



Beauty Prevails

Baptists Finally Victorious In Battle With The Burger

Members of the Baptist Church here are proud that they have won a fight to save a bit of old Chapel Hill from the march of commercialism. They figure this is a real accomplishment in an era when lovers of beauty and preservers of the past usually lose if they come to grips with bulldozers and demolition crews.

Many Chapel Hillians were shocked last year to learn that a 15-cent hamburger chain planned to build a quick-order restaurant on a grassy lot next door to the church at a corner of the town's main intersection. They expressed disapproval through letters to the newspapers and calls to the mayor and aldermen.

Persons connected with the University had special cause for concern since the hamburger place would be across the street from the Ackland Art Center, which houses the University's art galleries and art department. Letters to the Chapel Hill Weekly included a strong protest from Joseph C. Sloane, chairman of the department.

Although probably more than 90 per cent of Chapel Hill's population was opposed to the project, chances of heading it off seemed remote. The hamburger people had already leased the lot, which is in a business zone with no restrictions on the type of structure they proposed. Their building plans had been approved by municipal authorities before the general public realized the situation.

For many years the Baptists had tried unsuccessfully to acquire the controversial lot. According to a long-current story, their efforts failed be-

cause a previous owner was expelled from the Baptist congregation and directed in his will that the property never be sold or given to the church.

When the Rev. Samuel T. Habel was pastor of the church a few years ago, he made several visits to the two brothers in Durham who owned the lot and tried to persuade them to let the church transform it into a memorial garden named for them or their parents.

Recently when prospects seemed darkest for opponents of the restaurant, a group of citizens suggested that the town trade the restaurant chain another piece of property for its corner lot. Officials of the firm said they would decline such an offer.

James C. Wallace, a member of the Chapel Hill Planning Board, then suggested three possible courses: that the town condemn and buy the lot for a park, that the building permit decision be appealed or that rezoning be approved.

When it appeared that these proposals had come too late, the church mounted a delaying action with an appeal to the Chapel Hill board of adjustment for a review of the building permit decision. This appeal, filed in behalf of the church by three of its lay leaders, Chapel Hill Recorder's Court Judge L.J. Phipps, Orange County Commissioner Harvey D. Bennett, and Carl J. Seymour, held that adequate parking space was not provided in plans for the proposed restaurant.

It was made known that if the appeal failed and the building permit was upheld, as everybody expected, the church or some other group would

seek further delay by taking the matter to the Orange County Superior Court. The prospect of such a move, plus hostility from the entire community caused the restaurant people to relinquish their lease and back down from a position they had seemed determined to hold.

The church has contracted to buy the property and will maintain it as a park or garden. A number of non-Baptists have contributed to the purchase fund. Many Chapel Hillians feel that this outcome shows the champions of municipal beauty and order as able to prevail against the powerful forces of commercialism.

As the population mounts in dizzying spirals, towns and cities everywhere undergo radical change and expansion.

But for vigorous opposition by aroused citizens, Chapel Hill's share of these changes would have included the lush blossoming of a hamburger place in a part of town where it was not wanted.

'Two Crows You See Good Luck To Thee'

Cash awards totaling \$34,500 are being offered in a nationwide "Good Luck Treasure Hunt" launched by a prominent conservation society which is seeking authentic pieces of Americana representative of the common crow's age - old identification with good fortune.

Five prizes of \$5,000 each await the first five people in five different communities who send to the Society for the Preservation of the Crow genuine originals of an antique Old Crow Bourbon bottle picturing two crows on its label.

To qualify, bottles must be identical in all respects - including the label - to a 19th-century glass container which was discovered last year at an Ohio fair, and which is now housed in a Society safe. Many thousands of these bottles were produced in Wheeling, West Virginia, between 1843 and 1890 and widely distributed across the nation.

What inspires the interest of the Society for the Preservation of the Crow is the unique label - a lithographic reproduction of two common American crows. The Society has as its slogan an old Welsh saying, "Two Crows You See, Good Luck To Thee!", which is part of the folklore that has linked the crow with good fortune the world over since Biblical times.

"The antique bottles for which we are searching constitute living proof of the crow's good - luck heritage," Dr. Horace C. Gifford, executive director of the Society, said.

To be eligible for award consideration, an entry must duplicate perfectly the existing model pictured in the accompanying photograph, and must be received unbroken. The first five fully - qualified bottles to arrive at the Society's headquarters, from five separate households in five dif-

ferent communities within the United States will earn their owners \$5,000 apiece, and \$100 will be paid for each of the next 95. The sole determinant is the time of receipt by the Society, irrespective of the postmark date. Bottles received in a single mail delivery will be placed, however, in order of the distance traveled - the farthest point of origin first and the nearest last.

No award will be made to anyone directly or indirectly connected with the alcoholic beverage industry, or to residents of state where such awards are prohibited or otherwise restricted by law.

Entries should be packed very carefully, clearly marked with the sender's printed name and address, and mailed to: The Society for the Preservation of the Crow, 25 East 73rd Street, New York, New York 10021.

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