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Dedicated to Service to Gates County and Its People

12 Pages—Two Sections

County Tax Rate Lowered to \$1.20

Gatesville.—Despite the lack of income enjoyed by many families, the Gates County Board of Commissioners, were able to drop the county tax rate by a nickel at their regular meeting last Tuesday.

The regular tax rate per \$100 valuation has been \$1.25 for the past several years, but at the last meeting it was decided that the budget for the coming year could be met with a minimum of \$1.20. This, of course, does not include the two special school taxes in the Sunbury and Gatesville school districts.

The board pointed out that the rate of \$1.25 has been held during a worldwide conflict that saw prices skyrocket to an all-time high and right on up to June 30 of this year. And during these same high prices they have managed to keep the county completely debt free and have paid the county's share on the construction of a modern health center that was constructed at a total cost of \$35,000.

During this time they have had no outside income such as liquor tax that is enjoyed by many counties and have now dropped the taxpayer's load to \$1.20.

At the last audit in October, all county funds showed a small surplus. In addition, the county has no outstanding indebtedness, as all road and school debts have been paid off.

P. L. Hoffer was appointed to the welfare board at the July meeting to succeed R. E. Miller. Other members of that body are Lamar Benton and Bill Ward.

A statewide meeting of county commissioners will be held in Asheville August 21-24 and some of the Gates County board members are expected to attend, it was announced.

Miss Rawls' Claimed by Death

Suffolk.—Miss Frances Esther Rawls, of Suffolk and Gatesville, died Tuesday at 10 a. m. at the home of George C. Huggins, near Gatesville.

She was the daughter of the late John Bemby and Annie Hayes Rawls, of Gates County.

Surviving are a brother, R. E. Rawls, of Gatesville, and a number of nieces and nephews, including Mrs. John Mundy, of Henderson, William Rawls, of Petersburg; Mrs. Hugh Horton, of Whaleyville, and J. Lewis Rawls, Jr., of Suffolk.

The body was taken to the I. O. Hill and Company Funeral Home where services were conducted Wednesday at 4 p. m., by the Rev. A. Woodrow Laine, pastor of Oxford Methodist Church, and the Rev. Mr. Bissel, of Zion Methodist Church. Burial was in Cedar Hill Cemetery.

Weed Quota Up for Vote

Gatesville.—J. A. Hobbs, chairman of the Gates County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee again reminds all flue-cured tobacco growers of the referendum to be held July 23. The choice will be for quotas for the 1956, 1957, and 1958 crops, for the 1956 crop only, or against quotas for 1956. If at least two-thirds of the growers voting approve quotas, price support at 90 per cent or parity will be available to growers who comply with their farm acreage allotment. If more than one-third of the votes are opposed there will be no flue-cured tobacco marketing quota or price-support program for the 1956 crop.

Chairman Hobbs reports that according to farmers' intentions on March 1 about 995,300 acres of flue-cured will be grown in 1955. This is 5 per cent less than 1954 acreage. Hobbs said, "at age yields the 1955 intended acreage would produce about 2,275 million pounds—3 per cent less than in 1954 and practically the same as the 1953 crop. The carryover of flue-cured tobacco on July 1, 1955 is expected to be about 2,004 million pounds, nearly 5 per cent above one year earlier."

Domestic use of flue-cured tobacco during the current marketing year July 1954—June 1955 See QUOTAS, Page 2

In Hospital
Eure.—Mrs. Troy Greene is a patient at Roanoke-Chowan Hospital. Mrs. Greene fell Sunday and broke her collar bone.

Another Truck Accident Last Thursday on 13

Eure.—Two men were injured slightly when a soft drink truck overturned about 1 p. m. on Highway 13 about three miles north of Winton at almost the same spot where William T. Jones was killed on June 2 in a truck accident.

Leon Hassell, 31, of Route 1, Holland, reported to be the driver, was treated at Obici Memorial Hospital and released, apparently having suffered only superficial injuries. William Stephens, 17-year-old Suffolk Negro, who was riding with Hassell, was admitted for observation overnight, but his condition was said to be satisfactory.

The truck, it was reported, went out of control while headed northward after rounding a curve. The vehicle went out of control and skidded down an embankment, turning over.

Dogs Pose Big Problem for Town Council

Gatesville.—Miss Nellie E. Felton, tax collector for Gatesville, was ordered by the town council last Tuesday to notify all delinquent taxpayers that advertising will begin in August if taxes are not paid by that time. The council also set the tax rate for 1955-1956 at 75 cents per \$100 valuation, it was announced.

