

World War II Vet Visits Moscow For VE Day

BY DEAN HAIR
ARTS AND FEATURES EDITOR

Fifty years ago in Germany on April 25, 1945, Major General Alexander Olshansky of the Soviet Union shook hands with Lieutenant Albert Kotzebue of the United States.

This event linked military forces of the United States and Soviet Union during the final stages of World War II.

A Chapel Hill resident has participated in more than five years of collaborative work with veterans and officials from the United States, Germany and Russia, resulting in the creation of the First Link-Up Memorial Park.

The park is located on the shores of the Elbe river in the small town of Strehla, Germany, south of Berlin.

Among the members of the 69th Infantry Division, which was the first group to meet the Russians, was longtime town resident Edgar A. "Bud" Parsons.

Parsons was a 2nd Lieutenant in Company A of the 272 Infantry Regiment and led a rifle platoon during the war. His division took the German city of Leipzig in order to stop Germans fleeing from the battle of Berlin.

Parsons, who over the past several years has played an integral role in establishing the park, visited Moscow a few weeks ago to commemorate VE (Victory in Europe) Day.

"One of the reasons for creating the park was to encourage all representative governments to resolve the inevitable differences between the two countries by means other than military confrontations," Parsons said.

A major feature of the park is a stone and bronze relief designed by Vladimir Sorovstev, a sculptor who is the son of a Russian veteran present at the famous 1945

meeting.

The bronze mural symbolizes "warring elements eventually ending in peace," Parsons said.

A second feature includes a smaller bronze statue, the "Spirit of the Elbe." The statue shows two unarmed soldiers in uniform having a conversation.

"The park also features three nation's flagpoles symbolizing the United States, the Soviet Union and Germany firmly anchored in mother earth," Parsons said. "The flagpoles are designed so as to have them arranged triangularly so that no flag has precedence over another."

"The concept is that the three nations are linked together in mother earth but will always have inevitable differences," he said. "Each flag bends outward and is conceptually reaching for the heavens for guidance while still being bound to the earth."

The park was officially dedicated on April 25 with President Bill Clinton, Russian President Boris Yeltsin and representatives of the federal republic of Germany all in attendance.

Parsons and other selected veterans met both presidents and had a brief discussion with them in Moscow during Russia's celebration of VE Day.

"I was invited to attend due to my work with the construction of Link-up Memorial Park in Strehla," Parsons said.

"Russia had gone to considerable pains to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the end of the war in Europe," he said. "It is important to note that the United States was still at war with Japan while Russia was not. VE Day has more significance to the Russians and members of the former Soviet Union than to Americans."

"It is almost impossible for an American to understand the losses suffered by the Soviet Union during what the called the 'Great Patriotic War.' Total American fa-



Edgar A. "Bud" Parsons (R) stands with Vladimir Sorovstev, sculptor at "First Link-Up Memorial Park" on the Elbe River in Strehla, Germany.

talities were approximately 300,000 while the Soviet Union suffered more than twenty-five times that in uniformed soldiers alone in addition to the 20 million who were also killed by war-related causes. "The president thanked us for attending

saying it was important to have close ties with the Russian people," Parsons said. "He felt it was important for us (veterans) to be there and symbolize the ties of fifty years ago and the possibility of those ties remaining."

N.C. Law May Threaten Strict Carrboro Gun Ban

BY WENDY GOODMAN
CITY EDITOR

A bill that is making its way through the North Carolina House of Representatives and the N.C. Senate may jeopardize an attempt by the Carrboro Board of Aldermen to enforce strict gun-control policies in the town.

The bill, backed by Republican leaders, would forbid local governments from passing stricter gun-control laws than those of the state.

Critics say the bill contradicts the Republican platform promise to return power to local government. "This action comes from a group of officials that ran for election on the idea of returning local principles," Alderman Jacquelin Gist said.

The proposed ban discussed by the aldermen on May 11 could outlaw any handgun possession by residents. The ban would be the strictest gun-control law in the state.

