



Designer of the famed New York Times "history test" of 1943, given to 6,000 college Freshmen, the results of which shocked the nation and won a Pulitzer Prize for the Times. Author of "Democracy in the Making," hailed by Time Magazine as one of the four outstanding books published in that year. Newspaper columnist whose columns have appeared in the Los Angeles Times, Memphis Press-Scimitar, Charlotte Observer and many smaller papers. A world travel enthusiast, with the background of a historian and the keen eye of a journalist. Author of a recent series—"How Sweden Conquered Poverty"



811 Oakdale Road, N.E., Atlanta



As I See It

By HUGH RUSSELL FRASER

MARION, VA. Sherwood Anderson made this town famous. He lived here. Here he wrote "Dark Laughter" and many another novel.

There was always something about Sherwood Anderson that intrigued me. His style was dark and mysterious; his words came out of the twilight, neither of night or of day. Sometimes, when all was still and the moon was down, you could hear him laughing . . .



Hugh Russell Fraser

His books were not novels, not plots . . . they were more than that; actually, they were conversations — low pitched, and mysterious — conversations at midnight.

He spoke of beauty, sparsely, charingly . . . for it was all he knew. He did not bother with fear. Why should he? He had discovered something more important . . . the silence and magic of the woods at night, and human voices . . . talking bluntly, hesitantly, of the mystery of life and love.

And so I came to Marion. And what I found — well, it was so uproariously funny, I could not help but laugh.

Naturally, or perhaps I should say logically, he had a supreme contempt for the yokels . . . their thought processes, their solemn opinions, their inane prejudices. And so he bought a paper . . . the Smith County News, and then — of all things! — the rival paper, the Marion Democrat. Both weeklies, mind you. One Democratic and one Republican . . . Well, this was back in the depression when only Sherwood Anderson had money, money for what he said he heard in the whispering corn under the dark of the moon . . . and so he laughed, owning these two papers. A man named Hoover was running for presi-

dent then against a man named Roosevelt . . . and I don't think he liked either Mr. Hoover or Mr. Roosevelt . . . Anyway, he had a unique way of expressing it. A perfect way.

In one paper, the Republican paper (The Smith County News) he denounced Mr. Roosevelt and lauded Mr. Hoover. And Sherwood Anderson could do a magic job of that.

In the other paper, he denounced Mr. Hoover and lauded Mr. Roosevelt, and Mr. Anderson was a master at that.

But it was not only on politics that Sherwood Anderson differed with himself . . . sometimes it was a matter of the Smith County News denouncing the Marion Democrat, and vice-versa; and Sherwood Anderson wrote both editorials! . . . and both of them equally eloquent.

What a wonderful way to live out one's life!

They say here in Marion that Sherwood Anderson is dead, but I am not so sure . . . one night I walked out to the high hill where they buried him and I swear I heard him talking in a low voice as the moon came over the mountain.

There was nobody around . . . there was never anybody around when Sherwood spoke . . . but the low voice continued, half jestingly, half earnestly . . . and then I knew there was nothing serious but the dark ground and the slowly-rising moon . . . and, as if to lighten it all, the sound of dark laughter.

CHARLES A. BEARD says:

"This is a new chapter in American history — and one written with verve."

CLAUDE G. BOWERS says:

"I found *Democracy in the Making* so fascinating that I read it from beginning to end without stopping. It is a robust and dramatic, rapidly moving story of epochal battles for the preservation of democracy against the attacks of an embryo plutocracy, written with gusto and color. It covers a new field in carrying forward the story from Jackson to John Tyler to whom tardy justice is done. From these pages emerges the real fighting Tyler, able, consistent, incorruptible, courageous, impervious to the wiles of demagogues and the temptings of ambition—one of the fine, fighting Presidents. In scraping off the barnacles of prejudice and hate and revealing the real figure of Tyler, the author has rendered a real service to history."

MARQUIS JAMES says:

"A good piece of work adding considerably to our published knowledge of the Jackson Period."

WILLIAM E. DODD says:

"This is an interesting picture of things for the Jackson-Van Buren-Tyler years, especially good in giving personal attitudes as well as efforts to defeat democracy. It will serve a useful purpose, now that democracies are really in danger."

WILLIAM E. WOODWARD says:

"Here is a book of vital interest and enduring significance, one which will eventually cause a revision of an important section of American history."