

ACCENT

Order of Gimghouls

Cryptic castle evokes legend

By LYNLEY ROLLINS
Staff Writer

In the midst of Glandon Forest atop a hill at the end of Gimghoul Road, a lonely castle sits.

Tangles of ivy grow up the sides of its rough-hewn walls, some of the vines so gnarled and weatherbeaten that one can scarcely tell them from the stones to which they cling. The heavy oaken door is locked, but when wandering round the castle one can view its great hall, flanked by high, barred windows.

The tower looms high above, and one imagines that guards watch through the leaded glass windows of the stairwell or from the tower room, beneath its greenish copper dome.

Before the castle lies a circular plot, bordered with shrubs, in the center of which lies a red-stained boulder — the site of a legendary duel to the death, which is said to have occurred more than a century ago.

The castle and grounds are located about half a mile east of campus, on Gimghoul Road, which turns off Country Club Road. They are owned by the Order of Gimghouls, a University social organization which was founded in 1899. From its inception, the Order has incorporated the ideal of chivalry and the mystery and imagination of King Arthur's mythical court into its rituals. The Gimghouls also incorporated the unexplained disappearance and legendary killing of a one-time UNC student, Peter Dromgoole, into their initiation ceremony and the mystique of their organization.

The Order of Gimghouls is a secret society, so just how Dromgoole's demise fits in also is secret. The facts surrounding his disappearance and the most popular legend concerning it are as follows:

Peter Dromgoole came to UNC in 1831 from a prominent family in Virginia. According to several reports, he gambled and enjoyed wild company. One day in 1831 Dromgoole disappeared and was never heard from again by his family or his school companions.

He had recently written a letter to his parents saying he might bring sadness upon them and that they probably would not hear from him again. He left behind a trunk and some clothes, but nothing to indicate his whereabouts.

Peter Dromgoole's uncle, the Honorable George C. Dromgoole, also a Virginian and a UNC alumnus, came to Chapel Hill to investigate the disappearance of his nephew. He found nothing of consequence and abandoned the search after three weeks.

Some years after the disappearance, the romantic account of Peter Dromgoole's duel to the death was told.

Piney Prospect is the hill upon which Gimghoul castle is located. It has, for well over a century, been a favorite of nature lovers because of its scenic view and peaceful woods. According to legend, Piney Prospect was favored by Peter Dromgoole as well.

He fell in love with a Chapel Hill woman, whom tradition has named Fanny, and they met at Piney Prospect often to woo.

But according to the story, another young man on campus was in love with Fanny as well. He is said to have challenged Dromgoole to a duel. Dromgoole accepted the challenge but did not tell Fanny his plans.

The duelists chose weapons and one friend each as assistants, and the party met at Piney Prospect. Dromgoole was shot in the chest during the duel, and his compan-

ions placed him on a rounded boulder a few yards away, where he is said to have died, his blood staining the rock. (To this day, one can see red marks on Dromgoole Rock.)

When the three remaining students realized that they had participated in a serious crime, they reportedly buried Dromgoole underneath the rock or near it, depending on which version of the story one reads. The three swore never to tell of the duel.

No one explained Dromgoole's disappearance to Miss Fanny. She pined away for her loved one and is said to have died of a broken heart.

According to professor Geoffrey Feiss of the UNC geology department, however, the blood stains on Dromgoole rock are probably rust stains caused by weathering of the rock, which has some metallic content. In addition, no evidence has ever been found of a burial near the rock.

John Buxton Williams, who had been Peter Dromgoole's roommate at UNC, once published a letter stating that he knew of no one with whom Dromgoole had argued. Williams said he believed the romantic legend was the product of an over-active imagination.

Former University President Kemp P. Battle once wrote that he thought Dromgoole was embarrassed to go home after failing at UNC. So the mystery of Dromgoole's disappearance remains unsolved.

The Order of Gimghouls was established almost 70 years after the disappearance of Peter Dromgoole. Wray Martin conceived the symbols around which the Order is built when he was a law student at UNC in the 1880s.