An eight-member committee was formed to examine the issues of gun-control within the town in 1993. The Gun Control Committee was formed by the Carrboro Board of Aldermen to study the issues of gun control within the town.

A committee member said its objective was to look at local ordinances regarding handguns and assault weapons and to then formulate a report that they presented to the Board of Aldermen May 9. The report recommended both a complete ban of all hand guns and assault weapons except for law enforcement officials and a more mild proposal for strict laws regulating only firearm sales and ownership.

"Guns do a whole lot more harm than good," Robinson said in an interview. "It is an issue of public safety."

Six members of the committee recommended banning handguns for everyone except law enforcement officials.

Two members of the committee opposed the proposal and any type of ban and issued a minority report.

"The gun ban is not the answer to our problems," said George Sanford.

The minority report focused on the right of people to own guns and the idea that many people have guns for protection only.

"We did petitions and I was surprised by the response I got from ladies. Some of their husbands had given them guns," he said. "(The ban) would be making criminals out of law-abiding citizens."

The Aldermen accepted the recommendations and reports from the committee at the May 11 meeting. After debating the issue, Aldermen decided that a public hearing concerning the gun ban would occur possibly sometime in August followed by a vote in September.

Gist and Robinson both said that even with the bill which was going through the N.C. House, they would continue to support the gun ban in Carrboro. "I think it is ludicrous because we are kowtowing too much to the National Rifle Association," he said. "The bill doesn't strike me as being consistent with democratic principles."

Gist said that she was for the gun ban completely because it would help increase public safety in the community.

"Handguns present a clear, persistent, and constant danger to the citizens of our town," she said. "Guns make people think more violently. They are simply bad news and we don't need them."

Restaurants Ready for Outdoor Dining

BY JOHN SUTTON
STAFF WRITER

Chapel Hill restaurants have started applying for sidewalk dining permits this week after the town cleared the last technical hurdle to outdoor eating May 8.

The Chapel Hill Town Council passed a sidewalk dining ordinance April 24. The ordinance allows restaurants on West Franklin Street to serve their customers on the sidewalks outside their businesses.

Restaurant owners began to apply for permits May 8. Restaurants who receive permits will pay a \$50 annual sidewalk dining fee.

According to John Davis of the Chapel Hill Buildings Inspections Office, two restaurants inquired about a permit.

The permit restaurants must obtain to have sidewalk dining has certain criteria Davis said. These criteria include the width and length of the sidewalk, the proposed eating area and the number of feet from the

building to the street.

"It depends on the size of the sidewalk and what you are going to do with the area and tables," he said.

Town Manager Cal Horton said the council asked him several months ago to make arrangements for a limited number of sidewalk dining set-ups.

"We prepared an ordinance for their consideration. So now, we are in the process of receiving applications."

Horton said the restaurants will be able to serve food items on the public sidewalk, but no alcoholic beverages will be served or consumed.

"The Alcohol Law Enforcement board requires a nonremovable barrier to separate where alcohol is and is not served on licensed premises," Horton said. "There is not a way to set up a nonremovable barrier on the sidewalk."

Horton also said the serving of alcohol in the future had not yet been determined. Chris Rice, manager of the Carolina

Brewery, 460 W. Franklin St., said they were in the process of applying for a sidewalk dining permit.

"We are in the process of looking at the whole scenario trying to determine what (number of) tables are going to be involved," he said.

"We are anxiously awaiting to serve our first meal out on the sidewalk."

Clark Brayton, manager of New Orleans Cookery, 401 W. Franklin St., said the restaurant had turned in an application and was waiting for the permit.

"As yet, no one has come by to inspect us," he said.

The manager of Halina's restaurant, 306 W. Franklin St., said he had not planned to have sidewalk dining yet, but was interested in the future.

Other restaurant's managers such as Crook's Corner and 411 West, said they did not plan on providing sidewalk dining either. The manager of Crook's Corner said they already have an outdoor patio.

player," he said.

