

50 Years Of Headline History

The Big Stories Of Other Days

By W. J. CASH
 Charlotte News-Observer Staff Writer

A man named Grover Cleveland, who had been sheriff at Buffalo, about whom there were scandalous whispers when the ladies of the church got together, and who was said to go too often to the White House, was President of the United States that year of 1885 when the News started on its career. But the year before he had vetoed a veteran's pension bill, and so that Fall a man named Benjamin Harrison, who was the grandson of old William Henry Harrison of Tippecanoe fame and who people were beginning to call by the strange name of "cooperator lawyer," could beat him out for the job.

THE TELEPHONE JUST BEGINNING TO RING

Cotton was around nine cents. There was a lot of other things to think about besides the theater, though. The Farmers' Alliance and Populism for instance. That man Cleveland had got back to be President again, there was a panic, and cotton was down to five cents. Down in South Carolina, a certain Ben Tillman was stirring up the farmers against Wall Street, and in Georgia two men named Tom Watson and Hoke Smith were doing the same thing, and in Nebraska there was a young fellow named Bryan who seemed to a lot of people to have something in that idea of his about the free and unlimited coinage of silver. North Carolina had got itself a Republican Governor in the dispute, and in Wilmington there had been a riot because of the Negroes.

DAYS APPEAR

Then that man Bryan was making a speech at Chicago about a Crown of Thorns and

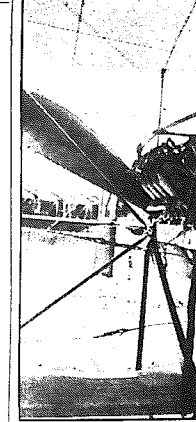
A CROSS OF GOLD

and running for President of the United States against a man named William McKinley, whom everybody not a "Gold-bug" knew was the tool of that penumbrous dollar mark old Mark Hanna—the Voice of Wall Street. And after that it was just a breath until crowds were gathered in front of the News office and at the railroad station to hear a starting news that an American battleship sunk in Havana Harbor had blown up and sunk with a loss of 256 lives. "Remember the Maine" went the slogan then, and people began to get down their maps and find out where the heck Spain was. And there were great rejoicing and proud boasting at the news that a young admiral named Dewey had got steam up the bay at Manila and destroyed the Pacific squadron of the Spanish fleet. And breathless waiting at the tidings that the remainder of the Spanish fleet had turned out Cape Stiff and was steaming north to Porto Rico to coal and to coast to blast New York or Philadelphia or Charleston—or Wilmington, or even Annapolis, when the news came through that the same Sampson had destroyed the fleet as it attempted to escape from the harbor at Santiago.

THE CROWN FALLS UPON A ROOSEVELT

England was fighting a war in South Africa with a people called the Boers, and there were names like Oom Paul Kruger and Jan Smuts on the front page. At Buffalo President McKinley made a speech about the Pan-American Exposition about the desirability of trade reciprocity among the nations. And the next day a man with a name nobody could pronounce, Czolgosz, shot him, and so made a man named Theodore Roosevelt, who along with a Colonel Leonard Wood, had gained a lot of fame at San Juan Hill, President of the United States. The letter he got popular then in 1902 there was a play on Broadway which was getting a lot of attention called "The Leopard's Spots," and written by a parson the Rev. Thomas Dixon Jr. from North Carolina. A little later than that there was the Florida

don Sextette. And there was a case people were doing a lot called "Let Me Call You Sweetheart." Venezuela got into the spirit with something about debts



FIRST TO WING OVER CHARLOTTE—Thornwell Andrews, a Charlotte boy, the son of Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Andrews, who was the first aviator to fly an airplane over Charlotte. That memorable event occurred during the Twentieth of May celebration in 1912 and in recognition of that feat in the early days of aviation the citizens of Charlotte presented him with a gold watch suitably engraved. Mr. Andrews is shown in the above picture in the primitive push-type plane in which he soared over the city.

