

## ODDS & ENDS #46

In October 1919, the Yorkville Enquirer published a warning to the young men who were likely to visit the Winthrop campus. Don't flirt was the message—at least, don't flirt where the "dignified and sedate members of the faculty and others officially connected with Winthrop" could observe them.

It seems that in the previous March, a York County representative in the state legislature, John R. Hart, had successfully placed on the SC statute books an act titled "A Bill to Protect Schools and College Attended by Women and Girls." The bill did not indicate that it was intended to protect Winthrop students but Winthrop was the only state-supported women's college at that time.

Rock Hill City government had already passed an ordinance intended to prevent young men "hanging around" Winthrop. Rock Hill's Recorder was B. N. Craig, who had the reputation of being a "hard-boiled" judge. Craig sentenced two young Rock Hill fellows, J. William Milling and J. N. Miller and charged them \$10 each for flirting with Winthrop girls.

It was the Yorkville Enquirer editor's opinion that the 1,000-plus girls then enrolled at Winthrop probably didn't mind being flirted with but the "silly swains" should know that it was the law not to and that the law would be enforced. (We searched the Winthrop catalogs of the time and other materials and found that while there were plenty of rules and 28 specific restrictions listed in the catalog regarding student behavior, there was no mention of the "flirting ordinance.") —Bowling Green is a small York County village? town? community? on Highway 321 about a half mile south of the North Carolina line. Old tourist guides referred to Bowling Green as being situated on "the best route between Charlotte and Columbia and thence to Florida for the winter." Now, it is not on the list of "Things to See & Do and Place to Stay in South Carolina's Olde English District. Now, most people south of the town of York have no idea where Bowling Green is located.

How did it get the name Bowling Green? According to legend, a horse trader from Bowling Green, Kentucky made camp at the spot (there was no village, just a wide spot in the road. The visitor asked a local fellow, "What do you call this place?" The man replied that the place had no name. The visitor suggested they call it Bowling Green which he declared to be the finest town in "old Kaintuck." And they did.

In 1922 The Yorkville Enquirer described Bowling Green as a delightful place to live in. The credit was given to the Bowling Green Presbyterian Church for putting the liquor shops out of business back in 1894. It seems that an old liquor dealer across the NC line in the Union community of Gaston County who had the reputation of being an honest man, had become quite wealthy selling rum. The Rev. G. A. Sparrow appreciated the man's honesty but said that either the church or the rum shop would have to go.

The minister wrote a letter to the rum seller in which he wrote his ultimatum. The old rum dealer couldn't read, "so upon receiving the letter he

mounted his trusty mule and rode over to the minister's house with the request that the minister read his own letter. No one knew precisely the conversation of the minister and the rum dealer but did know that the old man closed his rum shop.

In 1896 Bowling Green was large enough to merit a post office. Then a cotton mill was built and in a few years enlarged. According to its site on the internet, today Bowling Green has three moving companies that specialize in relocating factories and shipping goods all over the world—Uniworld Cargo, Astro International Moving Storage and The Export Line. In addition, Bowling Green still has a textile factory, Bowling Green Spinning Company, whose sole product is “combed cotton, ring-spun yarn.”

Some weeks ago I wrote a column on prohibition in the 1920s as it affected this area. Seeking substitutes for legal liquor, many turned to various extracts which were far more powerful than illegal "moonshine."

Jamaica ginger extract emerged as the most desirable. People gave it the slang name, "Jake." By 1924 county sheriffs were appointing "rural police" whose main duty was to intercept the extracts which might arrive by train or truck.

In June 1924 York's deputy sheriff Tom Quinn and a rural policeman, John Jackson, were at the Guthriesville depot which was about half way between the towns of York and Chester. A shipment of "Jake" was addressed to Sid Parrish "who is said to operate a shack on the Rock Hill, Fort Mill road near the river bridge." The 288 quart bottles were shipped from Tennessee and the deputies estimated that they would probably have sold for 75 cents each.

People who lived in the Guthriesville told reporters that they resented some one who lived in another part of the county using their depot for illegal purposes. One added that it would have been okay if the person actually lived in Guthriesville.

— In August 1887 the Rock Hill Herald printed a story about a visitor from Fort Worth, Texas named Joseph W. Key. Key was seeking relatives named Key or Kee who were thought to be legal heirs of Martin Key and Nancy Bibb who were Virginia natives. In 1783 Martin & Nancy Key had leased "49 acres, 3 roods, and 8 poles" to New York City for a period of 99 years. The lease was up and the city had advertised for the heirs.

Two Chester men, Chesley T. Kee and James W. Key along with C. J. Kee of York County were believed to be rightful heirs. All they had to do was prove it and they would inherit property worth millions of dollars. To their great disappointment they were unable to satisfy the city of New York that they were rightful heirs.

— In December 1947, late one night, the Rock Hill home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cobb caught on fire. There was no "911" system, nor automatic dialing, but Mrs. Cobb knew what to do. She dialed "O" for operator and said her house was on fire and then collapsed from smoke inhalation. Lois Jones, the operator who took the call, recognized Mrs. Cobb's voice and quickly called the fire department. Then she called some of the Cobbs' neighbors. John Tolles got the two Cobbses out of the house and probably saved their lives. Mr. Cobbs was president of Peoples National Bank.

