

Staff feted at annual luncheon

Chowan College secretaries were honored on Secretaries Day with a luncheon in the President's Dining Room of Thomas Cafeteria. College officials expressed gratitude to the secretaries for their loyal, dedicated and efficient service to the institution. Each secretary was presented a carnation from the college.



For Shad's sake, we hope there will always be football

Editor's note: Retired New Bern Sun-Journal employee Travis "Shad" Barden died last fall. He was a graduate of Chowan College with a degree in Printing Technology, and maintained close ties with the college and members of the Alumni Association. A long-time production worker at the New Bern newspaper, Shad left many friends there, among them Gastonia Gazette publisher Jonathan Segal, who remembers here his days with a fellow football fan.

By JONATHAN SEGAL

"Shad" was already a fixture at *The Sun-Journal* when I arrived there in 1974 as a young, inexperienced publisher.

I can still visualize him, a bear of a man, dwarfing the small swivel chair just outside the photography darkroom.

He seemed aloof at first. I got the impression he was skeptical of the long-haired kid who had replaced veteran Charles Midgette when the newspaper was sold by Mrs. Hunter Diggs following the death of her husband.

But in time, he became both a supporter and a friend.

Shad worked in the paste-up department, one of the many low-profile associates who work hard to get out the paper each day. Even during the late-morning deadline crunch, he retained his composure and good humor. And to be sure, composure was not an easy thing to keep with the likes of Editor Ed Book and me hovering over him as the deadline loomed.

Early on we found a common interest. Football. Growing up in Texas, I was a rabid Dallas Cowboy fan. Like many Carolinians, he pulled for the Washington Redskins. The Redskins and Cowboys had a great rivalry in those days. Roger Staubach was quarterbacking the Cowboys and George Allen was coaching the Redskins.

The last of the big-time spenders, we bet a dollar on each Cowboy-Redskin game. Thanks to Staubach, on many Monday

mornings I had the pleasure of collecting my dollar from Shad. Alas, when Staubach retired, it was a different story.

I still remember a great morning-after. Staubach had been knocked silly and the Redskins were way ahead. An unknown Cowboy backup quarterback, Clint Longley, bombed the Redskins silly. The Cowboys pulled it out against all odds. I couldn't wait until the Monday payoff. He left 100 pennies piled on the desk.

In retribution, I paid off the next Redskin win with a dollar from the Cayman Islands. I wish I could have been there to listen to him try to convince the Corner Grill to take the dollar as legal tender.

As the years progressed, I left New Bern to publish the newspaper in Gastonia. The Redskins improved considerably.

Unfortunately, Shad did not.

Diabetes and hypertension were taking their toll.

It became increasingly difficult for him to make his way to work each day.

Several years ago, his poor health forced his retirement.

I still called when I was in town for business.

And if my phone rang at home just before the Monday night kickoff, I knew without answering it was Shad, laying his bet and jockeying for points.

Earlier this year the Redskins won the Super Bowl and became world champions. Early this week, Travis "Shad" Barden finally succumbed.

In a way, Shad was a champion, too. In the game of health, he had been dealt a crummy hand. But he played it out with grace and good humor.

I'll miss my friend Shad. It will seem strange to visit *The Sun-Journal* and see someone else in that swivel chair.

I'll miss that call before the kickoff.

Harp and angels are OK. But I hope they have football up there, too. Because I somehow imagine him up there watching, rooting for the 'Skins and keeping track of all those dollars I owe him.



First Lady presents award

President Bruce E. Whitaker poses with President and Mrs. George Bush after receiving the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges Leadership Recognition Award. Mrs. Barbara Bush, who received the association's Harry S. Truman Distinguished Service Award for her efforts to curb adult illiteracy, presented the framed certificate to Dr. Whitaker. Chowan's president was one of 13 retiring two-year college presidents honored at the annual meeting of the community and junior college group, held in Washington, D. C., and attended by some 4,000 educators.

Youth dance camp conducted

The Carolina/Virginia Dance Camp, featuring a Texas choreographer who has taught ballet in Tokyo, Japan, was held June 19-24 at Chowan College.

The workshop, co-sponsored by the Fine Arts Department, Dr. James Chamblee, chairman, and the Academy of the Tidewater Ballet, Norfolk, Va., included instruction in classical ballet, theatrical tap, jazz gymnastics and modern dance for ages 9 and up.

Mrs. Frances Hawkins, artistic director of the Friendswood Ballet, Houston, TX, taught classical ballet. She studied at the

Academy of Norfolk Ballet in Virginia under artistic director Gene Hammett, American Ballet Center in New York City, and the Sally Pleyel in Paris, France.

Daniel David Deal, who has trained with the Joffrey Ballet School and will continue his instruction with the American Ballet Theatre in New York City, taught jazz gymnastics and theatrical tap.

Other instructors included camp coordinators Gene Hammett and Marla Hunnings, who heads Chowan's dance program. A free public demonstration was held June 24 at 1 p.m.