

The News of orange county

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Here's a prerequisite to that opportunity

Hillsboro's "exciting history" and the "rare opportunity" to capitalize on it were forcefully brought home last week by Voit Gilmore, a man who is effectively forwarding the "exciting history" of the United States of America now as head of its Travel Service.

Mr. Gilmore might well have put the case even more strongly. He might appropriately have challenged us that Hillsboro citizens today have a moral obligation to education and civilization now and forever more to preserve the remaining tangible heritage of the colonial capital of this state.

The Hillsborough Historical Society, a vigorous and conscientious new organization, realizes this full well, and is bending its every effort toward preserving and reconstructing that which is important in old Hillsboro.

But it will take far more than the effort of this dedicated group to accomplish the task. It will take general support of the citizens, and in particular, of the municipal government. Then it will take money, plenty of it, and likely a major underwriting from some large philanthropic foundation.

It is interesting that several times in his talk the speaker, Mr. Gilmore, called attention to the need for a "master plan" and to the need for steps to prevent the further loss of old homes, defacing of the landscape, and damage to property values.

Leads to this point . . .

This leads directly to one starting point — an issue this week revived locally: Zoning for the Town of Hillsboro. You can be sure that no foundation, or potential donor of any significant means is going to give funds for a Hillsboro restoration project until there is some assurance through zoning that such a bequest will be protected by reasonable land use controls.

And it is further likely that without such sensible controls the land of the Town of Hillsboro is not going to be worth what it should be worth. And gradually, as it already has, the yet significant heritage in old buildings and homes of Hillsboro will continue to vanish.

Civil defense effort merits support given

After more than 10 years a'borning, a civil defense organization for Chapel Hill has become a reality.

The Chapel Hill Board of Aldermen has unanimously approved the request of local Civil Defense Director George Spooner for an appropriation of \$994 to cover the remainder of the fiscal year. It is to be hoped that the Town of Carrboro will come forth with the modest \$130 that is being requested as its proportionate share for the same period.

That nothing concrete has been done about civil defense in Chapel Hill to date has certainly not been the fault of the local directors or of the municipal gov-



ernments, for there has been an official "paper" organization since 1951. The fact is that almost nobody other than the director himself has given a hoot about civil defense here.

Suddenly came alive . . .

But somehow the issue suddenly came alive in Chapel Hill. The local aldermen agreed there'd been no matter of business in their collective memories on which they'd received so many letters, telephone calls, and personal visits, all asking them to approve the civil defense director's fund request.

Now that this has been done Chapel Hill will have a full-time paid office worker to aid the non-salaried director in perfecting the necessarily, intricate details of this organization. This will make the community eligible for the emergency supply stockpiles which will be given by the federal government.

Give validity to shelters . . .

When these are received and properly distributed, the various locations marked by the yellow and black shields around the campus and town will finally bear some validity as practical shelters, in the event of an emergency.

It is appropriate that a community so concerned with long-range planning as is Chapel Hill has finally gotten around to action on this potentially all-important ultimate phase of planning. Basic credit for the foresight and follow-through needed to bring some results out of years of passiveness is due Director Spooner—and no doubt, also, the Cuban crisis of last fall. Surely it will not be necessary to await other "Cuban crises" to keep the citizenry concerned—and prepared.

Big government given revolutionary proposal

The North Carolina Association of County Commissioners is by no means an un-progressive or reactionary group. And its officers, as individual county commissioners, are certainly not persons who take lightly their duties of financing necessary local services.

Thus it is of more than rhetorical significance that the directors of this Association, meeting in Chapel Hill last weekend, passed a resolution which in basic purpose asks the federal government to halt its financial aid to the public health, welfare, and educational programs of the states and counties.

The President of the Association called this "the most important resolution adopted" by them in many years. It was passed in response to a questionnaire from a U. S. Senate subcommittee on government relations. While the resolution actually asked the Governor and General Assembly to study this matter and make recommendations to Congress on their own, the county commissioners group was quite plain spoken. It notes "bitter experience" with the restrictions the federal government levied in connection with its monetary grants.

\$10 billion at stake . . .

What is at stake is about \$10 billion — the amount the federal government is expected to grant local and state governments in fiscal 1964. This amounts to more than 10 per cent of the total United States budget!

In Orange County what is at stake—in the Welfare Department alone — is about \$350,000 in this fiscal year. And this is 70 per cent of the half-million dollar overall budget of this agency. This is what the federal gov-

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New museum near Durham for youngsters worth seeing

For a number of years there has been talk of setting up a children's museum in Chapel Hill under the sponsorship of a new or existing civic group. In fact, the present building in the Umstead recreation area north of town was originally intended for this purpose.

Of course the big drawback to such a project is not in getting it set up, but in assuring that it will be properly maintained. On that rock all local efforts to date have foundered.

By contrast an example of a rather good children's museum is that which has been set up for the past 15 years in Durham. While sponsored by the City Recreation Department and located on municipal property, it is actually run by a separate non-profit group, the Children's Museum organization.

A 15-minute drive . . .

The Museum's previous makeshift quarters in an old home adjoining Hillandale Golf Course in Durham were closed down last year when the owners decided to develop the property. Its new home is on a wooded 10-acre tract in Bragtown — actually 433 Murray Ave., about a 15-minute drive from either Chapel Hill or Hillsboro.



..Youngsters like the animals at the museum...

The modest 30 by 50-foot one-room building opened last fall is the first unit of what is planned as 11 structures and developments on the entire site. The Museum association financed the entire \$11,000 capital improvement project, and in fact pays for operation of the Museum except for a small annual contribution from the city.

While yet in the early stages of its reorganization, the Museum has a plant and an organization worthy of the community's pride — and a series of reasonably well maintained exhibits that children can enjoy and learn from.

Soon re-open zoo . . .

It's planned this spring to re-open the outdoor zoo beside the Museum building. Meantime there are a dozen or so live animals — squirrels, guinea pigs, a parrot, possum, mice, turtles, and fish in one section of the building. There are also a number of stuffed animals attractively mounted in a fenced-off indoor setting.

There's an incidental service of mercy rendered by the Museum, too. On a recent Sunday afternoon The Newsman's youngsters were fascin-

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