

SWAMPROOTS



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SWAMPROOTS

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Staff

Areatha Skinner

Cindy Rose

Dawn Swain

Hope Owens

Keith Wynn

Althea Skinner

Connie Armstrong

Gary Cooper

David Alexander

Larry Cox

Faculty Advisor

Madge VanHorn



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Tyrrell's Name	3
Judge Meekins	4
The ESTELLE RANDOLPH BURNS	6
Railroad Era	7
Remedies	8
A Link With Civilization	9
Superstitions	11
Tyrrell's Artists	13
Wesley Chapel	16
Clara Alexander	17
Did You Know	18
Recreation in the 1900's	20
Recipes	25
Hassell Cemetery	26
Mount Mariah	28
Coon Hunting	29
Letters to Staff	30
Flu, 1918	33
Pictures	37
<u>Columbia Muf</u>	39
Sketch of Columbia	40
Acknowledgements	42

Tyrrell's Name

Tyrrell County was named by the General Assembly of North Carolina after Sir John Tyrrell, one of the Lords Proprietors. Sir John Tyrrell was born in 1685, and sometime before May 28, 1725, he bought a share in Carolina. His purchase was a part of the original grant to Sir Ashley Cooper, an advisor to the King of England.

Tyrrell never came here, however, but stayed in England at his two estates, Heron and Woodham Mortimer, both in Essex. He had seven children: four daughters by his first wife and three sons by his second. The family title became extinct upon the deaths of his sons.

The Tyrrell family is a very old English family, and for 600 years the chief of the family was always a knight. Sir Walter, the original Tyrrell, received his lands in Essex from William the Conqueror, but the family was not granted a seal until October 22, 1666 when another Sir John was created a Baronet.

The spelling of the name is one of the interesting things about the Tyrrell family. Some members spelled it as we do; others, as Tirrell. The Tyrrell seal is rather simple. It consists of two silver chevrons on an azure field surrounded by a red border.



SWAMPROOTS Honors

This news item appeared November 21, 1964, in an Elizabeth City newspaper on the occasion of the death of one of North Carolina's most respected citizens.

Judge Isaac Melton Meekins, better known as Ike, was born in Tyrrell County, the son of Jeremiah Charles Meekins and Mahala Elizabeth Melson Meekins. He received his education at Columbia High School, Horner Military School in Oxford, and at Wake Forest College.

In addition to honors and offices listed in the article, he served a term as Pasquotank County School Superintendent. He owned and supervised quite a bit of property in Camden, Pasquotank, and Perquimans Counties. From 1922 to 1925, he practiced law in New York City. He was also a much sought-after public speaker.

Judge Meekins was a Baptist and a Mason, having reached the thirty-second degree in the Mason organization. He was a member of both the North Carolina and American Bar Associations. During all of his professional career, he was a staunch supporter of the good name and high principles of the Bench and Bar of North Carolina.

Mr. Meekins was appointed Federal Court Judge of the Eastern District of North Carolina by President Calvin Coolidge. He served faithfully and well in that capacity for twenty years. He represented all the highest traditions of jurisprudence and discharged his duties with eminent ability and fairness.

When the New Deal purge of Federal Courts was being attempted, Judge Meekins was not intimidated by threats against his position, but immediately came to the defense of the courts.

So high did he stand in the estimation of his fellow Republicans in North Carolina that they made him their candidate for governor in 1924, and in 1936, the state convention of his party endorsed him for president of the United States.

Judge Meekins won the respect of millions of people throughout the Eastern District of North Carolina. He is a native son of whom Tyrrell County is justly proud. Relatives of Judge Meekins are still living in Tyrrell County, including his sister-in-law, Mrs. Nat Meekins.

Judge Isaac Meekins

Judge I. M. Meekins Dies



Jurist Dies At Home

rites for Judge Slated Saturday

**Eastern District Jurist,
Named by Coolidge, Had
Won Praise for Decisions**

Elizabeth City, Nov. 21.—Isaac Melson Meekins, 71, nationally prominent retired Federal Court judge of the Eastern District of North Carolina, died at noon today at his home here.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete, but tentative plans set the hour at 11 o'clock Sunday morning, with services to be held at the graveside.

Judge Meekins, who had been quite ill for several months, retired from the bench one day after his 70th birthday, which was on February 14 of last year, bringing to a close a distinguished judicial career that had begun 20 years before when he was appointed to office by President Calvin Coolidge.

Wake Forest Graduate.

He came to Elizabeth City over 30 years ago immediately after he had graduated from Wake Forest Law School and had passed the State bar exam. Within a year he was elected mayor. He continued in that office until he resigned to become postmaster in 1909 and seven years later he became assistant district attorney for a four year term for the Eastern District.

He was a member of the State Republican Executive Committee from 1909 to 1918.

Judge Meekins' career on the bench won universal approval and praise from the press and public. The judge had figured prominently in important trials and his decisions from the bench were the object of praise and approbation.

The ESTELLE RANDOLPH Burn

In the early 1900's a boat christened the ESTELLE RANDOLPH carried passengers and freight to and from Elizabeth City. The boat was very modern for its time. It had wall-to-wall carpeting and velvet covered seats. Many of the gauges were of a shining gold color. The boat was propelled by a steam engine. Sometime between 1905 and 1909 the ESTELLE RANDOLPH caught fire. The cause was undetermined, but it is thought that something happened to the boiler in the engine room. It happened between 11:00 and 12:00 p.m.

This boat burning caused as much excitement as ever experienced in Tyrrell County. In the midst of the confusion, bystanders heard the agonizing cries of animals burning alive on board. Also one man on board could not be persuaded to jump off the boat.

Eventually the ropes holding the boat were cut, and the ESTELLE RANDOLPH was set adrift to burn freely and completely while most of Columbia looked on.

Sears Roebuck Catalogue

The Sears Roebuck Catalogue is one item found in most Tyrrell County homes today. In the early 1900's, however, the catalogue was really a valuable asset to people here. Travel elsewhere to get necessary items was out of the question- too slow, too expensive, and too dangerous. The catalogue though was not used just for ordering what was needed and not available here.

Youngsters used it for entertainment- by cutting out what was then known as "paper-dolls". Adults whiled away many an idle hour by looking, wishing, and planning.

The catalogue was used in another very interesting way. Before the coming of the Sears Catalogue, each outhouse or "Johnny House" contained a supply of corn cobs. There was not any toilet paper, or bathroom tissue, as it is now called, and all paper was quite scarce. Therefore when a new Sears Catalogue arrived, what was left of the old one was taken to the outhouse for two purposes: one was to furnish reading material. We will leave the second use to your imagination.

Tyrrell's Railroad Era

The Norfolk and Southern Railroad laid its railroad tracks into Columbia about 1904. The tracks crossed the Scuppernong River by way of a railroad bridge located at the present site of the newer Scuppernong River Bridge.

The train carried both passengers and freight.

The engine, made of black iron, was trimmed with much brass metal, had a cow-catcher on its front, and its shrill wavering whistle could be heard for miles. Coal produced the energy which propelled the train. Ben F. Sivills was chief engineer; Dude B. Dunbar kept fires stoked and its brass pistons gleaming. Dunbar's engine had the reputation of being the cleanest engine of all those that travelled Norfolk and Southern tracks in this area.

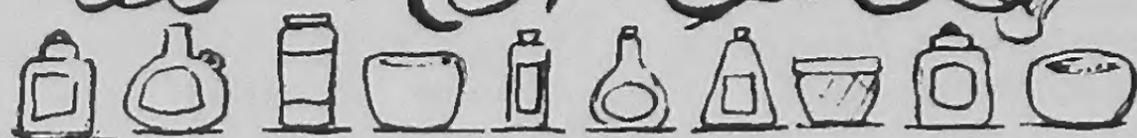
Captain R.F. Howell served as conductor until his death. Captain Howell is remembered by an expression he commonly used after his call, "All aboard", and as passengers were boarding the train: "Hurry up and do your kissing." Many passengers travelled by train, and there was a thriving freight and express business.

The train made two return trips out of Columbia daily to Central Junction at Mackeys. It carried and brought in the U.S. mail on each trip. Its schedule generally was leaving Columbia at 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. daily, including Sunday usually, and returning at approximately 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

There were three train stations in Tyrrell on this line. The main station at Columbia was located immediately south of the town's only stoplight, at the center of what is now Scuppernong Drive between the home of Mrs. May W. Basnight and Liverman's Gulf Station. The first station master was Mr. Johnse Cooper (grandfather of Sterling C. Alexander, Sr.). Mr. Clyde Swain was in charge of the movement of freight, express, and mail, a position which he held until retirement of the train about 1938. Other station masters to serve in this post included Miss Ruth Leroy, J.S. Tucker, and a Mr. Adams.

The second station was Travis Station, located on the south side of the road, now U.S. 64, at the present site of Larry's Supermarket. Station master at Travis was Mr. Walter C. Owens. The third station was Woodley Station, located on the south side of U.S. 64 at the intersection of the road leading to Cross Landing and the road to the WUND-TV Antenna.

Old' REMEDIES



Smelling salts- for people who fainted.

A tablespoon of whiskey- to make measles break out.

Flax seed tea- to ease the cough of whooping cough.

Sulphur and lard - mixed into a paste and applied for the Seven-Year Itch, both to cure it and to prevent it after a person had been exposed.

A mixture of camphor gum and whiskey- for colds, chest diseases, and catarrh.

Mustard Plaster- applied to the chest for chest diseases, such as congestion.

Tobacco Poultice- used on sprains, strains, severe bruises, and bee stings.

Irish Potato Poultice- applied to burned area of skin to draw out fire.

Laudanum- used for earache.

Rose water and glycerine- used to soften skin, chapped lips, hands, etc. Is still used today to some extent.

Vicks and vaseline have been "cure-alls" for many years and are still used, but perhaps not as extensively as in the past.



A Link With Civilization

The 18,000 feet long Albemarle Sound Bridge has been in the news because of its prolonged closing to motor traffic, due to its pilings being undermined by ice in the January 1977 freeze. This event brings to mind two Tyrrell County citizens, C.W. Tatem and C. Earl Cahoon, whose vision and promotional activities played a big part in bringing about the construction of the bridge which has meant so much to the people south of the Albemarle sound.

Prior to the bridge's completion in 1938 all counties south of the sound, except for Dare, were in an almost isolated condition. The only egress to northern markets was a lengthy trip via Williamston, thence east to Edenton, over the Eden House Bridge, built 11 years earlier spanning the Chowan River, and thence to Norfolk. There was for a few years a small boat-shaped ferry which ran between Mackey and Edenton, about three trips daily. This ferry was unwieldy for motor traffic. Not more than three of the smaller cars or two trucks could be carried on each trip. Ferry passage was not free. Cash per car to cross was \$2.50. It carried passengers and freight for a set price per person and package. Wooden crates of bottled drinks cost 5¢ in ferry tolls. Coca Cola, bottled in Elizabeth City, was about the only bottled drink available. The merchants were required to pay the extra ferry charge of 5¢ to bring them to Columbia.

C.W. Tatem, Representative for Tyrrell County in the N.C. General Assembly, had been appointed by the speaker of the N.C. House as Chairman of the House Roads Committee. Tatem and Cahoon, who had been an active promoter of good roads in Tyrrell County, discussed a great deal the isolation of the area. The two men agreed that a bridge across the Sound was a possibility and could unite the Albemarle Region and eliminate extra cost to farmers and the business people. They both agreed to see what could be done, with Mr. Tatem using his influence on the roads Committee and Mr. Cahoon canvassing those in authority to sell them the idea. The first location they selected was Dewey's Pier in Tyrrell to a point in Perquimans County below Hertford. Some Tyrrell merchants and business men came out against this location for fear that much local trade would go out of the county. They made a trip to Raleigh to register their objections.

