

Marse Grant: Baptist Editor Speaks

For 21 years, the name on the masthead has read the same: J. Marse Grant, editor and business manager. Grant, 61, has held that position at the Biblical Recorder longer than any editor in the Southern Baptist publication's 148-year history, and for many of its weekly 120,000 readers the name Marse Grant means the Biblical Recorder.

"He stays in touch with the average North Carolina Baptist," says Rev. Wendell Davis of Charlotte's Midwood Baptist Church. "Wherever you go, you hear, 'Marse said this, Marse said that.'"

The masthead changes Sept. 13. That date Grant retires, having worked over half his life in Baptist journalism. His career includes helping Gov. Terry Sanford establish the first interracial council in a southern state (Good Neighbor Council) on "that cold" January morning in 1963. The 35 member black-and-white council helped the state avoid much of the racial violence of the 1960's and itself has become an institution as the NC Human Relations Council.

Tuesday night Marse Grant spoke in Shelby at the sixth annual awards banquet of the Shelby Human Relations Council. Afterward he talked with the View at his motel. Here is what this most outspoken of Baptist editors has to say:

View: Tonight you told the Human Relations council: "I feel right now we're going through a period when we'll have difficulty preserving what we achieved in the 50's and 60's." Do you think the Reagan administration is less interested in these issues?

Grant: Right. I think we're already seeing it in subtle ways. The softness on anti-trust suits, this administration's initial hesitancy to support renewal

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of the Civil Rights Act, their attitude toward organized labor, all indicate in subtle ways a softness toward civil rights. There seems to be a feeling that because of the economy we may have run our course here.

View: Let's talk about the recent state Baptist convention. Approved there was Resolution No. 5, disapproving of religious "tests" for political candidates, and interpreted in the secular press as a

rebuke to the Moral Majority. Do you approve of the resolution?

Grant: Yes I do. This is one of the risks, by the way, of a joint convention. Our black friends mentioned the Moral Majority and the Congressional Club by name in their resolution disapproving of tests. The black ministers have always been much more forthright in naming names in their resolutions... while our convention has never endorsed or

disapproved of a slate of candidates by name. The differences were worked out in committee in ways that were very difficult.

View: Do you approve of the resolution as passed?

Grant: Yes, I'm satisfied with it. You know, I've always had strong feelings about these morality ratings. I've fought them in Raleigh. (The text of the resolution is the subject of this

week's "editor's Miscellany" on the editorial page of this paper).

View: At last year's convention the agreement was worked out with Wake Forest that the school would have non-Baptist trustees in exchange for being dropped from automatic inclusion in the Baptist Convention budget. At that time you predicted that the agreement will "hold firm because it evolved after years of tension." Do you still believe the agreement is firm?

Grant: Yes, I think it's still holding. You know this agreement came after years of friction - some from Wake Forest and some from the Convention - and it has in some ways made it easier for a Baptist church that wishes to do so to donate directly to Wake Forest... But being dropped from automatic inclusion in the Convention budget has reduced their donations to about one fifth of what they were before. I'm speaking in round numbers here, but before Wake Forest was budgeted for about \$1 million dollars, and this past year I believe their donations were about \$200,000. It may be that in years ahead Wake Forest may decide that it is advantageous to be more closely associated with the Convention.

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The Foothills View

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Council Hears Sewage Plan

Construction of 32 apartments at Phillips Heights is closer to ground breaking as a result of a motion by town council at last Tuesday week's meeting.

Council agreed to John Washburn's motion to maintain a proposed sewer line to the apartment complex, to be named Phillips Village, after the line has been laid by the construction firm.

Earlier officials of Mills Construction had explained to council plans and costs for providing sewage to their proposed apartments, and made council an offer:

"To share all, part, or any of it (the sewage expense) in conjunction with us," said Fred Mills of Mills Construction. In exchange, Mills said, his company will hook up existing residences on Phillips Heights to the apartment's sewer system. Phillips Heights currently does not have city sewage.

Council requested town engineer Marion Packard to prepare an estimate for next council meeting on the costs of hooking up Phillips Heights, and postponed until that meeting action on Mills' offer.

In other action:

- the council agreed there was "no urgency" in buying a new police car and scheduled for January talk on the purchase.
- called for an estimate of costs to complete a proposed city park.

What's Cooking?



Chicken potpies and hotdogs, Tommy Greene would answer, as he checks the oven at Boiling Springs Elementary School before the PTA's fund raising dinner there this Friday. Homemade deserts also are on the menu for the 5 to 8 p.m. dinner. Tickets are \$3.00 for adults and \$1.50 for children 12 and under. Take-out orders are available. Serving with Greene on the PTA's committee for the dinner are T. W. Martin, Dale Winn, and Clyde Buckner.