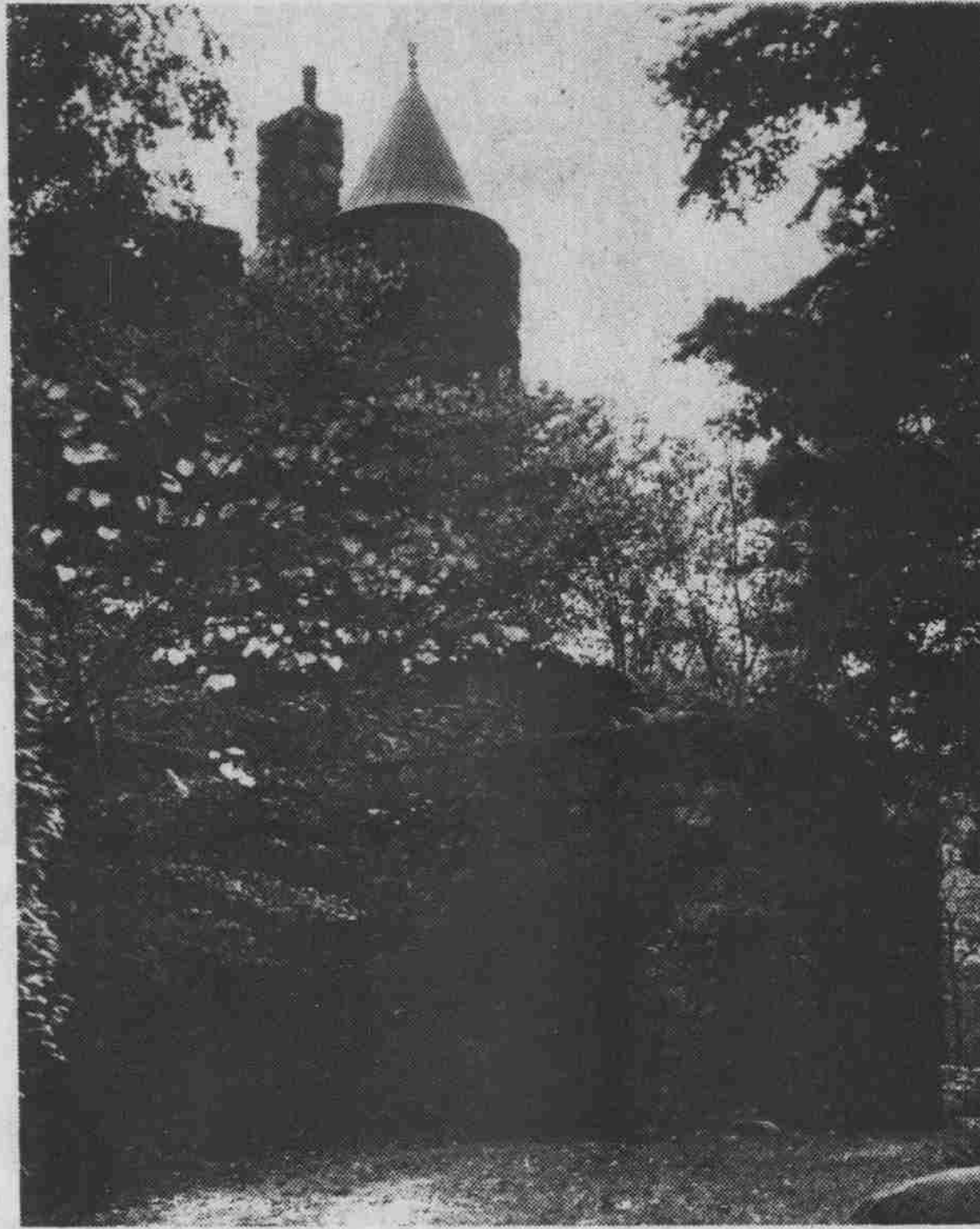
He had read widely of heraldry, chivalry, romance and mystery, and he wove these elements into the Order of Gimghouls when he later became its chief officer, the Rex. (Wray's role in the formation of the Order is described in A.H. Patterson's *Report of the Building Committee*.) During his walks out to Piney Prospect, Martin daydreamed and his dreams laid the foundation for the Gimghoul mythology.