Dirty Gatesville streets also came in for some attention at the council meeting. They agreed to purchase push type waste disposal units for the business section, but felt that they needed the cooperation of the merchants. The council believes that merchants should assist in moving debris from in front of their places of business and encourage customers to help keep streets clean.

Councilman J. K. Wyatt reported that he had received several complaints about stray dogs in the town. A tax on all dogs was suggested, with all strays turned over to the SPCA. Action on this was deferred to give dog owners a chance to be heard in the matter.

The council is urging all dog owners to write them concerning this matter and meet with them at their next meeting on August 1 in the agriculture building.

Correction
Eure.—\$52.10 collection was taken up from the galloping tea and turned into the treasure at the Missionary meeting Friday night in the home of Mrs. W. L. Askew instead of Mrs. William Norfleet Alexander as stated in the Index last week.

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THE ORIGINAL MISS AMERICA—Darlene (Princess) Bryan recently was first place winner of an Atlantic City Boardwalk parade, which she entered as the original Miss America and was dressed as an Indian princess. She is four and half years old and is the daughter of Lieutenant and Mrs. Joseph T. Bryan. She took part in dance recital at the Star of the Sea auditorium and the boardwalk parade afterward. Her doll was dressed exactly like her and her carriage was an Indian tepee. The man interviewing her is radio announcer for an Atlantic City radio station. Lt. Bryan is stationed at Atlantic City and is originally from Pendleton in Northampton County. Mrs. Bryan is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Felton of Eure.

Old Gray Mare Left At Post by Galloping Tea

Eure.—The old gray mare ain't what she used to be according to the song, but over at Eure, they have a tea that may some day take her place. It is known locally as the galloping tea and for the past 30 days it has created more fun and frolic for the ladies of that area, than the proverbial barrel of monkeys.

The Eure Christian Church recently launched an ambitious building program to construct a new \$35,000 church building and the ladies of the Missionary Society, seeking ways and means to raise money for the church, hit on the idea of the galloping tea.

Mrs. Joe Umphlette of Gates first presented the idea on to the society which boasts 35 members and the thing caught fire from then on. The plan was for any members of the society to decide on the spur of the moment, day or night, that a tea was necessary. This member would also decide where the tea should be held. Immediately she must get in her car and gather a car full of Missionary Society members and descend on the home of another member demanding refreshments of one sort or another. The gimmick was that no lady could stop to dress, but must go exactly as

she was when called on to make the visit. If she couldn't go for any reason, she would be assessed 50 cents and every member that attended must pay 25 cents into the mission treasury. If the unsuspecting hostess was caught without the necessary refreshments or didn't have enough in the house to feed the group which often numbered 15 or 20 women, she also would be assessed 50 cents. The group collected \$52.10 in four weeks.

According to several of the ladies, these impromptu teas were probably attended by the world's worst dressed women. Shorts dungarees, ragged dresses, barefoot and generally dressed like no woman would be found dead, was the order of the day of galloping tea, but not one hostess was ever caught without something to serve at the meetings.

"We sure had some delicious food," says Mrs. W. N. Alexander who attended several of the teas and was hostess at least once.

With her husband it was a different story. The ladies descended on their home one night and he had planned to go out, but the ladies just drove up into his yard and completely blocked his

See MARE, Page 2

Committee Survey Recommends One High School for Gates County

Shotgun Is Hindrance To Escape

Gatesville.—Billy Boger, 21, who attempted to escape from a work gang out of the Gatesville prison camp last Tuesday, July 5, will probably be a woman hater for the rest of his natural life. A woman, Mrs. Thomas C. Nixon, in Chowan County foiled his escape with a loaded shotgun.

Boger started on his short-lived freedom in the Rocky Hook section and stopped at the home of Mrs. Nixon and asked for a drink of water. She reportedly gave him the water and asked him why he was trying to escape from the prison gang. She didn't know he was an escaped prisoner, but was only making a shrewd guess. He fell into the trap neatly and told her that he got a "bum rap" and that he was serving 12 months for drunken driving. Actually, he was serving two sentences, one for larceny and receiving of five to seven years and another six to eight years on four charges of robbery with firearms. The sentences run concurrently.

Mrs. Nixon stepped into the house and came out with a shotgun and ordered Boger to stay where he was until someone came along for him. Boger told her to go ahead and shoot him. But Mrs. Nixon advised her prisoner that she wouldn't shoot him unless he advanced toward her or tried to escape. In a few minutes, William King, highway foreman of the gang from which Boger had escaped, came along and took the man in tow.

Boger, who once got a dishonorable discharge from the Navy and is from Lakewood, N. J., is back in the Gatesville prison camp, and it is being rumored that A. J. Griffin, prison camp superintendent, is trying to hire Mrs. Nixon as a guard.

