

CAPITAL CLIPBOARD

Luxury Of Private Offices Is Something New To Legislators

By EULA N. GREENWOOD
PLACE TO MEET . . . Well, at last legislators of North Carolina have offices. Until this week they had to meet their Raleigh visitors wherever they could—including, sometimes, the bathroom.

Frankly, when one considers what our legislators have had to put up with, the pitiful salaries, the pinch-penny expenses permitted, it is surprising that North Carolina has had such excellent government.

The offices allotted to the 170 members of the House and Senate are not large—have three chairs, a desk, trashcan, and telephone—but they do constitute privacy. This is something no legislator beneath Speaker or Senate President could boast of prior to February 6.

We are not ready for luxury yet, so no provision has been made for the lawmaker to stretch out for a moment following a hectic session. However, a leatherette lounge, sofa, davenport, or some type of cot will be added as office furniture before another General Assembly comes to town.

VISITORS . . . For the next year, the State House will be the cynosure of all eyes. Most of the visitors—probably 90 per cent of them—will not be here to see the solons but rather to inspect the place where they meet.

The place, alas, belongs to the people, and it had better be made of pretty sturdy stuff. Lipstick, chewing gum, grimy hands, fudgies, candy, and coke. We predict 100,000 school children—or roughly ten per cent of our educational population—will meander, jump, run, and play, tag along State House corridors before another Legislature comes to town.

We once asked for conversational purposes a tired housewife with two children, and ready for a third, what she remembered most about her high school days. "The Senior Class trip to Raleigh," she said without hesitation. We just hope the State House is no sissy.

HEART OPERATION . . . Roy Parker, Jr., Ahoskie native who sold out his interest in Parker Bros. papers and became a crack political reporter for the Raleigh News & Observer, is scheduled to undergo a heart operation at Duke Hospital on February 9.

He was to enter the hospital on February 6. Roy looks like his mother's people, but writes like his father, who died on May 8, 1957, while serving from Hertford County in the House here. Salt of the earth, those Parkers.

Roy, Jr., is, as they say, easy to "read after". And it doesn't take him all day to get something said. His father wrote that way. He could make interesting a backyard azalea's aches and growing pains.

These heart operations can't be discussed sensibly by laymen. What this one is we don't know, but our understanding is the surgeon doing it has one per day. Well, we wish Roy well. That's about all we can say—except that his dad had the stuff to go through ten years of pain, operations, and general physical deterioration.

We hope and pray that Roy, Jr., with his other fine inheritances, will have those which kept his dad happy, alert, and alive.

NO SEAT BELTS . . . Four high school seniors lie injured here—one with brain concussion and three with dislocated vertebrae. Their car hit a patch of ice on a suburban street and rolled down a 30-foot embankment.

Each was thrown out of the car. The police officer called to the wreck expressed the opinion there would have been no serious injuries had seat belts been in use.

Safety experts criticize us for not having seat belts in our cars. But they point out, also, that we don't use them as we should. In other words, we fasten—if we have them—when we get "settled" for long trips. But most of the accidents where seat belts do the most good occur within ten blocks of our homes.

CHECKS . . . Plans are still moving along for a Statewide telephone network to apprehend shoplifters, check-flashers, counterfeiters, and other racketeers of this type.

Bell Telephone is now working on a special project for the SBI and the N. C. Law Enforcement Association. More on this later. There is a serious lack of coordination, cooperative effort, and up-to-date physical equipment.

That North Carolina is one

of the worst states in the nation in bed checks, etc., may be readily understood from this true occurrence:

A police officer in Durham recently marked "counterfeit" plainly a counterfeit twenty-dollar bill. He marked it thusly in three different places. Then, following instructions, he got out of uniform, dressed as an ordinary civilian, went to an area of Durham where he was not known.

In one evening, he was able to get change for the twenty in three different places; No questions asked!

NO HONEY . . . Time was when a no-good looked like one. Now they may be the best-dressed people in town!

The bee is such a busy soul, she has no time for birth control. So that is why in times like these, we have so many sons of bees.

DEPUTY SOMERS . . . Scott Somers, who used to be with the Associated Press and other news-gathering organizations, is now in the news himself.

Scott, whose sweet wife Becky has done excellent work for the Republican Party out of Morganton for many years, assisted the Republicans in ousting Sheriff Brown in Buncombe County. The pen is mightier than the sword, etc.

And, to coin another phrase, to the victor belong the spoils; and Scott Somers is now totting a typewriter on one hip and a gun on the other.

TOWN CALLED NITRO
If anyone called Nitro, W. Va., a "boom town," the residents might frown at the pun. But they really couldn't complain. For the city got its name from the explosives manufactured at a large federal plant there during World War I.

Eight Juniors Are Selected As Marshals

Eight members of the junior class have been selected to serve as marshals for the graduating class of 1963. Ronnie Hunt and Janie Price are chief marshals. Assisting them will be Toi Cooke, Patty Oland, Diane Warman, Ralph Lane Beshears, Graydon Eggers, and Johnny Stacy.

These students were selected by the faculty on the basis of their academic standing in the junior class. The duties of the marshals are to serve as ushers and to provide decorations for the senior play, the baccalaureate service, and the graduation exercises.

Citizen-Of-The-Week

Elaine Clawson was elected citizen-of-the-week for January 29. Elaine, who is a freshman honor student, is well-liked and respected by her classmates. A member of Miss Schell's home-room, she participates in the Book Club. She lives with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John W. Clawson, Route 2, Boone.

Beta Club Attends Play

On Wednesday, January 30, the Appalachian High School Beta Club attended the first performance of "See How They Run," presented by the College Playcrafters. The Beta Club members were the guests of Director David French.

Those attending were Jane Buckland, Toi Cooke, Ronnie Hunt, Linda McCaraher, Patty Oland, Patty Payne, Nancy Pease, Carol Preswood, Janie Price, Becky Russell, Johnny Stacy, Glenda Wilson, Diane Warman, and Mrs. Lera Randall, sponsor. Three members, Ralph Beshears, Graydon Eggers and Alton Johnson, were unable to attend.

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