

Capital Letters

By THOMPSON GREENWOOD

STAG — If you have already heard how Lieutenant Governor L. Y. Ballentine got that forest-primeval name, "Stag", you can just skip along to another item. There has been a lot of conversation about it for a long time now, and it ought to be settled. In the first place, it had a very innocent beginning. Now if you are still interested, proceed.

Back yonder around World War I days, Ballentine was quite an athlete at Wake Forest College, playing football a little and baseball rather well. The first team and the second were scrimmaging one afternoon in a halfhearted manner, and the coach rode his boys on their mild blocking and tackling.

Opposing Ballentine, who was playing center, was Carl Bailey, of Plymouth, now a prominent attorney and a strong candidate for solicitor to succeed Federal Judge Don Gilliam. Bailey, who is quite elephantine now, was no baby then. He followed the coach's advice and on the next play knocked Ballentine about 20 feet (this is Bailey's version), and when the Wake County farm boy got to his feet he staggered about and had a hard time keeping his balance.

Asked by the coach what the trouble was, Ballentine said he believed he had something akin to the blind staggers. For the remainder of the afternoon he was known as "Blind Staggers", and then for two or three months as "Staggers", and finally as "Stag".

And that easy-going Esquish name has helped him in his political races, strange as it seems, but few of these who used it knew where it came from. Possibly this little note will settle the curiosity — or bring out other versions of the story.

Raid — Some of the old heads here may not admit it, but Raleigh is a great place for gambling. This love for gambling is not confined to what is known around town as the "lower brackets"—not at all. Although the important fellows don't talk much about it during the day around beer parlors as they cross-the-tracks friends do, they do love their poker during the long night hours. Poker—and other more humble games. They like to play the slot machines.

A total of 16 of various makes was taken in a raid here last week at the various "clubs", one of which, the Sphinx, is one of the most exclusive outfits around Raleigh. Even though it is recognized that these clubs do good work in helping the poor and in assisting with various drives, it is as much against the law for slot machines to be operating in them as it is for the filling station operator or the cross roads merchant to have them set up in their establishments.

JUDGES — Raleigh is having a big time with the judges—City, Superior and Federal. A new city judge a Democrat was put in a few days ago; Judge Johnson J. Hayes has been bearing down on the May Act violators and the local hotels wherein they operate; and Superior Court Judge Clawson Williams worked on the gamblers.

NEXT — Governor Gregg Cherry made some important changes in the highway setup, but not as many as was anticipated a few days before the appointments were made. He isn't through, yet however.

If you recall Sandy Graham's bitter attacks on the "Shelby dynasty" back yonder in 1936 and the failure of either Hoey or Broughton to even look in Sandy's direction, much less to appoint him to anything, you will grasp the trend of the Cherry administration.

And now comes the Department of Conservation and Development. There might be three or four rather big changes in this estab-

In France



T/SGT. HILLIARD SUTTON, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Sutton, of Waynesville, R.F.D. No. 2, has arrived in France, according to a message received by his parents. Sgt. Sutton was inducted in service in March, 1943, and received his basic training at Camp Hood, Tex., and from there was transferred to Fort Lewis, Wash., and later to Fort George Meade, Md., and then overseas. Before entering the service he was employed on a citrus orchard in Clearwater, Fla.

lishment — and these alterations may have been put into effect by the time you read this item. Quite a little pressure is being put on Governor Cherry to let a little fresh air blow through the offices overseen by R. E. Etheridge, of Manteo. On the other hand, Uncle Bruce, as he is known affectionately by thousands of friends throughout North Carolina, has his visitors to Governor Cherry.

But the trend is toward new men, and it may continue.

LOSS — March was a warmer month than April, and was much more pleasant than the first 10 days of May. You may envy the farmer — especially the tobacco farmer — and his good prices these days. But don't forget that playing with nature for a living is something of a gamble, too.

One orchardist in Haywood County lost an estimated \$200,000 in one night during April. The frost wiped out his apple crop, and now the orchardist and the income tax folks must look elsewhere for help.

WILL HOLCOMBE—Unless you live in Yadkin or Surry counties you may never have heard of Will Holcomb, a friend to everybody and a gentleman all the time. Although not an old man, he lay down to rest at his home in Jonesville a few days ago and died in his sleep. He is mentioned here because he at one time did yours truly a great good turn. He was a good friend at all times — a friend in need. Men like him are the strength of America, for they are the optimists of the land. You could hear his laugh for a block, and he created a spirit of easy friendship and cooperation wherever he went. He loved people. Of such is the Kingdom.

MY DEAR GOVERNOR—I am just advised that one of the largest transactions ever undertaken in the

Ensign B. B. Brown Training Officer In Honolulu

Ensign Bruce B. Brown, USNR, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford E. Brown, of Clyde, was recently named ground training officer for the Naval Air Transport Squadron Eleven (Vr-11) based at the Honolulu Naval Air Station, according to information received from the base.

A graduate of Mars Hill College and Wake Forest College, Ensign Brown has taken over the super-

Respectfully, John W. Coffey.

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