

U.S. President Was Campus Activist

James K. Polk Led Successful Student Clash With UNC Faculty

By CURTIS PATTON
of The Daily Tar Heel Staff

James K. Polk didn't mind sticking his neck out on a limb — either during his days at the University of North Carolina or during his tenure in the nation's highest office.

The same forthright temperament that plunged Polk into campus controversies 150 years ago was later to spur the North Carolinian into making some of the most ambitious decisions that a President has ever made.

At the height of the University's first major clash between faculty and students in the fall of 1816, involving freedom of expression, Polk advised his fellow students "Stoop not from the true principles of honor to gain the favor of the faculty and thus succeed in your views or promotion."

Classmates followed his ad-

vice, and the students won a tremendous victory over the administration when public opinion forced UNC President Robert Chapman to resign.

Polk was a native of the small community of Pineville in Mecklenburg County. Although his family had moved to Tennessee, he returned to North Carolina to enter the Chapel Hill campus as a sophomore in January, 1816.

At that time the campus was a tiny, struggling institution of only a few buildings. There were only 80 students and a faculty of five men. The ragged little village of Chapel Hill had only a tavern, two stores and 13 houses.

Polk lived in the southwest room on the third floor of Main Building (now South Building.) The other dormitory, East Building (later called "Old East") was a two-story structure with only 16 rooms.

Rather than eat the food at Sneyd's Dining Hall, Polk walked a mile down Raleigh Road to the Benjamin Yeargin home where he boarded for three years.

Bandy or skinny — a crude dangerous game of hockey — was the most popular game on campus. Yet Polk did not participate in many of the campus sports because he had a precarious health problem.

On Jan. 25, 1816, the outspoken Mecklenburg youth joined the Dialectic Society, a campus literary society, and immediately became a popular spokesman. Here he wrote, debated, and officiated many controversial issues of the times — many of which concerned foreign policy.

He was elected twice to the presidency of that society. During his years with the campus group, Polk demonstrated his leadership capabilities as

well as his academic prowess.

Yet he was not without faults. Dialectic records show that on one occasion "Hamilton C. Jones was fined ten cents for threatening language to James K. Polk the same for replying to Jones."

Seven times he was fined ten cents for tardiness to Dialectic meetings, and once he was fined 25 cents (a severe penalty in those days for "gross irregularity.")

He graduated in 1818 at the top of his class of 18 graduates. He delivered the commencement oration in Latin, and received several scholastic honors in classics.

Polk remained at the University as a graduate student and received his M.A. degree in 1822. From the

Chapel Hill campus he returned to Tennessee to enter into politics.

In 1844 he was the first "dark horse" candidate to be elected President. Although he was a political unknown, Polk attained his major goals, and has been considered to be one of the most successful chief executives in history.

Polk was as equally outspoken as President as he had been while a student at "the Hill." He was determined to acquire New Mexico and California for his country at the risk of war with Mexico. With "Manifest Destiny" the guiding force, war came and the United States greatly expanded her territory.

Polk had great affection for his Alma Mater. He returned to the Carolina campus for the

commencement exercises in June, 1847, while he was still president.

He had been awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree in 1845, by the University. In return for this honor, Polk accepted an invitation by UNC President David L. Swain to deliver the 1847 commencement address.

Excitement filled the air in the village of Chapel Hill. The usually sleepy little hamlet was in a state of panic as preparations were made for the President's visit.

The Presidential party travelled by train to Raleigh, where the group spent the night. The next day a 12-carriage caravan took the rough, bumpy road to Chapel Hill.

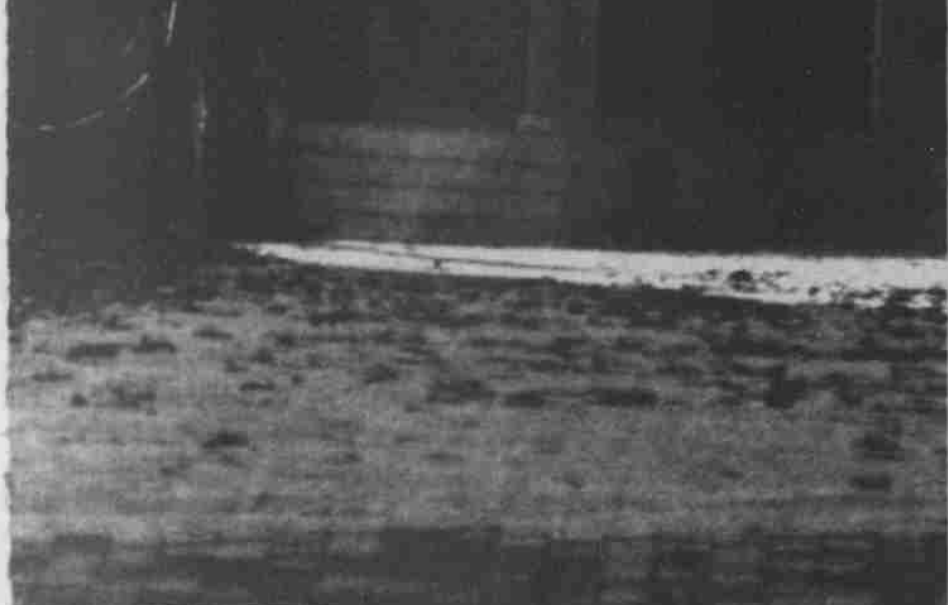
Life had certainly changed since Polk had been a student there. Chapel Hill was still a village, but it had grown considerably. It was now a two-tavern town with a population of 500 persons.