Martin imagined that atop Piney Prospect, which he renamed Glandon Forest, lay the city of a mythical race called Gimghouls. The city of which he dreamed contained a royal palace and a fortress. He named the imaginary fortress Hippol castle. The present-day castle is a representation of Hippol, although it is commonly called Gimghoul castle, after the name of the Order.

Martin also imagined that Piney Prospect overlooked a sea filled with islands. Interestingly, former University President Battle, author of *History of the University of North Carolina* wrote that the valley below Piney Prospect was indeed once a sea during the Triassic Period.

The construction of Gimghoul Castle was not completed until 1926. In the meantime, the Order had built a lodge on the corner of Rosemary and Boundary Streets. In loyalty to the Gimghoul myth, however, the Order return-addressed all of its proclamations, announcements to members and invitations to dinner-dances and formal events from the Rex at Hippol Castle in Glandon Forest.

The Gimghouls built their stronghold on 34 acres of land atop Piney Prospect. The names of streets nearby, Gimghoul Road and Glandon Drive, attest to the interest their activities inspired in their neighbors. The Gimghouls chose the castle's precise location because of the view that members have of the hill and the valley, from the terrace and tower room,



Gimghoul Castle is site of duel, according to legend...mysterious Order of Gimghouls meets here regularly

DTH/Stretch Ledford

and because it is near Dromgoole Rock.

The castle is decorated in medieval style. Its contents include a gargoyle; a minstrel's gallery; a secret closet; pieces of armor; battle axes; a round table; stuffed trophy heads; and antique swords and life-sized hand-carvings of Apollyon (a devil) and Christian, two characters from Paul Bunyan's novel *Pilgrim's Progress*.

The floor plan of the castle contains a dance hall, kitchen, dressing rooms, club room, terrace and an observation tower.

The Order of Gimghouls is made up of college men, most of whom are members of fraternities. It was founded by five fraternity men, including Wray Martin, as a social group which would be smaller, and therefore more closely knit, than their several fraternities.

According to one Gimghoul, the Order accepts only ten pledges each year so that it can retain its personal atmosphere. He stressed that Gimghouls pick their pledges on the basis of friendship, not athletic or scholastic achievement. The Order differs from most fraternities in that its pledges are accepted during their junior year — there are no freshmen or sophomore Gimghouls.

Although scholastic achievement is not a requisite consideration in the choice of Gimghoul pledges, the membership roster is almost a *Who's Who* of figures known state-wide and nationally. A sampling from the list contains UNC President William C. Friday; Charles Shaffer, UNC Director of Development for 30 years; former University presidents Frank Porter Graham and Gordon Gray; John C.B. Ehringhaus, one-time North Carolina governor; William Randolph Kenan, for whom our stadium is named; two former Chief Justices of the North Carolina Supreme Court, William Augustus Devin and John Wallace Winborne; Joseph W. Lineberger and James H. Lineberger, who have donated millions toward the construction of a cancer research building at UNC which will be named in their honor; and Charles R. Jones, a Republican representative to the United States Congress. The list contains many other distinguished names, including those of doctors, lawyers, scholars and businessmen.

But this Halloween, do not expect to find a display of goblins and torchlights at Hippol Castle — settle for Gimghouls and socialites.

UNC tours inform would-be students

By LYNN EARLEY
Staff Writer

Lynn Peters, a high school senior from Columbia, Md., had never seen the UNC campus. Neither had Eleanor Kimball, a high school student from Columbia. One day last week, they saw the campus for the first time on an Undergraduate Admissions campus tour — and said they loved it.

Each weekday at 2 p.m. at least one group of prospective UNC students and their parents leave the Office of Undergraduate Admissions for a campus tour.

While on the tour, usually conducted by a brother or pledge of the Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity, the visitors learn academic requirements, intramural policies, registration procedures and campus trivia.

Lynn and Eleanor learned that Joyner Residence Hall cost the university \$1 in construction costs, according to legend. Supposedly, since the construction crew built the hall facing backwards, the university refused to pay more than \$1.

The bricks of Memorial Hall were once part of the old North Carolina State Prison, and actor Andy Griffith began his acting career in this hall.

The Old Well once served as the sole water supply for campus. Rumors say that medical students once threw cadavers down into the well and the decaying bodies caused the water's brackish taste.

