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South Carolina House of Representatives

Legislative Update & Research Reports

Ramon Schwartz, Jr., Speaker of the House

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Legislative Update

Legislation Acted Upon

Bills noted in the last two issues of the *Update* which have received action include:

Boykin Spaniel the State Dog (H.2403). Ordered to third reading in the House on March 1. Boykin spaniels are now being featured on television news shows, Sunday newspapers, thus proving once again that every dog has his (or her) day.

Repeal Vehicle Inspection (H.2424). Tabled in committee.

Agencies Must Give Notice of Regulations Drafting (H.2464). Referred to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary.

Save AMTRAK! (H.2465). A resolution which asks Congress to keep funding for Amtrak, the national rail road service, in the budget. Proposals have been made by President Reagan to severely cut Amtrak's funding, or even eliminate it altogether. If this funding cut were to happen, several observers note that Amtrak services would also be severely cut or even eliminated. Amtrak officials have said that all stations in South Carolina would have to be closed. Introduced in the Senate February 2, 1985.

Magistrate Appointments (H.2466). A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the State Constitution which would have county magistrates appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the legislative delegation which serves that country. A related bill, H.2468, is enabling legislation which would become effective upon ratification of the constitutional amendment and includes a provision covering preferential elections to be held for magistrate selection if called for by a local delegation.

This session has been involved with magistrates already: H.2405 would set a uniform, comprehensive compensation system for them; H.2437 would set state-wide, uniform magistrate terms of office.

Legislation Introduced

Education & Public Safety

Kindergarten Employees (H.2494). Anyone who wanted to work at a kindergarten or day care center would have to be checked out by the county or municipal law enforcement agency.

Sprinkler Systems (H.2501). Would have the State Fire Marshall oversee the regulations and rules concerning fire sprinkler systems.

Judiciary & Government Operations

Waiting Period for Alcohol Purchase (H.2469). Would establish a four day waiting period for persons wishing to buy alcohol for off-premise consumption.

Jury Lists (H.2488). At present, the law in South Carolina requires that jury lists are drawn from the rolls of registered voters. The jury commissioners of a county must compile a list that "shall include not less than two from every three" voters who are "of good moral character." This bill would have the jury list include all registered voters and delete the "good moral character" requirement.

Buying Votes (H.2493). This measure tightens up the existing language, and increases the penalty from \$5,000 or 3 to 12 months to \$10,000 and up to 5 years in prison.

Community Action Agencies (H.2495). Would provide an additional \$2.20 for each poor person served by the community action agencies in the State. The money would be administered through the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity. According to the latest issue of the state statistical *Abstract*, there are approximately 500,000 persons at or below the poverty line in South Carolina.

Labor, Commerce & Industry

Liquor Distribution (H.2490). Regarding liquor distillers and manufacturers and their relationship with wholesalers in South Carolina--specifically, the granting of "exclusive" rights to market particular brands or items of alcoholic liquors.

Tax Service at Airports (H.2491). This measure would require public taxi companies serving air ports to carry passengers within a thirty mile radius of the air port, and to charge rates proportionate to their normal rates.

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Telephone Solicitation (H.2496). This bill would allow persons who don't want to receive unexpected telephone calls from salespersons to put a notice in the telephone directory so stating. The penalty for violating this bill would be a fine of \$200 or thirty days.

Editorial Comment on the General Assembly--
Part Two

During February the editors of the state's newspapers turned their pens (or word processors) to a variety of subjects relating to the General Assembly. Some of the results were profound; others were humorous; and a few were simply puzzling. A survey of the way the Fourth Estate views the legislative world follows.

"Death with Dignity" or "Living Will"--General Support

The most written about subject was the "Death with Dignity" or "Living Will" legislation embodied in H.2041. Five newspapers came out in support of the bill; two went on record opposing it. In general, supporters saw the measure as a way of reducing the anguish and torment of patients and families; opponents feared it opened the way for euthanasia, or "mercy killing."

The *Charleston News and Courier* faulted the bill for being too vague--it felt living wills might become mandatory for seriously ill persons entering a hospital. "Good legislation requires a great deal more thought--and input from the public--than House Bill 2041 and Senate Bill 46 have received so far." the *News and Courier* said.

The *Florence Morning News* supported the concept of allowing the terminally ill to be removed from extensive and expensive life support systems, but objected to putting this into specific legislation. The *News* preferred limiting the liability of medical practitioners who must decide when to terminate life support systems. "People's right to die with dignity is more likely to be protected when the critical judgments are in the hands of people exercising a combination of expertise and caring than when law makes the calls."