It wouldn't pay. And then the news stories had it that T. R. had kicked the German warty, which had come to Venezuela to collect, into buying home again. A fat man, with a merry smile and the name of Taft, beat Mr. Bryan, who by that time had got to running practically constantly, and so came to be President. Taft it was 1909 and there was a man named Dr. Frederick Cook said he had been all the way to the North Pole. And so the heck of that, another man, named Robert E. Peary, said that he had been there, and that Dr. Cook was a liar. Telephones were getting more plentiful now, and automobiles were numerous enough that people no longer stared, though farmers with horses still looked at them as if they were a new law, and sensible people still went on saying that the horseless carriages were probably a bad fact, but they were improving, those machines. They no longer had chain drives, and they had doors, and visionaries were actually beginning talk about self-starters for 'em. At Kitty Hawk, N. C., two young mechanics named Wright had made a successful flight in an aeroplane some years before, and now a man named Bleriot had actually flown the English Channel.

THE TITANIC

There was trouble in the Balkans which nobody paid much attention to. And Austria had grabbed two Serbian provinces, and there was a lot of fussing. The papers had another great story, tearing through the Atlantic on her maiden voyage, the "world's greatest liner," the Titanic, had tipped her side out and sunk with 1,500 souls. People sang a song about that. And other songs like "Oh, You Beautiful Doll," "I Wonder Who's Kissing Her Now," and "Alexander's Ragtime Band."

THE LITTLE STORY BECOMES A BIG WAR

There was a little story in the papers about the killing of an Austrian Grand Duke, named Francis Ferdinand, in a town that nobody had ever heard of, called Sarajevo, and nobody paid much attention to it that June 28. But they were paying a lot of attention to it by July 28 when the Austrian army moved upon Serbia. And there was a lot of fussing. August third with Grev of Falloum weeping as he stood at a window and looked down upon sleeping London through the streets of which the news boys were beginning to raise the cry "England Declares War!" The front pages began to be full of strange names like Mons and Charleroi and Le Catcau. There was talk about the Battle of the Marne and Von Kluck and Von Bulow and Papa Joffre and Field Marshal Haig and the drowned Kitchener and the Battle of the Ypres, and the Battle of Jutland and Tannenberg and Galicia and Gallipoli and Ypres. Then it was April 1917 and the United States had come into the war and Russia had gone out of it to plunge into a strange new something called bolshevism. And before long Mr. Wilson was in Versailles, and a man named Mitchell Palmer was hunting Reds in the United States and Hiram Johnson, William E. Borah, and Henry Cabot Lodge were yelling anathemas against the League of Nations and killing it in the Senate. A man named Warren Harding got to be President. And brought with him a lot of new men named Albert Fall and Henry M. Daugherty. The papers began to talk about a place called Teapot Dome, and then Mr. Harding died and Mr. Fall and Mr. Daugherty got hauled up before the courts for stealing oil lands. A man named Calvin Coolidge was President now, and sometimes he went out West and put on a farm costume and had himself photographed for the newspapers pitching hay.

RADIO, GOOD ROAD AND PROHIBITION

There was a good deal about the failure of our Allies in the war to pay up their war debts, and Ger-

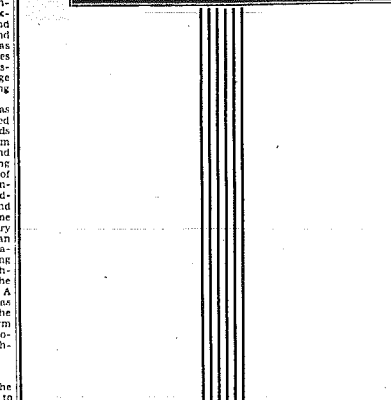
you had \$500, and on favorable nights you could even hear Pittsburgh. There were already roads all over the place, and more building. Yes, there were a few flies on those gangs in Chicago, for instance, and particularly that fellow Capone. But everybody admitted that, for better or worse, Prohibition had come to stay.

