

## Focus On Triangle Homes:

## Fond Memories of Fascinating Individuals at 2531 Cherokee Parkway

By Charles Whaley

Photo Credit: Kim Ding

How many of us, I wonder, know about some of the noteworthy individuals who have lived or spent time in our houses? There are no markers, as there are in London, to show such interesting historical connections.

I did know when my wife Carol Sutton and I bought our house at 2531 Cherokee Parkway that it had previously been inhabited by a Jefferson County Judge-Executive, *Boman Shamburger* (who served from 1950 to 1953) and his wife.



When I met Ward Harrison, the author of a book called "I Didn't Know That!" subtitled "Kentucky's Ties to the Stage and Screen", he emailed me that *Catherine Lebzelter* lived in my house in the 1940's. "So, who in damnation," he wrote, "is Catherine Lebzelter, you may ask." And he told me to look up *Jack Warden* in his book. Jack Warden's real name was *John Warden Lebzelter*. Catherine was his grandmother. An unruly child, he was sent to Louisville to live under Catherine's grandmotherly care and attend duPont Manual High School where at the age of 17 he was expelled for frequent fighting. He graduated in 1938 and then became a not very successful welter-weight prizefighter and nightclub bouncer before joining the Navy. During a hospitalization for a leg injury, he read through some plays and decided to take up acting. Warden was nominated for an Academy Award for best supporting actor for *Shampoo* (Warren Beatty, Julie Christie, Goldie Hawn, 1975) and *Heaven Can Wait* (Beatty and Christie again plus James Mason, 1978) and won an Emmy Award in 1971 for best supporting actor in *Brian's Song*. He made over 100 movies, including *All the President's Men* (1976), playing the Washington Post's city editor in the Nixon-Watergate saga. He died in 2006.

Many authors, some of them good friends, have spent time at my house. Others have come as guests brought to Derby and other parties. Among those were *Peter Maas*, who wrote *Serpico* (he was with Betty and Yandell Smith) and *Ward Just*, prolific writer of Washington, DC, books. The good friends included *Shirley Ann Grau*, who won the Pulitzer for fiction in 1968 with *The Keepers of the House* and Bill Butterworth, better known in literary circles, as *W. E. B. (for William E. Butterworth) Griffin* for his 59 novels in five series of military and detective fiction. He enjoyed dropping my name in various spellings and contexts in some of them. I had a garbage scow named for me in one, which mystified a friend who came across it. And in his *M\*A\*S\*H Goes to San Francisco* he has me flying a plane under the Golden Gate Bridge as "Colonel C. Edward Whaley". Bill and I were in the Army together, where I considered myself rather inept as a soldier.

*Edmund Naughton*, a fellow reporter at The Courier-Journal, spent his free time working on a novel published in 1959 as *McCabe*, later the basis in 1971 for Robert Altman's acknowledged film masterpiece *McCabe and Mrs. Miller* starring Warren Beatty and Julie Christie. Then there was the time (spring 1979) when I got *Quentin Bell*, Virginia Woolf's nephew and biographer, to speak on "Bloomsbury By The Sea" in the Distinguished Lecture Series at UofL. Carol and I picked up Quentin and his wife Anne Olivier Bell, who brilliantly edited Woolf's diaries, at the airport one night and brought them to the house for drinks and bites. They wanted bourbon and they got it. They were delightful and there was no awkwardness with them. We remained in touch until they died.

I would love to hear similar stories about interesting people who graced other Triangle homes. There must be many. (Mr. Whaley can be reached at [cwh1596406@aol.com](mailto:cwh1596406@aol.com).)



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