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GATES COUNTY INDEX

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It Happened Last Year

Top News of 1955 is 3 Hurricanes

Gatesville.—The year 1955 will go down in history as the year of uneasy peace in which world politics held the spotlight as nations jockeyed for top positions of power.

In Gates County the year opened with a special term of Superior Court in Gatesville. This was necessary as the fall term was not held due to the sudden illness of the presiding judge, Q. K. Nimocks, who suffered a heart attack just before court was to convene.

In mid-January, Carlton Morris and family made headlines in a number of papers when they took a Florida vacation at the insistence of friends, Frank E. Kaufman of Baltimore, L. S. Burton and H. I. Jaffe of Suffolk.

Early in February, one Negro school boy was killed and another died later from an auto accident. Officers captured a big liquor still near Carters and later ran down the operators with bloodhounds from the Gatesville prison camp.

On February 13, Mr. and Mrs. R. O. Hobbs of Hobbsville celebrated their silver wedding anniversary. During the latter part of February, Marvin Wiggins of Trotville made headlines with his maternity pen for newborn pigs, and Paul Edmond was guest speaker at a HDC meeting.

Sheriff L. F. Overman, his deputy Woodrow White and Patrolman J. J. Carter captured the largest still ever seen in this section on the last Saturday in February. Attorneys Huber Eason and W. D. Brown stumbled on the operation while looking over some property and reported it to the Sheriff's office. Two white men were captured.

In mid-March, the big news was the laying of the cornerstone for the Eure Christian Church. The ceremony was conducted by the Grand Lodge of Masons with Grand Master, Robert L. Pugh in charge of proceedings.

At the March term of Superior Court, Willie Phelps and Sydney Parker went on trial for the death of young Jimmie Monds, who was run down by an auto while walking on the highway near his home. Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Benton celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on March 20 with a reception in the basement of Sandy Cross Baptist Church.

Also in March the new bookmobile was dedicated in appropriate ceremonies at Gatesville and the Red Cross reported $500 short of its quota.

Renovation of the Gatesville Methodist Church was completed early in April and Home Demonstration Clubs held a district meeting on April 14. Austin Hurlbert was named executive vice president of the Farmers Bank of Sunbury and public health nurse, Mrs. Roy Hayes, gave little Edith Rae Riddick the very first polio shot from the new Salk vaccine. Gatesville school band, which was the first ever organized in that school got off to a good start and gave a concert under the direction of Conrad Plyler.

Also in April, Glenn Owens of Gatesville High School was announced as the white student winning the Rawls Scholarship award. Patricia Rascoe of Buckland High School was the Negro winner of the same award. It was announced that there would be an increase of peanut acreage.

In May, Gates County received an additional allotment of 558 acres for peanuts, and Mrs. Conrad N. Plyler became the first woman ever elected to the Gatesville Town Council. Walter C. Rawls of St. Louis gave $3,000 to Buckland High School Library. In mid-May, officers investigated four auto wrecks in one weekend. William T. Jones of Scotland Neck became the third traffic fatality in Gates County when his truck, loaded with lumber, was involved in a wreck with a pickup driven by Nat Felton. The accident occurred at the intersection of the old Barfield road and Highway 13.

In June, little Danny Hurdle was fatally injured when he was crushed beneath a pickup truck as he played on the Zion Methodist Churchyard.

C. P. Hathaway, prominent Sunbury man who had been ill for some time, passed away; and a thief broke into the show room of the Towe Motor Co. in Sunbury and made off with a new car. The newly elected Gatesville Town Council held its first meeting. C. M. Lawrence passed away in June, and Glenn Owens received a scholarship to the University of North Carolina.

In July a committee survey recommended one high school for Gates County, and the county tax rate was lowered by a nickel per $100 valuation. Work was started on the Gatesville gym dressing room. Ladies of the Eure Christian Church Missionary Society instituted a galloping tea that received wide publicity. Mrs. S. P. Cross died in July and a number of 4-H delegates from Gates attended 4-H Club Week in Raleigh. The temperature reached 101 degrees on July 28.

