INFORMATION TO USERS

This manuscript has been reproduced from the microfilm master. UMI films the text directly from the original or copy submitted. Thus, some thesis and dissertation copies are in typewriter face, while others may be from any type of computer printer.

The quality of this reproduction is dependent upon the quality of the copy submitted. Broken or indistinct print, colored or poor quality illustrations and photographs, print bleedthrough, substandard margins, and improper alignment can adversely affect reproduction.

In the unlikely event that the author did not send UMI a complete manuscript and there are missing pages, these will be noted. Also, if unauthorized copyright material had to be removed, a note will indicate the deletion.

Oversize materials (e.g., maps, drawings, charts) are reproduced by sectioning the original, beginning at the upper left-hand corner and continuing from left to right in equal sections with small overlaps. Each original is also photographed in one exposure and is included in reduced form at the back of the book.

Photographs included in the original manuscript have been reproduced xerographically in this copy. Higher quality 6" x 9" black and white photographic prints are available for any photographs or illustrations appearing in this copy for an additional charge. Contact UMI directly to order.
Signposts in a Strange Land. [Original composition]

Ratliff, Phillip Warren, M.M.

Rice University, 1994
RICE UNIVERSITY

SIGNPOSTS IN A STRANGE LAND

by

PHILLIP RATLIFF

A THESIS SUBMITTED
IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE
MASTER OF MUSIC

APPROVED, THESIS COMMITTEE

Elsworth Milburn, Professor, Director
Music

Richard Lavenda, Associate Professor
Music

Honey Meconi, Associate Professor
Music

Houston, Texas

April, 1994
ABSTRACT

Signposts in a Strange Land

by

Phillip Ratliff

_Signposts in a Strange Land_ is a work for string quartet inspired by native Alabama author Walker Percy. Percy's humorously existential novels usually center around a character living with a sense of loss of identity and moral direction; a Southerner trapped in the basement of a New York department store and a real estate agent searching for the meaning of life in the movie houses of New Orleans are two such characters. The String Quartet captures the searching, groping quality inherent in Percy's characters, and like these characters, culminates in moments of revelation and self-definition.