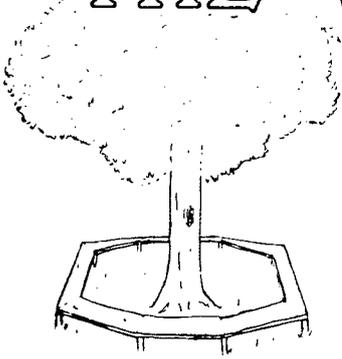


THE WHITTLERS BENCH



SOUTHPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

P. O. BOX • SOUTHPORT, NORTH CAROLINA 28461

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October 17, 1985

REGULAR MEETING

The fall quarterly meeting of our Society is scheduled for October 24 at 7:30 P.M. in the Board Room of the Library. The speaker is to be Mr. Robert Moul from CAMA in Wilmington who will speak on CAMA's role in historic preservation.

Election of officers for the two-year term (1986-88) is to be held at this meeting, with installation of those elected set for the January 1986 meeting. Those nominated at the July meeting are as follows:

President	Susan Carson	Secretary	Jan Quinn
Vice Pres.	Eleanor Smith	Treasurer	Pauline Swain

Among other matters to be considered at the October meeting are a proposal for submission to the City government concerning the cemeteries in the city, a plaque to honor Robert Ruark, and an increase in annual dues from \$5.00 to \$10.00. Please plan to attend and voice your opinion.

SET FAIR FOR ROANOKE: David Beers Quinn, professor emeritus of history at the University of Liverpool and widely recognized as the outstanding authority on early English exploration and settlement in America, has brought together nearly forty years of research in his book SET FAIR FOR ROANOKE. The North Carolina Historical Society Federation bulletin describes this book as a fascinating and richly detailed account of the voyages sponsored by Sir Walter Raleigh and the efforts to colonize what is now North Carolina and Virginia. Quinn provides a concise history of the early colonists' experience in the New World; his solution to the mystery of the Lost Colony will cause controversy as he concludes that while some of the colonists went with friendly Indians to live further down the Outer Banks, most made their way to an area near the Elizabeth River in northeastern Virginia. Quinn contends they lived there with a friendly tribe until well into the first decade of the 17th Century when they were massacred by Powhatan about 1607. The book was published by the University of North Carolina Press in association with America's Four Hundredth Anniversary Committee, N. C. Department of Cultural Resources. (\$19.95 cloth; \$9.95 paper).

RALEIGH ANYONE? The annual meeting of the Federation of North Carolina Historical Societies will be held in Raleigh on November 7th at the Downtown Hilton. Registration forms will be available at the October 24th meeting.

ROBERT RUARK: We find that there is a continuing interest in Robert Ruark. Mr. Ruark was born in Wilmington (although some people still contend he was born in Southport) on December 28, 1915, and died in London on July 1, 1965. On the next page we quote an article which appeared in one of the daily papers at the time of his death. The clipping was undated and the name of the newspaper is unknown, although it is believed to be the News and Observer (Raleigh).

ROBERT RUARK, AUTHOR AND COLUMNIST, DIES

London (AP)- Robert Ruark, 49, American columnist and author of best selling novels, died early today in London's Middlesex Hospital.

The hospital said Ruark was admitted with internal bleeding. "This did not respond to treatment and he died early this morning", the hospital said. The writer had suffered from a liver ailment in recent years.

Ruark visited New York about six weeks ago to deliver the manuscript of a new novel "The Honey Badger". Publication was expected in the fall.

In recent years Ruark lived abroad. He had homes in London and Spain and wrote extensively about Africa. Among his best-sellers were "Uhuru", a novel on African independence, and "Something of Value", concerning African terrorist activities in Kenya.

A columnist for the Scripps-Howard newspapers and the United Feature Service, Ruark traveled 100,000 to 150,000 a year. He turned out more than 1,000 magazine articles and a score of books.

Several years ago he told an interviewer: "Everything I saw that I wanted, I chased; everything I chased, I caught; everything I caught, I enjoyed." But my life is a matter of giving, too. Everything I got, I gave something of myself first to get."

Ruark was born in Wilmington, N. C. and later lived in Southport, N. C. He attended the University of North Carolina and was graduated at 19.

Besides being a good student, Ruark was a cartoonist, and wrote humorous pieces for a campus magazine.

After graduation, Ruark took a job as an accountant for the Works Projects Administration, but was fired. He became a merchant marine seaman, then worked as a newspaperman until World War II. During the war he commanded a Navy gun crew on a freighter.

After the war, he returned to newspaper work and in six months advanced from \$125 a week to \$50,000 a year as a columnist.

Ruark was married in 1938 to Virginia Webb. They were divorced several years ago and Mrs. Ruark now lives in New York. They had no children.