

# Editorial And Opinion

## Our Appreciation To . . . . .

The kind of weather we have been having prior to the past few days presents a challenge to almost everybody. But perhaps while meeting our own individual problems we can find the time for a fresh appreciation of the people who provide some of the taken-for-granted services of everyday living.

The policeman, the volunteer firemen, the milkman, the paper boy, the highway maintenance workers, the bus and taxi drivers, men in service stations, men on coal and oil trucks—all who keep lines of supply and communication open—these are only the most obvious good soldiers.

We owe a special debt of gratitude and commendation here to the volunteer firemen who had to fight a number of fires during the sub-freezing period, and the highway maintenance workers under the supervision of Clarence Walters who did a magnificent job in getting the streets and highways open all over the county in a remarkably short time, sticking to the job unbearably long hours so that you and I could be up and about in the least time possible.

Little thought of also are the telephone operators who get out in the storm and carry on at the switchboards so we can stay comfortably inside and still carry on business and visit with friends by phone. Then there are the radio and television people who keep the programs going so that we can be informed and watch in comfort, especially keeping the children occupied and satisfied not to be romping in the snow and catching their "death." The power line repairmen, and others who keep the complex machinery of essential services moving—all these and other un-noticed "members of our team" merit our appreciation.

In times of special need we suddenly become aware of the big debt we owe to countless people who don't make the headlines, and whose names we may not know, but who make a tremendous contribution to the community by just being on the job, come what may.

## Passing Of A Friend

Recent days have seen a number of fine citizens of the community answer the final call.

Among them was the well known and respected Bill Chance, who left an indelible impression upon the town in which he lived for 35 years. In his earlier years, Mr. Chance was an active force on the Town Board, in business affairs, and in other phases of community life. As the community's theater operator, he was known familiarly to almost everybody.

His passion for fishing was well known, while his friendly disposition, good humor, and sense of justice made him a successful and popular figure here through the years. In the passing of Bill Chance, many people mourn the passing of a friend.

## Cheap As Well As Miraculous

If you have any doubt about the world being better for our children than it was for us, you can find comfort in some figures that we just noticed from the Health News Institute on mastoiditis. This was both cruel and common only 20 years ago.

It usually involved a painful, costly, disfiguring operation and complete loss of hearing in the ear affected. The New York City hospitals had 5,400 cases of mastoiditis in 1933 and only 50 in 1956.

Achromycin and other antibiotic drugs developed in recent years made the difference. In the pre-antibiotic era the overall cost of a case of mastoiditis and the surgery involved was about \$1,000. Today, thanks to antibiotics, which have come down in price since first introduced, the cost is only about \$15 for drugs in most cases and no surgery is necessary.

Actually, the Health News Institute points out, the average drug store prescription in these days of soaring prices in all fields is much less than this, being either \$2.49 or \$2.79 in 1956 depending on which trade journal you read. Seven out of 10 prescriptions cost less than \$3 and only one in 200 sells for more than \$10.

While our disposable personal income rose 308 percent from 1939 to 1956, personal consumption expenditures for drug preparations and sundries which took 0.87 percent in 1939, dropped to 0.66 percent of disposable income in 1956. The HNI points out we are spending less percentage wise for better treatment of disease.

In the case of mastoiditis, we have bought a miracle which puts an end to a particularly excruciating type of suffering and preserves to our children a normal life for which the gift of hearing is essential as well as such priceless pleasures as the voices of loved ones, the making of friends through conversation, the inspiration of great speeches and the soul-filling joy of music and song.



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Syth County's vote in the Fifth Congressional District, Winston-Salem's studious Winfield Blackwell had been given a 50-50 chance of ousting Ralph Scott from his recently won seat in the House of Representatives.

For many years Forsyth has hungered for a place in Congress, but the closest they have been able to come was a kind of dog-fall with Elkin when the late Thurmond Chatham made the grade. Perhaps Blackwell was the man. But no less than the mayor of Winston-Salem himself, the Hon. Marshall Kurfess, has seen to it that Scott goes back to Washington.

This has been accomplished by the simple expedient of making himself a candidate for the position. Those in the know around the Fifth District say that populous Forsyth will split its vote between Blackwell and Kurfess and thus enable Scott's re-election without difficulty.

