

WEATHER

Cloudy and cool; occasional light rain.

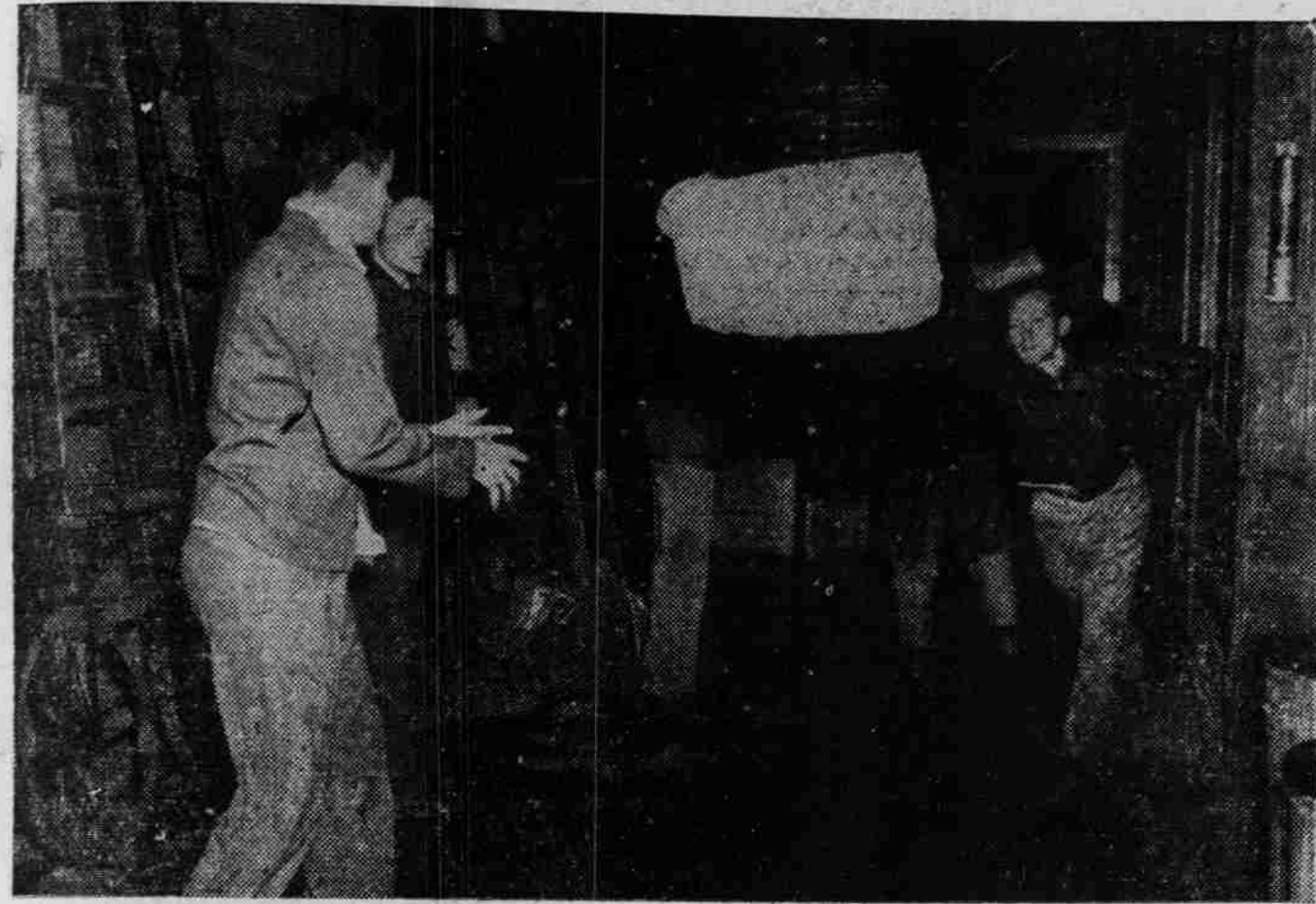
The Daily Tar Heel

EDITORIAL

Tarnation Review
Decision on Hospital
Is Everyone a Sinker

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\$50,000 Fire Guts Two Franklin Street Buildings



