

Travels with a boyhood hero

There's nothing like taking a vacation week and nothing like vacationing and visiting with a boyhood hero.

That's what last week was like for me. The boyhood hero is Don "Red" Barry, who has been in Shelby for the past two weeks filming his 32nd motion picture.

The movie is "Seabo" and role Barry portrays is that of Buckstone County Prison Warden Lute Coley.

"This is the first time I have ever played a man like Coley," Barry said. "He's a rich character and I am having a great time with him."

In the feature story on page 1B of today's issue you learn how Donald Barry got started and some of the things he's done in a career that spans 40 years, so I won't go into that again here. In this column we'll just ramble about in the first person and tell you what it's like to become friends with a working actor. What it's like to watch an actor breath life into a character invented on paper, etc.

One of the first things Barry told me, after being told that I had written the "Seabo" script for EO Productions, was, "I have changed some lines around because I think Lute Coley would say some things this way. So you won't be confused, I always talk about a character I play as if he were someone else."

I watched Mr. B go through a scene for the camera on the EO backlot, where a full scale prison farm was built for the movie. Barry, as Warden Coley, dragged up his rocking chair and pulled an apple from a pocket as he spoke to his head guards — Jimbo and Sam . . .

"Sam! Jimbo! This here's Seabo. He's one of them leatherneck marines that's done gone sour. What he needs is some re-habilitation. And I don't know nobody who can re-hab-ilitate any better'n you two can. So, why don't you git at it?"

He smiled the entire time he said it and I don't think I've ever heard anyone sound so threatening as Mr. B. did just delivering a few lines of dialogue.

"Lute Coley is a man consumed by his hatred for this man, Seabo," Barry said. "He blames Seabo for the death of his only son in Korea. Coley has lied about this so much that he actually believes it's the truth. That's why he is delighted when Seabo gets thrown into the prison farm as a prisoner."

Barry said he loves the acting profession and loves playing characters such as Coley in films. "Characters are so much more fun than playing the hero, as I did back in the 40's and 50's," he said.

Barry made his last western as the hero about 1961 and immediately switched to character roles. He's really never stopped working at his chosen craft. When he returns to his North Hollywood home next week he begins preparing for a film financed by the Lutheran Church, then he will go into a film starring Fred Williamson and after that he will go to New York to play a cop in "Stake Out On Cherry Street" starring Frank Sinatra.

"And I'm not too sure I want to do the Sinatra film," Barry said. "That's six weeks away from my family. New York is not my favorite city, either."

One afternoon last week Barry was free, so he and I took a drive. Barry is interested in antiques and he was in the market for a hall tree. We drove to Lattimore and Bell's Antiques for a look around. "I'd like to have a month just to look over what you've got," he told young Steve Bell.

Later in the afternoon we visited the Law Enforcement Center in Shelby. In North Hollywood Barry is a member of Block Watch, which is like our own neighborhood watch program, and when traveling he likes to visit the police departments.

After a guided tour of the facilities, we sat in on an armed robbery trial in Judge Lacy Thorneburg's courtroom. Mike Randall of the Public Defender's office was on the floor giving the jury his final arguments. Barry sat like a man in a trance studying Randall's every word and movement. "I want to meet that man. Do you know him?" he asked.

After the jury retired Judge Thorneburg announced to the crowd that Barry was present, then invited all to meet him. I called Mike over and introduced him to Barry and they walked out into the corridor to talk.

"I just want to tell you," Barry said, "that I have watched many, many trials back in



TOM MCINTYRE

California, but you were the best I've ever seen."

Mike was speechless. Last Saturday, Mr. B. and I attended the evening performance of "Everybody Loves Opal" starring Martha Raye at the Pineville Dinner Theatre.

Martha arranged for the table for us and during the show she pulled out all of the old vaudeville lines she could think of. Mr. B. laughed louder than anyone else. When she took her bow, Martha blew him a kiss and after the applause died away we went

backstage to visit, where he introduced me to her. And like a true fan I got her autograph on my program.

It was a great week for me. And whether we were here, yonder or there, Mr. Barry never failed to urge support of Earl Owensby's attempt at creating a motion picture business here in North Carolina.

"Earl makes movies like we did thirty years ago," he said. "Back when it was fun to make movies. The atmosphere on the set is one of fun and cooperation. Not only on the movie set, but I have found that in people all over this area. The people here seem to have a genuine and wholesome love and affection for each other."

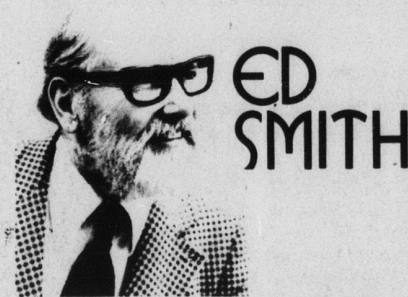
Barry said he felt that this little area right here might very well be the hub of the motion picture business in the east in 10 years. "My advice to people is to support this business here because everyone will benefit in the long run," he said.

"God is embracing Earl Owensby," he continued. "And all of the people around here. If I could work out working arrangements and still remain active in the acting profession I'd move here in a minute."

No trace has ever been found of 'Lost Colony'

The fourth British expedition to America — Sir Walter Raleigh's "Lost Colony" — sailed from Plymouth, England, on May 8, 1587.

The expedition, under the command of John White, consisted of three ships "freighted with all manner of things" plus 150 colonists. Included for the first time among the settlers were women and children, among them John White's own daughter Elenor Dare and her husband Ananias. Also sailing with the expedition were two Indians, Manteo and Wanchese, who had returned to England in 1584 with Amadas and Barlowe's first expedition, and created a sensation there.



ED SMITH

John White himself reluctantly returned to England with the transporting vessels, hoping to bring back additional settlers and supplies. Before he could return to "Virginia" however, war broke out with Spain and White was detained in England for three years. When he did return, in 1590, he found his settlement on Roanoke Island abandoned, and the fort itself pulled down. The only clue to the fate of his people was the word "Croatoan" carved on a post near the ruins.

White himself believed that the colonists had finally gone to live with the supposedly friendly Croatoan Indians, but no trace of them was ever found. Other theories existed, then as now. One was that the colonists had attempted to reach England in the one small ship remaining with them, and had been lost at sea. Another was that they had been killed or captured by either hostile Indians or the Spaniards. To this day, however, no one knows what became of the "Lost Colony."

Several once-famous but now forgotten Tar Heels are associated with this week in history.

Willie Person Mangum achieved the highest-ranking political office ever held by a citizen of this state (while actually still a legal resident of North Carolina). As President of the U. S. Senate (1842-45) he became Acting Vice President when Vice President John Tyler moved up to the White House upon the death of President William Henry Harrison.

Though four men born in this state have served as either President or Vice President, none have done so while still a resident here.

George Edmond Badger, who as late as 1900 was being described by historians as "one of the five most outstanding North Carolinians of all time," died on May 11, 1886. Badger enjoyed a national reputation for exceptional brilliance, scholarship and versatility. A noted speaker and debater, he became a judge at 21, and later served as U. S. Senator and Secretary of the Navy (in Harrison's cabinet.)

Waightstill Avery was born May 10, 1741. Avery signed the Mecklenburg Declaration, served as a colonel during the Revolution, and in 1777 became North Carolina's first Attorney General. His full name was Wait-Still-On-The-Lord Avery. He lived in Burke County after the Revolution, and practiced law. Avery County, the state's smallest — and last county formed — was named in his honor.

Avery fought a famous duel with Andrew Jackson (whom he had earlier taught law). When Jackson, a notoriously poor marksman, missed, Avery refused to take his shot and proceeded instead to lecture his opponent on his foolish conduct — an act which pained and angered Jackson even more than being shot at!



UNC phone survey shows Tar Heels want liquor-by-drink

By SYLVIA INGLE

CHAPEL HILL — North Carolinians support local option liquor by the drink by a two-to-one ratio, according to The Carolina Poll, a statewide telephone survey by the School of Journalism at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

When asked whether they would support or oppose a law to let counties decide if they want to allow the sale of liquor by the drink, 68 per cent of the 478 adults randomly selected for interviews said they supported it; 31 per cent opposed it and, 6 per cent expressed no opinion.

The results of the survey reflect the opinion of some supporters that opposition to mixed-drink sales has mellowed since the 1973 statewide referendum when voters rejected it by a two-to-one margin. A poll taken by the Raleigh News & Observer last October also showed strong support.

A liquor-by-the-drink bill currently being drafted would allow counties or cities that already have Alcoholic Beverage Control stores to hold a local referendum on whether they want liquor by the drink.

In the school's survey, age and education were factors in determining support. Three-fourth (75 percent) of those under 30 years old said they supported liquor by the drink while half (51 per cent) of those 60 years and older opposed it.

In addition, three out of four (76 per cent) of those who had attended college supported the proposal but more than half (56 per cent) of those who only attended grade school opposed it.

Most of the supporters felt that people had a right to drink if they wanted to and that each county school should have the option to decide.

"An American is supposed to have his rights and that's one of them," said a 70-

year-old high school graduate from Charlotte.

"I feel that the more populated counties should be allowed the extra income from mixed-drink sales if they wish," added a 30-year-old man from Fayetteville.

However, some opponents of the measure tended to view it as more of an emotional issue.

"I don't think there should be any liquor anywhere," said a 70-year-old woman from Thomasville.

"I don't drink myself, and I don't think others should," explained a 30-year-old high school graduate from Asheville.

Opponents also felt that mixed-drink sales would encourage people to drink.

"I'm opposed to it," said a 70-year-old man from rural Sampson County. "It would just encourage too much drinking and drunken driving."

In addition, a 60-year-old Asheville woman worried that it would cause more young people to drink.

However, some who supported it disagreed, saying that controlled mixed-drink sales would decrease the amount of drinking.

"I think it would eliminate much drunkenness," said a 60-year-old high school graduate from Greensboro. "People will drink much less when it's sold by the drink than when they buy it by the bottle and take it with them to restaurants."

Support for liquor by the drink was strongest in urban areas of the state, with 68 per cent of the residents of cities and towns of 2,500 people or more responding favorably to the question. Many cited increased tourist appeal and revenue from convention trade as reasons for their support. North Carolina is the only state besides Oklahoma without mixed-drink sales.

In 1971, the General Assembly approved legislation to allow Mecklenburg County, the

state's largest urban county, and Moore County, a prominent tourist area, to vote on whether to have mixed-drink sales. However, the N. C. Supreme Court struck down the law, saying it was unconstitutional to have local legislation regulating trade. Mecklenburg County continues to be strong in its support of liquor by the drink.

Some respondents indicated that, while they were not opposed to liquor by the drink, they did not feel that the local proposal would be the best way to decide the question.

"I think it's going to be confusing. You're going to have too many people involved in making decisions," said a 50-year-old college graduate from rural Franklin County.

A 30-year-old resident of Elizabeth City agreed. "I think it is something for the state to decide, rather than the counties," she said.

The poll also showed the following: — Men were more likely to favor liquor by the drink than women. Almost 70 per cent of the men indicated they were in favor of the proposal, while only 57 per cent of the women were favorable.

— More whites (68 per cent) than blacks (57 percent) indicated support for mixed-drink sales.

Support was lowest among farm residents of the state.

— Those most likely to support liquor by the drink were white urban males, under 30 years old, who were college graduates.

The Carolina poll was conducted between March 16 and March 31. Telephone numbers of those surveyed were elected from current published directories. Homes without telephones were excluded, which tends to underrepresent blacks and rural and lower-income residents.

Results of a survey of this size are accurate to within 4 to 5 per cent in at least 95 surveys out of 100.

EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

Page 4A Thursday, May 12, 1977

That bill you received could well be a phony

Attorney General Rufus Edmisten warned business firms in the state that there is an apparent scheme to collect money by sending out solicitations designed to look like bills for accounts due.

Describing what he called deceptive looking solicitations for advertising he said, "It looks like a bill to me and certainly should be checked carefully. In response to a number of complaints from tarheel business firms, the Consumer Protection Section of our office has begun an investigation."

While the two known solicitations are identical in form, they originate from seemingly separate sources. One, from National Business Association Directory, shows a post office box address in Boston, Massachusetts. The other, from Global Business and Industrial Directory, shows a street address in Los Angeles, California.

Attorney General Edmisten said, "Business and industries should warn their accounting departments about these gimmicks and notify the Consumer Protection Section immediately if any are discovered. I can see, unsuspecting accounting personnel thinking that these are legitimate bills for ads already purchased. In fact most of these documents are being routed directly to the attention of accounting departments."

None of the complainants bought advertising from the two named firms.

The majority of the invoice look alike describe half-page ads in to-be-published

business or industrial directories for amounts ranging from \$199 to \$299.

A notice in small print at the bottom of each solicitation states that it is an order with no obligation to pay unless accepted and that it is not a bill, but Attorney General Edmisten said that, "small print denials aren't sufficient. The solicitations look like invoices and tend to mislead businesses into thinking they owe a bill."

Anyone with information concerning this problem should report to the Consumer Protection Section of the Attorney General's office in Raleigh.

What's your opinion?

The Mirror-Herald welcomes letters from readers expressing your opinions on any subject you choose, or rebutting any editorial opinion we express.

All letters must be signed by writer with address included. Unsigned letters will not be published.

Address all correspondence for this page to Reader Dialogue, Mirror-Herald, P. O. Drawer 752, Kings Mountain, N. C., 28088.

Bright colors from the rainbow
Feathery clouds of fleecy white,
Moonbeams by the armful
You gave freely on a fretful night.

The blue of the bluest sky
Sweet music from your favorite bird,
Dark secrets of the whispering wind
That no one else had ever heard.

A rose from the garden of Eden
A drink from the fountain of youth,
Each day the fragrance of springtime,
For your diligent teaching of truth.

If these were mine to give
And a sunbeam from the sun,
To you the dearest mother
I would hand them everyone.

VIVIAN STEWART BILTCLIFFE



The Poet's Corner

DEAR MOTHER

If these were mine to give
A star I would hand to you,
Pluck one fresh from heaven
When your teaching I review.

KINGS MOUNTAIN MIRROR-HERALD

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