

Bickett Entered College the Day of Charleston Earthquake

Mr. E. H. Aust n, His Roommate, Says That They Thought Some Boys Were Rocking the House; His Boyhood Companion Knew Him to Be a Man of Principle and Honor

Outside the immediate family, no one was more grieved to learn of the death of Thomas Walter Bickett than Mr. E. H. Austin, his boyhood companion and roommate at college. "I loved Walter Bickett like a brother," Mr. Austin said Wednesday, "it is hard for me to realize that he has passed away. He was the very picture of health when he thumped me on the back when he was here 'Foch night,' and said in his friendly happy way: 'Old friend, I'll never forget you.'"

Mr. Austin and Governor Bickett, who are about the same age, were in the same class at the old Monroe High school. The late Prof. Scroggs, Prof. Anderson and Miss Jane Wade were their teachers. "Walter Bickett," he said, "was one of the brightest boys in school and his companions predicted that he would make his mark in life. He was studious, reserved and very ambitious. I am going to make something out of my life," he told me on one occasion, and knowing of his ambition and determination to leave the imprint of his character upon this world, I have never been surprised at the progress he made in mounting the ladder of success.

His only recreation was swimming and shooting marbles, caring nothing for baseball or the rough sports of that day. Many are the times that we went to the creek together, swimming for hours at the time in true boyish fashion.

"Walter Sikes, Bickett and myself left on the same train in the year 1886 to enter Wake Forest College. We arrived at Wake Forest on the day of the Charleston earthquake, and were in bed when the earth began to tremble like a leaf. The house where we were boarding was violently shaken. 'It's nothing but those devilish boys,' I said when all three of us, badly frightened, sat upright in our beds. 'They've got a galvanic battery under the house,' I added. 'Yes,' said Walter Bickett, 'that's the trouble.' About this time a Latin professor, who was rooming next door, raised his window and shouted, 'Three cheers for the earthquake.' The next morning we learned of the devastation wrought at Charleston by the unusual occurrence.

"Bickett earned a reputation as a speaker while attending the Monroe high school, but he didn't make much of an impression the first time he spoke in the Euzelian society. Embarrassed, he stood on the floor with his hands in his pocket, like a green country lad, and mumbled a few commonplace, incoherent words. He was pitted against a man by the name of Ferris, then one of the most powerful and polished debaters in the college. Ferris, when he got up to reply, made light of Walter's effort, causing the members to rolick with laughter, much to the chagrin of Bickett, myself and Walter Sikes. After the meeting adjourned, Bickett said to me: 'Before I leave this college I am going to shame Ferris for holding me up to ridicule.'

"As the months went by, Bickett improved in debate, soon earning the reputation of being Ferris' equal if not his superior in some respects. He bided his time until one night when Ferris ridiculed another opponent in debate. Although he was not on the program, Bickett took the floor and hurled invective after invective in the direction of the astounded Ferris whose face turned white with

anger. Walter had much knowledge on the subject under discussion. He shot Ferris' argument full of holes, and wound up by saying:

"The ignorance of Mr. Ferris on this subject reminds me of a story. Once there was a man, who, tired of life, decided to commit suicide. Going into the barn loft, he tied a blind bridle around his neck. A rope that was suspended to the bridle was tied around a rafter, and the man jumped from the loft. Before the rope was tight, however, his wife, who had appeared on the scene, cut it with a knife, and the husband fell to the floor unharmed. 'Woman,' he mourned as he took the situation at a glance, 'if you hadn't cut that rope I'd be walking the pearly streets of Jerusalem.' With a look of contempt, the wife replied: 'And wouldn't you cut a pretty figure walking the streets of Jerusalem with a blind bridle on!'

"Bickett's speeches in college always showed thorough preparation. When he was selected to debate a question he would get an armful of books bearing on the subject from the library and would peruse them until in the late hours of the night. He was usually on the winning side, too.

"It is not generally known, but Bickett paid a part if not all of his way through college. I know that he gave notes for his tuition the day he, Walter Sikes and myself matriculated."

Since this interview, Mr. Austin has written the following about his roommate:

"When the message this morning was flashed over the wire that ex-Governor Bickett had died a veil of sorrow was spread over North Carolina from the mountains to the sea. I felt I had lost one of the best friends I had ever known and the state its most illustrious statesman. Walt Bickett was the embodiment of human kindness, generous without fault, and would go out of his way to do a friend a good deed. He would stick to a friend like a brother. It was a great privilege to be numbered one of Walt's friends. He never stooped to anything low or degrading and so far as his character is concerned, I consider it as near perfection as it can be possible for humans to be. He was a very close student. He, Walter Sikes, and myself left Monroe in the year 1886 to enter Wake Forest College. Most every honor within the gift of that institution was captured by him. Close application and concentration of thought made him a great man. He was a very forceful debator and in the Euzelian literary society of his Alma Mater old Wake Forest, he made a reputation second to none as a profound thinker and orator. Aggressive in debate, his points were usually carried out. Always open to conviction and if shown wherein he was wrong, he would bow to the inevitable and admit he was wrong. "He was of the most lovable disposition. He was a loyal friend to the widow and orphan, and I have known him when he practiced law at Danbury in Stokes county to absolutely refuse to take a case against a widow.