A New York Herald reporter wrote that there was "a grandiose spirit of hospitality" in the town. There were great throngs of people crowding into the small town to greet the President. Miss Nancy Hilliard's Hotel overflowed with visitors, and many people from all parts of the South just pitched tents or slept in their wagons.

Polk deeply appreciated the hardy reception, and often mingled with the crowds. He loved the University, and he had returned to pay tribute to the University for his success.

In his commencement address he said:

"As I came up, I recognized a number of particular objects which were still the same in these halls in which I have spent three years of my life and to the acquisitions here received, I mainly attribute whatever success has attended the labors of my subsequent years."



—DTH Staff Photo by MIKE MCGOWAN

POLK PLACE in the evening takes on a strange gloom. A solitary student waits for a friend as the shadows lengthen and the cold set in. Only the reddening sun provides light for his reading.

Governor Moore To Address N.C. Dentists

Gov. Dan K. Moore will speak at the annual luncheon meeting of the N.C. Dental Foundation Wednesday at 12:15 p.m. in the Carolina Inn ballroom.

The seminar lecturer for this year's meeting of the foundation is Dr. Arthur Eifenbaum of Chicago, Ill., professor emeritus at Northwestern University Dental School and the University of Illinois College of Dentistry.

He is currently the senior attending member of the medical staff at Michael Reese-Hospital.

The Dental Foundation will hold its annual meeting at 9:15 a.m. in Memorial Hall. New officers and directors will hold a special meeting at 4 p.m. in Hanes Hall.

Pi Kappa Phi House Dedication Saturday

The new Kappa Chapter House of Pi Kappa Phi will be dedicated Saturday afternoon at 2:30 at the New Fraternity Court adjoining Finley Golf Course.

Campus News Briefs

Columbia Dean Here To Interview Students

Assistant Dean Robert B. Mantel of Columbia University School of International Affairs will talk to students interested in attending the school Thursday. Students desiring interviews should go by the Placement Service, 211 Gardner, to make an appointment.

IFC To Hold Talks At Chase For Frosh

All men interested in going through fraternity rush in the spring are invited to a reception in Chase Cafeteria's West Lounge from 7-9:30 p.m. tonight.

The reception is sponsored by the Interfraternity Council and is open to both transfer students, freshmen and other men students who are interested in joining a fraternity.

Cathey To Talk At Training Program

Housemothers and graduate counselors in women's residence halls and in sororities are invited to an in-service training program Thursday afternoon from 4:50-6:30 in 011 Peabody Hall.

Dean of Student Affairs C.O. Cathey will present a talk on the question of "Where Are We Going in Student Affairs?" Hostesses for the talk will be Mrs. H.W. Shoulers, the housemother in McIver, and Mrs. Gerald Lynch, house

Indian Movies Set At Episcopal Church

Two films on Indian painting and Mahatma Gandhi will be shown at 8:00 p.m. tonight at the Episcopal Church on E. Franklin St. The films are part of the "India and its Culture" series sponsored by India Association.

Aldridge To Speak At YDC Supper

Irvin Aldridge, campaign assistant to Lt. Gov. Bob Scott will speak to the Young Democrats Club Wednesday at 6 p.m. upstairs in Lenoir Hall.

Aldridge is a former president of the N.C. Jaycees, a law student here and was in the insurance business before joining Scott's campaign staff.

The public is invited to the dinner meeting and to participate in the discussion.

Grand Jury Indicts Five For Floyd Hoard Murder

JEFFERSON, Ga. (UPI) — The Jackson County Grand Jury Monday indicted five men for the murder of Piedmont Solicitor Floyd Hoard, cracking the intensive four-month investigation.

The five men named in the indictments were:

Lloyd George Seay, Dawsonville; Douglas Pinion, Jefferson; J. H. Blackwell, of Marble Hill in Pickens County; George Worley of Commerce and A.C. "Cliff" Park of Jefferson.

The all — male, 23-member grand jury handed down the

indictments after 90 minutes of evidence from various lawmen, including Georgia Bureau of Investigation director Maj. Barney Rasdale.

Sources said the case was broken by Johnson County Sheriff Roland Attaway after he arrested Seay and Blackwell on moonshining charges on Sept. 25.

A team of GBI agents has been working on the case fulltime since the morning of Au. 7, when Hoard, a well-known north Georgia crime-buster, switched on the ignition of his car and died in a thunderous explosion.

Investigators said several sticks of dynamite had been wired to the car, and speculated Hoard was killed because of his crackdown on moonshine and bootlegging operations in the area.

As an offshoot of the investigation, the grand jury denounced Sheriff L. G. Perry for allowing the illegal liquor operations to go on and specifically for allowing a bootleg establishment operated by Parks, one of those indicted, to stay in business.

Perry resigned following the grand jury report.

Gov. Lester Maddox announced the indictments in

Atlanta and said Atty. Gen. Arthur Bolton had appointed Luther Haynes, now solicitor general emeritus of Cobb County, to help Piedmont Solicitor Wesley Channel in prosecuting the case against the five men.

Maddox had appointed Channel to replace Hoard.

"It would be a matter of great pleasure for me to give in great detail those facts which I am acquainted concerning this investigation," Maddox said, "but the proper forum for any such disclosure is the court to try those persons facing indictment."

But he confirmed that Hoard was killed because of "reaction to this pressure" that he was putting on moonshiners in his circuit.

Maddox noted that a 38-year-old Forsyth County man, who in October was reported a "prime suspect" in the case, was not indicted.

Washington

The Johnson administration's proposed income tax increase appeared dead for 1967 after administration officials failed to convince the House Ways and Means Committee that the tax was needed.

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