



Jeanne Gibbs
Editor

A conviction that "God had a plan" for their lives led a young Decatur couple toward each other and writing together for the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. Jacqueline and Jay Durham walked separately down labyrinthine paths of education and career before they came to a center which seemed "to have been made to order" for each of them.

Jackie was born in Hoschton, Ga., and attended the Berry Schools at Rome, where she majored in home economics. However, she felt called to go into religious journalism and applied to the secretary of the Home Mission Board. There was no opening, so she took a job as a hospital dietitian at Winder, Ga. Then, after a year, her dream came true, and she was asked to come and work with the Board's news services. Later she became editorial assistant for *Home Missions*, the monthly magazine published by the Board, and began to do layouts, editing, and feature writing, as well as to help operate the Baptist Press teletype network.

Jay (J. C., Jr.) had a variety of experience in radio and TV, which seemed to lead nowhere as he looked ahead but fell into place when he looked behind. He graduated from Tulane University as an electrical engineer and stayed there to teach for two years before going into radio broadcasting in his hometown, Ft. Payne, Ala. Programming and production experience followed, including duty with the Navy on the Armed Forces Radio in New York City. Six years at WSB-TV led to a request by the Home Mission Board to help with a script. Later, after work on other scripts and film strips, he was asked

to take the job of Secretary of Promotion.

Working together in the same office, Jay and Jackie became interested in one another, but even after they were engaged, concealed this interest very well. One day when Jackie was having a coffee break with some office friends, Jay walked by and said to her, "What! Tea today, no coffee?" A friend turned to Jackie in surprise and said, "Why, that's the first time I've ever heard you two speak to each other."

They were married and even though in different departments of the Board, continue to work together in spirit and in fact. Jackie has done scripts for films and helped plan Convention programs for Jay, who does much photography as well as writing and producing. Outstanding accomplishments for each have been the photos of mission work Jay made in Panama and the book, *Blue Flower*, Jackie wrote for the graded mission study series.



The Durham family

The entire family is engaged in this religious promotion. Quite often the children, Cynthia, Glynnis, and Jay, serve as models in both still pictures and films. Feeling that no one can rear her children as she can, Jackie will resign her job in September. However, she will continue her writings and has enough already assigned to last for a year or so.

ROMANCE AND REALISM IN SOUTHERN POLITICS, by T. Harry Williams, University of Georgia Press, Athens, 84 pp., \$2.50.

Romanticism has won over realism

most of the time at the polls of southern politics, according to Dr. Williams, a history professor at Louisiana State University. The very nature of the Southerner's environment, "a pattern of blurred softness," creates a mood in which imagination holds sway. That and the romantic vision of the Old South and the Lost Cause have influenced the Southerner to superimpose an ideal dream world on the world of the present.

Populism, headed in Georgia by Tom Watson, collided with romantic images, going the way of economics and self-interest, but its success was transient. The political system forced a natural leader like Huey Long to become a ruthless operator of power. However, his permanent accomplishments for his state are many.

DEADLIER THAN THE MALE, by Genevieve Holden, Doubleday & Co., Crime Club Selection, 187 pp., \$2.95.

This murder mystery is constructed with the interlocking skill of a crossword puzzle. The reader has all the fun of working at it, and if he persists to page 150, this Atlanta author neatly solves it for him.

The missing link between poison and corpse is an ageless femme fatale, Lila Kingsley, who has as many aliases as murdered husbands. As detective Hank Ferrell traces her from a Delta town to New Orleans and thereabout, she assumes the nebulous fascination of a fable. How can anyone so cleverly camouflage her appearance and obliterate most traces of her past and present?

An invalid ex-detective, who has trailed her through the years, once missing her by minutes, eagerly follows Hank's progress. His lovely niece, Nancy, sweetens Hank's disheartening search but becomes suspect herself, as every beautiful woman, who might be the chameleon Lila. In the dungeon-like files of a courthouse, Hank realizes to his peril that although he has not found Lila, she has found him.

Forceful figures of speech make this more than a tale of action and suspense. Miss Holden's sensitivity to sound produces such graceful notes as: A feminine voice was "like a handful of iron filings thrown into a jar of honey."