

# Humorist Grady Nutt to speak

By EDDIE MARKS  
Staff Writer

The prime minister of humor is coming to Memorial Hall Wednesday night. Grady Nutt, a 6-foot-4, 210-pound self-proclaimed humorist will appear at 8 p.m. in Memorial to sing, juggle, "handbore" and play the tiptle—a small, 10-string Spanish folk instrument. "A tiptle is a ukelele with thyroid trouble," Nutt says.

Nutt's show business career began in Texas in 1937 at the age of 3 when his mother put him on a chair so he could reach the microphone for a Sunday gospel music radio program. By age 13, Nutt was a licensed Southern Baptist minister.

"My nickname was 'Rev.' in high school," Nutt says. "I never performed marriages, but the fact that I could make me awfully popular."

Nutt's last name has put him on the receiving end of a lot of jokes, he says. "The second 't' in Nutt is very important. Without it I'm just like the rest of you."

Nutt says he is a humorist, not a comedian. "A humorist just isn't trying to crack jokes. He's an interpreter of life. He takes a common experience and filters it through his way of looking at things until it comes alive for another person."

Overwhelming demand for his performances made him decide to hit the professional touring circuit in 1969. Operating from his home base in



Grady Nutt

Louisville, Ky., Nutt has averaged more than 200 appearances a year across the nation.

"I haven't had to advertise," Nutt says. "People just hear about me through word-of-mouth. If they want me, they just call for information. After all, how many Grady Nutts are there in Louisville?"

Nutt's performance is sponsored by the Campus Christian Fellowship. Phil Laughlin, campus minister, said Nutt packed the house in Memorial Hall two years ago.

"We were listening to one of Nutt's albums this summer and we thought it would be nice to bring him back," Laughlin said. "He's not a Christian comedian, he's just plain funny. He's not going to be on the stage trying to convert anybody."

Tickets for Nutt's performance are on sale at the Carolina Union information desk for \$1. Tickets will be sold for \$1.25 at the door.

"We're charging just enough to break even," Laughlin said. "Nutt is well worth hearing."

# Merritt's—'image of an old-fashioned store'

By BILL MCGOWAN  
Staff Writer

E.G. Merritt, 75, may be one of Chapel Hill's wealthiest men, yet he has pumped gas, chewed the fat and rung up sales at his service station-grocery store seven days a week for the past 50 years come April.

"I like to meet people and see people," he says. "I like to be on the job. I don't like to be loafing. I work a 15-hour day. I close up every night at 9."

But, to say that gasoline sales and general merchandising have been his only business ventures simply would be untrue. In his days, Merritt has run grading equipment, owned and operated a fleet of trucks and farmed about 17 acres of tobacco. It's in his emporium-service station-grocery store, however, that Merritt truly has found his calling.

It's there that Merritt, clad in a green uniform, thrives. He can be recognized by the baseball cap on his head and the cigarette hanging from his mouth. His sharp eyes never miss a thing and as soon as he sees a car pull into the lot he is on his feet whether the people want gas or just directions.

Starting out in 1929 with Gulf Oil Co., Merritt's first station was on the corner of Purefoy and Pittsboro Street. It was not until 1940 that he moved across the street and opened the Esso (now Exxon) station at its current location.

Merritt, his mind fresh and full of

memories, recalls life as he has lived it. He leans against the wood stove or occasionally takes a chair between servicing cars. Friends come from all around to get gas, a loaf of bread or a quart of milk. In a corner the television carries a weekend game.

He stocks products from carburetors to cornbeef. A service award, scenic paintings and ACC sports calendars cover the walls. A variety of notions clutter the extra window and counter space, all either hung from twine or stuck in racks. Merritt's Service Station is the image of an old-fashioned country store.

Merritt's is a long-time meeting place where college professors, retired farmers, working men and more than an occasional bearded student have been able to talk politics, swap fishing tales or just enjoy a cold drink. It has become a tradition in Chapel Hill.

