

book notes

John O'Hara—himself to know

by DICK LOCHTE

During one of his more productive periods, John O'Hara published "Ten North Frederick," "From the Terrace" and "Ourselves to Know." He also authored two other works that were not published a fact that Harcourt Brace Jovanovich and Bruccoli Clark will negate Thanksgiving Day. "Two by John O'Hara" (\$10.95) will consist of "The Man Who Could Not Lose," a screen treatment written in fiction form for 20th Century-Fox in 1959, and a play, "Far From Heaven," completed in 1962. "Man" is about a financier who, after stealing some \$4 million from his investors, begins a self-imposed exile that adds a crucial edge of emotional uninvolvedness to his wheeling and dealing. Of it, O'Hara said: "I was determined to get away from the Hollywood practice of writing a screen original so that even Jack Warner could read it." He hoped that Alfred Hitchcock would direct the movie, but when Buddy Adler, production head at the studio, died, the project was dropped. "Far From Heaven" follows a breezy Tammany Hall politician as he returns home from a prison stint served to save his bosses. Instead of being rewarded, he is ostracized.



John O'Hara

In addition to "Two," Bruccoli Clark is responsible for the availability of a number of literary curiosities including O'Hara's "Remarks on the Novel," the only recording of his voice, and "F. Scott Fitzgerald's Triangle Club Songs," performed by the After Dinner Opera Company (both on cassettes: \$10, each; from Bruccoli Clark, 1700 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills, Mich. 48013).

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AUTHOR, AUTHOR—Kent State University has published "Dorothy L. Sayers: A Literary Biography" by Ralph E. Hone (\$15), also "As Her Whimsey Took Her: Critical Essays on the Work of Dorothy L. Sayers," edited by Margaret P. Hannay (\$15). In August, Avon will add to that list "The Wimsey Family" (\$3.95, paperback), a "fragmentary history compiled from correspondence with Dorothy L. Sayers" by C.W. Scott-Giles . . . Playwright and critic Jack Richardson has authored "M memoir of a Gambler" (Simon & Schuster: \$9.95; November), a novel that is, according to the publisher, "a fascinating descent into the gambler's personal world, told unflinchingly" by a man who was "for a period of his life a devoted gambler." He might have profited from Mike Newman's "Dealer's Special: Inside Look at the Casino Scene by a Working Blackjack Dealer" (\$2, paperback; from Gambler's Book Club Press, 630 S. 11th St., Box 4115, Las Vegas, Nev. 89106).

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EVENTS—Today at 4:30 p.m., Marty Nakell and Karen Olson will read at George Sand (9011 Melrose) . . . Tonight at 8 p.m., poets George Hitchcock, Marjorie Simon, Ivan Arguelle and George Fuller will read at Intellectuals and Liars (1028 Wilshire, Santa Monica) . . . Monday, 6:30 p.m., Rachel Sherwood and Elliot Fried will read at the L.A. Library Poetry Series, Felipe de Neve branch (2820 W. 6th) . . . Tuesday at 7:30 p.m., Jeannie Morgan and Charles Batman will be featured at the Venice Poetry Readings (685 Venice Blvd., Venice) . . . Tuesday at 7:30 p.m., Susan Baskin will lead the first of eight Tuesday night screenwriting workshops at Beyond Baroque (681 Venice Blvd., Venice). Information: 822-3006 . . . Thursday marks the start of a four-day Irvine Writers' Conference, presented by UC Irvine Extension. Peter Beagle, Howard Fast and Steve Shagan will be among the members of the faculty. Information: (714) 833-5414 . . . Friday at 8 p.m., Lance Jencks will read at Laguna Poets (428 Park, Laguna Beach) . . . Friday at 8 p.m., Curtis Lyle will be featured poet at Beyond Baroque . . . Saturday at 9 a.m., David L. Clark (author of "L.A. On Foot") will instruct UCLA Extension's "Capturing Living History: Oral History Interview Techniques," in 121 Dodd Hall on the campus. Call: 825-0641 . . . Saturday at 10 a.m., Holly Prado begins the first of six weekly workshops on "What the Poet Does in Prose" at Beyond Baroque. Information: 822-3006 . . . From Sholom Stodolsky comes this irresistible item: "Today at the Baroque Book Store in Hollywood there will NOT be a poetry reading by a local bad poet, no book signing by the latest best-selling author and definitely no champagne party to celebrate the coming out of the latest 'nut' book; hopefully, no customers either, so that the proprietor can finish an eight-year-old book ('Kafka & the Yiddish Theater') that he's halfway through reading."

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FINALLY—From the Lyle Stuart catalog comes this report on a scheduled autobiography, "Ordeal," by Linda Lovelace with Mike McGrady (Citadel: \$10; January): "The story of what happened—what really happened—is a modern Gothic horror tale. Linda Lovelace made 'Deep Throat' under unimaginable duress . . . A gun was held to her head and a knife was put to her throat. She was forced into unspeakable perversions . . . During the past few years, Linda Lovelace has rejected 'comeback' offers for pornographic movies that might make her rich. She is searching for personal peace and a normal life with her family. (Her) story had to be told. It is a story of our country today—our priorities, our preoccupations and our price tags." Lyle Stuart is saying nothing more on the matter, except that Mike McGrady is the same good-natured fellow who, together with 24 newspaper cronies, penned "Naked Came the Stranger," a spoof of sex novels that was taken seriously enough by readers to become a best-seller a few years ago.