

THE CAROL WOODS NEWS

is published each month except July and August. It is distributed to residents, applicants on the waiting list, and other interested persons.

Vol. XXVII, No. 4

Chapel Hill, North Carolina

April 2005

CAROL WOODS RESIDENTS IN CHAPEL HILL IN THE SIXTIES

New residents and visitors to Chapel Hill will find a cosmopolitan community where children of many nationalities and ethnic groups pour out of school busses or are seen playing soccer together in the town parks; where there are a variety of ethnic restaurants, where there are opportunities to participate in the cultural activities of the university, art exhibits and lectures at the Sonja Haynes Black Cultural center, plays and concerts as well as week-long jazz festival. One might assume that Chapel Hill has always been like this. Long-time residents know better.

In the fifties outsiders and many of its own residents viewed Chapel Hill as an enlightened community, but it was a southern community and as resistant to change as the nation in general and the South in particular. With very few exceptions, segregation was the rule in the university, schools, churches, theatres and all public accommodations. After Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave a speech at the University, he spoke to members of the University Baptist church but in their basement because he was not allowed to speak from the pulpit. The wages of the mostly African American work force that served the University, white homes and businesses kept these families in poverty with many living in sub-standard housing.

That dramatic changes took place in Chapel Hill in the 1960's with relatively little violence is a credit to many dedicated and insightful citizens, some of whom are now a part of the Carol Woods community. Time and space preclude an exploration of the contributions of all our residents who participated, but the memories of some are illustrative. **Mary Scroggs** served on the school board that oversaw the integration process and made an effort to assure that integration began in the school her children attended. In part because **Dan Okun** knew of the inequities in the two school systems through his wife, **Beth**, the only white teacher in a Black elementary school, he served as chairman of the Inter-

racial Council for School Integration, a citizens group that helped promote integration. The schools also made the transition with the help of parents like **Leo and Rusty Waggoner** who accepted the reassignment of their children during the years when students were shuffled between schools prior to full integration. At one point in this process the four Waggoner children were in four different schools in different parts of town!

In the early sixties the only organized recreational activity for children was little league baseball, sponsored by postal workers and the police association for white nine to twelve-year-olds. Because the league was limited to the more athletically gifted children, **Leo Waggoner** helped organize a sand lot league that enrolled children regardless of ability, using equipment lent by the little league organization. When this new league enrolled a Black child and refused to dismiss him from the team, it lost its equipment. With the help of the ministerial association the founders raised money to purchase their own equipment and continue playing. Written up in newspapers and in Sports Illustrated, this incident brought Chapel Hill some unwelcome publicity. The following year the Town Council increased taxes to support a recreation department that developed athletic programs using the guidelines of the sand lot league; all children welcome regardless of ability or race.

The struggle for integrated public accommodations was more difficult. For many years the only place for visiting African Americans to stay was in someone's home. When the Black poet, Langston Hughes, spoke at UNC, the University's own Carolina Inn would not allow him to stay there. **Beth and Dan Okun** invited him into their home, thereby beginning a life-long friendship. Major changes came primarily as a result of peaceful protests. Many participants were members of the few religious congregations that had organized deliberately to be inclusive. These congregations encouraged Black members to join them and worked

closely with the town's Black churches to plan protests. One strategy was for a small group of white and African American citizens to go together to a restaurant and ask to be seated. **Edith Wiggins**, a graduate student who would later serve eight years on the school board and is still on the city council, was among the African Americans who participated in this effort and experienced the animosity of both the patrons and the managers of some of those establishments. She and others have noted that the effort was more effective if the white members of the group were particularly well known in the town. With a broad grin **Bob Seymour** recalls going with a Black student and Dean Smith to a restaurant where Dean's nationally known basketball team always ate before their home games. After some hesitance on the part of the staff, the trio was seated. It should be noted that at that time the basketball team, like all but a handful of undergraduate university students, was white.

More assertive peaceful protesters such as sit-ins and blocking entrances led to arrests. **Nancy Elkins** reports that she often came home to a note from her husband, **Hank**, saying "I've gone to Howard Johnson's. I'll probably be arrested." Some of **Eliska Chanlett's** students at North Carolina Central College, a Black institution in Durham, joined in the protest and were among those arrested and deliberately kept waiting in the courtroom making them lose classroom time. To prevent them from failing she provided individual tutoring to make up for the lost time. **Sandy McClamrock**, who was mayor for eight years during this turbulent time, said that so many were being arrested that the town purchased an old bread truck to serve as a paddy wagon to transport them to the jail in Hillsborough. A business man himself, **Sandy** worked behind the scenes with the business community trying to persuade members that changing was in their own best interests. Although the town did not pass a public accommodations law, the business community gradually changed. The last hold-outs were businesses outside the city limits and not part of the town's business association.

