

# Betty Smith's next book is about Chapel Hill

BY LINDA BISER

Chapel Hill again establishes its place in the literary world this time via Betty Smith's yet uncompleted novel partially set in Chapel Hill—although it won't be called that.

The noted local author of novels and plays recently revealed the plot of her latest book to be published in June to members of the UNC Press Club, an organization of Jour-

nalism students here.

It provides a new twist on an old theme of a girl working to educate her husband sometimes right out of her life. This time Miss Smith's heroine "educates herself above her husband's level."

"A good writer has a retentive memory," notes Miss Smith. "If your bus is late, get mad! Go into the washroom and kick the sink but

remember how you felt for later reference."

One novel, "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" brought Miss Smith international acclaim. She still receives royalties from it and an average of three fan letters a day. She confided that she sent the manuscript to 12 publishers during two years before it was finally accepted. "I wouldn't have typed it again,"

she added. Rejects don't bother her however since she figures the law of averages will intervene.

Plays are easier for her to write but novels produce more lasting results, says Miss Smith. Therefore, she writes her novels completely in dialogue then selects the very best parts, eliminates others and turns the rest into descriptive passages.

When traveling she sometimes looks up her name in libraries across the country and is thrilled to find her books there. Sometimes she makes experiments of living on fifty cents a day to keep in touch with what it's like to be poor. All fiction is autobiographical she feels, reflecting an author's experiences and the people he's met.

## Paul Kennedy is asst. head of health unit

Dr. Paul A. Kennedy, Jr., of Fort Lee, N. J., has joined the staff of the District Health Department and will serve as Assistant District Health Director during the next fiscal year.

Dr. Kennedy is a commissioned officer in the Public Health Service having been assigned by the Heart Disease Division of the Chronic Disease Section of the Public Health Service. He is a graduate of Holy Cross College, Worcester, Mass., and Columbia University.

He served his internship at Georgetown University Hospital in Washington; a surgical residency at George Washington University Hospital and two years residency training in urology at Presbyterian and Flowers Fifth Avenue Hospital, New York. Dr. Kennedy entered on active duty with the Public Health Service on Sept. 22.

Married to Patricia Ann Kennedy of Alexandria, Va. he will live in Chapel Hill and work in all of the counties of the district.

Dr. Kennedy is filling the position formerly occupied by Dr. C. S. Fuller who is on a year's leave of absence while studying at the University School of Public Health.

### OFFICERS ELECTED AT TOWN CLASSES

The student body of Town Classes Secretarial College recently elected their student council officers for the 1961-1962 school year. Jane Barclay of Chapel Hill was chosen as president of the student body. Aiding her in carrying out the duties of the student council are Brenda Jones of Kannapolis as vice president, and Nancy Lasater of Lillington as Secretary and Treasurer.



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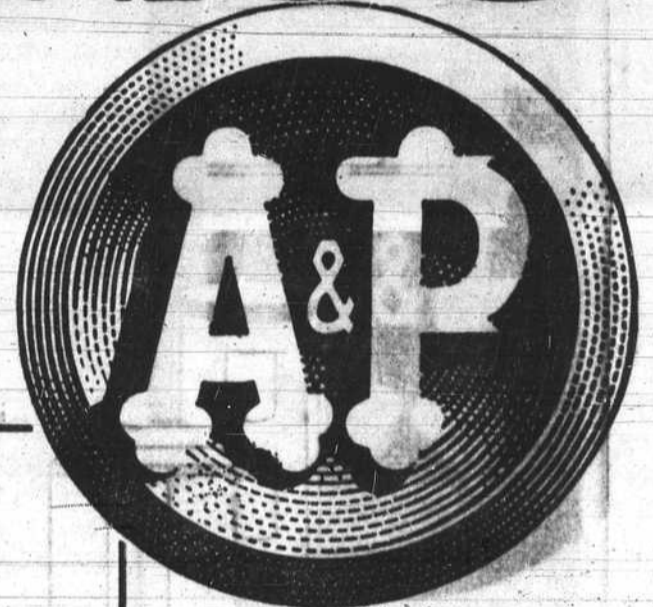
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