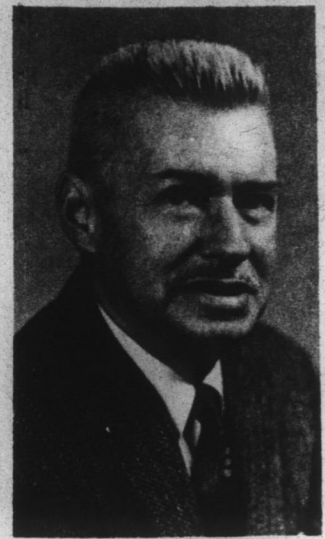


Bill Sharpe, Tar Heel Editor, Knew How To Make Change

(Editor's Note: The following editorial concerning the life and death of Bill Sharpe, founder, editor and publisher of The State Magazine, appeared in the Down In Iredell column of the Statesville Record & Landmark, written by J. P. Huskins).

WILLIAM PLEASANT SHARPE — We are usually content to let the Fourth Es-



William P. Sharpe

tate bury its own dead, which is usually done with more flowers than heart. But if Bill Sharpe is to rest in peace, something more must be said than has yet found its way into print.

Born William Pleasant Sharpe 66 years ago in Spartanburg, S. C., he migrated to North Carolina via New Orleans at the age of 22 to become managing editor of the Winston-Salem Journal and then the Winston-Salem Sentinel, separately owned at the time.

We first came to know Bill Sharpe in the early 1930's when, fresh out of the University of North Carolina journalism school, we had gone to Greensboro to join the staff of the Daily News.

The depression soon touched bottom and the economic world turned upside down. It was a lucky reporter that could make \$25 a week and the "executive" making \$50 was an outstanding success, who could afford something more than the 35-cent blue plate special when he took you out to lunch.

We had emerged from the University of North Carolina

as an idealistic free-wheeling liberal, willing to blame everybody's bad luck on the economic barons who had plundered the country.

It was in those days that Bill Sharpe came over from Winston-Salem to help organize a Greensboro chapter of the American Newspaper Guild, the newsmen's labor union; and he was just as far out in left field as we were. If anything, being a little older, he had moved farther left than we had.

In any event, he was ready to take on the establishment, which was then known by less complimentary terms, and he invited the rest of us weak-kneed, red-blooded, faint-hearted, fearless journalists to join him in organizing a local chapter and petitioning for a guild charter.

We are not sure whether Bill had come equipped with a supply of white lightning or whether we had to be content with Ted Thompson's home brew, but the group soon became sufficiently fortified in spirit and solidified in purpose to sign up to the man. The meeting ended on a note of high purpose. Perhaps the guild would help to elevate the lowly newsmen to the status of a professional.

We do not know how long Bill Sharpe remained in the Newspaper Guild; but we do recall that it proved to be a great disappointment to us as the years went on and it devolved into just another labor union. We continued to pay our dues and carry a card until an opportunity to join the side of management gave us an honorable way out.

But the point we are trying to make is that by today's standards, Bill Sharpe and we were both just about as liberal as they come. In later life, both of us found ourselves on the other side of the road.

Bill had gone through a financially-disastrous experience in attempting to establish his own newspaper in Winston-Salem, a weekly called Thursday which one day didn't make it until Friday and finally didn't make it at all. He had then become head of the state's first Division of Advertising, served as secretary and quota-caller for the late Gov. Gregg Cherry, and finally purchased an interest in the State magazine, which he edited until his death.

We, too, had gone into the business of meeting pay rolls instead of having them meet us; and, in the process, had discovered what it means to work seven days a week and then spend the rest of the time on your own.

One day during a visit in our office, Bill Sharpe brought up the fact that both of us had undergone a profound psychological change and we asked him how it happened.

"Well," he said, "after 30 years of seeing the liberals' favorite solutions fail, it dawned on me that there must be something wrong with the solutions."

"Then the phoniness of the whole damned process became apparent—tax and tax, spend and spend, cut hours and raise wages, cut production and increase cost, increase cost and push up prices, raise

prices and raise taxes. And then start the cycle all over again.

