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Front view of the Van Landingham Estate.

(Carolina Journal photo by Donna Stafford)

By Steve Bass

The estate of Ralph Van Landingham at the Plaza remains an oasis amidst the concrete and lookalike houses of the city. Van Landingham, a prominent textile executive and investment broker until his death in 1970, was interested in unusual foliage and in UNCC. His home, according to Dr. William Britt, Vice Chancellor for Development, remains, "one of the showcases in North Carolina, a truly beautiful complex."

In his will, filed in 1969 and executed in 1970 upon his death, Van Landingham left his estate to the University. He hoped his estate would be used as a home for UNCC chancellors, and as a center of University social gatherings. "Unfortunately, when the University took over the estate, Chancellor Colvard already had a home, and so the home sat unused. The University thus decided to sell the property to a suitable buyer" said Britt. "In no way is the University decision a violation of the expressed desires of Mr. Van Landingham. In the will, Van Landingham stated that the University would be totally in charge of what happened to the estate" said Britt.

"The home is a beautiful complex, built in 1915 vintage style. The University has placed considerable money into maintenance of the home. Current estimates run between \$15,000-\$30,000 to upgrade the plumbing, electrical facilities and general repair work. The gardens are in magnificent shape. Dr. Herbert Heckenbinker has used the trust

The Van Landingham Estate: Will It Be Sold And/Or Torn Down?

fund Van Landingham established to maintain the gardens," said Britt

"Currently, the University has leased the home to the Charlotte Council of Garden Clubs for its use. The University maintains the right to use the home under this arrangement. However we are still open to viable bids for the property. We had made a conditional sale based on a favorable rezoning decision. The sale collapsed when the request was turned down."

Britt said the conditional sale was

made to a group hoping to build high rise apartments for the elderly. "If, and when the University sells the property, we will sell the entire property, and no attempt will be made to influence the use of the property. Since the Van Landingham Glen has been established on campus, with many of the cuttings and replants from the estate, the gardens may be displaced. I don't believe when we sell the property, we will have any right to tell people how they can use the property."

The University Development Office is

handling bids for the property, while retaining the advice of a local realtor. "We get several bids per month in on the property, and currently the brightest prospect is the Charlotte Council of Garden Clubs who is leasing the property. If they can come up with the asking price (\$100,000) then we will likely sell the property," said Britt.

The five acres which make up the Van Landingham estate will be featured in an article next week in the *Carolina Journal*.



Side view of the house showing some of the famous gardens tended by UNCC's Dr. Herbert Heckenbinker.

(Carolina Journal photo by Donna Stafford)

Parking Deck To Open Next Month; Reflects 'Upward, Not Outward' Philosophy

By Pat Griendling

The new parking deck will be open for use sometime between October 1 and October 15. Many are hoping that it will alleviate our parking problems on campus, others are more cynical.

To try to clear up some of the confusion, Jerry Hudson, Director of Safety and Security, discussed the reasons for the new deck and the advantages to the students. "Our parking problem began with the Cone Center addition," explained Hudson. "It took up too much parking space. We knew we would need additional parking space. Two problem areas are the dorm parking and between the Cone Center and the gym. Since there was no area to extend outward, we had no alternative except to go up. It cost us 10 times as much to go up than out in the pasture. The new 200 dorm parking spaces we plan to pave cost us \$400.00 per space. The deck cost us \$2,000.00 per space."

Who will have the use of the new

parking deck? "The faculty," said Hudson. "The area we received the most grief about was the faculty parking near the students. The faculty complained the parking regulations were not being enforced. So now we are going to gate off B spaces. The opening of the gated area will correspond with the opening of the parking deck. The gates will be at the Southern end of the main parking lot. This will provide 400 spaces for faculty. The 212 parking spaces that the new deck provides will also be gated off for faculty. The only reason we chose to use the deck for faculty is because it is easier to gate off than any other parking area. If we were to give the faculty the ideal place to park, it would be underneath where the cars are protected. In order to enter gated areas the purchase of a magnetic card is required. The gate cards will cost \$3.00. One dollar will be returned when the card is given back. The gate card also serves as an ID card.

As far as student and visitor parking

goes," Hudson said, "the old parking lot for visitors will be 50 cents a day. No more tokens for 25 cents. The visitor and meter parking are for non-decaled cars. The remainder of the lot is for students. The upper Union lot will be on a first come, first serve basis for those with no gate card. We're relocating parking near the gym."

For those who wonder why the students are bearing the cost of the parking deck when the faculty use it, Hudson had this to say, "Faculty and staff fees also went up. They're bearing the cost too. Actually we're hoping for at least, if not more, 20 per cent of the deck's cost to be financed by the Conference Parking Revenue. Also, the students raised traffic fees will go toward 200 new parking spaces near the dorms, 40 meters for students and we're subsidizing the bus service out of traffic fees."

The parking problem is far from solved, but at least some relief is in sight.

(Carolina Journal photo by Jack Green)



Posing for a deodorant commercial? No, these folks were among the first to ride UNCC's new bus system last week.