

THE FORESTER

Volume 11 Issue 1

A Newsletter by and for the Residents of The Forest at Duke

October 2005

Jim Thompson: Problem Solver

Jim Thompson's job title, Director of Facility Services, does little to prepare us to examine what he really does and what he brings to the position. When I sat down to chat with Jim about these things, I had been working closely with him for well over two years. Yet I was quite startled to learn all that he does, and even more taken aback by his resumé.

Here's what that title really means:

"Supporting all aspects of senior housing and healthcare management. Providing owner's representative services to the facility for the construction of a \$25 million, award-winning assisted living addition and community center renovation, including design, construction, marketing, financing and operation."

This is in addition to routinely being responsible in the areas of building and housekeeping, maintenance, grounds, safety, and security at TFAD.

That last takes on more significance when you add in,

"Directed efforts in enabling The Forest at Duke to become the first healthcare facility in the nation to be designated as a federal OSHA Voluntary Protection Program safety recipient."

Following a B.S. in Civil Engineering at the University of Illinois, he earned a Masters in Healthcare Administration and a Master of Science in Management.

Now a licensed Nursing Home Administrator, he came to The Forest with 28 years of professional experience, including 21 years as a commissioned officer in the United States Navy in management and engineering positions. Five of these years saw him a commanding officer of two shore-based naval commands.



photo by Ed Albrecht

Jim Thompson

I asked Jim, "Which of the several positions that you have held prepared you the best for what you do here at The Forest?" He readily answered, "Without doubt, Director of Support Services at an 800-bed, not-for-profit CCRC in Lancaster, PA." In that position he managed a staff of 75 in all aspects of grounds, maintenance, construction, laundry, housekeeping and security. The institution successfully completed three deficiency-free state licensing examinations. While there Jim also managed construction and renovation of several major projects. He developed and executed multiple an-

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The Forester

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Jim Thompson: Problem Solver

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nual operating budgets, each in excess of \$4 million.

At this point I could not help but wonder, "What does this guy do in his spare time?" [See "Jim Thompson Writes Again" by John Tebbel in *The Forester*, October, 2003.]

My work with Jim here at The Forest has seen him fixing problems that routinely pop up in Grounds, Safety and other areas for which he is responsible. In these efforts, I have observed that, with Jim, a problem doesn't stay "un-fixed" very long. One reason for that is that he is good at devising and implementing solutions, which are enabled by his knowledge and experience.

But there is another characteristic, in my opinion, that makes Jim Thompson an incredibly effective manager here at the Forest. It is his attitude. He is focused on maintaining the quality of life for the residents of the Forest. He is pleasant and cooperative. When we are working on a problem, the work proceeds easily because he "tells it like it is."

I asked Jim, "What do you expect to be doing ten years from now?" He answered, "Perhaps I'll be a consultant in this field." My guess is he will be a superb consultant.

Craig Harris

In Memoriam

Anna Louise Spigener	June 25, 2005
Harold E. (Hal) Muncaster	August 11, 2005
Hyman P. Mansberg	August 18, 2005
Walter Scott Persons, Jr.	August 22, 2005
Phyllis (Stevie) Stevens	August 27, 2005
Margaret McKerracher	September 18, 2005
Richard Leonard Capwell	September 30, 2005

Congratulations:

to TFAD residents Gene Magat and Sheila Mason who made it all the way to the finals of the Table Tennis North Carolina Senior Games.



President's Podium

A "welcome back" to all of you who disappear during the summer. We have two important association events during October.

Our annual Residents' Association meeting will be held on October 17th at 2 PM in the auditorium. Your officers and directors will entertain you with a "where have we been and where are we going" report. Also, we will vote on the new officers and directors who will serve you next year. As a precursor to that vote, we will have a "Meet the Candidates" forum in the auditorium on October 3rd.