John R. Walton Dies in S. C. Hospital at 72

Charleston, S. C.—John R. Walton of 3 Lowndes St., former agent for Railway Express Co. here, died June 25 in a local hospital.

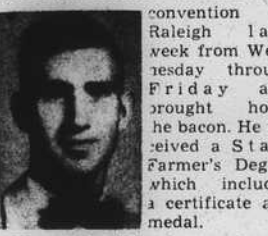
Funeral services were held at 9 a. m. Monday, June 28, at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church. Burial, directed by McAlister's, was in the Mount Hope Cemetery, Florence, S. C. at 1 p. m.

Mr. Walton was born in Gatesville March 12, 1883, a son of James Timothy Walton and Mrs. Penelope Roberts Walton. Educated in the schools of Gatesville, Mr. Walton was a member of St. Mary's Church.

See WALTON, Page 4

State Degree By County

Hobbsville.—Fred N. Ridd, Hobbsville attended the State



convention Raleigh last week from Wednesday through Friday and brought home the bacon. He received a State Farmer's Degree which included a certificate and medal.

He made FFA chapter farmer in 1954 and entered the state competition this year. In state competition, he had to clear better than \$600 on all of his projects under FFA. Then he filled out a form in Raleigh and came home the only Gates County FFA student to get this degree.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jake Riddick of Hobbsville, and his vocational teacher this year was Charles Reardon.

Young Riddick was secretary of his FFA chapter last year. He graduated from Hobbsville High School last spring. He hasn't made up his mind about attending college, he said.

Petty Thieves Enter Stores And Escape

Gatesville.—A wave of petty robberies that according to sheriff L. F. Overman, bear the distinct trade mark of Johnnie Myers, escaped convict, have afflicted local officers during the past few days.

Last Thursday night, entry was made in L. B. Lawrence's store at Eason's Crossroads and a small amount of cash was taken. Entry was made in Brown's grocery in Gatesville, but nothing was missing and the glass was broken on Boyce's store, but entry was not made there. Apparently the same thieves broke into the Tarheel service station on highway 13 where they also broke into a pool table and juke box. The operators estimated that about \$75 was taken. They also broke into Campbell's place at Roduco, but nothing was missing.

On Friday night, Costen Morgan of Sunbury passed White Oak service station at about 1 p. m. and saw a car there. He roused Lurgus Howell the owner and the two men called Sheriff Overman. The thieves were frightened away, but left a new Buick stolen in Camden and belonging to Ray Meggs. Overman called the Camden County sheriff and reported he had recovered the car before the owner even knew it was stolen. Thieves had attempted to steal the same car from Meggs, two nights earlier but were unsuccessful, he said.

Thinking the robbers were on foot, Sheriff Overman called in dogs from the Gatesville prison camp, but a hard rain prevented any trailing. Meanwhile the thieves went to Roduco, some two miles away and stole a Chevrolet belonging to Glenn Perry. This car has not been recovered. They also made an attempt to steal a Mercury belonging to Lewis Felton as some of the wires were discovered pulled out, the next day.

Felton's car was checked for finger prints, but none were found.

Youth Group Plan Activities Week

Gates.—The members of the Youth Fellowship of Kittrell's Methodist Church will hold its Youth Activities Week beginning July 17 and continuing through Friday, July 22. The meetings will begin at 7:45 p. m. and adjourn at 10:30. All meetings will be conducted at the church.

A very interesting program has been planned. There will be fellowship singing, discussions, worship services and recreation. Refreshments will also be served. Prayer Cells, a different way of ending a meeting will be used to close the meetings.

Young people from all churches, regardless of the denomination, are invited and urged to attend this Youth Activities Week.

Work Begun Dressing Rooms-Gym

Gatesville.—Work is now under way on the new dressing rooms for the Gatesville gymnasium and they are expected to be completed by November 1 in time for the regular basketball season.

At the regular meeting of the Board of Education last Tuesday, a leave of absence of three months' duration was approved for Mrs. Nolie Stephenson, long-time assistant to Superintendent of Schools W. C. Harrell. Mrs. Stephenson has been in ill health for some time and Miss Sarah Doughtie is now employed in the superintendent's office.



SARAH DOUGHTIE

The board also approved the election of Miss Dorothy Ann Edwards as commercial teacher at Sunbury High School. Miss Edwards is from Pendleton in Northampton County.

Due to a cut in supervisor's pay by the state, Miss Margaret Mullen will supervise the white schools in both Gates and Perquimans counties, it was announced. Mrs. Addie Hall James will supervise Negro schools in both counties.

William Brown, who succeeded Howard Eure as school bus garage clerk, has resigned, it was announced.

