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COMMEMORATIVE



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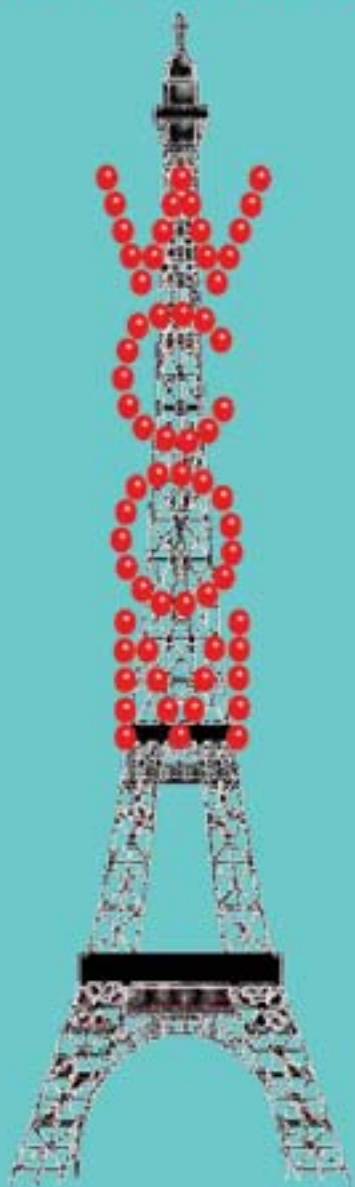


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THE CARRBORO CITIZEN

This commemorative volume was produced in celebration of the
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The Citizen would like to extend a special thank-you to Richard Ellington and
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without whose help this project would not have been possible.

All Watts Collection photos courtesy of Richard Ellington.

On the cover.

Carrboro, 1953: The central downtown looking westward down Main Street.
PHOTO BY MACK WATTS, COURTESY OF THE WATTS COLLECTION



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APRIL 2011

A FEW WORDS OF INTRODUCTION

Vicky and I were after overalls when we walked into Andrews-Riggsbee Hardware on South Greensboro that day back in 1972. She wanted the bib-type, hogwashers they were called, and I was looking for mechanics-type coveralls, 'cause I was the proud owner of a Beetle and an old motorcycle, both messy vehicles on which to work.

Andrews-Riggsbee was then located where you'll now find the Open Eye Café, and was one of those places where you could find darn near anything. That store, gone for years now, certainly claimed its spot in the rich history of Carrboro's first 100 years.

This volume you now hold in your hands aims to give you a good feel for the warp and woof of that history. Our families, our homes, our triumphs and defeats are all woven together into this tapestry we call Carrboro.

While *The Citizen* is proud to bring you



Carrboro Mills, circa 1940 PHOTO COURTESY WEAVER STREET MARKET

this centennial commemorative, it's the cast of volunteers who've compiled it who deserve the credit. These folks have done just about anything they were asked. The creation of this volume is, in many ways, indicative of our history: It's a collective project that represents the efforts of many of our citizens.

Lots of us who call Carrboro home started out some place else, but we're in Carrboro now because, well, we like it here. Carrboro is a good town, with good people doing the best they can to make an honest living. That's the way it's been for the first 100 years, and how it continues today.

This is our town and our history. Read, and enjoy.

Robert Dickson

Robert Dickson

Publisher, *The Carrboro Citizen*



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The little mill town that somebody once called “Paris of the Piedmont” celebrates its hundredth anniversary this year. Many of its downtown buildings have stood for half that century or more, yet are home to a vibrant and diverse community. The local grocery co-op and café Weaver Street Market, and historic Carr Mill Mall with its shops and restaurants, mark the heart of town. Along Main Street visitors flock to the nationally renowned music club Cat’s Cradle, the ArtsCenter, the popular Carrboro Farmers’ Market, and an array of top-notch restaurants, coffee shops, local retailers and gathering spots. Each year tens of thousands of tourists head to the North Carolina Comedy Arts Festival at DSI Comedy Theater, the Carrboro Music Festival, the Carrboro Film Festival, the Second Friday Art Walk and numerous other festivals. If you’re hosting friends and family from out of town this year, log on to www.visitcarrboro.org or call the Orange County Visitors Bureau at 919-968-2064.

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A FOUNDING FATHER

Julian Shakespeare Carr

BY DAVID OTTO

The story of Julian Shakespeare Carr and how the town came to be named after him is intriguing, if not troubling. He was the

son of Eliza Bullock and John Wesley Carr, a prominent Chapel Hill merchant who operated a general store on Franklin Street. When he was 18 years old, Carr dropped out of UNC and enlisted in the Confederate Army. He fought in the Battle of Appomattox and was passionate about his service to the Confederacy. Carr did not believe that the South lost the war and continued to defend the “noble cause” for the remainder of his life. However, his devotion to the Confederacy is but one facet of an extraordinary life.

When the United Confederate Veterans of America was formed in 1889, Carr joined enthusiastically. In addition to honoring the dead, the aim of the organization was to care for the poor and disabled, to preserve records and to document the history of the war from the perspective of the South. Carr became the leader of the North Carolina chapter and zealously dedicated his life to fulfilling the mission of the group. In response to his benevolence, Carr was given the honorary title of “General Jule,” and he would often give speeches dressed in the uniform of a Confederate general.

With a loan from his father in 1870, Carr became a partner in W.T. Blackwell’s tobacco business in Durham and aggressively marketed Bull Durham smoking tobacco in North America, Europe and Asia, and North Carolina gained renown as the tobacco capital of the world. Within 20 years, Carr became a millionaire and began to diversify in textiles, banking, railroads and public utilities.

In 1895, Carr formed the Durham Golden Belt Hosiery Company, his first venture in the textile industry. In 1898, he bought the Durham Hosiery Mill from a competitor and consolidated equipment from the two mills, retaining the “Durham Hosiery Mill” name. In 1902, he opened a new state-of-the-art mill. Meanwhile, two sons, Julian Carr Jr. and Marvin, were being groomed to run the mills and to carry on the Carr textile dynasty.

In 1909, he purchased two more mills located nearby in a community then known as the West End (of Chapel Hill). One was small, the Blanche Hosiery Mill, and the second was the Alberta Cotton Mill, which Thomas Lloyd

had built in 1898, located in what is now Carr Mill Mall, and the two were consolidated.

In January 1910, Carr resigned as president of the textile company, turning over operations to his sons. Julian Carr Jr. was eager to justify the trust of his father and strenuously devoted himself to improving and expanding the textile company. New roads and houses for mill workers were constructed in the communities where the mills were located. Julian Jr. was progressive and conceived of a “Cooperative Profit-Sharing Plan with the Employees.” The partnership plan between labor and management, which came to be known as “industrial democracy” was introduced in the five textile plants in 1912. It included a senate, house of representatives and cabinet. Critics claimed that the purpose was to prevent unionization, but Julian Jr. insisted that it was to decrease waste, increase production and raise salaries. Performance over the next few years confirmed his expectations.

Meanwhile, the West End community was incorporated in 1911 as Venable, named for the then-president of the university. Two years later, the town was renamed “Carrboro,” ostensibly in exchange for the offer of electric power from the mills. What is puzzling is that no photographs of Julian Carr (junior or senior) in Carrboro can be found, no mention



PHOTO COURTESY THE NORTH CAROLINA COLLECTION

of Carrboro appears in the writings of Julian Carr Sr. and neither Julian junior or senior ever lived in Carrboro. Mena Webb, author of *Jule Carr: General without an Army*,” implies that Julian Jr. may have negotiated the name change to please his father: “The fact that a mill town called Duke had existed in Harnett County since 1903 probably made the prospect of a similar memorial to the Carr family doubly pleasing to the head of the clan.”

While amassing a fortune as a business entrepreneur, Carr also established himself as the premier philanthropist in North Carolina. He helped to establish the Durham Public Library, the first public library in the South. When Trinity College threatened closure due to financial difficulties after the Civil War, Carr helped to raise funds to move the college from Randolph County to Durham. Trinity College later became Duke University. However, Confederate veteran causes were his favorite benevolence.

When the Daughters of the Confederacy erected a monument in 1913 to students and alumni from the university who died in the Civil War, Carr was asked to give an address. Carr’s effusive tribute to the slain soldiers, their widows and daughters was widely acclaimed at the time, but contained passages that are highly offensive today:

The present generation ... scarcely takes note of what the Confederate soldier meant to the welfare of the Anglo Saxon race during the four years immediately succeeding the war. ... Their courage and their steadfastness saved the very life of the Anglo Saxon race in the South ... As a consequence, the purest strain of the Anglo Saxon is to be found in the 13 Southern states – Praise God.

One hundred yards from where we stand less than ninety days perhaps after my return from Appomattox, I horse-whipped a negro wench until her skirts hung in shreds, because upon the streets of this quiet village she had publicly insulted and maligned a Southern Lady, and then rushed for protection to these University buildings where was stationed a garrison of 100 Federal soldiers. I performed the pleasing duty in the immediate presence of the entire garrison, and for thirty nights afterwards slept with a double-barrel shot gun under my head.”

(Excerpted from Julian Carr’s address “Unveiling of Confederate Monument at University” on June 2, 1913.)

We have come a long way since the desegregation of the South, but it is painful to reflect on race relations in Chapel Hill-Carrboro a century ago when Carrboro was incorporated. And it is painful to reflect on these samples of the beliefs and behavior of the man for whom Carrboro is named.

But this is not the legacy of Julian Carr. He was a consummate businessman and philanthropist, donating generously to several colleges and universities and to many promising young men, including blacks. UNC awarded him an honorary doctor of law degree in 1923.

When Carr died in 1924, the city of Durham paid tribute to their beloved son with the most lavish funeral ever held in the city. The Southern Railway Company halted all trains for an hour to ensure that the funeral cortege reached Maplewood Cemetery without interruption. Moreover, the mourners included many blacks, who expressed their gratitude “for the kindness and help that have come to us through the life of General Julian S. Carr,” a poignant end of the long journey from Appomattox.

SAVING THE MILL

How Carr Mill Mall was Born

BY MARGOT CARMICHAEL LESTER

The Old Alberta/Durham Hosiery Mill complex in the center of downtown Carrboro has always been the heart of the town. For

a long time, it *was* the town. So when plans to demolish the “old mill” surfaced in 1975, locals sprang to action.

In 1899, Thomas Lloyd built it to house a cotton mill. Lloyd sold the mill in 1909 to Julian S. Carr, for whom the town was later named. Carr expanded in 1912, adding the wing that parallels Weaver Street. The mill operated under different owners until the mid-1950s. It was a warehouse for the BVD Company until the early 1960s. At that time, it was sold to local industrialist Duncan Yaggy, owner of EDY Corp.

On May 19, 1975, Yaggy led locals, including Frances Lloyd Shetley, on a flashlight tour of the mill, which had been abandoned for some time.

“We went in around where Fleet Feet is now,” she recalls. “There was no power. It was dirty – oh, and dark! You’d shine the flashlight and see spider webs, loose boards, peeling paint and things in disrepair.” But Shetley and others felt that despite its condition, the mill should be saved.

Like many in town, Shetley had a connection to the mill.

“My mother worked there when she was a young woman. You don’t destroy something that is good,” she says. “That’s one of the things you need to think about.”

“It was deserted and there was a huge boiler or two outside the building,” says longtime resident and town Poet Laureate Jay



Today’s Carr Mill began its life as a textile mill. Carrboro had at least one active mill through the mid-1950s. COURTESY NORTH CAROLINA COLLECTION

Bryan. “The windows were broken, but I saw the beauty of it even so.”

A group of locals, including Shetley and Ruth West, lobbied to preserve the mill. The Carrboro Board of Aldermen didn’t agree, however, and in June of 1975 it decided not to designate the old mill as a historic structure. Yaggy continued to negotiate with Kaiser-Aetna Corporation, a national developer, to

build a \$2 million modern shopping center on the mill property.

The president of the Chapel Hill Preservation Society, Nancy Preston, wrote a letter to Kaiser-Aetna’s president asking him to consider letting the mill stand.

“The architectural merit of the structure is based on the face fact that this building was constructed by local craftsmen and typifies

all industrial textile mills built at the turn of the century,” the letter read.

In June, the locals began circulating a petition:

“THE OLD MILL is Carrboro’s major historic property. We, the undersigned, registered voters recommend that the Board of Aldermen reconsider the decision to allow the demolition of the Mill and reopen the discussion about its adaptive reuse. We want to preserve the identity of our own, and the identity of Carrboro is tied to the OLD MILL. We request a public hearing on this important issue.”

“Word got around that there was a petition going on and it was — I don’t know,” Shetley muses. “The board changed their minds before we could turn it in.”

By September, Kaiser-Aetna had decided not to renew its option to develop the 8.8-acre property. Undeterred, Yaggy continued to look for a solution that would keep the mill standing. In December 1975, he presented a new plan to the aldermen to renovate the mill for shops and offices and add a new building and more parking behind it. The plan also ensured the preservation of the lawn and as many large oaks as possible.

The plan was approved on May 18, 1977, and the renovated mall opened for business with tenants that included Harris-Teeter and Head Over Heels, both of which still operate at the mill.

“Carr Mill Mall serves as a business and social anchor for downtown Carrboro with the specialty shops, office spaces for various agencies and of course the lawn, which is

..... timeline CARRBORO 1911-2011 timeline

1911

Carrboro Baptist Church is founded.

MARCH 1911

The N.C. General Assembly approves the charters for several new towns, including Venable, formerly known as West End.

FALL 1911

“Pioneer and Builder” Thomas Lloyd, the civic leader who built up the mills and shaped the town’s economy, dies.

1913

In honor of Julian Carr, Venable changes its name to Carrboro.

MAY 1916

The state appropriates the annual sum of 40 cents per mile for maintenance of a road from Carrboro to Alamance through White Cross.

a great social and business meeting place,” says James Harris, a Carrboro native and the town’s former economic-development director. “People just love the activity associated with the place.”

Adds Bryan, “It took a lot of vision to say,

‘This mill, which was abandoned, could come to life again.’ It shows that we can reutilize buildings and the way they appear to create a visual landscape that matters.”

CARRBORO *characters*

THOMAS LLOYD: an industrial genius who recognized the commercial value of the railroad spur, built a steam-powered grist mill and cotton gin by the railhead, then the first cotton mill in 1898. Lloyd was the primary catalyst in the formation of the town of Carrboro. He never learned to read or write.

A BIT OF HISTORY

JOHN LAWSON, who explored the Piedmont in 1701, found a land rich in wildlife and populated by five small tribes of Native Americans. Three were in the vicinity of present-day Carrboro – the OCCONEECHEE near Hillsborough, the SIS-SIPAHAW along the Haw River and the ENO near Durham. The first two

were Siouan. The Sissipahaw were farmers, while the Occaneechee and Eno were traders. According to Ruth Blackwelder in *The Age of Orange*, “Occaneechee was the usual trading language used by most Indians and by their medicine men for sacred ceremonies.” Villages of the Eno and Occaneechee were located on the

Great Trading Path, which stretched from Virginia to the Charlotte area. When European settlers arrived in the mid-1700s, there were no Native Americans living in the area. Many had succumbed to epidemics of smallpox, which spread from European settlements on the Carolina coast in the late 1600s.



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A BRIEF HISTORY OF CARRBORO MAYORS

1911-2011

BY DAVID OTTO



Thomas Mann



Hughes Lloyd



Isaac F. Hardee



Isaac A. West



Robert Drakeford

PHOTOS COURTESY
DAVID OTTO &
RICHARD ELLINGTON

T

he Town of Venable was incorporated with a charter enacted by the General Assembly of North Carolina in 1911, amended to re-name the town Carrboro in 1913, and again in 1915 to reset boundaries. The original charter specified that the officers of the town should consist of a mayor, four commissioners, a clerk and treasurer and as many policemen as necessary to maintain peace and order.

William H. Parker (1911-1917) – operated a store located in the small triangle near the Carrboro Graded School (now Carrboro Town Hall). He is remembered as a popular and respected merchant.

Thomas “Newt” Mann (1917-1918) – moved to Carrboro to manage the Alamance Lumber Company, which was located near the railway depot. Mann also served as the postmaster of Carrboro for many years when the post office was located in the flatiron

building, which is the Spotted Dog Restaurant today. The population of Carrboro when he was elected mayor was 1,129.

Braxton “Brack” B. Lloyd (1918-1919)—was a legendary country doctor in Carrboro during the first three decades of the 20th century. He was the Carrboro health officer for decades and served as the munitions plant physician during World War II.