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Both Columbia papers supported the legislation. The *State* said the basis for the law "is that terminally ill persons have a legal and moral right to choose whether to seek medical treatment, and that right extends to a decision to die naturally rather than having life prolonged mechanically."

The *Record* took much the same stance. In addition the paper took up the issue that common law already gives people the right to refuse medical treatment: "Common law is not sufficient to protect hospitals and doctors from liability for actions that result in a terminally ill patient's death, even when those actions are in accordance with a patient's wishes."

The *Orangeburg Times and Democrat* said: "That an adult should have the right to refuse exceptional measures to keep him alive is sensible. We do not foresee abuse of the right."

Finally the *Camden Chronicle-Independent* and the *Anderson Independent-Mail* both supported the legislation, and specifically singled out one member for praise in his careful approach to such a sensitive subject. As the *Independent-Mail* said, "We agree with Rep. Rober Sheehan [sic]."

Indigent Health Care--Who Pays?

The *Columbia Record* and the *Anderson Independent-Mail* supported the proposed indigent health care package, while the *News and Courier* and the *Gaffney Ledger* opposed it.

The *Record* says the plan "is a fair equalization of the burden and one which the private and public sectors ought to embrace in the interest of all South Carolinians, those who can pay their hospital bills as well as those who cannot."

The *Independent-Mail* stated that "the financing of indigent health care must be addressed at the regional or state level." The paper asked that the funding formulas must be reviewed to make certain they are fair--especially the amounts required of the smaller counties. But the plan as a whole is a necessity.

The *News and Courier* definitely did not like the plan. "The Medically Indigent Assistance Bill moves the whole taxing, paying process up one level of government, adds some money from the state obtained by renegeing on an implied promise to return surplus, mixes it all with funds supposed to be coming from Washington and then asks us all to believe we are somehow better off."

In a shocking revelation the *News and Courier* announced that the bill "doesn't really address indigent medical care at all, but only the means of paying for it." It is unclear why the editors thought this point blurred in the legislation.

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The *Courier* huffed mightily against sending money to Columbia for a state-wide distribution for indigent care. Let counties take care of themselves, the paper opines. And most of all, don't "shuffle the whole business off to Columbia where it will become just another boondoggle, sure to cost more, sure to be less flexible and sure to be a disappointment unless those in charge are tougher, tighter and more enterprising than those who run the existing boondoggles."

Unlike the *News and Courier's* parochial attitude, the *Gaffney Ledger* admitted the need for a comprehensive indigent health care plan in South Carolina. The *Ledger's* hesitation was over the present form of the bill, and in particular the funding mechanism. "Please, we beg of our legislators, don't be hasty in accepting a measure which has not been thoroughly tested for short-term and long-ranged results."

"An Increasingly Insufferable Annoyance"--the Blue Laws

There may be supporters of the Blue Laws among the state's newspaper editors, but they were laying low in February. The *Greenville Piedmont* is in favor of allowing merchants the choice of opening or not on Sunday: "The marketplace is perfectly capable of deciding by its own measures when to open for business." Right on, *Piedmont*, Adam Smith would be proud of you.

The *Greenwood Index-Journal* agreed that "something needs to be done to straighten out the mess" of the Blue Laws. That "something" should not be local options. Allowing municipalities to decide would be, in the paper's words, "a bad idea."

The *Greenville News* came out most strongly for revisions in the laws--and would prefer outright repeal. "The reality is that most South Carolinians have come to reject the hypocrisy and impractical effect of the blue laws," The *News* stated firmly. It addressed the issue of blue laws preventing the "commercialization" of Sunday: those people who make that argument "assume undue responsibility for people who don't agree with them and aren't accountable to them."

"South Carolina is one state of diverse religions and numerous sects. Its quaint and illogical blue laws, retained constitutionally only by removal of all references to religious purposes, reflect well on no one's faith and are an increasingly insufferable annoyance."

Lottery Legislation Lingers

The *Georgetown Times* couldn't quite make up its mind on the lottery idea: "We think South Carolina, with its growth potential as a Sun Belt state, doesn't really need to establish a lottery. But we want to hear the debate continued."

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The State preferred the sport of kings to a mere lottery. Pari-mutuel betting is a more elegant way of raising money. A lottery, on the other hand, "is just a legalized form of the old numbers game, a means used by the criminal element for years to separate the poor from their money with the promise of a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow."

