

Sketches from Capital Life

By Jim Rivers

WASHINGTON, D. C.—There were big doings in the sleepy little town of New York on March 4th, 1789. The dual body of the Federal Congress, scarcely an anaemic shadow of its present corpulence, was assembling for its first session . . . a session which was to definitely launch the infant theory of democratic rule, just recently born in a world of tyranny.

It might have been "black measles" in the settlements, or Injun trouble, or high water, or untraversable trails . . . anyhow, history books tell us that attendance at the initial session was limited to a score of members from nearby states and, to the chagrin of a Tar Heel, reveal that none of the said twenty came from North Carolina. So, a quorum not being present, this minority in knee breeches met and adjourned daily for the ensuing weeks until April 6th, when both houses were organized, Vice-President John Adams ascending to the Senate dais and Representative Frederick A. C. Muhlenburg of Pennsylvania assuming the duties of Speaker of the House.

LAST SATURDAY a joint session of the Congress observed its one hundred and fiftieth anniversary. President Roosevelt delivered a fetching speech, brimful of "foreign policy" and tender promise, garnished with the usual Delano charm; bewhiskered Chief Justice Hughes, more solemn than the law itself, represented the judicial branch of government with a dignified address on the blessings of freedom . . . then there were other speeches, songs, music and such-like. Cabinet members and departmental dignitaries, wives and daughters of Congressmen and Senators, diplomats, gold-braided officers of Army and Navy, politicians, ordinary New Dealers, a few Republicans and an occasional taxpayer packed every nook and cranny of gallery and well. As women would say—"it was a mighty pretty party."

THE SESQUICENTENNIAL of America's law-making branch creates a craving to "look in" on that first session; to call the roll of North Carolina's membership which, for some reason or other, didn't arrive until the spring of 1790; to find out how they lived, where they came from, how much money they had. By Constitutional apportionment the State had five House members during the initial assembly, and there wasn't a lawyer in the bunch. Pay was scanty, the Treasury was thin, and a conservative sort of Congress hastily determined that six bucks a day, coupled with the glory of service, should be quite enough for its doughty members. There were no fancy offices, overstuffed chairs or tow-headed stenos, and the plumbing was on the outside. The duly-elected representatives of a newly-freed people gathered in the dramshops of old Manhattan for discussion of public matters and a two-bit tavern bed brought slumber when day was done.

But let's refresh memory a bit with brief biographies of those sturdy sons of Carolina who, bearing the Federalistic banner, blazed the trail for the ambitious hundreds who since have followed to coveted Congressional seats. There wasn't a "softie" in the lot—for tall and sinewy timber grew in those days. We'll start on the Senate side with . . .

BENJAMIN HAWKINS, of Warren County, a Princeton student at the beginning of the American Revolution, whose knowledge of French earned him an appointment as interpreter on the staff of General Washington. Hawkins was a delegate to the Continental Congress and, following his service in the National Assembly, he was appointed agent of all Indian tribes south of the Ohio River by the first President. Then there was another Senator by the name of . . .

SAMUEL JOHNSTON, born in

Dundee but fetched to America to become a citizen of Chowan County when a lad of three. Lawyer he was, but not by right of college diploma, and moderator of the Revolutionary Convention. Johnston's service in the Congress was followed by a term in the State Assembly and years on the Superior Court bench. And over on the House side was . . .

JOHN BAPTISTA ASHE of Halifax, who commanded North Carolina's troops at Valley Forge, later attending sessions of the Continental Congress as a delegate. Retiring from National politics, Ashe served three terms in the State Assembly, was elected Governor of North Carolina in 1802, but died before his inauguration. And another representative was . . .

TIMOTHY BLOODWORTH, reared on a New Hanover farm; self-schooled teacher of schools and master of many trades, who manufactured muskets and bayonets for Washington's army. And a financier of considerable importance in those times was . . .

JOHN STEELE, shrewd Salisbury planter, whose service in the House was followed by six years as Comptroller of the Treasury, having been appointed by President Washington and reappointed by Presidents Adams and Jefferson. And a scholarly fellow was . . .

HUGH WILLIAMSON, of Edenton, ordained minister of the Gospel, professor of mathematics, student of medicine. A signer of the Declaration of Independence, Williams attended as a delegate the convention which framed the Federal Constitution, and during the Revolution was surgeon-general of North Carolina troops. Last but of a certainty not least was a red-head named . . .

JOHN SEVIER, Virginia-born fighter extraordinary, who with his brothers had moved to the alluvial

Holston Valley (Tennessee), which probably at that time was in the "State of Wilkes." Hero of Kings Mountain, later for three years governor of the "proclaimed" State of Franklin, and first Chief Executive of Tennessee, the dashing John adds color to the histories of two states and a nation as well.

THERE'S NO DENYING the fact that North Carolina had a powerful delegation in Congress when this group finally reached New York. They had plenty of stuff "behind the ears," a little book-learning . . . and a fresh remembrance of the cruelties of an Old World monarchy. They started something that has proved to be good.

It's a genuine pleasure to occasionally glance back at events that are gone. Things haven't changed a lot, so far as government is concerned. Congressmen wear clothes of a different cut, and lawyers are not as scarce as they were in the first session. Fact is they now hold eleven out of the thirteen North Carolina seats in both houses. Not so bad—for the lawyers.

Wresting the lead from the Administration in a concerted effort to restore business confidence Chairman Robert L. Doughton of the House Ways and Means Committee and Chairman Pat Harrison of the Senate Finance Committee Friday called on the Treasury for tax-easing recommendations.

