

widely acclaimed historical quartet. His books are written as brief intense vignettes, re-creating pivotal moments in the lives of people who shaped the history of our country. While the first two volumes concentrate upon the contributions of men, the third is devoted to the women who were their wives, lovers, mothers, daughters, companions and partners. The final book in the series describes national events affecting us all. The order is chronological; the characters famous and infamous, admired and obscure; slave, free, immigrant, pioneer and exile. In these four books, Sanford reveals our cardinal virtues and deadly sins, our humor and resilience, but most of all, he celebrates our astonishing diversity. Though each individual portrait is complete in itself, they are designed to interlock with one another to form an intricate and uniquely American mosaic.

The subjects of *Stepping Forward* are women seen from the author's particular artistic perspective, as they emerge from the background to engage a young man's attention. As the dramatic process continues, we see the impact of these personalities and incidents upon the mind of a writer growing up with the century.

Of the nearly 150 vignettes in *To Feed Their Hopes*, the adaptors have chosen those presenting women in their greatest range of emotional, occupational, ethnic, social and geographical variety. We see and hear these American women as they were, as they

changed, and as they are; each segment enhanced by original music in the style of the era. The context of *Stepping Forward* is our diverse heritage; the essential connections made by the writer working in tandem with the imagination of the spectator. Some of the characters will be familiar, others strangers met here for the first time. A few, like the lonely bride of a California miner, are typical of a time and place; others are intrepid individualists. There are heroines and adventurers, victims and survivors, traditionalists and eccentrics. Together, they surprise, shock, amuse and delight by turns, in a musical drama as innovative and moving as the book upon which *Stepping Forward* is based.

On April 25, 1986, John Sanford will be honored by the P.E.N. Association for the best book of non-fiction to be written by a Southern California writer in 1985. The prize is for the first volume of his autobiography, *The Color of the Air*; the second is to appear in June of this year.

HISTORY OF THE NEW MAYFAIR THEATRE

The NEW MAYFAIR THEATRE is the oldest continuously operating theater in Los Angeles County. Originally constructed on this site in 1911 by Charles Tegner and opened with considerable excitement and fanfare was the *Santa Monica Opera House*. Opera had a short life and in 1912 the theater was renamed the *Majestic* and featured Vaudeville stage acts combined with