

The News of orange county

SEC. II, PAGE 1 THE NEWS—THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1961

Fancy or foresight --idea is worth study

The idea of obtaining the centrally-located 10-acre Chapel Hill High School property as a municipal center is certainly a charming one.

This suggestion, made to the Board of Aldermen by some interested citizens recently, is based on the assumption that school administrators want in due time to move the school out of the middle of town.

If the building and land were the available for some other purpose, as was the case with the old Carrboro School recently, it would unquestionably be a wonderful thing if the Town could feasibly buy it and develop the property as a permanent municipal center.

Of all criticism of the idea, it cannot be said that it is short-sighted. The real questions appear to be: (1) Is the School Board willing to move its schools away from these locations and (2) Can the municipality practically swing such a million-dollar-plus deal?

Sought "triangle" purchase postponement . . .

As a part of its request that the Town investigate this general proposition, the citizens also asked the Board of Aldermen to hold off on purchase of another centrally-located site on which a fire station would likely be erected. This is the North Columbia St.-Airport Rd. "triangle," a four-acre tract, purchase of which has been pending for over a year.

Though the Town Board has decided to go ahead and buy the latter property with voter-approved bond funds, this decision shouldn't affect the major and overriding proposal for a real and permanent municipal center. If there's possibility of this proposal being worked out—and the contrary certainly hasn't been shown—it merits immediate and thorough investigation.

Many citizens of Chapel Hill today, recall how the idea of a community of 25,000 and a University of 9,000 students was thought-fanciful only a few years ago. Both are realities today, and the growth isn't likely to stop.

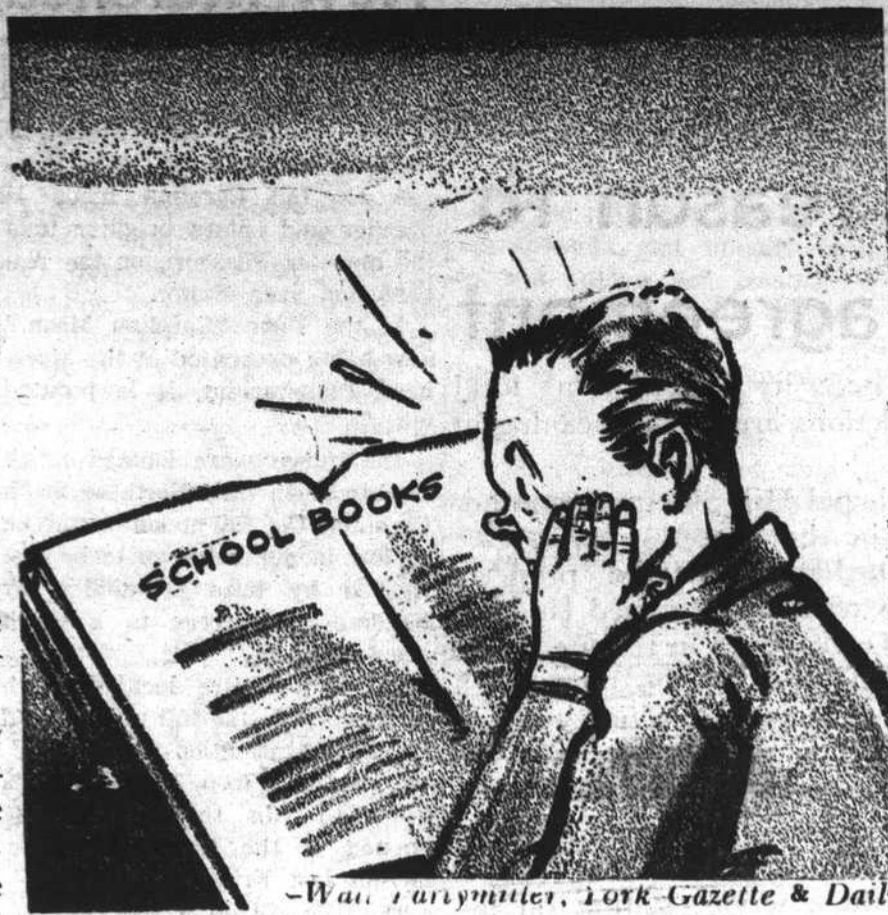
An idea that sounds far-fetched today may in a short period prove to have been foresighted planning.

Quality parents are needed for schools

There's much concern as the new school year opens that the now higher-salaried teachers give the full measure of their effort to quality education.

The other side of this coin is well stated by an anonymous Chapel Hill teacher in a recent letter to the Greensboro Daily News. The teacher is appropriately critical of three situations:

1. The casual way parents take children out of school classes. In this teacher's school last year classes were interrupted twice a week as 31 out of 400 pupils were taken out by their parents for private piano lessons. And—"On top of this parents take out students to go to dentists, doc-



—Walt Rarymiller, York-Gazette & Daily

tors, the circus and a weekend in South Carolina with Grandma."