At their first meeting in August, the Gates County Board of Education consolidated Hobbsville High School with Sunbury. Hubert Eason, county attorney, took a leave of absence from the job of prosecuting attorney, and W. D. Brown of Sunbury was named to handle the job. The Gatesville Town Council declared unrelenting warfare on mosquitoes. County schools opened in August, and Hurricane Connie dumped an untold amount of water on Eastern North Carolina. More than 11 inches of rain fell during August and Hurricane Diane brought the highest water ever seen in this section.

Gatesville was dropped from the Carolina Coach Company bus schedule in September and the county Ruritan clubs held a hog show in Sunbury. Dr. E. V. Wills was claimed by death at 68, and schools closed for the third hurricane of the season, Ione. Anita Page Eure won a beauty contest at the International Cup Regatta in Elizabeth City, where she won third place.

In October the Board of Commissioners announced plans for a new office building in Gatesville and the Gatesville Ruritan Club held a fall festival day at Gatesville school. Joe Hall, Gatesville Negro became the fourth high-

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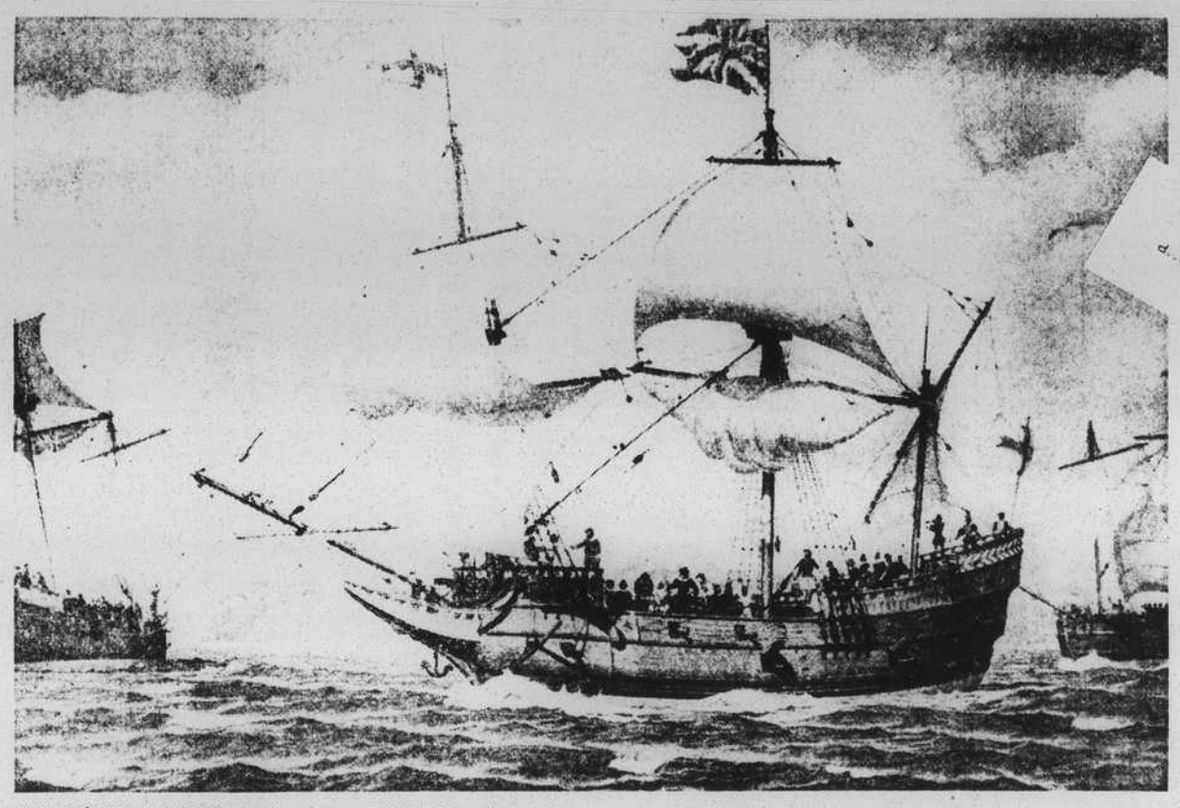
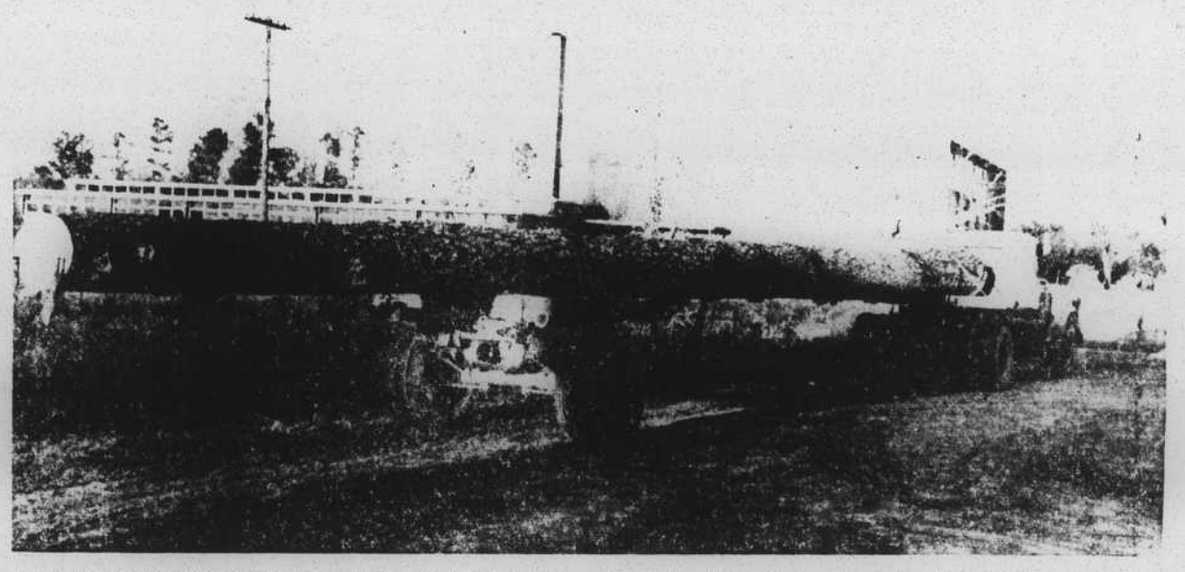


