

# John Douglass Hunt, Jr. '46

DSM

It was a long round trip for Douglass Hunt, but what a joy for Carolina when he completed the circuit.

September 1941 was a tumultuous time for the world and an exhilarating time to be a freshman at UNC. Just three months after his arrival from Greensboro that fall, Douglass Hunt found himself on a Sunday night, December 7, as on many other Sunday nights, in Dr. Frank Porter Graham's '09 living room. Orville "Scoop" Campbell '43 dashed in, as Hunt later recalled, to announce that the *Tar Heel* would run a special edition the next day, confirming plans to have a radio set up in Gerrard Hall so that students could gather to hear President Roosevelt's address on the Japanese sneak attack on Pearl Harbor. The rest of the evening was devoted to Dr. Graham's "sane, longheaded judgment" on the overwhelming events of that day.

The autumn of 1945—at the conclusion of the war for justice in the world—was an excellent time for a Carolina senior to focus on justice close at home. Douglass Hunt and several friends noticed that Jewish students were being set apart in dormitories. Hunt approached Dr. Graham, who challenged him to come up with facts and figures, not just impressions. Hunt did the work, revealing the clear pattern and uncovering the housing official who was consciously assigning rooms to students who would find each other "congenial." Dr. Graham's response? "Of course, doing that violates a clear University policy and we'll have to stop doing it at once."

The ending of a collegiate career—this one marked by such accomplishments as serving as speaker of the student legislature and membership in Phi Beta Kappa—was an excellent time for a young man to extend his grasp beyond the campus. Douglass Hunt, along with Jimmy Wallace '44, Al Lowenstein '49, and others visited Josephus Daniels in Raleigh to convince him of what they already felt: that the times demanded a man of Dr. Graham's stature in the U.S. Senate. It was a terrible idea, the publisher told them. A man of Dr. Graham's decency would be maltreated, misused, and probably defeated. Besides, the University desperately needed him.

And the ending of the college career was a time to head out on that round trip, beginning with a stint in the Army and then law school at Yale. From 1951 to 1961, Hunt practiced law in Washington, D.C., in the firm founded by former North Carolina Governor O. Max Gardner. In 1961, he became Special Assistant to the Under Secretary of the Treasury (winning the department's highest honor, the Alexander Hamilton Award.)

A major turn on the road home came in 1969, when Hunt entered university administration, becoming Vice President for Finance of Columbia University, and then Deputy to the President for Governmental Affairs. From there (and later from Carolina) he served in positions of responsibility in the Association of American Universities, the National Association of College and University Business Officers, and the American Council on Education.

In 1973, Chancellor Ferebee Taylor announced that Douglass Hunt would fill at Carolina the new position of Vice Chancellor for Administration, handling, among other things, matters related to affirmative action. In 1980, Chancellor Christopher Fordham named Hunt Special Assistant to the Chancellor, the position he still holds, undertaking new responsibilities, chiefly in the area of governmental relations.

It was slightly sticky business to arrange Hunt's receipt of the C. Knox Massey Distinguished Service Award. After all, it was he who worked closely with Massey for several years to establish the award for unusual, meritorious or superior contributions to UNC by a past or present employee. It was he who administered the program. And in 1994 it was he who received the award—as a complete surprise. The award citation praised his virtues as a lawyer, gifted University historian, and civil servant.

It might have thanked him for purchasing a round trip ticket. We do.