**TWO MORE OUT . . .** To the growing list of legislators deciding they want to see Raleigh only from afar next year add the names of: Tom White of Kinston and Calvin Graves of Winston-Salem.

Their announcements last week came as a sharp surprise. White was supposed to be in a three-cornered race with Carl Venters of Jacksonville and Addison Hewlett of Wilmington for Speaker of the House in 1959.

His sudden decision not to return to the Legislature is expected to throw enough votes to Hewlett to assure him the Speakership place. However, the word we get is that White took no sides when he pulled out of the race for Speaker.

As for Graves, he was in line for position in the 1959 State Senate second only to that of Lieutenant Governor, the presiding officer.

From one of the outstanding legalistic families of Northwestern North Carolina, Calvin Graves had made a lot of friends among legislators and officials of State Government. He will be missed.

If Archie Davis, chairman of the board of Wachovia Bank & Trust Co., comes to Raleigh to succeed Graves—and he has already announced he's going to try to do it—will follow a Forsyth pattern for the State Senate. Senators from there in the past 25 years have included Bob Hanes of Wachovia; Gordon Gray of Reynolds and Wachovia, etc.; Irving Carlyle, attorney for Wachovia.

Senator Davis will be a closer cooperator with Governor Hodges than was Senator Graves, you can bet on that. At 47, he has had a lot of experience and should make an excellent senator.

**NOTES . . .** If you had read about it a year ago, you would have laughed, but now you won't: experimental work is under-way on an electronic device to resist or cancel the earth's gravity—and a national magazine lists the University of North Carolina (presumably State College unit) as one of a half-dozen outstanding schools in the nation working on the project . . . until recently it was thought there was no way to cancel out . . . this force . . .

And our grapevine reports are that Navy people know that the Wilmington "earthquakes" were actually nuclear depth charges being tested by the Navy many miles off the coast of North Carolina . . .

### "FLY IN MY SOUP"

There is a waiter in a New York restaurant who is reported to be an expert on the waiter "there's a fly in my soup" jokes.

(You know most of the answers: "That's all right, he can swim"; "Not so loud, everybody'll want one"; "What do you want for a nickel, a hummingbird?"; "It's not hot enough to burn him," and so on.)

His latest answer to a customer who complained about a fly in his ice cream was: "That's all right—he likes winter sports." —John G. Fuller in Saturday Review



C. R. Daniel for The News

## Library Week Series: No. 2

# What Books Have Meant To Me

By KITTIE MURPHY

When asked to write an article on "What Books Mean to Me," my first feeling was that such a subject was entirely too big—much too encompassing to attempt an expression in a few words and in limited space. That subject had the same scope and dimension that I should have encountered if I were to try to express in written words "What my friend has meant to me," or "What sunshine means to me," or "What my eye sight means to me." Then after a bit of deliberation, certain generalities appear that seem circumscribed enough to list and mention as a part of a greater knowledge of all that books may mean to an individual.

When you open the pages of a book, you, like Alice, may pass through the "looking glass." All the wonder-land of travel is yours. One may sail the seven seas, explore vast caves, catapult into space, float lazily on the blue waters of the Caribbean, tremble in the ice chasms of Little America, or stand in awe before the seven wonders of the world. No horizon encloses you within its boundaries: There is no limit to space: You hold the world in your hand.

## Washington Report

# Scott Scores Secrecy Shenanigans

By SEN. W. KERR SCOTT

Some days ago Mr. J. George Stewart, Architect of the Capitol, told the Senate Public Works Subcommittee on Public Buildings that plans for extending the East Front of the Capitol "do not belong to the public," which would pay the \$10.1 million bill, and that the plans "are not for publication."

He said it wasn't a matter of secrecy—it was just "the way things are done on the Hill."

He sure told the truth. Secrecy is what I often suspect Washington has the most of, except waste paper, maybe. This secrecy thing, this all-too-frequent business of "executive session," is something that merits scrutiny.