Mr. Julien Wood of Edenton, then Chairman of the State Highway Commission, took these objections literally and relocated the bridge to where it now stands.

The bridge was formally opened on August 25, 1938. The celebration was a gala event. Estimated attendance was about 10,000 people. There were four brass bands and each of the nine counties had a historical float with additional floats for Miss Albemarle and the Queen's Court. Miss Albemarle was Miss Dorothy Jones of Hyde. Her court was composed of one lovely young lady from each of the nine counties, Miss Laura Bateman, daughter of

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Henry Bateman, represented Tyrrell.

Tyrrell's float honored its native general, James Johnson Pettigrew. Scuppernong Post #112 was in charge of the float with B. Ray Cohoon, commander of the post, J.D. Selby, O.C. Melton, Dennis S. Rhodes and H.M. Armstrong, post members, riding thereon.

To signify the official opening of the bridge, ribbons were cut by two children, a boy and a girl, from each county. Tyrrell was represented in cutting the ribbons by Ann Cohoon, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. Earl Cohoon, and Troy Weatherly, son of Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie Weatherly of Gum Neck. Ann and Troy were each seven years old. Mrs. Sidney McMullan of Edenton, a former resident of Columbia, was in charge of the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Dignitaries who made addresses were Ex-Governor J. C. B. Ehringhaus and Congressman Lindsay C. Warren. Others participating were Governor Clyde R. Hoey and Colonel E. E. Holland who came as a personal delegate for Governor Price of Virginia.

Mr. C.W. Tatem's granddaughter, Evelyn Arps of Plymouth, and Edna Ray Yerby of Columbia were members of the Queen's Ball Committee that night in Plymouth.

The Tyrrell Committee for the Sound Bridge Celebration were C. Earl Cohoon and W.J. White. To quote an expert from Ben Dixon Macneill's news coverage of the celebration: "The bridge had worked a miracle of union and there is no longer a North Albemarle and a South Albemarle. There is just the Albemarle".

Another Bridge Celebration

The completion in 1926 of the draw bridge at the end of Columbia's Main Street was another cause for celebration in Tyrrell. However, the celebration was not held immediately upon its completion, because the bridge could not be opened until Main Street was paved up to the Court House. The state would not pave the street until curbs and gutters were installed along the side where the street would be. A special board meeting was held to discuss the installation of the curb and gutters. The board decided to begin the installation, even though the town had to pay for it. In 1927 the curb and gutters had been installed, the street was paved, and the bridge was opened, followed by a festive, though delayed, celebration.

Superstitions

1. It is possible to cure a burn by blowing on it and then talking the fire out.
2. It is a token of death:
 - If you dream of muddy water.
 - If you answer an imaginary voice calling you.
3. It's bad luck:
 - If the first person to enter your home on New Year's Day is a female.
 - If a black cat crosses your path, going to the left.
 - If you walk under a ladder.
 - If you wash clothes during the Christmas season.
 - If you wash clothes on Friday 13.
 - If you step over a broom.
 - If a man lets a woman brush snow off his feet.
 - If you wear anything new to a funeral.
4. If your nose itches, you're being talked about.
5. If your nose itches, you are going to have guests.
6. If your left foot itches, you are going to a funeral.
7. If your right foot itches, you are going on strange ground.
8. If your hand itches, you will receive money.
9. A girl born on a dark night will never amount to anything.
10. A boy born on a light night will never amount to anything.
11. If you hear bells ringing, you'll be attending a wedding.
12. If you hear bells ringing, it is a token of death.
13. When your left eye jumps, you are going to be angry.
14. When your right eye jumps, you are going to be happy.
15. If flowers fall by your feet while attending a funeral, you or someone in your family will be dying next.

