

FROM THE BOOKCASE

'Wind from the Carolinas' Exciting Story of Bahamas

WIND FROM THE CAROLINAS by Robert Wilder, G. D. Putnam's Sons, New York; 655 pp.; \$6.95.

Reviewed by
MARIAN TRAINOR

One hundred and forty years of history make a panoramic backdrop for Robert Wilder's 15th and latest novel "Wind from the Carolinas."

It is the history of the Bahamas, a group of islands off the coast of Florida where winter-weary vacationists now flock each year

to relax in the welcoming warmth of their sun-drenched coasts.

The history of the islands is bound up with that of America's history although they are English possessions. They were the first sighted by Columbus, and he called them San Salvador. They were a refuge for the loyalists who left their adopted America rather than cut ties with England to make another try for a new life on the "lost islands."

father's, to his granddaughter Bahama, lovely as the islands for which she is named, as unpredictable as the hurricanes of the Caribbean, and at last to Bruce Raleigh, Bahama's great-great-grandson, who brings the family saga full circle.

WILDER IS a good story teller as those who have read his "Wine of Youth," "Written on the Wind," or "Flamingo Road" know.

The flair still holds, and "Wind from the Carolinas" never loses interest as it moves swiftly from one dramatic incident to another. Violence, passion, adventure and love romances are fused in this never-dull narrative.

His strongest characters love the sea, and through them we come to know the exhilaration of salt air and sturdy breezes. He has a fine appreciation of the glory of youth and its power to love and live and race into adventure.

Yet there is an understanding of age, too, its wisdom, its caution its sadness.

FM Station Airs Show From Raven

BY ETHEL SIMMONS
Arts Editor

"The Raven Sings," a half-hour segment of a new two-hour folk music program on FM radio, is being taped Sunday nights at the Raven Gallery, 136 Brownell, Birmingham.

CKLW-FM airs the show, called "Finest in Folk," from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

The Raven portion is heard from 9 to 9:30 p.m.

Ron Coden acts as emcee of the radio show from The Raven, taped at the regular Sunday hootenanny. A couple of numbers by guests are followed by songs by the featured performers.

DURING THE Civil War, men from the islands ran blockade between the States, and, finally, during the era of Prohibition, rum-running brought prosperity to the Bahamas.

It is fascinating history and could make an intriguing story told just as fact. However, linked with the saga of a family whose fortunes are coupled with the ebb and flow of the fortunes of the islands, it makes absorbing reading.

The Camerons came to the Island of Exuma after the revolution because they were loyalists. Ronald Cameron, widower, with his son and daughter, plans to recreate on the sun-washed island the gracious life they had known before the revolution.

BUT THE ISLANDS cannot produce cotton on the scale imagined and with the failure of the plantations come poverty and ruin.

But Ronald Cameron was stubborn and so were his children and descendants, who rest their fate in the cycles of wealth and poverty which are brought about by influenced far beyond their shores.

The Camerons are a colorful family, from the patriarch Ronald through his daughter Caroline, whose will was as strong as her

... TWO OF HIS finest characters are reduced by time to pitiful shadows of themselves—Ronald Cameron, who is mercifully swept away in a hurricane, and Juan Cadiz, Caroline's husband, who deliberately seeks death in his beloved sea as an escape from his palsied invalidism.

Wilder is a popular writer and understandably so. His books are easy to read. His prose flows, and the story despite its length and long list of characters is easily followed. There are no subtleties or complexities to tax the intelligence. It's just good pleasurable reading. It should make a first-rate movie, too!

FOLK SINGER Orville Smith, who recently played a two-week engagement at the Raven, has appeared on "The Raven Sings."

According to gallery director Herb Cohen, Jim Van Kuren of CKLW who is an announcer for the show was so impressed with Miss Smith's performance that he introduced her to Bill Kennedy.

The young artist subsequently was interviewed on Kennedy's CKLW-TV show.

Performers at The Raven regularly appear on such programs as the "Jim Wood Show," "Jack Harris Show" and "Cavalcade of Stars," all on radio station WR.

THE "FINEST in Folk" program also includes a taped performance from Peter A. Canten's "The Reformation," Detroit coffee house. This is broadcast from 8 to 8:30 p.m.

The 7:30 to 8 p.m. and 8:30 to 9 p.m. segments feature recordings by leading musicians in the ethnic and commercial folk field.

Beck's Subjects Gain 'Heightened Meaning'

Reviewed by
KATHARINE SMITH

Stephen R. Beck, now showing paintings and drawings at the Raven Gallery, 136 Brownell, Birmingham, is a supra-natural point of view.

