

Paul Green's 84th Birthday
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Harnett County's local historian, Malcolm Fowler of Lillington, wrote a book some years ago about the County titled They Passed This Way. It's a colorful, personal narrative by Malcolm, and he quotes an anonymous writer as having described the people of Harnett County in this way:

"There are gentlemen and scholars, elders and deacons among them; roughnecks, drunks and cardplayers, too.

"They have been good soldiers and some of them heroes, others, goldbrickers. They have had good sense, and many times they have acted most foolishly.

"They have had distilleries and barrooms when the law allowed, and bootleggers when it didn't.

"Occasionally, they have shot one another for good cause---or no cause at all. They have never taken a beating lying down, and

they get up most unexpectedly.

"They have left undone the things they should have done and done the dangdest things instead. There is good blood in the worst of them and bad blood in the best."

I guess he was probably pretty near right, and I am here to tell you this evening that Paul Green and I both are of that stock.

Those of us from Harnett County are a diverse people, independent and proud, conservative in our way and extremely jealous of our rights. And from our midst have risen persons of note---and certainly no one stands taller among those persons than my neighbor and friend Paul Green.

Though he moved from the County years ago his heart has never left there. I have only to pick up a copy of his book, Home To My Valley, to remember that fact and transcend the urban hubbub which is so much a part of