In 1962 a small number of church women who had been volunteering their time in the African American

community identifying and addressing immediate needs, created what today is known as the Interfaith Council for Social Services (IFC). In the beginning this all-volunteer organization focused on helping families with food, shelter, medical care and other basic needs. Today it has a modest paid staff and, with the help of many volunteers, provides three meals a day, operates shelters for the homeless, has a food pantry, runs a large tutoring program, and provides counseling, help with finding work and other social services. **Bob Seymour** and **Gerry Gourley**, are the only living members of the original IFC board. Many Carol Woods residents volunteer at the IFC today and hear echoes of Gerry's message that every person is worthy of respect.

As the civil rights movement began to gather steam, the University's right to bring dissident voices to the campus was challenged by a North Carolina legislature that linked civil rights and anti war protests with communism. The Speaker Ban Law of 1963 limited who could speak on state property. The eyes of ninety-nine year old **Gertrude Willis** sparkle when she tells of her meetings with the chancellor where she collected the information that convinced the state League of Women Voters to make the Speaker Ban the focus of their annual meeting. In addition to getting the attention of the League the law had other unintended consequences. It galvanized the faculty to fight not only the ban but other battles including a demand for better wages and benefits for food services workers and the other non-faculty employees who kept the university operating.

Once the ball was rolling, changes kept coming. In 1969 Chapel Hill became the first predominately white community in the South to elect a Black mayor. Howard Lee not only helped bridge the racial divide, he had the foresight to anticipate the growth of the area and seek the public transportation system that still serves the town well. One decade played a major role in Chapel Hill's evolution to the place we call home today.

And one more thing: those busses stop at Carol Woods every half hour.

Nancy Martin

OUR FRIENDLY COMPUTER ROOM

The Computer Room, opened in 1997, is a pleasant, comfortable, and friendly place in which users of all skill levels can work, learn, and play. It is open to residents, their guests, and staff, five days a week, for three hours a day (except for major holidays). Users may establish free e-mail accounts, surf the Internet, write documents, save work to CDs or floppy disks, compile spreadsheets, play games, consult computer-related books and magazines, make color copies of photographs or documents, and take classes. There are no membership or user fees of any kind. The room is supported financially by Carol Woods and by individual donations from residents. Two knowledgeable volunteer resident and staff associates are available during most of the time the room is open, for advice and to help. As hardware and software becomes more sophisticated and computer literacy increases among the residents, some questions are difficult enough so that no one volunteer can answer them all but a questioner can be referred to another more expert source.

The room opened with a motley collection of donated computers having a mixture of operating systems, with a single Internet connection, with paper and ink paid for by donations from residents. A committee consisting of residents and staff oversaw the project. Of that original 1977 group, **Lois Frost** remains the Administrator, **Bea Dulberg** the Secretary, and **Ed Frost** and **Hans Krusa** continue as committee members providing valuable continuity in the operation. Now the room has six PC workstations, each with Windows XP, a CD-RW drive, a fast DSL (Digital Subscriber Line) Internet connection, a color printer, a scanner, and software to facilitate many tasks. Some of the hardware is upgraded each year, keeping all the equipment technologically current.

Residents who do not own computers can rely on the Computer Room for all their computer-related activities. Others who own PCs may lack some of the software they need, and therefore use the Carol Woods facilities. Some do not have an Internet connection, or need a fast DSL connection. If an owner's equipment ceases to function, the Computer

Room can be a helpful and convenient fall-back while the malfunctioning equipment is being repaired or replaced. About 16 users a day sign up for work in the Computer Room, some for quick sessions and others for more extensive projects.

There are a few commonsensical rules. Food and drink are prohibited, users are asked not to make more than 10 copies of a document, and users are asked to sign in, simply to track the overall use of the facility. From its early days, the Computer Room has offered classes open to residents and to staff. Over 130 such classes have been given, with a cumulative attendance of more than 600 people. Currently seven different two hour classes are offered, limited to six students each (one per work station): *Introduction to Computers*, *Formatting Using Word*, *Internet Basics*, *File Management*, *Word Features*, *Basic Spreadsheets*, and *Posters Using Printshop*.

Rollo Handy

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

Rosalie Williams' talent show production including staff as well as residents was such a smash hit that extra chairs had to be brought into the Assembly Hall and even then there were many people standing. Mozart chamber music, tap dancing, solo whistling, and, of course, singing was all a huge success.

Among others, new books in the Library include Alice Munro's *Runaway Stories*, Jimmy Buffet's *A Salty Piece of Land*, J. Diamond's *Collapse*, D. Shenk's *The Forgetting: Alzheimer's: Portrait of an Epidemic...* Movies included *Citizen Kane*, *Bread and Chocolate*, *Casqued'Or*, *Out-Foxed*, *Cat Ballou* and *Guys and Dolls*.

Volunteers from Carol Woods spent a total of 228 hours manning the phones during UNC-TV's recent pledge drive.

A SECRET DEMOGRAPHIC

A visitor came to Carol Woods to look around. As he went through a covered walkway, he saw a number of mallards enjoying the pond. "Where's Huey," he asked? "Not here anymore," he was told; the beloved white duck was the victim of a murder by a fox. A strange voice called out "Esther!" That's Buddy, calling for his Human who has gone to Heaven, joining Huey. There, the visitor was assured, they live in splendor equal to what they had enjoyed at Carol Woods, joining Lambie, Silent Sadie, Robbie, T a m m y , Doxie, Bruce and Max.

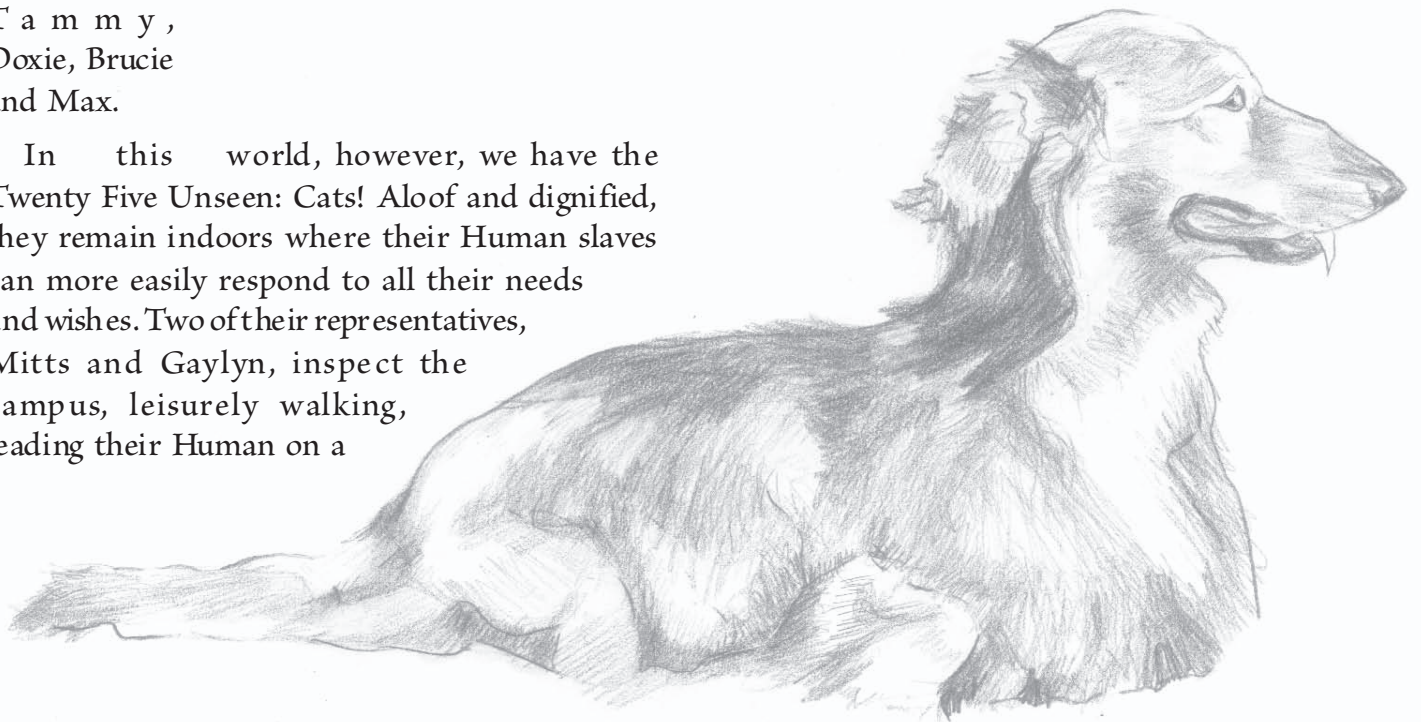


leash. Their reports to the Twenty Five are classified.