Another very important meeting of our Association is not scheduled yet, but will occur after October 19th. Most of you know that TFAD contracted with Larson-Allen from Charlotte to conduct a Medicare feasibility study on our skilled nursing facility. Their report should be completed in early October and will be presented to our TFAD Board of Directors. Sometime after the presentation to The Forest Board, Larson-Allen will make a Power Point presentation of their findings and conclusions to our residents at a specially called meeting. You will have the opportunity to question the contractor about their findings. A pro and con debate culminating in a vote of our residents on whether or not to apply for Medicare certification will be held after the contractor's presentation. All of this will result in a resolution from the Resident's Board to the TFAD Board stating our position on Medicare certification.

Don't forget to order your Residents' Photo Directory. If you have lost your order form, there are some at the reception desk.

The Residents' Association Office is now open after being closed for the summer. Check the schedule posted on the bulletin board and on the office door.

Jim Shuping

Objectives

The Forester is published by and at the expense of The Residents' Association. Its purpose is to inform and entertain the residents. It serves as a vehicle for the writings of the residents, and should, to the extent possible, be the work of the people living here. It is not a "gripe sheet" and should exercise restraint in publishing controversial opinions. It also serves as a resource for preserving the history of The Forest at Duke.

Seurat

Ah "scientific" painter
master of your skill,
you claim the use of science
but you can't suppress your will.

Your landscapes;
not of nature,
but of your passionate embrace.
There's nothing more "Romantic"¹
in the art of any place.

I thank you for your vision,
—Its greatness fills me still;
More beauty than the objects
That flow together at your will.²

Dolores Johnson

¹ RE: The "Romantic" period of art (19th cent)

² "the whole is greater than the sum of the parts"
Max Wertheimer



In the Line of Duty

"John never left any doubt that he loved me, but he told me duty came first," Georgia Campion remarked. Her husband was a Secret Service agent, charged with making security arrangements for presidents. The job was stressful and arduous, requiring many trips entailing 16-18-hour days, and the ordinary tour, because of the hardships, was two to four years; John Campion spent 26.

In the days when politics meant public service, not self-aggrandizement, John and Georgia Campion had a private joke. "We had both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue covered." While he worked at the White House, she was a legislative assistant to the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee and to Senate Majority Whip Earle Clements. She also served 16 years as Administrative Assistant to N.C. Congressman Alton Lennon.

Georgia Brewer was born and grew up in New Bern, N.C. Her education was at Barton College in Wilson, UNC, and the University of Mexico (she majored in Romance Languages.) She was working at the Cherry Point Marine base as secretary to Maj. Gen. Field Harris in 1948, when a visit to New Bern by President Harry S. Truman was being planned. Truman had promised an old friend, the Baptist pastor in New Bern, that he would attend his church, win or lose the election — and in early November, no one was sure if the man in the pew would be a winner or loser. John Campion would arrange for his safety in any case.

Campion made plans through the General's office, assisted by Georgia, and by Saturday, when all was set for the Sunday Presidential visit, he was invited to a dance at the Officer's Club of the Ma-

rine base. He asked Georgia to be his date, beginning a dance through life. Campion arranged for Georgia to sit in HST's pew at church the next day, and when they parted, Campion promised to keep in touch.

