

# Now & Then

by Bill Prouty

You know, outside of watching television real sharp, the quickest way of getting a close-up look down a nervous gun barrel is to be a bank teller in North Carolina, preferably a woman teller in a small Tar Heel town. The recent stick-up over at Kenly is only the latest in a line that reaches almost out of sight.

Seems like heisting banks has replaced manufacturing home-made whiskey as the favorite extra-legal outdoor sport for Tar Heels in a hurry to stay one jump ahead of the law. Because, either I'm reading the wrong accounts, or there's more bank robbing in North Carolina per capita than in any other place in the whole world.


Can't exactly figure it out, either, for all things being equal, North Carolinians don't figure to be any more ornery than other folks.

Maybe it all started back yonder when the politicians over in Raleigh in pre-Depression days decided it would be a fine thing for the state to connect each of the hundred county seats with paved roads. Which they did, thereby putting a lot of concrete in quiet country places and providing a whole heap of ways for farmers to come to town, and incidentally for bank robbers to take off in any of several directions from most any place in the state.

Then, too, there's lots of people (especially up in Virginia) who claim that Tar Heels are the tightest folks with a buck in all of Dixie, and that it's only natural that some of them would put the double-o on all that green stuff piled up so casual like in so many little sparsely-populated branch banks. It's a base canard, of course, and no doubt perpetrated by those in the Southland who are jealous of the Old North State's amazing recovery from the financial setbacks suffered in the recent War Between the States. But you know, where there's money lying around, there's liable to be some thieves about.

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Why, for a while there during the summer, the real heisting season, the law didn't even bother chasing bank robbers in the eastern part of the State. The local police and an FBI man or two just went down to Carolina Beach and waited for some fellow to come down and start throwing big money around, and they'd have their man and the money, minus mileage allowance, of course.

In fact, the Tar Heel brand of bank robber is getting so casually caught that its hard to believe our boys have really got their hearts in their work any more. And maybe they haven't. Maybe the well-known admonition, "as nervous as a Tar Heel teller," will soon be only a forgotten phrase, along with such facetious Tar Heel tags from out of the past as "Craven County corn," "Wilkes County whiskey," "good ole mountain (Great Smokies) dew," and "money printed in Durham, or Jacksonville."

In the meantime, dear fellow Tar Heels, unless you have a hankering to look down the large barrel of a nervous pistol, perhaps you'd best stay out of North Carolina branch banking facilities when they first open up in the mornings and during lonely lunch hours.

Because some of these days one of those guns is just bound to go off.

And while I'm bragging, let me say that North Carolina, along with its unprecedented number of bank heists and stick-up men, also seems to have the world's worst bank robbers. That is, they get away with the most but get caught the quickest of any yeggs I've ever read after.

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## Franklin St. School Sale Is On Agenda

The Chapel Hill School Board will continue discussion of the sale of the Chapel Hill Senior High School and West Franklin School property at its meeting at 7:30 tomorrow night in the Superintendent's office.

The architect selection committee is scheduled to present three architects from which to choose one to design a new Chapel Hill high school.

The architect will start work on the new school if the sale of the West Franklin Street property is consummated. The sale, to be a public auction in the high school auditorium, will be held Nov. 12. The Board has been advertising for bids at the sale.

In addition, the Board will:

- Discuss the revised school budget. Revision was made necessary after the County Commissioners granted the Board \$41 of a \$42-per-pupil current expense allocation for the current year.
- Discuss the policy on school children taking trips away from school.
- Hear a report from Superintendent Howard Thompson on his conference with school principals concerning the Board's policy on fund-raising campaigns in the schools.

**Randolph-Macon Activities Today**

Randolph-Macon alumnae will hold their annual fall luncheon meeting Wednesday at 1 p.m. in the Club Room of the Carolina Inn.

All alumnae of Randolph-Macon living in Chapel Hill or its vicinity are invited. Reservations may be made as late as tomorrow by calling Miss Sarah Sutton at 942-3584 after 7 p.m.

Mrs. Albert Coates, president of the Chapel Hill Chapter, will give a report on the Alumnae Council meeting she recently attended at Randolph-Macon.

## Pete Ivey's Town & Gown

(Continued from Page 1)

North Carolina, but quickly gave up the notion.

