

THE SOUTHERN HISTORICAL COLLECTION

# The South's On File At The Library

By BARBARA WILLARD

Would you ever think that the good housekeeper would be the historian's greatest enemy? Well, she is, and a greater enemy even than fire, rats and carelessness, which destroy many valuable documents.

Although the Southern Historical Collection in UNC's Library is the "largest single collection of non-archival manuscript material relating to the South in the entire nation," according to Dr. James W. Patton, director of the Collection, you might still throw in the

fisherman's angle—"you ought to see the one that got away."

Efforts to save Southern history from spring cleaning began before 1930, when the Collection was formally set up with Dr. J. G. de Rouillac Hamilton as the first director. Dr. Hamilton started out with very little money and an A-model Ford that could "climb any red clay hill in Dixie." He says that until his retirement in 1948, he had driven "over a million miles throughout the South" on his acquiring trips.

There are now two and one-

half million pieces in the Collection that have been salvaged from dusty cellars, dusty garrets, storage rooms, outhouses, public buildings, attics and chicken coops. This material pertains to fourteen Southern states: Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky and Missouri.

Whereas grandmother might treasure Uncle Henry's diary all her life, granddaughter Sally might not think so highly of it, and a valuable historical manuscript might go in the same waste can with today's newspaper. The Collection is designed to gather manuscripts from the Southern states and give them a waterproof, fireproof, ratproof home, where they can be used by many as the valuable reference they are.

Dr. Hamilton says, "It is difficult to make people realize the importance of preserving old manuscripts. They often say, 'Well, my ancestors weren't generals or senators.' They don't seem to realize, in many cases, what really makes history." Everyone that has a trunkful of Confederate money stashed away is a lead for new material.

**UNWRITTEN HISTORY**

"The letters of public men are, of course, welcome, but the letters of just plain folks are the authentic sources of information as to what people wore; what they ate; what they made; what morals they had; what religious beliefs, what politics and what family medical treatments they employed." Dr. Hamilton continues, "Along with that comes the history of the South that has never been written. We want the philosophy and the actual lives of our ancestors and not just an historical diet of dates and battles."

What happens to these documents? First, they are all opened and flattened. Next comes arranging them in chronological order. Then an assistant writes and analysis of the group and places it in front of the manuscripts.

There is no printed material in the Collection. It is all manuscripts or photocopies of manuscripts. There are account books, muster rolls, conscript orders, court dockets, map books of the Revolution, maps, travel records, old recipes, farm diaries, student records and letters of all kinds, such as from a Confederate soldier to his father.

One such letter from Civil War days reads, "I want you to send me a box of vitals and a dish of ologio and that is a dish of different kinds of meat and send me some butter and some honey and potatoes and one pickle if no more and just as many things as you want and send me two or three plugs of



FILING AWAY AT THE HISTORICAL COLLECTION  
... the South has a heritage; part of it's here

San Perdue's tobacco and some apples if you have got any. I believe that is all I want." Has time changed things?

**HISTORY—FLESH & BLOOD**

Other letters of this period give eye-witness accounts of such battles as Vicksburg and Gettysburg; they give flesh and blood to history. An excerpt from another Confederate soldier's letter to Dad: "We had general review yesterday by Genl R E Lee There was a good many young girls out to see us and they saw a grand sight for there was several thousand soldiers in three lines the girls are like the paper says they look at the means coat collars to see who has got the most stars and stripes and the one that got the most he the man for them."

Among the many phases of Southern history, the Collection covers three in greatest detail: (1) the social system of the old South, (2) the Confederacy and the Civil War, and (3) the plantation system and slavery.

One reason for the wealth of material on the Civil War, Dr. Hamilton explains, is that "there were no censors in the Civil War. The GIs of that day could write home about most anything they wanted and many of them wrote home about everything ... things that would put the modern soldier in the guard house in short order ... The censor today gets what future historians would like to have."

Dr. Patton, who became director in 1948, after Dr. Hamilton's retirement, has just returned from a trip to Virginia to seek out material. On this trip he obtained for the Collection, correspondence of Peter Hagner, third auditor of the United States.

Dr. Patton also showed me an old diary he happened to find in a book store in Virginia. He was not sure who had written it, but on examination it appeared to have been a farmer whose sons took produce to neighboring towns daily. There was a faithful record of the daily weather, and on Sunday, such records as "Brother Fortune preached. I slept 22 to dinner, excepting the family." He closed the diary with "The year is 1869, is gone and we are spared to the close and should feel ourselves under renewed obligation to an alwise Providence for the

the collection will furnish the family with a certain number of type-written copies, in some cases.

**SLIGHTLY DANGEROUS**

Other problems that arise in securing material are getting the people to deliver once they have promised material and competition from other collections being started in the South. Generally, however, Southerners, once they realize the importance of such a collection, are glad to place their manuscripts there for public use. Dr. Hamilton says only twice were people ever rude to him—once when he knocked on the door in the midst of a domestic feud and another time, in a case of mistaken identity. Dr. Patton ended up in a hospital in December, 1951, on an acquiring trip, but it was the result of a wreck and not a staunch Southerner defending his great-uncle's blacksmith's financial journal.

UNC records from 1781 to the present time are on file, as well as records of the Di, Phi and other campus organizations. In connection with the University there are also faculty diaries, old love letters, minutes of

Every aspect of past Southern meetings and student diaries. Life is recorded in the Collection, which has been a valuable source for books, theses, dissertations and for anyone seeking a good old-fashioned recipe for corn-pone.

