

Dictionary of Tar Heel biographies

By CATHY MCJUNKIN
Staff Writer

Thomas Wolfe, Blackbeard and Sir Walter Raleigh are just three of the 4,000 pirates, thieves and good guys (and gals) who will appear in William S. Powell's *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*, an eight-volume collection to be published by the UNC Press during the next several years.

The first volume, which was published last December and includes over 700 biographical sketches, is the result of seven years of planning and editing by Powell, a UNC history professor and former curator of the North Carolina Collection.

Powell said he was convinced that North Carolina needed a biographical dictionary which would include people who often are overlooked in history books but have been in some way significant to the state.

"Most of the people to be included in the collection have never been written about before," Powell said. "Over 95 percent of the material is new and unusual."

Using the *Dictionary of American Biography* as a model, Powell compiled a list of possible subjects and circulated it among members of the Historical Society of North Carolina, a professional organization of historians, librarians, archivists and writers, who helped him revise the list.

"We decided that subjects must be deceased in order to be included," Powell said. "They can be native Tar Heels or people who came to the state from other places and became significant to the state as a whole. We even have a few criminals in the dictionary."

The collection contains people from all walks of life—musicians, artists, explorers, inventors, journalists and government officials.

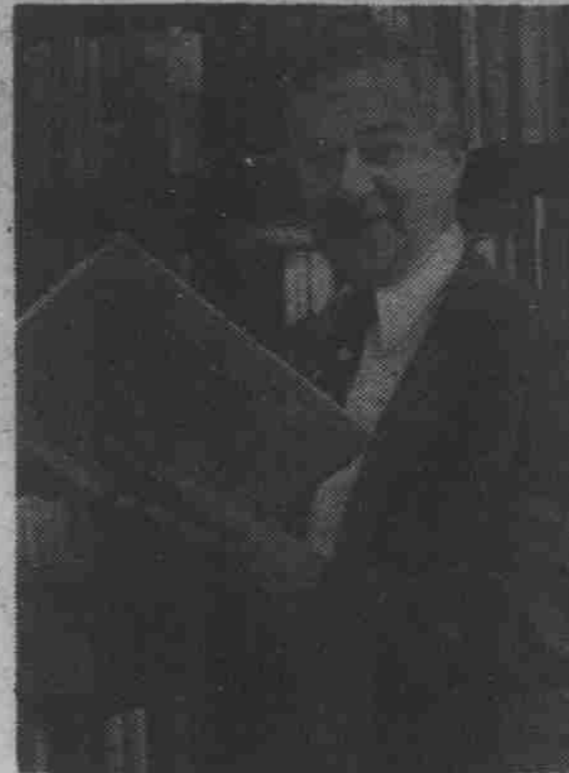
Powell said he made an extra effort to include blacks, women and Indians—three groups who have had little written about them through the years.

He said one of his favorite subjects was the hermit who lived near Asheville and advised Gov. Zebulon Vance on various problems.

More than 700 people have been recruited to write the sketches. Many of the writers are students in Powell's history classes.

Each biographical sketch contains only factual information—the subject's full name, birth and death dates, parents' names and educational background. The body of each sketch contains a description of what the person did—information obtained from primary sources such as newspapers, manuscripts, wills and deeds.

Powell expressed pride that although Virginia, South Carolina and Georgia are spending thousands of dollars on similar projects, the *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography* is being funded only



William S. Powell

by research grants for postage and a grant from the N.C. Bicentennial Commission which supported publication of the first volume.

Reviews of the first volume have been favorable so far, he said.

"Of all the basic reference tools which will be available to future researchers and historians in North Carolina, none will prove more useful, and hopefully none will be more widely used, than the scholarly and definitive *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*," said David Stick, an author from Kitty Hawk.

Foreign researchers featured

An informal coffee hour will be held 3:30-5 p.m. today in Morehead Faculty Lounge for students and faculty to meet a group of Latin American professors and government workers in Chapel Hill this semester on an international exchange program.

The 12 Mexicans and six Venezuelans are in North Carolina under a grant provided by Pepsi-Cola Mexicana and Pepsi-Cola Panamericana. They are here to conduct advanced research in their

fields with UNC faculty members.

Three of the visitors are living in Raleigh and working with N.C. State professors.

"This is one of the only programs I know of where a private corporation sponsors this type of effort. It is a cooperation between the corporation and the University," said Peter Topping, acting director of the UNC International Center.

—JULIE BRITT

Arms programs to be debated

"U.S. Arms Programs and Strategies for the 1980s" will be the subject of a debate between Barry Blechman and Charles Kupperman in Memorial Hall tonight at 8 p.m., as a part of the Carolina Symposium.

