

# What has 1960 meant to Orange?--Its gains and its shortcomings

What has the year 1960 meant to Orange County? In bricks and mortar, dollars and cents, and community attitudes there has been some progress during the past 12 months. The chambers of commerce and local boosters (including this newspaper) are now compiling figures and summaries to show the gains made in this period.

They are numerous and significant indeed. Yet in perspective they leave much to be desired in total mission. Now at the end of the old year, then, rather than simply pat ourselves on the back, it is appropriate to compare our accomplishments to our failures; our efforts to our capabilities; and to weigh the two in resolutions for the future.

(1) The new decennial census gave the County a healthy 25 per cent growth over its 1950 population. The decade saw Orange County develop as a point of the Research Triangle. Business improved with the population growth. The future looks prosperous.

*At the same time the Town of Hillsboro experienced a loss of one from its 1950 population of 1,350. Carrboro suburbanites twice defeated referendums to bring the town's limits into line with the town's natural boundaries.*

## Chamber formed in Carrboro

(2) A chamber of commerce was formed for Carrboro. Its membership includes nearly every business and professional person in the town, and it is working seriously toward attracting industry to the town. As one of its first successes it cooperated in the organization of a new national guard platoon to be headquartered in Carrboro.

*Yet the Town of Carrboro still has a ways to go to reach the previous industrial employment level prior to the closing of Burlington Mills' local unit. And Hillsboro still hasn't recovered from the loss of the labor strife-torn Reverie Lingerie plant three years ago.*

(3) The Town of Chapel Hill annexed over 300 acres of land at various times during the year to encompass over 2,400 acres in all. Carrboro is preparing to move ahead with the annexation of 75 acres of excellent residential neighborhoods through action by the Town Board. And Hillsboro, under the prodding of the State Stream Sanitation Committee, has adopted a plan to construct a sewage disposal system—a necessary utility that will contribute much to the town's growth potential.

*While Chapel Hill continues to grow faster than it realizes downtown traffic and parking problems multiply in geometric proportion. Amid much discussion little has been done yet to remedy the mounting difficulties. In addition while the adjoining towns of Chapel Hill and Carrboro struggle separately, and to a modest degree jointly, to meet the increasing need for local services, cooperative spirit is still more talked about than carried out.*

## Planning preparations . . .

(4) An Orange County Zoning Committee has been appointed. The County has joined in the forming of and participation in the Research Triangle Planning Commission and the North Central Area Development Association. Chapel Hill has tentatively adopted a comprehensive thoroughfare plan for street development and traffic and parking control.

*The thoroughfare plan—in the making and under revision since 1953—is yet little more than an idea*

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*on paper. Only the barest of necessary piecemeal plans have been started or carried out. Neighborhood, inter-city and inter-county jealousy still restricts the effectiveness of the zoning and planning efforts, as well as the new concepts of the area and Triangle development organizations.*

(5) In the political realm Congressman Carl Durham retired after 22 useful years in Congress. Orange County Rep. John Umstead, un-official dean of the State House of Representatives, was elected without opposition to a 13th term in the General Assembly. And the newly-elected County Board of Commissioners is representative of a good mixture of Orange County's total interest.

The 1960 general elections also brought forth a re-vitalized Republican party in the county. This gave the voters a greater choice at the ballot box and made local government more representative of the citizens. A record total of over 12,500 persons — 80 per cent of the total number eligible—went to the polls.

*As the year ended bickering between the County Board of Elections and the County Commissioners continued. The elections board's main effort was centered on preventing students from voting in Orange County rather than in helping all eligible citizens to register and vote.*

## Look to school needs . . .

(6) The County's school leadership took a long look to the future. A citizens study committee found that 150 classrooms would be needed to house an expected school population of 10,000 by 1970. As a start the committee urged a \$1.5 million school bond issue referendum to catch up with the current need. The school boards and commissioners concurred and the election will be held this winter.

*Chapel Hill's school system is approaching bankruptcy in its current expenses program, according to the superintendent of schools. The clearest solution, he says, is an increase in the supplementary school tax for the district. Heart of the problem: Somehow it costs a great deal more to educate Chapel Hill System pupils than it does Orange County system pupils.*

(7) A thorough curriculum study was undertaken for the Chapel Hill Junior High School System. Orange County school leaders initiated a similar study for a proposed new northern Orange High School. The idea is: Find out what class program is needed and construct a building to meet such a need.

*During the year Chapel Hill's popular grade school foreign languages program had to be cut back. The libraries and instructional program were maintained with private assistance.*

## Bugaboo behind . . .

(8) Chapel Hill put the long-standing bugaboo of de-segregation behind it with the first voluntary admission of Negroes to public schools in North Carolina. Three colored first graders entered the Estes Hills School. There was no violence, nor any irate protesting

*(Editorials continued on Page 2)*

# Here's what will determine Kornegay's career record

Next Tuesday a 36-year-old Greensboro attorney will be among the 435 newly-elected Congressmen who will take the oath of office for the 87th Congress.

Horace Kornegay will be a new face on Capitol Hill as representative of the Sixth District. He succeeds Chapel Hill's Carl Durham who has retired after 22 fruitful years in office.

When he went to Washington on a fluke of political fate in 1938, Carl Durham at the age of 46 was no inexperienced youngster in the science of government. The Orange County druggist had already served ably on the local board of aldermen and the school board. And he had for many years been active in local, state, and congressional politics. But from a promising start he grew quietly and steadily to the role of statesman before his retirement.

Compare his career to the promise of the future for his successor. Horace Kornegay, while new to national government, leaves behind him a record of two terms as District Solicitor. Since his days as a law student at Wake Forest College he has shown a continued and effective healthy interest in politics.

In bidding him godspeed on his new career as our representative in the federal government, The News has but two observations:

(1) Horace Kornegay was elected as a member of the national Democratic party. Throughout the past campaign he worked energetically not only in his own behalf, but for the election of his fellow nominees on the state and national tickets.

The stereotype of the Southern Democratic Congressman has all-too-often been that of a julep-sipping Claghorn who teamed up with the Republicans on significant votes. This image, unfortunately, bears some truth: The GOP is still looking to the South as its principal hope in the next Congress for a coalition to block much of the Democratic administration's program.

Carl Durham was not a flamboyant regionalist in Washington. Neither was he in the liberal wing of his party. Yet in the summary of his long, persevering career he was, at the least, a good Democrat. Many a time when it would have been easier and more popular for him to join fellow southern Congressmen in bolting their party on crucial issues of progressive legislation he remained quietly loyal.

From this record Carl Durham's successor may take a cue. Being a loyal Democrat as a freshman Congressman may oft-times be difficult. But in large part it will chart the course of a rising, progressive young legislator, or of just another southern Congressman.

Secondly, it should be clear that Congressmen are no special animals. There are mental giants and less-than-average intellects in the highest halls of our government. Neither sort is a good or bad Congressman for this quality of itself.

Horace Kornegay has laid no claim to a lengthy background

*(See NOTEPAD, next page)*

## Let's get down to earth!



—Walt Partymiller, York Gazette & Daily

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