

Paul Green Foundation

NEWS – August 2017



Paul Green's Wordbook: An Alphabet of Reminiscence

Excerpted from Paul Green's Wordbook: "Elizabeth and I travelled around in eastern North Carolina in an old Ford car back in 1927 and '28, and we talked to hundreds of people of all walks and stations of life in that region. We would always raise the subject of 'old sayings' – at least a hundred that I'd heard my father use, such as 'wilful waste makes woeful want,' 'a fat today makes a hungry tomorrow,' etc."

For over 60 years Paul Green carried 3x5 cards in his coat pockets ready to write down sayings, proverbs, customs, herb cures, beliefs, ballads and legends "of my people."

Dr. Richard Walser selected 103 of Green's entries for *North Carolina Folklore* Vol. XVI. NO. 4, December 1968 entitled ***Paul Green Words & Ways: stories and incidents from my Cape Fear Valley Folklore Collection.***

By 1981, the hundreds of 3x5 cards had been typed in manuscript format.

An excerpt from John Ehle's Foreward:

Just days before he died, we sat and talked about his book. He had put down everything he had known, "about everything I've learned."

"What sort of order is it in," I asked.

"Alphabetical," he said – "it's a long book, John."

"How long?"

"Sixteen hundred pages." I laughed out of surprise.

"Single spaced," he added.

The writer of so many dozen stories and plays, the father of outdoor drama in America, the wise teacher, the friend, was leaving this gift. Himself, in this gift. In your hands.



By 1990,

the manuscript – all 1245 pages in two volumes – was published by **Appalachian Consortium Press** (1973-2004) at Appalachian State University, Boone, NC.

Now after 27 years, the Paul Green Foundation has fewer than a dozen copies left. So it was very good news when we received this notice from ASU's Belk Library saying they would like to digitize *Paul Green's Wordbook:*

In the spring of 2016, the University Libraries were granted \$88,000 by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to digitize and provide open access to the publications of the Appalachian Consortium Press, which is no longer operational. The grant was among the inaugural group of grants funded by the partnership between the Mellon Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Paul Green's Wordbook: An Alphabet of Reminiscence

will soon be available, "On Demand," in a two-volume paperback set from UNC Press in Chapel Hill – and we'll receive royalties!

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Green family, the Foundation Trustees, Rhoda Wynn and the many friends who generously contributed in the years leading up to publication in 1990 of this worthy project – in many ways, Paul Green's autobiography. I joined the Foundation in 1991 and had the privilege of distributing it to libraries and selling the handsome sets. And I want to sincerely thank **John Ehle** for giving Paul Green, in his last days, the assurance that the book he'd been working on for decades would be published.

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