Twenty dogs are, however, very visible. They take their Humans on walks around Harkness Circle, some before sunrise, some in the evenings. They require frequent visits to the Bank in the Main Building where they make Cookie Withdrawals but no deposits. Some like to attend committee meetings. Each of them expects and receives warm greetings from those unfortunate enough to be without a dog. The residents in the Health Center welcome their visits but they are not allowed in the Dining Room.

Elizabeth Hewitt

In this world, however, we have the Twenty Five Unseen: Cats! Aloof and dignified, they remain indoors where their Human slaves can more easily respond to all their needs and wishes. Two of their representatives, Mitts and Gaylyn, inspect the campus, leisurely walking, leading their Human on a



CONCERTS AND LECTURES

Wednesday Evening Concerts

- April 20 Women's Voices Chorus
- April 27 Richard Luby, violin, Deborah Coclans, piano
- May 4 "The Magic Flutes" Quartet
- May 11 Wind Quartet—Mark Furth, Ann Thomas, Alex Vogel, Dick Clark

Thursday Evening Lectures

- April 21 Walt Wolfram – Dialects
- April 28 Henzey – Civic education the Public Schools
- May 5 James Joseph – South Africa
- May 12 Sunny Ladd – Charter Schools

JUST ANOTHER SURPRISE

One of the things I enjoy about Carol Woods is being surprised at how talented the residents are. My latest surprise came from my neighbor, **Charlie Heuer**. Charles and **Anne Heuer** live in Apartment 250 in the Middle Loop. They came to Carol Woods from Illinois almost three years ago. I knew Charlie spent considerable time in the Craft Shop here at Carol Woods, repairing furniture for Carol Woods and for residents.

Several weeks ago, I was surprised to find an exhibit of beautiful, leather bound books in the glass cases next to the Library entrance. Each book had a different design on the cover to identify the contents of the book. The design of each cover was a unique work of art and quite different from most book covers. Charlie discovered the idea for leather book covers in Italy on one of his many trips to see the sights of the world. As Charlie examined the cover he purchased in Italy, he decided that he could make a similar leather book cover.

Charlie began with a set of leather tools and a piece of leather the size of half a cow. The first step was learning to use the various tools and to create a proper pattern for the book cover. The cover was carefully measured and the design was drawn on paper. Then, the design was carefully traced onto the leather surface with a metal stylus. The leather working tools were used to compress the leather, creating a raised image. Charlie had the patience to slowly move around the design and create a real work of art in leather.

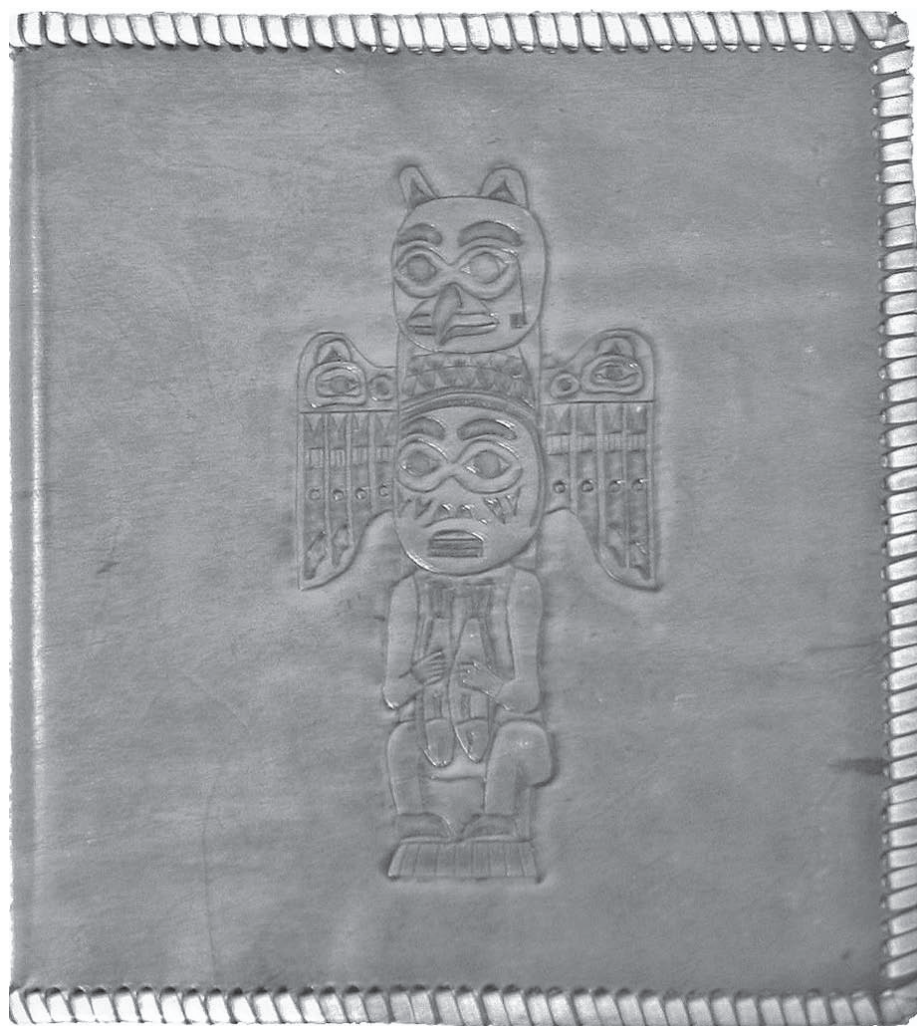
Over time, Charlie has created 19 leather covers for books of photographs of the various trips that Anne and he have made over the years. When I opened one of his books of photographs, I was in for another surprise. The photographs

