

Mrs. Umstead Still Feels New At Politics

By Bonnie Angelo Levy
Durham—Generally, it's the Republican Party that is accused of shouting, "Me, too!"

Yet, here's a staunch Democrat who's using that philosophy as a platform in the current race for Governor.

Somewhat, the old echo is given new meaning when Mrs. William B. Umstead says earnestly, "Whatever my husband wants, I want, too."

She makes it clear that she hopes for victory in the current campaign just for him. It is his desire for the State's number one job that makes her willing to swap all the things she loves for a temporary stay in borrowed quarters—even if those quarters are the great dark house set back impressively from Raleigh's Blount Street, the Governor's Mansion.

The change from "Mr. Umstead's wife" to "First Lady," is one that she declined to contemplate. "I just have not crossed that bridge yet," she said hesitantly.

Feels New
You might think that Mrs. Umstead would be used to politics—she married into it. To the contrary, "I feel very new at it," she admitted.

That's one of several paradoxes you run into after a morning's chat with her. You'd never suspect that this small and soft-spoken woman could have managed school boys older and bigger than she was with one hand and the other left over to teach with.

But she did just that, back when she was only 19.

She returned to her home town in Rutherford County, Bostic, after two years at Asheville Normal College, and found herself with the job of principal of the school. Although she had to look up to some of the big boys—in stature anyway—she declares that "discipline was never any problem."

Meanwhile, she was making quite a record for herself, and after three years won a scholarship to Trinity College, which became Duke University just in time for her class to have the new name on their sheepskins in 1926.

The scholarship added more than a degree to Merle Davis' name. While visiting in the home of friends in Durham, she met William Umstead, who was already practicing law there. She moved back to the western quarter of the state to teach at the Rutherfordton-Spindale High School. ("I majored in English, but I wound up teaching math—and, believe me, I had to work at it!")

During her two-year return to the classroom, Mr. Umstead, already elected Solicitor, followed Horace Greeley's advice—as far as Rutherfordton, anyway—and traveled the westward road offener and offener.

And then the green-eyed school marm added Umstead to her name. With her marriage, she shifted her home address to Durham.

In 1932 her Durham domesticity was altered when Mr. Umstead won a seat in Congress, which meant winters in Washington and summers at home.

"Washington was an interesting, stimulating place to live," she recalled—and for six years she enjoyed it. Later, she had a chance to go again, when "William" was appointed in December, 1946, to fill the unexpired term of Senator Josiah Bailey. But that time their daughter, Merle (now nine), was just a toddler, so Mrs. Umstead chose to remain in their comfortable white brick house on Hermitage Court Drive.

It's a modest house—six rooms on two floors—"but sometimes it can seem awfully big," said Mrs. Umstead, who does all her own work.

Most of that work she loves, especially cooking. She disclaims any specialties, explaining that "cooking three meals a day rules out time for fancy things."

The house had the easy look of one that's lived in: a breakfast room transformed to a nook for young Merle's piano, the sunporch piled high with the lesser impediments of a fourth-grader, Pinkie, the alley cat who came to stay, curled up happily on the sofa, a family Bible on a table, flowers on the desk.

The Umsteads live there rather quietly, according to the lady of the house.

YOUNG MISS WITH IDEAS



An up and coming movie starlet, Nancy Lane, seen to appear in "Young Miss with Ideas," wears this powder blue cotton broadcloth dress with white trim in the picture.

house, entertaining little, except for the Noah's Ark method of a couple at the time.

Keeps Busy
She keeps busy in a variety of ways. The Garden Study Club, the PTA, the Daughters of Colonial Wars, the Woman's Club, the Needlework Guild (to provide clothes for needy families)—all these are worked in with church activities and household managing.

Perhaps the biggest extra-curricular interest has been the American Legion Auxiliary. For 23 years she has been a member and all kinds of officers—unit president, historian, secretary—and is now president of the Past Presidents' Parley. When the state convention meets in Durham in June, she'll play a leading part in auxiliary sessions.

Right now she's having a hard time keeping her mind totally on that convention, for she's folding campaign letters, going to a meeting occasionally with her husband, visiting the bustling Raleigh headquarters now and then.

Three more strained weeks—but, just as she held those overgrown school boys in check 30 years ago, she's not letting the excitement of a big political race ruffle her calm demeanor.

Proceedings Of Commissioners

May 5, 1952

At a regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners held at the Court House on the first Monday, the 5th day of May, 1952: Present and presiding A. T. Lane, Chairman, with Commissioners R. S. Chappell, E. B. Hollowell, W. C. Chappell and E. A. Turner. Absent: none.