AN EARLY STAGE OF THE FIRE which swept two Franklin street buildings to an estimated tune of \$50,000 is shown at upper right, as smoke pours from the rear and side of the building housing Western Union and Jefferson Standard Life Insurance offices. The crowd which later appeared has not yet gathered in the street. At upper left two unidentified students are aiding in removing laundry bundles from the University Service plant building, as water drips around them from the burning upper floors. Student Jim Blunt of Wilson stands in the background. Lower left, another student helps Durham Assistant Fire Chief C. H. Lawson pull a hose into position, while journalism major Gus Lacy is shown, lower right, on top of one of the burning buildings, axe in hand, as smoke almost overcomes him. The fire was reported to be the worst Chapel Hill has seen since 1924, when part of Franklin street went the way of all frame buildings. The blaze took two hours for Chapel Hill and Durham fire-fighters, with the aid of students and townspeople, to overcome. (Photos by Les Boddin)

Students, Townspeople Fight Blaze With Chapel Hill, Durham Firemen

By Chuck Hausor

"The biggest fire Chapel Hill has seen since 1924," according to local residents, swept through the second floors of two University-owned buildings on Franklin street yesterday afternoon to do an estimated \$50,000 damage.

As Chapel Hill and Durham firemen battled the flames for almost two hours, University students were notable among those who pitched into the task of extinguishing the walls of flame which leapt from the windows and roofs of the University Service plant buildings.

Other students, not so civic-minded or eager to get drenched with the hoses being played over the structures, stood in the streets, on nearby rooftops, and even in the steeple of the Methodist church, cheering the firefighters on with such yells as, "Our town is red hot, beat Duke!"

Routine Fight?

When the quiet streets of Chapel Hill were first interrupted by the squawking fire horn at approximately 3:30 yesterday afternoon, no one thought they were rushing to see anything but a routine 10-minute smoke fight, and even pedestrians on Franklin street hardly noticed the thin

column of smoke coming from the rear of the building housing the Western Union offices and the Jefferson Standard Insurance company, but within a half-hour, the billowing smoke and flames coming from the top of the building caused even the formerly indifferent Western Union employees to scuttle from the burning building, leaving telegrams un-sent on the machines.

As a fire truck sent from Durham thundered up Franklin street at 4:30 to aid the overtaxed Chapel Hill regulars and volunteers, students had formed brigade lines and were tossing laundry bundles from hand to hand out of the University Service plant building, the roof of which was rapidly catching fire.

Western Union, Jefferson Standard, and Service plant housings were a soggy mess of gushing water and falling plaster.

As students, without the protection of fire helmets or other equipment, worked inside the burning buildings for more than an hour clearing out all perishable material, others climbed the rooftops with the heavy canvas hoses, fighting the blaze which threw enough heat across Franklin street to warm the faces of the hundreds of spectators who completely blocked traffic to stand and gaze at the flames which spasmodically shot 30 feet or more into the air at the height of the fire.

First On Roof

Two students, Kurt Clauson and Charlie Stancill, were credited with being the first two men to reach the top of the burning buildings and play the first streams of water on the conflagration which lasted for almost two hours.

With damage estimates running as high as the \$50,000 figured by Ed Bradshaw, University light and water head, to \$35,000 by Recorder's court Clerk Moody Durham, Superintendent of Utilities Grey Culbreth figured that the cost of replacing the property destroyed was "intangible."

Local residents described the fire as the worst blaze to hit Chapel Hill since 1924, when several Franklin street frame buildings went up in flames. The last serious fire to be reported here was in 1942, when a school building, located on the present site of the Pittsboro road trailer camp, disappeared in smoke.

Not much more than a week ago, local fire-fighters were called to combat a blaze in the Hill bakery, which is located only a very few doors down from the ill-fated buildings of yesterday's catastrophe.

Looting of laundry bundles from the Service Plant offices was observed yesterday, but in the confusion of trying to fight the surging flames, police officers and other local officials had their hands too full to attempt to stop the law-breakers.

Other students were conspicuously observed wearing University florist carnations in their buttonholes.