THE ORIGINAL SUSAN—In the center of this old drawing is the original Susan Constant which brought some of the first colonists to Jamestown. An exact replica of the ship is being built this year and will be on display at Jamestown early in 1957. At the left is the Discovery and at far right is the Godspeed which were the other two ships in the convoy of 1607.



A KEEL FOR HISTORY—This tree, which is 63 feet in length, will be the keel of the Susan Constant which is being built according to exact specifications of the original ship that brought the first colonists to Jamestown in 1607. J. K. Wyatt of Gatesville delivered the tree to a Norfolk shipyard last week.

J. K. Wyatt to Aid In Building Ship for Jamestown Festival

Gatesville.—When the Jamestown Festival opens in 1957, one of the main attractions will be the good ship, Susan Constant, which was one of the original three that brought the first 105 colonists to Jamestown Island in 1607. There will be the one slight difference, for the ship which will be viewed in 1957 by people from all over the world will be built in 1956. And Gates County will get into the story, for the keel for the 1956 version of the Susan Constant is being furnished by J. K. Wyatt of Gatesville.

Wyatt delivered a pine 60 feet in length last week which he said would square 12 x 12 at the top. He is also delivering a large amount of oak timber for the ship, which will be built according to the exact specifications of the Susan Constant. Festival authorities, according to Wyatt, will build the ship by hand this year and hope to have it ready and afloat at Jamestown early in 1957. Visitors will be allowed to visit it throughout the year. A bronze plaque will be on display bearing the names of all who have furnished any part of the Susan Constant and will include Wyatt's name as the man who furnished the keel and other material, he said last week.

The other two ships that took part in that first voyage of five months' duration are the Discovery and Godspeed. They will not be built in detail like the Susan Constant.

