

needleworker and seamstress. The Maynard Pearson House also has a framed photograph of an elegant dinner party given by Maude Norris. One of the prominent Apex citizens in attendance was Mrs. A. B. Hunter. There is also a framed advertisement from the Garland C. Norris company, with pictures of the founding staff. Garland Norris was one of Maude's brothers. His business operated an office in Apex for many years before moving to Raleigh and then back to Apex. I well recall the colorful designs painted on his big transport trucks—the legend "Golden Tap," with enormous oranges and little children (or elves?) sticking faucet-like taps into the oranges to drain out the juice (Mr. Norris acquired his juice from his Florida operations). Another brother, Herbert, was a respected lawyer and district solicitor, and Julia Montgomery Street, the noted N.C. children's book writer was a niece.

Mr. J. A. Norris died in 1916. Maude and her younger sister Maybelle remained alone together in the Norris House. Maybelle had suffered a birth injury and needed protective care for the rest of her life. Maude considered that responsibility solely hers. She told a family friend, "Maybelle is to stay with me. The Lord and I will take care of her." Long-time Apex residents will remember the inseparable Norris sisters making their regular walks along the main street. As the years passed, the Norris House and the sisters gradually weathered and weakened. My sister Sandra remembers as a child (probably around 1944 when she was about 6) accompanying our grandmother Mrs. O. P. Schaub on a visit to the Norris House for afternoon tea and cookies. Even then, the structure of the house was dangerously decrepit in places. Sandra was an energetic climber, and was drawn to the tempting staircases leading upward toward the great tower. She was deeply disappointed when Miss Maude limited her tour of the house to a walk down a long hall to the back sections, and firmly refused to let her go up any of the stairs. They were entertained in a front parlor. Sandra remembers sitting on a footstool beside Mrs. Schaub's chair. It was like going back a whole century, she recalls in retrospect, and adds that the Norris sisters seemed to belong to that earlier time.

When Mr. Norris constructed the main house, he also had the acre of grounds landscaped by the best gardening expert available. Elms and maples were set to border the front walk. Maude later said that as long as she could remember, there had been a fine planting of blackberry lilies, whose flowers resembled butterfly orchids, and whose seed pods exactly mimicked blackberries. The 1959 article praised Maude's gardening talents in the most glowing terms. Mr. W. L. Blanton, then pastor of Salem Baptist Church, and himself an accomplished gardener, exclaimed over her bountiful vegetable gardens and especially noted