Florists Worried

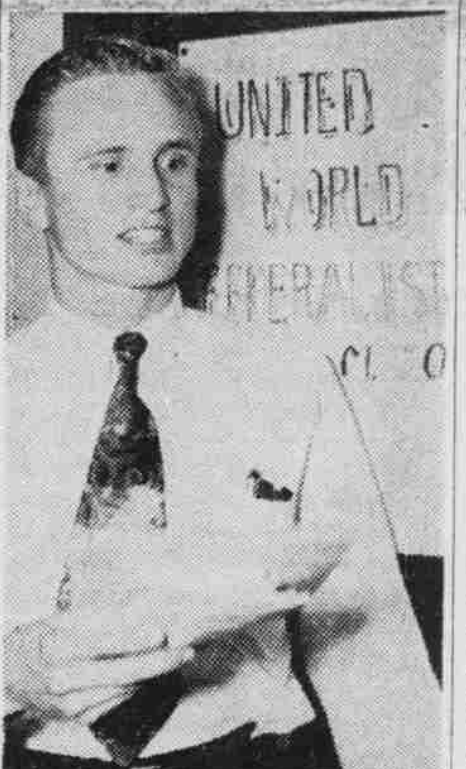
Filing cases, tables, desks, records followed in rapid order, until the section was cleared, then the students pitched in to remove the contents of the University Florist's store next door, whose occupants were becoming worried that the fire might be carried over into their building.

The flames were brought under control approximately 5:15, however, after demolishing the contents of the upper floors of the two buildings nearest the Porthole alley.

The lower-floor offices of the

Wicker Is Named As UWF Successor To R. G. Baldwin

Jake Wicker, of Sanford, was elected new president of the University chapter of United World Federalists in a late afternoon meeting yesterday.



RUSSELL G. BALDWIN

A junior and a political science major, Wicker succeeds Russell G. Baldwin, of Leland, in the position.

Other nominations include: vice-president, Dean Matthews, of Decatur, Georgia; recording secretary, Betty Shouse, of Charlotte; corresponding secretary, Joy Blumenthal, of Greensboro; and treasurer, Herman Sieber, of Hendersonville.

The group met in the Grail lounge of Graham Memorial in the last UWF session before Christmas holidays begin. Retiring President Baldwin set January 8 as the date for a meeting of the steering committee. An announcement, said Baldwin, will be made at a later date for the first chapter meeting of the quarter.

New Officers Named By Phi Kappa Sigmas

Members of Phi Kappa Sigma have elected new officers for the year. Going into office are George McLeod, president; Floyd Huffman, vice-president; Farrel Potts; treasurer; Bill Egeler, house-manager; Morris Knudsen, corresponding secretary; Dave Miles, pledge master; Jim Munden and James Austin, sergeants at arms.

Are They Joking?

The following notice was telephoned into the editorial office yesterday afternoon at 3:15. Laundry plans may have been changed since that time.

The University laundry will be closed Christmas week December 22 through 27. Pickups will be made December 15 through 20 and December 28 through January 3, after which the laundry will revert to the two week schedule. Included in the next laundry bundle will be a new schedule effective December 29 through June 2.

At the expiration of this period weekly service will be rendered throughout the summer months.

We wish to take this opportunity to wish all a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

University Laundry.

Playmaker Head Samuel Selden to Read Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol' Tomorrow

Samuel Selden, director of the Carolina Playmakers, will carry on with a tradition started here 30 years ago by the late Frederick H. "Prof" Koch, founder of the Playmakers, when he gives a reading tomorrow night of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol."



SAMUEL SELDEN

The reading, which is being presented to the students as a Christmas greeting from the University, is to be given in the Playmaker theater at 8 o'clock, and will be accompanied by special music.

"Prof" Koch, before his death in 1943, had given 278 readings of "A Christmas Carol" from California to the coast of North Carolina, including four times in New York's Town Hall and twice at Columbia University, over a period of 38 years. In 1942, Koch gave 19 readings of the piece in 17 North Carolina towns.

Selden joined the Carolina Playmakers in 1927. Before that, he was a charter member of the Yale Playcraftsmen, and his original play, "While the Horses Are Saddled", won the Sloan prize there. Later, Selden was with the Province Town Playhouse in New York, where he played Swanson in O'Neill's sea play, "Moon of the Caribbees".

Forty Ex-Air Force Officers Prepare for Second Flight

Approximately 40 ex-Air Corps officers now at the University, who formed their own chapter of the Air Reserve this quarter, met yesterday for the last time before the Christmas holidays. Highlight of the meeting was the planning for a second contingent of reservists to fly next weekend to the Marietta air base in Atlanta, Georgia, for flight instruction.

Colonel Byron R. Switzer, commanding officer of the local Air ROTC unit, accompanied ten reserve officers last Saturday in the first of a series of trips to the Marietta base.

Air Reserve and Air ROTC

The Air Reserve and the Air ROTC, two entirely different campus organizations, were confused in yesterday's DTH. While the former is composed of men who were actually officers during the past war, the latter is made up at present of 30 veterans who were enlisted men but are now in a two-year training program to earn commissions in the air force reserves.