There was a movement going through the country in those years which got a lot of notice. It was called the Ku Klux Klan, and it went out dressed up in bed sheets and burned crosses on hills or whipped people it didn't like. And

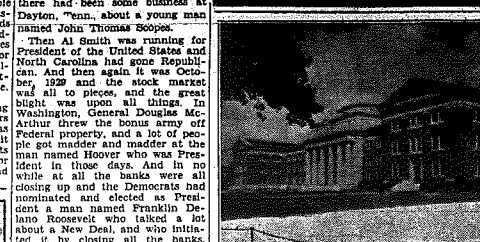
there had been some business as Dayton, about a young man named John Thomas Scooper. Then Al Smith was running for President of the United States and North Carolina had gone Republican. And then again it was October, 1929 and the stock market was all to pieces, and the great blight was upon all things. In Washington, General Douglas MacArthur drew the bonus army off Federal property, and a lot of people got mad, and madder at the man named Hoover who was President in those days. And in no while at all the banks were all closing up and the Democrats had nominated and elected as President a man named Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who was a lot about a New Deal, and who intimated it by closing all the banks. There was talk about the NRA and its Blue Eagle, Old Iron-Pants Johnson, and the AAA—about child labor, and proceeding taxes. And then the Supreme Court had killed it all and there was another election, with Mr. Roosevelt taking all but Maine and Vermont.

In Germany a man with a little moustache, whose name was Adolf Hitler, had come into power on the back of a party which called itself the Nazis. And in Italy a man named Mussolini was getting ready to defy the British navy and take Ethiopia and Spain. But we didn't pay much attention, what with the President proposing to remake the Supreme Court and a lot of other things being in Congress.

Then the President had got his first heating—on the Supreme Court issue. And Mr. Hitler had occupied the Rhineland and then Austria. Over here Congress was fighting interminably and getting little done, save the spending of a lot of money. And the country was rapidly dividing into two camps, one favoring the continuance of New Deal policies and the other demanding that they be abandoned. The President was talking about using his influence to secure the defeat of Senators and Congressmen who had opposed his program, then attempting to do it but without much success. And in Europe Mr. Hitler was mobilizing to take Czechoslovakia, and Mr. Chamberlain was hurrying to Munich to give it to him without a fight. In China and Spain a lot of babies were being killed by bombs dropped from the air.



Tenants of the Johnston Building enjoy a unique distinction. It is Charlotte's best known business address and one of the South's largest and finest office buildings. That is why its floors are peopled with distinguished business and professional men. They realize that their customers and clients, also, enjoy this atmosphere of spaciousness, solidity and courteously efficient, uninterrupted service.



BUILDING FOR CHARLOTTE AND THE CAROLINAS

SINCE 1908 Blythe & Isenhour played an important part in the building development of Charlotte and the great Piedmont Section of the Carolinas.

Davidson College, Queens College, many other types of construction including residential, industrial and institutional buildings have been the result of the tremendous activity which has seen Charlotte and its environs become the most highly industrial and populous center of the South. Thus we identify ourselves with proud history of the Carolinas, confidently predict still greater, more amazing building activity for section for many years to come.

Blythe & Isenhour GENERAL CONTRACTORS Charlotte, North Carolina

Charlotte's Pioneer Paint and Glass Dealer
 Salutes The Charlotte News on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary
EZE'L'S INC.
 Paint and Glass
 513-515 East Trade St.
CHARLES T. STROUPE, President

We Are Proud Of Our Thousands Of Satisfied Customers

We are happy that our 23 years' experience in the leather business is saving SATISFACTION to so many with one purpose—to make it so good it will leave nothing more for our customer to desire.

We appreciate the patronage given us during our 23 years in business by those who have been with us from time to time.

We feature a complete shoe repair and shoe rebinding service. We are expert shoe dyers. We do them any color. We call for and deliver.

J. R. THOMAS SHOE SHOP
 1217 CENTRAL AVE.
 TEL. 2-3627

—one of the South's Finest

Tenants of the Johnston Building enjoy a unique distinction. It is Charlotte's best known business address and one of the South's largest and finest office buildings. That is why its floors are peopled with distinguished business and professional men. They realize that their customers and clients, also, enjoy this atmosphere of spaciousness, solidity and courteously efficient, uninterrupted service.

JOHNSTON BUILDING

"A BUSINESS ADDRESS THAT IS A BUSINESS ADDRESS"

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA