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SOUTHLAND STORIES

Larry Gantt Gives Some Interesting Recollections.

(Written for The Chronicle by T. Larry Gantt.)

THE WORK OF THE KLAN

Recently there has been considerable controversy in the State press over the introduction of a society named the Ku Klux Klan, of which Col. William Simmons, of Georgia, is organizer and Grand Cyclops. From what we can gather the consensus of opinion is that no such organization is needed here and it is more than likely to do harm by inciting racial troubles and unnecessarily alarming the "brother in black" and whom, like unto the poor, we will always have with us. But despite opposition, this new secret society is said to be organizing lodges all over our State and is gaining a strong foothold even north of the Mason and Dixon line, where the one-time bloody shirt wavers are alarmed over the immigration into their midst of so many negroes from the Sunny South.

I have known Col. Bill Simmons, organizer and chief head of this Ku Klux Society, for to these many years. We lived in neighboring counties and the same congressional district. Colonel Simmons is an able lawyer and a polished Southern gentleman of spotless character. But he has ever been an uncompromising, rantankerous, red-hot-and-still-a-heating, organized Democrat. He looked with disapproval on the Farmer's Alliance, and to mention Tom Watson in his presence was to cause Bill Simmons to manifest every symptom of political hydrophobia. Colonel Simmons is a good churchman, but if the Democratic convention repudiated the ten commandments and an opposition party made them a part of its platform, he would unhesitatingly endorse and if called on, take the stump in support of his party and its creed.

Colonel Simmons has a commendable ambition for public honors, but his extreme views have never permitted him to advance further than his front gate.

When we Democrats in the old Ninth Georgia District were beating the bushes to find a candidate to pit against Emory Speer, the brilliant young independent in Congress, Bill Simmons would have been given the nomination; but as Mr. Speer had defeated two of the strongest men in the district by over 7,000 votes, the colonel decided not to act the part of political lamb led to slaughter. So as a dernier resort the organized Democrats nominated Allen D. Candler, a comparatively unknown man, and one of the most ungainly specimens of humanity eye ever looked upon as their congressional standard-bearer. To give the readers a faint idea of Colonel Candler's personal appearance when the writer of this article was standing beside him, I felt like unto a thing of beauty and joy forever. Suffice to add that Allen D. Candler defeated Emory Speer by over 4,000 votes, served in Congress until he got tired was then elected governor and died in harness. This is the time that Bill Simmons did not take the tide at flood and it never again returned. He had relapsed into a state of innocuous desuetude until the colonel again brought himself into the limelight by organizing his Ku Klux Klan Society.

I will now give a brief history of the original Ku Klux Klan and as both my father and brother were Klansmen, I write authentically. I have watched long lines of these night riders, with masks and long shroud like robes silently pass along the public roads. The spectacle was so weird and ghost-like as to not only terrify the superstitious negroes but impress uninitiated whites.

Had Abraham Lincoln never been assassinated, the South would never have been subjected to the horrors and degradation of reconstruction. His death left free hand to the bitterest and most vindictive enemies of the South, led by Thad Stevens, whose ironworks our soldiers had burned on their invasion into Pennsylvania.

A band of political vultures from the North flocked to the South, backed by Federal bayonets. Every man who sympathized with the Confederacy was disfranchised and these "carpet-baggers" organized the ignorant negroes and not only took control of the governments of the different States, but encouraged and upheld the blacks in the most abhorrent acts of lawlessness. It was literally the placing of black heels on white necks. White women were outraged, incendiary fires illumined the sky at night and stock was indiscriminately slaughtered. And not only this, but fraudulent bonds were issued and taxes imposed that meant confiscation of our farming lands and town property. As the courts were controlled by these Northern adventurers and their negro tools justice was a farce.

It was then that General N. B. Forrest, a gallant Confederate officer, organized the Ku Klux Klan and its membership was made up of disbanded Confederate soldiers and quickly

spread over the South. The members were initiated in some secluded spot in the dead hours of night and the most solemn and binding and threatening oath of secrecy administered. Even when subjected to imprisonment and the sweat-box would arrested clansmen not divulge this oath.

The ex-soldiers constituting the Ku Klux Klan had no malice or antagonism against their former slaves. On the other hand, they felt kindly toward the negro and realized the fact that while they were fighting for his continued enslavement at the front these faithful blacks not only tilled the fields and fed their armies but supported and guarded their helpless families left among them. The vengeance of the K. K. K. was directed at the white adventurers who were misleading the negroes.

Before imposing punishment on a prisoner a regular court of justice was held and the accused given an opportunity to state his side. It was only in instances where white women were mistreated that the death penalty was imposed. It was more the mission of the K. K. K. to terrorize and work upon the inborn superstition of the negro than to punish him.