were also works of art. Each page contained a single color photograph perfectly mounted for viewing. Not only had Charlie taken all the photographs, he had enlarged and printed them. As I turned the pages, I found myself taking the trip of a lifetime as I saw new sights through the lens of Charlie's camera.

The photograph below is the cover of the book on Anne and Charlie's trip to Alaska. I regret that my efforts at photography fall short of Charlie's photographic skills; but you can see the leather work details.

Many of our Carol Woods residents harbor unsuspected talents. I must admit I am continuously surprised by the variety of skills which occupy our neighbors. I told Charlie I would be back to visit him soon, as he has more books of photographs to look at.

Ross E. McKinney



WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS

Bill and Ann Bayliss (Apt. 1314) came to Carol Woods from Chapel Hill where they have lived since 1970. It was here that they raised their three boys. Bill practiced law in Durham and Chapel Hill. He was involved in the early phases of the financing and construction of Carol Woods. Prior to coming to Chapel Hill, Bill was director of Public Affairs at the Upjohn Company in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Ann grew up in New Jersey and attended Wells College. For several years after World War II she worked in Germany for the U.S. Government and for the Army's Counterintelligence Corps. Since coming to Chapel Hill she has been a media volunteer at the Estes Hills Elementary School. She is an avid tennis enthusiast and is the family archivist. Bill is a dedicated rose grower and pianist. Travel is high on their list of other activities.

Bob Metzger

Violet and Fred Simon (Apt. 144) came to Carol Woods from Chapel Hill. Her parents were from the Canary Islands so her first language was Spanish. She grew up in Staten Island, NY. She and Fred were married in 1952, the same year he completed graduate school at Fordham. Six months later he had a heart attack. They moved to New Jersey where Violet was able to go to college majoring in Spanish. She taught high school Spanish for over 15 years before they moved to Chapel Hill.

Fred was born in Ohio. His father's employment at Woolworth's made frequent moves necessary but Fred graduated from St. Mary's College in PA, going on to graduate school in New York. They moved to New Jersey where he worked for a variety of companies until the Walter Kidde Co. moved their headquarters to North Carolina.

After his retirement Fred has volunteered at Seawell Elementary School and participates in Shared Learning. They are both members of the Community Chorus. Violet enjoys needlecraft and has been a volunteer at the Inter Faith Council and the Centro Latino. They have two daughters and one grand daughter.

Carolyn Powell

THE ASSOCIATION OF CAROL WOODS RESIDENTS, INC.

Summary of the Meeting of March 8, 2005

Lorrie Hart, the new Director of the Children's Center, was introduced. Committee reports were presented by the I-40 Noise Committee, the NC Continuing Care Community Residents Committee, the Dining Services Committee, the Entertainment Committee, the Recycling Committee, and the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee presented their nominations for next year's Residents Council.

Diane Henderson recognized **John Young** for his recent election to the NC Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame.

Pat Sprigg summarized the recent changes in staff and indicated that renovation of Building 4 was underway. She indicated that the smoking survey information had been passed on to the Board of Directors for their consideration.

Ross McKinney

STAFF: Natalie Fiess, Chair; Jane Berryman, Russell Graves, Nancy Martin, Ross McKinney, and Mary Scroggs.

Circulation: Barbara Allen, Janet Campbell, Helen Hawley, Beth Jukes, Eva Lynch, and Stella Lyons.

Photo by Ross McKinney, Drawings by Ann Kendall

CAROL WOODS

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