Hyde Bryan Durham (1919-1923)—worked in the Durham Hosiery Mill. An important initiative of his first term was the electrification of the town. In 1922, the town approved the widening of Main Street and construction of a sidewalk to relieve congestion and ensure the “safety and welfare of citizens.”

Seaton E. Lloyd (May-Oct 1923)—resigned after six months because he moved out of town and was no longer eligible to be mayor.

Thomas N. Mann (Oct 1923-1927)—see above

H. Bryan Durham (1927-1933)—see above

Clifton C. Head (1933-1935)—employed as a watchman in the Durham Hosiery Mills. His daughter Frances edited the *Carrboro Courier*, a short-lived newspaper in the 1930s.

Roy Riggsbee (1935-1937)—worked for the Brown and Ferrell Furniture Company in Durham for many years and then became a partner in the Riggsbee-Hinson Furniture Company, a landmark on Main Street in Carrboro for many years. Riggsbee was characterized as short, chunky, jovial and well-liked in the community.

William H. Parker (1937-1941)—see above

Robert B. Studebaker (1941-1943)—worked as a railway agent in Carrboro. He was a popular mayor with a reputation of being very honest.

Isaac A. West (1943-1949)—was a foreman at the Durham Hosiery Mills. When the mills closed, he found employment at the UNC Medical School. He was a congenial, hard-working and highly respected member of the community.

Isaac F. “Dawson” Hardee (1949-1951)—worked at the University Laundry and as a mailman during WWII. He was active in the Carrboro Baptist Church, a temperate man who neither smoked nor drank.

J. Sullivan “Hoot” Gibson (1951-1955)—was an aloof man who was a professor of geology at the UNC.

Robert. B. Todd (1955-1960)—was manager of the Longmeadow Dairy on Franklin Street in Chapel Hill. He was an outgoing person that everyone liked.

Charles Taylor Ellington (1960-1966)—was employed as operations yard manager at Fitch Lumber. He was infamous for dismissing traffic tickets in the Mayor’s Court.

H. Bryant Hackney (1966-1967)—ran a floor-finishing business. He was also a magistrate at the Chapel Hill Police Station and was known as a good man who loved to talk.

T. Hughes Lloyd (1967-1971)—was a supervisor in the sewer and water division at UNC

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and OWASA. Lloyd had limited education, but common sense to do what was right. He was kind, helpful, outgoing, hard working and had a wonderful sense of humor.

Robert J. Wells (1971-1975)—managed the Berkshire Manor apartments and served on many local boards and commissions. During his tenure, extensive paving of streets, installation of water and sewer lines, improvement of police and fire protection and modernization of town government were undertaken.

Ruth West (1975-1977)—was instrumental in saving the old mill. Other achievements included expanding bus service in Carrboro, clean-up projects and senior citizen programs.

Robert Drakeford (1977-1983)—was Carrboro's first black mayor. He was a reformer during a period of transition when the old guard was replaced by young activists from the Carrboro Coalition. Drakeford was a graduate of the department of city and regional planning at UNC. He hired the town's first professional planner.

James Porto (1983-1987)—presided over the fastest expansion in the town's history. The town set up a revolving loan fund for small businesses, which spawned the Weaver Street Market and Balloons and Tunes. The most progressive land-use plan in the state and a comprehensive transportation plan were approved.

Ellie Kinnaird (1987-1995)—championed the environment, arts, downtown revitalization and neighborhood restoration. She is proud of passing the strictest watershed-protection ordinances in the state, starting a library at McDouggle School, building a nationally recognized farmers' market, restoring endangered neighborhoods and turning Carrboro into the "Paris of the Piedmont."

Mike Nelson (1995-2005)—was Carrboro's youngest, longest-serving and first openly gay mayor. He later served on the Orange County Board of Commissioners.

Mark Chilton (2005-present)—is an attorney, broker for Community Realty and an old mill buff. He served on the Chapel Hill Town Council (1991-1997), where he was the youngest and first to serve while a UNC undergraduate

A BIT OF HISTORY

Early settlers purchased land from John Carteret, Earl of Granville, who was a Lord Proprietor. Land grants were sold in 600-acre (approximately one square mile) parcels, the minimum amount of land considered necessary for a farmer to be self-sufficient. The names of Granville County and Granville Towers in Chapel Hill commemorate John Carteret and the role he played in the Colonial history of North Carolina.

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..... timeline CARRBORO 1911-2011 timeline

1922

Carrboro Graded School, now Town Hall, is built.

OCTOBER 1923

After completing her courses in cosmetology, Mrs. W. H. Parker opens Carrboro's first beauty parlor.

NOVEMBER 1923

Fitch Lumber – the Fitch-Riggs – opens a lumberyard and store near the train tracks in Carrboro.

MARCH 1924

Carrboro Baptist Church holds the official dedication of its new building on Main Street. The building costs about \$45,000 and features 13 Sunday school rooms for about 200 students.

MAY 1924

After public protest, the Carrboro Board of Aldermen refuses to enact a set of blue laws proposed by local clergy that would have prohibited citizens from patronizing the swimming pool, soda fountains and garages on Sunday.

THE TRAIL THAT ELLIE BLAZED

Ellie Kinnaird's Carrboro

BY KIRK ROSS



As Carrboro turns 100, the azaleas are in bloom in the Westwood Cemetery.

When she looks back at her life in Carrboro, state Sen. Ellie Kinnaird mentions those azaleas and the trees and plantings in the cemetery with a bit of pride.

It was the lack of landscaping at Westwood that drew her to Carrboro Town Hall the first time. As a new neighbor of Westwood, she wanted to join the town's cemetery committee to advocate for some landscaping. When she found out that they had a committee, but that it didn't meet, she changed that.

Throughout her participation in civic



life, Kinnaird has changed a lot of things about Carrboro. She was drawn into electoral office after participating with a group that included future Carrboro Board of Aldermen members Jay Bryan and Frances Shetley in a long fight against development in the University Lake watershed. After the town board approved the development, Bryan and Shetley decided to run for the board. But they needed someone to run for mayor.

State Sen. Ellie Kinnaird guides her bike toward the ribbon as part of the opening ceremonies for the Roberson Place bike path. The path runs from Wesley and Eugene Street to Purple Leaf Place. PHOTO COURTESY OF MARIANA FIORENTINO

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..... timeline CARRBORO 1911-2011 timeline

APRIL 1925

The town draws up a plan to spend \$25,000 building a water pipe to town from Morgan Creek.

OCTOBER 1926

After deciding to build its own water system, work begins on new lines connecting the university's water system with Carrboro.

NOVEMBER 1926

The State Highway Commission authorizes the extension through Carrboro of the new concrete road from Raleigh to Chapel Hill.

MARCH 1927

A massive snowstorm, said to be the worst since 1898, shuts down the town.

AUGUST 1928

A family disagreement breaks into the open when 13 nieces and nephews of Caroline Lloyd, widow of Thomas Lloyd, file a lawsuit against another cousin contesting her will and the distribution of her estate.

Kinnaird said that during a meeting of the group, everyone listed their reasons for not running.

"I didn't have as good an excuse as anyone else," she said. "So I said, 'OK.'"

She won, and served four straight terms as mayor, from 1987 to 1995, with a board that eventually passed the most stringent watershed protections in the state.

As mayor, Kinnaird blazed a trail for anyone interested in revitalizing a downtown actively recruiting businesses and improving amenities like the farmers' market and adding public spaces. The improvements to Carr Court and taking on the state Department of Transportation to lay the groundwork for the town's bicycle infrastructure are among her points of pride. In her years as mayor, you could often see her riding her bicycle through town with a violin stowed in the back basket.

She moved up to the state legislature in 1996 and started a long-term effort to improve the state's juvenile-justice system. Naturally, she has been a champion for environmental causes, and in 2003 led a successful fight in the senate for a bill calling for a moratorium on the death penalty.

Kinnaird no longer resides in Carrboro. Her son has taken over at the little place on West Poplar that she called home for so many years.

She moved to Carol Woods in Chapel Hill after marrying her sweetheart, Daniel Pollitt, who passed away last year.

From there, she knows her next destination and speaks candidly about it. She's got her place picked out in the old town cemetery near the railroad tracks and the bike path.

There's no hurry, of course. Her focus is the present, particularly one of the most difficult legislative sessions she's had to face and protecting what she has championed during her career in Raleigh. She's also keeping open the idea of running for reelection, a decision that will likely be influenced by this year's redistricting.

Kinnaird said that despite her accomplishments, she never really won over "Old Carrboro" – the families with longtime ties to the place, who grew up in a much different place than the Carrboro that evolved with the booming Triangle.

"They saw their town changing before their eyes," she said. "Old Carrboro didn't like me."

But after one meeting, Herman Wilson, the man for whom Wilson Park is named, took her aside. "He said, 'I may not agree with most of what you stand for, but you're the best thing that ever happened to this town.' It was the best praise I could have ever had."



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SCRAPBOOK



The lawn in front of Weaver Street Market at Carr Mill Mall serves as a de facto town square. The historic oaks draw locals and tourists alike in all seasons. PHOTOS BY ALEX MANESS.

BECOMING A LEADER

Mike Nelson, and a Town, Come of Age

BY JACKIE HELVEY AND MARGOT CARMICHAEL LESTER

E

lected to the Carrboro Board of Aldermen in 1993, Mike Nelson was only 29 at the time. In 1995, Mike was elected

the first gay mayor in North Carolina history. Folks in Carrboro were a lot more concerned about the fact that he was only 31 than the fact that he was gay.

“Carrboro became a leader instead of waiting for somebody else to do it,” recalls the former mayor, who moved to Carrboro in 1987. Changes that had been in the making since the 1970s and ’80s in Carrboro gelled in the 1990’s. “After years of laying the groundwork, everything came together. The local government became progressive. The face of Carrboro was changing.

“That board, the folks who served with me starting in 1993, was never afraid to show leadership and do things, no matter how hard it was, no matter what the repercussions were,” Nelson says.

“They had a clear vision for what the town could be and should be. We understood what was happening in Carrboro and how rare it is to have a town that’s that engaged and that cool with change,” he continues. “These were people who weren’t afraid to do what needed to be done in the best interest of our town, even if it was hard and even if we got beat up a little bit.”

During Nelson’s terms as a board member and mayor, Carrboro’s food and arts scenes were nurtured. Nelson was an original member of both the Carrboro Arts Committee and the Carrboro Music Festival Committee (originally Fête de la Musique). Carrboro



PHOTO BY JACKIE HELVEY

also took an important step in its progressive shift by offering domestic partners registration, the first municipality of any size to do so in North Carolina.

“We needed to do our part to end dis-

crimination against some types of families,” Nelson says.

In his first year as mayor, the board of alderman voted down Lake Hogan Farms — the first time the board turned down a

large development. Members claimed the development, as initially proposed, was not a good fit for Carrboro. This act helped change the conversation between the town government and developers, setting better expectations of what was appropriate for Carrboro. Eventually, Lake Hogan Farms was approved, but with the recommendations set forth.

Another landmark decision for Carrboro was the purchase of the Carrboro Baptist Church building in 1997. The renovated property, located in the middle of downtown between North Greensboro, Main and Weaver streets, made a major impact. Now known as the Century Center, it houses the Carrboro Recreation & Parks Department, the Carrboro Police Department, the Cybrary (Carrboro’s downtown library), meeting rooms and a huge hall upstairs for dances, classes, film screenings and other special events. That purchase is Nelson’s proudest accomplishment.

“Carrboro desperately needed a downtown library, a community space for performances, dances, meetings and community and other social events,” he explains. He says the library access issue is one of the most important facing Carrboro’s current leadership.

“One would think this would be an easy issue to address. Everyone likes libraries, right?”

Nelson served five consecutive terms as mayor, overseeing a decade of positive change for the Paris of the Piedmont. “From my perspective, the 1990s was the most important decade in Carrboro’s history,” he says.

CARRBORO *characters*

Hilliard Caldwell: a prominent black community leader for many years. He organized sit-ins to oppose segregation and served as a member of the Carrboro Board of Aldermen from 1981 to 1997. When black students rebelled against callous treatment at Chapel Hill High School during integration, Caldwell was hired as liaison between students and administration. His skillful leadership is credited with calming racial tension during this difficult period.

..... timeline CARRBORO 1911-2011 timeline

NOVEMBER 1928

Like the rest of Orange County, Carrboro supports Herbert Hoover over Al Smith in the presidential election. Hoover takes 367 votes to Smith’s 99. Brownie Ray of Carrboro wins a close race for Orange County commissioner for the GOP.

JANUARY 1929

A major flu epidemic hits Chapel Hill and Carrboro. UNC closes, resulting in losses to local businesses.

JULY 1929

Carrboro principal C.A. Hoyle is named supervisor of both the Chapel Hill and Carrboro schools, with both schools covering his salary. In a further indication of consolidation, Carrboro children are allowed to attend the Chapel Hill high school tuition-free.

MAY 1930

Mill officials announce that the No. 4 spinning room will close down as soon as it depletes its stock, with the No. 4 knitting room to follow. About 175 workers lose their jobs

OCTOBER 1931

Clearing and site work begin on a new university reservoir, including construction of a 380-foot-long dam on Morgan Creek.

THE ROMANCE OF POVERTY

Carrboro Kids

BY DAPHNE ATHAS

I was petrified of Carrboro kids when I moved to Chapel Hill,” a Chapel Hill High School alumnus of the 1940s generation told me at a recent reading where I’d described Carrboro as a “mill town, with dirt roads stinking of dust and dogs and with rednecks and redbugs living under hot tin roofs.”

He went on: “I’d never met lower-class people before, mill people, truck kids – I don’t know what I expected ... but when I got used to them and saw they were just people like me, I felt shame.”

Maybe it was the word “shame.” I caught the old stigma of Carrboro again and blushed.

My first boyfriend, Wayne Williams, was a boy from Carrboro mesmerized by the books in our shack, our piano, oriental rug, a carpetbag and the bohemian relics of our cultured former life on the Atlantic Ocean in Massachusetts before 1929 and the 10-year Depression. Our social demotion was radical, ending up in a shack up on Merritt Mill Road in a university town because our father wanted us to get an education. All I did was thank my lucky stars to be inside the Chapel Hill town limits, even though it was the black section.

Wayne and I dissected hidden motives behind altruism and egotism. Altruists were 85 percent patronizing because they could afford to be; they’d never been poor and didn’t know any better. Underdogs were forced to become egotistical SOBs because they saw through hypocrisy like slaves had always seen through masters. And how about Horace



Daphne Athas. PHOTO BY DANIEL WALLACE

Williams, who was brought up dirt poor in Reconstruction, became a professor, made money and bought Carrboro mill houses dirt cheap when the mill closed? He’d be a slumlord today.

Wayne hated ignorance – his father went to the fourth grade, his mother to the eighth. Yet he defended Carrboro people, because they’d moved from dirt-poor farms to mills for work and exemplified the stubborn, yeoman streak of North Carolinians in America. Carrboro people never wanted to be part of Chapel Hill.

He’d trained himself to remove the taint and learned to be objective. I recognized the bootstrap-pioneer spirit of America for the first time, yet secretly, hypocritically still thanked god I’d escaped the label.

How to explain disconnect? Marie Antoinette, who built and played at peasantry in her Petit Trianon, milking cows, raising vegetables with ladies-in-waiting, asked, when the revolution came, why people marched. Told they had no bread, her puzzled suggestion was: “Let ’em eat cake.”

How come the trendy suburban white boys of the ’60s and ’70s grooved on the subversive rage of inner-city blacks and made the music industry rich?

If we’re the underdog, our myths trend toward the powerful. If we’re the privileged, they bend toward the disenfranchised. Weak mortals glory when automobiles leap from the top of a mountain in TV ads to the fruitful plain below. Our clashing of wampum, culture, competition and education con-

tinues, disturbing our inscribed American equality.

One hot night in 1941, past 2 a.m., when Wayne and I were returning from the library, we felt the powdered dust of unpaved Weaver Street seep through the holes of our sneakers like hot silk. The shadows of oaks in streetlights swayed on the dirt in the breeze, and the town was asleep. The dogs were too. We were lone witnesses. The trees souged, the powerful shadows loomed and bent, and massive, disembodied giants from the spirit world cast a message on earth.

An unrecognized melding of influences proceeded from that ’40s generation. Chapel Hill rubbed off on Carrboro, and Carrboro on Chapel Hill. Jacques Menache was the son-in-law of Milton A. Abernethy, the first owner of the Intimate Bookshop, a disgraced communist. Menache started The ArtSchool in Carrboro. Wallace Kuralt, brother of Charles, took over the Intimate but moved to Carrboro.