Horse racing "draws tourists and provides jobs and a market for farm products. Thus is generated revenues and economic activity in several ways....Racing has a touch of class."

The Myrtle Beach *Sun News* had this comment: "When it comes down to it, does a lottery or even pari-mutuel betting seem so ethically wrong in comparison to the ethical and economic wrong of a property tax increase? Choose one of the above."

Judicial Retirement--On or Off the Bench?

Retired Judges in South Carolina are actually semi-retired, as they can be assigned to continue judicial duties. Recent racial remarks by Judge Joseph Moss have caused some concern about the practice of using retired judges, and legislation has been introduced to stop the practice.

The two newspapers which commented on the issue were in agreement: Moss' remarks were extremely out of line, but permanent, mandatory retirement "is the knee-jerk reaction of some members of the General Assembly" (The *Charleston Evening Post*); supporters of such legislation "overstep their bounds in offering it." (The *Greenville News*.)

Those Democrats!

The *Florence Morning News* took the Democratic members of the House to task for embarking on a public relations effort. The *News* urged the Democrats to do "a little partisan bragging based on the facts," such as the balanced budget, and triple-A credit rating "that is the legacy of Democratic state government."

The *Columbia Record* chided the Democrats for holding a closed caucus to discuss the nuclear waste disposal issue. The *Record* said that this issue transcended politics.

Tax Breaks For Industry--and Some Legislators Get Scolded

Two newspapers commented on efforts in the House to block ratification of a Constitutional Amendment--the one that allowed municipal governments the power to grant tax breaks to industry.

The *Abbeville Press and Banner* strongly endorsed the concept and turned savagely on those legislators who opposed ratification: "Apparently the electorate of South Carolina is somewhat more astute in such decisions as this [approving the Amendment in November] than they are in selecting the persons to send to the legislature."

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The Orangeburg *Times and Democrat* also took up the cudgels for the vox populi--not just once, but twice. First the paper ran an editorial supporting the tax exemption amendment and ending: "When some legislators try to defeat it [the amendment] after popular approval, it gives the impression that legislators are saying they know what's better for the public--even if the public thinks differently."

Next week the *Times and Democrat* was at it again, noting that "When a legislator votes his conscience--or his district--that's one thing; when he consciously tries to defeat the will of the voters, that's another matter."

"No!" To Mandatory Seat Belts

The Florence *Morning News* is against mandatory seat belt legislation for two reasons. First, "Care should be taken in a free society to leave choices to individuals." The *News* wants no part of government and bureaucrats being "super-parents, presuming to know what is always best in every situation and laying down rules accordingly."

Second, the legislation would head off a federal requirement to equip cars with air bags, which the *News* supports. "Throwing roadblocks in the path of that kind of safety advance makes about as much sense as doing away with car bumpers on the ground that they are an 'unnecessary cost.'"

DHEC Blasted Over Pinewood Site

The Sumter *Daily Item* took DHEC to task for not listening to the people around the Pinewood hazardous waste site in Sumter County, and for being too eager to accommodate the waste industry. "The obsequious DHEC cooperators--as opposed to regulators--appear to be of a mindset that sees no evil, hears no evil and speaks no evil. The rubber-stampers at that agency are ready, willing and able--to cooperate."

The *Item* supported the position endorsed by the County delegation: "DHEC should establish a complete relicensing procedure" for the company which wants to take over operation of the Pinewood site. "To do any less would be a travesty of DHEC's mission as a regulatory agency."

A "More Caring State"--Utility Protection

The Beaufort *Gazette* commended Rep. Robert Woods for introducing a measure to prevent utility interruption from December 1 through March 31. The paper did call for "provisions that are

fair to both parties," including payment to the utility either through a payment plan for the poor or a special fund raised through a tax on luxury items--cigarettes, liquor, etc. In either event "The bill is a small step but it is a means of making South Carolinians a more caring people--people who are willing to take care of their own."

Speaker Blatt Reaps Praise from Barnwell

The Barnwell *People-Sentinel* took the occasion of Speaker Emeritus Blatt's birthday to pay him some well-deserved compliments on his service to the state. "You can be sure that Rep. Blatt is always serving his people well at all times," the paper wrote. "Solomon Blatt is truly an amazing man. He has been and still is a mainstay in state government. His beloved South Carolina is far better off today because of his service over the years."

