

Kay Kyser



Kay Kyser and His Orchestra, of Broadway and Victor Recording fame, will come back to their old stomping ground here at the University to play a concert Monday night in the old Pickwick Theatre.

NORTH CAROLINA'S ONLY PRESIDENT HAS STRANGE CAREER AT UNIVERSITY

(Continued from page one)

"I cannot adequately express, thanks for the reception which has been tendered to me but I am greatly touched and am grateful for it. Twenty-nine years have passed since I was here, yet I recognized as I came up a number of particular objects which were still the same in these halls in which I spent three years of my life and to the acquisitions here received I mainly attribute whatever success has attended the labor of my subsequent life."

Polk never lost sight of his Alma Mater, and never forgot the associates of his University life or the different sections of the campus he had frequented. Among these associates were such subsequent leaders as William D. Mosely, first governor of Florida; William A. Graham, Whig governor of North Carolina; John Motley Morehead, also governor of North Carolina; and John Y. Mason, later a member of Polk's cabinet as Secretary of the Navy.

Fined for Gross Irregularities

One of the first glimpses we get of Polk from the University records is that of a very individualistic young man who was fined in rapid succession for "gross irregularities" because his insatiable preference for scholastic pursuits surpassed his zest for parliamentary discussion and regular attendance of the Di Society.

He was absent from the meeting of the society at which he was expected to open his first debate on the query, "Would it be justifiable in the eyes of the world and agreeable to the laws of nations for the United States to assist Spanish America in defense of its liberty?" Presumably because his studies required practically all of his time, Polk requested that he be placed on the inactive membership list, and "upon the motion of moorhead," April 3, 1816, he was admitted to withdraw from the duties of the society for the remainder of that session but at the beginning of the next session he became very active in the work of the society.

Headed Society Two Terms

During the time he served as president of the Di Society and filled the unexpired term of Hardy L. Holmes, who had retired at the beginning of office, May 8, 1817, he spoke on the following subjects: "The admission of foreigners into the United States," "On powers of invention," and "On eloquence." When Polk was re-elected the following year after filling this unexpired term, he established a precedent which has never been broken. He is the only man who has served two consecutive terms as president of the society. He delivered his inaugural address, May 20, 1818, in which he voiced his ambitions and displayed that "go-getiveness" that characterized his stay at the University.

"Seize with them their avidity the opportunities for improvement as they

pass, for ere long you may be called upon to succeed those who now stand up as representatives of the people, to wield by the thunder of your eloquence the council of a great Nation and to retain by your prudent measures that liberty for which our fathers bled. It may be part of a delusive phantom that plays before my imagination, but my reason tells me that it is not. For why may we not expect talents in this seminary in proportion to the number of youths which it fosters, and with the advantages which have been named, why may we not expect something more than ordinary? But if it were visionary, I would delight to dwell for a moment upon the pleasing hope."

Fined Ten Cents

"Hamilton C. Jones was fined ten cents for threatening language to J. K. Polk and Polk the same for replying to Jones," says the Di records, indicating that Polk was quick at retort and would defend any principle he thought to be right. Seven fines of ten cents each were imposed upon him for walking across the grass and two other fines for absences are charged against him. Polk, despite the heavy number of marks against his record in these respects, was an outstanding and popular figure in campus politics, holding the very confidence of his fellow students, who adopted as a watchword when attempting to clench an argument, Just as true as "that Jim Polk will get up in the morning at First Call." He was appointed as Censor Morum, an office sometimes conferred upon the unruly with the purpose of establishing self-discipline.

Polk also served on these committees: a committee to examine into the state of the library, a committee to buy books for the library, a committee to determine damage done to library books, a room committee, and a committee to offer suggestions. He was also treasurer, secretary, and corrector of the Di Society.

Commencement Oration in Latin

Hard work was the slogan of Polk, and it is evident from the books he presented the Di library that he read extensively. In conjunction with James Simmerson he presented eight volumes of Gibbon's "Rome." Polk, himself, gave to the library, William's "France," Addison's "Evidence," and Gospel's "It's Own Witness."

