



SPECIAL COURT DAY—With the coming of a special term of Superior Court last Monday, the 100-year-old court house in Gatesville was the scene of much activity. Here a group gathered in front at 12 o'clock noon on Monday as J. G. Pollock auctioned off the Gates school property. R. G. Cowper was high bidder at \$5,500.

Special Term Of Court Off To Slow Start Monday

Other Big News Too

Top 10 Stories Of 1954

Gatesville.—To pick out 10 of the top Gates County stories of 1954 would be a task for anyone, but several stories carried in the Index last year are worthy of mention.

On the week of March 4 last, a sudden wind storm struck the Hall farm near Eason's Crossroads and blew down barns and killed one mule. Fletcher Turner, 86, and a life-long resident of the county, died that Monday.

In the issue of April 1, Betty Jean Turner and her husband, Bill, were involved in an auto wreck just outside Gatesville and she was seriously cut about the face.

Issue of April 15 carried pictures and the story of the death of Mr. and Mrs. Tazwell A. Eur and how they died five days apart.

The April 29 issue carried the story of Corabell Peterson, who was burned to death in a home not far from Gatesville when a kerosene stove exploded, setting her clothing on fire.

The issue of the Index for May 20, along with all the other papers in the nation, carried the story of the Supreme Court ruling out segregation. This was one of the top stories in the nation during 1954.

September 2 carried the story of the destruction visited on Gatesville's new school building when it was struck by lightning.

October 21 carried the story of "Hazel," the worst hurricane ever experienced in Gates County and most of the east coast.

October 28 carried the story of Thad Eure and his proposed 200 mile trip by muleback. The ride was never made as it hinged on the election of a candidate who was defeated in the November election.

The November 18 issue of the Index carried the story of Scott Bowser, Negro, who was charged with the rape of his 13-year-old stepdaughter. This story drew wide attention and caused all extra copies to be sold, when a church group wrote the editor protesting what they termed "literary looseness" in reporting the story.

December 16 carried the story of Jimmy Mondes, who was run down and killed on the highway near his home by two Negroes. Mondes was a Sunbury High School junior.

The death of Duke Story, who was 106, was an outstanding story as he was one of the oldest residents in the state.

Several other stories in 1954 were outstanding, but space prevents carrying a review of them all.

Dr. H. F. Kern Rites Held at Corapeake

Sunbury.—Dr. Harry F. Kern, 89, died at his home in San Antonio, Texas, Tuesday, December 28.

He was a member of Alamo Heights Methodist Church, St. John Lodge A. F. and A. M., Luzon Chapter Royal Arch Masons and the National Association of Federal Veterinarians.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Lucy Lee Kern; one daughter, Mrs. Edward E. Wieben, Iowa City, Iowa; one sister, Miss Ruth Kern, Phoenix, Arizona and one grandson.

Funeral services were conducted at Parker's Methodist Church Saturday afternoon at three o'clock. The pastor, Rev. F. J. Duplissy conducted the service. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Active pall bearers were G. B. Morgan Jr., Hunter Morgan, Sammie Lee Morgan, Horton Keith, Ernest Askew and Billie Phillips. The body arrived at the Rountree and Hoffer Funeral Home, Gatesville, Friday afternoon from where funeral arrangements were completed.

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Gates County BRIEFS

And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory; and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost. Acts 12:23.

The Schoolmaster's Club will meet at the Gatesville school lunchroom next Monday. Rev. Worth Wicker has been invited as guest speaker.

On January 10 and 11, Charles E. Spencer and Mrs. Annie Raye Moore will work with Gates County Schools on health and physical education. They are from the State Department of Public Instruction.

The Board of County Commissioners urged us to state that they are solidly behind the blood program and they are urging everyone that can possibly do so to be present in Gatesville Friday to donate a pint of blood to help keep the county in the program.

District County Agent, C. S. Mintz appeared before the Board of Commissioners last Monday and urged them to provide in their 1955-56 budget for an assistant county agent. The Board took no action Monday but noted that they would do so in the immediate future.

