

# Brunswick Between Bookends

By Al Arntsen



"NORTH CAROLINA IN 1861"—by James Boykin. Something about the author—Born near Garland, N. C. He attended Shaw University and took his graduate studies at the Graduate School of N. C. College in Durham. He has been a member of the faculty at St. Augustine since 1951. He also wrote "The Negro in North Carolina prior to 1861".

Can we learn something from studying the past? Or is it as some say—the only thing we learn is that man never learns.

Well, no matter. We all to some degree are interested in those years gone by, and what folks in those days said and did.

Many volumes have been written with the intent of reconstructing the past. Most recently a great deal of this effort has centered on the Civil War, presented with varied viewpoints and interpretations.

Author Boykin has written here a rather short and extremely concise book concerning the conditions in North Carolina just prior to its secession and the Civil War. It is bound to be somewhat

unique in two areas; being completely without descriptive detail, whether it be in creating atmosphere or characterizing a person. Secondly, the opinions of the author, either by direct interjection or sly connotation, are not a part of the book. He limits

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Our book review this week is by Mrs. Roy Arntsen, who has agreed to help us keep this feature going for as long as we can continue to find books written in or about, or by someone from Brunswick County.

himself almost exclusively to connecting paragraphs or reflections where they are essential. I felt while reading, that it was as if the presence of the author was there just to make sure the facts were properly presented, but he himself having no wish to intrude on the scene.

Because of this fact, if the reader is to understand Boykin's feelings, he must read the introduction. This is always helpful, of course, but here it is a must.

The book is in two parts. The first is a factual, self-descriptive account of the social, economic and religious conditions existing in our State in the year 1861. We have not here though, the portraying of situations and factions, nor the explanation of events. Thru court reports, deeds, wills, newspapers, church minutes, personal letters and telegrams (and numerous other sources) he projects across the pages the moving stream of people that made North Carolina what it was 100 years ago.

We are carried through the procedures which created the boundaries of our counties on to the reading of a letter concerning a business transaction between friends without stressing in any way that one event was more important than the other.

## B. C. T.

The May Day Festival at B. C. T. School is to be held on Friday, and once more this day of festivity is to be ushered in by a grand parade led by the B. C. T. Band. The traditional crowning of the May Queen, the Maypole winding, various dances performed by the students, and games will highlight this day. Refreshments will be on sale. Plan now to spend May 4th with us at B. C. T.

Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock the 52 voice B. C. T. Chorus, directed by James H. Frink, will present its annual spring concert in the school gymnasium. Music ranging from the 17th century composer Pierre Dagues to the contemporary American composer Randall Thompson will be performed by the group. Everyone is most cordially invited to attend this concert. There will be no admission charges.

So also in the chapters on religious and educational conditions. In these pages one can read from a school announcement that it had been noted pupils advanced more rapidly under male superintendents than under the sole management of a female; then finds pronouncements of spokesmen from the various churches on the issue of slavery. He apparently goes out of his way to avoid emotionalism, but inserts through these recollections much warm human interest. It makes you realize that in all the tedium and routine of our meetings and decisions we too are moving toward something. Because after all, those people too, were just plain folks!

After drawing the picture in this way the author uses the second part of the book to present us with the events that led North Carolina into seceding from the Union. The name Smithville leaps from the pages several times and created in me, at least, the child-like reaction of wanting to turn to someone and say, "That's Southport, where I live". Of further interest along those lines will be the number of pages devoted to the telling of the seizure of Fort Caswell. This seemed to be one of the events that focalized secessionist feelings in the State.

This book of course has a limited appeal. In my mind however, I can see a great many people in this area who would read this book with the same seeking nostalgia they would pore over an old, old family album.

The tariff structures recently established by the European Common Market provide for a minimum tariff of 13.2 cents per pound of tobacco, with an ad valorem tariff of 28 per cent and a maximum tariff of 17 cents per pound.