Since Mr. Stewart's remark about "the way things are done on the Hill," I've done some looking-back into the record. I find that while there are too many executive sessions, to my way of thinking, amongst Senate committees and subcommittees, the situation has been worse and the incidence of such sessions ap-

parently is falling off. Executive sessions are as old as the Senate itself. From 1789 to 1795 all Senate business, with one exception, was done behind closed doors. The exception was in February, 1794, in debate over the seating of Albert Gallatin when, by vote of 19 to 8, spectators were admitted.

But the situation is improving. Congressional committees last year held fewer closed-door sessions than in any year since 1953, on a percentage basis. Senate committees closed only 33 per cent of their meetings to the public last year, four per cent fewer than in 1955.

Committees and subcommittees I am on are holding fewer executive sessions. Forty-nine per cent of the Agriculture Committee's sessions were closed-door in 1955; there were but 41 per cent last year. Thirty-two per cent of the Post Office and Civil Service Committee sessions last year were closed, four per cent less than in 1955. On Public Works, 45 per cent were executive sessions in 1955, but only 27 per cent last year.

Just as a conch shell can reproduce within its tiny spirals all the roar of an ocean, so may a book capture for us the natural life around us. Strange and exotic birds or huge animals that roamed the earth in another age are restored for our viewing. A fawn and her doe pausing at a pool, the lioness stalking her kill, the quicksilver of a hummingbird at a flower—all that represents evolution, growth and change in the world about us can unfold to us by means of the printed page.

Books allow us to live vicariously. The average individual does not want to know how to rob a bank or how to commit the perfect crime. Yet we must know the people that perform such acts, how their deeds come about, what motivates them, in order to know all of mankind, the evil with the good. If we are to widen our small store of experience and thus cope with life as it is lived. We may be the consort of kings and princes. People of other nations can become our neighbors. We can sit in on meetings and alliances of great proportion. We may share all of the glorious history-making events of our present day and of the past.

We may escape the dullness, the routines that annoy, and the very drabness of our every-day life by widening our experiences into a more glamorous and stimulating series of events that is found in every well-written novel, history or biography.

It has been said that there is a major disease in America. The symptoms are drowsiness, inertia and mental fatigue. It is injurious to the individual; it is fatal to the health of the nation. Its name is leisure-time lethargy. Its cure is reading. Reading is the greatest way that I know to improve my mind, for thereby I gain new knowledge and attempt to free myself from ignorance, bias and prejudice. The beauty of a poem, the inspiration of the greatest book of all time, the Bible, the challenge of a well-constructed story, the meeting place of characters that intrigue and delight those who become acquainted with them are only a few of the joys that a book holds for me.

"A man's world is as big as he makes it. With no more than a glance at the headlines of his daily paper, he can take a short cut, only to find himself in a fog over atoms and missiles. He can listen

to the fellows at the office, or hear the conversations of people on the street, only to feel himself left out, inept and uninformed. This man's world is a little place. His knowledge of it is based on hearsay. His conclusions are only notions. From books and magazines, this man could learn some reliable facts. With the guidance of a book, he could confidently shape his own conclusions. The printed word is a man's guide to a bigger world."

What happens in executive sessions? Well, When we take up the agenda on the Agriculture Committee we automatically go into executive session. Some days ago the only business involved watershed projects, two in Piedmont North Carolina, Abbott's Creek and Deep Creek, and Senator Ellender, the chairman, said at the outset that all agencies concerned had endorsed them. They had come from county and state levels and been approved here by the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of the Budget without dissent.

So, somebody in our executive session moved that they be authorized by the Agriculture Committee and I seconded the motion and it was done. Our "executive session" didn't conduct any secret business, after all, and lasted about two minutes.

In my many years in public life, I have heard a great many excuses for "secret government" meetings. There are plenty of excuses given for conducting the public's business in secret, but I know of no real justification.

## Tar Heel PEOPLE & ISSUES

By Cliff Blue

**APPRECIATION . . .** I want to express my sincere appreciation to two of my good friends, George R. Ross of Jackson Springs and Mrs. Kathryn Boyd of Southern Pines for conducting this column during the past two weeks while the writer was on the sick list. They did such a fine job that now what we have to say will sound trifling.

