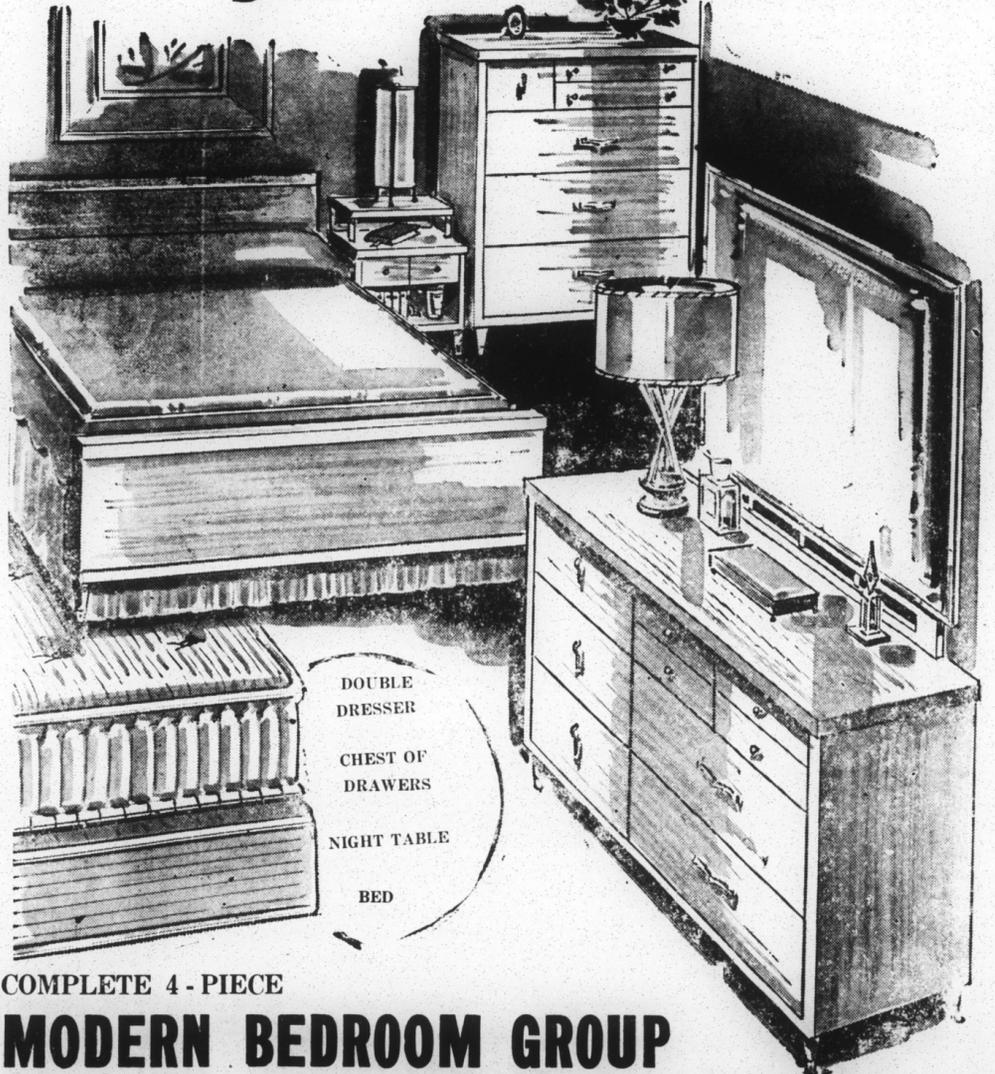
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