Weaver Street got paved, Weaver Street Market became the Carrboro center. Developers chose millhouses as Carrboro’s cutting-edge dream style, and when Carrboro’s taxes exceeded Chapel Hill’s and music groups made the big-time, it became cooler than Seattle.

I believed on the night of giants that I was learning the meaning of the world, because I was learning Carrboro. Now that I cannot feel shame, I ponder anew.

..... timeline CARRBORO 1911-2011 timeline

1933

Durham Hosiery Mill No. 7 on Roberson Street closes down.

FEBRUARY 1934

Mary Lloyd Head debuts *The Carrboro Courier*, a local newspaper.

1937

The passenger train to Greensboro and Durham makes its last run. Along the way, the passengers, mostly townspeople, saying farewell, stop for a picnic lunch.

FEBRUARY 1940

When the two Durham Hosiery Mills close during the Great Depression, the university hires many former mill workers in the dining halls as building maintenance staff. Others find jobs in mills located in Durham, Burlington, Saxapahaw and Swepsonville.

JUNE 1940

According to the 1940 census, the population of Carrboro is 1,455; Chapel Hill, 3,653; and Hillsborough, 1,317. The population of Carrboro had decreased during the 1930s when both mills closed.

FOUSHEE TAKES A SEAT

A Chat with Braxton Foushee

BY TAYLOR SISK

Reprinted From The Carrboro Citizen, May 17, 2007



PHOTO BY KIRK ROSS

Once – when there was no Caribou Café, nothing in the way of a sandwich that wraps and certainly no luxury boutique hotel – Braxton Foushee sat down at Colonial Drug to be served.

Chapel Hill was even then a bit more progressive than the majority of the South, and a young black man's money was readily accepted in a Franklin Street business such as Colonial. But that young man's subsequent presence certainly was not. Order to go and be gone – that was the nature of it when Foushee and others instead sat to be served. It was February 1960. For nearly a half-century, Foushee has continued to live a life in service to his community.

Foushee sat on the Carrboro Board of Aldermen from 1969 to '81 and on the OWASA board of directors from '86 to '88. He's now returned to the OWASA board.

Though he doesn't often speak of his role in helping to integrate local businesses and schools, Foushee remembers well this segregated Southern Part of Heaven.

"After Sunday school we would go across [to Colonial], because that was the custom at the time – you'd go across the street and get your hot dog or hamburger or either a soda pop, ice cream, candy or whatever, and you'd get that from Colonial Drug or from Long Meadow Dairy.

"We went to either one of those places for little refreshments after church, and we were

allowed in but you couldn't sit down – you had to get your stuff and go."

Of the changes that were then demanded and ultimately earned, Foushee says, "[A]t that time, the majority of our parents were working for the university or doing domestic work. And here come a bunch of young black kids ... and we could shape the town. When you look back on it, that's what happened – we shaped the whole scope of the town and the university. Because now they had to deal with us, [we] who had no connections to them and didn't give a damn."

Foushee's days in organized politics began doing leg work for legendary local activist Rebecca Clark:

"Rebecca Clark, bless her sweet heart. I did voter registration with Rebecca Clark ... that's how I got involved in politics.

"And then I got into my middle 20s and [a friend] kept saying, 'Why don't you run for the Carrboro board?' And I said, 'No, you're crazy; I wouldn't stand a chance.'

"We mulled over that for about a year, two years. And then we did what we normally did – we started counting. We looked back on the historical records, the voting schemes in Carrboro, and we decided that we might have a shot. So I went in and I put my name in." He won.

As Carrboro's first black alderman, Foushee remembers quite a number of 6-1 votes. His proudest achievement while serving on the board, he says, was bringing bus lines to Carrboro. He recalls that when he en-

tered office, many of the streets in the black communities in Carrboro were still unpaved.

"We made some inroads in getting those streets paved, [getting] some reparations started. And I reckon the next proudest thing was that we hired a black town manager," Richard Wright.

Meanwhile, Foushee raised his family here. He has four children – two sons: one works for the Durham public schools, the other is a warehouse manager for Harris-Tetter; and two daughters: one with the Durham Housing Authority, the other a chemist.

From where he sits today, he believes Carrboro's growth has largely been for the better.

"I think one of our biggest accomplishments was saving this building right here," he says of Carr Mill. "Because [prior to that], we couldn't get people downtown; downtown was dying.

"I think we've done a good job of managing growth – and if you don't do a good job of managing growth, it gets away from you. That's what happened to a lot of small towns around Research Triangle Park. Actually, we were prepared for the growth. I just think we knew what we wanted to see Carrboro look like in 10 to 15 years, with the basic concept of bringing people downtown."

"I think it's a great area to raise a family."

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A FEW MOMENTS WITH BEULAH

Beulah Hackney Reflects on a Life Well Spent

BY TAYLOR SISK

Reprinted From The Carrboro Citizen, March 27, 2008

Beulah Hobby eloped. You see, she'd been busy all summer and hadn't yet told her mother about that boy, Bryant Hackney. She'd forever kept busy; so busy, in fact, through high school – what with being captain of the basketball team and all – that she'd had no time to take notice of the boy himself till that May – May of '35.

"I didn't date him till we finished high school in May," Beulah Hackney recalls today, sitting in the living room of her Oak Street home, three days shy of her 90th birthday. She grew up on Andrews Store Road, seven or eight miles south of town; he grew up outside of Pittsboro.

"We graduated in the same class. But I never dated him or had anything to do with him until right after we graduated. Oh, I knew him. But I was doing other things, I had no time for him."

We're looking at a photo of the Class of '35. She's middle left; almost smiling; cherubic.

"Do I look the same?" she asks, and she does.

He's seated front, arms crossed; certain of his future – but little did he know.

"My friend invited me to go to White Lake with her, and he was in the group that went.



"So that's the first time I'd ever dated him. But after I dated him – that was it. We started dating in May and got married in September. We ran away and got married."

To Halifax, Virginia, and back. Back to the homes of their respective parents, who

were as yet unaware of the courtship that had blossomed that summer.

At the end of the summer, Bryant Hackney went off to Louisburg College on a baseball scholarship.

"He was a baseball pitcher," Ms. Hackney

says. But not for long. "He stayed one week, and he came home, and he didn't tell me why he came home.

"But my son asked him one day, years later. David was real curious and wanted to know why he didn't stay and finish school. And he told him, 'Well, there was a little blonde that lived up in Chatham County ...'

"He couldn't stay away."

And they married.

She laughs now good, at that memory, back on that ride from Halifax.

They kept the marriage secret for a time; returned home like nothing had happened.

"When you're that young. I don't know why."

Whatever the notion

Beulah Hackney lives in the moment. She's a morning person. Her day begins with "whatever I take a notion to do.

"I do a lot of crafts. That's one thing I enjoy doing; and that's one thing that keeps me busy.

"But I don't plan days unless I have a doctor's appointment or hair appointment, or if I do something for one of the children. But just kind of do what I feel like doing.

"I like to read; I read right much."

"There aren't enough hours in the day for Mom," says her daughter Jean Ward. "She's 90, and she's till maintaining her home, lives

PHOTO BY KIRK ROSS

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alone, gets in her car and goes where she wants.”

“I just don’t like to depend on other people to do everything for me,” Ms. Hackney says, “and I hope to be like that as long as I live.”

She makes jewelry, paints, has weaved countless baskets and is now into wood carving.

“I started carving before my husband died, so that’s been 17 years. I don’t sell them. I just do them for myself or leave them for my family.”

Making a home

“There was not too much they could do or say about it,” Beulah Hackney says, about

her family’s view of her eloping. “Of course, you know, they didn’t like it. Because my mother wanted me to go to nursing school. But, course, she couldn’t send me because she didn’t have the money.”

Bryant Hackney stuck though; was deemed a fine choice: “My mother thought a lot of him, always.

“But, anyway, we had a good life. And had five children, and kept him busy working and kept me busy working too.”

The Hackney’s moved to Carrboro in 1941.

Their first home was at the corner of Weaver and Center streets, and they moved several times before settling in the house on Oak Street, which Mr. Hackney built mostly himself.

Her husband died in January 1990.

“He worked in the floor-sanding business until his health got real bad. He had a heart attack, and he couldn’t lift the heavy machines. And so he started working with the court system.

“He retired from that job in November, the last part of November, and he died January the 20th. So we didn’t get to do any of the things that he planned to do after he retired. I’ve lived here alone ever since.”

She’s seen the town change quite a bit, and considers it in sum a mixed blessing. She expects to see quite a bit more.

“It seems that a lot of people that are coming here enjoy this small town ... and I try and go along with the changing and be

satisfied with it. But you still think about the small town, and how you knew most of the people.”

But that was then – and it ain’t so bad now. The Century Center is “a nice place now to have a party” – it hosted her 90th, and quite a crowd came. And on a slow day there, she can sometimes scare up a game of dominoes.

But sometimes, says her daughter Jean, she prefers being with younger folks, away from the potential for talk of aches and pains and adjustments in medication.

“She enjoys continuing the learning process,” Jean says. There just aren’t enough hours in the day..

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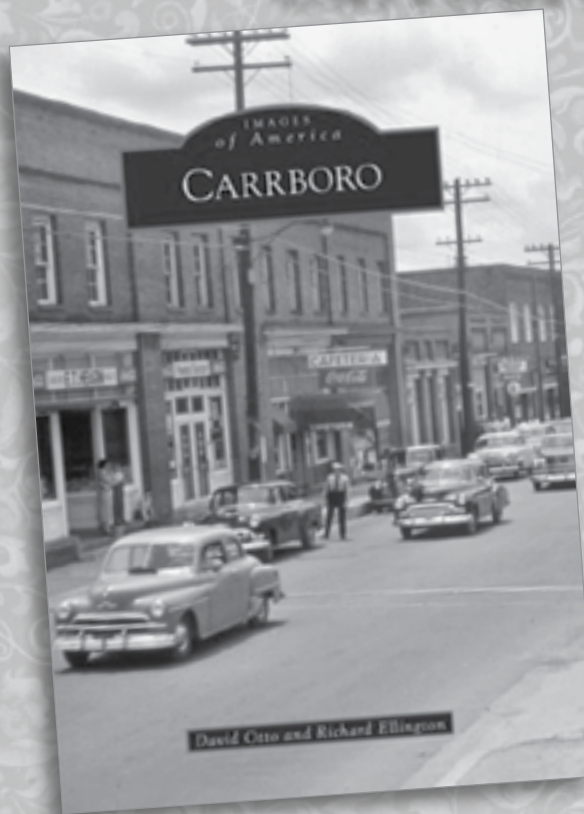


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..... timeline CARRBORO 1911-2011 timeline

OCTOBER 1941

A Thomas Lloyd marker on Weaver Street in front of the mill is unveiled to honor the industrial genius responsible for the emergence of the town of Carrboro. Speakers include Gov. J.M. Broughton, Rep. Archibald Henderson, Mayor Studebaker and Frank Porter Graham, president of the university.

DECEMBER 1941

The Japanese attack Pearl Harbor. Armed guards are posted 24 hours a day at the University Lake dam and power plant. Local citizens are recruited to help.

FEBRUARY 1942

The Munitions Corporation purchases Durham Hosiery Mill No. 7 and converts it to a Munitions Plant to assemble anti-aircraft shells. The purpose of the plant is kept secret for decades. The plant operates around the clock and provides much-needed employment for hundreds of Carrboro residents, primarily women.

MAY 1942

A Civil Defense Blackout Plan is put in effect. When the fire siren sounds, everyone is required to turn out their lights. If driving a vehicle, you must go to the side of the road, turn out your lights and seek shelter. The penalty for failing to do so is a \$10 fine.

JANUARY 1943

Employees of the munitions plant are awarded the Army-Navy “E” for excellent performance, the highest award for civilians. Brief speeches are given by James Forrestal, undersecretary of the Navy, Gov. J.M. Broughton, Frank Porter Graham, the Hon. Josephus Daniels and Rep. Carl Durham.

HELLO SUMMER, GOODBYE COLD. COME JOIN US WITH FRIENDS, FAMILY AND TALES OF OLD.

The Return of Sparrow's Pool

BY SUSAN DICKSON

Reprinted from The Carrboro Citizen, July 16, 2010



A postcard from the Durwood Barbour Collection of North Carolina Postcards shows a photo of Sparrow's Pool, with the caption, "The Sparrow Pool. A clean, beautiful pool — with filtered water from the University Reservoir. Use the Chapel Hill-Carrboro bus." PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NORTH CAROLINA COLLECTION PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE

Tucked away in the hills off South Greensboro Street, down a dirt path and across a wooden bridge over a creek, sits an old empty swimming pool. Dappling sunlight comes through the thick canopy of trees, and the echo of the chatter of Carrboro youth of years past is almost audible.

The property at 116 Old Pittsboro Road – the house atop the hill keeping watch, a meandering stonewall and the old Sparrow Pool – is magical. The shadows cast on the old cement-sloped swimming pool suggest ghosts of those who once bathed here.

A couple of weeks ago, a group of old friends and former neighbors, some of whom had not seen one another for years, got together at their old gathering place. They caught up with each other, shared old stories and wandered around the place where they used to spend so many lazy summer days. The nostalgia in their voices was evident as they recalled their adventures at Sparrow’s Pool.

Jane and Logan Kendall bought the 10.5-acre property about a year and a half ago. They have since lovingly restored the old house and now are digging pieces of history from the land surrounding it. They spent months tracking down those who used to swim in the pool and pass Saturday nights in the dance hall, then sent out an invitation – using a 90-year-old advertisement announcing the pool’s opening – to a party. “Hello summer, goodbye cold. Come join us with friends, family, and tales of old,” the invitation read.

The pool

Joseph Sparrow and his wife, Mattie Sparrow, known to the community as “Mrs. Bob,” built the pool down the hill from their Carrboro home at the end of World War I. They opened it to the public and charged admission, and it quickly became a popular hangout for those hoping to escape the summer heat.

An ad in a 1923 copy of the Chapel Hill Weekly announcing the reopening of the pool reads:

“The swimming pool in Carrboro will open day after tomorrow, Saturday, May 5. On that day all who bring their own bathing suits may use the pool without charge.

We now get filtered water from the University, and it is changed frequently

We have a new spring board, a new diving stand, and a new cement walk around the pool.

There are two shower baths for men and one for women.

We promise our patrons a clean place and the best of service.”

The flier also notes that wool bathing suits could be rented for 25 cents, cotton for 15 cents.

The pool remained open until 1958, when it became too much for Mattie Sparrow to manage after her husband died in 1955. In 1961, she moved to Pine Street and sold the house to the Bost family, who used the pool just for family and friends.

The property changed hands several more times over the years. Before the Kendalls bought it, it was rented to the Carrboro Greenspace Collective, which showed movies in the pool and housed members in the old Sparrow home.

A reunion

After renovating their new home, the Kendalls wanted to hold an event that would serve not only as a housewarming party but as an

occasion to reunite the pool’s former regulars, though the pool remains empty.

“It just meant a lot to the community,” Jane Kendall said.

She tracked down Lawrence McAdams, whose mother was best friends with Bob Sparrow and who spent countless hours in the swimming pool. McAdams helped her locate other Sparrow Pool regulars, including Glenn Michael “Micky” Sparrow, Joseph Sparrow’s grandson.

Thomas “Bo” Taylor, a longtime lifeguard at the pool, said he spent all his summer days and evenings there, “from the time I was a little boy until I joined the Army.”

Taylor and his brother Hubert were in charge of mowing the grass, watching over the pool and keeping everyone in line. Some evenings, the parking area would get so full that Taylor had to go up the hill to move cars around to allow people to get in and out.

“This brings back some good memories,” said Sandy Lloyd, who spent many happy days around the old property. Lloyd lived up the hill from the pool in his youth and still lives in Carrboro.

“Well, this was the only place that you had to go,” he said.

“If some of the women were to come down here on Sunday afternoon and swim in Sparrow’s pool, they wouldn’t let them go to church the next Sunday,” Lloyd said.

The future of the pool

Because the pool is far from meeting today’s standards and regulations, the Kendalls aren’t sure whether they’ll be able to restore it for swimming. Regardless, they want to restore the property in some way, and possibly use it as an educational space for kids to learn about the environment or other topics.

“We ultimately want to put a conservation easement on this property,” Logan Kendall said. “It really was a ruin that we thought really needed to be preserved.”

Despite the obstacles, Jane Kendall said she hopes she’ll be able to use the pool for swimming, and wants the party to become an annual event.