"I was not surprised when he was made attorney general for I knew it was confidence well placed; neither was I surprised when he was elected to the highest office within the gift of the people of the grandest state

in the union. I knew the mantle had fallen on broad shoulders and competency beyond mention. I have said often that Walt Bickett would make his mark in the world and he has fought a good fight, kept the faith, and tempered justice with mercy. There is many a poor fellow in North Carolina who will remember him until time shall be no more. I can imagine that great big man with a tear in his eye when he said 'Go thy way and sin no more.' It must have been a most precious thought to him to have the power to say go home to your wife and little ones, for they need you.

"During his campaign for Governor I was with him and did some work for him, and I found he was a clean cut politician, a man who was open and above board. There was no guile in him. Bickett was always in sympathy with the under dog. As a boy he would take the part of the boy who was being bulldozed by larger boys. He was one of the biggest hearted, noble minded men it has ever been my pleasure to meet. If he liked you he could not do too much for you. He professed religion at Wake Forest and after joining the church, he made an exemplary member. He could not tolerate deceit in any one and had a real high sense of honor. As a boy he had high aspirations and often told me he was going to make something of himself. He was a self-made man, gave his note for his education, which was repaid when he made it. I fully believe had he lived he would have filled the senatorial halls of the United States as senator from North Carolina.

"There are some things we can not understand. One is why such a man as Bickett should die so young. But God in his all wise providence knows what is best. He doeth all things well. Therefore, we humbly bow our heads and calmly submit to the inevitable. We can say scripturally, 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter into the joys of thy Lord.' Henceforth there is laid up for you a crown of Righteousness, Whether Hero or Lover or else matters not, other times other men shall devine him. Let him rest in his grave by the world never forgot. We have hearts large enough to enshrine him. Peace to his ashes."

Caused 'Em to Hesitate

"Well, Mose, how'd the races come out yesterday?"

"Putty good, suh, putty good; on'y some fool drapped a bag o' oats on de track an' all de horses hesitated."

—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

NOTICE OF RE-SALE OF VALUABLE FARM LANDS.

Under and by virtue of an order of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Union county, North Carolina, made in a certain special proceeding entitled Sarah Long, widow of T. C. Long, deceased, et al vs. David Long et al, I Gillam Craig, commissioner of the court, will, on

Wednesday, the 19th Day of January, 1921, at twelve o'clock noon, at the court house door of Union county, in Monroe, N. C., sell at public auction to the highest bidder, the following valuable lands, lying and being in the county of Union, state of North Carolina, in Lanes Creek township, adjoining the lands of T. C. and J. H. Lee, Mrs. Emaline Horn, Mrs. Lou Hamilton and others, and more particularly described as follows:

Tract number one—Beginning at a spring and runs thence N. 74 degrees W. 12.62 chs. to center Camden road; thence with said road N. 6 degrees E. 3.15 chs.; thence N. 3-4 degrees E. 3.62 chs. to iron stake; thence N. 87 degrees E. 17.55 chs. to an iron stake in center of a road; thence S. 16 degrees W. 2.40 chs. to a maple; thence S. 27 degrees E. 16.00 chs. to a stone; thence S. 79 degrees E. 11.50 chs. to a stake on Lanes creek, thence with the various courses of said Lanes creek 20.20 chs. to a stake on E. side creek, Tom Lee's corner; thence with Lee's line N. 47 W. 26.80 chs. to the beginning and containing 71.40 acres.

Bidding on this tract will start at \$5225.00

Tract number two—Beginning at an iron stake where all four lots corner and runs Camden road N. 19 degrees W. 2.30 chs.; 2nd N. 38 3-4 degrees W. 9.36; 3rd N. 23 1-2 degrees W. 76 links; 4th N. 1 degree E. 4.58 chs. to center bridge on Waxhaw branch; thence with the various courses of branch 41.00 chs. to the ford; thence S. 12 degrees W. 9.75 chs. to a stake; thence S. 44 degrees W. 1.80 chs. to a W. O.; thence S. 16 degrees W. 9.60 chs. to an iron stake in center road; thence with a new line S. 87 degrees W. 17.55 chs. to the beginning, and containing 48.20 acres.

Bidding on this tract will start at \$2021.25.

Tract number three—Beginning at an iron stake in Camden road where lot No. 1 joins and runs thence N. 74 degrees W. 43.38 chs. to a P. O., now stake; thence N. 15 degrees E. 13.48 chs. to a stone on side of a road; thence S. 76 degrees E. 41.73 chs. to center Camden road, iron stake where all four lots join; thence with said road S. 3-4 degrees W. 9.62 chs.; 2nd S. 6 degrees W. 6.10 chs. to the beginning and containing 63.78 acres.