2. The casual way parents keep up with student progress. Parents who wouldn't seek a curbside conference with their doctor, lawyer, or dentist, don't hesitate to "take advantage of teachers in the super market . . . while the ice cream in the grocery cart melts . . . or "Let me start to broil a steak and watch for a 30-minute call." Please, parents, the teacher asks, call the teacher at school after teaching hours for conferences on your child's education.

3. The effect of part-time teachers on the profession. This teacher indignantly points to "too many people teaching who prefer it to the evils of staying home looking after three babies and keeping house . . . while the career teacher is giving the job all she has."

In summary the teacher from Chapel Hill asked the Daily News for its comments on the above. The Daily News suggested the teacher had done the job thoroughly herself. With this sentiment The News thoroughly agrees, in quoting further from the Greensboro editor's final footnote: "To get quality education North Carolina will require quality parents as well as quality teachers."

"The education job begins at home."

Firm and final action needed on zoning law

Everybody who is concerned with the attractiveness of Chapel Hill and with making democratic local government effective will see a hopeful sign in the decision of the Chapel Hill aldermen to enforce the local zoning ordinance that has been blatantly flouted by billboard advertising firms.

Planning Board member Jack Lasley spoke an absolute truth when he declared that the billboard firms have continued to be "in contempt" of the town. The zoning ordinance that was passed in 1955 under authority of the General Assembly ordered removal of billboards along the major highways by a deadline of five years from passage of the ordinance.

Not a single billboard was voluntarily removed, and in fact a great number of additional ones were added as the deadline approached.

A government that willingly allows or fails to halt disregard of its authority is dishonest to its trust. Chapel Hill officials have not been dishonest in that the billboards are still up 18 months after the deadline for their removal. The town has tried to bring about compliance, though these efforts to date have failed.

Now the aldermen and the planning board, as chosen representatives of the public in this community, have made it unquestionably clear that they mean business in this matter; that the ordinance they passed was passed for a purpose and is to be obeyed. Those charged with directly enforcing the ordinance should now lose no time in carrying out this order.

There may be threats of unconstitutionality, weeping and wailing, and more dilatory tactics on the part of billboard owners. But the town made its decision on this matter more than six years ago in an ordinance that itself was passed after five years deliberation.

This part of the zoning ordinance is now at a "put up or shut up" crossroads so far as the local government is concerned. Firm and final action is called for—if land use controls are in the future to mean anything at all hereabouts.

(Editorials continued on Page 2)

'Pill Hill' full of memories as childhood play grounds

Soon the botany and geology buildings will rise on "Medical Hill" at the edge of the University campus, finally eliminating a pre-meal playground for Chapel Hill youngsters of earlier years.

Across the campus many buildings are just buildings. But in the Division of Health Affairs each one marks the site of some childhood play center.

Even Kenan Stadium ranks as a newcomer to south-side Chapel Hill. Shortly after arriving in Chapel Hill about 35 years ago, our family lived in one of the University-owned rental houses that stood on the site of the giant public health building now under construction.

(It was said all through those early years that this particular house rented for \$5 a month less than the five others on University Drive because it had been built by mistake facing the highway instead of the Drive.)

My parents recalled the clattering of rocks and rubble on the composition slate-shingled roof of this house while construction dynamiting was going on at Kenan Stadium.

Some years later several neighborhood boys were passing by the George Heintish's house across the street, en route to the construction site of Chapel Hill High School—where the School of Pharmacy now stands. A blast shook the area and a rock sailed through a living room window at the Heintish's.

In a twinkling Mrs. Heintish, a high school teacher for many years, appeared in the shattered glass and asked sternly, "Roland, did you break this window?"—Still recovering from the un-expected shock of the blast moments before the 10-year-old lad was almost too surprised to answer.

Despite the solid attractiveness of the pharmacy building now, many homesteaders driving by on the Pittsboro highway still do a double take there. The mind's eye yet sees the two-story wood-columned brick building that housed the high school on this same site from 1937 till it burned in the late summer of 1942.

"Stadium Woods" where the mammoth complex of Memorial Hospital now stands held a special place in the hearts of neighborhood small fry. With toy cars and imaginative minds they spent endless hours—even days—building cities in the light wilderness across the highway from their homes.

Favorite spot of this area was "the old scout shack"—in actuality two old convict barracks at the high point of what is now Victory Village. Old Troop Five of the Cherokee Council had its meeting place there in a wonderful building where the meeting night shouts of youngsters disturbed nobody. Chapel Hill's Troop 39 in the Occaneechee Council was also founded in the "shack" about 25 years ago after Orange County was taken out of the Cherokee Council.

About all that's left of the old Stadium Woods today is a one-acre glade around what was known for several summers as "Utley's Dam." This is the patch of woods between the Hospital entrance drive and Wilson Hall.

There must have been at least two dozen stout young hearts in-

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