Thursday, May 10 at 8 p. m., the B. C. T. Band will present its annual Spring Concert. The band, under the direction of J. H. Finney, has prepared an interesting concert of music by the masters. Again the public is cordially invited to this performance. Admission is free.

## High Times

By JOAN PINER

Hi! Here is your reporter once again giving you news and happenings around the Dolphin home.

In baseball, the Dolphins played the Bolivia Bears on Monday night and won by a score of 3-2.

The May Day festivities will be held on May 4 between 1 and 3 p. m. Each grade will give its program. At 8 p. m. the May Day Dance will be held in the S. H. S. gymnasium. This will be a semi-formal dance. Everyone be sure to come.

The "Dolphineer" is coming out Friday. Be sure to get yours.

The Glee Club went to Bolivia on Tuesday night and sang in the County Music Festival. They will also sing in the May Day Program. They have two more appearances to make this year, a concert on Sunday, May 6 at 4 p. m. in the S. H. S. auditorium and at baccalaureate services on Sunday, April 20, at 11 a. m.

Your Roving Reporter's question for this week is: "What is your favorite musical instrument, and why?"

Linda Kaye Potter—"Piano—Because I like to play it."

Annie Lewis—"Piano—Because I like piano music."

Frankie Rogers—"Drums—Because I like to hear them play."

Sandy Potter—"Saxophone—Because it sounds good."

Judy Dixon—"Piano—It just sounds pretty."

Martha Harrelson—"Trumpet—It has a good beat to it."

Joe T. Reaves—"Guitar—Because I'm just an old country boy from way back in the sticks."

On Friday the Wilmington College Glee Club and Band gave an hour-long concert. It was very enjoyable and interesting.

Seen Around: Frankie acting crazy Monday afternoon . . . Get well soon, Beverly L. . . . Linda

## Form FCA Group At State College

RALEIGH—A chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes has been organized recently on the North Carolina State College campus, freshman football coach Johnny Clements, advisor to the group, announced.

"This is a new nationwide interdenominational organization made up entirely of athletes for the purpose of helping youth by setting an example as Christians as well as athletes," Clements said.

Skip Matthews, newly named 1962 N. C. State football captain, from Hertford, N. C., is president of the local branch. Bill Sullivan, junior guard from Statesville, is the organization's vice-president and Silas Snow, also a guard on the Wolfpack

Kay getting a phone call late Sunday night . . . Gen. Business class looking at the New York Stock Exchange . . . English IV class listening to opera . . . Foxy H. trying to get a dramatics class started . . . Sandy P. grouchy Saturday night . . . Sophomores having a car wash Saturday . . . Joe T. using the trash can for Gen. Business.

Well, this is all for this week. See ya'll around S. H. S.

team and from Rocky Mount, is secretary-treasurer.

Clements, a former University of North Carolina football star, who is now on the faculty at State College, said the group had a color film illustrating how God and athletics work together, which the athletes at State were showing to civic and service groups as one of its current projects.

The group meets twice a month, and at its Tuesday, April 17 meeting will have Walter Anderson, head of the State Bureau of Investigation, as its speaker. The 6:30 p. m. meeting will be held in the College cafeteria.



