

— — Lately, there has been much written about Senator Strom Thurmond and his more than 45 years in the United States Senate.

Apparently Senator Thurmond these days is much concerned about setting a record for longevity in office. This attitude was not typical of South Carolina's early senators who prized election to the governorship much more than going to Washington.

In 1908 the editor of the Yorkville Enquirer took a look at how many senators South Carolina had had since the formation of the U. S. government. At that time the state had sent 35 men to the U. S. Senate. (These were not direct elections. Until passage of the 17<sup>th</sup> Amendment in 1913, state legislatures chose the senators.)

The editor noted that of the 35 men elected to the Senate by February 1908, 8 had died in office. In the year 1850 there were 4 senators. John C. Calhoun died March 31<sup>st</sup>. He was replaced by Franklin H. Elmore who died after only 23 days in office. On June 4<sup>th</sup> Robert Barnwell was appointed by the governor to replace Elmore. Barnwell served until December 18 when the legislature elected Robert Barnwell Rhett to the Senate.

Fourteen of the 35 senators resigned the office before the expiration of their terms. Pierce Butler resigned twice. Some resigned to become governor. John C. Calhoun resigned to become vice-president (and then resigned that post in order to serve as senator so that he could debate nullification of the Force Act from the floor of the U. S. Senate).

The editor concluded that "In the early days of the republic it seemed to be the proper thing for a senator to resign before his term expired."

— — Recently it was announced that the Winthrop University student yearbook, after 100 years of publication, doesn't attract enough student interest to support the cost of the printing (a reduced version will be printed).

The first yearbook was printed in 1901 and was called Lang Syne but that name only lasted one year. Since that time it has been The Tatler.

Lang Syne and The Tatler were for many years the product of two literary societies: the Winthrop Literary Society and the Curry Society who were friendly rivals except when they worked on the yearbook.

The Winthrop Literary Society was the older of the two. It was organized in 1888 in Columbia by 33 young women of the Winthrop Training School who met at "Mrs. Lamar's residence" for the purpose of studying American literature. The next fall they studied English writers. Winthrop was then a two-year institution which was set up to train teachers only but from the beginning had many of the aspects of a liberal arts school. The Winthrop Literary Society in 1888 published a paper they called "The Qui Vive."

When the institution came to Rock Hill in 1896, the Winthrop Literary Society secured a large room in Main Building (now called Tillman Hall) which by 1901 was furnished with solid but ornate furniture, a raised podium, Greek

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In 1808 the editor of the Yorkville Enquirer took a look at how many senators South Carolina had had since the formation of the U. S. government. At that time the state had sent 88 men to the U. S. Senate. (These were not district elections. Until passage of the 17th Amendment in 1913, state legislatures chose the senators.)

The editor noted that of the 88 men elected to the Senate by February 1808, 8 had died in office. In the year 1850 there were 4 senators, John C. Calhoun died March 3<sup>rd</sup>. He was replaced by Franklin P. Pickens who died after only 26 days in office. On June 4<sup>th</sup> Robert Barnwell was appointed by the governor to replace Edward Barnwell served until December 18 when the legislature elected Robert Barnwell Rhett to the Senate.

Fourteen of the 88 senators resigned the office before the expiration of their term. Pickens resigned twice. Some resigned to become governor. John C. Calhoun resigned to become vice-president (and then resigned that post in order to serve as senator so that he could debate nullification of the Fugitive Act from the floor of the U. S. Senate).

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The Winthrop Literary Society was the older of the two. It was organized in 1898 in Columbia by 38 young women of the Winthrop Training School who met at Mrs. Lamm's residence for the purpose of studying American literature. The next fall they studied English literature. Winthrop was then a two-year institution which was set up to train teachers only but from the beginning had many of the aspects of a liberal arts school. The Winthrop Literary Society in 1888 published a paper they called "The Old Olive".

When the institution came to Block Hill in 1896, the Winthrop Literary Society secured a large room in Main Building (now called Tiltman Hall) which in 1907 was furnished with solid but ornate furniture, a raised podium, Greek

statuary and a stenciled ceiling. There they regularly debated the girls of Curry Society.

— — The first South Carolina constitution (1790) forbade divorces under any circumstances. After the Civil War, 1868-1876, there was a state legislature made up primarily of ex-slaves and Carpetbaggers (non-natives). This group was either referred to as the Black and Tan legislature or the Radical legislature.

In 1868 the Radical legislature passed a divorce law that lasted less than a year. Many divorces were granted in that short period.

For many years it was very easy to get married and impossible to get divorced. South Carolina was the last state in the union to permit divorce. It was not until 1950 that divorces were allowed and not until July 1, 1962, that the Bureau of Vital Statistics began keeping a record of divorces.