

My Favorite Stories

By CARL GOERCH

H. J. "Doggie" Hatcher has held a number of political positions, but this incident occurred when he was representing Burke county in the General Assembly.

One Sunday morning when the legislature was in session, I happened to be in the lobby of the Carolina Hotel—it was about 10:00 o'clock—and saw Doggie strolling around rather aimlessly. I hailed him.

"Well," he said, in answer to my question, "I had some business matters to attend to yesterday, and I decided to remain in Raleigh over the weekend rather than undertake that 200-mile drive to Morganton last night."

"Kind of lonesome around here, isn't it?" I inquired.

"It sure is," he said. "Practically all of the boys have gone home." "How about coming out to the house and eating dinner with us," I suggested.

"Well—I don't want to cause any trouble or—"

"No trouble whatsoever. My wife will be tickled to death to have you."

So after a little more argument, he finally consented to go out to the house with me. He said he appreciated the invitation very much because he was feeling sort of blue and lonesome.

My wife and daughter had met Doggie on several previous occasions and they were delighted to see him. We sat around and chatted for awhile, and then went in to dinner.

There's one habit that I got into a number of years ago, and from

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which I have seldom varied. As a rule, I do a lot of traveling over the state during the week, so when Sunday comes around, I like to eat dinner at noon and then go upstairs and take a nap until about 5 o'clock, with a little time out for some reading.

When we finished our dinner, we walked back into the living room and sat down to talk a while. It wasn't long before I began to get sleepy and started longing for a nap.

However—as you may know—Doggie is a most entertaining conversationalist, and my folks seemed to enjoy his remarks greatly. He told them about his experience as a student at Trinity, as a football coach, as a young lawyer, as a legislator—and heaven only knows what else.

I began to get sleepier and sleepier.

Then he started talking about Burke County and its many desirable assets. I waited until he came to a brief pause and then rose from my chair, sort of casual like, and said: "Well, Doggie, I've got to go down to the office and do some work this afternoon. I know that Mrs. Goerch and Sibyl will be delighted to have you stay here, or you can ride down town with me and I'll drop you at your hotel."

"I'll ride along with you," he said.

And so, after giving him a little time to say goodbye, we got into my car and headed for town.

"What's the idea of working this afternoon?" he wanted to know.

To tell the truth, I didn't have any idea of working. My thought was to drop him at the hotel and then turn around and go back home and to bed. Naturally, however, I couldn't tell him that. I explained that as a result of my legislative work—the broadcasting and everything—I had to put in a few extra hours of work on Sundays to catch up.

"Do you get any papers from other parts of the state?" he wanted to know.

"Lots of them," I told him. "I imagine that we get close to a hundred."

"Do you get the News-Herald from Morganton?"

"Yes, indeed."

"I'll tell you what I'd like to do. You say you're going to work for a couple of hours?"

"Yes."

"How about me going up to the

office with you and letting me look over some of the papers? I'd like to get an idea of what they're saying about the Legislature and its activities."

Well, sir, I've never been so completely nonplussed in all my life. There wasn't a single objection I could think of to his suggestion. And so—although I imagine my tone of voice lacked a lot of being enthusiastic—I told him I'd be glad to have him come along.

And do you know, he sat down in one of the other rooms with a big stack of papers in front of him, and it was an hour and a half before

he showed any signs of being through. And during all that time I had to sit at my desk and pretend I was working to beat the band.

I've never been so sleepy in all my life. I could hardly keep my eyes open, but in spite of that, I pretended to be working right along.

Finally, he said: "Well, I believe I'll walk around to the hotel."

"I'll drive you there," I told him hurriedly.

"Don't bother, it's only a short distance."

But I insisted. So we drove around to the Carolina, and I put

Mechanical Sidewalk To Help Move Crowds Fast

Contract to build the world's first passenger conveyor belt system has been awarded to the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. and the Stephens-Adams Mfg. Co. by the Hudson and Manhattan Railroad Company.

William Reid, president of the commuter line, which serves downtown Manhattan and metropolitan New Jersey, announced today that a 227-foot Speedwalk (trade name for moving sidewalks) will be installed in the ramp portion of the connecting tunnel between Erie station and the Hudson and Manhattan tubes at Jersey City as a convenience to patrons.

The passenger belt system includes a rubber conveyor belt moving at approximately one and one-half miles per hour and two handrails moving at same speed. Operated by push-button controls,

it will be reversible in direction to handle rush hour crowds to and from the tubes.

This new transit method, developed by Goodyear and Stephens-Adams, can be compared to a flattened-out moving stairway. Entry and exit are accomplished in the same manner as boarding or leaving the familiar escalator. The system will negotiate a 10 per cent grade on the ramp. Passengers will have the option of being carried up the steep grade at a mile and a half an hour or adding their own walking to the speed of the belt for a trip.

Although many designs for Speedwalk systems and conveyor belt systems are being made by the two firms, this is the first commercial application of Speedwalks.

The sea otter has been protected by international agreement since 1910.

DON'T GAMBLE



Webster defines the word gamble as:

"To risk or wager something of value upon a chance". In illness, to gamble on an unknown remedy or cure-all is indeed taking a chance. When you are ill, by all means seek the advice of a medical doctor promptly. Don't be misled by the false statements and claims of unethical practitioners. Chance plays no part in the practice of medicine. ONLY FACTS COUNT.

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