

Brunswick Between Bookends

By Al Arntsen



POOR NO MORE, by Robert Ruark. Henry Holt & Co. 706 Pages. Available at Southport Public Library.

One asks oneself when finishing this long, long literary effort "Why in the world did he write such a book?" The answer, undoubtedly, is "for several hundred thousand dollars."

Seems like mighty low pay for having put on the book market a manuscript which depends on sensationalism and filthy words to get it read.

It's a pity, too, because if one wades through the obscenities there is in it as always in Bob Ruark's books, a lot of real good writing. Folks from, and interested in, Brunswick County will be proud that it's when the

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mrs. Arntsen is on vacation and the book review last week and this week were written by members of the staff of The State Port Pilot.

author and former resident of Southport is calling on the experiences of his early days along the Cape Fear he's at his best.

There are many passages which are worth reading, most of them nostalgic reminiscences, and one cannot help but feel sorry for the man who went so far and so fast that he ceased to enjoy life. In seeking so vigorously for happiness it seems that Craig, as the central character is known, loses what prospects for happiness he possessed in the beginning.

The novel gets its title from the driving urge that Craig Price experiences to leave the anonymous existence of a small-town boy and become a big-town big-shot. Ruthless and cynical, he makes his way to the top, leaving discarded on the way several women, business associates and whatever ethics he may have possessed earlier.

Women don't get much of a fair-shake from Ruark in any of his books, and the presently reviewed one is no exception. To him they're either prudes or prostitutes, and he disregards the possibility that in between there are "good" ones in whom there is a little bad, or "bad" ones with some good in them.

In his "precautionary note" Ruark says: "It is customary to say that the characters in this book bear no resemblance to anyone, living or dead. That would certainly be a lie, but working out just who is who is bound to be difficult." Nevertheless, Southport residents have probably read and re-read this book, torn between desire to be mentioned in such prominent work and the fear of being identified too frankly or too well. Local names abound, but we suspect that Ruark has consciously put them all in the pot and has come up with a hodgepodge of characteristics and names without real regard for identification.

Too much of the book probably began life on the walls of the old Pavilion at the foot of Potts St., but much of it bears repeating. One welcomes the passages such as "Away off in the distant wood Craig knew that his pet bald eagle was sitting high in the rigging of a lightning-blasted tree-waiting, just waiting for that old osprey to seize onto a fish big enough to make it worth the eagle's stealing time."

Or his description of the old house: "It was such a house. You could play underneath it when it rained. It was a house which was bulwarked staunchly by oaks, made beautifully fragrant by magnolia, rendered fertile by pecans and grapes, beloved by its flowers. It was the House on The Corner. It was my house. And it got sold up for six thousand lousy dollars. It got rented. It got rented to trash-

poor white, and trash. It had their paw prints on the walls. The wiring hung in loops. It smelt like a nest of goats. The roof sagged and the porch was falling down. It was a poor house, a lonely house, a house that had been used and abused. It stank. The weed-choked grass was unmowed, the cement sidewalk cracked, the fig tree ruined, the garage a rotting wreck. Everything in and around this house had been soiled and fouled by the dirty hands of other people, unworthy people, and in the process the only youth I care to recall was filled. Sullier, perhaps, is a better, milder word."

The last sentence in the book, in italics, perhaps is the saddest of all because it expresses the hopelessness of the life of Craig Price, the high and mighty. "How very rich he'd be, Craig suddenly thought, if he owned anything except the million dollars waiting for him in Switzerland."

One thing is certain: Bob Ruark is capable of writing a good book. One of these days he just might do it. This one isn't it.

Garden Time

From the question box: "I have a good location for a hardy hydrangea. Can I set a plant this time of year?" Yes, if you can find one which has been grown in a container (nursery container grown stock). Try your local nurseryman or garden center.

From a lady in Eastern Carolina: "I have read somewhere that Captan can be used for the control of bunch grape diseases. Is this true? If so, can you help me?"

Captan, with Malathion and Methoxychlor, may be used effectively for the control of both insects and diseases which attack the bunch grape.

Materials should be mixed as follows: Captan (50 per cent wettable powder), three tablespoons; Methoxychlor (50 per cent wettable powder), three tablespoons; Malathion (25 per cent wettable powder), four tablespoons; water, one gallon.

For 10 gallons of spray, use three ounces Captan, three ounces Methoxychlor and five ounces Malathion.

For bunch grapes, spray every two weeks until two weeks before the grapes ripen. Spray thoroughly.

It is usually not necessary to spray Muscadine grapes. However, if you wish to protect your plants from insects and diseases, the same materials and schedule may be used as given for bunch grapes.

This same spray formulation is also effective for the control of insects and diseases which attack apples, peaches, raspberries and dewberries, blueberries and strawberries.

In the mountains: For strawberries, spray at two-week intervals until berries start to form. At this stage, drop out Methoxychlor and Malathion and spray with Captan alone, eight tablespoons per gallon of water, until harvest time. After harvest, continue at two-week intervals using full schedule.

In the mountains: For blueberries, spray at two-week intervals until two weeks before harvest begins. After harvest, spray at two-week intervals until late August.

