

Before Bennettsville: Pee Dee Indians And Welsh Neck

TEXTILES
LATER

In Marlboro County of South Carolina's Upper Coastal Plain, living is a fair blend of rich past and hustling present—of agriculture and diversified industry.

Marlboro is known and readily identified as a "land of farms." Old records indicate that for a time, long ago, land in Marlboro sold by the pound instead of by the acre.

The County, established by law March 12, 1785, is named for an able English statesman, John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough. The Duke, who died in the early 1700s, was a prominent politician and one of the very few English generals who never met defeat throughout a lifetime of warfare.

In the days before Marlboro County's settlers arrived from Europe the area was inhabited by aboriginal red men known as the Peedee or Pee Dee. They composed a small tribe of Siouan people whose territory centered around what is now Cheraw, S. C.

J. A. W. Thomas in his "History of Marlboro County" notes that by 1775 most of the Pee Dee lived with the white settlers and with the Catawbas, a larger tribe. The two Pee Dee Rivers took their designation from the people of that name.

THE AREA which is Marlboro County was settled by European peoples during Colonial times. First-comers were Welsh who had arrived in Pennsylvania around 1701.

Finding inconveniences there, they moved on, establishing in 1737 their South Carolina settlement which they called Welsh Neck. Among the early family names of the area, several prevail today—Brown, Crosland, John, Griffith, Rogers, and Thomas.

Scottish families arrived in the mid-1700s. Influence of this element has been strong to the present. Original family names of this early contingent—McColl, McLaurin, McLean and McRae—are today of prominence in the county and area.

English and Scots-Irish settlers came also. Together, all of the settlers lived in harmony and pioneered the region. They subdued unbroken forests, cultivated the land, opened roads, built bridges, and erected churches and schools.

BENNETTSVILLE, county seat of Marlboro, was founded in late 1819, through an act passed by the South Carolina legislature. The town was named in honor of Thomas Bennett, who was Governor of the State at that time.

Bennettsville's original settlement was situated a mile or so from the Pee Dee River. A year later, the settlement moved to its

☆ ☆ ☆
• Bennettsville will celebrate its Sesquicentennial, April 12-17, 1970. The historical milestone will be marked with many planned events, including tours of old homes and historic sites, pageants and church homecomings.

☆ ☆ ☆
More on page 3



Cracklin' Bread 'n' Cider Pie

• Marie Rowland—adept with the splicing kotter and an artist in the kitchen. Story and some of her traditional recipes are on page 3.

Guffey and McCarter Retired

"You just can't lay around, once you're done with a regular job—too many interesting things to do to keep you from a hum-drum life in retirement." W. S. Guffey spoke for himself and Alva McCarter last month, as they both "wrapped up" long careers at the Gastonia Firestone plant.

Their service years with the company: Guffey, 34; McCarter, 28.

Guffey came to Gastonia from near Bryson City when he was 21, found his life "calling" in textiles after he'd had some experience in highway and railroad maintenance.

He worked at a High Shoals textile mill, moved to Spartanburg for employment in a textile finishing plant. Back in Gastonia, he settled down at the plant which soon afterwards was purchased by the Firestone company (1935).

HIS YEARS here have been in spinning, except for a brief stay in twisting.

Guffey began here as a spinning frame changer but switched to a frame fixer for a few years. He was advanced to shift

Roll That Cotton

Cotton, leading natural fiber in textiles today, is still a major U.S. crop. The 1969 production of cotton in the country is estimated at 11,779,000 bales of 500 pounds gross weight. A crop of this size would be 831,000 bales or 7.6 per cent above the 1968 crop.

In North Carolina, cotton production is forecast at 125,000 bales of 500 pounds gross weight. The NC Crop Reporting Service estimate is based on reports from growers and others throughout the cotton-growing area of the state.

WORDPIX

• First-grader on homeward way from Abernethy School, proudly showing her classwork papers to workmen relocating electric lines along new construction of Crosstown Garrison Boulevard.

• Teenage girl and boy in parking lot, combing each other's long-flowing locks.

• Front-bumper placard on small foreign car in plant parking lot: GENUINE JUNK PARTS.

Firestone NEWS

OCTOBER • 1969

GASTONIA
NORTH CAROLINA



Firestone News Photos • FROM CAMP FIRESTONE

A Harvest In The Hills

• October's here in its blaze of splendor. And for the season's late-goers to Camp Firestone, this month offers "a remnant sale of Autumn Glory" in side trips and special events across the Southern Highlands.

Camp Firestone, employee retreat on Lake James, closes its 34th season this month, while "The Color" is at its richest and best.

Many employees and members of their families make Camp Firestone departure point for exciting sightseeing trips

along the "Rooftop of Eastern America."

FAVORITE among stopping places are native shops and other collections of traditional highland crafts. Whether the gifted hands of S. B. Chiltoskey, Cherokee artist; the creative touch of Tony McDonald — or any other mountain man, woman, boy or girl, they account for the fireside industry which produces a kaleidoscope of craft treasures.

These the visitor may see displayed in such places as mu-

seums, at college exhibits, in libraries and art galleries; and for sale at craft outlets in Asheville, Burnsville, Hendersonville and many other highland communities.

Two outstanding showings each year make up a wonderful world of excitement and education on hand-produced wares. They are the Craftsman's Fair of the Southern Highlands at Asheville in early summer; and the Craftsman's Fair at Gatlinburg, Tenn.—this year, Oct. 21-25.

More on page 2