

# Unopened Bid Controversy Settled By Commissioners

## Board Moved Correctly, Says A. H. Graham

Over what to do about M. S. Howerton's irregularly submitted low bid to complete the west section of the new Orange County courthouse dropped a resounding thud on the advice of the county attorney at a meeting of the commissioners on Tuesday night.

A. H. "Sandy" Graham, who handles millions in bids every year as chairman of the State Highway and Public Works Commission, had ready answer for the dilemma in which the commissioners found themselves after the local carpenter sent in a sealed bid some \$3,000 below the accepted one, but failed to get it opened when the bid did not comply with specific instructions in the specifications for bidders.

The formal resolution of the board accepting the low bids sub-

mitted on July 29, Graham told the commissioners, "completed the contract between Orange County and these successful bidders." He said they would be open to suit if this were broken.

The attorney's ruling completely vindicated the action of Architect Archie Royal Davis and Chairman R. O. Forrest in refusing to open the Howerton bid when it did not contain a contractor's license as required by the specifications.

Davis told the commissioners he would have been subject to a fine of \$500 and Howerton another \$500 under state statutes if he had opened Howerton's bid and it had exceeded \$20,000. All previous estimates and all bids opened prior to Howerton's were above the \$20,000 mark. Said Davis: "Legally we couldn't open it, legally he couldn't even bid."

Howerton had neither a contractor's license from the licensing board or the \$100 privilege license which the State of North Carolina requires of all bidders on jobs as high as \$10,000. This later deficiency was soon rectified by the State Department of Revenue following publication of the bid, the

commissioners were told.

Graham said it was incumbent upon Howerton, knowing that his bid was under \$20,000 and knowing that a contractor's license was required above that, to have been present at the letting and advised the commissioners, who could then have opened the bid in safety. Howerton first bid slightly over \$17,000 and then raised it about \$2,000 to \$18,915 between the time it was returned to him and his resubmission on August 2, after other

bids were published.

In another action at Tuesday's meeting, the board agreed to accept the forfeit check of Paschal Brothers and allow that firm to withdraw from the heating contract awarded it in the July 29 letting. Paschal failed to take into account heating of the storage room in the northern end of the basement and subsequently raised his price \$1,000. The architect was instructed to call for new bids on August 19 for the heating contract.

## A Chapel Hill Story

### Dealers Combine Against 'Doc' And The Juke Box

(Editor's Note: Well-remembered to many Chapel Hillians through the past 25 years is one of the community's most genial and casual philosophers, "Doc" Blodgett, a student at the University during various periods from the early '30's through 1952. During this period he also worked on the Greensboro Daily News and the Durham Morning Herald while living in Chapel Hill. The story reprinted below gives an insight into an incident that seems typically "Doc.")

By J. P. BRADY  
IN THE FRANKLIN PRESS

A recent column by this newspaper's editor—Mr. Jones—on his unsuccessful encounter with those banes of dining establishments, juke boxes, reminded me of a man whom Mr. Jones would probably immortalize for his relentless war on the brightly colored music boxes.

This man was a big, hulking, 250-pound newspaperman named "Doc" Blodgett, whose heart was as big as his frame. "Doc" (don't know how he got that name) was one of those legendary "old school" newspaper characters, who bounced from one job to another with the regularity of an elevator, and who was always flat broke but smiling. His financial condition had direct bearing on his folksy philosophy—"help everyone you can; there are plenty of poor souls in sadder shape than you are."

And "Doc" would help anyone that needed help; his contributions were monetary or spiritual, it mattered little to him. "Doc", in his wrinkled tweed suit (the only one he owned), and this column used to stump the state on some of the wildest adventures possible—always on a mission to help someone, at his suggestion. There was the time we took a load of books and school supplies to an isolated one-room school near Boone; a trip that encompassed a seven-mile hike (supplies on a horse sled) to the school, and a night in jail for me and "Doc". The latter accommodation was at the invitation, not the insistence of the sheriff, who put us up for the night when "Doc" gave our (I should say my) last \$5 to the spunky school teacher, who was sick in bed when we found her.

#### One Exception

Well, that's the kind of a guy "Doc" was. He loved everything

with one exception.

He had a passionate hate for juke boxes and his greatest ambition in life was to "make hash of one of those multi-colored monstrosities."

Time and again, as we ate in joints over the state, I would listen to "Doc" spout vehemently against the infernal machines and the "classical idiots" feeding money into them. As he hulked over a cup of coffee, a wild gleam in his eyes, "Doc" would solemnly vow to make hash of one some day.

And "his day" came. I think it was back in 1948. "Doc" was holding down a desk job with the Greensboro Daily News, a job he referred to as "a perch-like thing to keep body and soul on speaking terms with stomach."

I bumped into him in downtown Chapel Hill and seeing that, although he was working again, he could use a good meal, I invited him out to our trailer for a three-course dinner (water, coffee, and doughnuts) and, for the first time in our association, he refused me.