Merna Godwin was the winner of the \$10 award for the best Christmas display. The award was made by the fire department and the judges were from out of town.

Took my two sons, one age 11 and the other two, to our west window Monday afternoon and pointed out the beautiful red-gold sunset. The least one said "pity" meaning pretty and the oldest one who has the soul of an artist and likes to write poetry in his spare time, said, "Daddy it looks like a golden mountain." He has never seen a mountain only in pictures. The wife, who is the only girl in our family, came along to see what her men folks were looking at. "I bet it will be cold as blazes tomorrow," she said. She has as very practical mind and very little patience with her writer husband and poetic son. And I never did know just how cold blazes can be.

R. M. Small, better known to his friends as "Uncle Robbie" of Corapeake has been ill recently. He is sending his thanks to his Odd Fellow brothers, his friends and his church for their thoughts and attention during his illness. "I'm so grateful," he says, "that I can't find words to express my feelings."

Was talking to Solicitor Walter Cohoon and Judge Fountain last Monday about our infamous rape story. The Solicitor said he read every word of the story, but didn't find anything wrong or offensive. Judge Fountain said that I would have to tighten up my "literary looseness" when I reported court proceedings on the case.

Each man spoils the one he loves. And gratifies her wishes. The rich man showers her with gifts. While the poor man does the dishes.

Tobacco Meet At Gatesville

Gatesville.—You and all other tobacco growers should plan now to be present at a meeting at the Agricultural Building, Gatesville, Friday night, January 7, at 7:30 o'clock to hear S. N. Hawks, Tobacco Specialist, and see slides on Plant Bed Management and general Production Practices.

Plant bed fumigation to control weeds, disease, insects, are up for discussion. Also varieties, sucker control, irrigation, and other related subjects. A door prize will be given, also one to the person who traveled the furthest.

Don't forget—it's Friday night of this week. Come and bring some neighbors. Best wishes for a Happy New Year.

Gatesville.—The special term of Superior Court in Gatesville got off to a slow start last Monday, when presiding Judge George M. Fountain informed Solicitor Walter W. Cohoon that the grand jury selected for the November term of court would have to be present for the special term. The November term was not held due to the illness of the presiding judge, Q. K. Nimoks, Jr., who suffered a heart attack just prior to November 25.

Judge Fountain informed the court that the regular grand jury would have to be present and Sheriff L. F. Overman hastily dispatched deputies around the county to round up those not present.

Then before further proceedings, Walter W. Cohoon was sworn in as the First District Solicitor by Judge Fountain.

The first case before the court concerned Annie Copeland, Negro woman, convicted in Recorder's Court back in May of last year for possession of illegal liquor. She appeared before Judge Fountain and begged to be allowed to pay the Recorder's Court fine and cost. Judge Fountain sentenced her to six months in Woman's Prison and suspended the sentence upon payment of the fine and cost and added to the sentence that she "must be of good behavior for the next two years."

Edward Pretlow, charged with giving a forged check which was later paid up, was told by the court to return Tuesday for sentence.

Julius Howell, Negro, was brought before the court on a charge of shooting his brother-in-law, Algernon Lassiter. Lassiter didn't want to press charges and tried to withdraw the case, but was not allowed to do so by Solicitor Cohoon.

It developed that Lassiter and Howell married sisters and on the night of the shooting Howell went to their mutual father-in-law, who also sold burial insurance, and told him to be sure that Lassiter's burial insurance was paid up in full. He then went out and found Lassiter along the road and shot him in the stomach, using a .22 caliber rifle. Lassiter was in the hospital a number of weeks and Howell and his victim became very friendly again and he did all he could for Lassiter.

Attorney for the defense, W. D. Brown, brought Hazlett Rountree to the stand as a character witness for Howell and he testified that the defendant was a hard worker and had never been in previous trouble. The judge pointed out that if Lassiter had died from the bullet wound, Howell would be up before the court on a murder charge. He sentenced him to 12 months on the roads.

Howell, who had apparently expected to go free, after his attorney's plea that he should have only a suspended sentence, buried his face in his hands and wept after he heard the verdict.