The ROTC curriculum trains supply and statistical control specialists and has no provisions for flight instruction. However, Congressional legislation now under consideration allows ten hours of flight training to be given Air ROTC recruits at 18 universities throughout the United States, including Carolina.

Those working for air reserve commissions this term are veterans in the junior class. In January elementary courses of the Air ROTC will start for freshmen with no previous service in the armed forces and sophomores with high school or military school ROTC experience. Enlistments in both of the new programs are now being accepted at the barracks annex behind the Naval armory.

WILMINGTON CLUB

There will be an emergency meeting of the Wilmington-Carolina club tonight at 7:30 in Gerard hall.

Teaching Hospital May Be Built Here As Merger Fails

Reasons for the previously reported rejection of the plan to combine the University teaching hospital and the hospital being built at Greensboro under the Cone foundation became clear here yesterday.

According to a statement released after the meeting Tuesday between the University trustees and the hospital trustees, "It is impossible to work out a plan of merger which will enable both institutions to perform their respective functions and, at the same time, comply with the limitations and mandates imposed on them by the terms of the Cone trust . . . and the policy . . . of a state institution."

As, under the provisions by which the Cone foundation has been set up, the hospital at Greensboro is to be operated primarily for the benefit of the residents of Guilford county, use of the hospital as an adjunct of the University could be considered to be a violation of the trust requirements and "could result in forfeiture of the entire trust in favor of certain other beneficiaries."

However, according to statements made yesterday by Governor Cherry and others, the failure of the plan may result in the construction of a teaching hospital in Chapel Hill.

Cherry's statement issued as a result of Tuesday's meeting indicated that plans for the construction of a hospital at Chapel Hill would be continued. An appropriation of \$3,790,000 has already been made for such an institution by the General Assembly, and this amount is expected to be augmented by a Federal grant of \$1,500,000.

The money has not been so far officially released, but the University has been authorized to have the architects' plans drawn.

Missing \$7,000 Package Is Gloom-Causer in Yack Office

By John Stump

All was gloom in the Yack office yesterday afternoon as the editors and a few of the more hardy staff members sat biting their nails and writhing in the throes of "the worst scare to visit a campus organization this year."

It seems that last Saturday afternoon, as is their custom whenever anything is to be sent to the engraving company, the members of the staff put the finishing touches on several photographs and sent them across the street to Ab's bookstore—there to be wrapped and sent Railway Express to Charlotte.

The package contained all of the individual pictures taken thus far this year, the sports section to date, a part of the opening section, and the pictures taken of campus organizations. Its value, as conservatively estimated later, was \$7,000.

According to an official of the bookstore, it was wrapped according to the Yack editors' request and picked up Saturday on schedule by Railway Express. He added that the package was insured for \$1,000 because it seemed valuable; although he stated the Yack editors had not asked that it be insured.

A check with the Railway office revealed that the package to the best of their knowledge had not been insured. To the best of the Yack editors' information, Ab's had been asked to insure

it for \$5,000.

However, yesterday the Yack staff was a little confused. The package with its year's work and \$7,000 contents had simply disappeared.

The fact was announced to Ruth Evans in a telegram from the engraving company in Durham which stated simply "Yackety Yack pictures not arrived yet; please advise so that we may begin tracing."

Railway Express immediately put a checker on it, and an official here explained that the reason for the disappearance was probably the current Christmas rush.

With matters standing still, Gene Johnstone received the following late yesterday—"Yackety Yack photos received. Will notify engraving company. (signed) Herb Hitch."

With the Western Union office slightly burned up last night to send or receive messages, the mystery of where the package spent the last 5 days remains unsolved, but Johnstone remarked that "The student body has just saved \$7,000, and the services of suicide-bent Yack workers."

According to Johnstone, "It would have been comparatively easy to locate the expensive package, but the fire yesterday had to mess up Western Union so that they were unable to give us any service."

UNIVERSITY SCHEDULE

December 16, 17, and 18—Class tickets delivered to all pre-registered students, Registration hall.
December 13 through 18—Final examinations for fall quarter.
December 19 through January 5—Christmas recess.
Saturday, January 3, 1948—Winter quarter registration for new students and old students not pre-registered, Registration hall.
Monday, January 5, 1948—Winter quarter classes begin. Fall quarter grade reports issued, Registration hall.