

The Chapel Hill Weekly

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Editor

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Space for 50 More Trailers Being Prepared

They Will Be Placed on Ground Adjacent to Present Park; Another Utility House

The University's trailer park on the Pittsboro highway, on the former high school site, is having to be extended because of the many applications for space. In the last few weeks, with no abatement of the housing crisis, more and more married veterans have resorted to trailers for living quarters.

The University's present plan is to provide space for 50 trailers in addition to the 42 now in the park. Most of the extension will be up the hill southward toward West University Drive, but a few trailers will be placed near the west edge of the lot and near the north edge toward the fraternity houses.

The extension will necessitate the construction of a second utility house containing lavatories and clothes-washing facilities. This will probably be placed between the present house and West University Drive.

University engineers are repeating their procedure of last spring when they laid out the present park. They are making a survey for the purpose of locating electric light lines, water pipes, sewer outlets, and drainage ditches. An architect is drawing plans for the new house; this is a fairly simple task, since the design of the first house is to be followed closely in the second.

A new question was raised this week when a veteran coming to the University wrote that he was hauling a house on a truck and wanted to know if he could put the house in the trailer park. Whether or not it can be fitted into the trailer layout has not yet been decided. But there is no doubt that the veteran will be able to find a site for his house somewhere near the University campus.

Pianists Will Play Monday in Hill Hall

Herbert Livingston and Wilton Mason will give a two-piano concert at 8:30 Monday evening, July 15, in the Hill Music hall. The public is invited. An announcement of the concert last week mistakenly gave the date as Monday, July 8.

Both Mr. Livingston and Mr. Mason are piano instructors in the University music department, and both will be appearing on the concert stage here for the first time since they returned from overseas service in the armed forces.

The program, to be made up of modern compositions written specially for two pianos, will include works by Paul Hindemith, Claude Debussy, Igor Stravinsky, Darius Milhaud, and Sergei Rachmaninoff.

A Freezer-Locker Plant for Chapel Hill Is Promised

The Farmers Mutual Exchange of Durham has notified Dr. Ed Hedgpeth that it is ready to put up a freezer-locker plant in Chapel Hill as soon as enough persons sign up for lockers. Anybody who wants a locker should communicate with Dr. Hedgpeth. He and F. O. Bowman and Dr. George Chrisman compose the committee appointed by the Rotary Club to study the subject.

Present Rates of Pay for Labor

A brickmason in Chapel Hill now gets \$1.50 an hour. That is for the first 40 hours in a week. For every hour he works over 40 he gets time-and-a-half, \$2.25. A week of 48 hours, which is not unusual, brings him \$78.

A carpenter gets \$1.12½ an hour for the first 40 hours and \$1.68 for over-time. This makes his pay for 48 hours \$58.44.

The pay of an unskilled laborer is 60 cents an hour for 40 hours and 90 cents an hour for over-time. He gets \$24 for the first 40 hours and \$7.20 for the next 8, making \$31.20 for 48 hours.

These figures I get from Louis Berini, director of the Chapel Hill branch of the U. S. Employment Service with headquarters at the Town Hall. The rates paid in Chapel Hill are the established union scale sanctioned by the Government for this region. Mr. Berini says that the pay for brickmasons is expected to go up soon from \$1.50 to \$1.62½ an hour, and laborers' pay from 60 to 65 cents, which would mean a rise in the over-time rate from \$2.25 to \$2.44 for brickmasons and from 90 to 98 cents for laborers.

"There are plenty of jobs to be had at the present official wage rates," says Mr. Berini. "I have the offers of jobs right here on record in the office. The demand far exceeds the supply. There is a specially heavy demand for construction workers. Ordinary laborers, too, can get all the work they want at high pay."

Though 60 cents is the official rate, some employers, notably operators of lumber mills, are offering laborers as much as \$1 an hour. Mr. Berini says he knows of several instances in which laborers have left jobs here to go to sawmills.

Many householders in Chapel Hill have wondered why it is so difficult, and often impossible, to get men to work in the yard and garden and around the house even though the householders are perfectly willing to pay the prevailing wage rates. Frequently

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Betty Smith Finishes Her Second Novel and Will Go to Switzerland to Write Film Play

"All is excitement in the Harper office today because of the arrival of your new novel," was the first line in a letter received this week by Betty Smith from Miss Elizabeth Lawrence of Harper and Brothers.

The author of "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn," known here as Mrs. Joe Jones, finished work on her second book a week or so ago and got it off to the publishers just before she left for a vacation at Virginia Beach. Like her first novel, it is about poor people in Brooklyn, but it is not a sequel. Its title is "Tomorrow Will Be Better."