Cancer Clinic At E. City On Friday

Elizabeth City.—The Northeastern Cancer Center will hold its first clinic of the new year in Elizabeth City at the Health Center on Friday, January 7, with registration beginning at 1 p. m.

No appointment is necessary. A free chest X ray will be given anyone who desires it, according to Mrs. W. W. Finlater, secretary.

New Library List Published

Raleigh.—A new directory of more than 250 city, county and regional libraries in North Carolina has just been issued by the State News Bureau, Department of Conservation and Development, Raleigh, and may be obtained free upon request. The new directory also notes that North Carolina has 96 Bookmobiles—more than any other state—and explains how information not available in local libraries may be obtained through the Inter-Library Loan Plan.

City and county libraries—Ahoskie Public, Ahoskie. NORTHAMPTON — Northampton Memorial, Jackson, Northampton Negro Branch, Rich Square.

Support Blood Program Urged By Dr. Harrell

Gatesville.—Dr. C. Lydon Harrell, director of the Tidewater Blood Center in Norfolk and Dwight Harvey, a retired Army Colonel who is now business administrator for the Tidewater Blood Center were in Gatesville last Monday attempting to create some interest in the forthcoming visit of the bloodmobile.

The bloodmobile unit is scheduled to appear in Gatesville next Friday morning January 7 at 10 a. m. and will be here until 4 p. m. at the agriculture building.

According to Dr. Harrell, several recent visits of the bloodmobile unit in Gates County has been very disappointing as there has been a noticeable lack of interest. The last visit netted only 18 pints.

Dr. Harrell pointed out that the Tidewater Blood Center furnished free of charge all the blood needed by 33 hospitals and also furnished blood for any patient from Gates County regardless of what hospital he might attend. At the present time, he said, county patients were using a great deal more blood free of charge than was being donated at all of the visits of the bloodmobile unit.

Dr. Harrell and the administrator appeared before the Board of County Commissioners also last Monday where they enlisted the support of that group. As a result of this visit, the Commission issued an urgent appeal to all of the people in Gates County through this newspaper urging them to come to Gatesville next Friday and donate a pint of blood to help the cause along.

Recorder's Judge H. V. Beamon and Superintendent of schools, W. C. Harrell are in charge of the visit next Friday and are joining with Dr. Harrell, the Board and Dwight Harvey in urging special support for the blood program.

All counties that make up the area served by the Blood Center, with the exception of Gates County, Northampton County and South Hampton in Virginia, consistently meet their quotas. Gates County has never met its quota of some 110 pints and Dr. Harrell is of the opinion that the quota may be too high for the county. He is planning to have this reduced before any future visit, he said last Monday.

He is a native of Sunbury, and he is very anxious for Gates County to remain a part of the Tidewater Blood Program as it means a great deal for county people to be able to get blood at any time and any where free of charge. But, as he pointed out, the present cost of collecting a few pints in the county is prohibitive and he issued an urgent appeal to everyone asking that they come to Gatesville next Friday and give one pint of blood, to help Gates County remain a part of the blood program.

A capable doctor and nurse will

B. F. Savage Dies After Long Illness

Gates.—Benjamin Franklin Savage 72, died Friday at 12:15 p. m. at his home, Route 1, Gates, after a long illness.

Mr. Savage was active in the work of Savage's Methodist Church for many years. He had been a member of the board of stewards for more than 40 years and had served as church school superintendent and member of the board of trustees.

He also was a member of Camp 12622, Modern Woodmen of America, Whaleyville.

He was a son of the late Jesse W. and Rebecca Pearce Savage, of Gates County.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Nettie Horton Savage; three sons, J. Arthur Savage, of Sunbury; B. F. Savage, Jr., of Hampton; and Walter R. Savage, of Gates; a sister, Mrs. L. E. Baues, of Whaleyville, and five grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted Sunday at 3 p. m. at Savage's Church by the Rev. Fred Duplissy, pastor, and the Rev. R. T. Commander, of Elizabeth City. Burial was in the church cemetery. The body was taken from the Baker Funeral Home to the church at 2 p. m.

