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DAILY NEWS PAPER

DOWD

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FIFTY YEARS OF EDITORS:

By J. E. Dowd Editor The News

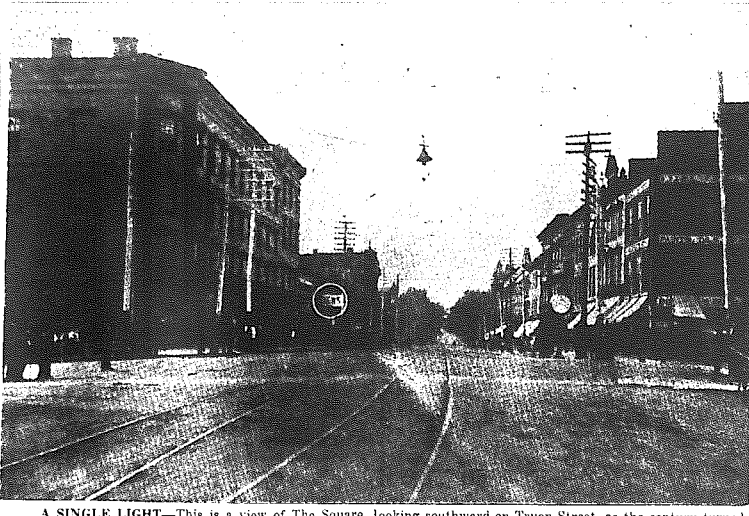
There is a saying that nothing is so out of date as yesterday's newspaper. In the meaning of our date as superseded, I suppose that this is true, but in the sense of ephemeral it should have to contend. To one who has just come over a trail beginning fifty years ago...

THEY WERE SEVEN To seven loyal men, five of them dead, this responsibility was entrusted. With the editorials of six of them it has been my pleasure these last weeks to make or re-acquaintance. These vary greatly in style and purpose, vary according to the times in which they appeared and according to the natures of the men who composed them. It is a curious quality which characterized them all had to be picked out. I don't know what it was, but the earnestness or conviction or truth as it was revealed? Perhaps independence? Of extraneous influences it may be, but not of prejudices that were current about as close as I can come to determining a common denominator is to say that every one of the editors of The News had a devoted respect for the opinions of mankind—and an equal respect for his own.

WALD H. HARRIS—1888 TO JULY, 1893 The beginning of The News was unpretentious, to say the least. The founder of that four-page sheet, its General Manager and the writer of all its editorials as well as Wald Hampton Harris. His manner of writing and his interpretation of editorship did not differ a great deal then, except in scope from that is known of them through his later connection with The Charlotte Observer, whose editor he was when he died. He was the promoter rather than the literary man of controversy, though he could bear down when aroused. Like all true Southerners, his paramount interest back there in 1868 of seq. was the South and, as the defender of the South, the Democratic Party. Thus it was not surprising that after Cleveland had beaten Harrison in 1876, Harris moved the editorial department to the front page and editorialized jubilantly in headlines in that exalted space.

IT'S A DOUBLE DECKER THAT'S WHAT OUR MAJORITY IS Next day, the full columns of the front page were given over to a drawing, life-sized, of a cock in full cry, with the caption, "We are on top again. It's four more years of Grover." Seddon, however, did Mr. Harris break into such glib denials of enthusiasm. By ordinary he was capable in temperance and content to promote whatever was calculated to advance the South commercially, or his state or hometown. Almost in his first issue he was pointing out the advantages of the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley Railroad with a terminal at the Port of Wilmington. Meanwhile, characteristically, he was commenting from day to day on anything that came into his mind, such as in these paragraphs: One of the earliest ways to reduce weight is to wear a short flannel sweater and ride on a brisk trot. If the horse trots roughly and the rider bounces up and down in the saddle, so much the better. Ten pounds a week can be lost by this process.

Sir William Gull comes to the defense of higher education for women with the statements that a university education such as girls get at Newham and Girton, makes them and their children healthier; and that the percentage of childless marriages is less with educated women.



