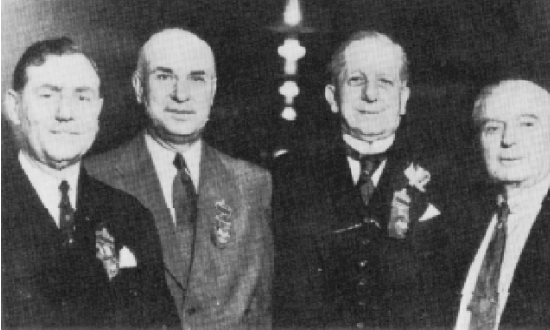


Tom Remembers Classes



Two of the four North Carolina governors pictured above, O. Max Gardner (2nd from left) and Clyde R. Hoey (3rd from left) were members of the Shelby Dynasty, a group of powerful politicians from the first half of the 20th century.

Tom Sr. wrote...

Most of our wealth was controlled by very few families and businesses. We had two main classes, whites and blacks, and numerous classes within the white class, and a lot prejudice between all the classes.

I suppose it went something like this:

The number one white class was the very wealthy, the bankers and mill owners, and the politicians like O. Max Gardner and Clyde R. Hoey.

Number two was the country club set.

Number three was the upper well-to-do class.

Number four was the middle class.

Number five was the lower class.

Number six was the poor class.

Number seven was the poor, poor class.

Number eight was the drunks.

Number nine was the bums.

I think we were number five or six.