

'A Bright Idea'

LYNN NISBET:

# Around Capitol Square



LEAVING a White House conference, Adm. William Leahy (above) declares "it would be a good idea" to lift the U. S. naval blockade on Formosa and give the Chinese Nationalists a chance "to help us win the war." The former Chief of Naval Operations denied discussing the matter with President Eisenhower (International)

DUD — The much heralded administration plan to reorganize the Department of Conservation and Development was put into the legislative mill Friday with companion bills sent up by C&D Chairman Grady Rankin in the Senate and Alonso Edwards in the House. What had been publicized as a bomb proved to be a dud. There may be further legislation designed to correct some of the obvious deficiencies in departmental organization and operation. The bills offered do nothing except legislate out of office as of June 30 this year all members of the present board. The effect is to add two months to the tenure of five members whose terms would expire on April 30, cut two years off the terms of five more members, and four years off another five. On or before July 1 Governor Umstead will have authority to appoint 15 members, instead of appointing five on or before May 1.

DISAPPOINTED — There was frankly admitted disappointment among many legislators and others concerned with State development that the first bill did not approach the major problems of the department. Personnel composition of the board is important, but it has been apparent for years that the real trouble was as much in statutory inadequacies as in questionable inefficiency of board members.

PROBLEMS — Most of the failures of the department to meet the needs of the State have stemmed from the fact that the Director is not amenable to the Board, and the Board, and the Board does not have to report to the Director, and the hodge-podge arrangement of division heads being in some degree responsible to both the Director of the Budget. It was that vague and confusing situation which led to divorce of control of wild life resources a few years ago and stimulates the current movement for divorce of commercial fisheries.

VITAL — The functions allotted to the Department of Conservation and Development are vital to the progress of the State. Those functions cannot be performed adequately under the existing set-up. Complete change in membership of the board cannot meet the need, unless the new board's duties are spelled out in more detail.

TRUSTEES — Developments of the past five years have brought the position of trustees of the Consolidated University into more prominence than they had held for a long time before. For almost 20 years membership on that board was coveted as an honor, without much responsibility. Necessity for selecting a president of the whole university, vice presidents and chancellors for two of the component units, along with impact of demands for abandoning racial segregation policies in graduate schools, the greatest building expansion program in history, and questions involving communism and loyalty pledges, have put more responsibility than honor upon the position of the trustee.

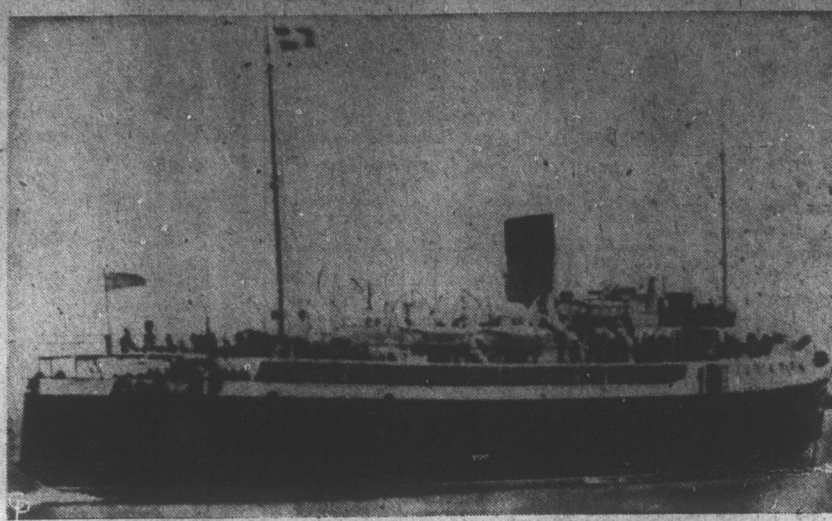
IMPORTANCE — Enhanced importance of the assignment was emphasized in the unfavorable reaction to Lieutenant Governor Hodges' proposal to drop the Senate committee charged with handling the matter. Pressure of public opinion forced him to yield that point and belatedly he named a committee of 16 headed by Senators Grady Rankin as chairman and J. W. Copeland as vice chairman. The committee deemed the job important enough to justify a meeting much earlier in the session than usual to fix policy. The House committee of 44, headed by Rep. Ben Fountain as chairman and Wayland Floyd as vice chairman, but is expected to adopt essentially the same rules of procedure.

RULES — The ground rules include provision for the committees to nominate only one candidate for each vacancy; to give due consideration to alumni of the several units and non-alumni, as well as to geographic place of residence with a view to equitable distribution of the trustees throughout the State. The rules did not include any reference to the controversial matter of the General Assembly electing its own members to the board of trustees. That has been an issue for many years, but without monotonous regularity each Legislature picks several of its members for the coveted positions.