"The book will of course be our leading fiction the season of its publication in the early months of 1947," says a letter received day before yesterday from Ed Aswell, Harper editor, who is known to many people here, particularly for his having handled Thomas Wolfe's later books.

Mrs. Jones's next project will be the writing of a movie for

Durham Is for Loan to Britain

Somebody giving a newscast over the radio Monday night said that Congressman Carl Durham had been quoted in Washington as saying that he did not intend to vote for the loan to Great Britain. When the editor of this newspaper called Mr. Durham on the telephone Tuesday morning to tell him about this report, Mr. Durham replied—as the editor expected he would—that there was no truth in it. He said he had not changed his views on the loan to Britain, that he intended to vote for it, and that he thought the North Carolina delegation would be solid or almost solid in support of it.

Wild-Life Club Meets Tonight

A regular meeting of the Orange County Wild-Life Club will be held here at 8 o'clock this (Friday) evening in the courtroom at the Town Hall. The program will include a business meeting and movies on fishing and fish conservation. All who are interested are invited to attend, whether members of the club or not.

Lazar Wechsler, the Swiss film producer, who came here to see her after having read her first novel while riding on a train in Europe. She will go to Switzerland to work on the movie.

In the lead article in the screen section of last Sunday's New York Times, A. H. Weiler writes:

"Having impressed American moviegoers with his fine Swiss-made films, 'The Last Chance' and 'Marie Louise,' producer Lazar Wechsler departed for his homeland last Sunday with a

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Franchise Asked for Taxicabs for Negroes; Bryant and Barker State Applicant's Case

Herman Lucas, well-known Negro of Durham, appeared before the board of aldermen night before last, accompanied by his attorneys, Victor S. Bryant and Oscar Barker, to ask for a franchise to operate three taxicabs in Chapel Hill for the use of Negroes. The aldermen deferred action on the request. They are expected to reach a decision on it soon.

If the franchise is granted, the cabs will be put into operation at once. Mr. Barker said that one of the cars was new and the other two were in good condition. The drivers will be Negroes.

"The intention is," Mr. Bryant told the aldermen, "to operate the cabs exclusively for Negroes as nearly as this is possible, but not to decline to give service for white people if it is asked for. That is the way it is in Durham. Half of the 122 taxicabs in Durham are operated by Negroes for Negroes. While the use of them by white people is not usual practice, there is no bar to it.

"Lucas will comply faithfully with all Chapel Hill laws and regulations relating to taxicabs, as to rates and other matters."

Both Bryant and Barker said that Lucas never engaged in transporting liquor or other shady practices and that he had an excellent reputation in Durham, both financially and morally. They said they would send the aldermen letters from the chief of police, bankers, and other Durham citizens, testifying to Lucas's good character.

French Diplomat to Be Guest at Banquet Here Tomorrow Evening

The University will give a banquet for the French House at 7 o'clock tomorrow (Saturday) evening at the Carolina Inn in celebration of Bastille Day, the French national holiday. The Bastille fell July 14, 1789, and so the anniversary will be day after tomorrow; but since that falls on Sunday the banquet will be held tomorrow evening.

Claude Arnaud, attaché of the French Embassy in Washington, will be the guest of honor and will address the banqueters

Chapel Hill Chaff

I have always thought a bald head was one of the most ludicrous objects in the world, and this week mine appeared just where it belonged: in a comic strip.

Les Forgrave, whose strip, "Big Sister," appears every day in the Greensboro News and several hundred other newspapers, used to live in Chapel Hill. He keeps in contact with his many friends here, and now and then, in a letter to one of them, he tells how homesick he and Mrs. Forgrave are for the village.

Recently he has been assuaging his homesickness a bit by bringing Chapel Hill into the story of the little boy who ran away from home, got free rides from truck-drivers, and tried to keep in hiding because he thought the police were after him.

In last Saturday's papers the strip ended with this boy running to cover behind a thick hedge. Beside the hedge was a sign reading "Louis Graves." In the Monday installment a bald-headed man (i.e., myself) appeared in the picture eating an outdoor meal and offering "the boy part of it. I'm glad Mr. Forgrave didn't show me as a villain throwing the stranger out into the street. On Tuesday the boy, after awaking from a sleep in a hammock, had disappeared, and my wife and I, standing at a window, wondered where he had gone. On Wednesday the scene had shifted from our home to a police station.

