

Chancellor House's Reminiscences

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in 1899, taught a year in my native Halifax County, taught a year in Catawba College, and came back to the University in 1901 as Librarian. Counting his ten-year stay in Chicago as never-the-less spiritual presence in Chapel Hill, he has been in Chapel Hill ever since 1901. As I write these words he is in North Carolina Memorial Hospital having a bout with some ailment. But in moments of respite there I have no doubt that he is up to his life-long work; i.e., thinking up something constructive for the University and putting it in a memorandum where it counts. Later on, if he and we are fortunate, he will organize it, and energize it. I speak from experience; for he has energized me many helpful times. Energizing is his favorite word.

I mention his bout with ailments because his spiritual conquest of a serious illness in our time and his discipline of himself have been the secret of his productivity. He was put out of action by sickness for a long time. When he had recuperated his doctor told him, "You have two choices. You can play or you can work. You can't do both." Dr. Wilson chose work. But the necessity of taking it quietly confirmed him in the wisdom of thinking things out first, then memorandizing, organizing, and energizing his thoughts of University development.

When I first saw Dr. Wilson he was all activity on the tennis court where Alderman Dormitory now stands. He was holding up his part in a fast game of tennis with Ed Graham, Pat Winston, and Billy Day. These four along with Archibald Henderson and Dr. Venable formed a faculty group of crack tennis players who regularly beat the student varsity. There may have been others than these, but these are the ones I saw. In his new regimen Dr. Wilson had to give up tennis. His only exercise as far as I could observe has been walking to work, to church, and to innumerable meetings.

My next view of him was at the Methodist Church where he was then Superintendent of the Sunday School. But Dr. Wilson in a life-long service, matched

A Talk With Thomas H. Collins

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frame contains Time Magazine's story which appeared when Mr. Collins brought out his first book based on the Golden Years column. (His second appeared just recently.)

"That Time story cost me twenty thousand dollars," he said. "You see down here, it says whenever I come home Mrs. Collins brings me a bourbon in a peanut butter jar — you know, those Skippy peanut butter jars, they're the best thing for a drink. Well, Mrs. Collins had an aunt who owned a lot of rich black farmland, and she just couldn't believe that her nieces or children or anybody they would marry would smoke or anything — we never smoked in front of her — and certainly not drink. When she saw that in Time she never said a word, but there went twenty thousand dollars right out the window. Of course I made more than twenty thousand from increased sales of the book, anyway, but there it went, cost me twenty thousand."

"Well, I put in twenty years at the paper, and after they made me executive editor, I knew we had it made. I could be free, I could do whatever I wanted to, and go wherever I wanted to, and we started looking around the country for a place to live. You just don't go at this lightly. This is an important decision. You've got to go someplace and put the roots down, and then that's it. I thought at first I'd like to try the Rio Grande valley in Texas, so we went down there for three weeks to size it up. It's pretty country, you're in the pink grapefruit region, you've got a river, you're right near Mexico so you've got cheap labor. But I wouldn't have it. Too many Mexicans, too much poverty. And it's too inaccessible. You have to take a jumper plane to Houston and then take a plane from there, it might take you two days to get to Chicago if you wanted to see your family or something."

"Then we tried the northwest, and that's pretty country, but they have rainy seasons out there that are too depressing. It just gets you down. We looked down around Florida. It took less than five minutes to decide we didn't want to live in St. Petersburg — and St. Petersburg has always taken my column too, they were my first customer. We liked the Hagerstown, Maryland, country, just north of Washington, that's Eisenhower country up there, you know, cosmopolitan, New York and Washington right handy."

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Beyond our time lay the great educational campaign of 1921, the full powered Extension Division, the University of N. C. Press, the Consolidation, the Sesquicentennial and its eighteen volumes of publication, also fundamental works on libraries and education. Dr. Howell brings the full record down to Dr. Wilson's present career as editor and historian. Only those who sat in with him on the entire process can appreciate the infinite detail and eternal follow-through Dr. Wilson directed.

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Graveside Services For Andrews Infant Graveside services were conducted Thursday afternoon at the Antioch Baptist Church for Nancy Elizabeth Andrews, one-day-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Billy Andrews of Rt. 1, Chapel Hill. The infant died Wednesday morning in Duke Hospital. Surviving are the parents; one brother, Ronald Andrews of the home; the maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Dixon of Carrboro; and the paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. T. P. Andrews of Rt. 1, Chapel Hill. Mr. and Mrs. Collins' office has three desks, two typewriters, two swivel chairs, filing cabinets, a shelf full of books, and a wall covered with framed mementos, most of them newspaper clippings. One long, narrow

"So I started this other column too, and it went, it's in about 74, 75 papers. Well, the mail started to stack up almost to the ceiling, so I had to move it all out and do the column at home. We worked out a complicated office arrangement at home, because I didn't want to spend my evenings away from my lady up in a writing room, but there was the career side, too. I was feature editor, and then they moved me up to assistant city editor, then assistant news editor, then assistant managing editor, then managing editor, and then two years before I retired they made me executive editor. You don't goof around with this kind of a job, mister, it's your life. I had to keep the two separate, so we had an office arrangement at home — Would you like to see our office downstairs? We can talk better down there. "Hope you don't mind walking across the basement. The people who owned this house before had an apartment they rented down here, and we turned it into an office ... watch television there ... we write in here."

'Beefeaters' Haven' ANGUS BARN. RALEIGH-DURHAM HWY. 787-3505. PUBLISHING TIME 8:00 PM - 11:30 PM / SUNDAY 8:30 PM - 10:00 PM

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