The Perquimans County Board of Education, in regular session Monday, April 7, 1952, requested of the Perquimans County Commissioners a supplement to the 1951-52 budget, necessary to pay one third of the Home Economics teacher's salary at the Perquimans Training School; and on motion the request was adopted by the County Commissioners.

A report was filed with the commissioners relative to the Perquimans County Library which will be considered at their regular meeting in July when the over-all budget is adopted.

The 1952-53 salary schedule for Perquimans County white Extension workers as proposed by the State office, which will be considered when the county budget is approved.

The Perquimans County Welfare Officer presented the budget for the welfare program for the year 1951-52, which on motion was adopted, and filed with the minutes of this meeting.

On motion ordered, that Perquimans County pay the sum of \$360.00 on salary of Assistant Home Agent, beginning July 1, 1952.

On motion the Treasurer was ordered to pay the following bills:

Winslow Oil Company, \$131.77; J. W. Ward, \$19.05; Pitt Farm Equipment Company, \$4.68; Darden Bros., \$25.50; Sam Hourmouzis, \$72.80; Mel-

vin G. Gunn, \$99.70; Perquimans Weekly, \$37.75; Dr. C. A. Davanport, \$5.00; J. C. Blanchard & Co., \$1.50; The N. C. Sanatorium, \$17.35; Winslow Oil Company, \$21.88; C. L. Mansfield, \$1.00; Hensford Hardware & Supply Co., \$36.34; Nor. & Car. Tel. & Tel. Co., \$4.85; Pitt Farm Equipment Co., \$1.95; Hertford Hardware & Supply Co., \$18.12; Robert A. White, \$8.40; Dr. T. P. Brinn, \$12.50; Jackson's Bicycle Shop, \$30.10; J. C. Morgan, \$387.45; C. Edgar White, \$3.07; Chowan Hospital, \$45.00; Owen C. Dunn Co., \$10.80; Miss Kinsey Parry, \$3.56; Sinclair Refining Co., \$46.82.

There being no further business the Board adjourned.

A. T. LANE, Chairman,
Attest: J. W. WARD,
Clerk To Board

HERTFORD MUSIC CLUB ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

Misses Jane and Jean Keel, and Maude Lee Corprew were hostesses last Wednesday evening to the Hertford Junior Music Club at the home of Mrs. R. M. Riddick, Counselor.

Charlie Johnson presided over the business session during which the following officers were elected, for the coming year:

President, Nancy Lane; vice president, Letitia McGoogan; secretary, Kay Mathews; treasurer, Warner Madre; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Riddick; pianist, Vicki Johnson.

As a project for the year, the club members had tried to make the highest rating in North Carolina; a letter from the State Counselor, with check enclosed, announced that they had made their goal for the third time in succession.

Nancy Lane was awarded a pin for having the best scrapbook at the state convention, and her sister, Anne Lane, won third place.

At the close of the business session, Nancy Lane presented the musical program, after which games were played, and refreshments served by the hostesses. Those present were:

Tommy White, Franklin McGoogan, Frank Ainsley, Edward Mathews, Jimmie Rogerson, Linda Bass, Diane Hollowell, Pat Drake, Anne Lane, Margaret Williams, Betsy Drane, C. D. White, Glennie Myers, Vicki Johnson, Ray Winslow, Letitia McGoogan, Warner Madre, Jane and Jean Keel, Nancy Lane, Julia Lapeine, Maude Lee Corprew, Kay Mathews, Kay Guthrie, Charlie Johnson, Mrs. Riddick, Counselor.

ASSES ASCENSION THURSDAY AND SUNDAY IN MARINE BASE CHAPEL AND EDENTON CHURCH

May 22, Feast of Christ's Ascension into Heaven, a holiday of obligation, the most holy sacrifice of the mass will be offered at 7 A. M., DST, in Marine Chapel, near Edenton, and at 7:30 and 11 A. M., both EST, in St. Ann's Catholic Church, Edenton, each including sermon on "Triumph," Holy Communion.

May 25, Sunday, masses at 7 and 9 A. M., DST, in Marine Chapel and at 11 A. M., EST, in Edenton Church, each including sermon on "The Holy Spirit," Communion, followed by May Devotions, Sunday School, with confessions for half hour before every service, stated Father F. J. McCourt, who invites everybody to all services. Mass week-days 7 A. M., EST, in Church.

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To The Voters Of Perquimans County:

I respectfully request your vote and support in the May 31st Primary for the office of Register of Deeds.

If you elect me to this office, I promise to fulfill the duties of the office in an efficient manner, with one thing always in mind: To treat every citizen of this County with the same courteous and helpful service I have always given you in my position at the Hertford Hardware & Supply Company.

Sincerely,
J. EDGAR MORRIS

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