

Jacksonville Journal

When the Morning News and the Evening Herald were combined in May, 1887, most of the employees of the Herald were thrown out of employment, among them W. R. Carter and Rufus A. Russell. Messrs. Carter and Russell formed a partnership for the publication of a Democratic afternoon paper to supply the field left vacant by the Herald. Gathering up some odds and ends of printing material, they made a start on July 2, 1887, with a 4-page, 8-column paper that they named the Florida Metropolis. Mr. Carter was editor and Mr. Russell business manager. Such was the birth of the present Jacksonville Journal, in a small plant of two rooms on Laura Street. The first week the receipts were sufficient to meet expenses—something unusual for a newspaper just starting with limited capital. From that time the paper was self-supporting, though the struggle at first was a trying one, owing to the yellow fever epidemic of the following year.^d

For more than a quarter of a century, the original proprietors, Carter & Russell, were continuously at the helm. The paper was issued every week-day in the year, with the exception of about two weeks during the yellow fever epidemic; and on May 3, 1901, the day of the big fire by which the plant was burned. On the day after the fire the Metropolis appeared, having been printed on the press of the Times-Union and Citizen, and it was so printed until its own plant was rebuilt.^h

The Metropolis was developed by its owners into a splendid investment, and when Carter & Russell sold it July 19, 1913, to George A. McClellan, the price agreed upon represented a comfortable fortune. The new owner was not able to carry out his contract, however, and the plant was returned to Carter & Russell, who resumed the publication of the paper May 27, 1916. They published the paper until May 10, 1920, on which date S. A. Lynch (of the Lynch moving-picture enterprises) acquired the Metropolis by purchase, and issued it with Quimby Melton as editor. The property changed hands again June 1, 1922, coming into the ownership of a newspaper syndicate, headed by J. H. Perry and R. L. Jones, with the latter as editor. On June 6, 1922, the name of the paper was changed to Jacksonville Journal. After a few months Mr. Perry acquired the interest of his associate and took personal charge of the paper as editor.^e