Rescue Busy Past Week

Three wrecks kept Boiling Springs Rescue busy this past week, while a quiet seven days passed for the city's police and fire departments.

In an accident that "barely happened" according to a rescue member, a car had a low-speed collision with an asphalt truck on Highway 150 near Shuford's Home and Garden store. One driver was treated and released at Crawley Memorial Hospital.

More serious accidents had injured two Friday in a two-vehicle accident on Pleasant Ridge road, and took the life of a driver Wednesday morning in a one-car accident on Highway 74 in Swainesville.

In the Wednesday wreck, a Pinto left the road and overturned about 5:30 a.m., killing a Shelby man and injuring a passenger. Rescue Squad found the driver dead on the scene. "His head was out the window and his neck was broken," said a squad member.

In other action, Boiling Springs Rural Fire Department responded to two fires this past week, while city fire reported none. Police reported one motorist stopped Saturday for driving without insurance.

Area Briefs

NEW ARRIVAL

There's a new resident at Riverbend Acres: three-week old Valerie Star Flynn was born Nov. 2 to Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Flynn of that address.

Valerie is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Hamrick, and of Mrs. Kathleen C. Flynn and the late Ralph F. Flynn. She has a brother, Jason, 5.

CREST OPEN HOUSE

American Education Week will be observed at Crest Senior High School Nov. 16-21. The theme for the week is "American Education and You: Partners in our Children's Future." The Future Teachers of America, with sponsor Mrs. Marion Jolly, and the Student Union, with sponsor Bryson Jones, are serving as the planning groups for this week.

One of the main activities will be Open House on Wednesday. The hours are 9 - 11 a.m. and 1 - 3 p.m. Parents and patrons are invited to visit during these hours to see "education in action." F.T.A. Members and Student Union Officers will serve as guides.

NURSING SEMINAR

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. - A nursing seminar will be held at Gardner-Webb College Saturday, November 21, in

the Dover Memorial Library. Registration will begin at 8:45 a.m. and the program will continue until 12:00 noon. There will be no registration fee.

The seminar is designed for junior and senior high school students, counselors, health occupations teachers, adults, or anyone interested in learning more about nursing.

ORCHESTRA CONCERT

The members of the Shelby High School String Orchestra will join the Gardner-Webb College/Community Orchestra to present a "Musical Potpourri" Thursday, Nov. 19, at 8 p.m. in the Malcolm Brown Auditorium in Shelby. The doors will open for seating at 7:45. No admission will be charged. The concert is open to the public.

Community members of the orchestra are: Boiling Springs - Richard McBride (College Minister of Gardner-Webb), Jim Padgett; Gaffney - Judy Abner; Gastonia - Bennie Jo Howe; Forest City - Shirley Blanton, Steve Kellogg, Alva Marchman, Mari Ungvarsky; Rutherfordton - Anna Martin (concertmaster), Hobart Rogers; Shelby - Edward Allison, Michael Fitzgerald, Roger Holland, Bill Marsh, Beth Marsh, Oland Summers (assistant Professor of Music at Gardner-Webb), Debbie Williamson; Spindale - Mary Brayson.

OLD PHOTOGRAPHS

Do you have the oldest photograph in Cleveland County stored away in your old trunk, or a genuine Matthew Brady (famous Civil War period photographer) photograph, or an old photo of a church school class, a social occasion, a parade, the inside or outside of a business, a street scene, an early auto, truck, or even an airplane? If you do, enter the Historic Photo Contest sponsored by the Cleveland County Historical Association/Museum in conjunction with the book, "The Heritage of Cleveland County."

There are all types of categories for photos, and the deadline for entries is December 1, 1981. For more information on the Photo Contest or the Heritage Book, contact the museum at 482-8186.

NATIONAL DIRECTOR

Craven E. Williams, president of Gardner-Webb College in Boiling Springs, N.C., has been re-elected for a two-year term to the national board of directors of Camp Fire, Inc., the national youth agency. He has also been re-elected to serve on the agency's congress nominating committee.



Anna Michele Taylor of Belmont and David Keith Lanfitt of Maitland, Florida, rehearse a scene in Tennessee Williams' play, "The Glass Menagerie," which will be presented on Friday and Saturday, November 20 and 21, in the O. Max Gardner building on the Gardner-Webb College campus. Curtain time: 8 p.m. (Photo by John Mark Adams).