And the secret organization did work wonders in bringing order out of misrule and chaos and paving the way for white control of the Southern States.

When this work was completed General Forrest issued an order disbanding the members of the Ku Klux Klan, when its members dispersed and returned to their peaceful pursuits.

Some irresponsible parties and boys over the South began to perpetrate all manner of outrages upon negroes, for which the Klansmen got the discredit. But when regular K. K. K.'s ran up on such bands their coats were "slucked" and they were given a switching.

In their redemption from such in-

tolerable conditions, the Southern States were aided by the influence of many business men of the North, ir-
respective of party lines.

FAIR WARNING

Monroe Editor Will Treat the Crooks Rough.

He came this way recently and he walked in wearing one of these assumed, bland smiles—the smile that is put on for the occasion and he reached out his hand and said, "Good morning, brother," with the accent on "brother."

Say, it always did make the Enquirer man tired when it did not make him mad for some fellow who is no kin to him to come around calling him "brother." Oh well, the preachers may be excused for they get into the habit of calling better men than is the Enquirer man "brother" and they use that word without giving thought to it. But these smooth artists, not preachers, who come around calling you "brother" will bear watching.

This guy we are telling you about who so glibly called the writer "brother" had no more brotherly interest in him and cared no more for him than the designing office seeker cares for a voter the morning after election. He did not want to be his brother's keeper, that fellow who "brothered" us did not, but it did not take two minutes by the clock to find out that he wanted to get some of his brother's money and keep it.

Notice is hereby served on the whole "brothering" crew that the next stranger who comes into this shop and calls the Enquirer man "brother" better have papers to show he is a preacher, for the very next one, not a preacher, who calls him "brother" just to get a chance to flim flam him will get picked up by scruff of neck and sent of "britches" and flung so high

COLUMBIA-CAMDEN BUS LINE

BETWEEN COLUMBIA, S. C., AND CAMDEN, S. C.

SCHEDULE:

LEAVE FOR CAMDEN		
A. M.	Stations	P. M.
7:00	Columbia, State Capitol	2:00
7:20	Dents	2:20
7:30	Wedell	2:30
7:50	Pontiac	2:50
8:10	Blaney	3:10
8:40	Lugoff	3:40
9:00 Arrive	Camden, Arrive	4:00

LEAVE FOR COLUMBIA		
A. M.	Stations	P. M.
9:10	Camden, Postoffice	5:00
9:30	Lugoff	5:20
10:00	Blaney	5:50
10:20	Pontiac	6:10
10:40	Wedell	6:30
10:50	Dents	6:40
11:10 Arrive	Columbia, Arrive	7:00

This Schedule Effective August 10th, 1921

Bus will call at all Hotels on Main Street in Columbia before leaving city. Parcels solicited for towns on this schedule. Parks in front of Postoffice at Camden.

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the tacks in his shoe heels will rust before he strikes the ground and when he lands he will be told where to get off.