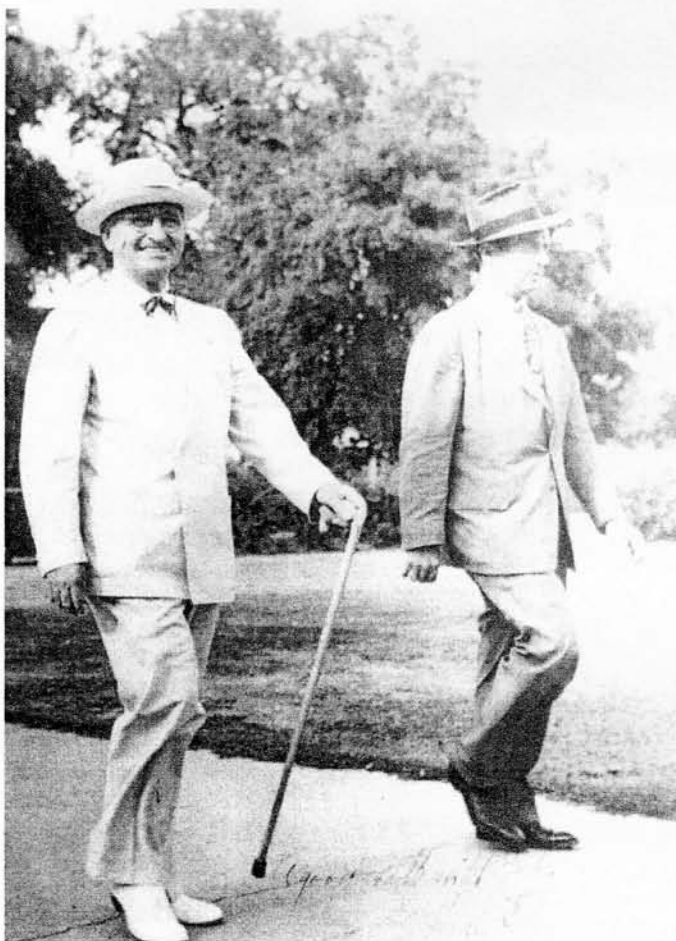
He visited New Bern whenever HST remained in the White House, which wasn't often. And 18 months after the fateful presidential visit, they were married. *The News and Observer* learned the story in 1952 and ran two long columns under the heading "Truman is Dan Cupid for New Bern Girl." This role evidently pleased HST, who got a copy from John, and marked it "This [is] great. I'm glad we stopped at New Bern!"

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Georgia and John Campion

John's Secret Service career spanned from the last three years of FDR, through HST, Ike, JFK and LBJ. He steadfastly refused to pick favorites, because he had had a close relationship with each incumbent. In those days, agents did not write books telling all. For example: John was with Harry Truman at the notorious Wake Island meeting with General Douglas MacArthur during the Korean War when the general disobeyed HST's orders and further humiliated him by delaying his arrival until the President was already there. Confided HST to Campion, "The General thinks I'm pretty small potatoes." Of course, the Commander-In-Chief had the last word when he dismissed the general.



HST and John in step

Georgia does have a favorite First Lady: Mamie Eisenhower. Georgia recalls her many thoughtful concerns, such as a gracious tour of the Eisenhower's Gettysburg farm, when the First Family invited Secret Service agents and their wives for a picnic supper.

During the Eisenhower years, there were many trips abroad requiring John's advance expertise and supervision. When Ike received an honorary degree from Oxford, he spent the day quietly with Prime Minister Harold MacMillan. A college at Oxford was named after an ancestor of John's, Sir Edmund Campion, honored and later beheaded by Elizabeth I. When MacMillan inquired if John would like to visit anywhere, he told him of the Hall. Later, as he was leaving, he was surprised to see the President and the PM draw up at the Hall. They said he had piqued their curiosity. Years later when Georgia visited Campion Hall, she happily discovered it was located on Brewer Street (her maiden name.)

The most difficult President to guard, she recalled, was John Kennedy. "The women wouldn't leave him alone. Even at mass, they would rush up and kiss him." John was on vacation when JFK was killed; otherwise he would have been in charge. He had recommended against the President going to Dallas. He was then assigned to the Warren Commission.

In happier times Georgia had joined John traveling to Paris while he was arranging for the Kennedy State visit. Jackie famously persuaded Charles deGaulle to lend the Mona Lisa to the National Gallery for a six-week exhibition. John was in charge of escorting the painting to New York and for the return home. A State Department officer blanched when John requested a receipt, saying the French would be highly insulted. John was adamant, The President was notified and reportedly said, "If John Campion wants a receipt, get it."

The first honorary degree JFK received was from UNC. When then-President William Friday learned that the wife of the Secret Service agent in charge was a UNC graduate, he arranged a dinner party for some of her N.C. friends at the Carolina

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Here's John

In the Line of Duty

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Inn. The Kay Kysers attended.

The Campions had differing experiences with Lyndon B. Johnson over a period of time. She remembered how able and charming he had been in the Senate when he was Majority Leader and she worked with the leadership. To John he was a Secret Service agent's nightmare at the Texas Presidential ranch, notoriously driving his Cadillac and disregarding all security regulations. Georgia was definitely impressed by the dedication of Lady Bird to environmental and beautification projects.