A SINGLE LIGHT—This is a view of The Square, looking southward on Tryon Street, as the century turned. A single arc light, that may be observed in the center of the intersection of Trade and Tryon Streets, illuminated The Square at night. The sign, designating The News office, is indicated by the circle. The News building was then located on S. Tryon Street where Stine's barber shop is now located.

It is scarcely to be taken seriously by any well-balanced people fully endowed with a sense of humor when a President of the United States (Roosevelt) in a document of state no less than a message to Congress, delivers himself of a plan—to punish wife-beating at the whipping post. "Wife-beating is an evil of course; so are chicken-stealing, cock-fighting and robbing birds' nests."

The Greensboro Record is crowing over Charlotte because Greensboro made more blind trusts. "That town," says the Record, referring to Charlotte, "got after only two yesterday while we roped in nineteen." Yes, brother, but don't you remember the story of the zion and her two miles? Maybe we beat you after all.

1894 TO MARCH, 1905 By April, 1904, A. J. McKelway, do not believe I would have liked Mr. McKelway or found much in his nature to admire. He gave of his revolutionary and swartling the remittance of it without gup-

He could not, to save him (dissociate opinion from personal- ity, and it is not at all surprising to find him saying, after the Charleston News & Courier embraced him angrily in misreading his editorials on child labor, that "The editor of The News has been accused of fawning several times in the public press by saloon politicians and saloon advocates."

In one editorial of McKelway's, however, I found a statement that he had written. It was called "The Triple Burden of the South," and it discussed upon the fact that the South had to educate two races with the taxes paid by one, and in addition had to pay for pensions to the G. A. R.

McKelway didn't last long with The News, but became Southern representative of the National Child Labor Committee. At one time he was in the city for this activity I am uncertain, he was editor of the Presbyterian Star in Raleigh.

GEORGE W. BRUNSON—1905 TO MAY, 1906 The last time I saw Mr. Brunson, called "conscientious and courageous," came from the editor- in-chief of the Wilmington Dispatch to take over the editorial page of this News. Editor Brunson lost no time in his first issue, his proclamation: "God-fearing people all over the world will applaud the resolution introduced in Congress yesterday by Representative Yates Webb, of North Carolina, which provides for the District of Columbia on (Roosevelt) I inaugurate."

We are proud of the North Carolina which has adopted this resolution. I am sure that he will be able to make the above denunciatory statement against an infamy attempt to insult the people of the United States. The last time I saw Mr. Brunson, at Pawley's Island, a couple of years ago where he had retired to enjoy his life in an apparently succeeding wondrously to regain his health, he had a highball in his hand. My wife had a lot to talk about. He was a grand fellow, and I hope that by chance his eye lighted on the following paragraph he wrote 33 years ago, for if he is certainly warranted in saying that he told me so:

The first thing for Russia to be done is to pay peace. After that is secured, there will be a way of solving her dire and perplexing problems. The results may not be arrived at for half a century, but she will be able to recover from its present dire straits. It is but one course of treatment, but it is loved, and that is quiet and reform.

J. C. PATTON—1906 TO 1916 From The News of Nov. 14, 1906. In this connection, the appointment of Howard Banks as postmaster has attracted attention to the editorial work of Mr. J. C. Patton. He has been writing for more than twenty years of our paper. He has done practically all of the editorial work on The News for the past six months. We do not believe his an equal to any other writer in the State. His editorial work is a brilliant future for him.

Now let everybody watch Charlotte and The Charlotte News grow.

W. C. DOWD, President and General Manager. Good old Joe Patton. Dead now. I can see him as he was then— handsome, charming, brilliant, disarming my father and being in turn loved, and disciplined like a son. For ten years J. C. Patton was editor of The News, and during that time the editorial page was probably his masterpiece. His return back in 1907, Empire of Alderman made a move to liberalize the newspaper. He was permitted to be in charge of the paper for the first time. He did not last long, but he left a great legacy to the paper.

W. C. DOWD, President and General Manager. J. C. Patton's health broke down in 1916, and he left The News in April 1917. He was succeeded by H. A. Miller, who was in charge from 1917 to 1920. At the time in November, 1906 when Editor made the announcement that he was stepping down, J. C. Patton and the late editor-

stone tablet bearing the inscription, "Remember the Sabbath Day to Keep It Holy," at which aged a silk-hatted gentleman (aged "The Alderman Who is in Favor of Repealing the Sunday Laws." At the general next day, Alderman Garibaldi objected strenuously to "being assailed by the newspapers," and particularly a newspaper.

No harm intended, the paper replied. Alderman, honorable gentleman. No attack made on them. But "As to the reference of Alderman Kirkpatrick to The News, he takes himself too seriously. We haven't any time or space to waste."

An editorial punning in these days was bathing other editors, whose replies conveniently filled up space. Thus Mr. Patton: "When you leave the square in Spartanburg you are in the country. That was the opinion of a distinguished writer whose statement The News recently published on which the Spartanburg Journal has somehow, failed to comment upon."

The vesting subject of Evolution, not yet laid aside, provoked Editor Patton. In a composition of the New York, Evolution, and Public Schools, he wrote:

Editor Moore of the Biblical Recorder comes out four-square against the introduction in our schools of any textbooks which would discuss the origin of man. We are with him to the last. That which brought forth his protest was the origin of man, graph taken from Terry's New Physical Geography, in its recent publication, in which the origin of man was developed by the process of evolution. From some form of animal. But even the least civilized men have powers an animal possesses, while civilized man is no far above the highest animals, so that it is not possible that he is the descendant of an animal."

Mr. Patton re-arranged to accept the Bible as his fact. "But," he said, "I am sure that all of these conflicting vagaries of scientists who try to explain the origin of man have no place in the textbooks of our schools and colleges."

William Handolph Hearst is more of a meane than a benefit to any party with which he might align himself. And while Hearst is a meane, and pardon in South Carolina, and then, as later, The News was expressing its entire disapproval and its full regard for the man.

The man doubled in rhyme every day for The News. Indeed, "Tenderly" illustrated by "Butch" was one of the liveliest features of the paper. I wish it were possible to quote from it all the time, but not being perhaps these two verses will show at least the most of it:

Is you ever seed er nigger at de meetin', Bill, What relish er shuntin' like er Bunch, Who leads all de prayin' and niver give er he's full? What you bout— How er you out in er boss trade, Bill.

It's gittin' on luscious wit meh Lucy Ann, Twell she got er kiltimpe er dat er nigger, er nigger er nigger. Dat circus even wit de breeches red, Dat er nigger er de reason from dat er nigger er nigger.

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lance that Mr. Julian S. Miller, who has filled the place of the late lamented Claude Matthews. Miller was accepted by the staff with the paper as one of its local staff. Mr. Miller graduated from college and early on and gives promise of becoming a particularly good newspaper man. After Mr. Miller's appointment, Mr. Miller, upon the ill health of Mr. Patton, was made editor of The News and began to live up to the promise predicted for him. Thus began too, a long association with The News which lasted well beyond my father's death in 1927, and which was long associated with participation in the World War, the peace that came afterward, the Trentons' Tweents and the stock market crash in 1929 which set off the depression.

Mr. Miller's talents and philosophy are too well known from his sixteen years as editor of The News and his present position as editor of The Charlotte Observer to require amplification here. In addition, he is cordially remembered in his old headquarters as a most versatile writer, a most able public speaker and a most versatile, and the most rapid-fire turn-out of copy, ever to inhabit these parts. In addition, his long and agreeable tenure must be given full space.

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Mr. Brenizer In Banking Business From The Charlotte News of Aug. 30, 1893. Mr. Gilmer Brenizer of Charlotte, one of the clerks in the revenue office at Salisbury under Mr. Kerr Craige, held an order on the Evans administration until Aug. 1, when he resigned, and went to Blowing Rock to get well again. He came home last night, and will enter the Commercial National Bank to learn the banking business. He will remain at the Commercial National until Jan. 1, when he will leave to accept a position further south.

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1888-1938 Fifty Years of Progress The present News plant, gradually filling up with men and machinery, is the most complete in the South. The large building, added to the original structure on the corner, was designed especially for newspaper production. The huge press, set deep on the building's foundation, is the largest of any newspaper in the South. It is the largest of any newspaper in the South. It is the largest of any newspaper in the South.