"The time has come for me to repay some of those hand-outs you and the lovely wife have been tamping into me," he declared, pulling out a large roll of bills.

"Gas up the buggy and I'll buy the chow."

The wife, being a working gal, had to decline this noonday banquet, so "Doc" and I piled in my car and headed for the vicinity of Durham in search of a square meal. We ended up in a little road house somewhere on the outskirts of the city.

"Doc" draped his gangly frame over a bar stool and started sipping tap beer, one of his favorite pastimes.

A pimply-faced kid, whose witticisms were wrenching spasms of giggles from a young girl in a nearby booth, got up and approached the juke box.

"Doc's" jaw tightened as he watched the kid put a quarter in the machine and the lights flashed on.

Then "Doc" really loudly howled when the kid punched the same record FIVE times.

As the music started, the girl over in the booth gushed, "Gee, our song."

#### Breaking Point

Red flooded up around "Doc's" collar and I knew that the breaking point I had been aware of for some time had been reached.

"Doc" bellowed for the manager, who eyed the big man's left and meekly asked what the trouble was.

"Tell me how much those confounded juke boxes cost?" "Doc" demanded.

"I can let you have that one for \$175", the manager ventured, sensing, no doubt, a chance to make a little money from his obvious rage.

"Sold," "Doc" roared, jerking his roll of bills from his pocket. Whereupon, he unwrapped his frame from the stool, stalked across the room, removed a fire axe from the wall, rolled up his sleeves, and proceeded to "make hash" of the juke box under the horrified eyes of the young couple and the manager.

"My soul has found peace," "Doc" reflected as we rolled down the highway, "I'm broke, but I'm happy."

I never questioned him . . .

## At Request Of Orange County

### Carrboro, White Cross School District Divided Into Two Units By State Board Of Education

Carrboro and White Cross will be separated into two school districts, the State Board of Education ruled last week.

The state board acted at the request of the Orange County Board of Education.

In a letter to Carrboro and White Cross District and Advisory Committees, Supt. G. P. Carr said, "As you probably know, the new district division will cause the County Board of Education to terminate your appointments as committeemen because the district for which you were appointed committeemen no longer exists.

Two new district committees, one for each of the two new districts, will have to be appointed. We will not use advisory committees for these districts."

Supt. Carr also called on the former committeemen to suggest "desirable persons" for the two committees.

The reason given for desiring a division of the school districts was "the difference in background and occupation in the two sections." However, it is understood that White Cross was suffering because it was in the district with Carrboro. White Cross has four teachers and 102 pupils, while Carrboro has 12 teachers and 374 pupils. White Cross has been losing pupils to the Carrboro School and a division of the district will channel students back to White Cross.

Here are descriptions of the new districts:

District 4-A, Carrboro: Beginning at Glenn Neville's house at the northeast corner of the White Cross School District and running in an easterly direction to Eu-

banks; thence with the tracks of the Southern Railway (State University Railway) in a southerly direction to Main Street in the town of Carrboro; thence south 4° 21' east along the eastern boundary of the property of the Carrboro Woolen Mills to the town limits; thence with town limits in a westerly direction to the intersection of the town limits and county highway 558; thence in a southerly direction following the back of the property lines on the left side of the county highway 558 to the Chatham County line; thence in a westerly direction with the Chatham County line to the southeast corner of the White Cross District; thence in a northerly direction by the old Claude Neville place, Gates Service Station, and Bethel Church to the Glenn Neville home which is the point of origin.

District 4-B, White Cross: Beginning at the Glenn Neville house and running in a southerly direction by Bethel Church, Gates Service Station, and the old Claude Neville place to the Chatham County line; thence in a westerly direction along the Chatham County line to the Alamance County line; thence in a northerly direction along the Alamance County line to the farm of George Lasley; thence in an easterly direction to Dodson's Cross Roads, following an unnamed county road from Dodson's Cross Roads in an easterly direction to Glenn Neville's, which is the point of origin.

## Glen Lennox X-Ray Clinic Set Saturday

The Orange-Person-Chatham-Lee District Health Department will conduct a free chest X-ray clinic for residents of Glen Lennox Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the parking lot of the Glen Lennox Shopping Center.

All persons 16 or older and anybody who has been in contact with a known case of tuberculosis or have been tested and found to be tuberculin positive, regardless of age, is urged to get a chest X-ray during these hours.

Dr. O. David Garvin, District Health Officer, announced that with a little less than a half-year remaining, approximately 12,000 chest X-rays have been taken in the Orange-Person-Chatham-Lee District. Out of this number, 404 cardio-vascular conditions (enlargement of heart and large blood vessels); and two cases of cancer of the lung have also been found.

