

# Tenner recalls town's past

by Liz Skillen  
Staff Writer

"Aw hesh up, Bearfoot!" he yelled. A few well-aimed rocks and the dog disappeared behind the house.

Hands shoved deep into overall pockets, Lieutenant Rigsby rocked back on his heels. "Nah," he said, "Ise never been in the Army. Lieutenant's what my mama called me, but most people calls me Tenner."

Tenner lives exactly 42 mudholes and 2 railroad crossings out of Chapel Hill in

a mud and mortar-daubed log cabin. There's no electricity. "It's out there on the road," he explained. "Ise jest never hooked on to it." And no running water. "There's aplenty of water in my well over there." But there is central heating. An ancient wood stove in the middle of Tenner's one room roasts out the drafts.

According to Rigsby, the back section of his two-room house is almost 200 years old. "I don't use the back part," he said. "The front here was built by my daddy in nineteen hunderd n' even, and Ise lived here all my life."

At age 74, that has been a long time. Rigsby remembers Chapel Hill prior to plazas, malls and shopping centers. "Didn't start all this buildin' til the '40s and 50s," he said. "Back when I was schoolin' we didn't have no grocery stores, and we only had one teacher and one school, Piney Grove." But Tenner never went to Piney Grove much. A four-mile trek and his father's crops kept him home most of the time.

Now his own crops—corn, sweet potatoes, cabbage and peanuts—keep him home most of the year. But in the winter "There's not much a person can do, so I jest cuts wood for the stove," he said. During his spare time, Lieutenant whistles up Bearfoot and they hunt squirrel and rabbit. "I got me a duck one time," Tenner remembered. "They's good to eat."

Living in the country with only 11 chickens and a dog must get lonely at times, but Lieutenant doesn't think so. "I don't feel alone," he said. "I know this land and this place, and if the weather's good my friends come visitin' in the daytime."

And at night time, Tenner likes to light his lamp, sit by the old stove and just think awhile. At least until the dog starts howling. Then he has to get up and unlatch the door: "Aw hesh up, Bearfoot."



Tenner Rigsby

# 'Diamond Studs' gets rave review

Can Carolina country folk find love, happiness and, most of all, success in the big city? "Yes, yes, a thousand times yes!" wrote Clive Barnes, drama critic for the New York Times after attending the opening performance of *Diamond Studs* at Chelsea's Westside Theatre Tuesday night. His blessing assures the production of a thriving New York run.

"It is unadulterated delight," Barnes said, "which, together with adulterated delight, was the way the West was run." He praised the appropriately named "saloon musical" for turning up "trumps with five aces and a full house of jokers."

The "Horse Opera in Two Acts" met its first enthusiastic audience when it premiered at Chapel Hill's Ranch House last fall. Created by Jim Wann, a former UNC student who plays the central role of Jesse James, the musical exhibits largely Chapel Hill talent.

"The important thing about *Diamond Studs* is its musical authenticity," Barnes said. "We Eastern slickers get easily fobbed off by country and western music, but the two main participating groups here, the Southern States Fidelity Choir and the Red Clay Ramblers, are authentic almost to the point of musicology and beyond."

"The music is super. Even people, and this writer is among them, who are not devotees of the paper pap and pulverized passion of so much commercialized country and western style music, will probably exult in the musical richness of this funny and sassy score."

"The actors are the musicians. They act horrifically, but they play like angels auditioning for Gabriel. The acting is so bad that it has to be good. No rank amateurs can be that rank or that amateur. Such badness takes time, experience and trouble. And they are so utterly endearing; you don't get that nice without rehearsals."

"Wann himself, as Jesse James, has a way with a guitar, a way with a song, and a way with an audience. And, everyone else. The playbill is a little confusing, to say the least, and I cannot identify a huge man with a red beard and a fine talent (Tommy Thompson.) I can identify Mike Sheehan as a slinky Pinkerton man, the diminutive bombshell, Madelyn Smoak, as Belle Starr, and Bland Simpson as a character charmingly called Porkbarrell. But just go and see it and they will become friends."

"This, in a very different way, is the best show of its type since 'Jacques Brel,' and it will deservedly become a cult. Be among the first of the cultured."

# Chilean exile to talk

Chilean exile Dr. Gustavo Molina, a leading Latin American expert on socialized medicine, will deliver a special public lecture at 4 p.m. today in the School of Public Health auditorium.

The controversial doctor was a lifelong friend and advisor to former Chilean president Salvador Allende. "Marxism is here to stay," Molina maintains, despite periodic pronouncements of its demise.

Anticipating a rise in socialism in the United States, Molina says, "It may happen anywhere. The United States is certainly not immune."

"Most of your leaders believe there is going to be more extensive social security and compulsory health insurance," he notes, but adds cautiously, "there are many

variances in systems of public health."

Molina was a professor at the University of Chile in Santiago and an official in the Chilean National Health Service before the overthrow of the socialist government. Following the coup, he was arrested because of his affiliation with Allende.

After several months of imprisonment and torture, Molina managed to flee to Bogota, Colombia, where he now makes his home.

Molina is a consultant in medical studies throughout the world and has been an advisor to the United Nations World Health Organization since 1952.

He is visiting the UNC campus through Saturday as the guests of Dr. and Mrs. Cecil G. Sheps. Molina and Sheps are long-time friends and professional associates.

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## Postponed

The Les McCann concert, scheduled for Duke Friday night, has been postponed until 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 31 in Page Auditorium. All ticketholders may save their tickets for use or receive refunds at the place of purchase. Tickets \$4.50, \$4 and \$3.50 may be bought at Page Box Office on the Duke campus.

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January 14, 1975

To Carolina Students:

The Foxcroft Clubhouse and Bar are now open to you, catering to the socially minded student and the young adult in the Chapel Hill area. We invite you to join us in our extra large Clubhouse, overlooking the largest pool in town. Aside from our modern bar, we offer you a romantic fireplace, a spacious dance floor, a beach and soul jukebox and two color television sets.

We serve only Michelob beer and can offer you set ups to compliment that steak, hamburger or hot dog cooked on our charcoal grill, all at reasonable prices.

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Sincerely,  
Jeff Sellers  
Jeffrey Fleishman  
Entertainment Directors for Foxcroft Apartments

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