

Other Editors Say...

DRIVING 90 MPH NOT SO FUNNY IN GATES

By Lois Gross
Editor, Gates County Index
Catsville, Ga.

Somewhere in the State of Florida is one woman who has certainly gained the displeasure of law enforcement officials and various other county employees in Gates County.

The story goes this way — Judith Strand Chirgwin was arrested on Highway 13 by Highway Trooper S. H. Lassiter and charged with traveling 90 miles an hour in a 60 mile zone. The hour was late — 11:45 p. m. The date — May 12.

Because Mrs. Strand was carrying as her passenger her five-year-old child, officials here went out of their way and bent over backwards to help keep her out of jail and ultimately send her on to her reported destination, somewhere in the State of Delaware.

Judge H. V. Beamon, Clerk of Court L. C. Hand, and Justice of the Peace John Robert Langston all were called out of bed at an unheard of hour in order to quicken the process of law and send the pair on their journey.

Mrs. Strand was traveling to Delaware, alone except for the child, and had only the small sum of \$13 in her possession. She said she knew no one here who could help her and there was no one in any other state they might call. Her husband was dead, she said, and her mother-in-law was traveling on ahead of her. There was no one else.

Feeling sympathy and compassion for a woman in trouble and alone, Judge Beamon agreed to give the woman the minimum fine permissible in the case and assessed her with cost. This was done after much telephone conversation between the judge, Mrs. Chirgwin, the justice of peace and arresting officer. In spite of the fact that judge Beamon had been overly kind to her with regard to the fine, she did not have enough money with her to pay it and still be able to

make her trip to Delaware. After much pleading and consultation, the judge authorized the acceptance of her personal check to cover the fine. She wrote two, one to the Clerk of Court and one to the Justice of the Peace.

Most of the night had passed before the matter was settled and the young woman was again on her way.

In spite of the fact that they had been up most of the night trying to help Mrs. Chirgwin, the judge, justice and the clerk were secure in the knowledge that they had been able to keep her out of jail and probably breathed a sigh of relief.

All was well, or so everyone thought, until a few days later when both checks were returned — Mrs. Chirgwin had promptly stopped payment on the checks at her bank.

Judge Beamon has ordered a capias issued and sent to the Chief of Police of Naples, Fla., or to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles. The capias is to be served on Mrs. Chirgwin for stopping payment on the checks.

The Gates County Court is out

Flue-Cured Stabilization Meeting in Raleigh Friday

the \$15 fine and Langston is out \$6.90 for the check he accepted. She paid the remainder of the cost, \$5, with cash out of her purse. Mrs. Chirgwin, for speeding 90 miles an hour is out only \$5. The people who helped her are out much more.

Somewhere in Florida a woman is probably laughing at those gullible people down in Gates County, N. C.

But no one here thinks it is very funny.

Flue-cured tobacco growers from Florida through Virginia will be attending Stabilization's 16th Annual Stockholders' Meeting. The meeting will be held in Raleigh on June 29, at the Sir Walter Hotel, beginning at 10 a.m.

L. T. Weeks, General Manager, and W. A. Allen, Director from District Number 6 (Eastern Belt - N.C.), announced that Raymond A. Ioanes, Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., will be the principal speaker.

Ioanes has had broad experience in foreign agricultural operations. He has played a prominent role in shaping USDA's export policies and activities and in recent months he has spent much time in the United States and Europe on problems involving the European Common Market.

Both Weeks and Allen pointed out that Ioanes' views on the Common Market will be pertinent at this time inasmuch as 75 per cent of U. S. flue-cured exports move into those countries already in the Common Market and countries which are potential members. They urge all flue-cured counties to send a large delegation to the meeting.

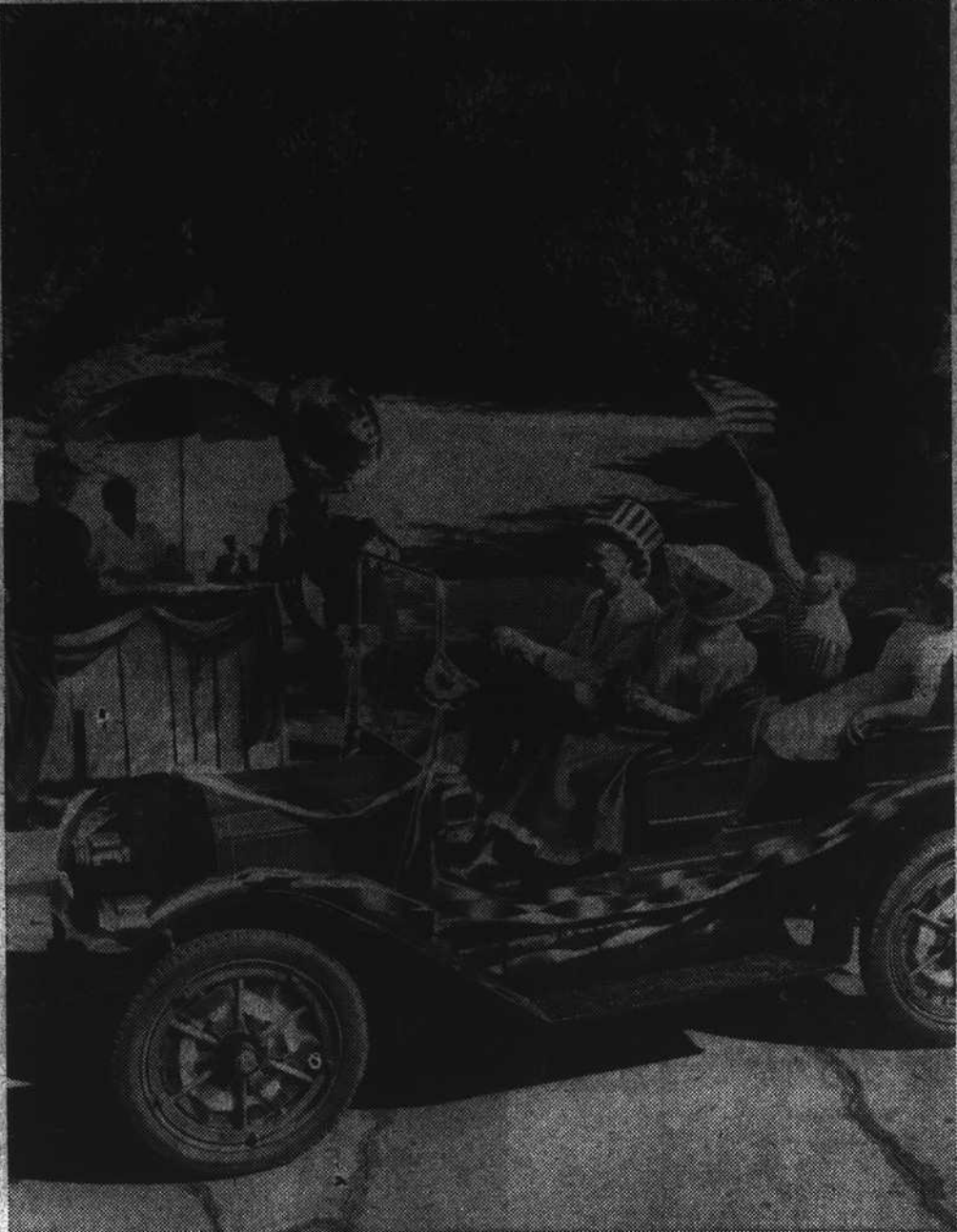
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