This is a case of one and one making three. He gives to what could be quite ordinary subjects a heightened meaning through unusual combinations of color, emphasis on shape, or new organization of shapes.

A bird's nest or a beetle can be the springboard for a large semi-abstract composition. (Without titles, I might have said "wholly abstract.") The "Beetle," for instance, uses two large carapace shapes in brilliant aqua, complicated around the edges with bits of purple, black, red and white, highly complicated in the head region—a subtle combination of smooth

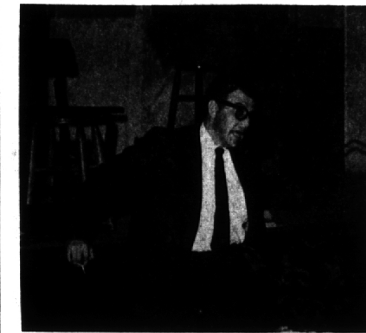
beauty plus the scraping roughness of insect legs or antennae.

IT'S SORT of an amalgamation of responses to the word beetle. And "Bird's Nest" celebrates the intricacies of its subject with small colored areas of electric blues, fuchsia, orange and red; carefully clustered against subdued surroundings.

"Winter at Romeo" is a tremendously effective landscape—dark narrow sky, soft spreading foreground, the heaviness of winter twilight relieved by one sparkling area of bits of brighter paint that could be lighted buildings seen from a distance.

The emphasis, however, is more on the excitement of design than on story-telling.

"CRANBROOK AUTUMN" sets a bright orange against a dusky (See SUBJECTS, 5-D)



IN ACTION, WILLIAM GREGORY
Director of Vanguard Theatre.

It's Heigh-Ho, They're Back From the Fair

By ALICE WESSELS
BURLINGAME
Special Writer

Foot weary but happy travelers returned late Thursday night from The Birmingham Eccentric-sponsored trip to the World's Fair.

The group was made up of successful businessmen and their wives, plus a group who went for the pleasure of companionship with new friends. Everybody agreed that the fair was wonderful and worthwhile.

We were all increased at the stories circulated that it is impossible to eat on the grounds without spending a fortune, which has resulted in many people saying: "I won't be going to New York."

These stories are unfair to the sponsors who are doing such an outstanding job. You can come to Detroit or New York and spend a fortune for meals if you wish, but there are many reasonable places to secure interesting food at the New York World's Fair.



W. D. SNOGRASS
Poet in Repose.

Roosevelt-Yamasaki Concert Scheduled

Dorothy Kemp Roosevelt of Birmingham and Teruko Yamasaki of Bloomfield Hills will play a two-piano concert Friday evening, June 19, for the benefit of the Birmingham Democratic Club sponsoring the event.

The concert will be held in Mrs. Roosevelt's studio, 292 Greenwood. Tickets will be sold in advance of the concert date only.

Information regarding tickets may be obtained by calling ticket chairman, Mrs. John R. App, 948 Madison, Birmingham. The program for the concert, a varied one, will be announced at a later date.

CHAIRMAN of the Birmingham Democratic Club, Harry McGowan, of 110 Aspen, Birmingham, has appointed Mrs. Daniel G. Waldron of London, former chairman of Oakland County Democratic Women's Activities Committee as general chairman of arrangements for the concert.

Her committee chairmen are: tickets, Mrs. John R. App of Madison; hostess, Mrs. John McVay of Yosemite; finance, Mrs. Paul Elmer (See CONCERT, 3-D)

3 Lively Artists Spark OU Series

There's a dream building up on the Oakland University campus, of summer with the seven lively acts, and in mid-June that dream will explode into real life for enrollees in the six-week session.

A modern man of the theatre with the drive of a business executive, a poet who stresses the practical and a gentle young sculptress with the eye of an X-ray are just three of the teachers rounded up by the OU Division of Continuing Education.

Officially, the trio are Vanguard Theatre Director William Gregory, Pulitzer Prize Poet W. D. Snodgrass and sculptress-painter Sue Maddox.

HE PROFESSES a consuming interest in teaching the student who truly longs to be a professional and will go to any lengths to turn out a finished craftsman.

Potential directors will analyze every word of the script, block every movement on stage. And the actors will be working with professional polish by the time they close their term with a full-scale production in the new university theatre.

A PhD (U. of Minnesota, '57), Gregory taught drama for five years in Michigan high schools and divided five more equally as drama director at Alma College and Western Washington University. Prior to joining Vanguard in 1960, he was for seven seasons managing director of the Lake Michigan Playhouse.



'ROSE FIGURE'
By Sue Maddox.