The Morehead Planetarium was modeled after Monticello and since 1960 astronauts have trained in celestial navigation in the planetarium.

Legend claims the Morehead family expected the Louis Round Wilson (Graduate) Library to be named for them because of their contributions. When administrations dubbed the library after the Wilson family, the Moreheads supposedly built the Morehead Pater-

son Bell Tower where it would form a dunce cap on the dome of the library.

Undergraduate Admissions receptionists Sylvia Perry and Pat Mason and Alpha Phi Omega campus tours chairman Vickie Bain, will organize tours for the approximately 2,500 visitors this academic year.

Lynn Peters' mother, Denise, said she learned much about the campus from the tour guide.

"I enjoyed the tour," she said. "I didn't realize the campus was so large, from my perspective." Mrs. Peters had seen the campus before when she came to UNC for a meeting, but she had never taken a formal tour.

The tour guides should add other things to the approximately hour-long tour, she said.

"I would have liked to have been brought into a classroom to see a typical class situation," she said, adding that she also would have enjoyed seeing the inside of a residence hall room. Currently, the guides do not enter students' rooms.

The Undergraduate Admissions Office now sponsors tours on a regular basis, with more participants than in previous years. Perry said this was because of more publicity in the university publications.

Most tour guides belong to APO but the office encourages any interested student to take the required sample tour and then begin giving regular tours, Perry said.

"We like to have volunteers other than APO, but of course we count on APO," she said. "We are pleased they chose this as a service project."

APO pledge Greg Clause conducted Lynn and Eleanor's tour. Clause, a junior transfer student from Maggie Valley, said he enjoys the tours.

"I think it's a beautiful campus," he said. "I'm proud of

March of Dimes
BIRTH DEFECTS FOUNDATION

Peppi's

Luncheon Specials
available at lunch
11 to 2 p.m. M-F

- Pizza buffet \$2.95
- Spaghetti \$1.95
- Lasagna \$2.95
- Salad bar \$1.95
- Great Potato \$1.95

3 Nightly Specials

- Monday—Lasagna & all the salad you can eat! only \$2.95
- Tuesday—all the pizza & salad you can eat! only \$2.95
- Wednesday—all the spaghetti & salad you can eat! only \$2.75

PRESENT THIS AD FOR 2 FOR 1 PIZZA SPECIAL!

Open Mon.-Thurs. 11 a.m.-midnite, Fri. & Sat. 11-1 a.m., Sun 4-11 p.m.
208 W. FRANKLIN ST. • 942-5149

SHARE THE COST OF LIVING.

GIVE TO THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY.

give our luncheon specials a try at Western Sizzlin

Why not have steak for lunch EVERYDAY at Western Sizzlin. There's always a delicious Western Sizzlin steak on special so we'll always fit your pocketbook, and we'll make sure you don't waste any time waiting for your meal. We'll fix it up fast, hot, and fresh. So come in and try our luncheon special tomorrow at Western Sizzlin.

Sizzlin Junior and Salad Bar

\$2.99

with baked potato or french fries and texas toast.

11 am-4 pm — Mon.-Sat.

Western Sizzlin
FLAMBEAU STEAKS
324 Rosemary — Chapel Hill

Bain & Company
Management Consultants

cordially invites
University of North Carolina Students
to a
Presentation
on
Research Associate Opportunities
in
Corporate Strategies Consulting

Wednesday, October 27 1982
3:30-5:00 pm
Hanes Hall Room 210

NEW YORK, NEW YORK...

is just around the corner when you enjoy the next fabulous Hillel deli, October 27, 6-7:30 p.m. Come and dig in to the best New York style deli sandwiches, cream sodas, and trimmings south of the Big Apple! It's all yours for a reasonable cost, 10% discount for Hillel members.

Speaker:
Professor Gerhard Weinberg
Kenan Professor of History
The Holocaust... Why Do People Claim It never Happened?

For info Call: 942-4057
Hillel is located at 210 W. Cameron Ave, diagonally across from Carolina Inn.

Halloween Costume Contest
Coming Soon!
Your chance to win a \$100 first prize!

2nd prize—FREE admission for 3 months!
3rd prize—case of beer of your choice

Nantucket will be there.