It is still unclear whether any suits will be filed by the McGee family against Buckheads or the University. Kenneth J. McGee, Jamie's father, said, "We're big, in my family, on accountability. We're just concerned that this never happens to another family again."

McGee said he was distressed by the "big party atmosphere" at the University. "We're really disappointed in Chapel Hill," he said.

"You've got to have some mature responsibility and accountability there," he said. "And it's just not there."

Amended Town Ordinance Says No UNC Programs in Residential Neighborhoods

BY ROBYN TOMLIN HACKLEY
STAFF WRITER

An ordinance which would bar the University from expanding into residentially zoned neighborhoods was amended May 8 to ensure the clarity of the law.

The amendment was a response to questions raised almost a year ago by the Chapel Hill Historic District Commission.

The Chapel Hill Town Council amended the original ordinance's statement that "colleges, universities and professional schools" could not locate in residentially zoned neighborhoods.

It now includes the statement the University's "associated programs centers and functions" from locating in similarly zoned areas.

"I am pleased with the outcome of the situation," said John H. Oakes a Historic district resident.

The Town Council acted on the request

of the Historic District Commission in an 8-1 vote in favor of the amendment. Council member Jim Protzman was the only member to oppose the change.

"The change would limit the options that the town has for dealing with university expansion," Protzman said. "I didn't see how passing this amendment would be beneficial to the town."

Currently, there are no University programs affected by the change. A Henderson Street house operated by the Playmaker's Repertory Company which is used as a residence for the troupe complies with the ordinance's mandate.

"The wording change is just a clarification of the definition of the university," said Council member Pat Evans.

Evans said the measure was passed to eliminate confusion over the subject and that to her knowledge university officials did not oppose the measure.

The wording of the development ordi-

nance came into question last year when the Town Council was considering proposals to lease the building located on East Franklin Street which was formerly occupied by the town's library.

The Town Council originally agreed to lease the space to the Principal's Executive Program, a university program which offers workshops and conferences to North Carolina principals and teachers.

This decision was opposed by the Chapel Hill Historic District Commission.

The Commission expressed concern about the use of residential property by a non-residential program associated with the University.

It then asked the Town Council to clarify the definition they had used.

The Principal's Executive Program subsequently withdrew their proposal and the Town Council decided to lease the building to the day care center which currently inhabits the space.

BUCKHEADS

FROM PAGE 3

frat court" off Cameron Avenue near South Columbia Street.

Neither police nor students have been able to say for sure exactly how much alcohol she drank or if she drank at both places. It was after leaving Zeta Psi that she and McClure went to Phillips Annex.

Chapel Hill police said that they "are looking into any criminal activity which may have occurred prior to the death."

The Chapel Hill police are working in conjunction with other agencies, but the

investigation of the actual death is being handled by University police.

UNC detective Mark McIntyre said, "It was an accidental fall. There was no evidence that alcohol was present at the scene of the death."

Ron Binder, Dean of Greek Affairs, said, "The police have not indicated to me that any of my organizations were involved."

"So far there's no indication that any alcohol was served (at the Zeta Psi house)," said Binder.

Binder was optimistic that no alcohol was served to McGee at any fraternity house. "It looks like the bar is the major

MCGEE

FROM PAGE 3

The 18-year-old from Wilmington was a standout at New Hanover High School. She was a beauty queen, winning numerous pageants.

She was an accomplished student who took accelerated classes and she had a top grade point average.

As a member of her school's French Club during her junior year, McGee was inducted into the National Honor Society.

REVIEW

FROM PAGE 3

Carolina Review's case was prompting people to examine the role of congress and its power to fund student groups.

Granato was a member of congress' Rules and Judicial Committee when the clause on politically partisan groups was written.

"The intent of that clause was to prevent student groups from endorsing political candidates," he said.

Allen and other proponents of The Carolina Review claimed as recently as this past school year other campus groups have endorsed candidates for campus elections.

"What goes on on campus is not considered politically partisan because all students at the University are, in theory, independents," he said.

"But Charlton had some good points in his Student Supreme Court case. I'll be waiting to see what happens in a real court."

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