Blechman is the former assistant director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, which is responsible for the SALT negotiations. Kupperman is a spokesman for the Committee on the Present Danger.

olympics

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Outraged by the Soviet thrust into Afghanistan, President Carter served notice in a Jan. 20 nationally broadcast address that he was giving the Russians 30 days to withdraw or risk a U.S. boycott of the Olympic Games in Moscow this summer.

Reports from Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, said Soviet troops remained in the nation and that a rumored cosmetic withdrawal of a limited number had not occurred. In Moscow, the deadline passed without comment.

The official Soviet news media has said

that Carter was trying to blackmail the Soviet Union and that such pressure would not affect Soviet foreign policy objectives.

A U.S. boycott of the Summer Olympics became a key element in Carter's response to the occupation of Afghanistan. Since the Kremlin was awarded the competition in 1974 by the International Olympic Committee, it has promoted the choice as an indication of international support for the Soviet system of government.

business

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undeveloped land in the downtown area, with a goal of making residential development economically attractive.

In keeping with its gradual development policy, the Town Council considers every building request individually, weighing its effects carefully. At a recent work session, the council expressed an interest in creating more diversity in the downtown area.

As a result of town policy, most merchants consider themselves fortunate if they have already shared a location in the Central Business District, especially on Franklin Street. In fact, many agree that their location is vital to the endurance of the business.

One advantage to Franklin Street businesses is their high level of exposure, decreasing the need for outside advertising. The high volume of walk-in trade is another plus several merchants mentioned.

"This is the only property that has steady foot traffic," said Terry Obrian, manager of The Trail Shop on West Franklin. "We could never move to a mall. We need an independent spot within walking distance."

Several businesses that have relocated from a nearby spot to Franklin Street said that the difference in business was noticeable. Blimpies, one such business, previously sold its sandwiches from a spot in the NCNB Plaza on Rosemary Street.

"People just weren't aware of you at NCNB," said Johnny Moore, Blimpies

manager. "We weren't suffering for business, but we have more of a walk-in trade here (on Franklin)."

Record Bar, which relocated from Henderson Street several years ago, also saw a very noticeable difference in sales when it moved to Franklin. Manager Joe Deese said.

Not all merchants off the busy East Franklin Street section are dissatisfied with their locations. Several owners of establishments on West Franklin and Rosemary streets said they believed their location was more beneficial than any on East Franklin because the overhead is lower and the parking is more plentiful.

"The businesses on central Franklin Street pour 4-5 percent of their profits into rent," said Obrian of The Trail Shop. "Here (on West Franklin) our overhead is a lot lower."

But the attractiveness of a site on East Franklin Street still lures many merchants.

Jay Shwantes, manager of the recently-opened Hobbit Hoagie Factory on West Franklin, said that his business would be better on East Franklin.

"We're a little further west than I like," he said. "It was the only place available, but we didn't check any other areas besides Franklin."

The owner of the Aegean Shop said the store, at Rosemary and Henderson streets, is not doing exceptional business, but could if it were located on Franklin. "Sure, rent is a lot less here," she said, "but we have little window display area."

News In Brief

Defense official admits U.S. error

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States made major "errors in judgment" by selling computers which the Soviet Union used to help manufacture Army trucks and other military equipment, a senior Defense Department official said Wednesday.

William J. Perry, the Pentagon's research chief, said government officials have known for three years that U.S.-supplied computers were used in the Kama River manufacturing plant to build trucks for the Soviet army.

Commission trip postponed until weekend

Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim on Wednesday delayed the departure of a special United Nations investigatory commission to Iran until the weekend and said Iranian authorities want the commission members to talk to all of the approximately 50 American hostages in Tehran.

One of the five commission members said, meanwhile, there was a gentlemen's agreement that the hostages would be freed as a result of their mission. The timing of the release remained unclear, however.

Alice Roosevelt Longworth dies at 96

WASHINGTON (AP)—Alice Roosevelt Longworth, daughter of Theodore Roosevelt, cousin of Franklin D. Roosevelt and acid-tongued grande dame of the Republican party for five decades, died Wednesday. She was 96.

Longworth, who had been ill with a bronchial infection, died at her Washington home.

Durham minister pleads guilty

DURHAM (AP)—A Durham minister has pleaded guilty in U. S. District Court in California to conspiring to enslave members of his church in North Carolina, according to U. S. Attorney Mickey Michaux.

Michaux said Tuesday that the plea was entered last week by Bishop Robert A. Carr of the Church of God and True Holiness.

oops

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In a press release, Goray expressed his "admiration for Ernest McCutcheon and the fine campaign that he ran." He also thanked F. Scott Simpson for his role in preserving the election process and his roommate for casting the deciding vote.

