

ment field. He created and was the executive producer from 1970 through 1980 of the prestigious Chateau DeVille Dinner Theatre chain. This group of five-eight hundred seat dinner theaters established the standards for quality in the dinner theatre industry. He employed more actors during this period than any other theatrical operation in the country. He created numerous *firsts* for this new form of theater including the first Ice Show and first on-stage circus. Since moving to this area in 1981 he produced the record breaking engagement of *I'm Getting My Act Together And Taking It On The Road* which played for a year at the Huntington Hartford Theatre. It was the longest running show in the history of the theater. His numerous productions range up and down the length of the entertainment scale. From *Gemini* and *Scrambled Feet* to staged productions for The Beatles, Rolling Stones, Liza Minnelli, Liberace, Tom Jones, Bob Hope and a myriad of the top super stars. He has been a past recipient of the New England Theatre Conference Distinguished Achievement Award. He is the co-owner, with Herb Kendall, of the New Mayfair Theatre.

JOHN SANFORD is the name of the principal character in *The Water Wheel*, a first novel by Julian Shapiro published in 1933. Adopting it as a pseudonym, the writer has used it ever since. Born in the Harlem section of New York on May 31, 1904, he attended the

public schools of that city, Lafayette College, and finally, Fordham University, where he earned a degree in Law. He was admitted to the Bar in 1929, and at about the same time, influenced by his friend Nathanael West, he too began to write. Published at the outset in vanguard magazines of the period—*The New Review*, *Tam-bour*, *Pagany*, *Contact*—he soon abandoned the legal profession and produced through the years a series of eight novels. Concerned always with the course of American history, he interspersed his fiction with critical commentaries on the national life from the Left-Liberal point of view. As a result of such dissent, he was summoned before the House Committee on Un-American Activities, and for refusing to cooperate with it, he was blacklisted. In spite of difficulty in obtaining publication, he continued to write in his chosen vein, ultimately stripping his work down to its historical content only. During the several years last past, he has written four books of creative interpretations of the Land of the Free: *A More Goodly Country*, *View From This Wilderness*, *To Feed Their Hopes*, and *The Winter Of That Country*. All four titles derive from a single passage in William Bradford's *History Of Plymouth Plantation*. John Sanford has been married to the writer Marguerite Roberts since 1938; they are long time residents of Santa Barbara, California.

STEPPING FORWARD is adapted from *To Feed Their Hopes*, the third volume of John Sanford's