Merritt has seen lively days in the store. Like when members of the infamous "Chinaberry Tree Gang", regulars at the station, dubbed themselves after a tree growing out back. They wired the sitting bench in the store with electric current. Merritt tells the story with particular delight and speaks of the unsuspecting victims of the prank, the perpetrators and a local black man named Peter Burnette who rolled in the floor with laughter at the surprised face of one of his closest friends. Of course all of this was done in the spirit of fun. Merritt had to remove the attraction when several victims failed

to see the fun in having their toes raised to their ears with a backside full of voltage.

Another story Merritt tells is one he heard from Livingston Taylor, now a singer himself and brother of James. Taylor recalls that as a small boy he and his brothers bought candy and sodas regularly at Merritt's. One day while buying his usual bag of jawbreakers, Taylor says he spotted a nickel on the floor next to the old wood stove. He made no fuss as he crept by the group of old men to pick up the treasure. But as he picked up the coin from the floor, he recalls, the laughter began. That nickel wouldn't come off the floor, because the men had it securely tacked in place.

Several years ago a string band played regularly at the station. Banjo and guitar picking could be heard every Friday evening in the small store. Led by Ed Norwood, who has worked in the Woolen Gym basketball room for many years, the band drew many listeners.

"At one time the room got so crowded that the customers couldn't even get to the counter," Merritt says. Enthusiasm was later lost as throngs of students and locals flocked to Merritt's. The event was switched to Thursdays in an effort to cut the crowd, but the sessions eventually had to be stopped because they began to affect business with regular customers.

There has never been a truly dull moment for Eben Merritt since he started his business in 1929. Some things have changed, like the old car wash stall that's

now full of empty drink bottles and crates of the fact that now Merritt is among the largest landowners in Chapel Hill.

The long hours? He enjoys them. He handles each situation differently and with the ease only of a man who knows people.



Eben Merritt



The good ol' boys get together to have a beer and shoot the bull at Merritt's Exxon

Labor Day Sidewalk Sales!

University Mall  
Mon. Sept. 4 10am-9pm

## Campus Calendar

Public service announcements must be turned in at the box outside the DTH offices in the Carolina Union by 1 p.m. if they are to run the next day. Each item will be run at least twice.

**ACTIVITIES TODAY**

The first organizational meeting of the **BEKANKAR Discussion Group** will be at 7:30 p.m. in Room 213 Carolina Union. Paul Twitchell's book, "ECKANKAR: Key to Secret Worlds," will be discussed.

The Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring water-skiing instruction for teenagers and adults from 8 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Participants should meet at the Municipal Building parking lot and instruction will be on Lake Gaston. Cost is \$5, to be paid when registering. Bring your own lunch.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

International Association of Students in Business and Economics will have its annual membership drive meeting at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday in T-6 New Carrol Hall. All students interested in jobs overseas should attend.

Additional for the **B.S.M. Gospel Chorus** will be held 6-8 p.m. Tuesday in Upendo. There is a special need for bass and tenor singers and pianists.

International Exchange members will meet at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the second floor lounge of the Carolina Union. It is important that all members attend. If you cannot, please contact either Cindy (929-5829), Chip (929-0009), Radar (929-9322) or Mully (965-5138).

The **Outing Club** will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday in Rooms 207-209 Carolina Union. Everyone is welcome.

Members of the **I.E. Speech Team** will demonstrate their talents from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday in front of Wilson Library. All are welcome.

The **Campus Governing Council** will meet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday in Room 103 Caldwell Hall.

The **Association for Women Students** will have its organizational meeting at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in Room 215 Carolina Union.

Interviews for the **North Carolina Student Legislature** will be held 7-9 p.m. Sept. 8 in the Carolina Union lounge. Applications are available at the Union information desk.

**ITEMS OF INTEREST**

Anyone who failed to make it for the **YACKETY YACK** organizational meeting last Tuesday should stop by the office as soon as possible to fill out an application form.

The Social Committee of the Carolina Union will hold a **pizza eating contest** at 2 p.m. Sept. 7. There is a \$2 entry fee. Be among the first 35 people to sign up at the Union information desk.

The **Walk for Humanity Committee** of the Campus Y is making preparations now for the walk next spring. Please come by the Y and sign up.

Get your free **WVC bumper sticker** now. The new logo is printed on durable, weather-resistant vinyl. Go by the station (in the basement of the Carolina Union) anytime it is on the air.

