

Happenings Around The State Legislature

By JAMES H. POU BAILEY
LIFESAVING MEASURE . . .

About three years ago a former member of the Legislature happened to be passing through Raleigh and decided to visit old haunts around the Capitol where he had passed many joyous hours.

He walked up the long flight of stairs to the hall of the house, looked around quietly, chatted softly with relatives he had brought with him. He then went directly to the seat he had once occupied, sat there for two or three moments rebuilding in his mind's eye interesting legislative events. Suddenly he felt a sharp pain in his chest. He was rushed to the hospital and died within a short time.

Thus passed away former Representative Bailey of Haywood County.

Other members of the Legislature, including Senator Rivers Johnson of Duplin and the late Tom Long of Halifax have at one time or another pointed accusing fingers at Capitol stair-steps. The death of Long was attributed to his legislative climbs, and Johnson once spent several weeks in a hospital. He said the stairs did it.

Of course, there is Veteran Raleigh Newspaperman Tom Bost, who apparently takes pleasure in doing the light fantastic combined with a Fred Astaire rai-tat too dance up and down the stairs several times a day. He has suffered no ill effects, looking 50 at 70. This proves nothing, for in 1944 when he was attending the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, he found his room on the twenty-third floor of Stevens Hotel. Just for the fun of it—couldn't have been anything else, for he never touches cigarettes or alcohol—Tom Bost decided he would walk to his room, which he did very successfully.

So, both houses of the General Assembly, the Senate unani-

mously, voted last week to install an elevator in the Capitol. Cousin Wayland Spruill said that since the State now has two elevators for cows that the folks in the Capitol ought to have one.

INDOOR RALEIGH . . . With in a year it should be possible for a little better than one-third of the population of Raleigh to attend State Fair and State College events without fear of rain, snow, sleet, or hot weather.

As Government prospers, centralizes and expands, folks living in or near the seats of Government have a tremendous advantage over people in the hinterland. At the State College Coliseum it is possible now to see the best basketball teams and the best indoor entertainment in the nation. At the State Fair Coliseum, approved last week, "carnivals, pageants, industrial exhibits, livestock sales, and athletic contests" will be promoted.

Raleigh may well become the entertainment capital of the Southeast, for what other city in the South or North will be able to provide two indoor arenas capable of seating a total of 24,000 people?

On the shoulders of Manager W. Z. Berts, former director of the State Division of Purchase and Contract, rests the burden of making the State College Coliseum prove its worth. Dr. J. S. Dorton of Shelby, manager of the State Fair, the Southern States Fair in Charlotte, and the Cleveland County Fair, has outlined plans for the Fair Coliseum which if carried out, will make it the mecca of all tourists visiting North Carolina.

Meantime, businessmen are looking askance at the State's tremendous expenditure for buildings which might, and probably will, put the Government in further competition with private enterprise while down-trodden taxpayers carry the load. It is important that the private enterprise goose that lays the golden tax egg not be destroyed by Government competition—either State or Federal Government competition.

STREET HELP . . . Gov. Kerr Scott got his come-uppance at the hands of State Senate last week when 37 of the 50 members signed a bill introduced by able Senator Junius Powell of Columbus to provide cities with a maximum of \$5,000,000 a year from the Highway Fund for construction and maintenance of city streets. The State would also assume the burden of keeping up numbered highways running through the cities.

Many a municipal official hardpressed for funds cackled with joy when he realized passage of the bill would mean a total of about \$7,500,000 per annum from North Carolina with no increase in taxes. Of course a local tax increase for street maintenance will be avoided in many towns if the bill passes.

Gov. Scott several weeks ago had augustly advised representatives of the League of Municipalities they should request a \$5 increase in license tags and one-half cent increase in gas taxes. This would yield about \$9,000,000—if by chance it could get through a tax-conscious Legislature. They saw nothing better at hand and decided to go along with the Governor. This caused lifted eyebrows around here, for no N. C. Governor has much influence with his second Legislature and the present one seems to see what goes. The State highway people, naturally, are against it. Cities and towns are supposed to be receiving \$2,500,

000 each year already for streets, but most never are one dime of the money. The State Highway Commission helps in constructing and improving streets and then write off the amount due for the work from the city's quota of the \$2,500,000. In general, that's the way it operates.

While Senator Bowell's bill may be tossed about considerably by legislative winds before final passage, it is already assured of adoption in the Senate and should not have too much trouble in the House.

Senator Powell no doubt realized municipal officials were grasping at drifting straws and were trying to make bricks without ditto, hence the introduction out of the clear blue of the \$5,000,000 measure. It took the League, and no doubt the Governor, completely by surprise. Municipalities are getting busy, will hold a meeting this week.

Boys already signed up include Rev. Barnes, Kent Beach, Freddie Craig, J. B. Green, Charles Kincaid, Charles Michael, J. B. (Sonny) Payne, and John Payne.

J. D. Cook is scoutmaster with David Edmisten assisting him. Perkinsville Baptist Church, of which the Rev. C. H. Kincaid is

pastor, is the sponsoring institution, and the meetings will be held at the church. Membership is not limited to Baptist, however, as the troop will be a community project, with all boys ages 11-14 invited to participate.

The troop committee, which will back the troop in all its undertakings, is composed of Cecil Miller, Chairman, J. C. Goodnight, Woodrow Greene, Boyd Cook, S. Bynum Greene, Walter Edmisten, Frank Triplett and Joe C. Minor.

Meeting time for the troop will be Monday nights at 7 o'clock.

*World circus production for 1950 was about 11 per cent above the 1949 crop and 36 per cent higher than the 1935-39 average of 274 million boxes.

Farm management specialists at State College believe prospects are bright for farm flocks of sheep this year. Increases are recommended for purebred and commercial flocks in all parts of the State.

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New Grain Varieties Reduce Frost Damage

Variety—not top-dressing—is the key to protecting small grain from frost damage, according to Dr. F. J. Bell, seed and small grain specialist for the State College Extension Service.

Varieties such as Atlas wheat, Arlington oats, and Colonial 2 barley show no injury from freezing temperatures and can be top-dressed at recommended rates without being damaged by frost, says Bell.

Experiment Station tests show that small grain growers can increase their yields by 50 per cent if they apply nitrogen top-dressing on time, asserts the extension specialist. The recommended date for top-dressing is February 15. Application should be made as close to this date as weather will permit.

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