

Governor's Mansion is beautiful and historical

Heard and seen

By POP

I know the readers of this column get tired of reading about the snow and ice which has plagued this area for too long... but the weather is just about all the people are talking about... also, subscribers who live "far off" are always interested in reading about what kind of weather we're having here in Madison County... one thing about it is that this winter has been so cold that you'll be able to brag about it to your grandchildren... when the temperature finally got up to 38 degrees last Thursday it felt like we were having a heat wave... that's exaggerating a bit, isn't it... I've never seen people walking so slow and cautiously as they have been for several days... crossing Main Street has been dangerous... I've never been exactly a coffee lover... usually a cup at breakfast does me all day... but since the price of coffee has gone so high, I seem to want several cups a day... guess that's human nature.

Listened to President Ford deliver the State of the Union address for "the last time — maybe"... I thought he did a pretty good job having to face all those Democrats in Congress... many times since his presidency, he and Congress have been at odds but all this was seemingly forgotten when he was given a rousing welcome by members of both Houses... as he said, "... we can disagree without being disagreeable..." ...Congratulations to the rural carriers in the Marshall Post Office for receiving Safe Driving Awards... they are often unjustly criticized by patrons... personally, I think they do a mighty good job and should be appreciated.

Frigid weather continues... Monday morning it was nine degrees below zero and that's plenty cold... many water pipes in homes and businesses burst and many people are still without water... plumbers were kept busy day and night and Buford Marler, Richard Roberson and Alderman Donald Ramsey have worked many hours helping people... including this writer... I want to personally thank them for coming to my rescue Monday p.m. when water pipes burst at the office here and partially flooded the building... understand that the basement of the post office is coated with ice... many persons were hampered Monday morning when their cars failed to start... and when they did it was mighty risky driving on icy roads... as I finish up this column Tuesday morning the temperature has warmed up to 10 degrees.

Our community has lost another fine citizen in the passing of Ben Frisby Sr. Nearly everybody knew Ben and the older citizens will always remember him when he used to thrill hundreds with his magic and ventriloquism... he will be greatly missed. "Bill" and I attended the beautiful wedding of Ernest Teague and Virginia Barnwell in Greenville, S. C., last Saturday night... I was thrilled when they asked me to be an usher and I was even more thrilled when they exchanged vows in the beautifully decorated church... I wish space permitted me to write more about the wedding, etc., but I must sign off for this week...

A new governor is moving into the beautiful Victorian mansion at 200 N. Blount St. in Raleigh this week. The mansion, recently renovated, is known as one of the most beautiful executive mansions in the country, and a classic example of "Queen Anne Cottage style of architecture."

Gov. James Hunt will be the 24th chief executive to occupy the house. Gov. Daniel G. Fowle was the first to move in as he took office early in 1891 when the house was completed. He lived there only several months, when he died of a heart attack in April, 1891.

Previous N. C. governors had

lived in several places. In 1797 a white frame house (later called "inadequate") was provided for the state's first family, and in 1816 a house with brick columned porticoes was built on the site where Memorial Auditorium now stands. Called the Governor's Palace, the building served until 1871 when it was abandoned during Reconstruction years.

The 20 years between 1871 and 1891 saw North Carolina's governors living variously in rented houses, in Raleigh's famous Yarborough Hotel and, in two instances, in their own homes. During this period, the

subject of state-provided housing for governors came up repeatedly in the legislature. Some members wanted to build a new residence on Burke Square; others wanted to repair the badly-deteriorated Governor's Palace.

Finally, the commission appointed for the purpose agreed that the proper (and legal) procedure would be to sell the existing Governor's Palace and build another "suitable residence" on Burke Square. The final decision from the legislature authorized construction of a house on the square, provided for major furnishings and required (upon its completion) the governor to occupy it.

The legislation directed that the house and furnishings should not cost more than the sum realized from the sale of the existing government house, and to save money, convict labor from the penitentiary should be used. In addition, wherever possible, native North Carolina materials should be used.

Architects Samuel Sloan of Philadelphia and his associate Gustavus Adolphus Bauer offered designs that were declared "artistic, representing an ornate building, in modern style, three stories in height with the ample porches, hallways and windows which every house built in this climate should have."

At first, of course, furnishings were a problem. The first residents, Gov. Fowle and his family, brought along their own furniture to help fill the 42-room mansion, since the money appropriated by the legislature was woefully inadequate. Several later governors followed this precedent by necessity until Gov. Angus McLean's administration when the personal possessions of the family were sometimes quite visibly tagged "M.L." while the mansion's fur-

nishings were labeled "M." Several appropriations since have provided for furnishings, and the ingenuity and taste of the various first ladies have contributed im-

In 1965 Mrs. Dan K. Moore appointed an Executive Mansion Fine Arts Committee to solicit funds and to improve furnishings of the mansion. Two years later the General Assembly created the Executive Mansion Fine Arts Commission perpetuating the programs to add fine antiques, reproduction furniture, accessories and specialty rugs to the mansion's furnishings.

Several times during its almost 90 years existence, the idea of abandoning the present mansion in favor of a new residence for the governor has been raised. Gov. McLean and Sec. of State W. N. Everett were among the first to squash the proposal. Again, during the administration of the grand old Victorian house arose. After extensive examination of other states' executive mansions by a committee appointed for the purpose, a new governor's residence was designed.

Again, however, the beautiful mansion on Blount Street bested its detractors. During the administration of Gov. James E. Holshouser, extensive renovations were completed, making the many-gabled mansion look "just as it was, except good as new."

Mrs. Holshouser, following in the footsteps of many another first lady, used her own good taste and ingenuity in the renovation efforts by sewing the heavy draperies herself.