“You never know,” Jane Kendall said. “Next time, you may really need a suit.”

Sparrow’s Pool was a hotspot for Carrboro youth during the summer months.
COURTESY THE WATTS COLLECTION



.....*timeline* **CARRBORO 1911-2011** *timeline*

MARCH 1943 The Farmers Mutual Exchange (predecessor of Southern States) opens a Carrboro branch to provide marketing and purchasing services to local farmers.	APRIL 1945 The first bolt of woolen military cloth, made on contract for the government, comes off the looms in the modernized Carrboro Woolen Mills, which now has air conditioning and fluorescent lighting.	AUGUST 1945 According to the <i>Chapel Hill Weekly</i> , “When the news of the Japanese surrender came over the radio ... the college bells began a joyful pealing and a moment later the air was rent by blasts from the fire alarm siren in the Town Hall.” The siren and church bells were also sounded in Carrboro.	AUGUST 1945 The Carrboro Munitions Plant closes abruptly at the end of the war, throwing hundreds out of work.	APRIL 1947 An ordinance is passed prohibiting roller-skating on the streets and sidewalks of Carrboro. The penalty for violating the ordinance is \$2.
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EDUCATING CARRBORO

A School System Coalesces

BY SUSAN DICKSON

Chartered in 1909 as the Chapel Hill Graded-School District, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools has certainly seen its share of growth and change over the century. Though Carrboro hasn't always been part of the district – voters didn't choose to join Chapel Hill schools until 1959 – the rich history of CHCCS is integral to that of Carrboro.

The district's early history is somewhat fragmented, with all Carrboro schools and the black schools in Carrboro and Chapel Hill under the auspices of Orange County Schools.

Chapel Hill Public School, which opened on West Franklin Street in 1916 where University Square stands today, stopped serving high school students in 1936, when a new high school was built on Columbia Street.

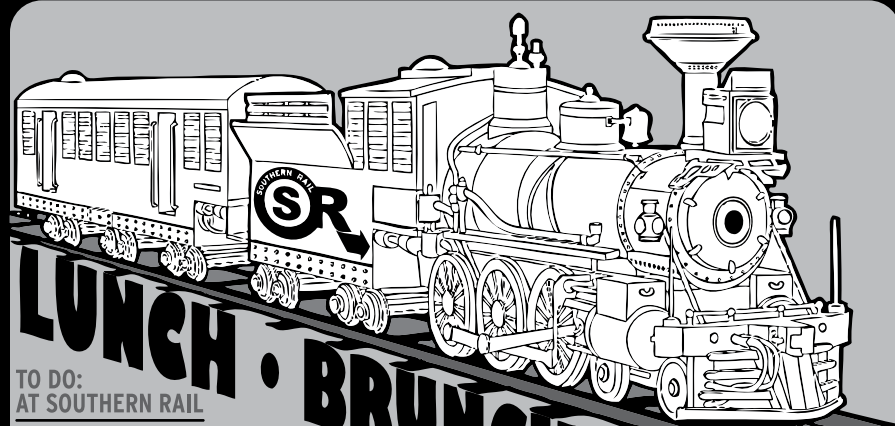


The school burned down in 1942, and Chapel Hill High School used makeshift facilities until 1947, when a new high school was built to the west of the elementary school on West Franklin Street.

Meanwhile, Orange County Training School for black students opened on the west side of Merritt Mill Road in 1916, serving all grades until it burned down in 1922. The second OCTS opened in 1924 on donated land adjacent to the Northside neighborhood.

The early black schools joined the district in 1930 after the black community voted in favor of the special district tax and a longer school year. In 1948, the school was renamed

R.D. and Euzelle Smith are the longtime local educators for whom Smith Middle School was named. PHOTO BY MACIEK KRZYSZTOFORSKI



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Lincoln High School, and in 1951 the new Lincoln High School on Merritt Mill Road began serving black students in grades seven through 12. Northside Elementary School served grades one through six in the former Lincoln High location.

Carrboro didn't join the district until 1959, when Carrboro residents voted to leave Orange County Schools. Carrboro Elementary School, which opened at its Shelton Street location in 1957, had previously been housed in what is now Carrboro Town Hall.

The newly formed Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools faced early struggles, however, as integration began sweeping the nation following the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education decision. The school board made the first move toward desegregation in 1960, when Estes Hills Elementary School became the district's first school to serve both white and black students. As more steps were made toward integration, Carrboro residents lodged protests, but by 1963 students were being assigned to schools based on where they lived rather than the color of their skin, with the school board setting an example for others across the state who continued to make assignments based on race.

In 1966, Chapel Hill High School opened where it stands today on High School Road, serving all black and white students in the district. The years that followed were shaped by enormous growth and the opening of new schools.

The nationally recognized school district, which has grown to 17 schools, now includes Carrboro's very own Carrboro High School, which opened in 2007.

Special thanks to Mia Burroughs, who compiled a district timeline outlining the CHCCS history.

CARRBORO *characters*

WILLIAM PEERMAN: a popular football coach at Lincoln High School from 1962-66. His 1964 team won the N.C. Class 2A championship, going undefeated, untied, with no points scored against them. When the schools were integrated, Peerman was demoted to assistant coach at Chapel Hill High School.

CHARLES MCDOUGLE: the principal of Orange County Training School, renamed Lincoln High School, from 1946-66, when the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Schools were integrated. He demanded strict discipline of students and faculty, but was widely respected as fair and caring. McDougle Elementary and Middle schools are named after him.



Diane Koistinen: Carrboro's known for its large number of locally owned businesses and its music scene. Diane Koistinen is the embodiment of both. Koistinen owns the Beehive salon in the heart of downtown Carrboro, which offers a full range of salon services, regularly exhibits local artists' work and holds annual fundraisers for various local charities. When she's not "doing hair," Koistinen fronts New Town Drunks, a popular local band that plays "smoky and folky" original tunes, with her husband, Robert Cofresi. PHOTO BY AEX MANESS

SCRAPBOOK



Students from Carrboro Elementary School walk in the Walk for Education.



The Carrboro High School band prepares to lead thousands of walkers down Franklin Street at the Walk for Education. The annual event is a fundraiser for the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Public School Foundation. PHOTOS BY MACIEK KRZYSZTOFORSKI

..... *timeline* CARRBORO 1911-2011 *timeline*

DECEMBER 1947

Carrboro firemen are guests of honor at a jolly party given by J.B. Goldston. Much of the conversation has to do with the past and present of the Carrboro Volunteer Fire Department. Since it was organized 20 years ago, it has been distinguished by its keen public spirit and high morale.

SEPTEMBER 1950

The first live football game available to local viewers is broadcast, from WFMY in Greensboro, with UNC taking on Notre Dame. Broadcast power is soon upped from 500 watts to 5,000 watts, and the World Series is later shown as well. There are some 150 TV sets in the Carrboro-Chapel Hill area.

JUNE 1951

A cow-milking contest between Chapel Hill and Carrboro is held before a baseball game at Carrboro Athletic Park. Both teams are headed up by the mayors of their respective towns.

SEPTEMBER 1952

Merritt Mill Road, from the west end of Cameron Avenue to the new Lincoln High School, is paved. The school board had pushed for better access to the school.

JANUARY 1954

Carrboro gets its first real snow in 6 years—a half-inch of sleet and 4 inches of snow. The *Chapel Hill Weekly* reports that "taxicab men, with the help of chains on their wheels, did their best to answer the fury of calls." By midweek, temperatures are up to 60.

CARRBORO ECONOMICS 101

The Evolution of a Mill Town

BY MARGOT CARMICHAEL LESTER

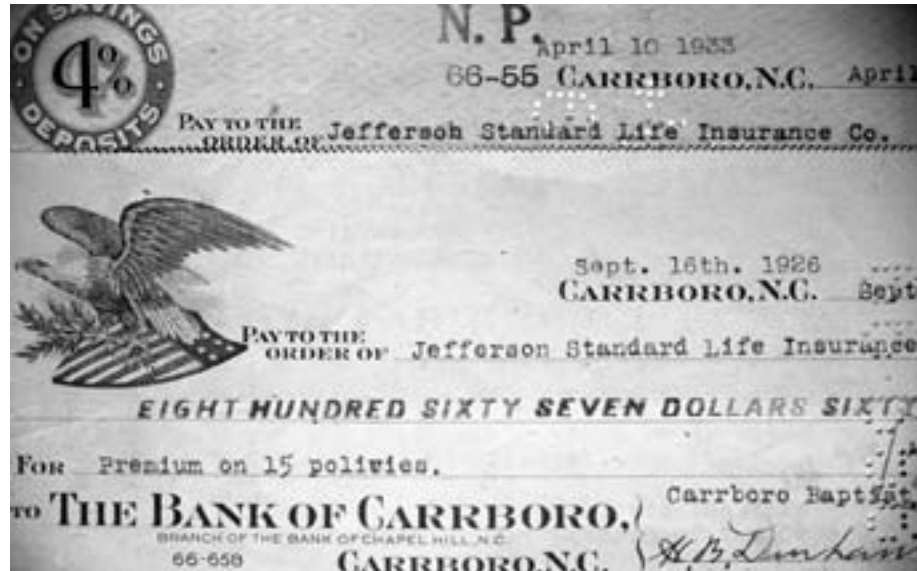
Before Carrboro established itself as a haven for the arts – culinary, musical and otherwise – it was an industrial town serving local farmers, the growing town of Chapel Hill and the burgeoning University of North Carolina.

By the time the settlement was incorporated as Venable in 1911, its cotton gin and grist and flour mills had been operating for almost two decades, a business district had sprung up along the rail line and Fitch Lumber Co. was four years old. In 1913, the Southern Railroad built a depot on Main Street. The economy was driven by these industrial pursuits, which Chapel Hill eschewed.

The industrial age

Four textile mills, employing about 300 people, both black and white, hummed along until The Great Depression. By 1939, Julian Carr's Durham Hosiery Mills were sold at auction. In 1942, one dormant mill was brought back to life when the National Munitions Corporation used it to assemble anti-aircraft weapons, putting 1,600 people back to work. In 1945, Pacific Mills bought the largest mill (now Carr Mill Mall) for Carrboro Woolen Mills, employing about 525 people. It ran until the mid-1950s, after which it served as a warehouse.

In the 1920s, Carrboro was one of the largest cross-tie markets in the South. Local farmers harvested the rich oak forests for the Southern Railroad to mill into ties that sold for about 50 cents apiece. By the end of the 1930s, however, this business dried up,



Back in the early days, Carrboro had its own local bank. COURTESY RICHARD ELLINGTON

thanks in part to the nation's growing obsession with automobiles, which dampened railroad growth.

Growth of trades and services

After World War II, the university grew, requiring skilled labor to care for its existing infrastructure and new facilities. This was good news for Carrboro's trade- and crafts-people, who found work on campus instead of in the mills. Thus began Carrboro's transition from an industrial hub.

The building and design sectors grew considerably in the 1960s and '70s through new construction and adaptive reuse. Large

apartment complexes sprang up along "the bypass" (N.C. 54) when the university decided to allow students to live off campus. In 1976, a major restoration of the Alberta/Durham Hosiery Mill No. 4 (see "Saving the Mill" chapter) began, revitalizing the local service and retail sectors.

The creative class

A creative class began to take hold in the 1960s and '70s as artists were drawn by the affordable rents of old mill houses. The ArtSchool (now The ArtsCenter) opened in 1975, creating a home (and work opportunities) for local artists. By the 1980s, art galler-

ies began popping up around town, and The ArtsCenter expanded to offer more exhibition and classroom space.

The music business came into its own in the 1990s, when, in 1993, Cat's Cradle moved to Main Street. At least two record labels called the town home, including Mammoth Records, which was later bought by Disney. In 1997, the Carrboro Music Festival began, attracting bands and audiences from around the state.

Increasing affluence

Beginning in the late 1970s, affluent people were drawn to Carrboro, thanks to its affordability (compared to Chapel Hill), access to quality schools and the allure of its small-town atmosphere. This supported the building and architecture sectors, driving development west, south and north of downtown.

Over time, property taxes rose sharply to support the town's burgeoning infrastructure. In 2009, the property-tax burden became too much for many people affected by the 2007 financial crisis. A "tax revolt" ensued, but was unsuccessful.

The culinary economy

The increasing affluence of Carrboro residents also sowed the seeds of the culinary economy. The Orient Express brought fine dining and desserts to locals, while Mamma Martini's featured authentic Italian fare and local ingredients. Two major developments strengthened the local farming community: The Farmers' Market opened in 1979 and the Weaver Street Market co-op opened in 1988, increasing the availability of high-

A BIT OF HISTORY

Colonial settlement in the vicinity of Carrboro began in the 1740s with the migration of Scotch-Irish from Pennsylvania. The lure of cheap land encouraged second-generation colonists to follow the *Great Trading Path* south

to the Carolinas. The population rapidly increased to about 4,500 by 1752, when Orange County was established. The county was named for William of Orange, who was the King of England from 1689 to 1702. Early settlers

included Thomas Lloyd and John Hogan (1750s), Gilbert Strayhorn (1769) and Thomas Weaver (1811). These families have been prominent in the history of Orange County since the beginning.

Matt Neal of Neal's Deli on S. Greensboro Street.
PHOTO BY ALEX MANNESS





Trucks wait to load locally harvested pulp wood at the depot in the 1950s.
COURTESY THE WATTS COLLECTION



Marilyn Chaplin, a stylist, discusses Obama's victory with a customer on Nov. 5, 2008. Stephen Edwards opened the Midway Barbershop on Rosemary Street in 1947. Run today by Stephen's son Step Edwards, Midway Barbershop is the oldest black-owned business in Carrboro. PHOTO BY KIRK ROSS

quality organic and locally produced items. In the 1990s, the Spanish-speaking population grew dramatically, giving rise to eateries and *mercados* offering regional fare and increasing the diversity of dining options. The Acme Food & Beverage Co. opened to national acclaim.

Today, Carrboro thrives due to many

locally owned businesses, including home-based enterprises. It is working toward building a sustainable local living economy through town-sponsored programs like the revolving loan fund and business-led initiatives like LocalMotive and Walk Carrboro, which aim to create a stronger commercial base for the town.



ROBERT HOKE, a self-effacing and largely unknown Confederate general, owned an iron mine located on the border of present-day Carrboro and Chapel Hill. A rail spur to the main line near Hillsborough was needed to transport iron ore to market. Although funds were scarce after the war, Hoke had many friends in Raleigh and lobbied hard to win support for the rail spur. Kemp Plummer Battle, president of the university, was also keen on the rail spur to provide transportation for students and faculty to and from the university. Battle and Hoke convinced legislators to fund the rail spur, which was completed in 1882. By that time, the price of iron ore had

plummeted and the mine was closed.

Beginning in the late 1800s, WHOOPER, an old engine with a wood-fired boiler, provided regular passenger and freight service between University Station near Hillsborough and the West End of Chapel Hill. The train made several runs each day. Horse-drawn hackneys

provided transportation from the train depot to campus. Hack drivers would race back and forth to the depot to see who could get passengers to their destination fastest. Construction of a new road between Chapel Hill and Durham in the early 1930s provided faster bus service to the university and the Whooper ceased passenger runs in 1935.



..... timeline CARRBORO 1911-2011 timeline

JULY 1955

A gas war ensues in Carrboro. Three Esso stations drop prices to 29.9 cents from the previous price of around 32 cents. The town's "cut-rate" stations, Carolina Motors' Amoco and Charlie Johnston's Hi-Way Service Stations remain at 29.9 and 28.9, respectively. Chapel Hill stations are holding the line at around 32 cents.

JULY 1955

The county commissioners address federal school integration requirements, while discussions on construction of a "gymtorium" at Lincoln High School continue. Some question any construction for the time being. "We may have an exodus of students out of the public schools due to integration," says school board chair Carl Smith.

JUNE 1956

UNC student George Hamilton IV and his Country Gentlemen headline the Folk Festival at Lions Athletic Park, a fundraiser for the Carrboro Cubs baseball team. Also performing is Haywood Pendergrass, who imitates the sound of a Model T Ford trying to cross a railroad track on the harmonica.

JUNE 1957

The Carrboro School Advisory Committee holds a special public meeting to discuss the Carrboro School District joining the Chapel Hill district or staying on its own. Chair Carl Ellington says, It's not that we distrust Chapel Hill School Board members, it's just that we want to run our own affairs."

JANUARY 1958

Carrboro begins home delivery of mail. Postage rates for first-class mail for delivery is 3 cents an ounce, as opposed to 2 cents for picked-up mail.