The pine that Wyatt delivered to a shipyard in Norfolk last week is estimated to be 114 years old and is perfectly straight from one end to the other. He is also delivering a curved oak for the bow of the ship leading up to the bowsprit. The oak timber he will deliver is known in the lumber trade as "flinch" and is oak four inches thick and log-through without edging. All work on the ship will be done by hand tools with the hull being made from fir which will come from the west coast.

Although the ship will be afloat and ready for visitors in 1957, eventual plans call for taking the ship ashore where it will be preserved as a museum for visitors for years to come.

4-H Club News

HOBBSVILLE JR. 4-H CLUB
By Carolyn Overman

The Hobbsville Junior 4-H Club held their last meeting of the season in December when the meeting was called to order by Charles Riddick.

After the pledges to flags and motto were given, we sang "Hark the Herald Angels Sing." Devotions were given by Jackie and Clara Mae Bunch.

The minutes were read and the roll was called by our secretary, Ann Hollowell. We then took up an offering for a basket for Christmas.

After the business part of the meeting, we had our Christmas party for 1955, which was followed by Christmas songs and exchanging gifts.

It was announced by Mr. Artz that at our first meeting of 1956 the new assistant county agent, A. C. Newsome, would be introduced.

IOOF Officers Installed Wednesday

Corapeake.—Jim Hill will be installed as Noble Grand of the Holly Grove Independent Order of Odd Fellows next Wednesday night in regular installation ceremonies.

Wesley Eure will be installed as Vice Grand. H. L. Brown and Mack Eason will be installed as recording secretary and financial secretary, respectively.

All other officers will be appointed at the meeting and will be installed along with the elected officers.

All Odd Fellows are requested to attend the meeting Wednesday, as final plans to attend the First District convention in Swan Quarter will be completed. The convention will be held on Saturday, January 14.

From Hospital

Eure.—Miss Lillie Eure returned from Roanoke-Chowan Hospital Friday and is staying with Mrs. Iola Parker.

Stallings Move

Eure.—Mr. and Mrs. Cam Stallings moved to Eure Saturday in the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Felton.

WINTER—A lot of North Carolina people were singing and dreaming of a white Christmas and may have been disappointed, but if they stuck around until last Friday they had plenty of snow as more than two inches fell in a short time. Who can tell us where this photo was made?

School Funds Are Problem for Board

County

But . angel from heave other gospel unto yo. t which we have preached you, let him be accursed. Galatians 1:8.

The Gatesville Volunteer Fire Department announced this week that Mr. and Mrs. Conrad N. Plyler were the winners of the first place prize for the best Christmas display. This award is made annually.

Mrs. Frank Pierce of Sunbury won a similar prize presented by the Sunbury Woman's Club. For the benefit of the Sunbury Woman's Club, it is our information that VEPCO will furnish cash for prizes for that sort of thing. So maybe they will look into it and be able to furnish cash as well as ribbons next Christmas, and without any cost to their fine organization.

On the sad side, there were nine deaths in Gatesville during 1955. Almost that many occurred in Sunbury. We have no way of knowing the exact statistics in births and deaths for the county last year.

The New Year weekend passed without incident as far as traffic accidents were concerned. Or at least our friends, Patrolmen Godwin and Carter didn't call us in the middle of the night to photograph any fatalities which is good indeed.

What one mother kangroo said to another mother kangroo: "I hope it doesn't rain today; it's awful when the kids have to play inside."

Two Englishmen out for a night on the town picked up two girls and took them into a dimly lit pub for a drink. Suddenly, one of the men turned to his friend and whispered: "I say, old boy, would you mind terribly changing dates?" The oter replied, "No, but what's the matter with yours?" The friend answered, "Between the grog and the smog, I seem to have picked up an old aunt of mine."

Gatesville.—It has been said a number of times that the schools in North Carolina will be as good as the people of the state want them. According to the Gates County board of Education this holds true for Gates County schools. And the board spent all day last Monday debating the needs of county schools and how they could best use the $257,000 they have on hand from the state bond issue.