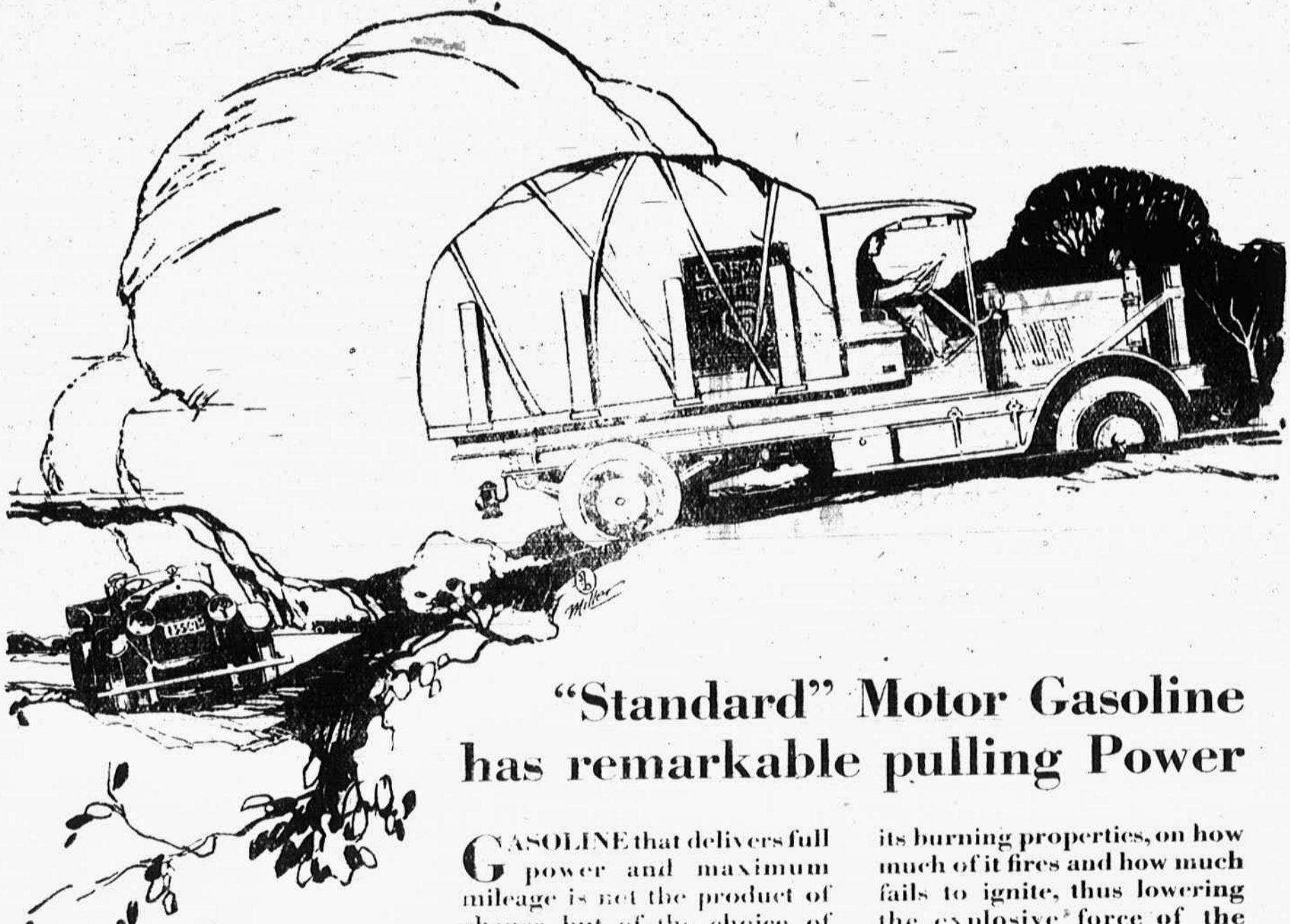
No, we do not like to be called "brother" by a scheming crook; and that's the kind that most often calls us "brother."—Monroe (N. O.) Enquirer.

Ira B. Dunlap Dead.

Rock Hill, S. C., Sept. 8.—Ira B. Dunlap, prominent banker and business man, died at his home near midnight tonight of apoplexy. Mr. Dunlap had been to his office today and had busied himself with many affairs, and while not in the best of health, he made no complaint of being unwell. He died tonight soon after suffering

the attack. Mr. Dunlap was 50 years old and had been president of the Union National bank of Rock Hill the last five or six years. He was long associated with the institution as cashier before he was advanced to the presidency, and for many years was closely identified with the South Carolina Bankers' association. He had a wide reputation for sound banking principles and progressive business ideals. Mr. Dunlap was vitally interested in the problems of farmers and a number of years ago his bank was instrumental in bringing into the state the first purebred bulls for the bank's customers, thus organizing the first bull association in the state.

Mrs. Catherine M. Smith, of Bay City, Mich., celebrated her nineteenth birthday by doing the family washing.



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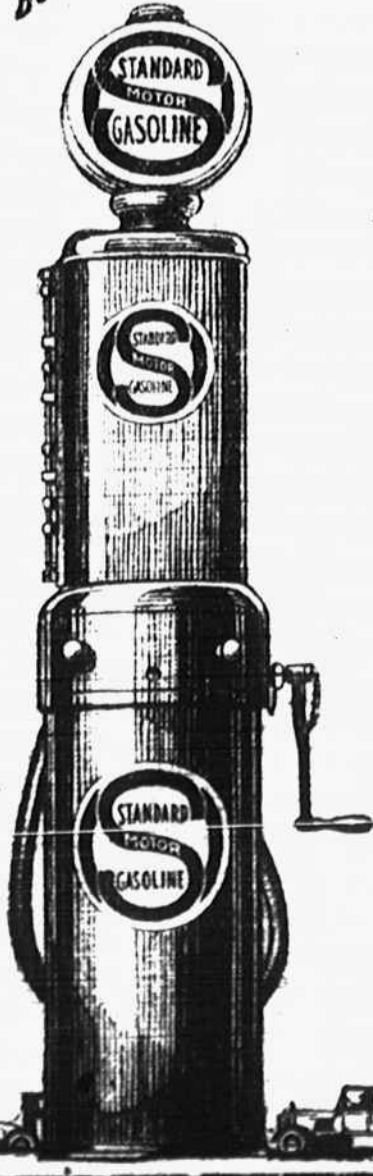
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