

ODDS AND ENDS- #48

There was a terrible housing shortage at Winthrop College in 1925. That fall over 2200 applications were sent in for housing. There was space for only 1572 and that meant placing three girls to a room. Classes were meeting in the attic of Main Building (now called Tillman) and any space available in the Winthrop Training School across the street was utilized by the college. There were classes scheduled in the library and even in the Dean's Office.

D. B. Johnson, Winthrop's founder and president, pleaded with the state legislature for a larger appropriation. He pointed out that, after all, Winthrop was the major teacher training institution in the state and teachers flocked to its summer school (over 2100 the previous summer).

Johnson said, "It has been too common a political teaching that the best government is that which levies the smallest taxes. The future will modify that doctrine and teach that liberal taxation fairly levied and properly applied is the chief mark of civilized people. The savage pays no tax."

Then he added, "For every dollar you save in education you spend five in prosecutions, in prisons and in penal settlements."

When one compares the appropriations to the state colleges in 1925, one thing is certain, Winthrop received much less per student than the other three state schools—Clemson, the Citadel and the University. In spite of Johnson's personal popularity, the legislators, all men, turned a deaf ear and some of them actually said that everyone knew that it cost more to educate a man than a woman.

— — In recent years a great deal of attention has been paid to the Rock Spider Lily and the remains of the Landsford Canal on the Catawba river and deservedly so. But there is another attraction at Landsford that is seldom mentioned but interesting if one knows its origins.

The Lockkeeper's House at Landsford Canal State Park was built in 1823 down river closer to Great Falls. Designed by Robert Mills, the first American architect, the house combined stone masonry and the arch in the Lockkeeper's House along the same lines as the canal's stonework.

The roof and interior of the building had collapsed when Carl T. Julien photographed the house at its original site and made this observation: "Who but Mills would have expended so much care in the construction of so simple a thing as a lockkeeper's cottage? The window ledges are not slabs of stone set on other masonry, but are a part of the larger blocks of stone on which they appear to rest. Large blocks were cut, or sculpted, to have the appearance of smaller blocks."

In the early 1970s the stones were moved to the park and a new interior and roof built. Mills had designed four canals of the Catawba-Wateree system. This is the only remaining lockkeeper's house. It now serves as a museum.

South Carolina's canal system was intended for transportation of upcountry goods, mainly cotton, to the port of Charleston. As the canals were under construction railroad locomotives and rail systems were being built in

England. Much cheaper and capable of going in any direction, the railroad was less expensive and became the transportation of choice within 10 years of the building of the Landsford Canal.

— — — In the fall of 1924, local baseball fans were thrilled to turn on their radios and hear the National League playoffs between the Washington Senators and the New York Giants over WBT. It was the first time that locals were able to hear about a national event at the time it was happening. They also heard the telegraph keys striking. The Charlotte announcer kept up a running string of witty comments.

After the Giants won in the 12th inning, the announcer said that the Sunday game would not be broadcast “for the reason that the people of Charlotte would not stand for that kind of business on Sunday.”

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