A SHARED HISTORY

Reminiscing about Days Gone By

BY VALARIE SCHWARTZ

Reprinted from The Carrboro Citizen, July 29, 2010

Richard Ellington learned Saturday that his experience growing up white in downtown Carrboro was not all that different from that of black children growing up a few miles outside of town, where they attended school at Hickory Grove School off N.C. 54.

Ellington has learned a good deal about his hometown over the past two years, as he and Dave Otto have researched the book of contributed images they are compiling in time for Carrboro's centennial celebration in 2011.

At 3 p.m. on a scorcher of a day, four former attendees of the school sat around tables now used by pottery students at Hickory Grove Center, owned since 1998 by Gary and Natalie Boorman. The building quit serving as a school following integration; it had been a nightclub, day-care center and, for 22 years, a private home. With the exception of a deck that facilitates a handicap ramp, the Boormans have restored the exterior to its school roots.

Natalie Boorman hosted the gathering, attended by Vivian Burnett, her cousin George Bynum, their niece Emily Rogers (whose mother, the late Dorothy Farrington, attended school there), William "Skinny" Farrington and his cousin Louis C. "L.C." Edwards.

After Otto explained why they were all there – to help the two men capture the black experience of Carrboro – Ellington, who



Local author and photographer Richard Ellington, left, and former Hickory Grove School kids George Bynum, "L.C." Edwards, "Skinny" Farrington and Vivian Burnett.

PHOTO BY VALARIE SCHWARTZ

works in information technology at UNC, began the discussion by asking the Orange County natives if they remembered Dr. Lloyd.

Oh, yes, they did. "He was *the* doctor!" Burnett said.

"Dr. Lloyd delivered me at home," Ellington continued. "Carrboro was very much

an old Southern mill town with mill town attitudes and racial tensions."

Yet, as he had looked through the census information, it showed how mixed the races were. "I grew up in one of the most integrated towns around, and everyone was in the same condition. It was nothin' but poor workin' people."

Burnett, a retired medical technician at UNC Hospitals, knew what he meant. "I thought we were poor, but you know what? I found out that riches are not money. Everybody was on one accord, it was good. We were a community and everybody looked out for each other. We worked the tobacco together and cooked the food together."

Farrington echoed her sentiments, saying that his father worked at the UNC Laundry for 32 years but, "he always kept a garden and chickens ..."

"Don't forget the pig," Burnett said, with Farrington confirming. "And there was molasses from the sugar cane and jelly from the orchards. Oh, we were just *rich*!"

And while they recounted their riches, Ellington echoed that, "Even in downtown Carrboro, in the back of the narrow lots, people kept chickens and gardens."

The talk about gardens led to the question of grocery stores, and quick as the question was asked, Ellington took us on a mental trip up and down East Main Street.

"We were welcome in all the grocery stores," Bynum offered. But he added that there was a Rexall Drugs where the Orange County Social Club is today. "Blacks could buy ice cream but we couldn't eat it there."

"I was the first black counter girl at Sutton's Drugs," said Burnett. She was hired in 1957 and worked there four years. "I could serve blacks, but they couldn't sit there."

Their school was two rooms with a partition in the middle to separate grades 1-3 from 4-6, a coatroom on each end and a door

..... timeline CARRBORO 1911-2011 timeline

FEBRUARY 1959

Orange County votes to allow the state to go into the business of selling liquor, and ABC stores will soon open. Carrboro votes against it though, 349-289. B.B. Sparrow, co-chair of an anti-ABC coalition says, "No government has the right to participate in the sale of a product that destroys its citizens."

DECEMBER 1959

A long-sought northern bypass around Carrboro and Chapel Hill is approved by the state. The plan is for the road to begin around the new Eastgate Shopping Center and extend for five miles into N.C. 54 west of Carrboro.

MAY 1960

While census figures show Orange County has grown by 8,499 people in the past decade, Carrboro has gained only 203, up from 1,795 to 1,998. Chapel Hill has grown from 9,177 to 12,623.

SEPTEMBER 1960

Chapel Hill Schools (later Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools) become the eighth school district in North Carolina to host the early stages of school integration, when three black first-graders enroll at Estes Hills Elementary School.

JULY 1961

Chapel Hill becomes the first school district in the South to voluntarily approve a plan for assigning black students to schools based on geography rather than race. However, in response to protest by Carrboro parents, a motion is passed that "the Carrboro School get the smallest possible number of Negro students."

to the outside privy. Coal-burning pot-belly stoves on each side kept them warm and there was electricity, but no running water.

“We had to cross 54 and go to the third house on the right and take water from Miss Gates’ well – until the water got wiggle worms,” said Edwards, who spent his career in public transportation after working with Chapel Hill Mayor Howard Lee to bring it here. Apparently, a parasite was detected in the water and a new neighbor had to supply for the school, but the memory of the wiggle worms tickled everyone.

Burnett later told me that she had lived in the same house, up the next hill from the school all her life. “Out there in the country we were very integrated.” She had not been surprised that their experience was so similar to Ellington’s – a white boy growing up in town. “We knew this. We *knew* this!”

Lt. Rodney Taylor Sr. shares *Lily Brown’s Playthings* by Angela Johnson to first-graders in Suzanne Hamrick’s class at McDougle Elementary School.
PHOTO AVA BARLOW

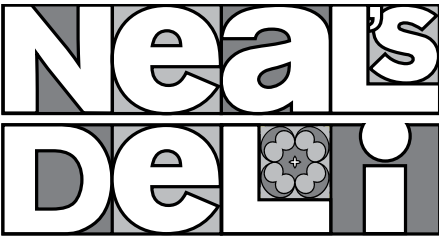


CARRBORO *characters*

Morris Hogan: Born a slave in 1853, he learned to read but not write. After the Civil War, he became a successful farmer, operating two farms near Old N.C. 86 and Eubanks Road. In 1880, Morris and his wife opened a school for black children on Eubanks Road. The new Morris Grove Elementary School, located near the old school, is named in honor of Morris Hogan.

Luther Hargraves: built affordable housing for blacks in the early 20th century, including Tin Top in Carrboro, when banks would not lend to them. During the depression, Hargraves allowed tenants to continue living in homes when they could no longer pay rent. He lost everything when the banks foreclosed.

Braxton Lloyd: a legendary country doctor who delivered most babies at home in Carrboro from the mid-1920s to the '40s. He enjoyed card-playing and raising hogs and would just as soon take a jug of whiskey in payment for his services. When he delivered a baby late at night, he was known to ask the new mom to move over so that he could get some rest.



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..... *timeline* **CARRBORO 1911-2011** *timeline*

MAY 1962

A Chapel Hill School District tax increase from 20 to 33 cents on \$100 of property evaluation is defeated, 2,534-2,283. Carrboro voters make the difference, voting against it by 836-170.

APRIL 1963

Mrs. Ben H. Williams is believed to be the first woman to file for a seat on the Carrboro Board of Aldermen. “I’m a housewife,” she says. “That’s about all there is to it.” When Mrs. Williams asks for her husband’s thoughts on her running, he replies, “Go ahead, I wish you would.” She loses.

NOVEMBER 1963

More than 160 charter members attend a kick-off meeting of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce. Chamber officers and board members are originally comprised of 14 men, but a motion is made to include women, and two are added.

FEBRUARY 1964

Seventy-five students walk out of Lincoln High School in protest. Among their grievances are that no activities have been planned at the school for National Negro History Week and that “Lincoln remains as a separate, inferior, unequal school” as compared with Chapel Hill High.

APRIL 1965

A petition to allow an ABC store to be located in Carrboro is circulated. Twice before, Carrboro residents have voted against state-operated whiskey stores.

A CARRBORO INSTITUTION

Meeting Cliff Collins

BY JOSIE HOLLINGSWORTH

Before you can understand Clifton Collins' background, you must, according to Collins, learn the history of his family in North Carolina.

On one side are the Riggsbees, whose ancestors first came to what is now Chatham County in 1674. On the other side is Collins' uncle, a Georgia farmer who moved to Hillsborough when "he got tired of farming." That prompted Roscoe Luther Collins, Collins' father, to move to what is now Carrboro in 1928. Collins' father was illiterate and remained so until he died. He always told his eight children (five daughters and three sons) that an education is the most important thing in life. Collins is an avid supporter of the schools, buying ads from Carrboro High School's student newspaper and athletic booster club.

When he was young, Collins worked in construction and other odd jobs while attending Pittsboro High School. With the money he earned, and by selling his tractor and beloved motorcycle, Collins bought land in Chatham County that he still owns and on which he lives.

After a year in college, Collins returned to Carrboro and worked cutting meat in Andrews and Riggsbee Grocery, where Neal's Deli and The Speakeasy now stand. Five and a half years later, Collins bought Hardy's butcher store across the street and still owns 100 Main, but has expanded into the space next door.



PHOTO BY H. PAGE SKELTON, SR.

When Collins was little, Carrboro had a mischievous reputation: "Carrboro used to be the area to go if you wanted to get into a scuffle."

During a busy time of day in his shop, customers line the counter and wait to purchase specific cuts of meat. Collins waves to every other person and has a different relationship with each one.

"Meeting the people and talking to them, getting to know their cousins and their enemies, that's the most satisfying part of my job," said Collins.

One man, Logan Carter, a real-estate agent from the area, stops and shares about his life growing up in Chapel Hill-Carrboro.

"My parents were buying meat from [Collins] since I was a kid," says Carter. "I come here to buy meat as much as a I can."

Carrboro has changed in the 38 years of Collins' meat market. A rising property tax and the growth of a vegetarian population have been challenges to Collins' business. But an influx of Latino residents makes for a diverse clientele.

"We see everyone from street people to Bill Friday in the shop," said Collins. Along with the usual items for sale, the market sells corn masa to make tamales as well as high-end products to local restaurants such as Provence.

"I hope that my shop is a big part of Carrboro and all facets of Carrboro," Collins says.

..... timeline CARRBORO 1911-2011 timeline

JULY 1967

Carrboro aldermen approve a record budget of \$257,025. The two largest appropriations are for the police and fire departments, at \$29,000 each. The tax rate is set at 88 cents per \$100 of property value.

OCTOBER 1968

A new postal building opens on South Greensboro Street to mixed reviews. Some comment on its "ultra modern ... crummy design," others call it "a more comfortable place."

JUNE 1970

The university proposes a rate increase on water. "If the increase is made, it will be about \$147 per year that a normal user will have to pay for water." The town discusses getting federal money to obtain its own water system and decides not to pay the increased amount, resulting in a lawsuit.

NOVEMBER 1970

The town board moves that a letter be written to the state supporting the idea of the newly proposed I-40 coming off of I-85 at Graham onto N.C. 54, leading to Carrboro.

JANUARY 1971

An Appearance Commission is created following "a period of rapid growth and development that has resulted in fundamental changes in the very character of the community." The board of aldermen appoints eight people, six of them women, all identified by their husbands' names, including Mrs. Tom Shetley (Frances).

THE FORMING OF OWASA

A Joint Effort

BY VALARIE SCHWARTZ

Until the mid-1970s, anyone in Carrboro and Chapel Hill with a water, electric or phone bill owed money to the University of North Carolina.

As early as 1968, concerns over increased rates started local individuals and town boards calling for reorganization of the water system. The Town of Carrboro had created some hot water for itself by refusing to pay a late 1970 water-rate increase, stating that no reason had been cited. The town paid its bills at the old rate until the university answered with a lawsuit, followed by an increase in electricity rates.

“It is the feeling that the university should be in the business of education and not in the utility business,” state Sen. William Staton told the Carrboro Board of Aldermen in June of ’71, according to town meeting minutes. Staton served as Carrboro’s town attorney. “Nothing can be done until a committee is appointed and approved at the 1973 General Assembly.” The Church Commission was established by the General Assembly of North Carolina to make recommendations on whether UNC should retain or sell its utility systems.

When the decision was made to sell the utilities, Carrboro and Chapel Hill decided to buy them, and, on Feb. 20, 1973, approved articles of incorporation for a nonprofit, and the Orange Water and Sewer Authority was formed.

Tension was nothing new between the two towns, and deciding how they would be



University Lake supplies the town’s water. PHOTO BY KIRK ROSS

represented on the OWASA board proved a tremendous challenge.

With Carrboro’s first resolution on the subject, dated May 13, 1975, the town declared that there would be nine board members, three each representing Carrboro, Chapel Hill and Orange County. Almost a year later, on April 23, 1976, at a town board meeting, emotions ran high among board members in response to Chapel Hill officials calling for Chapel Hill to have the majority of board members. Robert Drakeford, who would soon become Carrboro’s first black mayor, said, according to the minutes,

“that it was unacceptable for Chapel Hill to have all the power over the utilities. There is no reason for Carrboro to accept less than Chapel Hill.”

The minutes state that board member Nancy White “commented that Mayor Wallace thinks that Chapel Hill and Carrboro should be joined under his leadership and that Mayor Wallace does not think that we in Carrboro have sufficient intelligence or education to guide our own destiny.”

The final decision—made by the university’s board of trustees and announced at a town meeting on June 22, 1976 – was that

the OWASA board would be organized with a membership ratio of 5-2-2 — that is, five from Chapel Hill and two each from Carrboro and Orange County. When Bill Staton was asked why that ratio, he answered that he had asked the same question and been told “that this is the way the trustees want it.”

Carrboro’s share of that ratio may have become more palatable when the board of aldermen learned of the debts OWASA had incurred along with the water. Chapel Hill had agreed to pay \$20,000, while Carrboro and Orange County were asked to pay \$8,000 each, proportionate to their representation. Still, the sour grapes were in evidence as the board of aldermen questioned the viability of OWASA.

The minutes of July 7, 1976 show that Drakeford asked, “What will happen if half way through the negotiations the five members of the authority from Chapel Hill do something that displeases the board from Chapel Hill and they are replaced with members that want to make Carrboro [into] West Chapel Hill?”

On July 27, 1976, Everett Billingsley, OWASA’s executive director, attended a Carrboro Board of Aldermen meeting, “stating that he was glad that the Town of Carrboro saw fit to become a part of the OWASA as this was the best route to take in the utility matter.”

Since its formation, OWASA has had two directors: Billingsley, who served for 21 years, and Ed Kerwin, who has continued since. OWASA is the second-largest employer in Carrboro, after the town, with 125 employees.

..... timeline **CARRBORO 1911-2011** timeline

MAY 1971

In a special election, residents vote on whether to establish a public transportation system to be funded by an annual tax not to exceed 8 cents on each \$100 of assessed property value. It’s voted down, 530-196.

JUNE 1971

The South Orange Rescue Squad begins operation with a 1955 Cadillac ambulance and a squad of about 50 members. By year’s end, two Ford vans are also in operation.

JULY 1971

Ed Yaggy, owner of Carrboro Mills, meets with the board of aldermen to discuss the mill property. He says that the power plant needed to be destroyed and the mill building needed new lighting, new air conditioning and new windows, but was worth saving. The matter was given to the planning board for study and recommendation.

AUGUST 1971

Parking is no longer allowed on the north side of East Main Street from Rosemary Street to the intersection of East Main Street and West Main Street. The board approves a request to be made to the State Highway Commission to pave East Main Street where the street had been widened.

NOVEMBER 1971

The board of aldermen votes to allow the sale of beer and wine on Sundays. Board member Braxton Foushee argues that people will go to Chapel Hill to buy it, and that Carrboro not providing it would just be “hurting ourselves.”

RIDING INTO RETIREMENT

Officer Bob Takes Off His Badge

BY TAYLOR SISK

Reprinted from The Carrboro Citizen, June 14, 2007

W

hile Officer Bob Murdaugh says he's the only person of his acquaintance who's

ever been bounced from the Boot Hill Saloon during Daytona Beach's annual Bike Week, certainly it must have happened to many hundreds of others. Regardless, the image of Officer Bob being bounced, in Daytona Beach or otherwise, is entirely discordant with the image of Officer Bob that's been forged in the minds of so many Carrboro residents in the course of his some 32 years of service, and is no way to begin to tell his story.

Murdaugh recently retired from the Carrboro Police Department. Since, he's been spending a lot of time aboard his trusty BMW, and, already well out of regs, is eight days into a burgeoning white beard.

Back to the bouncing later.

The making of Officer Bob

It's been remarked more than once over the years that Officer Bob Murdaugh seemed to go about his business as if he understood himself to be a peace officer employed in the field of law enforcement.

