

Along the Way

By Emily Killeto

Even though many of us folks were born and are still residents in Duplin County, we do not know much about its past. For instance, where was Cates Pickle Company of Faison originally founded?

No, not in Duplin, but in Alamance County in 1898 on the farm of Charles F. Cates. It was not until 1929 that Cates moved his pickle processing plant to Faison. The sales volume was \$39,000 at the time of the move from Alamance County, and in June of 1948, Cates had a sales volume of \$216,000.

Cates Pickle Company had grown from a three-acre plot of cucumbers on the Cates farm to a million dollar business by 1948. According to a DUPLIN TIMES article in July of 1948, the inspiration behind the pickle company was a member of the Cates family who was a traveling salesman. One of the many items sold by him was pickles.

The first factory was a wooden barrel on the Cates farm and the recipe used was a family secret. The number of barrels increased each year until the barrels were replaced by brine tanks. Brine tanks were filled with salt water and cucumbers; the saltwater kept the cucumbers fresh until processing. At the times of the DUPLIN TIMES article, Cates had brining stations in Denmark, S.C.; Rich Square, N.C.; Emporia, Va.; and Berlin, Md.

The brining stations were set up to shorten the farmers' distance to market and provide a place where cucumbers could be stored without deterioration until transported to Faison. And, in 1948, Cates was contracting 3,100 acres of cucumbers and an increase to 4,700 was expected in 1949.

Contract cucumbers were said to be of little risk to farmers, seeds were provided by Cates, and a guaranteed price was set before planting. The pickle company encouraged farmers not to contract more acres of cucumbers than the farm family could work without hired help. The usual amount contracted per farmer was from one to three acres. However, a single elderly farmer contracted three acres of cucumbers with Cates and sold them for an average of \$383 an acre. In order to keep up with the growth of the crop, the farmer had to pick continuously through the season. To get the cucumbers to the market, the elderly gentleman used a goat-drawn cart! In 1947, the crop of cucumbers contracted by Cates yielded 300,000 bushels.

Each of the cucumbers goes through much of the

same process, from the market to the brine tanks. From the brine, they go to fresh water where all the salt is washed from the cucumbers. And, the clean cucumbers are then sent to the various processing tanks for pickles and relishes.

Even though Cates had a national sales coverage, the heaviest sales were in the states of Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, North and South Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia. Six salesmen were constantly on the road to promote and bring in new accounts with Cates Pickle Company. And, the work of the Cates family, along with ten other pickle companies in the state, made North Carolina the third largest pickle-producing state in the nation. North Carolina was third to the states of Michigan and Wisconsin.

Today Cates Pickles is one of Duplin's largest industries. In the town of Faison, population 598, Cates pays 55 percent of all the town's ad valorem taxes, approximately \$37,400.

Kenansville News

Bridal Shower

Tammy Thigpen, bride-elect of Keith Chambers, was honored Saturday night, August 9th, with a bridal shower. The affair was held in the fellowship hall of Grove Presbyterian Church. Joint hostesses for the occasion were Mrs. Winford Howard, Miss Pam Howard and Mrs. Daryl Chambers.

Several contests, led by Mrs. Carol Chambers, were held. Mrs. Howard won the first, Mrs. J.D. Chambers the second, and she and Mrs. Howard tied in the third contest. They presented their prizes to the honoree, who was also presented a unique corsage.

The register was kept by Miss Howard and Mrs. Daryl Chambers served the party cake squares, while Mrs. Winford Howard served the frosty lime punch. Others refreshments consisted of salted nuts and mints. A color note of green and white with a touch of yellow was emphasized.

The mother of the bride-elect, Mrs. Earl Thigpen of Beulaville, and the groom-elect's mother, Mrs. Andrew Chambers of Kenansville, assisted with the gifts.

