



Only those New Bernians who are well versed in history know that the present Mansion in Raleigh is the fourth official residence of North Carolina's Governors.

A few years after Tryon Palace burned here in 1798, the General Assembly passed an act requiring the Governor to live in the capital city of Raleigh. In keeping with the simplicity of the new, democratic state, a two-story plain white frame house on the corner of Fayetteville and Hargett streets became the Governor's home.

Six Governors lived in this residence, after which a more elaborate brick residence, with a classic white columned portico facing the Capitol, was built at the foot of Fayetteville street. In traditional ante-bellum fashion, the twenty succeeding Governors resided in the Palace, as it was officially termed.

General Lafayette was a visitor in 1825. Sessions of the General Assembly was held in the Palace following the burning of the Capitol in 1831. The last Governor to occupy the palace was Zebulon Baird Vance. He was forced to vacate when General Sherman took possession during the War Between the States.

When Sherman and his troops moved out, the house and grounds were left in such a state of destruction that they were considered unfit for further occupancy. However some repairs were made later, and for some time the old Palace housed other State officials.

During Reconstruction days, and until the present Mansion was built, the chief executives resided in Raleigh in rented houses, hotels or —during two administrations— in their own Raleigh homes. From 1871 to 1891 the Yarborough House, a noted hotel in Raleigh, served as the unofficial residence for several of North Carolina's Governors.

The decision to build the present Governor's Mansion was made by the General Assembly of 1883 as a result of the perseverance of Governor Thomas Jarvis, who, in turn, was spurred into action by his charming wife. Because the State provided no home for its Governor during those years, the Jarvises had been forced to live in a hotel during his term in office.

Mrs. Jarvis has been quoted as saying, "It does not comport with the dignity of the State for the Governor to live at a hotel, where he is unable to dispense the hospitality encumbered upon him and due the State."

State-owned property a short distance from the Capitol, known both as Burke Square and Lovejoy Grove, was designated as the most desirable location. Today the old grove is landscaped and planted in boxwood, trees and flowers indigenous to the State and appropriate to the mellowed Old Mansion in their midst.

North Carolina's Governor's Mansion — with its gables and balconies, its spacious halls and reception rooms, its grand stairway and sixteen foot ceilings — is a gem from a bygone era. At the same time it is a modern, efficient and comfortable home for the State's chief executives.

The late President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who probably saw more state executive mansions than any other man of his day, described the interior of North Carolina's Mansion as "the most beautiful in America."

Wherever possible materials for the Mansion come from the State itself. The carefully selected, hand-made brick were made from Wake County clay and molded by prison labor. Many of the bricks still bear

(Continued on Page 7)



GENERAL CHAIRMAN



STATE PRESIDENT

For A Successful Convention Just Choose Good Chairman

When out of towners arrive here Wednesday for the State Convention of the North Carolina Federation of Music Clubs, they'll be quite impressed with the ground work done for the busy but entertaining four-day affair.

A lion's share of the credit belongs to a Latvian-born New Bernian by choice, Mrs. Arvids Snornicks. President of the host St. Cecilia Music Club and State Convention chairman, she has labored long and enthusiastically to make the event a notable success. However, if Nara had her way the other St. Cecilia members who have ably assisted her would get the glory.

Her schedule as a music teacher is jam-packed, so tackling the job of general chairman was a terrific undertaking. Fortunately, Arvids is an understanding husband. He didn't complain when the Snornicks home became a turbulent scene of pre-convention activity. As a matter of fact, he pitched right in and helped with the work.

All of the extra curricular excitement must have been bewildering to the eight Snornicks cats, especially since they don't ordinarily have to worry about anything more distracting than the music lessons taught by Nara and Arvids to their dutiful students. The cats like music, but the recent hustle and bustle in the household has been downright annoying to them.

Things won't get back to normal until the convention is over. By that time, the fidgety felines will

probably need tranquilizers to get them on firm footing again. As for Nara, and likewise Arvids, they are taking the upheaval in stride.

Musicians have always been accused of being temperamental, but we saw no signs of it the other day when we visited the Snornicks home to get the low down on the forthcoming gathering. The Snornicks (excluding the cats) were in jovial mood, and kidded each other rather sharply as they went over plans and details that had been whipped into remarkably good shape.

Theirs is an interesting story. They knew each other in Latvia before they were transported to Germany as displaced persons during the horrors of World War Two. By a strange but happy quirk of fate, the two accidentally met again in the midst of thousands of refugees in one of Hitler's concentration camps. Friendship evolved into love, and they were married when brighter days came.

Nara was once a student in Arvids' music class, and he was a demanding instructor who insisted on bringing out the full potential of her exceptional talent. He was in the driver's seat then, but smilingly admits today that he is just as henpecked as the next American husband.

When we used the word — "henpecked" — he didn't know what it meant. Obviously it hadn't entered his rather ample English vocabulary Nara knew what it meant, however, the moment we said it, and laughed. She explained

its meaning to Arvids and he laughed too, somewhat ruefully.

Both the Senior and Junior divisions of the North Carolina Federation of Music Clubs will meet here. Sessions of the Senior Division are to be held at the Hotel Governor Tryon Wednesday through Friday. The Junior Division will hold its sessions Friday and Saturday.

Distinguished guests are going to be here in profusion. Included will be Mrs. Glenn W. Morrison, South Atlantic District President, of Lakeland, Fla., and Mrs. Maurice Honigman of Gastonia, who is a national board member and national chairman of the finance department.

The Federation Convention opens Wednesday evening at 7:30, after a Federation dinner. There'll be greetings from New Bern's Mayor, Dr. Dale T. Mills and Constance Rabin, president of the New Bern's Woman's Club, of which the St. Cecilia Music Club is a department. Mrs. Honigman will also extend greetings.

Thursday's agenda begins with breakfast at 8 o'clock, and the opening business session is at 9:30. There'll be reports by State officers and national chairman, and election and installation of officers. The District Directors and Club President Luncheon is at 12:30 p.m.

On the afternoon schedule is the presentation of awards and certificates, a program by the Elizabeth City Music Club chorus, a Tryon Palace tour, and a 5 o'clock

tea at the home of Mrs. Charles L. Abernathy, Jr. The formal Federation Banquet is scheduled for 6:30, with an address by Mrs. Morrison.

Friday's highlights include the final business session of the Senior Division, and the Youth Luncheon of the Junior Division. Following adjournment of the Senior group, there will be a post-convention board meeting. Mrs. Harold G. Deal of Hickory is State President and will preside throughout the convention.

The Junior Division will hold its banquet Friday night. Mark Fountain of Raleigh is the State President, and Mrs. Mahlon O. Board of Greensboro is the State Junior Counselor. Arvids Snornicks is Junior Convention chairman, and the nine Junior Music Clubs of New Bern are joint hosts.

Jimmy Meredith of New Bern is the District President. During the two conventions he will be one of New Bern's musicians who will perform. Other local musicians performing include Catherine Latta, Marian Erdman, Edward Millis, Linda Rae White, Elizabeth Fuller, Gerda Turner, Sara A. Abernathy, Marilyn Johnson, Ann Byrd, and Arvids and Nara Snornicks.

Visiting performers will include, in addition to the aforementioned Elizabeth City chorus, Elsie Bell, Leonard Loftin, and Sarah Hearn, all of Kinston; Ella Ann Holding of Smithfield; Sally Wiley of Gastonia and New York; Tasker Polk of East Carolina College; Emily

(Continued on Page 5)