"Uniforms were not well thought of or welcomed on university campuses in the early '70s; the Viet Nam War was still going on. I was offended. I thought wearing the uniform should indicate that I was a good guy, and that it was a perfect excuse to crank up a conversation about nothing in particular without creating concerns.

"I set about to do that," and in the wake of such conversations, he says, "I could see a kind of look in their eyes as I walked away, like, 'Well, that wasn't particularly unpleasant. What just happened there?'"

Somewhere along the way, he was dubbed, by a Breadmen's waitress, "Officer Bob."

"At first I was kind of resistant to the 'Officer Bob' ... but it seemed to work pretty well."

Negotiation has always been Officer Bob's preferred modus operandi. His voice – a distinctive baritone, pitched to the particulars of the moment, obliquely authoritative and somewhat soothing – certainly must have helped.

But there is, he explains "always Plan B." Which essentially boils down to this: "Dazzle them with b.s. till the cavalry arrives.

He allows as how, "I got bruised or scuffed a time or two – very rarely though, really." The last time, he was in a scuffle with a felon at Food Lion who was, in classic Bob-speak, "rather desperate not to be apprehended at that particular point in time."

Facts, fables and philosophy

Over the years, the off-duty Officer Bob has seemed to find himself in at least as many hairy situations as his on-duty counterpart.

knocked my hat off, thinking it was me. I swear it wasn't."

Long story short, the woman pointed Bob out to her boyfriend, words were had.

Enter the bouncer, "and I figure here comes justice," he remembers. "I found out what bouncing is all about. I got wrapped up and bounced out the door" – Bob here pantomimes traveling bouncy, bouncy, across the bouncer's hip and forthwith out the door – ejected.

The epilogue is that Bob slides back into the bar through a side door, and resumes his evening unchallenged.

A process, gradual

"This has been a very gradual process over the years – relationships that I've developed with the good, the bad and the ugly.... I took a lot of pride in being able to walk into an anxious situation and have it immediately calm down. I very much *preferred* that it calm down."

He's done it in Spanish as well – though he admits that despite several Spanish I classes in high school and college, he's far from fluent. But: "I couldn't imagine being a police officer [in this community] and not speaking any Spanish. It was a big help. Even if I couldn't do it all myself, I could usually ask, in Spanish, 'Do you know someone who speaks Spanish and English?' It seemed that the members of the Hispanic community, when I did speak some Spanish, became less fearful of the police."

So here's the deal, as Officer Bob sees it: "Carrboro really *is* a friendly town, and it seems to welcome everybody. It's amazing how many different kinds of people we have that seem to get along together – and I've seen this remarked about by visitors to the area."

As a peace officer for the town of Carrboro, Murdaugh says he learned "that there was some good in everybody. I met very few people who were truly all bad. If you could appeal to the good in somebody, and ask them to bring it out, let it out, and to do the right thing – and [convey to them] that you expected them to do better, that you knew that they *could* – oftentimes they would."



Bob on Weaver Street, preparing for a ride to the mountains. PHOTO BY KIRK ROSS

There's the story that involves a chainsaw in a well-established Chapel Hill bar. (Bob's pretty sure that firing up a chainsaw in a public place can be "construed as going armed to the terror of the people.") There are stories from the Sturgis rally in South Dakota and another in Flagstaff. In each case, Bob traverses unharmed – and, in most cases, moderates.

Except for the Boot Hill incident.

Here's how it went down:

"Apparently as I was making my way through the crowded bar, this woman – well, somebody pinched her on the butt just as I was passing by, and she turned around and

SCRAPBOOK

Carrboro's first fire department was established in the 1920s. The volunteer squad numbered 22. Today, the town is protected by 37 professional firefighters.

PHOTO BY ALEX MANESS



LATINOS IN CARRBORO

A Burgeoning Community

BY ALVIS DUNN

In 1987, I ran off to Latin America to meet Latin Americans. If I had just had a bit more patience and perhaps even been a bit more perceptive, I would have sat still in Carrboro. Clues to the migration were all around, especially in my workday world of tending bar, waiting tables and cooking at Tijuana Fats' restaurant on Rosemary Street.

I was also tuned in by way of my studies at UNC. I was pursuing my doctorate in Latin American History. Civil Wars in El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala and the spillover violence into Honduras had pushed many northward. A faltering economy in Mexico kept them, as well as Mexicans, moving farther along that pathway. Of course, these push/pull elements were deeply intertwined. War and instability begot economic hardship and the neocolonial relationship between the United States and these nations, each unique to be sure, meant that jobs might be found in El Norte.

In the late 1980s, I knew a lot of locals who were deeply invested in battling the war machine as it pressed down on Central America. During those times, a great deal of good work was done in that region through organizations based here as well as by individuals operating completely on their own. There were Latin Americans in town for other reasons as well; such as students and professors affiliated with the university. I knew many of them through my studies. But there were also men and a few women working in the kitchens of Latino restaurants. Thus I knew Latinos by way of both of my workplaces.

Spanish was not nearly as prevalently spoken in those days in town. With my meager learner's level of language, I was often called upon to explain wages, raises and safety policies to friends and managers in places where I didn't even work. I watched as the mix of locals and students working in those eateries began to pick up Spanish words and phrases.

All was not rosy. I witnessed class divisions among the immigrants, and, at times, animosities from the old countries made the trip and caused conflict here. I remember well one evening in La Terraza music hall when a rumble broke out as a mariachi band played to a crowd that was part hipster, part working-class Mexican immigrant. People said it seemingly started "out of nowhere."



Carrboro is home to a large Spanish-speaking population that supports a thriving Latino-owned business community. Tiendas serve up authentic dishes for diners from any culture. PHOTO BY ALEX MANESS

It turned out to be the resurgence of a feud that had begun a generation before back in Guanajuato.

I also watched as upper-class Latin American students worked to mend historic divisions with working-class Latin American semi-refugees. Here in Orange County, that class struggle played out with a new set of rules, and the former, while still imbued with the upper hand, was most often no longer inclined to take advantage of it. But suspicions lingered, nevertheless.

Of course, by the mid-1990s, the new population had taken over former student housing like Carrboro's Old Well Apartments and were well ensconced in the restaurant

trade, slowly but surely making their way out of the kitchen and into the front of the house as attitudes altered and language barriers fell.

The nearby Food Lion began stocking a wide array of products for the growing community. And a Latino business sector sprang up. Some owned their own enterprises, while others were employed by them – or by non-Spanish-speaking contractors. Day laborers began congregating by the Fast Fare and outside the Duron paint store at Carrboro Plaza, seeking additional work.

By 2010, according to census figures, people of Latino and Hispanic descent made up 13.8 percent of the Carrboro populace. Their economic power was strengthened

with the opening of the Latino Credit Union, also at Carrboro Plaza.

Granted, it's clear there is a way to go in employment opportunities and equality. But Carrboro-Chapel Hill, with a traditional population historically in tune to the complexity of civil rights and foreign-policy issues, an abundance of restaurant jobs, a student population that had for decades fostered cheap housing and fluid leasing arrangements, was and is a unique and attractive home for anyone building a new life, and so it has been for a good many Latin Americans.

Alvis Dunn is an assistant professor and chairman of the history department at Guilford College.



According to a 2006 report from Regional Technology Strategies, Inc., "In many ways Carrboro has come to epitomize the kind of community that attracts individuals who depend on creativity for their work, a place with numerous cultural activities, entertainment venues, green space, and an openness to diversity." PHOTOS BY ALEX MANESS AND BETH MECHUM



.....*timeline* **CARRBORO 1911-2011** *timeline*

APRIL 1972

Yaggy returns to the board with a proposal to build a medical clinic, which would employ 50 to 60 people. He comes back to the board a year later, requesting a zoning change from industrial to central business. His new plan is to have small shops and office space on the first floor and apartments on the second.

JANUARY 1974

The newly created Parks & Recreation Commission is authorized by Mayor Robert Wells.

SEPTEMBER 1974

Victor Schonebach speaks to the board of aldermen regarding the Carrboro Cyclists, requesting the board work with his group in providing well-maintained sewer grades, road sweeping on a regular basis and lanes for bicyclists. Board member Fred Chamblee says that bicycle paths should be considered.

JANUARY 1975

An ordinance is filed granting the Town of Chapel Hill a non-exclusive franchise to operate transportation service on certain streets within the Town of Carrboro.

AUGUST 1976

The State of North Carolina, acting on a request from UNC, enters into an agreement with OWASA.

THE CARRBORO SCENE

Building a Reputation in the Arts

BY JACKIE HELVEY

In 1989, Merge Records was founded by Laura Balance and Mac McCaughan, members of the band Superchunk. The label allowed the band to get their music out there, at first on cassettes and 7-inch records. With their first full-length CD released on April 1, 1992, the label opened its offices in Carrboro.

Also in 1989, Mammoth Records was launched by Jay Faires, quickly becoming a rising star in the music scene. They too had offices in Carrboro.

It was in 1993, when Cat's Cradle moved to town, at its fifth and current location, that things really started rocking in Carrboro. With The ArtsCenter opening in 1996 at its current location at the opposite end of the same building, Carrboro quickly became known as a place with venues for all types of music.

Gerry Williams opened Roots CD & Vinyl on Main Street in Carrboro in 1995. He ran the store until 2000, when he closed its doors and went to work booking music at The ArtsCenter.

"Carrboro always struck me as a great music town," Williams says. "I mean, I knew about it before I moved here from D.C."

Fête de la Musique

Fête de la Musique, now known as The Carrboro Music Festival, was started in 1998, with Elizabeth Boisson at the helm, with assistance from her husband, Cyril. The festival started out as part of a free festival of music celebrated worldwide on the summer solstice. From 1998 till 2001, Carrboro was one of only a few U.S. Fête de la Musique venues officially recognized by the Ministry of France, receiving posters each year as a goodwill gesture.

The Carrboro Music Festival was run by a handful of dedicated volunteers who insisted they could pull off a music festival with no money and not much more than great expectations. They had a lot of confidence in the giving nature of the local music community. Original committee members were Elizabeth Boisson, Janet Callahan, Berkeley Grimbail, Catherine DeVine, James Harris, Jackie Helvey, Mike Nelson, Janet Place, Joy Preslar, Samia Serageldin, Richard Taylor and Gerry Williams. Williams has been the festival coordinator since 2002.



There were those who tried to dissuade the committee that first year, warning of the perils of a project of this proportion. They were undeterred.

Through the generosity of countless musicians, the support and encouragement of the local government, a small amount of funding from the town and numerous donations from Carrboro businesses and individuals, Carrboro's music festival was born.

The Fête brought together musicians of every persuasion who played for free at stages from one end of town to the other. In Carrboro, Fête de la Musique was moved to the Sunday closest to June 21, thereby also serving as a celebration of Father's Day.

In 2001, the 20th anniversary of the international Fête de la Musique was celebrated in more than 100 countries all over the world, and with Carrboro as an official venue for the final time. A cooler date was chosen – the last Sunday in September.

In its 14th year, in 2011, the Carrboro Music Festival continues to thrive, filling the streets of Carrboro with music and merriment on Sept. 25.

"The Carrboro Music Festival does two things," said former Mayor Mike Nelson. "It supports our economic development while showcasing and supporting musicians here, that segment of Carrboro; but it's also a community-building thing. It's part of our community identity now, that music festival. Creating things like that during the '90s changed this town for the better."

.The arts are born

Art exhibits made their way into Carrboro Town Hall out of necessity because there was no art on the walls. Town Hall art displays were initially confined to the mayor's office; but as they grew, they expanded throughout the building.

Thus were art shows at Town Hall, and later, the Carrboro Century Center, born. Seeing the economic impact the arts were having on the town prompted the Carrboro Board of Aldermen to support, grow and nurture them.

The Carrboro Music Festival was started in 1998 as part of the French celebration known as Fête de la Musique, celebrated in more than 100 countries worldwide on the summer solstice. The date was moved to September in 2002.

SCRAPBOOK

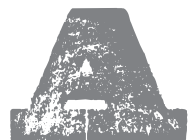


Carrboro loves its art, and many installations like this one dot the local landscape. PHOTO BY ALEX MANESS,

A FARMERS' MARKET HISTORY

Simply the Best

BY SARAH BLACKLIN AND KELLY CLARKE



Area farmers have always brought the fruits (and vegetables) of their labors to Carrboro.

At first, it was at

“truck markets,” where producers would pull into town and sell right off the tailgates of their trucks. But it wasn’t until 1979 that the Carrboro Farmers’ Market, one of the town’s biggest assets, came into being. Since then, more than 100 vendors have sold their wares.

Planting the seeds

The market as we know it is the result of a graduate-student project based on an initiative in Tennessee and Alabama called the Agriculture Marketing Project. The goal was to bring together local farmers on a regular basis at “Food Fairs” to sell their produce and give townspeople better access to local, high-quality fresh food. The program helped the farmers formalize an organizational structure, establishing rules and bylaws, most of which remain in effect to this day.

In 1978, the Town of Carrboro successfully approached the N.C. General Assembly for funds to build a market structure on Roberson Street on property leased by Carr Mill Mall. The next year, the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Farmers’ Market sprouted.

Tending the crops

Under the watchful eyes of farmers themselves, the market grew slowly but steadily. In the first few seasons, there were about 20 farmers each week; after a decade, it reached its current size of 90 members. The farmers hired Karl Schaefer as full-time manager in 1995 to handle the administrative duties required to run the busy market. “That was a seminal moment,” recalls Don Graham, a member since 1983. “The market [started] watching out for opportunists who don’t care deeply and was strengthened by having people who are dependent on it for their living.”

In 1993, with strong support from state Sen. Ellie Kinnaird and others, the General Assembly approved a grant to complete the



Area farmers have been peddling their produce and other wares at the local market since 1979.
PHOTO BY ALEX MANESS

necessary site improvements to house the market at the Carrboro Town Commons. The new site opened for business in 1996. A seasonal Wednesday market was added the following year with 13 farmers; it currently has 30 members.

Reaping the harvest

Now entering its 33rd season, the Carrboro Farmers’ Market is a leader in the nation’s farmers’ market movement, garnering recognition through its innovative growers and producers.

Market member Laurie Heise, owner of Wiseacre Farm in Pittsboro, knows that first-hand.

“I have grown and sold produce at farmers’ markets in Nashville and the Washington, D.C., area, as well as at the Carrboro Market,” she says. “And I like selling here the best, because there are so many diverse vendors and because the Carrboro customers are so enthusiastic, appreciative, loyal and ready to take a chance on new varieties and ‘exotic’ vegetables.”

Today the market continues to grow within the community. It partners with multiple organizations that serve the local population, including food-assistance programs such as FMNP WIC and Senior Coupons and EBT benefits (formerly known as food stamps).

Carrboro’s market is frequently featured in national food and travel magazines and serves as a major draw for out-of-towners. The market and its farmers are proud to serve such a supportive and growing community with the freshest local products, grown within 50 miles, and sold direct by the growers themselves.

“I love the personalities at the Carrboro market, vendors and customers both,” says member Mary Ann Pagano of Three Waters Farm. “Every vendor has a different way with what they sell and how they sell it. It’s called ‘the spice of life.’ That’s why people come – to buy the highest-quality things they can and be connected to and pleased with their community”

A BIT OF HISTORY

One of Carrboro's early businesses, this dry goods store was run by Jim and Maggie Neal. COURTESY THE WATTS COLLECTION



Johnny's is a popular gathering spot on West Main. A variety of food trucks out front, including this crepe truck, are steady draws. PHOTO BY ALEX MANESS



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..... timeline **CARRBORO 1911-2011** timeline

NOVEMBER 1976

A conditional-use permit is issued for the Carr Mill with completion of retail construction scheduled for Oct. 1, 1977, with plans very much in line with what Carr Mill Mall is today.

DECEMBER 1977

Robert Drakeford, the first black mayor of Carrboro, is sworn in. He serves until 1983.

FEBRUARY 1978

Carrboro receives a \$25,000 grant from the N.C. General Assembly to construct and operate a farm and craft market. The town obtains a 25-year lease from Carr Mill to use, initially just on Saturdays, the parking lot next to the South Orange Rescue Squad on Roberson Street.

JANUARY 1979

PTA Thrift Shop opens at 103 Jones Ferry Road. The shop's mission is to distribute profits to support the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools PTAs.

AUGUST 1979

A quarry reservoir east of Bethel Hickory Grove Church Road is acquired by OWASA.

AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, STILL IN GREAT SHAPE

Four Generations at Fitch Lumber

BY ASHLEY ATKINS

Reprinted from The Carrboro Free Press, November 14, 2007

Downtown Carrboro has been a good location," David Fitch says. "Like Cliff's, we've been here a long time. We're one of the last few surviving original businesses."

