

Chapter 13

Postwar Choices and Freedoms



Chapter Preview

Terms: civil rights, separate-but-equal concept, integration, North Carolina Fund, community college system, service industry, shopping center, Cold War, commute, consolidated high school, interstate highway system, bypass, discrimination, sit-in, freedom riders, Civil Rights Act of 1964, Voting Rights Act of 1965, busing

People: Terry Sanford, Bill Friday, Frank Porter Graham, Thad Eure, Kerr Scott, Jesse Jackson, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Reginald Hawkins, Henry Frye, Howard Lee, I. Beverly Lake, Judge James B. McMillan

Places: Research Triangle Park, Grandfather Mountain, Greensboro

Top: Krispy Kreme doughnuts were first served in Winston-Salem.

Right: This statue at North Carolina A&T in Greensboro honors students (l-r) David Richmond, Franklin McCain, Ezell Blair, Jr. (Jibreel Khazan), and Joseph McNeil, who began the sit-in demonstrations.

At the end of World War II, hundreds of thousands of North Carolinians came home to make new and better lives. Two of them were Terry Sanford and Bill Friday. Sanford had grown up in Laurinburg in Scotland County. Friday was raised in Dallas in Gaston County. Both had families that had struggled to get through the Great Depression. Both had been among the first in their families to go to college—Sanford to UNC, Friday to State College. Both had served in the war, Sanford as a paratrooper in Europe, Friday at a munitions dump in Virginia.

To make their lives better, each went to law school on scholarships provided by the G.I. Bill, one of the federal government's programs to give veterans a way to find good careers. Terry and Bill—and their wives Margaret Rose and Ida—lived above and below one another in a duplex just north of the Chapel Hill campus. From there, they went on to achieve things for themselves and others that still affect the daily lives of all North Carolinians.

After quickly rising to prominence in the 1950s, Sanford and Friday became the best-known leaders of the state into the 1970s. Sanford practiced law in Fayetteville then became governor in the 1960s. As governor, he worked to expand opportunities in business, education, and civil rights. Sanford later led the effort that turned Duke University into a world-



class school. Friday never left Chapel Hill. In 1956, he became the president of a University that he grew into sixteen campuses spanning the state. Under Friday, North Carolina became nationally respected for its approach to higher education.

Most of all, both men worked to give state residents a chance to better themselves, whether it was to gain a vocation or develop a career. This was a legacy of the hard lessons North Carolinians had learned about themselves during the 1930s and 1940s. As the *Daily Tar Heel*, the UNC campus newspaper, announced in 1945, “A great future is everywhere evident.” The Sanfords, the Fridays, and others like them spent their lives making it possible for others. The result was North Carolina’s emergence as one of the notable places to live in the modern United States. While Sanford was governor, the *National Geographic* magazine called North Carolina a “Dixie Dynamo.”





SIGNS OF THE TIMES

POPULATION

North Carolina's population stood at 5.1 million in 1970. Charlotte, Winston-Salem, Greensboro, and Raleigh all had populations of more than 100,000. A third of the state had become urban.

TECHNOLOGY

After racer Fireball Roberts was killed in a literal fireball during the World 600 stockcar race in 1964, NASCAR required drivers to wear fireproof suits and gas tanks to be coated in rubber.

LITERATURE

Betty Smith, who came from New York City to Chapel Hill to study with the Playmaker dramatists, wrote *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, one of the best-selling novels of the postwar period. Ms. Smith lived in Chapel Hill until her death in 1972.

FASHION

When the hippie movement helped popularize blue jeans in the 1960s, Wrangler brand was introduced by a Greensboro company.

FOOD

North Carolina restaurants began for the first time to become famous. National food critic Duncan Hines raved about the Sanitary Fish Market in Morehead City. Motorists along I-95 stopped at Bob Melton's in Rocky Mount, one of the oldest barbecue joints.

FADS

Beauty pageants were at the height of their popularity across the nation in the 1960s. In 1961, Marie Beale Fletcher of Asheville became the only North Carolinian ever to become Miss America. In 1970, Pauletta Pearson of Newton became the first African American contestant in the Miss North Carolina pageant.

MUSIC

During the folk music revival of the 1950s, the Kingston Trio had a number one hit with "Tom Dooley," based on the murder of a young girl in Wilkes County after the Civil War. In 1970, James Taylor of Chapel Hill gained stardom with folksy songs like "Carolina on My Mind."