John's career was marked by long absences and regular harrowing eight-hour shifts in the White House. They lived in Arlington and McLean, VA. There were benefits, such as White House parties which she attended as a congressional aide or John's wife and where they could indulge their mutual love of dancing.

They retired to Southern Pines, N.C. After

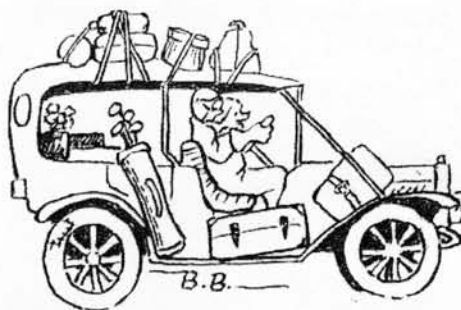
John's death, Georgia moved to The Forest in 1993. Her cottage is decorated with the stuff of memories — pictures that reflect the sweep of history. The Campions were there and prepared to serve their country.

Mal Oettinger

Reminder:

Don't forget to order your Photo Directory by using the order form placed previously in your box. The order form is also available at the front desk.

Resident Ramblings



During the summer residents became frequent hosts and/or frequent travelers by air, auto, train, etc. Family reunions and visits were a highlight for many. **Ginnie Jones** spent time at the beach with her family as did **Evebell Dunham**. **Dot** and **Bill Heroy** had their group including four children, seven grandchildren and four greats at Lake Lure in the mountains for birthday celebrations. **Edna Wilson** went to Lake of the Ozarks for a reunion and then on to CA!

Barbara and **Pete Seay** drove to NY and VT for grandchildren visits and a rainy family wedding. **Ruth** and **Leland Phelps** went to a family wedding in NH. **Peggy** and **Jarus Quinn** made many short trips to visit their children. Recently they went to openings of art work done by their daughters. **Mildred Fuller** enjoyed an annual outing in Eagles Mere PA with her daughters and sisters.

Vella Johnson had a visit from her stepson who is a professor in Japan. **Ruth** and **Walter Lifton's** son, his daughter and their great granddaughter came from MN to celebrate her birthday — a four generation occasion. **Florence Manning** had a short visit from her son and daughter-in-law from Seattle. **Anne Rice** spent time at the beach with her son and his family. **Barbara Smith** went to Cyprus for a nephew's wedding and then made a stop in Wales to see her sister. In July **Lois Bateson** went to Vancouver for a family wedding.

Helen Corbett spent three weeks in Philadelphia helping her son move. **Clare Eshelman** had a vacation at the Greenbrier with her son.

Mary Ruth Miller did two Elderhostels touring some National Parks of the West. **Ruth Dillon** saw her son in AK, her daughter in RI and then vacationed at her lake place in NY. One day **Jean Mason** and **Ginny Putnam** came in by seaplane to land on her pier. **Penelope Easton** spent a weekend in VT with her brother, attended a conference in Minneapolis and then went to AK to do her important work with native Alaskans.

Overseas tourists included **Bob Guy** who went to Germany and Czechoslovakia earlier and made a later journey to Rome. **Steve Baxter** went to Austria. **Harriet** and **George Williams** were on a biking trip in England. **Sarah McCracken** and **Earl Davis** took two trips — the first to Banff, Jasper Park and Lake Louise. Later they did the last part of the Lewis and Clark journey along the Snake and Columbia Rivers with stops in Seattle, Tacoma and Portland.

Betty and **John Gray** are proud of daughter **Jennie** who won first place in her class at the national Open Water Swimming Race on Lake Michigan! Five residents are spending many hours training to be docents at the new Nasher Art Museum — **Helen Corbett**, **Marian Krugman**, **Carol Oettinger**, **Eunice Grossman** and **Ruth Dillon**.

MARY GATES



photo by Ed Albrecht

Barbara Birkhead

Apartment 4027

489-8602

Barbara grew up in Kansas City, Missouri, attended the University of Missouri there and George Washington University in Washington DC. With a Masters in Reading and Education, she taught 10 and 11 year olds and gifted children in Northern Virginia public schools. She lived in New York City where her husband worked for Friends of Democracy, an organization whose role was to alert the country to what was happening in Hitler's Germany. Her eldest son is a compositor who attended Duke and started the *Independent Weekly*. The youngest is the engineer for the architect of the Capitol in Washington. Serving as a volunteer mediator for many years plus volunteering in public schools and each summer working with the American Dance Festival keeps her "off the street."

