

Legette Blythe

Blythe Talks About 'The Hornets' Nest'

by Sherry Drake

As time for the Charlotte Bicentennial celebration approached, Mayor Stan Brookshire asked LyGette Blythe to write a story for use as a major feature of the commemoration.

Mr. Blythe has been interested in this area's participation in the Revolutionary War for as long as he can remember. Two of his great-great-grandfathers, John McKnitt Alexander and John Davidson, played major roles during this era. He believes that there are probably thousands of people in the area who are like him, related to the characters peopling his play. This is one aspect that has interested the people of the area in THE HORNETS' NEST, and, of course, Mr. Blythe has also been

interested in the development of an amphitheater since university's conception.

From these beginnings came the play presented this past summer.

The author was particularly happy that most of the actors and actresses in the play were from this county. Even Mr. Sidney Blackmer, the famed Hollywood and Broadway actor who narrated, is a native of Salisbury, North Carolina. Mr. Blythe was disappointed, however, in the lack of response from both students and faculty of the University. He had hoped that most of the parts would be filled by University people, and thinks there is much more talent on the campus than was shown by participation in the play.

University facilities were used by the crowds who came to see the play, and that was the Universities main contribution. Mr. Blythe feels that the play was good publicity for the school nonetheless. It brought people to the campus who had never before been near it, thus, hopefully, arousing more community interest in what goes on on campus. And there were large crowds that saw the play, compared favorably in number with other well-established commemorative dramas presented annually honoring North Carolina's history.

The author feels that one of the major problems of the play was the incomplete amphitheater.

Several alternations were necessary in the structure of the play. The Battle of King's Mountain for example was originally scheduled to be presented in the center of the stage instead of on the bank to the audience's left. The scene in which the Battle of Charlottetown took place was also altered. As the amphitheater now stands, because of the swamp in the back, the only entrance - exit is in front of the audience. This prohibited the charge of fifteen or twenty horses across the square as Mr. Blythe had planned.

When questioned about the satire of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence which the History Department presented last spring, he disagreed entirely with the professors point of view. He believes in the validity of the document. He stated that the story has come down uninterrupted in his family from people who were active at the time of its writing. Besides, he said with a smile in his voice, the free publicity helped.

Mr. Blythe has high hopes for the continued production of the play each summer. He is looking forward to perhaps receiving financial aid from the state as the LOST COLONY does. He hopes also that, if the play is presented again next summer, the University students and faculty will be more active.

Education Department Gets New Prof.

by H. Parry Bliss, Jr.

The Education Department has a new addition - Dr. Mary C. Nesbitt.

A native of Asheville, Dr. Nesbitt attended Mars Hill Junior College receiving her A.A. degree, Appalachian State University receiving her B.A. and M.A. in Education, East Tennessee University, and the University of Georgia receiving her doctoral degree. Dr. Nesbitt has taught in the public elementary schools and at Western Carolina. She has also worked closely with the Research and Development Center at the University of Georgia.

Having taught two summer sessions at UNC-C, Dr. Nesbitt has been able to form some interesting impressions about our growing, dynamic University. She feels that the caliber of students here is very high and hopes that it will remain so. She feels that quality is the important factor the University City should look to, and not just quantity. She feels this quality can be maintained and has seen already some "good signs" that this year promises to be one of the best for UNC-C.

Dr. Nesbitt, when asked why she chose to return to North Carolina to teach; stated that she was in love with North Carolina and its people and that she was "impressed with the facilities on campus and the Acting Chairman of the Education Department, Dr. Ben Hackney." She continued,

"His ideas and concepts concerning education are a challenge for the teachers as well as the students." She stated also that the degree of academic freedom in the classroom has another important factor in helping her decide to return to North Carolina.

When asked about recreational activities, Dr. Nesbitt replied, "I enjoy life in all its many phases." As such, Dr. Nesbitt enjoys sports, particularly tennis, football, and horseback riding. She also finds time to work on coin and rare book collections and to attend antique sales. Dr. Nesbitt also enjoys animals and has a great deal of fun with her only "child"--Penny-a Labrador Retriever.

In regard to the present draft system and education, Dr. Nesbitt feels that everyone should serve for some period of time in some capacity, possibly in an extension of the Peace Corps. Dr. Nesbitt does feel, however, that we should obtain an honorable settlement in the present conflict because as she states, "although the men may not be physically wounded, there is always the emotional factor to be considered." Although she supports the men in Viet Nam, she feels that we need a re-education of our responsibilities and our purposes for being there.

Although Dr. Nesbitt had an apple on her desk, perhaps from one of her students, this is the only characteristic she has which is typical of the "school marm" of yesterday's school house. Dr. Nesbitt is concerned with living and with educating the adults of tomorrow. She is deeply concerned with the issues and responsibilities of today both for the educator and the student.

BULLETIN

The Student Legislature will meet Monday, Sept. 23, at 7:45 p.m. in the University Union.



And Stood...

and stood...

French Club

The UNC-C French Club is holding its first meeting of this fall today at 12:30 in U-207. "Entre Marne et Seine", the first of a film series sponsored this semester by the club, will be shown. New officers will be elected, and new members are welcome.

All interested persons are invited to attend an organizational meeting of the History Club, on Friday, September 20, at 11:30 in C-122. All are urged to come and express their preferences for courses to be offered in the Spring. "vox populi"!

Bookstore News

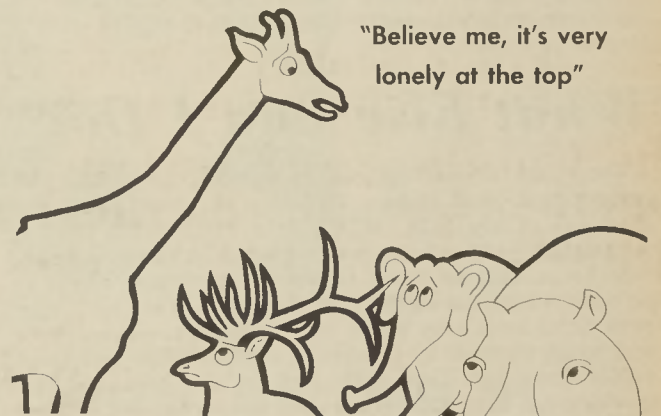
Visit your UNC-C Bookstore for all the current best sellers in paperback and the October edition of PLAYBOY.



Servomation

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