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Bet You Missed It: What do the North Carolina Tarheels and Winston Churchill have in common?

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But You Missed It

Press Clippings — In the News — Carefully Selected by Your Crack Staff of News Sleuths

Column Editor: **Bruce Strauch** (The Citadel)

Editor's Note: Hey, are y'all reading this? If you know of an article that should be called to *Against the Grain's* attention ... send an email to <kstrauch@comcast.net>. We're listening! — **KS**

THEY SAY OUR PRIMARY ASSET IS REAL ESTATE by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

Chris Whittle put those big magazines and TV shows in doctors' offices. He married an Italian niece of **Gianni Agnelli**, went on to be an education entrepreneur with **Edison Learning**, which was a big plan for nation-wide affordable private schools. Moved up to **World School**, a private school system with tuition of \$40,000.

He's 67 now and selling his East Hampton house on Georgica Pond for a record \$140 million.

See — **Stefanos Chen**, "Private Properties," *The Wall Street Journal*, Nov. 21, 2014, p.M2.

BOOK STORES THRIVE IN COOL VILLES by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

WSJ has a list of must visit bookstores: Oxford, MS — **Square Books**; Taos, NM — **Moby Dickens Bookshop**; Telluride, CO — **Between the Covers Rare Books** (Peace, Love, Books); Fayetteville, AR — **Nightbird Books**; Shelburne, VT — **The Flying Pig**; Asheville, NC — **Malaprop's Bookstore/Café** and **Spellbound Children's Bookshop**.

See — **Emily Raabe**, "A Different Kind of Book Tour," *The Wall Street Journal*, Dec. 27-28, 2014, p.D6.

AMAZON WARFARE by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

This is the best account of the rise of **Amazon** and the upending up old timey publishing culture I have seen. I can't do it justice. Find it and read it. I promise you'll find it enlightening. One good quote from an industry lawyer: "Book publishers had the longest time horizon to prepare for the digital transition, and they were the least prepared."

See — **Keith Gessen**, "The War of the Words," *Vanity Fair*, Dec. 2014, p.162.

MAKING UP CHURCHILL by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

Churchill probably never said he would cheerfully imbibe from **Lady Astor's** poisoned chalice. It was probably said by his pal **F.E. Smith**, and he was probably quoting from an old joke. **Oscar Wilde**, **Mark Twain**, and **Churchill** all attract false attributions. **Richard Langworth**, editor of four books of authenticated **Churchill** quotes, says there are more than 80 floating around that are most likely false.

And it can get costly to quote the statesman. His literary agency charges for anything he wrote or delivered in a speech.

Oh, and his rejoinder to a woman who called him drunk that tomorrow he'd be sober but she'd still be ugly was his words. But he ripped it from a **W.C. Fields** movie.

See — **Max Kutner**, "Quotations For Sale," *Smithsonian*, Jan. 2015, p.14.



TARHEEL WRITERS COLONY by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

Hillsborough, N.C. is just outside Chapel Hill, and its timeless look of Victorian homes and Federalist farm houses has been a magnet for more than a dozen writers. **Jill McCorkle** (*Going Away Shoes, Life after Life*); **Frances Mayes** (*Under the Tuscan Sun*); **Lee Smith** (*The Last Girls* and more others than you can name); **Allan Gurganus** (*Last Confederate Widow Tells All*); **David Payne** (*Back to Wando Passo*); **Michael Malone** (former head writer for "One Life to Live").

Eat at the Wooden Nickel for fried green tomatoes.

See — **Chelsey Dulaney**, "The Most Literary Town in America," *The Wall Street Journal*, Sept. 19, 2014, p.M1.

GIRLS TO WOMEN by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

Let's read about women coming of age. (1) **Barbara Trapido**, *Brother of the More Famous Jack* (1982); (2) **D.H. Lawrence**, *The Rainbow* (1915); (3) **Muriel Spark**, *Girls of Slender Means* (1963); (4) **Charlotte Brontë**, *Villette* (1853); (5) **Kate Atkinson**, *Life After Life* (2013).

See — **Judith Mackrell**, "Five Best," *The Wall Street Journal*, Jan. 17-18, 2015, p.C10. **Judith** is the author of *Flappers: Six Women of a Dangerous Generation*.

BOOKSTORE OF DREAMS by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

Legendary independent bookstore **Shakespeare and Company** is still going strong in Paris on the Rue de la Bûcherie, but it probably only survives because the family owns the real estate. It faces the Seine with a view of Notre Dame, and real estate moguls hunger for it.

Mind you, this is not the original Sylvia Beach location. It was opened here in 1951 by **George Whitman** more as a Beat Hotel than a bookstore. He had studied at the Sorbonne on the GI Bill and stuck around. Writers crashed there, wrote books there. His daughter **Sylvia** now runs it and has modernized it to the extent of accepting charge cards and using a computer.

I can't do this justice. Wonderful photos. Great anecdotes. A must read.

See — **Bruce Handy**, "In a Bookstore in Paris ..." *Vanity Fair*, Nov. 2014, p.194.

BRIT ACTORS TELL ALL by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

Let's read some scut from British actor memoirs. (1) **Dark Bogarde**, *A Short Walk from Harrods* (1993); (2) **Alec Guinness**, *A Positively Final Appearance* (1999) ("The point of a knighthood for British actors is to enable them to play butlers."); (3) **Rachel Roberts**, *No Bells on Sunday* (1984) (failed marriage to **Rex Harrison**, alcoholic suicide at age 53); (4) **Laurence Olivier**, *Confessions of an Actor* (1982) (failed marriage to manic depressive **Vivien Leigh**); (5) **Claire Bloom**, *Leaving a Doll's House* (1996) (failed romance with **Richard Burton**; failed marriages to **Rod Steiger**, director **Hillard Elkins**, **Philip Roth**).

See — **Sylvia Jukes Morris**, "Five Best," *The Wall Street Journal*, Jan. 10-11, 2015, p.C10. **Sylvia** is the author of *Rage For Fame: The Ascent of Clare Boothe Luce*.