

## The Chapel Hill Weekly

LOUIS GRAVES Editor

## SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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## When Are Costs "Normal"?

From the joint report of President Graham and Controller Carmichael to the University trustees last week:

"The President and the Controller recommend that the Board of Trustees formally request the Governor and the Advisory Budget Commission to release immediately all permanent improvement funds provided for the three institutions of the Consolidated University by the 1947 General Assembly. All of these buildings are desperately needed and the educational program is being crippled by not having them available now. Plans are ready and construction should begin at once."

A little more than a year ago, in submitting to the legislature the report of the Advisory Budget Commission, Governor Cherry said:

"In our opinion, building conditions at present are so disrupted and confused that it would be extreme folly to undertake an extensive building program at this time. Therefore, no permanent improvements should be undertaken now except to meet compelling emergencies."

That statement, made in mid-January 1947, reflected the prevailing opinion of business men, State officials, and legislators at that time. In order to make sure that the State's money should not be spent when construction costs were abnormally high, the legislature put into the permanent improvement appropriation law the following provision:

"The appropriations for permanent improvements shall not be available for expenditure until the Governor and the Advisory Budget Commission shall have determined the time best suited, in their opinion, for the State to secure the greatest benefits from the expenditure of these appropriations and shall have approved the date for starting these permanent improvement projects."

The institutions and agencies of the state were in urgent need of the buildings for which the legislature had made appropriations, but work on them could not be started because the Budget Bureau (to which the Advisory Budget Commission delegated the function of deciding when the money should be used) kept waiting for construction costs to get "back to normal."

What was expected did not come to pass. Costs, instead of falling, went up. And so it turns out that the buildings needed at the University here and other State institutions cost more today than when the money for them was voted. The State, by having waited to start on them, is not going to get more for its money, but less. The estimates upon which the 1947 appropriations were based were made in the preceding summer; that is, a year and a half ago. Today's costs far exceed those estimates. This leaves two alternatives: either some of the buildings authorized must be omitted from the program or reduced in size, or there must be supplementary appropriations to cover the increase in construction costs since the estimates were made.

No blame attaches to the Budget Bureau for postponing the release of money for build-

## Birthday Greetings

This issue makes the Chapel Hill Weekly 25 years old.

Birthday greetings are ordinarily directed toward the person or institution having the birthday, but that procedure cannot be followed in the present case because nobody but me knows that the Weekly is having one. The only way I know to keep the anniversary from being totally neglected is to reverse the usual procedure. Since other people are not greeting me, I have decided to celebrate the birthday by greeting other people.

Accordingly, I offer my greetings:

To the faithful and hard-working men who give such good service at our homes, day after day, year in and year out, in all kinds of weather: the milkmen, the newspaper deliverers, and the town crew who come to take away the trash and garbage.

To the police force and the fire company, who protect our lives and property; and the district health department, the town government, and the court.

To the men who keep in operation the water and electric lines, and those who work on the streets, and the carpenters and bricklayers and all other persons who have to do with building and repairing houses.

To the clergymen and their assistants, and the men and women who conduct the town's religious, charitable, educational, and civic organizations.

To the printers who get out this newspaper.

To the post office force, inside and outside, and the telephone and telegraph operators, and the expressmen.

To the authors, artists, and musicians, the booksellers, and the people who provide for us athletic spectacles, plays and concerts, and moving pictures.

To the gardeners who beautify the village with flowers and shrubs.

To the physicians, the lawyers, the architects, and other professional men and women.

To the business community—which means not only the people in the bank and the stores and the textile and lumber mills but also those engaged in the various services such as feeding us and taking care of our cars and clothes and shoes.

To the teachers in the public schools, and to everybody in the University.

To the many citizens serving as volunteer reporters, who send me news by mail or telephone or tell it to me on the street.

And to everybody else in Chapel Hill and Carrboro and the suburbs whom I have not mentioned hereabove.

I do not feel that I have anything of value to offer in the way of a review of, or comments upon, the 25 years of the Weekly. My feeling about the whole business is well expressed in an editorial in the La Plata (Md.) Times-Crescent, reprinted in the New Yorker. The inquiry propounded by the Maryland editor, which caused the New Yorker to remark, "If you should stumble on the answer, would you call us and reverse the charge?", was as follows:

"The Times-Crescent is 103 years old today . . . Sometimes the pressure of getting to press on time and the long tedious hours required to compose and get into type information which our readers can consume at a glance, and probably already knew anyway, makes us wonder if it's worth while to go through with the same irksome routine again next week."