Bidding on this tract will start at \$2375.00

Tract number four—Beginning at an iron stake in center Camen road, corner of other three lots and runs thence N. 76 degrees W. 41.37 chs. to a stone on side road; thence N. 35 3-4 degrees E. 24.60 chs. to a stone; thence N. 673 -4 degrees E. 15.00 chs. to center Waxhaw branch by a gum; thence down said branch S. 29 degrees E. 7.29; 2nd S. 10 degrees W. 4.96; 3rd S. 78 degrees W. 1.80; 4th S. 8 degrees W. 1.15 chs.; 5th S. 35 degrees E. 9.20 chs. center bridge on Camden road; thence with the road S. 1 degree W. 4.58; 2nd S. 23 1-2 degrees E. 76 links; 3rd S. 38 3-4 degrees E. 9.36 chs.; 4th S. 19 degrees E. 2.30 chs. to the beginning, and containing 71.98 acres.

Bidding on this tract will start at \$1685.00.

Terms of sale: one third cash, one third in six months from day the sale is confirmed, one third in twelve months from date of confirmation with option to the purchaser to pay all cash.

This the 29th day of Dec. 1921. GILLAM CRAIG, Commissioner. Stack, Parker & Craig, Attys.

For Your Generous Patronage WE THANK YOU

In the year 1922 we trust fortune will be as kind to you as you have been to us in the years that have passed.

Our best wishes to all of our people

SMITH-LEE CO.

A MISSIONARY DIES IN BRAZIL

(From the Lancaster News.)

Presbyterians in this community will learn with regret that a cable message has been received announcing the death of Mrs. Carolina Porter Smith, a Presbyterian missionary and widow of the late Dr. J. Rockwell Smith, at Campinas, Brazil, on November 7. Her parents moved to Brazil in her childhood. On October 18, 1881, she married her Rev. J. Rockwell Smith, then a missionary of the church at Pernambuco, and immediately thereafter received her own missionary appointment. At the time of her death she had just rounded out her 40 years of service on the field. In these 40 years she visited the United States only four times on furlough.

LAND SALE

By virtue of a power contained in a certain deed of trust to me executed on the 21st day of April, 1920, and recorded in Book A X of deeds on page 736, I will on

Saturday, January 28, 1922, at twelve o'clock at the court house door in Monroe, N. C., sell to the highest bidder for cash all of that lot of land lying and being in the western portion of the City of Monroe, and fully described by metes and bounds in a certain deed made and executed by A. M. Crowell and wife to C. C. Sikes on the 7th day of Feb., 1908, and duly registered in the office of Register of Deeds for Union County in Book 41 page 491, to which reference is hereby craved for a more particular description. Except from the above description, however, one lot of land heretofore conveyed by C. C. Sikes and wife to Chas. N. Toney from the above described lot. Said lot having been conveyed to Will Gaither by C. C. Sikes and default having been made in the payment of the note secured by said deed of trust, and demand having been made on me to proceed to advertise and sell said lot.

JOHN C. SIKES, Trustee
This 28th day of December, 1921.

DR. P. M. ABERNETHY
VETERINARIAN
Office FOWLER & LEE STABLE
MONROE, N. C.
Phone 303.
Residence Phone 159-J.

W. W. HARGETT,
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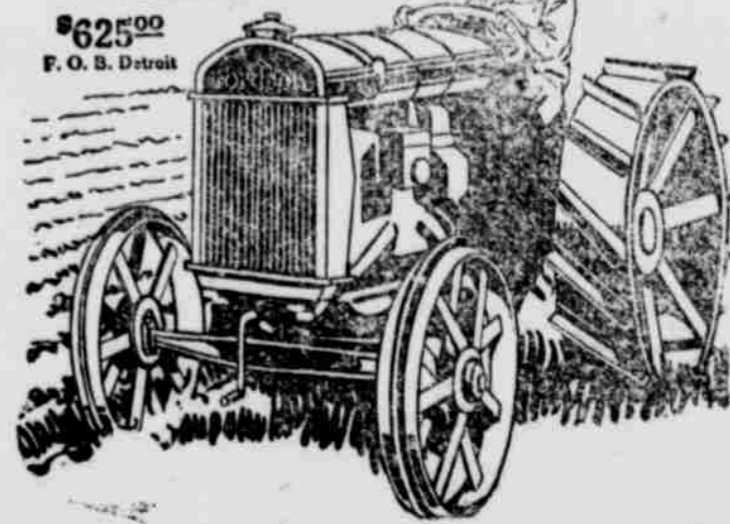
One man with a FORDSON TRACTOR can do more work easier and with less expense than two men can do with horses. This means that you with a FORDSON TRACTOR can actually raise more crops, with less work and less expense. And this means that your profits will be greater with fewer hours of work.

Besides the FORDSON will take care of every power job on the farm. It is light, alert, flexible in control and operation, yet it has power and endurance to spare.

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to do a first-class job of welding with the oxy-acetylene torch. We handle any kind of a welding job. Any machinery which needs our services is assured of the very best treatment and results. A fly wheel, shaft, gear, etc., welded by us stands up under hardest usage.



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