That play was "The Prince of Parthia," a Shakespearean type drama. It was written in 1758 by Thomas Godfrey of Wilmington. It was a tragedy in blank verse.

Not only was it the first North Carolina play, it also was the first American play to be produced professionally. Players of the Southwark Theater in Philadelphia put it on.

John Parker ran a scene from "The Prince of Parthia" at an event in Raleigh several years ago. It might have been good in 1758, but for today's audiences it is not fitting. So, the Playmakers refrained from showing the 200-year-old drama in favor of a light mid-20th century musical.

## —Chest—

(Continued from Page 1)

III and Mrs. Sterling Stouemire were recognized as residential division solicitation leaders. Shirley Waddell was recognized as publicity chairman. All other division leaders were present.

The Motif of this year's campaign is four C's, standing for Chapel Hill-Carrboro Community Chest. The progress of the drive will be reported daily with flags mounted on the corner of Franklin and Columbia Streets. Five flags, each representing 20 percent of the total goal, will be raised as each fifth of the quota is collected. Each of the first four flags will carry a C. Not until the full goal has been achieved will the public know what is on the fifth flag.

## —Russian—

(Continued from Page 1)

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Earlier last week, possible violation of the Speaker Ban arose when former University student Larry Phelps, a founder of the Progressive Labor Club and a participant in a trip to Cuba by 58 students last summer, spoke informally to a group of students in Everett Dormitory. It was not clear whether Phelps' dorm appearance was a violation of the ban. However, he has been forbidden to make formal talks on the campus.

Help the needy through the Community Chest.

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# Gag Law Assailed By State Senator

State Senator Perry Martin took a stand Tuesday directly opposite from Judge L. J. Phipps in appraising the State's feeling about the North Carolina Gag Law.

Judge Phipps had said in a speech in Gerrard Hall the night before that he believed 75 per cent of the people of North Carolina were for the Gag Law.

Senator Martin, speaking to UNC Young Democrats in Gerrard Hall Wednesday night, said he believed that "if the Gag Law is properly explained as you students understand it, 75 per cent of North Carolinians wouldn't stand for it."

Senator Martin said he felt the Gag Law was the "greatest legislative mistake since 1900." He said so in the Senate, and gave reasons why House Bill 1395 was a "legislative mistake": it was "railroaded through the legislature"; it was not considered by any legislative committee; it was not placed on the official calendar. Instead, it came to the Senate from the House by special messenger, and a voice vote was called on it "before the Senators realized what was going on."

Senator Martin said that the day after the passage of the Gag Law, "we managed to rally enough votes to defeat the bill. However, it was claimed that a re-vote would be embarrassing to the president of the Senate, so the idea was dropped."

Senator Martin called the Gag Law an insult to a variety of things, among them North Carolina's State-supported institutions, North Carolinians in general, and the Fifth Amendment.

He concluded his comments on the Gag Law with a hopeful prediction: "I also believe that this insult will be removed before any of you present are elected to the Legislature. And if it is not, I hope you will remove it."

On Senate redistricting, Senator Martin said he was glad the legislature had been able to take action on redistricting by itself, in a special session, instead of letting the matter be handled by the Supreme Court under the equal protection clause.

"The decision (to redistrict) was difficult. It was necessary to approve the Little Federal Plan . . . in order to accomplish redistricting. We had to place 90,000 to 91,000 in each district without cutting across county lines." The difficulty in this, he said, resulted from a population spread among North Carolina's counties, from 275,000 in Mecklenburg to 4,000 in Tyrrell.

Senator Martin also complimented the Legislature on the defeat of the Court of Union Bill. The Bill would have organized a group of 50 North Carolina justices to pass on Supreme Court decisions and judge whether the Court had properly exercised its power.

"The Supreme Court has served our nation well since 1790, and in all times has been the real salvation of this nation. From Marbury vs. Madison to the Brown case to the religious issues there has been nothing comparable to the Court in the sal-

vation of the democracy of this nation.

"It is no time for a country to kill its umpire and look for something better. If life is changing steadily among races and creeds, then laws must change. It is up to the young citizens to defend the court."

Senator Martin also made a plea for young Democrats to participate in the government.

"The Democratic Party is in real danger," he said. "Many mistakes made in the last legislative session were made by Democrats not worthy of the

name. If these people take control of the Democratic Party, North Carolina will no longer be known as the 'Citadel of Freedom' in the South."

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