Goray said he believed his election by a 2-1 margin was based on his platform of restoring legitimacy to Student Government.

Goray, who said his voting record has been aligned with the Blue Sky Party, notorious for promoting a geodesic dome

to cover Chapel Hill, said he intends to bring a fresh approach to Student Government. He also said he was studying the feasibility of a rebate of student fees or taking some of the money out of the CGC general surplus to buy a six-pack of beer as a present for all graduating seniors.

District 19 is an off-campus undergraduate student district, which often has had no candidates running for office in previous elections.

cable

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Heavenly he had not formally discussed extending cable television to campus with University officials, but he said Village was informally in touch with UNC.

The chancellor's committee has been divided into numerous subcommittees with tasks ranging from studying cable television in dorms to exploring the technical aspects of instruction. The subcommittees are scheduled to make preliminary reports to the full committee next Wednesday.

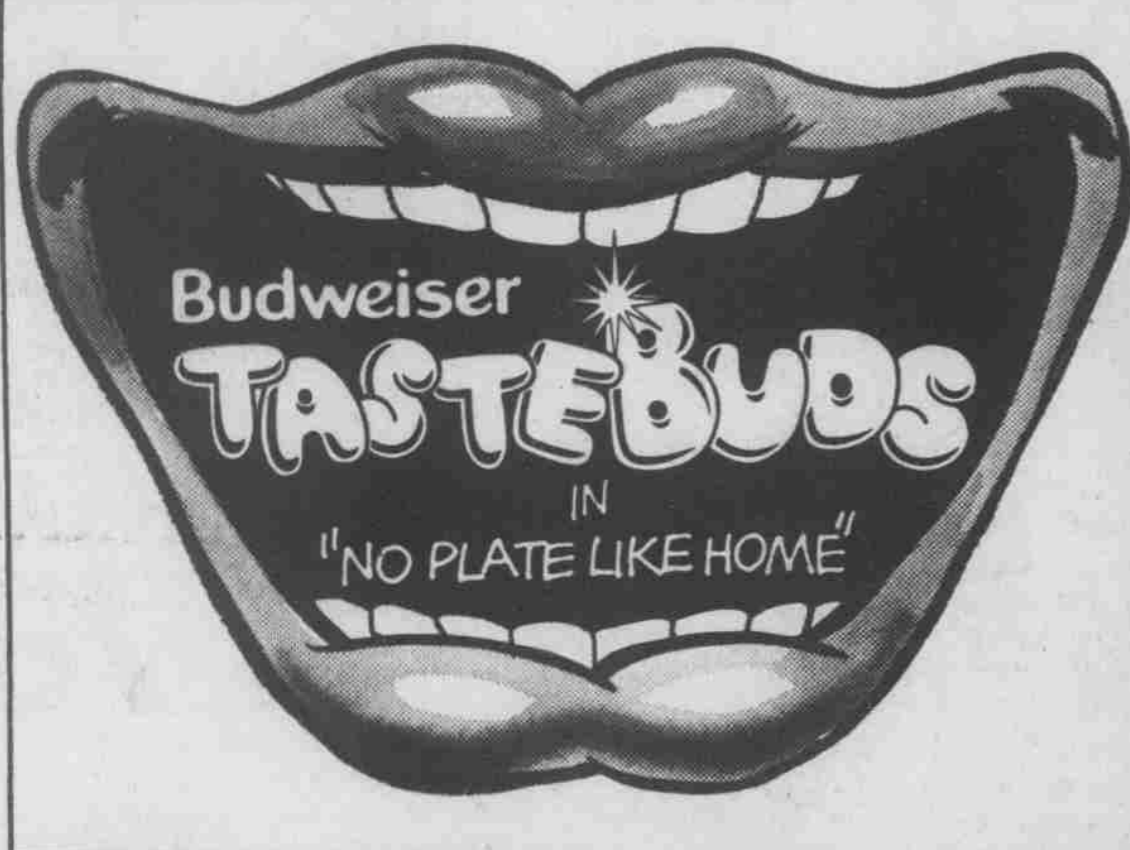
Moyer Smith, assistant athletic director, and athletic subcommittee chairman, said he only is beginning initial inquiries into the possible use of cable

television in the athletic program.

In its franchise proposal, Village pledged to provide a channel for University programming and one for a Tar Heel sports channel. The Village group also owns WCHL-radio, which has been active in Carolina sports coverage.

"There are a lot of questions we need to ask," Smith said. "And the public has to decide if it wants it (a Carolina sports channel)."

But he added, "We desperately need to broaden our revenue base, and cable TV may be a way of doing that and also providing more exposure to our non-revenue sports."



WHY DO YOU THINK THEY CALL 'EM TASTEBUDS ANYWAY!