### The Old Court **House Speaks**

(Continued from Page One) before he came again, if possible, there should arise a building the equal, if not the superior, of anything of which Williamsburg could boast. Parson Earle, rector of St. Paul's Parish, public-spirited citizen that he was, sent my joists two feet square from his estate at Bandon, drawn by toiling oxen on wagons with solid wooden wheels over the fifteen miles of rough and perilous roads. From Cullen Pollock's swamp at Balgrae came the six huge pines, solid light-wood, from which my interior columns were hewn, and Mr. Hewes sent skilled craftsmen from his shipyard on the water front to fashion the den-tal blocks for my cornices and carve the panelling for the Council Cham-ber on my upper floor. From my mother country came the bricks for my walls, as attested by a receipt in the Museum in Mr. Corbin's house here, metal workers wrought by hand the snikes and locks, and the adzehere, metal workers wrought by hand the spikes and locks, and the adze-marked surfaces of the wood are still marked surfaces of the wood are still crisp and clear where protected from the sun and rain of years, while the deep-worn undulations of my great stone steps bear silent witness to the passing centuries. When completed I was a far cry from the spreading branches of the great oak tree under which the first Assembly met at passing centuries. When completed I was a far cry from the spreading branches of the great oak tree under which the first Assembly met at Nixonton in what is now Pasquotank County in 1665, as well as from the field's home in Perquimans, and how well the builders met the challenge of Colonel Byrd is best told by the of Colonel Byrd is best told by the thousands who visit me each year and proclaim that both in size, in architectural beauty and in my natural setting I fully equal if I do not far setting I fully equal if I do not far surpass my compatriot built three years later and now standing on Duke of Gloucester Street in Williamsburg. And was I proud! Proud of the beauty and symmetry of my lines, of the strength and sturdiness of my construction, and proud of the people who had labored for me and of the trust imposed upon me to meet the trust imposed upon me to meet the responsibilities of the future as my more humble, but stout-hearted 'tobacco barn' ancestor had done in the past.

'Twas a sad turn of fate, however, and grieves me still to think upon, when my old friend, Cullen Pollock, who had been one of the commissioners appointed for my construction, was brought to trial within my halls for sedition against the colony in the time of the Revolution and lodged in the old gaol which still stands behind me, and from which Samuel Johnston, true and loyal friend, had him released and carried him to his home at "Hayes." I knew he was inno-cent of the charge and that his neu-trality was being grossly exaggerated into active participation in seditious acts acts.

And, now, surely 'tis Sam Johnston I see being rowed across the creek from "Hayes" to meet his friend,



Joseph Hewes, and Jimmy Iredell will soon be having the shutters taken down for the day from the Customs House across the street ere he, too, comes over to join Sam and Joe. My, my, what my old eyes have seen and my old ears have heard through these years, as well as the tales of wisdom my old ears have heard through these years, as well as the tales of wisdom, valor, bickering and duelling re-counted to me from a more distant past. 'Twas on this very spot that Charles Eden, Royal Governor for whom the town is named, presided over the destiny of the Colony, and here that that swashbuckling pirate, Edward Teach, or Blackbeard, defied the laws of God and man; here also Edward Teach, or Blackbeard, defied the laws of God and man; here also that Richard Everard and George Burrington, both Royal Governors, fought a famous duel, and when the bounds allotted to me comprised a full six acres, my broad lands af-forded space for every phase of com-munity life. For many years the bell in my old tower tolled a knell for the passing of members of the House of Hangver a sail upon the broad waters the passing of members of the House of Hanover or pealed forth the joy-ous tidings of a royal birth, acknowl-all the village together to the of Hanover or pealed forth the joy-ous tidings of a royal birth, acknowl-edging allegiance as loyal subjects of Crown and Mother Country; through six conflicts the call to arms has re-sounded through my halls; I have known the inauguration of every President of these United States; President Monroe and governors from the time of Josiah Martin have spok-en from my rostrum, a prince of the

And then I heard a deep sigh which seemed to issue from the very heart of the old Court House. "Ah, protest against the treatment of your actuated you and your companions, would stand and speak out against tyrrany and injustice. But, my dear, my dear, there's nae the charm to my old eyes to be found in bobby sox and bobbed hair that was inherent in hoop kirts and nowlered coeffure there of skirts and powdered coiffure, sheen of satin and frills of lace, under the soft glow of candle light. I'll take my feminine patriotism with gla-mour, if you please! Old fashioned am I, perhaps—but flexible and ad-justable as well—and a bit amused sometimes when history monets it sometimes when history repeats it-self, for recently when that much be-rated or highly praised (as the case might be) governmental agency, the Office of Price Administration, was set up, I well bethought me of the law passed on this spot in 1746 es-tablishing the lawful rates to be charged at taverns and ordinaries, and the verbal protests on the one hand or praise on the other which ensued.