A letter from Harrison and Doughton followed the Mississippi Senator's declaration Thursday for "radical" cuts in expenditures, removal of tax deterrents to business and abandonment of another \$5,000,000,000 increase in the legal debt limit.

The two Senate and House committee chairmen pledged their co-operation toward helping business, through removal of burdensome tax law provisions. They voiced belief that both their committees were in sympathy with the President's recently-announced views concerning business and government co-operation.

Representative Doughton, con-

fined in Naval Hospital for two weeks with a bronchial trouble, left Monday for St. Petersburg, Fla., where he will spend several days resting.

Harold D. Cooley, representative from the Fourth North Carolina District, has written President Roosevelt and the chief of the Bureau of Navigation suggesting that the next airplane carrier be named "Kitty Hawk," in honor of the site of the birth of heavier-than-air aviation.

"Kitty Hawk has real significance in the field of aviation not only in this country but in every section of the world," Congressman Cooley said. "No name would be more suitable for an airplane carrier, and it would be hailed by Americans and aviators in every section of the world as most appropriate."

The \$499,857,936 War Department appropriation bill, providing first funds to tool industry for the new air defense program, Friday received the speediest House approval on record for military appropriations.

Mrs. Hawley Hostess

A very delightful evening was spent at bridge Monday of this week when Mrs. Frank Hawley was hostess, entertaining the Monday Night Bridge Club and several additional guests. Five progressions were played from eight to ten fifteen at which time the scores were added and prizes awarded. Miss Ruth Transou won high for club member and Mrs. Lyle Wilson won high for guests, both being presented attractive gifts. A much enjoyed salad course was served. Jonquils and other early spring flowers were used with lovely effect throughout the house. The regular club members and guests were Mesdames Rives Manning, Fred Wilmer, J. R. Allsbrook, Carroll Wilson, Howard Pruden, H. S. Loy, Lyle Wilson, George Hayes, J. D. Cassada, J. M. C. Covington, John Dunn, W. S. Dean, Misses Ruth Transou, Kent Bentley, Aldine Boswood and Susan Holliday.

Mileage Hints

By J. F. Winchester
Supervisor of Motor Vehicle Equipment, Esso Marketers

"SPARKPLUG" has become so much a part of our language that it is today a readily used and understood word in the sports field. The sparkplug on the ball field is the player who touches off a fresh attack on the opponents.



Like most of the too familiar things, though, the sparkplug has come to be both accepted and neglected by the motorist. Yet, it is the sparkplug which

in the last analysis must touch off the entire power of the car. Poor, dirty, or abused sparkplugs fail to deliver maximum efficiency, and the motorist wonders where his "power" has gone!

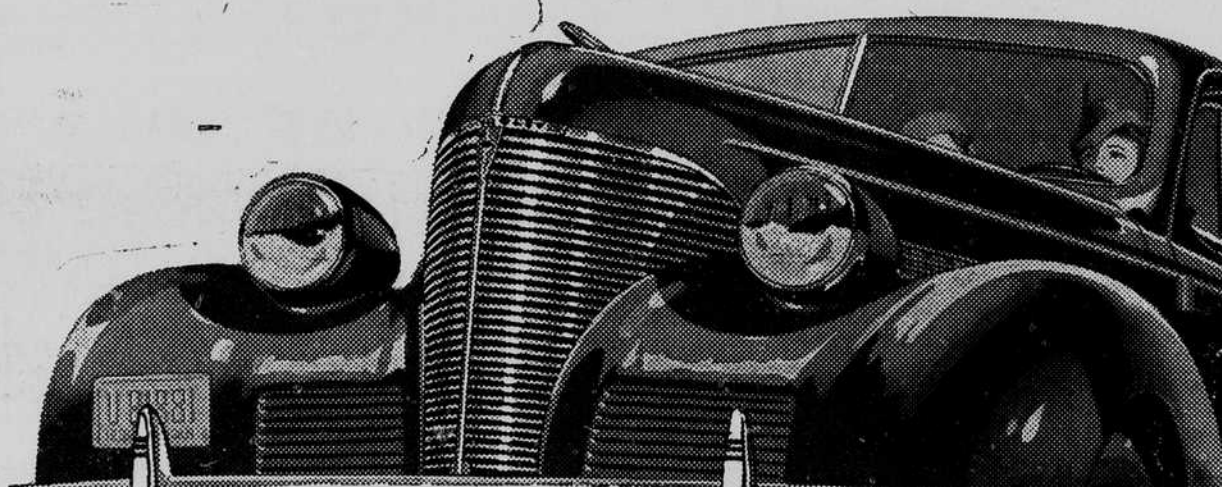
Regular attention to sparkplugs will save the motorist time and money. Some estimates place the loss in gasoline from dirty or worn sparkplugs at one gallon in ten. Truck fleet operators know how important it is to keep plugs in such condition that they don't needlessly use even a few extra drops of gasoline. Motorists can hardly, then, afford to neglect this important item and thus lose the satisfaction of smooth performance with lower costs.

Today few motorists bother with the simple job of cleaning their sparkplugs as any well-equipped service station can do this quickly and thoroughly. It will take but a few minutes and cost but a few cents. At the same time the station can test your plugs and detect any "gasoline thieves" that may be among them.

Will Preach At Lebanon Church

Dr. Farlines, president of Westminster Seminary, Westminster, Md., will preach at Lebanon Church Sunday afternoon at 2:30. A cordial invitation is extended to the public.

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