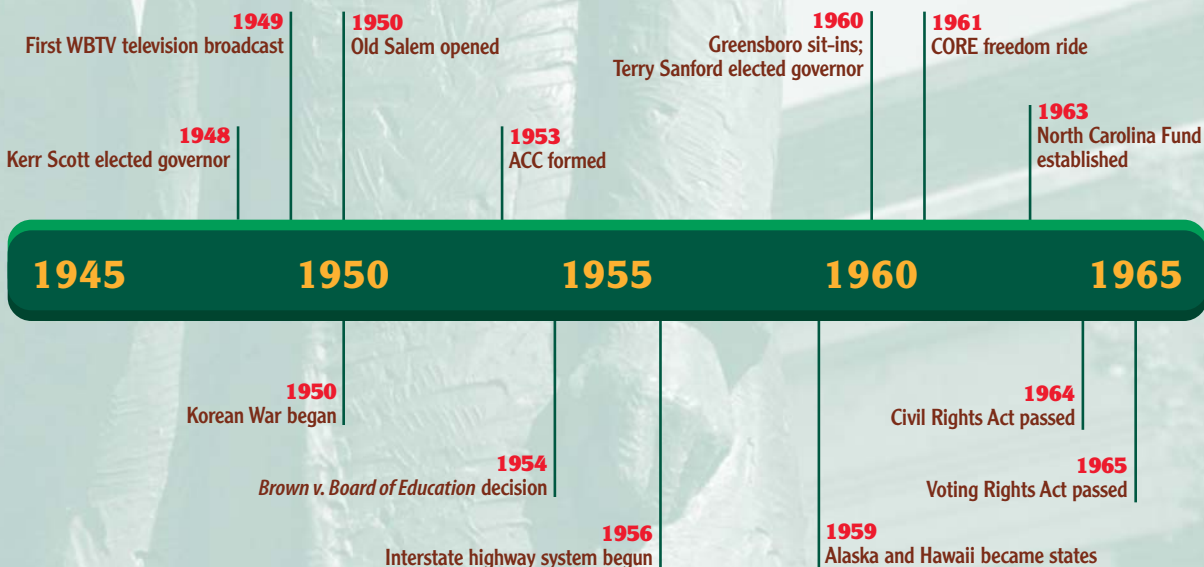
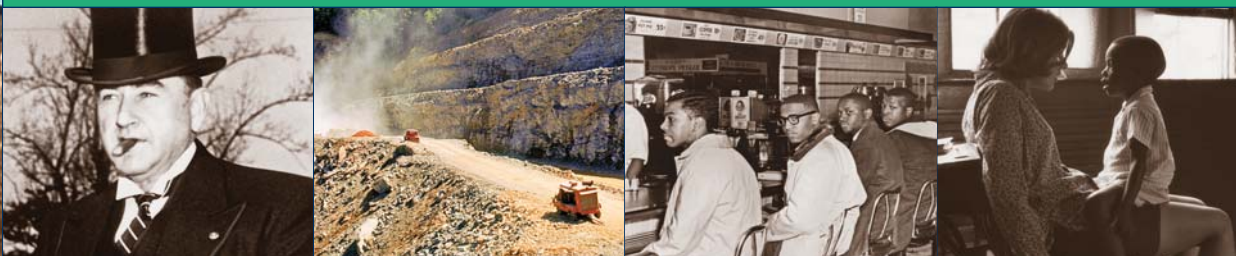
RELIGION

George W. Truett, a native of Hayesville in Clay County, became one of the founders of the “fundamentalist movement” in American Christianity. Fundamentalists, who were strong in North Carolina after the 1920s, believed the Christian Bible was literally true.

ARCHITECTURE

Dorton Arena at the State Fairgrounds in Raleigh became world famous for its cantilevered roof structure. The crossing steel beams in the top allowed the structure to have an all-glass roof. A similar structural arrangement was used to build the first Charlotte Coliseum in 1956.

Figure 28 Timeline: 1945–1965



TARGET READING SKILL

Inferring

Defining the Skill

When you cannot easily find the main idea and supporting details in a reading, you may have to infer what you think the author means. Inferences can also go beyond the literal meaning of the text. When you read, you may want to use some of your own knowledge, beliefs, or experiences to interact with the text. You can make *inferences* when you

- draw conclusions.
- make predictions.
- interpret a reading.
- make judgments.

Below: A community kitchen in Depression-era Harlem.

Practicing the Skill

The following excerpt is found on pages 440–441 in your textbook. Read the excerpt and then infer (predict) how you think life will change for blacks in post-World War II America. After you have made your prediction, turn to page 441 in your textbook, find the passage, and continue reading. Cite evidence to support or refute your prediction.

During the depression, thousands of southern black families had gone north to cities to seek better jobs. There, they could more easily register to vote, and their children went to integrated schools. As blacks became more prosperous in the North, they began to vote for New Deal leaders.

