

The Chatham Blanketeer

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The Man Who Follows

One day an old umbrella mender with his bundle of skeleton frames and box of tools knocked at our back door, and we gave him a job. As he sat on his box in the sun mending the broken and torn umbrella, we noticed that he seemed to take unusual pains, testing the cloth, carefully measuring and strongly sewing the covers.

"You seem unusually careful," we remarked.

"Yes," he said, without looking up. "I try to do good work."

"But your customers would not know the difference till you were gone," we suggested.

"No, I suppose not."

"Then perhaps you expect to come back this way again some day?" we ventured.

"No, I shall probably not come back."

"Then why are you so particular?"

"So it will be easier for the man who follows me," he answered simply. "If I put on shoddy cloth or do bad work, my customers will find it out in a few weeks, and the next old umbrella mender that comes along will get the cold shoulder, the stony stare, the bulldog and the gate."

When he had gone we reflected on what he had said, and this thought occurred to us: The lot of all who labor with their hands or their brains for a living would be easier—many of the problems which worry the manufacturer, the merchant, and the professional man, would solve themselves—if only the simple philosophy of the old umbrella mender were universally practiced—if all earnestly tried to make it "easier for the man who follows."—Copied.

ORIGIN OF THE NAME "TAR HEEL"

Two Words Were Once Laden
With Derision For the People
To Whom It Applied

Few of us living today remember when North Carolinians were not called Tar Heels, and were not proud of the title, but originally the two words were laden with derision for the people whom it served as an appellation.

Long before the colonies gained their independence the British referred to the citizens of the province of Carolina as Tar Heels. The term was applied to the poorer classes who labored in the state's triple industry of "tar, pitch and turpentine." The belief is that these poor workers in naval stores went without shoes, and tar, lying about loosely, would stick to their heels.

Gradually the name came to be applied to all classes of people in the colony and later in the state, and it was not until the Civil War that Carolinians no longer resented the term as an expression of contempt.

Dr. Kemp P. Battle, former president of the University of North Carolina, has told how the epithet spread. "In the early years of the Civil War, about January 1862, some Negroes in Mississippi were playing a game in which a copper coin was placed in the middle of a ring. Each danced up to it, and if he could pick it up with his foot and dance with it out of the ring, he could have it. One darkey won it so often that the crowd became suspicious and one shouted 'dat nigger has got tar on his heels!' He was searched, and there was the tar."

The North Carolina boys took it good humoredly and declared that the Virginia troopers would run away in a hot fight, but that the Carolinians would stick firmly because they had tar on their heels.

Zebulon Baird Vance, speaking before North Carolina Confederate troops in the spring of 1864 in Virginia, is the first who gave the term an honorable connotation. Vance was campaigning for governor of North Carolina and most of the soldiers were eligible to vote.

"I hardly know how to begin," he said. "I cannot call you fellow citizens because we do not live here. I cannot call you fellow soldiers for while you are undergoing the hardships of camp life, I am comfortably at Raleigh with three meals a day, and I am not a soldier. But—I can and will call you fellow Tar Heels."

Major A. W. Graham, a Confederate veteran, who heard Governor Vance deliver this speech, said that for a moment or two it did not meet hearty response. Vance paused, then suddenly the

soldiers caught on. As one man they rose with a thunder of cheers. The words "Tar Heel" were enobled with brotherly love and idealism. Since that day the name Tar Heel has been honored and respected by all who love the Tar Heel State.

L. H. C. Club of Elkin

L. H. C. CLUB NO. 2

Our regular weekly meetings have been held in the foreman's room each Thursday evening this month with a good attendance. Since we have been studying the Women of the Bible, our programs only consist of a short devotional exercise conducted by a member and a business meeting followed by our lessons, taught by Miss Austin. The lessons are being thoroughly enjoyed by our group and we feel that a great deal of good is being derived from them.

Our quilt top has been finished and \$15.00 has been added to our treasury from the sale of names to go on it.

L. H. C. CLUB NO. 1

The most interesting program of our Club year was given on Thursday night, Nov. 22nd, when Misses Carolyn and Margaret Lillard rendered a program on "Music Appreciation." After a talk by Miss Carolyn Lillard on the "History of Music" several vocal and piano numbers were rendered. The numbers rendered were selections from different countries and folk music. Each girl left feeling that she had learned something long to be remembered. This is the third of a series of programs we are planning to have leading on up to Christmas. Art, Health and History are yet looked forward to.

Tuesday evening, Nov. 27th our regular Thanksgiving program was enjoyed. Each girl brought a Thanksgiving gift to be given to a family we are interested in. The program consisted of patriotic songs and a Thanksgiving story was told by our leader, Miss Austin. Much interest is being manifested by the girls who are going out for basketball practice. We are looking forward to a good girls' team this year.

Charlie Dixon telephoned the theatre box office the other night and asked: "Can I get a box for two?"

A puzzled voice replied: "We don't have boxes for two."

"Isn't this the theatre?" asked Charlie crossly.

"Why, no," was the reply, "you are talking to Voglers, the undertakers."

Elizabeth: "Didn't I tell you to notice when the soup boiled over?"

Thompson: "I did. It was exactly half past ten."

WINSTON OFFICE

"THE OLDEST COUPLE"

Older people like to tell of their years of service, the good old days, and things that used to be. As one of these pass away if it can be said that they were faithful in some service for forty, fifty or sixty years we will stand with hats off and bowed heads in honor of a life well used.

Recently the writer met a very old couple that you might like to hear about. After asking to see them and Mrs. J. E. Jones of this city had been kind enough to bring them in Mr. Highsmith, her father who is eighty-six years, began this story.

"My father lived near Wilmington, the farm being about two miles from the town. We raised sheep and I remember when we would take the wool to Elkin and father would tell the man that he wanted some of those good blankets made with that wool. It was nice wool, came off my father's sheep. When I was married he gave me those two pairs of blankets. We were proud of them and took good care of them, but we used them every year, they were so warm and comfortable."

I had to but in the telling of this story to ask who the man was and how long it had been.

"Chatham, but I can't remember his given name. I don't remember just when those were woven but I was married in 1872 and father gave them to us at that time, they may have been woven a year or two before, but they were not used until then."

I looked at the two pairs of blankets that have completed sixty-two years of service, white with a headend of pink and brown stripes, very pretty and in perfectly good condition, except the binding was worn away, and the ends are a little ragged.

Mr. Highsmith looked at them as if they were an old friend, "We are using them now and they are all we need unless the night is unusually cool."

SIXTY-TWO years of active service—are we not proud of Our Chatham Blankets?

BIRTHS

Rev. and Mrs. Richard Pardue announce the birth of a son, R. J., Jr., October 20, 1934, Swan Creek.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Minnish, of Winston-Salem, a daughter, November 27th. Both mother and baby are doing nicely.

CARD OF THANKS

Mrs. Earl Holbrook and children wish to thank the employees of Chatham Manufacturing Company and the Lucy Hanes Chatham Club for their kindness and help during the death of their husband and father.