No Board of Education can make changes or improve the schools without the backing, approval and full support of the people they said.

The board now has on hand $257,000 to spend for school building construction. These funds came from the 1953 fifty million dollars state bond issue. The county board can make plans for the use of these funds, but the State Board of Education has the authority to reject these plans.

It was pointed out that the State Board seldom if ever approves or permits the expenditures of state funds at small schools for building contruction if consolidation is posible. This creates a great problem for the Gates County Board of Education as all schools in Gates County are considered small. A look at statistics shows that enrollment in the white high schools of the county have continued to decrease for the past several years. Enrollment in 1954 was 270 while there are only 239 white high school students this year.

The table below shows the value of the school property at the different schools along with the number of students and teachers and school population. All these facts have to be taken into consideration when planning a long range school building program, according to the board. The Board is giving the proposed construction a lot of study and consideration.

A. J. Eure has resigned as teacher at Sunbury effective January 23, and no replacement has been found at the present time.

Only three members of the five-member school board was present last Monday. They were S. P. Cross, chairman, D. A. Willis and Lyman Cowper.

Distribution Of Students And School Property In Gates County

	Membership 1954-1955 Elem.	HS
Gatesville	305	102
Hobbsville	114	50
Sunbury	209	102
Buckland	643	155
T. S. Cooper	599	148

	Membership 1955-56 Elem.	HS
Gatesville	311	105
Hobbsville	112	
Sunbury	206	134
Buckland	620	180
T. S. Cooper	593	144

	Value of School Property	Number of Teachers
Hobbsville	$ 94,800	14
Gatesville	$251,500	16
Sunbury	$256,700	14
Buckland	$235,500	25
T. S. Cooper	$200,000	24

Home Ec at Sunbury Gives a Tea

Sunbury.—On Wednesday, December 24, the home economics department of Sunbury school was the scene of lovely Christmas festivities when the home economics girls entertained the high school student body and faculty at tea. Special guests of the department were Mrs. J. A. Payne, III, Mrs. Edward Nixon, and Mr. and Mrs. William Boone.

In the receiving line were Diane Hurdle, Mary Ellen Hollowell, and Joyce Byrum. Kathleen Hobbs, one of the home economics students, presided over the punch bowl.

Served with the fruit punch were hors d'oeuvres and cookies of many kinds. For those with a more exotic taste, Russian tea was served by Treena Rountree. All refreshments for the occasion were prepared by the home economics classes.

A Christmas atmosphere was created by the decorating scheme of silver, red and green. The table, laden with delicacies, was partially covered with holly and cedar. Centered on the long banquet table was a unique dried flower arrangement. Two red candles were placed on either side of the original centerpiece. All decorations were made by the girls.

Goodbys were said to Joy Hollowell and Nancy Rountree.

Mrs. Lucy Kittrell, hostess and home economics teacher, is grateful to each one who helped to make the reception a success.

FIRST MEETING

Eure.—The Woman's Missionary Society of Eure's Christian Church will have their first meeting for 1956 on Friday night, January 6, at 7:30 o'clock.

Miss Audrey Turner and Mrs. Willard Turner will be hostesses.

All members are urged to start the missionary year by their presence and loyal support.

Movement Ended

Washington (USDA)—Movement of farmers' stock peanuts from farms to mills has been practically completed in all areas. Demand and trading for milled peanuts was light during the past week due in part to usual let up in activity over holidays. Prices as compared week ago showed little change.

New Stamp

A new three-cent stamp honoring the late Andrew W. Mellon went on sale at the local post offices last week.

The stamp commemorates the centennial of the birth of Mellon. It is maroon with a reproduction of a portriat of Mellon and is .85 by .98 inch. The printing of 119 million of the stamps has been authorized.

EVENING PROGRAM

Gates.—Those who participated in the Student Day program at the Sunday evening services at the Kittrells Methodist Church, under the direction of the Rev. F. J. Duplissey, were Miss Rebecca Riddick of Parker's Church, Miss Kay Francis Greene, Glenn Owens, and William J. Boone of Kittrells Church.