Each of the 23 governors and their families have added their own beauty, dignity and charm to the 86-year-old structure, and it continues to be "one of the most beautiful interiors in America."



Searching For New Directions



Around North Carolina

State licensing costs public millions

The cost of doing business with various people subject to state licensing laws and regulations runs into the millions.

Just how much, nobody can say for sure. But just one isolated example put together by attorneys in the North Carolina Attorney General's office gives a glimpse: eyeglasses in this state cannot be advertised. In states with competition, prices are one-third lower.

Cost to Tar Heels, according to a study by state attorneys, is well over \$10 million per year. Judging from that, the public cost is exceedingly high when you consider that there are 35 licensing boards to regulate various activities, and many work to limit competition, eliminate advertising, and bar entry to some who might wish to enter that particular field.

THREE PILOTS
The strictest entry law, by the way, is in the occupation of pilot for ships calling at Morehead City or Wilmington.

There are — by law — only 3 licensed pilots for Morehead; 15 authorized for the Cape Fear River and Bar.

John Silverstein, until

recently chief of the anti-trust division of the Attorney General's staff, ramrodded an 18-month study of licensing in the state. That research leads him to conclude that the system is fraught with problems: restrictive entry rules, problems in practicing from one state to another, absence of competitive bidding in securing services, prohibition of advertising.

Silverstein now feels that what is needed is "the least regulation necessary to protect the public interest... as to entry, the minimum education necessary to prepare the individual to serve the public."

Particularly during hard economic times when people are hunting jobs, Silverstein found some who had completed all educational requirements and who had passed required examinations still barred because a period of apprenticeship is required, and they could not find an opening.

Alan Baughcum has written a survey of the licensing system in the state, and based on it, the attorney general is asking the General Assembly

to declare a moratorium on it setting up any new ones or changing methods for old ones. Meanwhile, a full-blown research program is needed in the legislature, Baughcum feels.



bill noblitt
A MORATORIUM
That moratorium, Baughcum feels, will allow time for staff of the attorney general's office to work with the various boards to bring them in compliance with recent court rulings.

Baughcum, in his report, pointed out that the system tends to restrict competition: "A market in which a monopoly exists is the antithesis of the competitive market..." he wrote.

Further, he found that the membership on the various boards overly represents the particular profession or grade, indicating "a desire to have the occupation regulated only by those who are a part of

Labeled monopolistic by the study are accountants, cosmeticians, dentists, electricians, landscape architects, lawyers, medical people, undertakers, nurses, pharmacists, plumbing and heating tradesmen, engineers and surveyors, real estate agents, and refrigeration technicians.

Most of those, with the addition of others — architects, foresters, opticians and optometrists, physical therapists, psychologists, and speech-language-audiologists — prohibit advertising. "The constitutionality of such restrictions on advertising would seem to be dubious..." Baughcum reported.

Informal talks with legislators and investigators indicate a developing change in the law to allow advertising in the coming year or two — at least advertising to the extent of revealing the location and specialties of lawyers or physicians or dentists.

Probably no advertising in the foreseeable future will allow special price offerings (divorces at a cut rate; wedding special on appendectomies) most believe.

Ford restored confidence

Gerald Ford will not be remembered as a great President. In his short service as chief executive, he launched no lasting programs and did little to solve any of the country's enduring problems. He was a cautious President, both because he is by nature a cautious man and because of the circumstances that thrust him into the office.

Despite all that, Mr. Ford has made a lasting contribution to his country, one that should not be overlooked. At a time when the country was shaken to its foundation, he became its leader and did the job with modesty, calmness and integrity. He showed by example that the power and trappings of office need not lead the man who holds it to think of himself as more than a citizen.

Mr. Ford's parting message to the Congress where he served 25 years

was as modest and unassuming as the man who spoke it. We have problems, but the state of the union is good, he said. He sprung no surprises. His claims were modest. He wished his successor well.

Gerald Ford, we believed, was not the man to lead this country in its continuing quest for self-improvement. But his contribution as President, though it may rate little more than a footnote in the history books, has meant much to his country.

To understand just how much, consider the public feeling about the presidency as Gerald Ford leaves it, and compare that to the public feeling as Richard Nixon and Lyndon Johnson left office. Mr. Ford restored the public's faith that a good man can be President and that a President can be a good man. — Charlotte Observer

State Assembly gets off to fast start

By REP. ERNEST MESSER

The North Carolina General Assembly began its 1977 session at noon Jan. 12.

By the end of the day, all legislators had been sworn in, Rep. Carl Stewart of Gaston County had been elected Speaker of the House, and Carl had appointed 44 House committees.

This was the fastest beginning that anyone can remember in organizing the North Carolina House of Representatives.

The Senate was somewhat slower in organizing.

A new committee, a Committee on the Aging, was created by Speaker Carl Stewart, and I was made chairman of that committee. Since this is a new committee, we will be breaking new ground, and at intervals, we will report on the activities of the committee.

Even though this was only a three-day legislative week, some very important bills were introduced. Among them

were bills to:

—restore capital punishment; allow the governor to serve two successive terms; change the primary election back to May; establish a uniform opening day for public schools (day after Labor Day);

—repeal the requirement that operators of motorcycles wear a helmet; raise to \$50,000 the state's liability for students injured in school bus accidents; raise exemptions in the Homestead Act.

Several bills have been introduced to change the requirements for property tax exemptions for retired persons over 65 years of age.

However, Rep. B. D. Schwartz of New Hanover County and I intend to introduce the property tax exemption bill that we believe should be passed. The bill will raise the income level, which is now \$7,500 with social security included, to \$8,500 with social security to be eliminated from consideration.

The ERA bill has not yet been introduced.

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