



### Owl Hoots and Screeches . . .

By MRS. NELLIE M. SANDERS  
Director Pettigrow Regional Library

**HOOTS**  
**MIXED BAG**—After a delay of two weeks while the Processing Center switched from a New Jersey warehouse to a Georgia location for the major book wholesaler, we received an unusually large shipment of books this week. The assortment is exceptionally broad, with almost every category represented for every kind of reader. Several books caught my eye because of their humor, some of it in unexpected places.

An obvious example is the best-selling comic novel by Kurt Vonnegut with the sardonic title, *Breakfast of Champions*; or *Goodbye Blue Monday*. This kind of book has great appeal for the younger generation—particularly men—but is not understood or appreciated by everyone. Less obvious humor is found in a scientific study on methods of birth control. The *Curious History of Contraception* by Shirley Green has many illustrations and quotations from ancient literature which appear funny in the light of current knowledge. Ignorance may be bliss but it can also be humorous—and costly.

Another brand of humor is exemplified in Erma Bombeck's *I Lost Everything in the Post-Natal Depression*. Even the chapter-titles are catchy: "We Have Measles...It Must Be Christmas", "I Gave Him the Best Year of My Life", "Ironed Sheets Are A Health Hazard", and "Who Packed the Garbage".

Two other books which have serious purposes but contain touches of comedy are *Go Hire Yourself an Employer* by Richard K. Irish and *The Kitchen in History* by Molly Harrison. The dedication of the first-mentioned book gives you an idea of the tone: "This book is dedicated to everyone who at one time or another is told 'You're too young, old, qualified, unqualified, experienced, inexperienced, beautiful, plain, expensive, educated, uneducated or too damn good' for a job..."

The second book contains such goodies as the following two ways to make homemade toothpaste in the sixteenth century: "To keep the teeth both white and sound, take a quart of honey, as much vinegar and half as much white wine, boil them together and wash your teeth therewith now and then. The heads of mice, burned, are said to make an excellent powder for the scouring and cleansing of the teeth, called tooth soap."

Life on the concert circuit is the subject of *Facing the Music* by Henri Temianka. It contains many interesting and witty sidelights on the careers of famous musicians such as Jascha Heifitz, Leonard Bernstein, Vladimir Horowitz, Arthur Rubenstein, and Isaac Stern.

**SCREECHES**  
**NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY**—Sometimes the catalogers have hard decisions to make when classifying books with appeal for more than one age group. A case in point is a book of poems for juvenile readers which might just as easily have been assigned to adult status since the rhymes are a clever

disguise for deep thoughts. Titled *Opposites*, it is a collection of short verses by Richard Wilbur. My favorite is this one:

There's more than one way to be right  
About the opposite of white,  
And those who merely answer black  
Are very, very single-track.  
They make one want to scream,  
"I beg  
Your pardon, but within an egg  
(A folk known to the simplest folk)  
The opposite of white is yolk!"

### Boys' State Report Given

Chowan Ruritan Club heard Mel Evans report on Boys State Monday night at Oak Grove Community Building. Mel, son of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Evans, told about the operation Boys State.

He said, "We learned a lot about the way the different government bodies function". He said the high light of the week was the helicopter visit by Governor Holshouser.

The meeting was attended by 20 Ruritans. W. J. Privott reported on the solid waste disposal system now in operation in Chowan County. Privott also told about work being done toward a county-wide water system. He said, "It looks like we will get a county water system some time."

Arthur Kay led in a discussion concerning the need of improved water safety.

Clarence Bass, president, presided at the meeting. Secretary David Ober called the roll and read the minutes.

### Death Claims

#### Mr. White, 48

Elisha Burke White, Jr., 48, of Tyner, died Sunday in McGuire Hospital in Richmond, Va., following an illness of one week.

He was retired from the Naval Shipyard at Portsmouth, Va.

A native of Chowan County, he was the son of the late Elisha B. and Elizabeth Lane White. He was married to Mrs. Helen T. White of Pomona, Calif., who survives.

Also surviving are two daughters: Miss Joan White of Canoga Park, Calif.; and Miss Sarah White of Pomona, Calif.; and four sisters: Mrs. Elizabeth Ware of Greensboro; Mrs. Lucy Hardee of Tyner; Mrs. Syble Eure of Suffolk, Va.; and Mrs. Marion Everett of Plymouth.

He was a member of Center Hill United Methodist Church and a veteran of World War II. Funeral services were held at 3 P.M. Wednesday in Center Hill United Methodist Church with Rev. Daniel Forbes and Rev. George Broome officiating. Burial was in White Family Cemetery in Tyner.

Colonial Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

The investigation of oil pollution and the enforcement of laws to protect the environment are relatively new Coast Guard responsibilities.



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