So you see--sometimes the newspapers CAN be correct.

Upon First Looking Into Black's Law Dictionary

Modestly, *Black's Law Dictionary* merely describes itself as containing "definitions of terms and phrases of American and English jurisprudence, ancient and modern." A glance at the selected quotations below will reveal that *Black's Law Dictionary* is an extraordinary work of the creative imagination.

*

FARDEL OF LAND. In old English law. The fourth part of a yard-land. Spelman. Noy says an eight only, because, according to him, two fardels make a nook, and four nooks a yard-land.

*

FISH. An animal which inhabits the water, breathes by means of gills, swims by the aid of fins, and is oviparous. The term includes crabs.

*

TWA NIGHT GEST. In Saxon law. A guest on the second night. By the laws of Edward the Confessor it was provided that a man who lodged at an inn, or at the house of another, should be considered, on the first night of his being there, a stranger (uncuth;) on the second night, a guest; on the third night, a member of the family. This had reference to the responsibility of the host or entertainer for offenses committed by the guest.

Georgia Indigent Health Care*

Background

South Carolina is not the only state in which indigent health care is a problem. Many other states are faced with the task of developing plans which will attend to the medical needs of indigents; the Georgia legislature is now considering such legislation.

The three-bill package is aimed at spreading the financial responsibility for indigent care among hospitals, counties, and the state. The package includes setting up a fund for reimbursing hospitals that treat indigents, specifying who an indigent is, and dealing with indigent mothers. The legislation is aimed at relieving the burden on hospitals that "have been having to carry this burden," said Representative E.M. "Buddy" Childers, a chairman of the House Health and Ecology Committee and of a House-Senate committee that studied the situation last year. In particular, he said, hospitals in Augusta, Albany, Atlanta, Columbus, Rome, and Savannah have had to shoulder a heavy financial burden.

State Hospital Fund

Childers feels that a statewide fund is advantageous because of the potential for obtaining federal matching funds, which are unavailable if local governments handle the funds. The statewide fund, about \$235 million to be administered by the state Department of Medical Assistance, would assess all hospitals, public and private, five percent of their gross revenues. Les Beard, an associate administrator with Hospital Corporations of America's West Paces Ferry Hospital in Atlanta, feels that to ask private hospitals to pay additional money is unfair. "We are already taxed as a corporation," he says. The legislature will evaluate the concerns of the private hospitals and may change this portion of the bill to accommodate the private hospitals' complaints.

Proposed funding would come from three sources:

*Hospitals would pay five percent of their gross revenue, not including payments to a hospital by a county, into the fund.

*Counties would either pay the amount they now pay or an amount based on a formula which takes into consideration county and state tax base. Counties would have the option not to participate in the fund, but they would be required to pay hospitals directly for the costs of their indigent patients.

*State funds.

*This report was prepared by Janet Abbazia, a legislative intern from USC, with the House Research Office.

Private vs. Public Hospitals

Sixty-eight Georgia counties currently pay about \$63 million for indigent care—but 91 counties pay nothing. Childers said the need for a statewide fund has grown as public hospitals that provided indigent care have been sold to for-profit hospital firms with no "real desire for taking care" of indigents. In the past five years, 18 public hospitals have been sold to private corporations willing to run them. The implications of this are quite serious, as public hospitals provide 70 percent of the state's free care.

Although indigents comprise less than 2% of some private hospitals' patients, others have upwards of 6% if they are the main community hospital in their area. Les Beard points out that in Atlanta, Grady Hospital handles the majority of indigent patients and it is quite common for these patients to automatically go there when they are in need of care. West Paces Hospital, on the other hand, is somewhat of a specialty hospital, therefore, it is much less likely to have a high percent of indigent cases.

Who is an Indigent?

The legislation would identify an indigent as someone whose income is no more than 150 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. Childers said that percentage figure is likely to decrease, however.

Indigent Mothers

The third portion of the legislation, concerning indigent mothers, has been causing some controversy. The proposed regulation would require pregnant women to identify the fathers of their children and be at least seven months pregnant to qualify for indigent care.

Linda Lowe, Georgia Legal Services, recommended a "good cause exemption" to the regulation. "An absolute requirement to identify the father could endanger the life of the mother...We're just saying that in some cases... there is a danger to the mother and child because of family violence." Counties want the father to be identified in case he is able to pay a portion of the county's cost.

By restricting the time a woman can receive financial help to the seventh month, the bill could prevent funding for premature births.