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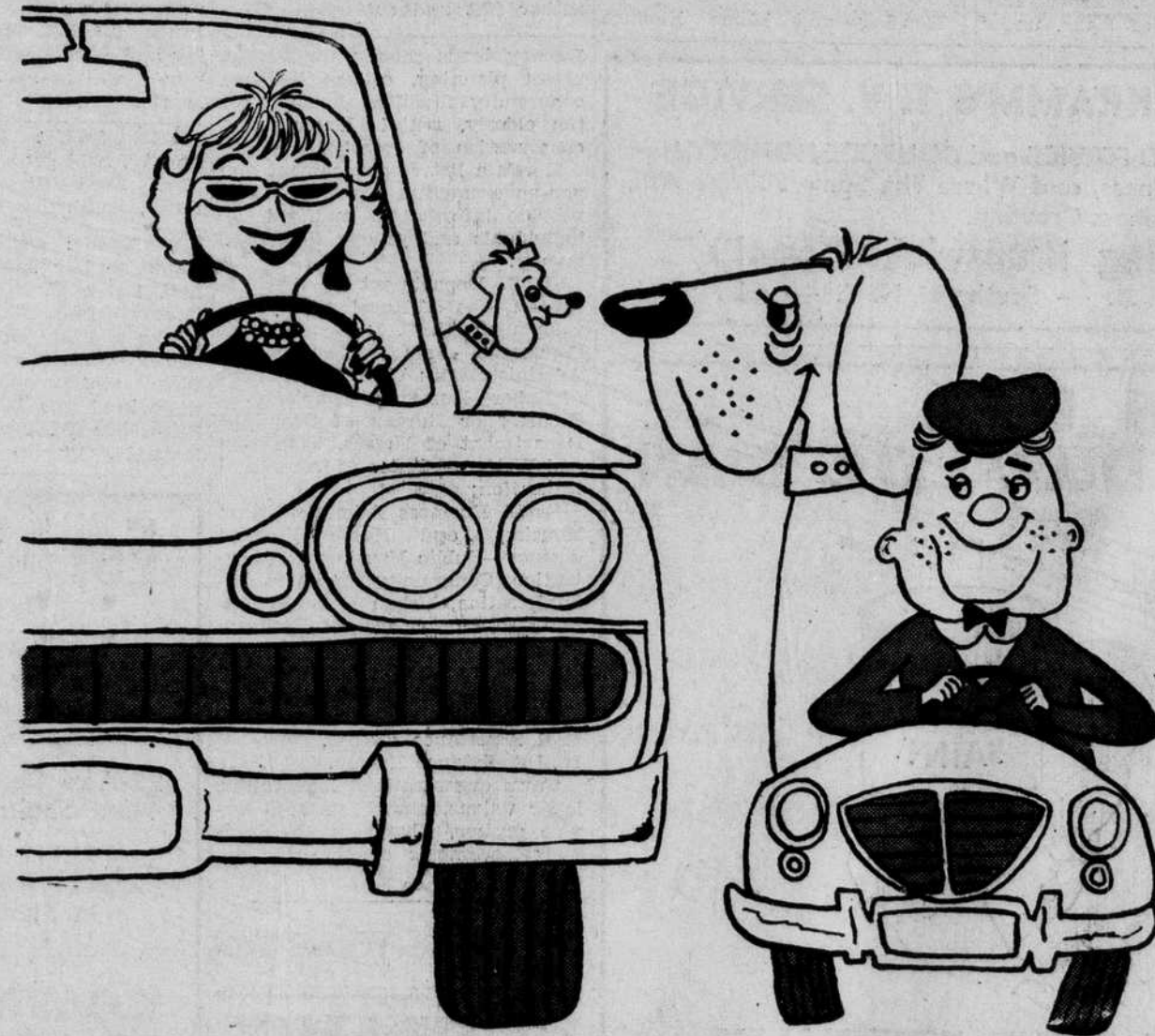
**GEMS THOUGHTS IDEALS**

By: JIM POWELL

**CHARLES DICKENS REVEALS HIS FAITH**

In a letter to his son, he wrote: "Try to do to others, as you would have them do to you, and do not be discouraged if they fail sometimes. It is much better for you that they should fail in obeying the greatest rule laid down by our Saviour, than that you should. I now most solemnly impress upon you the truth and beauty of the Christian religion . . . and the impossibility of your going far wrong if you humbly but heartily respect it . . . The more we are in earnest as to feeling it, the less we are disposed to hold forth about it. Never abandon the wholesome practice of saying your own private prayers, night and morning. I never abandoned it myself, and I know the comfort of it."

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