Welcome New Residents**Caroline Brame**

Cottage 5

489-5159

Caroline Brame is a native of Durham and has lived here all her life. She went to high school here and to the Croft School of Business. Her career was that of a homemaker. She has four children, ten grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. She enjoys reading and tending her house plants.



photo by Ed Albrecht



photo by Ed Albrecht

Ken and Len Goldner

Cottage 11

489-3266

Ken (from her maiden name, Kensinger) and Len are from the University of Nebraska. They were married in 1944. Len served in the US Navy in the South Pacific in WW II. In 1946 they came to Durham for Len's career in orthopedics at Duke. He was Chairman from 1967 to 1984 and retired in 1988, but continues to attend conferences and clinics. Ken has been active in the Junior League, Durham Academy, Family Counseling Service, Durham Nursery School, Duke Medical School Faculty Wives and Presbyterian Women. She is interested in flowers, gardening, and art. They both enjoy golf, basketball, travel and The Playmakers. They have two sons and three grandchildren. They moved from the home they had built in 1956 to TFAD because it is in Durham, close to Duke and friends, with living and medical facilities of high quality.

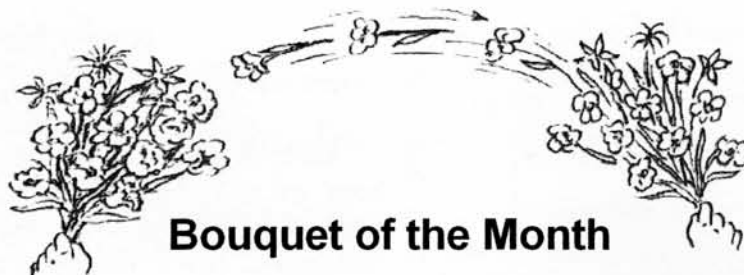
Betty Ketch

Apartment 4043

489- 7537

Betty has lived in Durham for 15 years, moving here from Indiana. Before her marriage, Betty worked in banking but later devoted her time to family and home. Betty has two children. Jim is a Professor of Music at UNC and a great trumpeter. Bonny is a nurse residing in Illinois. There are seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren to enjoy. Betty is active at Epworth United Methodist Church and quite often helps with the young children at Westminster School. The Forest has always been most appealing from the outside. As a new resident, she finds it warm and friendly on the inside. Honey, her 15-year-old collie chow, is also happy at The Forest.





Bouquet of the Month

Betty Gray has decided that this appearance of her popular column, *Growing Pains*, which has graced our pages for the past five years, will be her last. She will be missed.

The job was a perfect fit for Betty's unique talents. She was deeply steeped in all knowledge concerning gardens, flowers, plants, shrubs, and greenhouses. Her complete devotion to her subject was reflected in the gardens surrounding her cottage — models of taste, restraint, color, and variety.

The bouquet is awarded with thanks and gratitude.



Growing Pains

Rose Garden: Our “rose guardian,” Mr. Witherspoon, kept our rose garden well during a difficult summer. The roses will perk up in the cooler weather. Give yourself a treat — take a walk around the campus — hear the birds, see the flowers, the trees, and, of course, don't forget the rose garden.

Garden Plots: One of our new gardeners, Connie Service, has donated a rocking chair which now overlooks our garden plots, so, when you're making my recommended walk, take a break here at our new chair. Our plots have produced well.

We have several available plots for any newcomers interested. Frank Melpolder is the person to call. Julian Price's former plot has some glad bulbs and peonies for give away.

Grounds: In spite of a very hot summer, our grounds have managed to stay attractive and green. The weeds have been a bother, but some fall fertil-

izing should help our lawns. Capital Landscaping has been doing needed pruning. Duke Power has replaced the downed light pole near the front entrance. Our residents' grounds committee is doing well.

Greenhouse: Now is the time plants that have been outside will be coming to the greenhouse for the winter. Please follow this procedure.