The bill is expected to clarify which county is responsible for paying costs—where the woman has her baby or where she lives; although this issue has yet to be decided.

Medicaid Cuts

In addition to these measures, a House-Senate conference committee agreed to cut Medicaid payments made to private hospitals by 11 percent—to the level that public hospitals receive. Public, non-profit hospital administrators feel that this change will allow them to compete equally with private hospitals. According to House Speaker Tom Murphy, as quoted in the Atlanta Journal, the change also should send private hospitals a message that the state expects them to take in more non-paying patients.

Demographics

Demographics are a big part of the reason why care for the indigent has become a dominant issue. Despite recent economic growth, Georgia residents are poorer than those in most other states and less likely to have health insurance. According to a recent Georgia Hospital Association study, at least 800,000 residents, 13.8 percent of the state's population, have no insurance, either because they don't qualify for Medicaid, are unemployed, or have a job that doesn't include insurance.

Conclusion

South Carolina has 500,000 people living below the federal poverty guidelines. Many of these do not qualify for Medicaid. The South Carolina Legislature, like Georgia's, has recognized that something needs to be done about this situation. Currently an indigent health care bill is before the Medical, Military Public and Municipal Affairs Committee for review. The plan is the result of cooperative efforts by House and Senate members and staff, along with some input from the Governor's Office.

Around the House

Women's History Week

March 4 through March 8 is "Women's History Week," and is being marked by various activities throughout South Carolina. This week the *Legislative Update* is pleased to present the following brief biographies of a few notable South Carolina women.

* * *

Eliza Lucas Pickney, born in 1723, was the daughter of a rice planter near Georgetown, South Carolina. When she was only 16 her father was called to rejoin his regiment, which was ordered overseas to protect British interests. Eliza Lucas was given charge of three large plantations.

During the several years of her father's absence, Eliza not only managed the plantations efficiently and profitably, but became interested in developing indigo as a crop. Working from sketchy descriptions she and a hired artisan created the presses, vats and other technology needed to process the dye-bearing plant. As a result of her efforts, she became the first person in the American colonies to grow indigo successfully. During the decades which followed the South Carolina economy thrived on its indigo exports, which soon rivaled the rice crop.

In May, 1744, Eliza married Charles Pickney, who was 54 years her senior, having been born in 1669. Charles Pickney died in July, 1758 in England, leaving Eliza Pickney to manage the family's extensive plantation holding and business enterprises, as well as look after their two sons, Charles Cotesworth and Thomas. Eliza Pickney performed magnificently.

During the American Revolution Eliza was a strong supporter of the cause of independence; both of her sons served in the patriot army, and Charles Cotesworth rose to the rank of general. He later was one of the framers of the American Constitution. Eliza Pickney died in 1793.

* * *

Margaret (Kate) Moore Berry was born in Pennsylvania in 1752, but her family soon after moved to the upstate of South Carolina in what is now Spartanburg County. A number of their Pennsylvania friends and neighbors moved south with them; one was Andrew Barry, who Kate married when she was 15 in 1767. The Barrys established a farm and raised crops and children.

With the outbreak of the Revolutionary War Andrew Barry joined the patriot's cause and soon commanded a detachment in the area, harassing British troops and threatening their supply lines.

Kate Barry served the patriot cause also, both as a spy and as a courier. Once a Major Elliott of the British army had her flogged, to force her to reveal the hiding place of her husband and his troops. She refused to break under the punishment. Later, Kate learned that Banastre Tarleton and his command were approaching; since her husband and most of his men were scattered, working their farms, she rode through the district calling the alarm. Thus alerted, Barry's forces were able to muster with the patriot army before the battle of Cowpens. The American victory at Cowpens is considered one of the decisive battles of the Revolution.

Kate Barry lived until 1823. She is buried in the Moore Family Cemetery on the Tyger River.

* * *

Sarah Moore and Angelina Emily Grimke were born in Charleston to an aristocratic family long-established in the port city. The Grimke family owned slaves; yet Sarah and Emily were to become among the foremost abolitionists of their times.

From her early days Sarah had shown considerable independence, demanding that she receive an education equal in quality to any man's, and refusing to be content with merely "decorative" studies. In 1821 she moved to Philadelphia and soon became a Quaker, which reinforced her independence and stirred her anti-slavery tendencies.