LASSITER REUNION

Corapeake.—On Monday, July 4, Mrs. J. L. Lassiter and daughter, Mary Lee Lassiter, accompanied by Mrs. Homer Eure, attended the annual Lassiter reunion in Edenton at the home of Mrs. C. T. Doughtie.

Others present were Mrs. W. C. Jackson of Elizabeth City, Dr. and Mrs. L. A. Ward of Hertford, Miss Kathleen Jackson, en route from Greenville, Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Sloop and children, Ruth Anne, Gray, Alphonso and Mary Elizabeth Sloop, of Dublin, and Mr. and Mrs. W. Jarvis Ward of Hertford.

Mrs. Doughtie has been indisposed for several weeks but is much improved.

Letterheads get them and all kinds of printing from "Your Home Newspaper"

Gatesville Is Logical Place Says Report

In compliance with a formal request from Superintendent W. C. Harrell and his Board of Education, a committee consisting of R. P. Martin, superintendent of Hertford County Schools, W. L. Lathan, William P. Duff and John L. Cameron of the Division of School Planning of the State Department of Public Instruction, made a survey of Gates County schools on June 28.

Attendance information, maps showing district lines and location of various schools and other data pertinent to the survey were obtained from the office of the superintendent. Accompanied by Superintendent Harrell, the committee visited and inspected all of the school plants in the county. On the basis of these data and this inspection of the various school plants, the committee submits the following report:

We wish to commend Superintendent Harrell and his Board of Education for the splendid educational leadership they are providing for the people of Gates County, and particularly for the study being given to plans for future improvement of educational opportunity for the children of the county.

The committee is of the opinion that the most urgent need of the Gates County school system at the present time is the improvement of high school opportunity for children in the Hobbsville, Sunbury and Gatesville districts. The small size of each of these high schools is obviously not productive of good economic or educational administration. With the small enrollment at each of these centers, it is impossible to provide the effective type of program that

See SURVEY, Page 5

Mrs. Williams Passes Away In Sunbury

Sunbury.—Mrs. Augusta Harrell Williams, 77, widow of Paul C. Williams, and daughter of the late James A. and Mrs. Sarah Norfleet Harrell, died at the residence of her sister, Mrs. Hattie Hathaway, in Sunbury Wednesday at 9 p. m.

She was a native of Gates County and had been a resident of London Bridge for 10 years.

She is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Robert E. Lee, of Princess Anne, and Mrs. Howard Ives, of London Bridge; three sisters, Mrs. Hathaway, Miss Eliza Harrell, of Sunbury, and Mrs. L. S. Woodhouse, of London Bridge; two brothers, J. A. Harrell, Jr., of Sunbury, and J. C. Harrell of Goldsboro, and three grandchildren, Miss Keith Lee, of Princess Anne, and Misses Nancy and Margaret Ives, both of London Bridge.

The body was taken from the Hollomon-Brown Funeral Home to Scott Memorial Methodist Church, of which she was a member, for funeral services. Burial was in the Riverside Memorial Park.

Funeral Held Friday for Mrs. Barnes

Sunbury.—Mrs. Mary G. (Bertie) Barnes, 80, died at Rex Hospital, Raleigh, at 9:30 a. m. Wednesday. She was the daughter of the late Lafayette and Fannie Gatling Bynum; a native of Gates County and a lifelong member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Sunbury.

She is survived by two daughters, Mrs. W. R. Barnes, Sunbury, and Mrs. Maude McCarthy, Raleigh; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, also several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were conducted Friday afternoon at 2:30 at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Sunbury. The Rev. Worth Wicker conducted the services, assisted by the Rev. H. A. Bizzell. Burial was in the family plot of the church cemetery.

The body arrived at the Rountree & Hoffer Funeral Home in Gatesville at noon Thursday where it remained until the hour of the service.

Active pallbearers were Seth Barnes, Henry Barnes, Jimmie Barnes, Howard McCarthy, Martin Kellogg and S. E. Nixon.



OFF TO CAMP—These 4-H members watch for the birdie just before leaving for camp at Manteo, Monday morning. From left to right: Brenda Taylor, Paulette Harrell, Norma Jean Hayes, Marion Parker, all of Gatesville Junior Club; Jean Pierce, Sunbury Junior; Pat Brown, Shirley Eure and Tom Smith, Gatesville Juniors. Terry Bunch, Sunbury (not shown) was picked up en route. Miss Lydia Griffin, home demonstration agent, will be with the group all week along with agents and members from Mecklenburg, Currituck and Hyde counties. Mr. and Mrs. Millard Taylor, parents of one of the campers, carried some of the members.