LSD 'Madeira wine per qt.\_\_\_\_\_ A diet of fresh meat, wheat 12 6 bread and small beer Lodging per night\_\_\_\_ A bottle of Claret \_\_\_\_ -- 1 -5 Pasturage or stabling a horse per night \_\_\_\_\_ 1 'If any person or persons presume to take any higher or greater price

than above rated, on complaint and proof thereof made before any two justices of ye peace within the said County, they shall forfeit their li-censes and further be lyable to the penalties by law prescribed.

here for safe-keeping from the British when that lodge was suspended. And the self-same cannon which now Penelope, Penelope," it repeated the serve as peaceful markers for the name with loving tenderness, "I ne'er water front before me I saw unloadshall look upon your like again. How well do I recall the day, 'when you and I were young, Nellie,' and you and all the fair ladies of Edenton as-Thomas Benbury and Robert Smith, sembled almost at my doorstep to Commissioners, for defense of this hold your tea party and make your great port.

protest against the treatment of your mother country. And, yet, methinks your deed has resounded down the years, and should occasion arise, some other of your sex, inspired by the memory of the patriotic spirit which actuated you and your companions, would stand and speak out against turreny and injustice. But, my dear. As I look out across the water drank a toast to a safe and successful voyage and each incoming vessel paused within sight and sound of home to fill it up.

Again I seem to hear the footfalls of the countless thousands who have crossed my threshold-the running feet of little children hastening to the Christmas parties held for many years in my Assembly Room. I like to look back upon those times when fun and merriment held sway, though I shudder at the memory of one occasion when a serious catastrophe caused by Santa Claus' beard catching fire was narrowly averted and Sir Nathaniel Duckenfield, come over from his plantation in Bertie. was the hero of the occasion. I hear, too, the lightsome, tripping feet of maiden and their beaux hurrying to take their places for the stately minuet, and perhaps those same eager feet at some later day on their way to secure a marriage license within the office of the Register; the dignified steps of statesmen-Chris-topher Gale, first Chief Justice of North Carolina; Samuel Johnston, outstanding leader of the Colony, first Senator from North Carolina Senator from North Carolina, Judge and Governor; Joseph Hewes, Signer of the Declaration of Independence and Chairman of the Committee on Naval Affairs, thus becoming in ac-tuality the first Secretary of the Navy; James Iredell, Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States

N. C. TEURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1947.

generations in the preservation of its landmarks-that out of this might

'Twas a "Lusty Wind For Caro lina" that brought Inglis Fletcher to "Raleigh's Eden" to make her home among the "Men of Albemarle" and give us renewed interest and a keener awareness of the priceless heritage of our past, and we look forward with eager anticipation to the time when with the restoration of the old Council Chamber in the Court House in Queen Anne's Town we may again

take our acknowledged place among the Colonial Capitals of America. "We are of those who hold the past in trust for the future." **ANNUAL FIRE INSPECTION** Fire Chief R. K. Hall is this week

## **Camp Meeting Ends**

The Rev. Jesse McCloud, in charge of the Albemarle Camp Meeting being held at the south end of the Albemarle Sound bridge in Washington County, announced early this week that the camp meeting will come to a close next Sunday, when an all day service will be held.

The guest speaker for the occasion will be the Rev. Carl Graves, a missionary from India.

Dinner will be served on the grounds, and an invitation to attend is extended the public.

making his annual fire inspection, devoting the early part of the week to the business section. The latter part Next Sunday Night of the week he will inspect the residential section.



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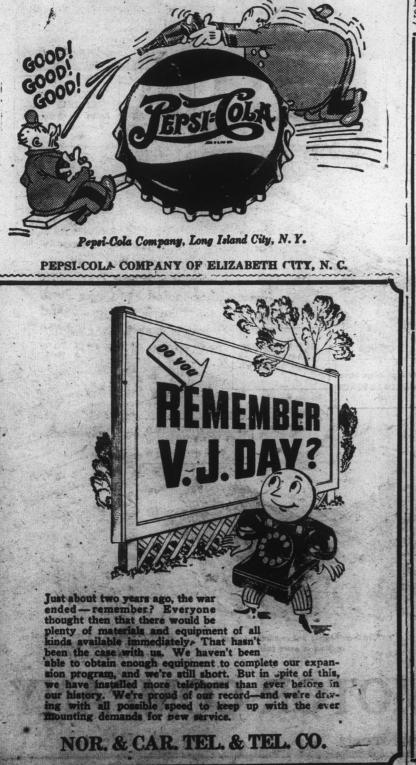
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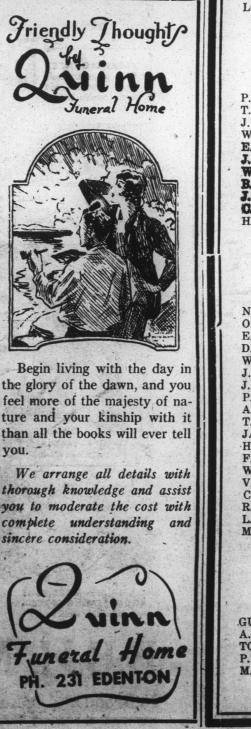
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