That story was told by Lois Jones' sister Mary Sherer Connolly who worked in the main office of Rock Hill Telephone Co. for 46 years. Mrs. Connolly recalled starting to work in 1919 as the only woman in the main office on the first floor of the Elk Avenue building.

The switchboard operators were all women and were on second floor. In 1919 there were about 800 subscribers and 25 employees. Mrs. Connolly said that operators generally knew everyone's number by memory. No one's

Some weeks ago I wrote a column on the condition in the 1930s as it affected this area. Speaking especially of legal liquor, many turned to various extracts which were far more powerful than illegal "moonshine".

Liquor stores existed and were as the most desirable. People gave it the slang name, "Juke". By 1934 county sheriffs were appointing "rural police" whose main duty was to intercept the extracts which might arrive by train or truck.

In June 1934, Juke's deputy sheriff Tom Quinn and a rural policeman, John Jackson, were at the Louisville depot which was about half way between the towns of York and Chester. A shipment of "Juke" was addressed to Sid Parnish who is said to operate a shack on the Rock Hill. For Will road near the river bridge. The 388 quart bottles were shipped from Tennessee and the deputies estimated that they would probably have sold for 75 cents each.

People who lived in the Louisville told reporters that they resembled some one who lived in another part of the county using their depot for illegal purposes. One added that it would have been okay if the person actually lived in Louisville.

In August 1887 the Rock Hill Herald printed a story about a visitor from Fort Worth, Texas named Joseph W. Key. Key was seeking relatives named Key or Keys who were thought to be legal heirs of Martin Key and Nancy Bidd who were Virginia natives. In 1883 Martin & Nancy Key had leased "49 acres, 3 rods and 8 poles" to New York City for a period of 99 years. The lease was up and the city had advertised for the heirs.

Two Chester men, Chester T. Key and James W. Key along with O. L. Key to York County were believed to be rightful heirs. All they had to do was prove it and they would inherit property worth millions of dollars. To their great disappointment they were unable to locate the city of New York that they were rightful heirs.

In December 1947, late one night, the Rock Hill home of Mr. and Mrs. O. L. Key rang on the "Toll" system, not automatic dialing. Mrs. Key knew what to do. She dialed "O" for operator and said her house was on fire and then dialed three sixes in succession. Lois Jones, the operator who took the call, recognized Mrs. Key's voice and quickly called the fire department. Then she called some of the local neighbors. John Tolles got the O'Connors out of the house and probably saved their lives. Mr. O'Connors was president of Peoples National Bank.

This story was told by Lois Jones, sister Mary Sherrill Connolly who worked in the main office of Rock Hill Telephone Co. for 46 years. Mrs. Connolly recalled starting to work in 1913 as the only woman in the main office on the first floor of the Elk Avenue building.

The switchboard operators were all women and were on second floor in 1919 there were about 800 subscribers and 25 employees. Mrs. Connolly said that operators generally knew everyone's number by memory. No one's

telephone number was longer than three digits. Telephone bills were sent on penny postcards.

\_\_\_ There were more than 1800 teachers enrolled in summer school at Winthrop College in 1924. Many, if not most, of the teachers were young (it was possible to teach in South Carolina after only two years of college at that time). Most of the young women were not Winthrop students in the regular sessions..

The Rock Hill police were instructed to watch out for the “skunks” who accosted, or even flirted with, the Winthrop students. And it wasn’t just Rock Hill boys who were attracted to the campus. They came from Yorkville, Lancaster, Chester and other towns to pick up teachers and go “joy riding.”

The editor of the Yorkville Enquirer used stronger language than the police. He wrote that the young men who flocked to the Winthrop campus were “young idiots, tea hounds, lounge lizards, mashers and bums..”

— In 1802 the minister of the Waxhaw Presbyterian Church in Lancaster county was John Brown who grew up in the church and had attended the Waxhaw Academy along with the future U. S. president, Andrew Jackson. A biographer was to later observe that while Reverend Brown was known to be a gentle and accommodating man, he probably also had some experience in fighting by virtue of going to school with young Jackson who was noted for his skills in fisticuffs and being something of a bully.

A camp meeting known as the Great Revival in 1802 with somewhere between 3 and 5000 participants and 18 ministers resulted in a split among the Presbyterians that created the Associated Reformed Presbyterian (ARP) church over Brown’s attempting to replace “Rouse’s Version” with “Dr. Watts Psalms and Hymns.” The Rev. Richard Furman, who later founded Furman University, was present and later wrote that the Waxhaws church congregation had forced Brown out of the church because he took communion with the Methodists. Whatever the cause, Brown resigned and became a school master.

In spite of the fact that Brown had no more than 18 months formal education he was elected Professor of Logic and Moral Philosophy at South Carolina College in 1809. He spent two years in Columbia where he also served as minister of the Columbia Presbyterian church.

In 1811 Brown gave the graduation address at the University of Georgia and the next day the trustees hired him as president—solely based on his ability to speak to an audience. Alas, that was not enough. Brown was not able to maintain student discipline and five years later forced to resign.