

The Foothills View

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"We See It Your Way"

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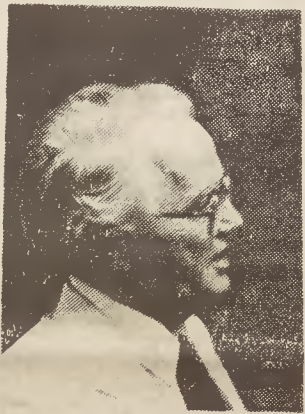
Kays Gary: An Interview

The Editor.

When I tell people I've worked for the Charlotte Observer, the first question they ask is not if I know the reporters who won the Pulitzer Prize. Instead, they ask if I know Kays Gary.

If the Pulitzer were awarded for service to the human heart, Kays Gary would win the gold. Thursday night this Fallston native spoke to a full auditorium of friends at Cleveland Tech's "Cleveland County in Transition" program. Introducing him, WBTV's C.J. Underwood said: "Kays Gary is at the top of the list of people Cleveland County is proud of. He is one of America's premier journalists."

For over 25 years Kays Gary's column has appeared as regular as the weather box on the pages of Knight-Ridder's Charlotte Observer - more years than Knight-Ridder has owned the newspaper. Like the weather box, Kays' column has recorded the daily vicissitudes of our lives - the stormy upheavals and God-given calms of work, love, deaths, and births.



"I'm satisfied now. It's a grace, if you will, given by God."

Yes, I know Kays Gary: he's that rarest of combinations, a good writer and a good man. After the program Thursday night, he further gave of himself with an interview for the readers of the Foothills View. Here's what Kays said about living and writing.

Kays, where shall we begin?

Gary: Start with memories.

C.J. Underwood said tonight that if he could choose to live a life other than his own, he would choose yours. Have you ever wanted to be someone else?

Gary: I don't think so. They're too many damn distractions today to live over. When I was growing up in Fallston their mere absence made for creativity. You had more time to evaluate, and to cherish, friendships. Today I think there's a confusion with people about what they really want in life. Were you ever confused about wanting to be a writer?

Gary: No. I knew it was for me. My home is in the center of the newsroom. Back in '42 a man gave me a job in Thomasville as editor; we both knew I was going to be called up, I was just working for him until he could get a 4-F man to fill the job. Well, the Shelby Star wrote me and asked me to work there. I was sports editor and also covered courts. Wasn't that a combination?

Back then the wire machine would set off bells when the news came over. I didn't need a watch, I could tell time by the bells -- they would go ding-ding-ding, somebody was always yelling "Copy-boy!" It would be Bedlam, a rising crescendo. It was for me.

Didn't you also teach journalism at Gardner-Webb College?

Gary: Sure did. Once a week. Thursdays.

Did they pay you?

Gary: [Laughing] I can't remember. My boss at the Star volunteered me. Well, actually, he volunteered his services, and then he went to South America, or someplace. I had to fill in the gap. [Lighting a cigarette and smiling] But it was all right. I like it all right.

Did you come back to the Star after the war?

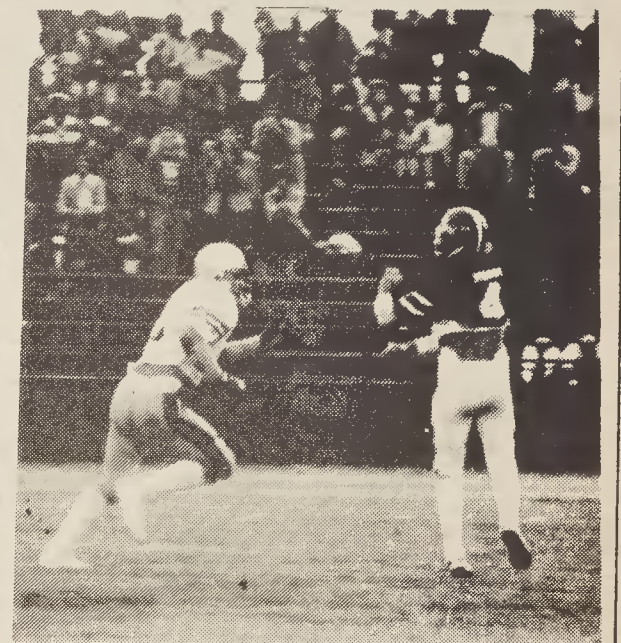
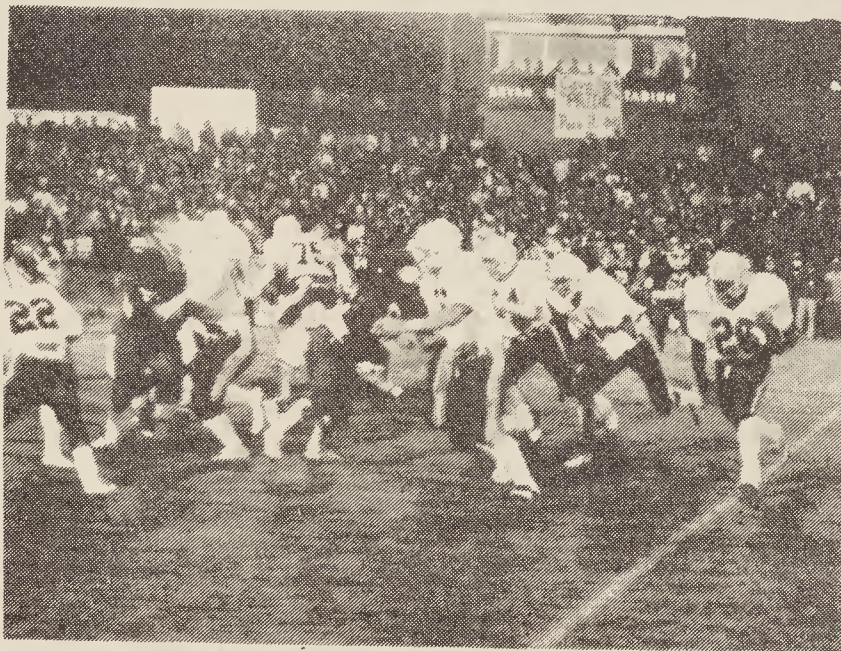
Gary: I sure did. It represented a kind of security. You know I was married then, and 9 months, 3 weeks after our marriage we had our first baby. I was working for the Star for \$50 a week, which was really a good wage, or so it seemed, because the pre-war salary was \$20. I also sold features to the Observer at \$3 and \$5 a clip. [Lighting a second cigarette from the first] I had to hustle bucks then ... hard.

We've both heard tonight about Cleveland in transition. Is Kays Gary in transition?

Gary: Oh sure. The transition is constant in life. I'm a less emotional person now. You know, I used to be very scared about death, and I spent a lot of time worrying about the great philosophic questions. I'm satisfied now. It's a grace, if

Please turn to Kays Gary, pg. 3.

Chargers Roll, 28-13, 'Dogs Ramble, 31-8



ROBERT McCLUNEY (above left, No. 20) rolled for two touchdowns Friday night as Crest scored an impressive 28-13 victory over East Rutherford. Chip Stuart (at right) throws a touchdown pass to Duane Foster as the Bulldogs ramble to an easy 38-8 victory Saturday over Newberry. Stats are below.

ED PILEGARD PHOTOGRAPHING THE GAME

	Crest 28	East Rutherford 13
First Downs	15	4
Yds. Rushing	240	44
Yds. Passing	42	62
Punts	2-47 avg.	4-32 yd. avg.
Fumbles Lost	1	0
Interceptions Suffered	1	2
Penalties	2-30	3-35

Crest: Robert McCluney 1 yd. run
 Randy Lovelace kick good
 Crest-Herbert Harbison 44 yd. run
 Lovelace kick good
 Crest-McCluney 3 yd run
 Lovelace kick good
 Crest-Maurice Lee 18 yd past from Smith
 Lovelace kick good

Leading Tacklers

Crest-Tony Wray
 Rayfield Smith
 Maruin Burris
 Jim Newman

Interceptions

Jeff Bell, Randy Lovelace

TEAM STATS	GW	OPP
First Downs	31	36
Yds. Rushing	133	411
Yds. Passing	438	217
Rushing Atts.	58	97
Passing Atts.	60	49
Pass Comp.	31	17
Passes Int. By	6	1
Total Off. Plays	137	159
Avg. Per Play	4.2	3.9
Fumbles Lost	2	4
Pen/Yards	19-280	19-227

TD IPAT 2PAT FG S TOTAL

Rosey Kirby	2				12
Jamie Pope	1				6
Carlisle Kounts		6			6
Chip Stuart	1				6
Dvane Foster	2				12
Tim Davis				1	13

Who Reports Reporters?

"Who guards the guards?" asked the Roman satirist Juvenal. The question is asked today in Boiling Springs just as in first-century Rome as newspapers set themselves up as the guardians of truthful reporting. But who guards the guards? Who reports the reporters?

Other newspapers do, as I found out this summer when I was interviewed by Woody Woodruff, managing editor of the Publisher's Auxiliary. The Auxiliary is a trade journal

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. — Most teachers—even journalism teachers—might have mixed feelings about school starting after a summer's respite. Not Dave Robertson.

He couldn't wait for his students to arrive on campus, because he's worn out from trying to be a one-man band.

Over the summer, Gardner-Webb College, a small liberal arts school in this rural area north of Charlotte, bought a weekly newspaper and hired Robertson to run it.

The Foothills View, eight years old, was Boiling Springs' only in-town newspaper when Dianne Holland, the founder, put it on the market because "It was getting to be a full-time job."

At the same time Gardner-Webb, which already operated a 5,000-watt radio station, was looking for the nucleus of a proposed journalism program. The college president, Dr. Craven Williams, said he wanted a community newspaper for teaching purposes rather than one that just covered the campus.

There was a "coincidence of availability,"

circulated nationwide among newspaper editors. I found myself on the other side of the desk as Woody reported on me and my arrival at The Foothills View. As when the View interviews local figures, I had no idea whether the published story would be favorable or critical.

The Auxiliary published its story Aug. 31. We reprint it below The Editor

said Williams, that "would not require our beginning entirely from ground zero."

The money for buying the Foothills View came from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, a trust connected with the R.J. Reynolds tobacco family that has given more than \$100 million to various causes within the state—including two previous grants to Gardner-Webb.

"It wasn't a spur of the moment decision," allows Barry Hartis, the college's vice president for business and finance.

Williams said the college definitely wanted a community newspaper rather than a college campus paper.

"As journalists we've got to sell newspapers," says the president. The Foothills View is "not going to be a Gardner-Webb propaganda newspaper."

"We're not playing at being a newspaper," agrees Robertson.

And as of Monday, August 24, Dave Robertson had some journalism students to go with his community newspaper.