David is a fourth-generation Fitch. Son of Mac. Grandson of Miles senior. Great-grandson of founder, Mr. A. B. Fitch. (Everyone refers to him as "Mr. A. B. Fitch". *Everyone.*) David graduated from Appalachian State University and has been back home and working full-time at Fitch since 2001. David's younger brother, Brad, has also joined the family business.

"I've been working here since I was 6," David says. "As a kid, I put up lumber. I still do that. I'm trying to carry on a tradition."

The legacy doesn't just belong to the Fitch family, as Carol Fitch Walker is quick to point out.

"Peggy Hearn, who did the books until recently retiring, took over the job from her mother-in-law," she says. "Bobby Squires just retired from working the counter. His father, Ping, worked here. And Billy Alford works in the shop. His dad, Tommy, was 12 when he started working for Fitch."

In 1975, Mac was curious about the average length of time employees had been at Fitch. "The average employee had been here 19 years," he recalls. "The younger ones had



Mac Fitch and accounts payable manager Linda Trout look over an invoice under the watchful eyes of founder A.B. Fitch (center) and Bernice Fitch (left) and Miles Fitch (right).

grown up and had a lot of ties here. Most of the second-generation employees came in at the same time as me."

Residential contractor James Arndt has been doing business with the Fitches for 25 years. "It's amazing," he says, "the loyalty Fitch generates with their employees and builders. It speaks volumes about the place."

Marshall Murdaugh has been at Fitch for 17 years. "I sought them out specifically," he explains. "When I came, they were rearranging the store, and I moved inventory for about six months. Then they had an opening at the counter and asked me to join

them. I was tickled to death. Fitch is the best employer I ever had. I hope it's the last I ever have. They're the greatest folks to work with. And I enjoy the customers."

People come looking for ideas as well as products. "They know what they want to have happen at the end but don't know how to get there," Murdaugh says. "They don't know the questions to ask, but they can paint a picture of what they want. There's a lot of good help from the guys in hardware and in the shop."

Folks also come in for the latest news. Artist Michael Brown has been painting

murals around Carrboro and Chapel Hill for 20 years.

"If I want to know the dirt, I come here," he says. "I buy a lot of paint and equipment here." In addition to murals, Brown also paints on large canvases. "I might spend a month in the studio," he says, "and the only people I'll see in the course of the day are the people behind the counter here."

"Fitch is in great shape," assets Marc Atkins, a 17-year employee who started as a driver and now works the counter. "With the younger generation of Fitches, they could go another 100 years if the market allows and homes keep being built."

Thirty-one-year employee Mike Greenhill showed a real feeling of pride when discussing Fitch's Centennial. "One hundred years," he says in amazement. "Whew! In an age when most small businesses and families sell out and leave, this business has enjoyed its connections with the community and has wanted to grow with the community. It's an accomplishment."

Carol agrees. "It's pretty remarkable," she says. "I can walk in downtown Chapel Hill and point and say, 'that used to be Foister's Camera Supply. That used to be Roses 5 & 10. That used to be the Carolina Theater.' But people can't say, 'That used to be Fitch Lumber.'"

Excerpted from Ashley Atkins' "A Carrboro Century: Fitch Lumber Turns 100."

..... timeline CARRBORO 1911-2011 timeline

SEPTEMBER 1980

Wendy's opens after a court order kept the town from blocking it.

SEPTEMBER 1986

Jacques Menache, executive director of The ArtSchool, requests that the town issue plumbing, electrical, sprinkler and HVAC permits prior to obtaining a general building permit for the building located at 300 E. Main St. The name is changed to The ArtsCenter in 1987.

JUNE 1987

A resolution is accepted to adopt El Menshia, Egypt, as a sister city. "The Town of Carrboro recognizes that the Village of El Menshia, Egypt faces municipal issues similar to Carrboro ... and desires to broaden its view of municipal experiences from the experiences of El Menshia."

OCTOBER 1987

The town manager is authorized to develop the former ball-field area behind the Town Hall into an "urban-type" park. Relocation of the Farmers' Market is to be investigated as well; \$1,200 for architectural services is approved.

DECEMBER 1987

"I, Eleanor Kinnaird, do hereby solemnly swear that I will ... faithfully perform the duties of the Office of Mayor of the Town of Carrboro, on which I am about to enter ..." Thus begins a storied political career. Kinnaird serves as mayor until 1995 and is now in her eighth term as state senator.

STRAYHORN FAMILY LEGACY REMEMBERED

The History of a Home

BY CATHERINE RIERSON

Reprinted from The Carrboro Citizen, July 1, 2010

With her close-cropped hair and almond skin shining under a thin film of perspiration in the sun, Dolores Clark mapped the memory of her family's farm. The multiple barns that peppered the land where houses now sit, a hen house, a springhouse and a cow pasture whose floral fingers stretched past what's now Laurel Avenue. Some things remain.

"This mulberry tree is as old as this house," Clark said, patting its swollen, leaning trunk. "I promised my mother I'd never cut it down, and no matter how sick it looks, it just keeps growin'."

Clark bakes in the kitchen where her great-grandmother baked over a century ago and her grandchildren now play in the same yard she did as a little girl. Her two-story white house – originally a one-bedroom log cabin – was built by former slaves Tony and Nellie Strayhorn, Clark's great-grandparents.

Clark's home is the longstanding, physical proof of her family's legacy. Unlike that of most slave families who lacked the resources to document their history, the Strayhorn's rich heritage was written down.

In 1950, 95-year-old Nellie Strayhorn was interviewed about life before emancipation. Until she was 14, Nellie was the property of Wesley Atwater and his wife, Miss Julie, who lived about six miles from Chapel Hill on Hillsborough Road. Nellie's future husband, Tony—who was separated from his mother

at age 7 after she was sold on the Hillsborough auction block—belonged to the Strayhorns of University Station.

"We lived in a log house down in a field," Nellie said in the interview. "Mother would get up early in the morning and go to the house to build a fire and get breakfast. I was the oldest, so I got the other children up and to the kitchen."

"I used to plough with a mule named Duck, side by side with Mr. Wilson Strowd. He owned my Daddy. And bind wheat – I can



Dolores Clark in front of her home. Clark's grandfather, a freed slave, built the house.
PHOTO BY AVA BARLOW

The Strayhorn family in front of their home, which still stands on Jones Ferry Road. This photo depicts the family in the 1930s. Toney Strayhorn was a master bricklayer, and the chimneys and their freestanding corbelled stacks showcase his expertise.
COURTESY DOLORES CLARK

do everything in the field except split rails for a fence.”

Nellie and her sisters worked on Atwater’s orchard during the warmer months. They were prohibited from eating any of the picked fruit, but, if given permission, could eat what was on the ground.

While Atwater was away fighting in the Civil War, Nellie and her mother and siblings stayed with Miss Julie and prepared barrels of food to send to the Confederate soldiers.

“When the Yankees come the first time, all the hands was in the field, just like master was there,” she said. “They asked Mother if she knew we was free. She said ‘No sir,’ and I was standin’ beside her when she said it. ‘We fought to free you,’ they told her. They was nice but we was afraid, ’cause we weren’t used to those blue suits and shiny buttons, and the guns at their sides.”

After gaining her freedom in 1865, Nellie found work in a law office for \$5 a month. Shortly thereafter, she married Tony and began assembling the family that slavery had precluded.

The family flourishes

In the mid-1870s, Nellie and Tony purchased a small plot of land on what is now Jones Ferry Road, two doors down from the PTA

Thrift Shop, and began constructing the home that has since been witness to the progress of civil rights in Orange County.

Freedom brought the family a prosperity very remote from the slaves’ reality. Though living in a racially volatile society, the Strayhorns flourished. The family succeeded in achieving one stamp of the American Dream: citizenship. Though appearing nowhere in the 1860 N.C. census, this listing appears 10 years later: “Strayhorn, Tony; farmworker, illiterate.” By 1880, Tony was learning brick masonry, had taught himself to read and write and had helped found the First Baptist Church of Chapel Hill.

In the late 1880s, the one-bedroom cabin expanded to two stories to accommodate the growing Strayhorn family. Tony and Nellie’s bedroom and living room remain intact today. The nucleus of the past and present structure, the parlor room, with its bloated wooden floor and bowing ceiling, also attest to the family’s past.

“My children and grandchildren understand the importance of this house and the memories that linger here,” Clark said, facing the ancient house from the road. “But I told my Mama I’d stay here until the end of my days, and I just hope I can.”

CARRBORO *characters*

The Weaver House, located on Watters Street, is considered to be the oldest residential structure in Carrboro. A log cabin section of the house is thought to have been built in the mid-18th century as a homestead and tavern on the Old Hillsborough Road. Hardy Morgan sold 450 acres, including the house, to William Partin in 1782, the first known record of the property. Thomas Weaver purchased the house and land in 1811. The property remained in the Weaver family for more than a century, which is why it is called the Weaver House.



A BIT OF HISTORY



COURTESY THE WATTS COLLECTION

“According to J.F. Sturdivant, who wrote a master’s thesis in 1924 on the Carrboro mill village, all of the houses were painted and in fair repair; 65 percent were equipped with electric lights and 34 percent had refrigerators at the time of her writing. Exact figures are not available, but one resident recalls that in the 1930s, a four-room house with electric lights and running water rented for \$1.37 per week!” —Excerpted from *Carrboro, N.C.: An Architectural and Historical Inventory*, by Claudia Roberts Brown, Burgess McSwain & John Florin for the Carrboro Appearance Commission (1983)



COURTESY THE WATTS COLLECTION

..... timeline CARRBORO 1911-2011 timeline

JUNE 1988

Weaver Street Market opens. The member-owned business is funded with a loan from the Self-Help Ventures Fund, a Community Development Block Grant from the Town of Carrboro and individual community supporters.

JUNE 1988

Carol Drinkard, chair of the Downtown Development Commission, appears before the board of aldermen requesting they seek a means to support The ArtsCenter. Drinkard says the commission believes The ArtsCenter is a key element in downtown revitalization because it provides a major anchor of activity.

OCTOBER 1988

A motion is made by board of aldermen member Frances Shetley and seconded by Randy Marshall to adopt a policy asking the public not to smoke in Town Hall except in designated smoking areas.

OCTOBER 1988

Blair Pollock, solid waste planner for Orange County, announces that curbside recycling for Chapel Hill and Carrboro will begin Nov. 9 or 10.

SEPTEMBER 1989

A portion of the Westwood Cemetery is suggested as the site for a new post office. A resolution is read stating that the board of aldermen will support the post office should its officials decide to move forward with acquiring a portion of the cemetery land. Mayor Ellie Kinnaird alone votes no.

In Carrboro's next 100 years, let's strive for a waste free future!

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- ♻️ Recover all the electronics you can - computers, TV's, cell phones and anything that transmits voice or data, motorized toys, plus old media such as floppy disks and videocassettes. Bring them to Solid Waste Convenience Centers or to the Orange County Landfill on Eubanks Road. It will be illegal in North Carolina to throw away TVs, computers or peripherals after June 30, 2011!
- ♻️ Take hazardous household waste, such as paint, chemicals, solvents, pesticides, fluorescent bulbs, etc. to the County's Hazardous Household Waste collection station at the landfill: Monday-Friday 10am - 6pm, Saturday 7:30am - noon. (Batteries motor oil, oil filters, and antifreeze are accepted at Solid Waste Convenience Centers.)
- ♻️ Eschew disposables! Bring your own reusable bag, mug, take-out container and chopsticks.
- ♻️ Recycle plastic bags, shrink wrap, dry cleaning bags, or toilet paper overwrap at the nearest major grocery store. Never ever put them in your apartment or curbside recycling bin! Plastic bags and plastic film represent almost 9% of Carrboro's waste.
- ♻️ Remember that rigid non-bottle plastics #2, #4 and #5 are recyclable only in the purple dumpsters at drop-off locations. Don't put them in your curbside bin!



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..... timeline **CARRBORO 1911-2011** timeline

OCTOBER 1994

The Town of Carrboro implements a domestic partnership ordinance, the first town in the South to provide health insurance benefits for domestic partners of town employees. The Town also sets up a registry for citizens to register their relationships.

JUNE 1995

The board of aldermen adopts an open-space ordinance, requiring a 40 percent green space set aside in new developments. The idea is to avoid suburban sprawl and give people an open, green space in their own neighborhoods.

JUNE 1995

A historical marker recognizing the contribution of blacks to the building of the Carrboro community is placed in the slave graveyard on West Main Street.

NOVEMBER 1995

Mike Nelson, 31, is elected the first gay mayor in North Carolina history. Nelson had served on the board of aldermen for two years.

FEBRUARY 1996

The Town of Carrboro signs a contract with the Carrboro Farmers' Market for it to move to the Carrboro Town Commons. A few years later, a bandstand is added to the commons, where concerts and other special events and activities are held.

A DO-IT-YOURSELF WAY

How Frances Shetley Gets it Done

BY SUSAN DICKSON

Reprinted from The Carrboro Citizen, Feb.17, 2011

There are few residents with roots as deep in this town as Frances Lloyd Shetley.

Though she grew up in Calvander, Shetley has lived on Hillsborough Road in Carrboro for 50 years. Her family has been in the area since the mid-1700s, when Thomas Lloyd – of whom Carr Mill’s original owner Thomas Lloyd is a descendant – purchased land near Calvander.

Shetley went to school in the same building where Town Hall is now located and attended first grade in the same room where, 60 years later, she served as a member of the Carrboro Board of Aldermen for eight years, taking a stand on controversial town policies

that hold strong nearly 20 years later.

How she came to sit on that board is indicative of Shetley’s do-it-yourself way of approaching things.

In the 1970s, “I had something that I wanted to ask the town about,” Shetley recalls. She went to speak with the town manager, who told her he was too busy to deal with her question.

“That should not happen,” she said. So Shetley decided she would take matters into her own hands, becoming a part of the infrastructure of the town. Her first involvement in town government was as one of the founders of the Carrboro Appearance Commission.

“Two or three of us got together and went before the town board,” she said. “They

consisted of men, old-timers.

“One of them said, ‘Aw, let’s let the women have some bushes,’” she recalled, and the appearance commission was born. These days, the commission is about far more than bushes, making recommendations to the board of aldermen regarding proposed developments and other projects.

Shetley was also instrumental in saving Carr Mill, which was set to be destroyed and replaced with a shopping center in the mid-1970s.

“The community got together and said, this is something that’s got to be saved,” she said. Without it, “I think the town would be entirely different.”

She also served on the Board of Ad-



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justment and chaired the Transportation Advisory Board, but eventually she grew tired of simply advising the aldermen on how they should act and decided to run for a seat on the board.

"If I got on the board, then maybe I could have a vote," she said.

Elected to the board in 1987, Shetley immediately discovered the intensity of the job.

"You really have to do your homework," she said, remembering the stacks of agenda materials she used to go through on week-ends.

During her years on the board, she took on issues like connector roads, development and transportation, almost always determining not to make a decision on issues until after the public hearing.

"Why have a public hearing if you're not going to listen to people?" Shetley said.

She has notebooks filled with newspaper clippings, letters and photographs from her time on the board and days gone by. Flipping through one, she came across a letter she received in 1994, when the board was considering extending benefits to domestic partners of town employees and providing a town registry for same-sex domestic partners.

"I can't talk about this," she said. "This makes me so mad. ... People were terribly upset, and they talked so ugly about it.

"That's one time that I knew the public hearing wasn't going to change my mind," she said. "I voted in favor of it."

People were surprised by her vote, because she came from a family that might not

have supported such a measure, she said.

"It was just the right thing to do, that's all," she said. "It was not political."

Shetley was also part of heated development discussions, as she was on the board when the Hogan family was trying to sell for development the land where their dairy farm was located. Residents came out in opposition of the development.

"People wanted to keep [the land] and enjoy it," Shetley said. But the Hogans' dairy farm was no longer profitable.

"They had been in the dairy business ... a long, long time," she said. "What do you want them to do?"

The board initially voted down the development, 4-3, with Shetley siding with the developers, but an agreement was reached in

mediation, and Lake Hogan Farms was built.

When Shetley left the board in 1995, she found herself with some free time on her hands, but she "filled it up real quick," continuing her involvement with the town and other organizations. She stays involved with the Carrboro Community Garden Club, of which she is a founding member. She also finds herself spending more time at the Seymour Center and the N.C. Botanical Garden.

