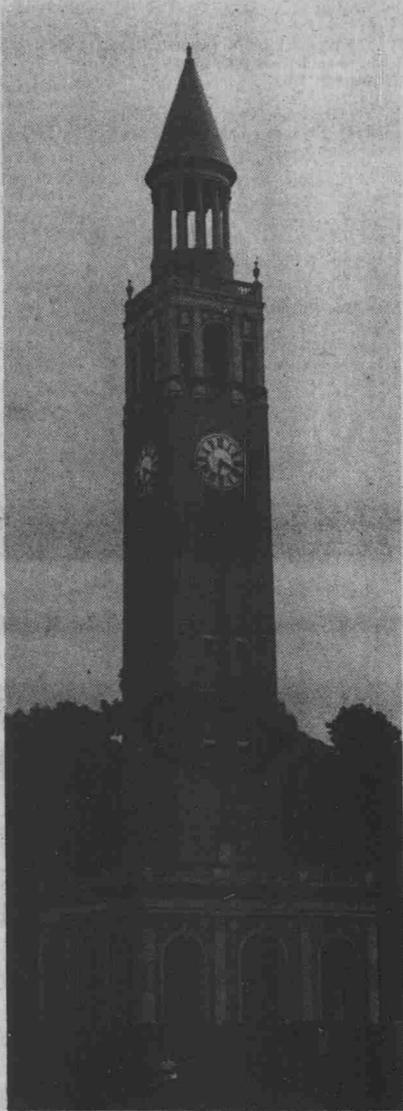


Monuments, buildings mark University history

Silent Sam, Old Well among top Carolina campus attractions

From Staff Reports



Chapel Hill can be a little overwhelming for newcomers, as they attempt to learn the ins and outs of a university community that has a long and rich history.

Chartered in 1789, The University of North Carolina is the oldest state university in the country and first opened its doors to students in 1795. Old East Dorm, which is still used as a dormitory, was built in 1793 and known as East Building until it was renamed Old East after the construction of New East in 1859. In the beginning it served as a dorm and classroom building and has housed such notables as Thomas Wolfe and Andy Griffith.

Between Old East and Old West sits the Old Well, symbol of Carolina, used on postcards, ties, toilet seat covers and anything else the Student Stores can think of. Whether it be school children fighting each other to get a drink from the fountain, cheerleaders flinging each other next to the steps, or Woody Durham interviewing a basketball player next to it, the Old Well has been the symbol of Carolina for years.

But it has not always been as nice as it is today (although the water still may taste the same). It has undergone renovation, and the well itself was capped years ago.

Old East and Old West are situated within McCorkle Place (often confused with Polk Place, which runs from South Building to Wilson Library). McCorkle Place stands in contrast to the din of Fraternity Court and bustle of Franklin Street, spreading across the older part of campus. It is the perfect spot for an afternoon nap or frisbee fling.

On the northern end of McCorkle Place stands Silent Sam, a memorial to the men of the Confederacy. He stands with his gun facing toward the North, prepared for any Yankee who dares to cross his path. Sam also is the source of a story that has been handed down from generation to generation (and is a great icebreaker for orientation groups).

Although Sam has a noble appearance and is dedicated to the 321 sons of the University who lost their lives in the Civil War, these days he has a more important function. He is supposed to fire his gun everytime a virgin walks by, but of Sam seems to be strangely silent these days.

Playmakers Theatre, directly across the street from Old East, also has a Civil War flavor. It served as a library during the war and William Sherman (the bad guy) quartered his horse there during the war. A common joke was that the horses were the best educated animals in the South. But, as is the case with many buildings on campus, it is undergoing renovations and curious observers have been kept at a distance by a fence since last spring.

If McCorkle Place is not quiet enough, the Coker Arboretum is an alternative quiet spot, except in the spring when the number of sunbathers rivals that of North Myrtle Beach. But during most of the year its five acres of gardens provides an ideal setting for a picnic lunch or deep discussion with a philosophy graduate student. Just remember to bring a blanket and some red wine.

There are new buildings, of course, and among the more prominent are the Carolina Union, the Student Stores building, Wilson Library and Undergraduate Library (and, yes, it really was rated by *Playboy* as one of the 10 best pickup spots in the nation). Across the street from Wilson Library is the Morehead-Patterson Bell Tower, which plays everything from "Amazing Grace" to "Camptown Race" (do-dah, do-dah). It stirs vivid memories of the good ol' days for alumni who flock to Chapel Hill on football weekends, but lately it has been a gathering spot for students of higher education, seeking a nice break from classes over the noon hour.

And still in the process of being built is the yet-to-be named fortress, the construction of which is employing about half the residents of Orange County. The new Central Library, which used to be a beloved parking lot, is still a few years from completion but will be the largest facility of its kind in the South when it is finished.



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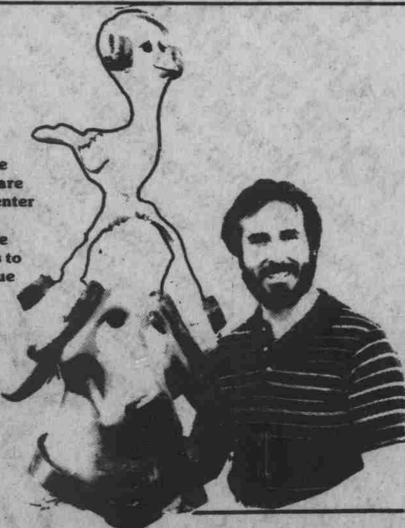
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