George Ross is a man filled with information about "early days" of the Sandhills and of North Carolina. We suggested to him that he should be writing articles and passing on to the people some of the rich information which he has gained in his rich and eventful life.

Kathryn Boyd, widow of the late author and writer, James Boyd, is herself a most interesting and talented writer, and a sprightly little lady who never hesitates to take her stand on the issues of the day—local, state and national.

It is nice to have friends like George Ross and Kathryn Boyd that you can call on in time of need.

**REPUBLICANISM . . .** Despite Little Rock and the "recession" leaders of modern Republicanism in North Carolina are still at work and the Democrats should not ignore them if they expect their party to continue to be the dominant party in the state. In Mecklenburg and in Moore counties in particular, the "New Look" Republicans appear to be on the go.

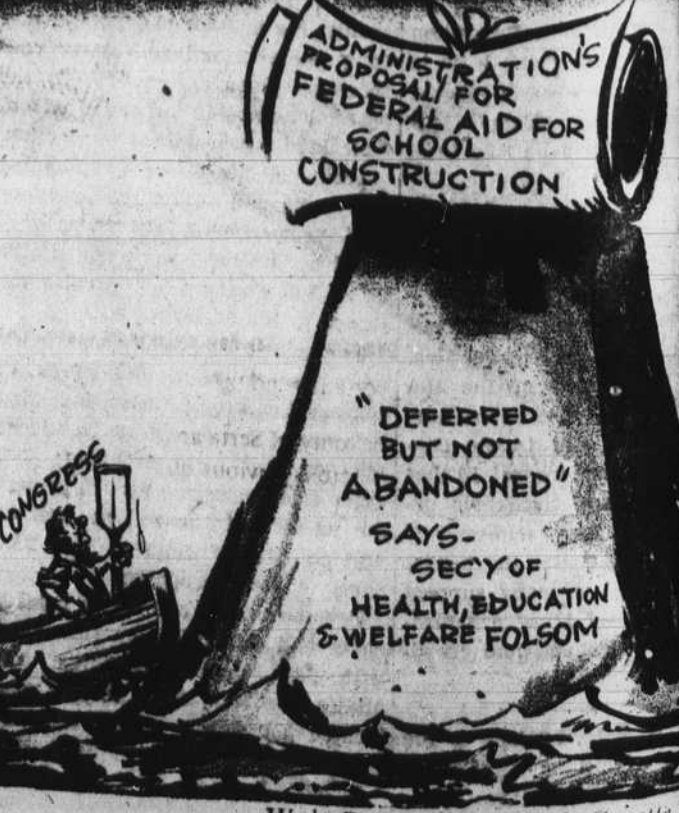
**BILL COBB . . .** Senator William Edward Cobb of Morganton and native of New York state is a candidate for chairman of the Republican State Executive Committee. Cobb who upset the applecart in the 28th senatorial district composed of Alexander, Burke and Caldwell counties to win in 1956 was not afraid to have his say and speak his piece in the State Senate, where traditionally the minority members say little. If Cobb is elected State Republican Chairman you can expect more activity among the Republicans. Its interesting to note that he has the 100 per cent endorsement of the Republican membership of the N. C. House and Senate.

**MECKLENBERG . . .** In Mecklenburg County some of the Democrats will tell you that there is but little chance of anyone winning over Congressman Charlie Jonas of Lincoln County. They think Dave Clark of Lincoln might win, but chances are not great that he will run. As State representative to the N. C. General Assembly he has gained considerable seniority and prestige. Some say that they will not be surprised to see at least one Republican face in the 1959 delegation to the N. C. General Assembly.

to the fellows at the office, or hear the conversations of people on the street, only to feel himself left out, inept and uninformed. This man's world is a little place. His knowledge of it is based on hearsay. His conclusions are only notions. From books and magazines, this man could learn some reliable facts. With the guidance of a book, he could confidently shape his own conclusions. The printed word is a man's guide to a bigger world."

**CAREFUL WITH CHILDREN** We are being very careful about our children. They'll never pay a psychiatrist \$25 to find out why we rejected them. Because they're innocent that's why. —Jean Kerr in "Don't Eat the Daisies"

**"Well!"**



Walt Partymiller—York Gazette

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