"There are always some classes to take," she said, "things to learn."

But while she's glad she served on the board, Shetley is happy not to be in the thick of it anymore.

"I must have liked it," she said, laughing. "Looking back on it, I'm not sure why."



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..... timeline **CARRBORO 1911-2011** timeline

OCTOBER 1996

The board of aldermen approves the 1997 N.C. Pride Parade and March to held in downtown Carrboro on June 8, 1997. On May 20, 1997, the board authorizes displaying "Rainbow" flags in downtown Carrboro from June 6-8, 1997, in conjunction with the parade.

MARCH 1997

An extensive Salvador Dali art show is held at Carrboro Town Hall, displaying the collection of Cyril and Elizabeth Boisson, who had moved to Carrboro from France. For one weekend, Town Hall becomes a Dali museum, with 120 pieces on the walls. People came from all over the state, with the exhibit garnering national attention.

MAY 1997

The first Carrboro Day is scheduled, rained out, then rescheduled. The event features storytelling, community art, a photo exhibit of the town through the years, old-timey children's games, a pot-luck supper and music and dancing, all capped off with the new fire truck showering the crowd.

JUNE 1997

Art on Weaver, a local sculpture show curated by James Morgan, Alison Weiner and Catherine and Gina DeVine, is held, featuring 15 local and regional sculptors and drawing thousands of viewers to a permanent outdoor sculpture gallery.

JULY 1997

The Town agrees to purchase the old Carrboro Baptist Church property and convert it into the Carrboro Century Center, which opens in 2001.



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CARRBORO *characters*

In April 2008, Sadie Frank's bilingual radio show aired on WCOM Friday afternoons.



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Don Basnight on why longevity matters.

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..... timeline CARRBORO 1911-2011 timeline

SEPTEMBER 1997

The Squirrel Nut Zippers, at the peak of their fame, play a free concert at Carrboro Town Commons. More than 10,000 folks show up, proving the town can handle, and maybe should encourage, such events.

JUNE 1998

Carrboro is one of only three official venues in the U.S. recognized by the French Ministry of Culture for Fête de la Musique, celebrated on the summer solstice in more than 100 countries worldwide.

NOVEMBER 1998

Carolyn Hutchison is appointed the first gay female police chief in the state of North Carolina.

JUNE 2000

"King" Nyle Frank makes his return to Carrboro to take the stage as king of the Fête de la Musique. In 1970, Frank had crowned himself dictator of the Invisible University of North Carolina, parading around campus in a robe, tooting his trumpet. Frank subsequently moved his university to Carrboro.

MARCH 2001

The Carrboro Century Center opens with a weeklong celebration of activities. The Recreation & Parks Department and the Carrboro Police Department also move to what had been Carrboro Baptist Church.

FAREWELL TO A STEADY HAND

Sarah Williamson Retires

BY TAYLOR SISK

Reprinted from The Carrboro Citizen, June 24, 2010

Robert Wells was mayor the first day Sarah Williamson came to work. That was July 5, 1972, and Williamson was fresh out of Durham Tech and a day shy of 20. She'll be retiring as Carrboro town clerk at the end of this month.

Williamson – who grew up in Chapel Hill, out by University Lake, and graduated from Chapel Hill High School – arrived at Carrboro Town Hall to cover for Vergie Arrington, who handled a variety of responsibilities and was going out on maternity leave.

"They were looking for someone to fill in and do some of her work while she was out," Williamson said recently, seated in her Town Hall office, one of several she's occupied in the building across her 38 years of service to the town. ("I've been all over this building.")

"When Vergie came back, I continued with the town clerk work and she went full-time to finance."

Ruth West succeeded Wells as mayor in 1975. Robert Drakeford followed in 1977.

"The town was a whole lot smaller then," Williamson said of her early Town Hall days. "Back in those days, we had water and sewer and bills and taxes and everything in here, so more people came into Town Hall. The police department was here then; the recreation department was downstairs."

"Of course, we didn't have a computer then. We used mimeograph machines to print the agendas, getting black ink everywhere."

"Carbon paper. We used carbon paper. There weren't even any copy machines. I had to go downstairs to do that."

James Porto was elected mayor in 1983 and Ellie Kinnaird in 1987, and Carrboro was growing apace.

"The town has grown a lot," Williamson said. "I think for the better. I like change."

And she's certainly kept up.

"She knows this town inside out," said Town Manager Steve Stewart. "Sarah is just an incredibly important person to the town of Carrboro, and just a really great person."

To board of aldermen member Jacque



Gist, "Sarah embodies what's really good about Carrboro. She's dedicated to her family and to her neighbors. She's very, very professional and comes to her work with a sense of pride."

"She's magnificent," said Kinnaird. "She was just the most professional person in carrying out her duties. There would be arguments going on all around her, and she would just be going about her business, doing her job in the most competent way."

"She knew how things were supposed to be, so you could always count on her."

Mike Nelson took office in 1995 and Mark Chilton in '05 – seven administrations for Williamson.

"I tried to talk her out of retiring, because

I'm going to really miss her steady hand," Stewart said. "I wish her all the best in her retirement. But she'll be really missed by all of us at Town Hall."

In fact, Williamson isn't retiring, per se, right away. It's hard to walk out that door. Starting Aug. 4, she'll work part-time for the town, probably through November, till someone is hired and trained. She's not sure what'll then come next.

"I'm going to miss the people," she said. "I've known some of these people for a long, long time."

"But I'll tell you what I'm not going to miss: I'm sure not going to miss those board meetings."

*Another beautiful century
in Carrboro!*



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LAUGHING ALONG WITH RUBY

100 Years of Good Livin'

BY SUSAN DICKSON

Reprinted from The Carrboro Citizen, May 23, 2008

R

uby Merritt got 16 telephone calls on Saturday.

With 39 family members already in town to celebrate her 100th birthday, that's quite a few, she said.

Merritt is the matriarch of a large family, with four children, seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. On Sunday, her family threw her 100th birthday party at Captain John's Dockside Restaurant, and family members came from as far away as California, Pennsylvania and Germany to celebrate.

Thirty of them came to church with her at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church on Sunday.

"If they don't love me, they're hypocrites," she said. "They sure act like they love me."

They held the party at Captain John's because Merritt celebrated her 95th birthday there, and the owner of the restaurant promised if she lived to be 100 he'd bake her a cake, which he did.

Born in Chatham County, Merritt has lived in Carrboro for more than 25 years. She lived in Chapel Hill before that, helping her husband, Eben Merritt, with Merritt's Store, which he ran for nearly 50 years.

Merritt met her husband in Chapel Hill through his sister, who attended Chapel Hill High School with her. After graduating from Chapel Hill High in 1925, Merritt went to UNC for one year.

"I went to UNC one year and got my "Mrs." degree," Merritt said, laughing.

The two were married in June of 1926 at



PHOTO BY KIRK ROSS

Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, where she's been a member for more than 80 years.

Merritt recalls downtown Chapel Hill differently from how it stands today, though she says she doesn't go downtown much anymore.

"At least we didn't have any bars," she said. "Sutton's [Drug Store] was a gathering place."

Carrboro, she added, is "so different"

from how she remembers it from when she was growing up.

"I remember that it was a mill town," she said. "I didn't come enough to even remember."

Her husband died of a heart attack in 1981. The two had been married for 55 years.

"I wish it had been longer," she said.

When Merritt's husband died, she moved to Carrboro.

"I moved here in order to be close to my daughters, and to aggravate them," she said with a smile. "That's why the Lord has let me live so long."

100 years young

Merritt attributes her longevity to laughter, family and clean living.

"I enjoy laughing," she said. "It says in proverbs, laughter does good like medicine, and I firmly believe that."

Merritt has a photo of her two daughters and herself at the beach in Cherry Grove, S.C. in t-shirts screen-printed with women's bodies clad in tiny bikinis.

"You see, we're a fun group," she said.

Merritt said she also believes her involvement in her church has kept her going.

At Mt. Carmel, Merritt taught Sunday school for more than 50 years and played the piano for more than 70.

"I had to stop a few months for four babies," she said, adding that she would bring her babies with her to church and lay them on pillows on the bench.

When asked what the most difficult challenge in life is, Merritt doesn't miss a beat.

"Rearing children properly," she said. "I think that's the biggest problem that people have today."

"Teachers cannot do it all," she continued, adding that three of her four children were teachers.

Merritt's mother was also a teacher and her father built a one-room schoolhouse that still stands in Chatham County.

..... timeline CARRBORO 1911-2011 timeline

SEPTEMBER 2001

The Downtown Visioning Charrette brainstorming sessions begin at Century Hall. Attendees break into groups and "redesign" downtown Carrboro. Suggestions include burying power lines, more green space, swimming pools, performing-arts spaces and roundabouts for smoother traffic flow.

OCTOBER 2001

Years after the original plans were completed and fundraising for the project began, the Carrboro Bandstand is dedicated, with a concert by the Village Band.

JULY 2002

Kate Lovelady becomes Carrboro's first poet laureate. She reads her "Report from the Curb" at Carrboro's Independence Day celebration.

MARCH 2003

The board of aldermen unanimously votes to designate April "French Trade Month" in Carrboro. The action inspires an episode of *The Daily Show with John Stewart*: "The French Persistence," featuring board member Mark Dorosin and airing on Comedy Central on April 22, 2003.

JUNE 2004

After several years of paperwork and planning, WCOM 103.5 FM, Carrboro's all-volunteer radio station, goes on the air, transmitting an information loop that on Sept. 29, 2004 was replaced with live broadcasting from the corner of North Greensboro and Weaver streets in downtown Carrboro.

In particular, Merritt has always loved music, which led her to become the first woman to drive in Chatham County.

When she was 12, she took music lessons. Her father ran a sawmill, and driving her the five miles to her lessons would have meant shutting it down to leave. So, much to the chagrin of her mother, her father taught her to drive on the old country roads near their home.

"My mother had a fit," she said. But Merritt drove herself to her lessons, and because there were only two other cars in the county at that time, everyone knew who she was when they saw her coming. When people approached her on horses or in buggies, they would slow down to give 12-year-old Ruby a wide berth on the narrow dirt roads.

Merritt continued to drive until she was 93.

Family time

For nearly 50 years, Merritt's family has traveled to Cherry Grove for a family week at the beach, and Merritt looks forward to another trip this summer.

"We have such a good time," she said. "It's just so much pleasure."

After 100 years, Merritt said she thinks her family is part of what's kept her going.

"To me, the most important thing on this earth is a functional family," she said. "Maybe that's why I've lived so long, because it's a loving family."

At her birthday party on Sunday, Merritt quoted Minnie Pearl: "I'm just so proud to be here."

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COMING OF AGE

Carrboro of the '70s and '80s

BY VALARIE SCHWARTZ

One of the most transitional periods for the town of Carrboro occurred during the 1970s and '80s. Following the country's turbulent 1960s, the "Age of Aquarius" brought with it a youth movement that forced the old guard to look at things differently.

In Carrboro, town leadership rarely had reason to lift its head from its labors through three decades with little population growth. The 1940 census shows a 1,455 population with growth of about 200 a year until 1970, when it jumped to 5,058. Between 1968 and 1973, the population growth resulted in new housing, mostly in the form of apartment complexes. Minutes from the Carrboro Board of Aldermen meetings are filled with appearances before the board of contractors wishing to build apartments and new housing developments, and of residents of older neighborhoods feeling the sewer strain from streets expanding with new houses.

Before the staid working-class citizenry of Carrboro knew it, the counterculture had invaded, bringing with it uninhibited and outspoken young people who enjoyed life, and what an advancing Carrboro could offer – if the "old" population would allow it.

The May 4, 1971 special election for public transportation that would mean higher taxes for homeowners paints the picture pretty well. Of 726 voters, a resounding 530 voted against it, with possibly only the student/young-adult population voting in favor. They were the ones living in the apartment buildings, mostly out on the bypass – the ones who needed public transportation – but did not pay town taxes.



The seeds for the Carrboro Farmers' Market were sown in 1978. PHOTO BY ALEX MANESS

The young people did not go away.

In 1970, one (literally) made a name for himself—"King" Nyle Frank—and gave Carrboro an alias that has stuck: "Paris of the Piedmont." Frank, a political science graduate student from California doing his dissertation on communes and working as a

teacher's assistant, coronated himself King of the Invisible Kingdom. The university fired him and, as the story goes, he was exiled to Carrboro, where, during a newspaper interview, he coined its nickname.

In the mid-'70s, the Carrboro Community Coalition was formed and their liberal

attitudes began to infiltrate. Bus service began in 1975, and in 1978 the Carrboro Coalition held the majority voice on the board of aldermen, led by Mayor Robert Drakeford, who was black. Their mettle was tested in 1980 during the building of Wendy's on what was the busiest corner in town.

The lot at the southwest corner of West Main and South Greensboro streets, which had been vacant for years and served as an impromptu parking lot, was optioned for purchase (for \$107,000) in November 1979 by the Wenco Management Company, which then owned 20 restaurants in North Carolina and some in Alabama. The building of Wendy's presented a challenge that brought differing tastes and personalities head to head, beginning in March 1980, over proposed traffic patterns in and out of the parking lot and the drive-through.

The board of aldermen decided they didn't want a drive-through restaurant in town. They came up against the board of adjustment, the planning board and most downtown business people. Three lawsuits and one appeal later, Wendy's Old Fashioned Hamburger Restaurant opened in September 1980—with its drive-through, but without yucca plants—landscaping having proven to be another bone of contention.

Young people kept coming to Carrboro. With the 1980 census, the town's population of 7,336 was one of the youngest in North Carolina, with three times as many residents in their 20s and early 30s as many towns. And they weren't all students – including in their ranks professionals, artisans and people working in the service industry in Chapel Hill.

..... timeline CARRBORO 1911-2011 timeline

AUGUST 2004

The Cybrary opens in the Carrboro Century Center. The room helps meet the need for more library services in Carrboro.

MARCH 2007

The Carrboro Citizen, a free weekly newspaper, is launched. The paper's circulation is 5,000 initially, but gradually rises. Papers are soon also distributed in Chapel Hill, Hillsborough and Pittsboro.

AUGUST 2007

The doors open at Carrboro's first high school. School officials had initially predicted 563 Carrboro High School students, but 608 are signed up on opening day.

MAY 2008

A Friday afternoon rock show with Superchunk and Arcade Fire draws thousands to an early-vote rally for Barack Obama.

AUGUST 2008

Morris Grove Elementary School opens on the corner of Eubanks and Dromoland roads. The school is named for the Old Morris Grove School, founded by freed slave Morris Hogan for black students in the 1880s, near the site of the new Morris Grove.



A BIT OF HISTORY

There were plenty of officials and dignitaries on hand, but school board Chair Jamezetta Bedford got the honors at the ribbon-cutting ceremony at Carrboro High School-. PHOTO BY JOCK LAUTERER

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OCTOBER 2008

The board of aldermen approves the 300 East Main development, a 507,500-square-foot project that includes a 150-room hotel, a five-story parking deck, a central pedestrian plaza, three large commercial buildings and extensive changes for Cat's Cradle and The ArtsCenter.

MARCH 2009

Carrboro-based design and printing company The Merch announces it has received the necessary licenses and agreements to manufacture wrestling masks bearing the UNC and other ACC school logos.

NOVEMBER 2009

Carrboro LocalMotive, a new organization promoting the local economy, launches a Carrboro Buy Local Week

DECEMBER 2010

Carrboro High School's football season comes to an end in the third round of the 2A state play-offs after a hard-fought loss to East Bladen, 56-48. The Jaguars finish the season with a 10-4 record and the distinction of being the best football team to ever represent Carrboro High.

MARCH 2011

Carrboro rings in its 100th birthday. On March 3, the Carrboro Century Center bell is rung 100 times by (almost) as many residents at a celebration that includes a surprise performance of "I Wonder if the Lighthouse Will Shine on Me" by the Triangle Gay Men's Chorus and a poem from Carrboro Poet Laureate Jay Bryan, titled *We've Got Attitude*.

NEWS

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A movement was afoot at the time to absorb Carrboro into Chapel Hill. The two towns hired UNC's Institute of Government to study a merger, and the 1987 report states in part:

"The threat to community identity from merger is to Carrboro. Carrboro is an old town and community, originally centered around the railroad and the mill. Its downtown area has undergone a renaissance, and the commercial district downtown is not only thriving but distinctive. ...

"At present the Carrboro community, at the part that is centered around the downtown area, is distinct. Because of its downtown area, Carrboro has more small town, down-to-earth character than Chapel Hill."



Same as it
 ever was.
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