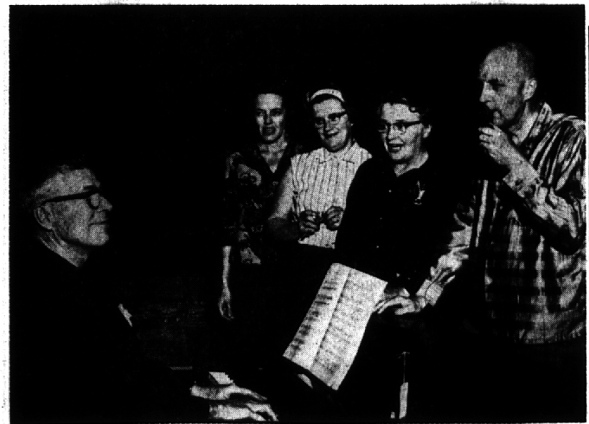
A QUICK, incisive personality, he lives with controlled intensity, speaks without fumbling and thinks on his feet. He knows exactly what he wants, and wants his pupil to want the very best the theatre has to offer.

In dramatic contrast, poet Snodgrass, who took the Pulitzer at age 34 with his collection "Hearts Needle," is gently informal, almost an elf in the opinion of former students.

He expounds knowingly on the problems of poetry in practice while seated tailor-fashion on a table, sipping from a cardboard container of orange juice. He chafes at the severity of classroom atmosphere, seems always on the verge of suggesting that his pupils come outside on the lawn.

In our last session, says a last year's OU summer student, "Mr. Snodgrass sang the true version of 'Frankie and Johnny' for us and accompanied himself on some weird and ancient mountain instrument." His schedule for all this is Thursday evenings, starting June 25, from 7:30 to 9:30.

YOUNG ARTIST Sue Maddox, immaculate in a blue summer suit with white eyelid ruffles, says of her prospective sculpture student: "I hope they'll wear really scuffy clothes to class—I like to make messes. And most of all, comfortable shoes!" (See ARTISTS, 7-D)



Tuning Up for 'Brigadoon'

The stage is set for the St. Dunstan's Guild production of "Brigadoon," which opens at 9 p.m. tonight at the outdoor Greek Theatre at Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills. The scene-makers include (from left) Robert Bates, musical director; Mrs. Dorothy Wright, producer; Mrs. Otis Thompson, assistant musical director; Mrs. Roger Marquis, assistant director; and Jervis B. McMechan, director. Also included in the production staff are Carleen Martin, assistant producer; Liz Boyne, Ann Kelly and Jane Greenawald, choreographers; Bob Ralsch, set designer; Mae Averill, set decoration; Tom Kelly, set construction; Mary Ann Daane, costumes; Bill Holmes, lights; Sally Saunders, make-up; and Cathy Armstrong and Uta Letts, props. "Brigadoon," with music by Frederick Loewe and book and lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner, costars Isabel Himelhoch and George McClellan. Other cast members are JoAnne Meurer, Chuck Campbell, Steve Saunders, Fred Bahr, Roger Marquis, Bud Stoddard, Ann Finn, Garv Bawden, John Allman, Mac McLoughlin and Dick Guilford. Curtain time is 9 tonight through Friday and June 11-13. Tickets are available at Crissell's Birmingham, or by calling the St. Dunstan's Guild ticket office, 4851 Ardmore, Bloomfield Hills.

IF YOU HAVE children I would consider bringing them to New York next year, simply because they will be a year older, to get more out of this wonderful experience.

We Disney could be crowned king of the fair due to his wonderful show in the General Electric building.

To assimilate the most from the fair it is advisable to go only every other day when in New York, using the "free" you should take an open air bus for a comprehensive evaluation of those stops with the greatest interest.

ALSO, IT IS important to arrive perhaps sometime in the afternoon and plan to stay until closing time to see the night lighting. The crowds will begin to thin out near closing time for those stops which have the longest lines.

One of the first sights you will see upon entering the grounds is the Mormon Pavilion with its three tall towers, resembling the Temple in Salt Lake, with a cloud hovering over it. The structure is surrounded by beautiful gardens with plants sent by members from all over the world. There are pools in the gardens for accents, and many benches invite the visitor to rest.

Within the pavilion there are movies and dioramas showing the story of the Mormon Church. Regardless of one's faith a visit to this pavilion is a great religious experience, especially with its appeal to youth with the question: "Who am I?"

THE UNITED STATES building was well done, and its glass exterior when it reflected all its colors at night joined with the many spotlights and fountains on the grounds to provide a never-to-be-forgotten sight.

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