

North Carolina Conservatory Committee

(Passionate Preference, by Leslie Banner, 1987, pp. 28-30)

Martha Dulin Muilenburg of Charlotte, (Chair) had studied under Lee Strasberg at the Actor's Studio in NYC and later worked in radio and television in Charlotte. She was for many years involved with the Charlotte Little Theatre, Arts Council, Choral Society, Arts Fund, Symphony and Opera Guild.

John Ehle, Winston Salem, (Secretary)

Katherine Castellet Bell, Charlotte, pursued active interests in a variety of North Carolina arts organizations, but ascribed her appointment primarily to her husband's prominent position in North Carolina politics. J. Spencer Bell was a judge on the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals who had vigorously supported both Kennedy and Sanford at the 1960 Democratic Convention.

Katherine King Bahnson, Winston Salem, was president of the Winston Salem Arts and Crafts Association and helped to found the Winston Salem Arts Council, Inc., the first such council in America. She belonged to the Winston Salem Symphony Association, the Winston Salem Gallery of Fine Arts, and the NC Art Society.

Gordon Hanes, Winston Salem, was president of Hanes Hosiery Mills and state senator-elect from Forsyth County. In addition to his involvement in business and civic affairs, Gordon Hanes served as first president of Winston Salem Arts and Crafts Association, as a member of the executive committee of the Winston Salem Arts Council, Inc., and of vice-president of the city's Civic Music Association.

Robert Lee Humber, Greenville, was, like Hanes, both a state senator and a phenomenally active contributor to his state's cultural life: on the NC Art Commission, the Board of Trustees of the NC Museum of Art, as a trustee of the NC Symphony and president of the NC Art Society.

Fred Weaver, Chapel Hill, secretary of the University of North Carolina, represented the cultural interests of the university community, which proved in

general to be loudly critical of the proposed school, although Weaver himself was not.

C.A. “Pete” McKnight, Charlotte, editor of The Charlotte Observer and an effective supporter of the Charlotte Symphony and the city’s United Art Fund.

Sam Ragan, executive editor of The News and Observer, well-known in the state as a poet and writer, and author of the widely read column, “Southern Accent.” In addition to holding a number of prominent posts in professional news organizations, Ragan had served as chairman of the NC Writers Conference, moderator of the NC Literary Forum, and president of the Raleigh Theatre. As both a staunch Democrat and a well-known NC voice in public affairs, Ragan was an obvious and important choice for commission membership.

Pearl Taylor Moore, Raleigh, author of North Carolina Musicians (University of North Carolina Library Extension Department, 1956), active member of numerous city, state, and national music associations, and a fundraiser for the Transylvania Summer Music Camp Library.

Elizabeth Mendenhall Younts, Southern Pines, music and program director for radio station WEEB in Southern Pines. Prior to her return to North Carolina, Elizabeth Younts had worked as a professional musician in New York. Interestingly, she had been a student at Juilliard at the time when both Vittorio Giannini and Robert Ward were teaching there.

Sidney M. Cone Jr. Greensboro, president of Cone Mills Corporation of Greensboro, and a founder and the charter president of Greensboro Arts Council. Cone was a friend of Joseph M. McDaniel of the Ford Foundation.

Louise Ashworth Durham, Chapel Hill, enthusiastic choice of Dr. James Pfohl, had served on the Board of Trustees of Transylvania Music Camp and had accompanied Governor Sanford on his recent visit to the camp at Brevard. At one time the head of the voice department at Atlantic Christian College, Mrs. Durham had demonstrated her qualifications as a grassroots supporter of music training for North Carolina’s young people during her term as President of the NC Federation of Music Clubs. Mrs. Durham’s membership was additionally useful as her

husband, Carl T. Durham, had long been the Democratic Congressman for the Chapel Hill District.

Vittorio Giannini, (New York City and Brevard, NC)