I found that being in a comic strip gave me a prestige that I had never achieved before. When I walked along the street, or into the bank or the post office or a store, people addressed me in tones of respect. They asked me if I didn't think the likeness

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County Tax Rate Stays at 88c; New Budget, Published Today, Comes to Total of \$240,000

Rotary Assembly Will Open Here Monday

Hardin Craig, distinguished scholar of English literature, will speak Monday evening at the Carolina Inn at the opening session of the annual assembly of the 189th district of Rotary International. Bishop Edwin A. Penick will speak at a luncheon meeting Tuesday, and various phases of Rotary service for the coming year will be discussed at sessions at the Inn Tuesday morning and afternoon.

Other speakers will be Vic Huggins, Chapel Hill; Charlie Daniel, Weldon; Al Powell, Durham; Frank Hall, Elizabeth City, and Butler Prescott, S. Paul Vecker, and Carlyle Campbell of Raleigh.

The assembly will be attended by officers and committee chairmen from the 36 clubs in the district. Rotary Anns here with their husbands will attend the dinner and luncheon sessions and will be taken on a tour of the University campus Tuesday morning.

The general theme of the convention will be "The Individual in His Vocation and in His International Relations."

Lyons New Head of English Department

Clifford Pierson Lyons, chairman of the division of language and literature in the University of Florida, has been chosen head of the English department in the University here to succeed George Coffman. He will come to his new post in September.

The department has been administered by a committee of professors since Mr. Coffman resigned last winter.

Mr. Lyons, who is 42 years old, took his Ph.D. degree at Johns Hopkins in 1932. From 1930 to 1936 he was an instructor there and was also in charge of public speaking and debating. He is an associate editor of "E.L.H., a Journal of English Literary History," published at Johns Hopkins. For a year he was president of the South Atlantic Modern Language Association.

He went to the University of Florida in 1936. He left there on leave of absence in 1942 to enter the operational and fleet air navigation division of the Navy, and in the course of his service he became a pilot. He was recently discharged with the rank of lieutenant-commander.

Mr. and Mrs. Lyons spent several days in Chapel Hill recently. Mrs. Lyons is the former Miss Gladys Hart of Elizabethtown, Kentucky.

Hamilton's Arm All Right Now

Oscar Hamilton recently had some trouble with a growth on his right arm, caused by an infection left over from his serious automobile accident last year. After a series of draining operations the arm is in good condition again, and Mr. Hamilton has been away on a business trip this week.

Bingo Here Next Friday

The American Legion will hold a bingo party at 8 o'clock next Friday evening, July 19, at the Legion Hut. Everybody is invited.

Allotments for Public Health Cause Increase of \$7,000 in the Welfare Division

The Orange county budget for the coming year, July 1, 1946, to June 30, 1947, is published today by Gilbert W. Ray, county accountant. The detailed figures appear in a formal statement elsewhere in this newspaper. This statement is on file at the court house in Hillsboro for public inspection.

The total county tax rate for this year, for both county government and schools, is 88 cents—the same as in the last three years. The rate was 95 cents in 1942 and was \$1 in the four years 1938-1941.

The inclusion of the tax rate in the budget statement, begun last year, is repeated this year. Not only is the total rate shown, but the portion of the rate applicable to each division of expense.

The total of the new budget is \$240,000. Last year the total expenditures were \$350,000. Why this great difference? The explanation is that in last year's expenditures was an extraordinarily large sum, \$173,000, for "capital outlay," including the appropriation "for the high school replacement in Chapel Hill." The county's net outlay for this replacement was much less than the expense column in the budget indicated, because the greater part of the replacement cost was covered by payments of about \$80,000 from insurance companies as indemnity for the destruction of the Chapel Hill high school building by fire.

The "capital outlay" in this year's budget is \$36,000. About 40 per cent of this is for an addition to the Negro school building in Chapel Hill.

Most of the increase of \$7,000 in the welfare division of the budget is accounted for by allotments for public health.

Crepe Myrtle Keeps Car Out of Garage

For several weeks every year, at this season, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Thompson are kept from putting their car under shelter at their home on Vance street. But it is a price they are well pleased to pay for the beauty of the crepe myrtle whose blossoms hang low over the road and bar the way from street to garage.

Some soulless person might ask them: "Why don't you clip off some of those flowers close to the ground, to give your car headway? You'll have plenty of flowers left."

It is a blessing to all the neighborhood and all the passersby and pilgrims that the Thompsons do no such thing. It would mar the symmetry of as perfect a crepe myrtle as ever grew anywhere.

This tree is in easy view from the street, and I advise everybody to go see it. The thousands of bright pink blossoms form a giant cluster that begin near the ground and go up about thirty feet. A lovely sight, indeed.

Tufts House Sold to Kolb

Mr. and Mrs. Albert S. Tufts have sold their home on Senlac road to P. H. Kolb, a new member of the University faculty.