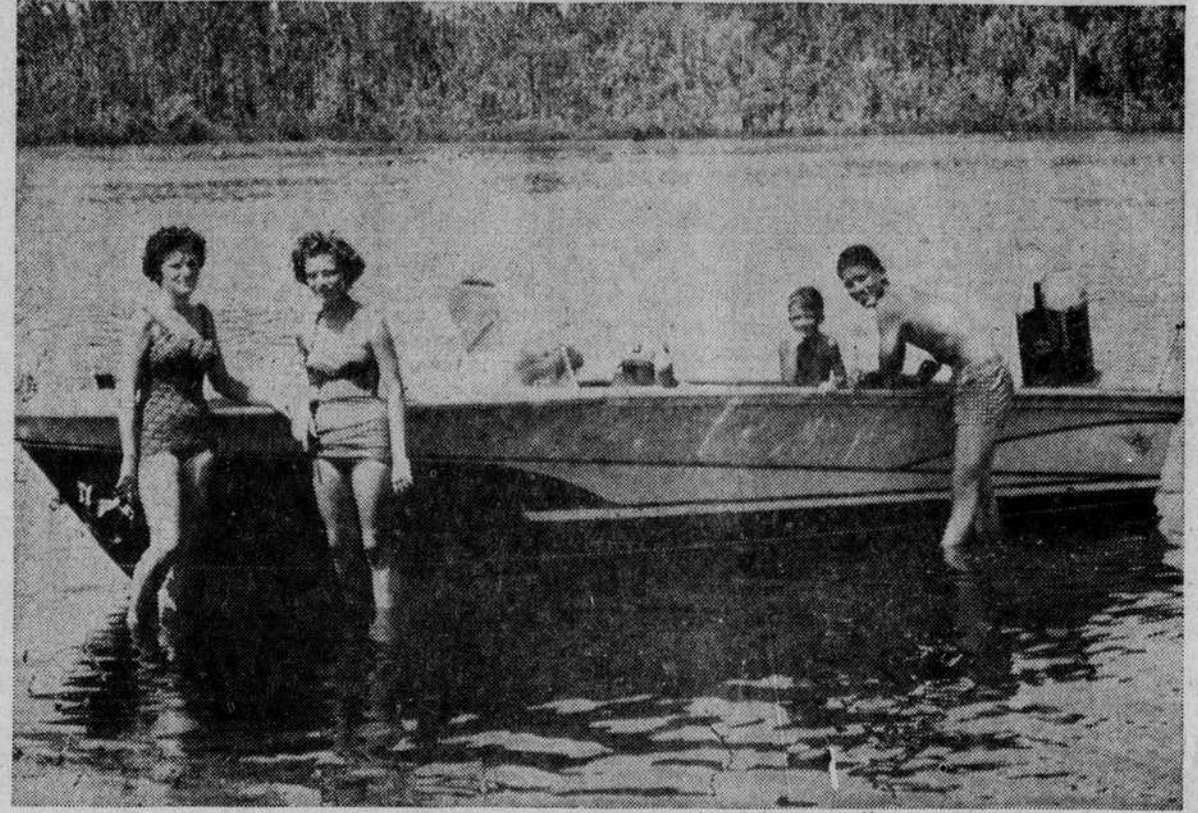


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Water Wonderland At — BOILING SPRING LAKE



PLAYGROUND FOR WATER SPORTS

BRING YOUR FRIENDS—We are proud of Boiling Spring Lakes, and we want others to see what we are doing. When you have visitors from other sections of the State, we invite you to take them for a drive over our winding roads and across the big dam. Visit the Big Spring. We think that this may be a highlight of a visit to Brunswick County this summer. Let's let the world know what is going on here in Brunswick County.

BOILING SPRING LAKE is one of the largest man-made lakes in Southeastern North Carolina and its long reaches make this an ideal body of water for motorboating and water skiing. In order to make the use of this water easy and convenient, a paved boat-ramp has been installed. Many visitors already have made use of these facilities, and we invite others to do so.

PICNIC AREA—In the vicinity of the Fabulous Boiling Spring we have cleared out and have beautified a picnic and recreation area that is attracting large numbers of visitors. We have provided picnic tables, and barbecue ovens are available for those who wish to cook out. Best of all, however, is the opportunity to have a bountiful supply of cool, pure water for drinking or for cooking. This comes from the Big Spring, whose reputation goes back to the days when Indians inhabited this region. If you have not made use of these facilities, you are invited to do so.

GOLF COURSE—Construction of the first nine holes of the 18-hole Championship Golf Course design for this resort area has been completed, and we are now waiting for the grass to grow and provide a suitable carpet of green for the greens and fairways. Work has begun on the Boiling Spring Lakes Country Clubhouse, and Open House on Labor Day weekend is the immediate objective.

HOME BUILDING—Homes in Boiling Spring Lakes are of brick veneer and are all-electric. Eight of these homes have been completed, and other construction now is in progress.

BOILING SPRING LAKES MOTEL—Workmen are rapidly completing construction of the beautiful brick motel overlooking the big lake. We are particularly proud of this facility, for it will afford accommodations for fishermen, golfers and property owners who wish to come down for a visit and a chance to look over their lot. It will provide a base of operations for many of these people when they begin construction of their own home.

OTHER PROJECTS—There are many other projects under consideration. One of these is a beginning of the Shopping Center, with the object of being able to provide some of the normal merchandising needs of our permanent residents and our visitors. There will be more about this and other projects later.

Watch A City Develop From Its Beginning! Boiling Spring Lakes

A Division Of Reeves Broadcasting and Development Corporation
Sited On Highway No. 87
SOUTHPORT, N. C.

SECOND PRIMARY ELECTION SATURDAY, JUNE 23

Polls Open 6:30 A. M.—Close 6:30 P. M.

The Same Registrars and Regular Democratic Judges Will Serve.

Issues to be decided at this election is the nomination of the Democratic Candidate for Judge of Recorder's Court and Candidate for County Commissioner from Town Creek Township.

There is also a contest for nomination of a Democratic Candidate for Constable for Northwest Township.

There will be no Registration Prior to June 23rd.

Voting will take place at the same Precinct Polling Places used for the First Primary Election on May 23rd.

BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

H. Foster Mintz, Chairman