Louis Graves

ings. It had the same opinion and the same expectation that practically everybody had. All over the country individuals and business concerns were doing the same thing: waiting for the decline.

Whether you wait or go ahead with construction work that has got to be done, it's a gamble. If you wait and costs go down, you win; if they go up, you lose. In this case the State lost. But there is one factor that has made the upward course of prices less damaging to the State than it has been to many individuals: the same conditions that have caused the increase in costs have caused more revenue to come into the State treasury. Hence, Governor Cherry and his advisers should not be reluctant to recommend to the legislature the necessary supplementary appropriations.

When are costs "normal"? The experience of the State in this case suggests the answer: Nobody knows.

Please notify The Weekly of any change in your address.

## Coed Fashion Show

The Carolina Independent Coed association will give a fashion show at 9:15 Tuesday night in the Carolina theatre. Sponsoring the 45 complete spring outfits to be shown are Montaldo's of Greensboro, the Varsity, Jack Lipman's, and the Carolina Bootery. E. Carrington Smith, manager of the Carolina theatre, has cancelled the late movie on Tuesday night in order that the fashion show can be held there. The last movie will start at 7:15 that night. The show is open to the public.

## Charles Valentine Engaged

Mr. and Mrs. Leo Ornstein of Merion, Pa., have announced the engagement of their daughter, Edith Mallet-Prevost, to Charles A. Valentine, 3rd, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Valentine, of Chapel Hill. Miss Ornstein is a granddaughter of Severo Mallet-Prevost. Her father is a pianist and composer. She is attending Bryn Mawr College. Mr. Valentine is a student at Harvard.

## Mrs. Bissell Opens Beauty Shop

Mrs. J. R. Bissell has opened a beauty shop at her home at 127 West Rosemary street. She will be assisted by Mrs. W. W. Marley. "The shop is stocked with the newest beauty-shop equipment," says Mrs. Bissell, "has a private entrance, and is located where there is plenty of parking space nearby. Appointments are made at patrons' convenience." Both Mrs. Bissell and Mrs. Marley have worked for several years in beauty establishments in Chapel Hill.

## A.A.U.P. to Meet Monday

The U. N. C. chapter of the American Association of University Professors will meet at 8 o'clock Monday evening in Gerrard hall. All interested faculty members are invited.

## Katherine Ennis O'Neil

A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. John T. O'Neil last Sunday at Watts hospital. She is named Katherine Ennis. Her father is in the University commerce school.

## John Carpenter Paulsen

A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Paulsen last Sunday, February 22, in Watts hospital. He is named John Carpenter. Mrs. Paulsen is the former Miss Elizabeth Correll.

## Messick to Be Inaugurated

John D. Messick will be inaugurated Saturday, March 6, as president of East Carolina Teachers College in Greenville. The inauguration will close a five-day program including Founders' Day ceremonies. Mr. Messick is a graduate of the University here.

## Snively Declines Offer

Carl Snively, the University's head football coach, has declined the offer from the Los Angeles professional team. The offer is reported to have carried a salary of \$25,000, against about \$12,000 that he is getting here. His present contract has two more years to run.

"When my wife and I came face to face with the termination of our Carolina associations, and with the thought that the work in which so many of us have joined might be impaired," he said "we simply found ourselves unable to leave."

## Health Leaders Here

Twelve state and national leaders in health, medicine and agriculture will speak today (Friday) at the Carolina Inn on various aspects of the rural health problem at the first annual North Carolina Rural Health Conference to be held in Chapel Hill. The conference is sponsored by the State Medical Society and conducted by the Good Health Association. The purpose is to establish and set in motion a program of "Adequate Health and Medical Care for the People of Rural North Carolina." Among the Chapel Hill speakers will be Dr. W. R. Berryhill, Dr. E. G. McGavran, I. G. Greer, and E. B. Crawford. The luncheon meeting is set for 12:30 at the Carolina Inn.

## Mrs. Cranford in Burlington

Mrs. H. C. Cranford, secretary-treasurer of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Merchants Association, attended a meeting of district merchants' association presidents and secretaries in Burlington Wednesday.

## Miss Edwards on Her Own

Miss Lillian Edwards, who formerly operated a drapery shop in conjunction with the Ogburn Furniture company, is now in business for herself. The name of her concern, which is still located at the furniture store, is the Carolina Drapery Shop.

## Mrs. Jones's Exhibition

Mrs. Betty Warren Jones, whose work was exhibited last year in the Graham Memorial, will open tomorrow a week's exhibition of her paintings in the Highland Pines Inn in Southern Pines.

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