HISTORY — In 1943 Senator Ed Huggins of Guilford, chairman of the trustees committee, fought valiantly for a rule that would prevent selection by the Assembly of its own members, but he lost the battle. Before and since that year less vigorous effort has been made to eliminate the personal politicking and trading among members for support without success. Two years ago at least half a dozen members of the Legislature were named trustees and two or three others were obviously offended because they were not chosen.

OFFICE — There is growing sentiment to give a university trustee the status of a public official in order to bring it up to equality in prestige with membership on the State Board of Education, and to make applicable the constitutional prohibition against double office holding. Principal opposition to that idea comes from members of

## MOTORSHIP ON WHICH 130 WENT TO DEATH



TAKEN JUST A FEW DAYS before the British motorship Princess Victoria sailed on her last fateful trip, this photo shows the vessel on her regular run between Scotland and Northern Ireland. With 177 persons aboard, the big sea ferry foundered in a terrific gale off Belfast Harbor, sending at least 130 persons to death. Only 45 were known to have safely reached Northern Ireland. (International Radiophoto)

## Lillington Woman's Clubs Enters Improvement Contest

A finer Lillington will become a reality if plans made Thursday night by the Lillington Rotary Club and Junior Woman's Club are put into action.

Officials of the two clubs conferred at the regular dinner meeting of the Rotary Club at the Community Center.

Their topic was entry into the 1953 Finner Carolina contest, a civic improvement contest sponsored by the Carolina Power and Light Company and offering substantial cash prizes.

List of objectives is now tentative and will be revised. However, at the top of the list is the replacement of entrance signs into Lillington with new ones of the same type. The signs on arrival proclaim Lillington as The Town of God Will and bear on the back the Scotch saying "Will Ye Nae Be Comin' A'ny?"

Other projects discussed for immediate work are the beautification of a park at the rear of the Community Center, better trash and garbage disposal, and beautification of the boulevard on Front Street.

Committee Named Henderson Steele, editor of the Harnett County News, heads the Rotary Club committee in charge of the civic improvement contest. A new steering committee to work with his group will be named on Tuesday night by the Junior Woman's Club. Representing the Juniors at the original conference were Mrs. Roger Hawley, president, and also Mrs. Joe Bordeaux, Mrs. Selwyn O'Quinn, and Mrs. Norman Gossett.

Steele told the group there was no reason why Lillington should not win a state prize this year. He said citizens last year failed to push the project and urged prompt work on all projects. Any suggestions for new projects will be welcomed by the committee, he reported.

President Mac Norwood of the General Assembly who desire to be on the board, and who want to honor citizens back home who may already have a public office. Certainly the rule would deprive the board of so very able men at the present, but it might elevate the status to the point where some of the double-duty folks would surrender the other offices in order to remain on the board.

DISTINCTION — There is a distinction without much difference in the functions of the State Board of Education in handling public schools and the Board of University Trustees in handling affairs of the topmost three institutions of higher education. The school board can promulgate rules with effect of law; the trustees cannot. Some folks think they ought to have that authority. Prospects for granting such powers are slim so long as the board has a hundred legislatively elected members and several ex-officio, many of whom hold other offices of authority, emolument and trust. The fact remains that the Consolidated University is his business with tremendous opportunity and responsibility and membership on the governing board should be regarded as a duty rather than a mere or less empty honor.

## Scout Master Thanked Rotarians

for an opportunity to render this service and promised a revitalized meet weekly on Friday nights at the Community Center.

Announcement was also made that President Norwood has offered Scouts the use of a cabin near the Cape Fear River as a lodge and recreational center for summer activities.

## Harnett Clerk Tenders Report

Collections and receipts of the office of the Clerk of Court made in January reflected a considerable

## Baptists Meet In New Church

Lillington Baptist conducts their first preaching services on Sunday morning in the new church auditorium.

Worshippers were greeted by new oak pews, floors covered with red

carpeting, new stained glass windows and cork tiled vestibule. Last stained glass window to be installed was the landscaped scene over the baptistry which is a memorial to service men killed in World Wars I and II. The window is a gift to the church from the members of the class taught by Dr. A. W. Peede.

Renovations, underway for nearly a year were made at a cost of around \$50,000. The Rev. T. W. Williams, the pastor, preached and special music was rendered by the church choir.

drop in the amount of collected in the same office in December.

Robert B. Morgan, clerk in his first report to the county commissioners since his return from the Navy, reported \$2,705.47 collected in January. Fines in Recorder's Court, accounted for the larger share of the money. December business totaled \$3,942.52.

Receipts from January came from the following sources: from probates, \$427.30; from civil and criminal actions and special proceedings in superior court, \$420.45; from fines collected in superior court, \$132.00; from trust commissions, \$6.77; from civil and criminal actions in recorder's court, \$773.95; from fines in recorder's court, \$945.00.

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