"It was from this sort of thinking that the something-for-nothing philosophy gained a certain validity, that the free-money from Washington concept was born. It was the old Roman bread and circuses all over again. Who knows when we will pass the point of no return?"

That was Bill Sharpe. He won't be around to see the end of the drama. But we know he died with strong suspicions that we had already passed the critical point.

Episcopalians

Elect Wardens

At their organizational meeting Sunday the Vestry of St. Paul's Episcopal Church elected Ernest P. Kehayes senior warden and Richard D. Dixon, Jr., junior warden. Also elected were Mrs. T. Benbury H. Wood as secretary and James M. Bond as treasurer. Oscar E. Duncan will continue as assistant treasurer.

V. Thomas Cheers was appointed chairman of music; Richard N. Hines, Sr., chairman of stewardship; Dr. Allen L. Hornthal, chairman of youth; George C. Hoskins, chairman of ushering; Dr. Haswell C. Jackson, chairman of acolytes; Robert Graham White, chairman of Christian Education; James E. Wood, chairman of evangelism and promotion and John Gilliam Wood, chairman of Brotherhood, Men.

The Vestry moved immediately into plans for the forthcoming diocesan convention meeting in Kinston, February 6-7. Delegates to the convention from the parish were present at the meeting.

There are 112 Breathalyzers in use by the North Carolina State Highway Patrol for use in determining the degree of intoxication of suspected drunken drivers.

Garden Time

By M. E. GARDNER

Dept. of Horticultural Science
N. C. State University

January is usually a slow month in the home gardens due to adverse weather. However, there are some jobs that can and should be accomplished.

Get your seed orders in. You have in mind many flowers and vegetables that have done well for you or that you might have observed in the gardens of friends. Stick pretty closely to those varieties which have proven themselves but do not hesitate to try a few new ones, especially the hybrids.

If you are landscaping a new home, or "sprucing-up" a bit around the established home, check with your nurseryman. He will have suggestions about plant materials suitable for all locations in your landscape plan.

If you have a small greenhouse, you can expect improvement in growth from now on as the days are getting longer. Over-watering is a common error. There is no rule-of-thumb. One must use good judgment. Plants need more water on a bright day than on a cloudy one. Regulation of the night temperature is important during cold nights. This is especially true if you have tomato plants.

Now is a good time to plant apples, peaches, plums, cherries, pears and grapes in the Piedmont and Coastal Plain. When planting, dig a hole large enough to accommodate the root system without crowding. Separate top and subsoil and place the topsoil around the roots. After the roots are well covered, pack with your feet to within about four inches of the top of the hole. Finish filling with loose soil. Set plants as deep as they stood in the nursery row. You can easily identify this soil line at the base of the plant. Mulch.

Don't overlook the dwarf type fruit plants. They are well suited for areas where space is a problem and there are many fine varieties for selection.

If you have apple and peach trees, prune them and spray with winter (dormant) strength lime sulphur.

Contributions Continue

The Edenton-Chowan Rescue Squad appreciates contributions from the following contributors:

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Contributions have been made as a memorial for Mrs. Luther Parks, Mrs. John Lee Spruill, H. S. Ziegler, Sr., E. Frederick Hettrick and Bruce and Marvin Robey.

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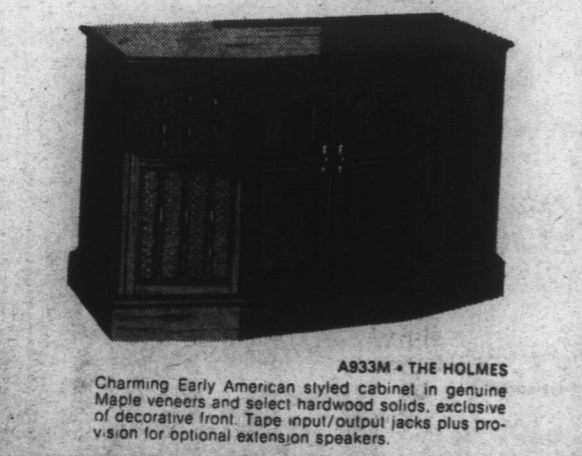
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