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Three Churches Hold Services

Corapeake.—On Friday night in the Fellowship Hall of Parker's Methodist Church a recreational hour was enjoyed prior to Watch Night service.

The three churches, Kittrell, Savages and Parker's Church, were led by their pastor, the Rev. Fred Duplissy, in the social hour, assisted by Hal Furr, and emphasis placed on young people.

In the sanctuary at 11:30 p. m. the people gathered for worship service and the theme was presented by members of the MYF of the three churches, which were Kaye Armstrong, Burton Barnes, Vernon Parker, Rita Baker and Carolyn Baker, who was also pianist. Hymns in keeping with the theme were sung as well as moments of silence as the old year passed and the new year entered.

4-H Club Meetings For January

Club meetings for the new year start Tuesday, January 11 with Sunbury Junior Club at 9:40, Senior at 10:40; Wednesday, January 12, Hobbsville Junior, 9:30, Senior, 10:45; Thursday January 13, Gatesville Senior 12:45, Junior, 2:20.

All old members are urged to be present and each to bring a prospective member. Application cards for membership will be distributed. Cards will be taken up from those who received them before Christmas. It is hoped that each Junior and Senior club will double its membership over the 1954 enrollment. All boys and girls are requested to bring a pencil to the meeting.

County Talent Show For Dimes Drive Friday Nite

Gatesville.—A Talent Show, sponsored by the March of Dimes, will be held in the Gatesville School Building Friday night at 8 p. m. Talent from all parts of the county will compete for cash prizes, says Mrs. Ashton Lewis, 1955 March of Dimes Campaign Director.

Mrs. Lewis has requested each township chairman to try to have talent from each township present. Conrad Plyler reports he will have talent acts from Gatesville, Sunbury and Gates on the program. Several string bands will be present, Lamar Benton and Luther Casper of Hobbsville with Annie Overman and Loretta Benton at the vocals. Malley Buck and Company string band, Eure Community will be represented by Troy Green and Quartet also Peggy Johnson dance from Roduco.

Not all of the talent acts could be listed as many township chairmen had not completed their talent round-up at press time but many good acts are scheduled. Several volunteer March of Dimes workers will have drinks and candy for sale at the show. Mrs. Lewis urges everyone to come out this Friday night and help the March of Dimes in its fight to find a cure for polio. Anyone in the county may enter the contest. Mrs. Lewis would appreciate having your name if you wish to enter. Please contact her at Gatesville by Thursday night.

J. B. Spivey, 75, Dies Sunday In High Point

Corapeake.—Jessie B. Spivey, 75, died Saturday night in the High Point Memorial Hospital, High Point. He had been a resident of Corapeake for many years and was a retired R. F. D. mail carrier. He was a member of the Eureka Baptist Church of which he had served as a Deacon, Sunday School Superintendent and Treasurer. He was born in Chowan County, and a son of the late Jacob and Penina Spivey.

His wife, Mellie Virginia Spivey, preceded him in death July 14, 1953.

He is survived by three sons; James B. Spivey, Suffolk, Leonard M. Spivey, Portsmouth, and Wayland Spivey, Merry Hill; four daughters, Mrs. D. V. Ralph, Portsmouth, Mrs. H. J. Austin, High Point, Mrs. F. G. Morris, Gatsville, and Mrs. L. F. Pierce, Suffolk; two brothers, W. O. Spivey, Hobbsville, and W. T. Spivey, Norfolk; one sister Mrs. Dolly Bunch, Hobbsville; nine grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted Tuesday afternoon at three o'clock at the Eureka Baptist Church. The pastor, Rev. Caleb Godwin conducted the service assisted by the Rev. W. D. Morris of the Scotland Neck Baptist Church. Burial was in the church cemetery. Active pall bearers were J. L. Spivey, Elmer Bunch, Conroy Perry, Frank Rountree, Vernon Spivey and Murray Spivey. Honorary pall bearers were the Men's Bible Class of the Eureka Baptist Church. The body was taken from the Rountree and Hoffer Funeral Home, Gatesville, to the church one hour before the service.