The South may have lost her place in the sun almost a century ago, but the Southern Historical Collection is seeing to it that she quickly regains it. They even have confederate money on file for the rise.

## Congratulations to Student Government

Congratulations are in order to Student Government which has now made possible a plan for student accident, surgical, and sickness insurance to be available September 1, 1955. This plan has been under consideration since 1953 and is now ready to be installed. Further details will appear.

J. Marshall Barber

**L'I' ABNER**



**POGO**



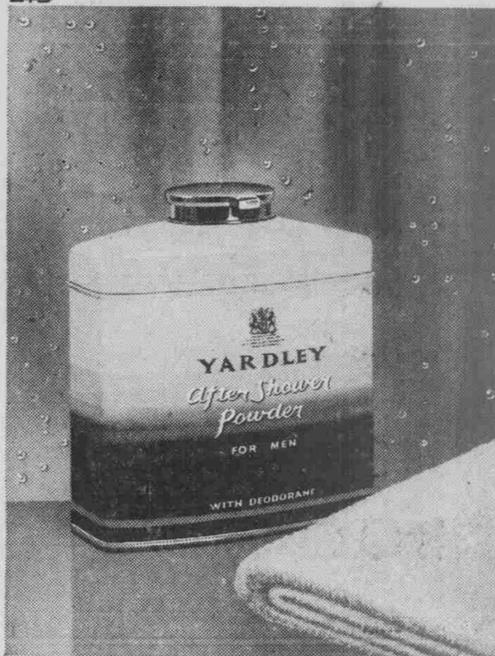
**NEW**  
whipped  
**DRENE**  
SHAMPOO

- Push button—velvety lather foams out!
- Only a handful of lather for each shampoo!
- Astounding results! Those all-important ends of your hair are so responsive... have such amazing spring and bounce!

**\$1.00**

SUTTON'S DRUG STORE

By appointment purveyors of soap to the late King George VI, Yardley & Co., Ltd., London



Yardley brings you  
a new feeling of well-being—  
London style

The way to arrive at this happy state, gentlemen, is to use Yardley After Shower Powder morning and night. Here is a cooling, masculine body powder—conceived in England and now made in America—which has a special drying action effective in the muggiest weather. Its deodorant properties are invaluable. At your campus store, \$1.10 plus tax. Makers and distributors for U. S. A., Yardley of London, Inc., New York.

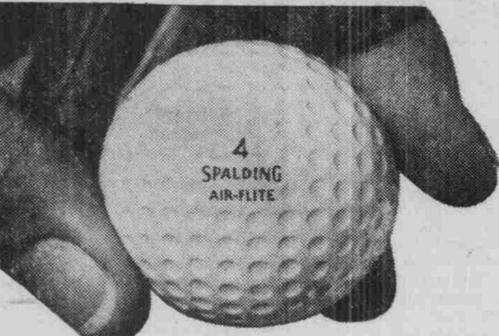
Your Chapel Hill Supplier of  
Yardley Products

SUTTON'S DRUG CO.

By Al Capp



By Walt Kelly



This new AIR-FLITE will last longer than any other high-compression ball ever made!

No other high-compression ball can resist scuffing like the new DURA-THIN\* covered AIR-FLITE. This exclusive Spalding cover adheres to the ball with a new strength to defy cutting up... even on high-iron and explosion shots.

It's a more compact ball, too... offers you longer play and real economy.

Play your next round with this great new Spalding AIR-FLITE. You can expect AND GET new uniformity in distance and accuracy... better shot control... better golf.

SPALDING sets the pace in sports

SPALDING EQUIPMENT CARRIED BY CAROLINA SPORT SHOP

**DAILY CROSSWORD**

- ACROSS**
- Thin biscuit
  - At a distance
  - A match played by four persons (Golf)
  - Sea eagle
  - Soak flax
  - Keeps
  - Aspirant to a throne
  - Stunted thing
  - Greek coin
  - Blunder
  - Condition
  - Thinly scattered
  - Greek god
  - Back of the neck
  - Tibetan priests
  - Hatred
  - Card having three pips
  - Musical dramas
  - Horses running a mile
  - Claim as a right
  - A pair
  - Central deity of the Jodo sects
  - Mistake
  - Fabric made from flax
  - Natural deposit in sheep's wool
  - Rub out
  - Clans
- DOWN**
- Walk through water
  - High (mus.)
  - Common level
  - A run-way (Aero.)
  - Biblical name
  - Type measures
  - Open monetary unit
  - Ancient
  - Silly
  - A valley
  - Arabian chieftain
  - Ancient monetary unit
  - Custom
  - Food
  - Large word
  - Regret



Yesterday's Answer

**Cramming for Exams?**



**Fight "Book Fatigue" Safely**  
Your doctor will tell you—a NoDoz Awakener is safe as an average cup of hot, black coffee. Take a NoDoz Awakener when you cram for that exam... or when mid-afternoon lulls on those "3 o'clock webbs." You'll find NoDoz gives you a lift without a letdown... helps you snap back to normal and fight fatigue safely!



**Official Gives Address Here**

Dr. Roland Cross, secretary of the Far Eastern Committee of the National Council of Churches in New York, yesterday addressed a luncheon meeting in Lenior Hall. Dr. Cross' appearance here was sponsored by local ministers. The public attended the meeting.

STUFFED ANIMALS  
CAROLINA MASCOTS  
PENNANTS

# LEDBETTER-PICKARD

SALE  
BEER MUGS  
regularly \$2.50 — NOW \$1.75