

Along The Way

By Emily Kilette

Most citizens of Duplin have heard Magnolia was once the largest and most prosperous town in our county. H. Tracy Brown wrote an article on the history of the town of Magnolia in 1955 for the DUPLIN TIMES newspaper. And, according to Brown's article, the town of Magnolia was once a flourishing community. The article appeared in the February 24, 1955 issue of THE DUPLIN TIMES. Along the Way will begin a reprint of that article, "The Town of Magnolia," this week. Please remember as you read, that the article was written in 1955 and a great deal of changes have taken place.

The Town of Magnolia

Magnolia is located 48 miles north of Wilmington on the Atlantic Coastline Railroad in Duplin County, and on U.S. Highway 117 and the Kenansville Delway road.

Magnolia has the oldest charter of any town in Duplin County. It was incorporated in 1855 as Stricklandsville. It was first incorporated as Stricklands. This dates back to the 1700s.

Absalom Strickland and his wife, Tobitha, and son, Richard Strickland, lived here during the 1700s. They were among the early settlers of this community, and operated the first business, which was a small store. Tradition says this was when, and by whom, the name Stricklands was given to this community. Their names are on the earliest records of Duplin County, as early as 1758. Earlier records, having been sent to Raleigh, are not available for information.

Soon after the town was incorporated the name Stricklandsville, through and by an act of legislation, the name was changed to Magnolia in honor of Miss Maggie Monk, a lady who lived here during her young days. She took great pride in her flowers, and the magnolia trees that grew in her yard.

"Miss Mag" as she was called, married Dr. C.H. Harris and moved to Savannah, Ga. To their union two sons were born: P.C. Harris, Major General and Adjutant General of the United States Army during World War I; and Hon. William Harris, who was Commissioner of Education of the United States. "Monk Street"

Duplin School Menus

Sept. 10-14

Breakfast

In addition to assorted cereals, juice and milk, the following is served:

- Mon. - pop tarts
- Tue. - cheese biscuit
- Wed. - ham biscuit
- Thur. - muffin
- Fri. - peanut butter bun

Lunch

Mon. - cheeseburger, chili/beans/cornbread, corn, french fries, chilled fruit cup

Tue. - hoagie sandwich, turkey dressing, roll, peas, tossed salad, ice juice

Wed. - fiestada pizza, shoestring potatoes, squash casserole, melon, chicken salad cold plate

Thur. - chick filet sandwich, beef-a-roni/cheese roll, corn, cabbage, fruit whip

Fri. - seawich, beef stew/rice/roll, vegetables, coleslaw, fruited gelatin

Each lunch is served with lowfat chocolate or plain milk.

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EASTPARK CINEMA 1-2-3

Held Over -
Shows 6:55 - Sat # Sun, 1:55, 4,
6:55 & 9
Prince
PURPLE RAIN
Rated R

Held Over - Second Week
Shows 6:45 & 9, Sat.&Sun. 1:45, 4,
6:45, 9
Clint Eastwood
TIGHTROPE
Rated R

Held Over - Second Week
Shows 6:55 & 9, Sat.&Sun. 1:55, 4,
6:55, 9
BOLETO
with Bo Derek. No one under 17
admitted

Saturday Matinee - One show only at
3 p.m. \$2.00 admission to all.

yet honors the name of that good family.

During the 1800s Magnolia was the most important and noted town between Wilmington and Goldsboro, it being on the main route from New Bern to Fayetteville. The latter being an important inland town and slave market, attracted many people from the coast. Therefore, Magnolia enjoyed a flourishing business from travelers.

Its hotels were prosperous; one of them was operated by the Monk family; another by the Hannaford family. The latter was a large two-story structure, which stood on

with side of Main St., between A.C.L. Railroad and highway 117. It was surrounded by stately elm trees, whose beauty and shade were admired by all who passed that way. This hotel operated a number of years after the Monk family moved from this community and until it was destroyed by fire. The trees which stood nearest also perished in the hot flames. The elms on the street border stood for many years afterwards, helping to maintain the beauty of Main St. They also served as hitching posts for the public. One of these trees was killed by lightning one Saturday afternoon, about 1899.

Also, a mule was killed that was hitched to the tree.

Magnolia is surrounded by a soil that is adapted to diversified farming. Turpentine was once a great industry. Also, growing cotton. Both were marketed here from a wide area. A turpentine distillery was operated near the site of the present United Methodist Church. Cotton was ginned and sold also.

Bulbs and flowers were grown in abundance. They were first grown by the Strickland family, and later by Thomas Rivenbark, and by the late John F. Croom and son, John R. Croom. They were shipped to all

parts of the United States and Europe, Germany and Holland were some of their best customers. Mr. L.M. Sanderson yet grows bulbs on his farm.

Magnolia has been famous for her beautiful flowers, and also for her beautiful and charming girls. Flower growing for market has ceased here. Wilmington has taken that fame from Magnolia. Many of her fairer sex have cast their lot with Wilmington; Magnolia can yet boast of her charming maids.

Three crate factories flourished for many years when strawberries were grown on almost every farm. The

forests abound in all varieties of timber, which supplied the factories with material. One factory and mill is yet in operation; pulp-wood is loaded daily by Mr. W.H. Hall. This gives a good many employment. A furniture factory did a good business for a number of years. It was destroyed by fire about 45 years ago, and was not rebuilt.

Tobacco is one of the principal money crops; almost every farm grows it. Blueberries are also grown. Sweet potatoes are brought and sold here from as far south as Wilmington and north to Goldsboro, including a wide area east and west.

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 <p>KRAFT SLICED CHEESE 12 OZ. \$1.49</p>	 <p>SMITHFIELD HOT DOGS 89¢ PK.</p>	 <p>SMOKED PICNICS 79¢ LB.</p>	<p>OLD WAYNESBORO COUNTRY HAM \$1.39 LB.</p>
 <p>WESSON OIL 48 OZ. \$2.49</p>	 <p>BANANAS 29¢ LB.</p>	<p>BANQUET CHICKEN, BEEF & TURKEY POT PIES 3/\$1</p>	 <p>GRADE A SMALL EGGS 3 DOZEN/\$1</p>
<p>MAOLA LITE ICE MILK 1/2 GAL. \$1.09</p>	<p>COKE, DIET COKE & MELLO YELLO 2 LITER \$1.09</p>	 <p>SUNDROP, DR. PEPPER & PEPPER FREE 2 LITER \$1.09</p>	 <p>CREAM FLOUR 5 LB. 69¢</p>
<p>SWANSON CHICKEN BROTH 3/\$1</p>	 <p>10 LB. WHITE POTATOES \$1.39</p>	 <p>TREND DETERGENT 40 OZ. 99¢</p>	 <p>AJAX CLEANSER 17 OZ. 3/\$1</p>
<p>PALMOLIVE DISH DETERGENT 22 OZ. 89¢</p>			