1. Spray for insects.
2. Put your name on a white plastic marker that you will find on the shelf to the right inside the greenhouse door; and put it in the plant.
3. Leave the plant on the bench to the left of the door.

It will be inspected and placed in the proper watering zone. Please remember to give plants the attention they need while in the greenhouse. No annuals, hibiscus or lantana can be accepted.

Betty Niles Gray

The Range of The Forest's Activities

Editors Note: The Forest at Duke is a community, a family of residents living in various accommodations — Independent Living and Health and Wellness Center.

During a recent visit to the Ritz Theater, we attended a dance demonstration by three young Duke students. It was one of a variety of programs planned for that area, and we noted that a good number of that audience regularly attends programs in the Auditorium.

It is particularly satisfying to see that The For-

est's activities are available to *all* our residents and often they allow us to come together as a single cohesive community. And this somehow tends to lessen any feeling of separation that sometimes exists in people's minds, and reminds us that The Forest is one world.

After our visit, a volunteer in the Health Center sent us a book by Mary C. Morrison that was used in one of their discussion groups, with the intriguing title *Let Evening Come*. An excerpt is printed below.

Curiosity



One of childhood's outstanding characteristics is curiosity. ... Now in old age, curiosity can become innocent again, as it was in childhood, and serve, simply and without designs of any kind, our outgoing interest in our surroundings. We can look at the world and the people around us with wonder and pleasure; and marvel, as Miranda did in *The Tempest*. "O brave new world/ That has such people in't." With nothing to gain or lose, from hope and fear set free, we find that we have new eyes if we will only lose old habits. We have been granted before we leave this world, a chance to look — really look at it, and see it freshly.



Fast Time at The Forest

After living here almost three years, I'm still trying to find a "time to sow and a time to reap," and time to "live" at The Forest. I've never done much reaping or sowing, only just cutting grass. There does seem to be a severe shortage of time for me at The Forest. I'm sure most days lasted twenty four hours before I arrived. Now the day seems to be about 19½ hours. A friend of mine at a rival "retirement center" said he felt he was "doing time" there as an inmate. I certainly don't feel that way here. Unless I think of Becky and her welterweight water workouts.

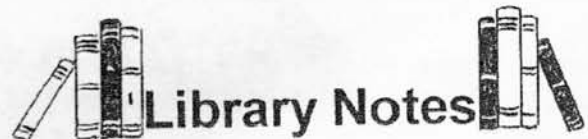
There's so much to do though; ride the bus to church, party with friends, or sing along in the parlor. Things sort of get close to the speed of light. A recent class on "quantum physics" proposed "anything faster than the speed of light might arrive before leaving." Really? !!! I may be getting close.

I realize I'm slowing down, regardless. Time is not fair, it should slow down too. Was I born to be the "behind type?" The coach warmed my "behindness" with a strap when I was slow in track or swimming. Was I born into this frantic time machine? Time is a strange thing to be so powerful. I can't touch it, see it, smell it, or hear it. Only thru day and night, summer and winter, rain and shine, and my seven clocks can I know that it passes. Once gone, it never returns. Time is an enormous "BIG MOMMA" nursemaid, running my life, and,

like Carter's Pills, it keeps me on the go.

But why hurry now? Hurry only adds to wrinkles, and seldom reduces fat. It's the golden years. I don't have to get ahead anymore; I've earned that "BIG ROCKER IN THE SKY," (a good old revival song.) No more grass to cut, leaking toilets, and runny noses. We are carefully preserved here, sort of like sweet peach pickles. Thanks to "world class" workouts, I'm still able to do "stuff" I've always wanted to do. I know my body slows no matter what, and even my ancestral genes aren't too fast anymore. But with our sound proof walls and heart smart diets, we'll slow "BIG MOMMA" time yet.

John Henry



Because of space, just two brief notes:

1. If you've had a library book out for a long time, please return it so that it can continue circulating. Sometimes a book gets too comfortable on a resident's bookshelf.
2. When you've finished reading recent magazines, please bring them to the library instead of discarding them in the trash rooms. Sharing is the TFAD way!

Mary Ruth Miller