In 1829 Sarah Grimke returned to Charleston for a visit, and found her sister Angelina deeply unhappy; Sarah had Angelina return with her to Philadelphia, where both were soon active in the abolitionist campaign. They joined the Philadelphia Female Anti-Slavery society; Sarah published a letter in the abolitionist journal *The Liberator*; it was the first time the prestigious Grimke name had been publically linked with the anti-slavery cause.

Sarah and Angelina continued to publish pamphlets and tracts against slavery, and expanded into strong proponents of the rights of women as well. In 1838 when Angelina married, she insisted the promise "to obey" her husband be stricken from the marriage vows. After the marriage Sarah came to live with her sister. The sisters later public appearances against slavery were fewer, but they continued firm abolitionists and supporters of womens' rights.

* * *

Mary McLeod Bethune was one of the outstanding educators of her times. Born in 1875 in Mayesville, South Carolina, she was taught to read and write at a small mission school near her home. It was the beginning of a lifetime that gladly would learn and gladly would teach.

She received further training and education at the Scotia Seminary, in Concord, North Carolina, and at the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. After her marriage she taught school for a time in Savannah, Georgia. Then she and her husband moved to Florida.

There, in 1904 she opened a school for black children: the Daytona Educational and Industrial Training School. She was the "teacher, fund raiser, and construction foreman for the school." Under the inspired leadership of Mary Bethune, the school grew and prospered, gaining in respect and reputation. In 1923 the school merged with the all-men Cookman Institute to form Bethune-Cookman, one of the South's most noted institutions today. Mary Bethune became its first president, and served until 1942.

Her accomplishments continued. In 1942 she received the Thomas Jefferson Award for her achievements. That same year, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt appointed her as a Special Assistant on Minority Affairs. She was also active as Director of Negro Affairs for the National Youth Council. Internationally known and respected, Mary Bethune was a consultant at the conference that drafted the Charter of the United Nations. She died in 1955.

* * *

Julia Peterkin is one of South Carolina's finest authors. Her books are loving, accurate recreations of the South, and have been acclaimed nationally and internationally.

She was born in Laurens, but grew up in Sumter, and indeed, was to spend almost all of her life in that area. After receiving a BA from Converse College, she taught school for two years at Fort Motte. Then, in 1903 she married William George Peterkin, owner of Lang Syne Plantation.

After her husband's death following a lingering illness, Julia Peterkin managed Lang Syne and began to write. Her short stories and novels are set in the South she knew so well. Critics have especially praised her portrayal of black characters; at a time when many writers presented crude, insulting stereotypes, Julia Peterkin created black characters who were realistic, individual, and sympathetic.

In 1929 she was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for literature for *Scarlet Sister Mary*. Following the Pulitzer her reputation greatly increased, especially in the South, where she had formerly been rather neglected. She died at Lang Syne in 1961.

* * *

Dr. Wil Lou Gray was another of South Carolina's great educators. She was born on August 29, 1883. Upon her graduation from Columbia College in 1903 she began a life-time career of teaching. Her first assignments were one-room, rural school houses. Later, she became a school administrator as well. In 1912 she was School Supervisor in Laurens County; she was offered a professorship at Louisiana College, but refused it. She wanted to stay and help her fellow South Carolinians.

She continued her education at Winthrop and Vanderbilt. Because of her work among the rural people of the state, Wil Lou Gray knew first hand the terrible price illiteracy exacted from South Carolina and its people. She was active in the South Carolina Illiteracy Commission, and in 1918 became its Executive Secretary.

She was responsible for starting the first rural night school in the state. The impact of this school was so impressive that Governor Manning recommended an appropriations of \$5,000 for other night schools--an impressive amount at the time.

Wil Lou Gray is best known for her role in founding the South Carolina "Opportunity School" which now bears her name. It was started in 1921 when she was State Supervisor of Adult Education. The school was held during "Lay-by-time"--that is, when farm women and girls could attend. Women took classes during the day; men at night.

The school was housed at several sites over the years: Tamassee, Erskine College, Lander College, Clemson College, and Columbia College. Following the Second World War, the school was finally moved to its present site near Columbia, on the grounds of the former Columbia Army Air Base.

The Opportunity School opened at that site in 1947; also that year Wil Lou Gray received an honorary degree from Wofford College. It was the first time in Wofford's history that it had bestowed such a degree upon a woman. In 1970 she was honored with a degree from Winthrop College.

While undoubtedly enjoying such awards, Wil Lou Gray must have been especially pleased by the continued success of the aptly-named "Opportunity" School.