The Glen Lennox clinic will be conducted by Dr. James L. Goddard of the U. S. Public Health Service, who has been acting in the capacity of Assistant District Health Officer for the past year. Dr. Goddard's tour of duty with the District Health Department will end the latter part of August, at which time he will leave for a year's graduate study at Harvard University, School of Public Health.

## What's on the Air

- WCHL Programs**  
1360 on the Dial  
Hours: 6 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday and Friday**
- 6:30 Easy Does It.
  - 8:05 What's Going On.
  - 9:05 Personals: Home Stretch.
  - 10:05 Mid-Morning Music.
  - 11:15 This is the Hour.
  - 12:15 News Summary.
  - 12:25 What's Going On.
  - 12:30 Scott Jarrett.
  - 12:45 Patriotic Platter.
  - 1:05 Dig These.
  - 3:05 Personals.
  - 3:15 Rhythm Rendezvous.
  - 3:30 Music For You.
  - 4:30 Evensong.
  - 6:05 What's Going On.
  - 7:30 Listening Tip.
- Saturday**
- 6:30 Easy Does It.
  - 8:05 What's Going On.
  - 9:05 Saturday's Sound.
  - 10:30 Proudly We Hail.
  - 11:05 Silent Sid.
  - 12:00 Radio Auction
  - 12:15 State and National News
  - 12:25 What's Going On.
  - 12:30 Luncheon with Lenny.
  - 1:05 Variety.
  - 1:30 Records at 33 1/2, 45, 78
  - 4:30 Highway Hits
  - 5:05 Evensong
  - 7:30 Listening Tip
- Sunday**
- 6:05 Hymns.
  - 7:30 Meditation.
  - 8:05 Your Community Chapel.
  - 8:35 Howard Barlow Conducts.
  - 9:05 Concert Hour.
  - 9:45 Christopher's Program
  - 10:05 What's Going On
  - 10:10 Williams Conducts
  - 11:00 Carrboro Methodist Church
  - 12:05 Rainbow Rendezvous.
  - 12:25 What's Going On.
  - 12:30 Calvalcade of Music.
  - 1:00 State and National News.
  - 1:15 Let's Go To Town.
  - 1:30 Music by Mantovani.
  - 2:05 Frankie Carle.
  - 2:15 UN Story.
  - 2:30 Sunday Concert.
  - 4:05 Snack Time.
  - 4:30 Evensong.
  - 7:00 Listening Tip.

## Math Group Ends Sessions

The Conference in Collegiate Mathematics, which has been running for eight weeks at the University, closed Friday.

Most of the 77 members, representing 47 colleges and universities located in 24 states and three foreign countries, have left for their homes.

This Conference, which was sponsored and financed by the National Science Foundation, had as its primary purpose that of fostering the improvement of the training of undergraduates in mathematics.

According to Prof. E. A. Cameron, the Conference Director, the Conference achieved its purpose to a high degree.

The principal lectures, delivered by the two eminent mathematicians, Prof. Emil Artin of Princeton University and Prof. Tibor Rado of Ohio State University, together with shorter series of lectures by other mathematicians, constituted a program of extreme value which held the interest of visiting professors of mathematics throughout the term of the Conference, Prof. Cameron said.

## ROSEMARY AUTOMATIC LAUNDRY

(Rear Fowler's Food Store)  
The Laundry That Gets Your Clothes the Whitest, Brightest and Cleanest.

Hand Ironing

BUY NOW—WE GUARANTEE SATISFACTION, OR YOUR MONEY BACK

★ it's Lowe Brothers



**PLAX**  
for FINEST ENAMELING RESULTS

Beautiful! Tough! One coat covers!

Famous Lowe Brothers Plax is as easy to use as it is to say! Just brush it on and watch it "wake up" dull furniture, cabinets, walls, toys—dozens of things inside the house or out! One coat of this universal beauty finish is usually sufficient for finest results on repainting work. Plax dries in a jiffy to a tough, elastic finish that withstands all kinds of wear, weather and abuse—even many stains and acids! Choose from a fine variety of cheerful Style-Tested Colors. \$1.23 per pint

**HUGGINS HARDWARE**

SAVE MONEY NOW  
By Filling Up Your  
Oil Tank or Coal Bin



**ORDER EARLY!**

For Quick Service Call 6161  
**Bennett & Blocksidge**  
105 E. Franklin St.

## Time To Start Your Back-To-School Sewing New Fall Cottons

Are Arriving Daily

Bates, Dan River And Many Others  
Come in now and see the many attractive new Fall patterns and colors in dress fabrics that are ideal for making girls' school dresses. We also carry a complete line of thread, buttons, tape, zippers and Advance Patterns for children's dresses.

Make Custom Made Belts, Buttons and Buckles.  
**Carolina Drapery Shop**  
W. Franklin St. Phone 6986

Only Two More Days  
of Our Summer  
**Clearance Sale**  
Savings Up To 50%  
**Andrews-Henninger Co.**  
133 E. Franklin St.