



THE GRAY SAYS

By Nellie M. Sanders
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HOOTS WEEK-END OF PAGEANTRY — It was cold in Raleigh while North Carolina celebrated the beginning of a new state administration but nothing dampened the proceedings in my view. I enjoyed it all, beginning with the Inaugural Ball. It turned out that my decision to purchase a spectator's ticket only was a wise one - the entertainment was more easily seen from the balcony than from the crowded tables on the main floor of Reynolds Coliseum. I arrived early enough to park with ease and chose a good vantage point.

As luck would have it, I found a friend among the other early arrivers. Lib Laney of the State Library Processing Center had come early because her son was a member of the Youth Chorale which performed so beautifully at the Ball and the ceremonies in the park on Saturday.

There were so many good entertainers in the Inaugural Show that it is hard to single out any favorites. I especially enjoyed the Symphony, the Chorale, the ballet dancers from the N.C. Dance Theater (part of the School of the Arts in Winston-Salem) and the great jazz singer, Carol Sloane. Her special material with lyrics addressed to Gov. Jim Hunt was a highlight of the evening and the song she introduced, "I Love North Carolina," was a fitting climax.

Saturday's activities were memorable for me. The formal inauguration was simple and, out of consideration for the large crowd and the cold weather, mercifully short. I really felt sorry for the sharpshooters stationed on the roofs of all the surrounding buildings - they must have really felt that icy wind.

The parade was great. I swelled with pride when my hometown Plymouth High School Band marched by. The officials riding in open cars managed to smile although they must have been pretty cold.

I was the 1,065th reception quest to enter the Governor's Mansion by the front door. I know, because I asked the guard with the counter who let us in, a few at a time. He explained that his total did not include the "distinguished guests" who entered by the side door. The long wait in the cold was

well-repaid by the warmth of the hand-claps of the entire Council of State and particularly the flattering remarks of the governor who remembered our previous meetings.

SCREECHES
— AN INAUGURAL FABLE — Andy Griffin, who made a great master of ceremonies at the Inaugural Ball, paraphrased Aesop and recounted an individualized version of the fable about the lion who spared the mouse. The tiny mouse later repaid the favor by gnawing the lion free from a hunter's net. The moral of the story was to the effect that no act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.

I thought of that the following day when I met Sen. Melvin Daniels from Elizabeth City. After standing through the entire Inaugural ceremonies in the Bicentennial Plaza, I was certainly grateful for his gift of a Guest badge entitling me to a seat in the reviewing stand on the sunny side of the street for the parade. Now I look forward to an opportunity to repay that kindness.

Electrical Contractors Association Meets

The Northeastern North Carolina Electrical Contractors Association held their monthly meeting at the Elizabeth City Parks and Recreation Building last Tuesday night. Items of business discussed were public safety through rigid electrical inspections.

Elizabeth City electrical Inspector James Harrell explained the new code definition concerning certain mobile home installations.

Jim Bukoski representative from Beaufort Electrical Supply Co. will furnish the speaker and also a supper time and place will be sent in the association news letter.

Association guests were Charles Felton of Sheppard Electric Supply Company in Kinston; Claude Midgette Grandy, Aubrey Chambers and John Hamilton of Elizabeth City.

The board of directors will meet at 7:30 P. M. January 18th at Charlies Electric Service in Camden.

The Northeastern North Carolina Electrical Contractors Association was formed to promote public safety and safer electrical installations in the seven-county area.

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