When he was graduated in 1818, he made a commencement oration in Latin and had many honors conferred upon him for his high scholastic

achievements in classics and mathematics. During the entire three years he spent in the University, he never missed and was never tardy at either class or chapel exercises.

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Second Term, Aug. 1 to Sept. 6
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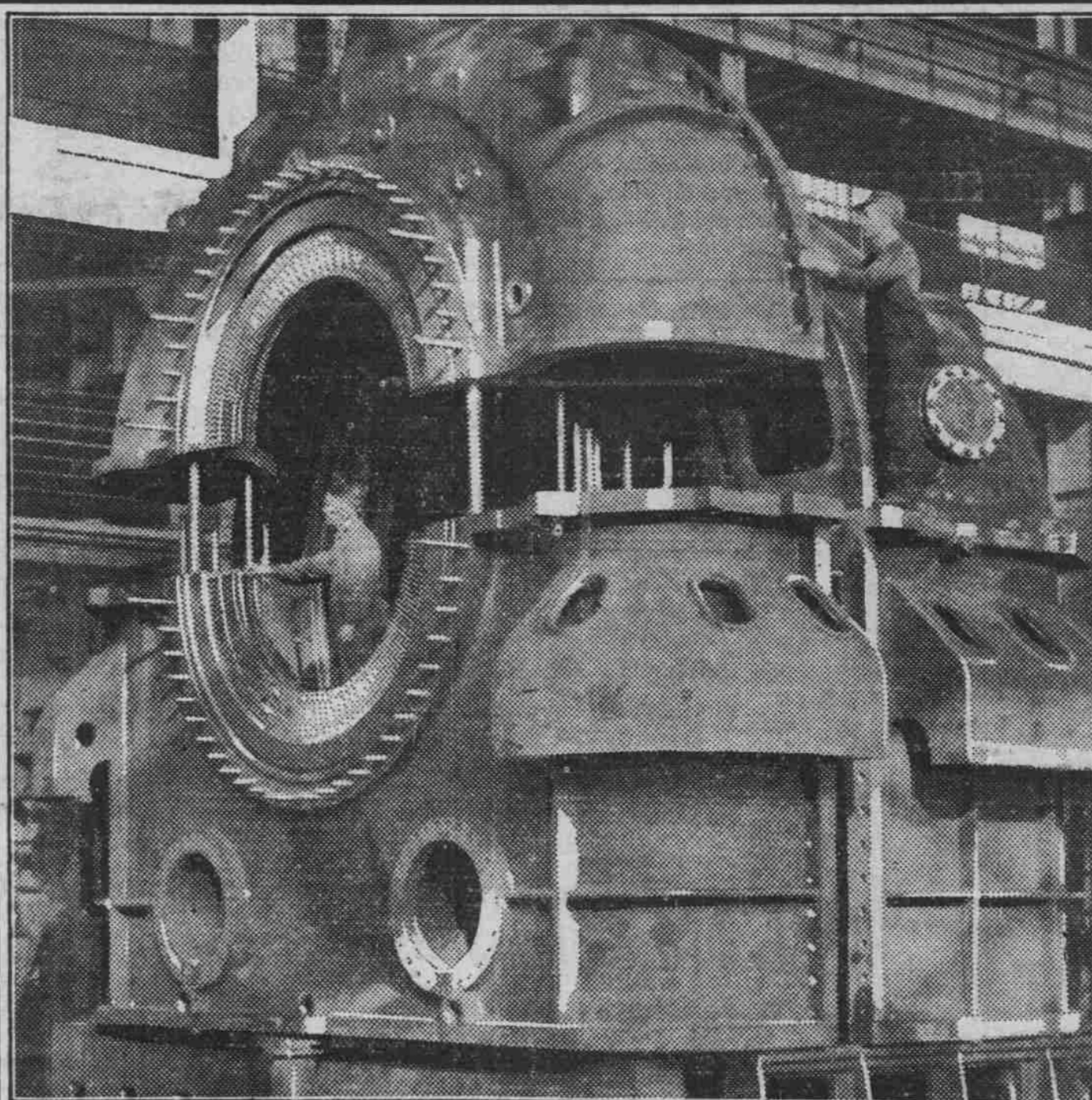
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