Drivers and riders wishing to carpool to an **anti-nuclear** pro-conservation rally at the N.C. Utilities Commission hearing on conservation Wednesday morning Sept. 6 in Raleigh, please call ECOS at 933-7357 or Carola 967-1382.

The annual **Tuesday Evening Concert Series** of the UNC music department will open with the North Carolina Chamber Players, under the direction of clarinetist Donald Martin, at 8 p.m. Sept. 5 in Hill Hall. The free, public performance is the first of 21 being sponsored this fall by the UNC music department as part of its Tuesday and Thursday Evening Concert Series and Sunday-at-Four performances.

The **Carolina Club Football Team** now is practicing for its fall season opener against league champion, ASU. If you're interested in playing contact football on a non-varsity

## Red Cross is counting on you.

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405 W. Rosemary St.  
next to Car's Credit

## Jordan's Le Charlais

We cordially invite you to bring a friend to Jordan's and enjoy an evening with us. In addition to our fine regular menu, we are pleased to offer on **SUNDAY-THURSDAY**:

**BOSTON-CUT SIRLOIN STRIP**  
or  
**CHICKEN PARMESAN**  
(for two)

Both are generously portioned for two and include our 30 item salad bar, cheese barrel, fresh baked bread, and all condiments!

Either "dinner for two" is only

**\$10.95 or \$10.00 regular**

Including our own full 1/2 liter of white, red, or rose wine

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## THE FOUNDATION BOOKSTORE

Deals exclusively in science fiction, fantasy, and other speculative fiction.

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REGULAR FALL HOURS Tues - Fri 12-8 Sat 10-6  
136 E. Rosemary (across from Blimpie)

## THE Daily Crossword by Jay Scott

<b>ACROSS</b>	25 Sort	51 Goose or foot	18 Hauls
1 Actor	28 Leavening agents	52 Unspecified number	22 Gripes
4 Claim	32 Holbrook or March	55 Keeping in a piggery	24 "— in Gaza"
10 Wine container	33 Russian city	58 State confidently	25 Conversations
14 A Gershwin	35 Bellbottoms feature	59 Qualify	26 Hawaiian isle
15 Housecoat	36 Santa —	62 "Citizen —"	27 Of
16 Feel compassion	37 Gambols	63 — Island, New York	29 Spiel
17 Packaging material	39 Meadowland	64 —Magnon	30 English river
19 Menial worker	40 Anklebones	65 Tight and loose	31 Pacific alliance
20 Promise	42 Fit together	66 Geological epoch	34 Speech flaw
21 Backless stool	43 Inner: comb. form	67 In what way	37 Secretary or man-curiat
23 Czech river	44 Rudimentary		38 Kings and knights
24 Restaurant patron	46 Addresses		41 Globes
	49 Assists		45 Go by

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

GENERATED	CASTS	
APOLGIZE	OLLIE	
REPATERS	LOIRE	
BEEN ORA	FLUTED	
VOIS TRIO		
KIT SLOE	BET	
ANTEDATE	SMOTE	
ELEA	IRA	IRON
SYALE	NOGGASIN	
POD PREP	HIPS	
STRIGT	RAGADIB	
HAUKU	HURRICANE	
ALDER	INCIDENCE	
GEESE	STONEDEAF	

9/1/78

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## LABOR DAY SALE

SOUNDHAUS is pleased to announce that this September 4, Labor Day, we will be offering substantial savings on selected pieces from these superb audio lines:

Many of these products have never been offered on sale, so be sure to come by this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!

**OPEN 10-9pm LABOR DAY ALL THREE LOCATIONS**

113 N. COLUMBIA - CHAPEL HILL  
1106 BROAD - DURHAM  
CAMERON VILLAGE - RALEIGH

# SOUNDHAUS STEREO

## LATE NIGHT SPECIAL

Drift by Hardee's this week between 10 p.m. and midnight, and spirit away a regular Roast Beef, a medium soft drink, and a regular order of french fries for just \$1.20 plus tax. Hardly a soul can eat that cheaply any more.

So cash in on Hardee's Late Night Special, and your appetite won't have a ghost of a chance.

# Hardee's

Offer good only at the Hardee's at 213 W. Franklin St. in Chapel Hill, N.C. Offer good: September 1-7, 1978 only.