Past Matrons and Patrons
The regular monthly meeting of the Past Matrons and Patrons Club of the Kenansville Chapter #125, Order of the Eastern Star, was held Monday night at

the Rose Hill Restaurant. Among those enjoying the dutch supper were Amos and Edna Earl Brinson, Virginia Holland, Pearl McGowan, Louise K. Boney, Eunice Brock, Inez B. Chestnutt, Celia Stroud and Ruby C. Newton with her granddaughter, Sarah Morrow.

Personals

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Brock made a business trip to Durham Friday. They were accompanied by Mrs. David John Kilpatrick.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Thompson of Rocky Mount spent last week at Topsail Beach, where they were joined by Roxanne Kilpatrick.

Mrs. Elbert Long and Teena spent last week at White Lake and joined Mr. Long at Morehead City during the weekend.

The Rev. and Mrs. Troy D. Mullis spent last week at Massanetts Spring in Virginia attending a conference.

The Jerry Paschalls of Whiteville had supper with the Gordon Kornegays Friday enroute to Kure Beach.

Mr. and Mrs. Wiley T. Booth and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hewett spent last week at Topsail Beach.

Mrs. Robert Hollingsworth spent several days last week at Topsail Beach with Dr. and Mrs. Al W. Payne.

Miss Roxanne Kilpatrick spent last week in Las Vegas. She accompanied Mr. and Mrs. H.L. Sanderson of Magnolia and Mr. and Mrs. H. I. Sanderson, Jr. and family of Wallace on the trip.

Mr. and Mrs. Gene English and Stephen spent the weekend with Mrs. Sheldon Swann and Mr. and Mrs. David English.

Mrs. Tommy Chambers of Suffolk, VA spent the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Chambers.

Mrs. Nicky Bowden and daughters visited relatives in Kings Mountain during the weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Quinn and Karen of Zebulon visited Mrs. Viola W. Quinn Sunday.

Miss Mary Lee Sykes left Guardian Care Saturday to go to Charlotte to live with her sister, Catherine S. Wilard.

Mrs. N.B. Boney attended the 28th annual Boney reunion held Sunday afternoon at The Country Squire. She was among the 115 present.

CARD OF THANKS

My sincere thanks to everyone who remembered me in so many kind and thoughtful ways during my illness.

My new address is: 1012 Pinafore Drive, Charlotte, N.C. 28212.

Mary Lee Sykes

CROOM FAMILY REUNION

The Croom Family will assemble for its 50th annual reunion at the Croom Meeting House on Sunday, August 17. The morning program will begin at 11 a.m.

Conference On Leadership Development

Women Urged To Register

Women in Duplin County will be able to attend a conference on leadership development September 6 from 8:45 a.m. through 3:15 at the E.E. Smith School in Kenansville.

"The conference is a follow-up to the statewide conference held in Raleigh in May 1978, and the nine regional conferences held across the state last year. Space will be limited but the conference is open to all women," said Mrs. Christine W. Williams, chairperson of the planning committee.

"The conferences will provide leadership development opportunities and encourage women to exercise their talents to strengthen their communities. The theme will be 'Leadership and Citizen Responsibility,'" she added.

The conferences are co-sponsored by the N.C.

Council on the Status of Women and the N.C. Council on Women's Organizations in cooperation with the office of the Governor.

Mrs. Violette K. Phillips of Kenansville is serving as treasurer. She should be contacted for registration, with the \$5. fee including the coffee hour, luncheon and all materials, by Monday, August 25, in order to allow time to order food for the

luncheon and assemble the workshop kits and materials.

Workshops will be chosen from Assertiveness Training, Time Management, Women and Stress Management, Building a Positive Self Image and Becoming the Best That You Can Be, Decision Making and Creative Problem Solving and How Diet Can Affect Our Leadership Style, and Women and the Law.

SIDEWALK SALE

Open at 8 a.m. Fri. & Sat.

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- ★ Slacks

1 Rack of fall sweaters 1/2 price
1 Table jeans \$10.00
1 Rack long sleeve blouses 1/2 price

For Back To School Specials

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Fri. & Sat. Sidewalk



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Fri. nights, 9-9
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Bobby

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