16. Notice the direction of a dog's howl because that is the direction from which the next death in the community will come.
17. If your shoestring is untied, someone's talking about you.
18. If you sing at the table or in bed, you'll cry a lot.
19. Don't put your shoes under the bed at night, or you may end up bare footed sooner than you think. You may also have bad dreams.
20. Toss salt over your right shoulder into a fire, say your prayers backwards, and go to sleep. You will begin to dream that you are thirsty. The person who brings you water is the one you will marry some day.
21. If a piece of your clothes is suddenly missing, you will soon attend the funeral of a close relative, or you yourself will die shortly.

Want to Make your own Soap?

In the early days of this century, many people in Tyrrell made their own soap. First in a big iron kettle outside, they cooked skins and left-over fat from butchered hogs. To this grease and water, they added box lye and stirred thoroughly. The amount of grease, water, and box lye would vary according to the desired strength and thickness. After this mixture was cooked well, it was set aside to cool and solidify. Then it was cut into desired sizes and shapes.

Tyrrell's Artists

The Jack Rose family of Gum Neck has combined talent and hard work to transform the children's 4-H crafts activities into the thriving at-home business which produces and sells copper-tooled pictures each year.

This family of artists includes five full-fledged members of the Albemarle Craftsman Guild. To qualify for membership, each of the five had to execute three separate copper tooling works which would meet the rigorous quality standards.

The guild members are the parents, Jack and Delories, and three of their five children: Tony, Hank and Boyd. The two remaining Roses also participate in the family business. Cindy usually paints the black background which is important in setting off the design or drawing that has been etched in the copper. Jo Ann sands and stains the frames that the copper pictures go into.

The Roses were introduced to copper tooling about eleven years ago when Tony and Hank were casting around for a 4-H craft activity. They began to experiment with the craft. Mrs. Frances Voliva, Tyrrell County Extension Agent, saw potential in their work and arranged for a craft specialist from the state extension office to visit with Mrs. Rose. A workshop was then held where she was taught the fundamentals, and the more she worked in it the more fascinated she became with the challenge. Four years later she qualified for membership in the Albemarle Craftsman Guild. Mrs. Rose has become the most skilled and prolific artist in the family.

Since then, the entire family has become involved, and have learned

that copper tooling requires both artistry and craftsmanship. The designs are drawn on a copper sheet with a hard pencil, using a heavy hand so that the outline of the drawings will be visible on the reverse side. This work requires a steady hand, for if the wrong line is drawn it cannot be erased. Once the design is drawn on, the remainder of the work is done from the back, using a sharpened dial stick, a stylus, a flat wooden stick, and a metal spoon. Clay is packed in the back of the design to hold the shape, and the front is coated with liver of sulfur to antique it. Fine steel wool is used to remove this chemical until the piece has the desired color. The drawing is then covered with lacquer to pre-



vent it from tarnishing, and the background is painted with a special railroader's paint to provide the soft mat finish.

The family sells these original copper pictures in three ways: local and out-of-state craft shops, special orders, and craft shows. Their show sales are matched or even surpassed by special orders. These include personalized pictures of coats-of-arms, birth plaques, weddings, and graduations, and huge assignments like the works depicting the campuses of Duke University, Meredith College, Somerset Place, Hope Plantation, and several hospitals in and out of state. Personal designs exceed all other orders.

The Roses' copper toolings have thus far found their way into twenty-seven states and four foreign countries. The tally may be higher, but they have orders or correspondence to confirm these figures. Many opportunities have been opened



because of the fine quality and detail in their work. There have been offers to teach in several schools and colleges in North Carolina, Virginia, and South Carolina. The family had the opportunity to work with Design Dimensions, Inc. in Raleigh, N.C. in crafting a special award for honoring Dr. John Caldwell, Chancellor of N. C. State University. Many invitations have been offered from large art and craft shows such as the Frederick Art Show in Maryland, the largest wholesale-retail show in the country. An invitation was extended from the Carolina Classic which has shows scheduled around the country the entire year. The only way anyone can be a part of this show is to be an outstanding craftsman whose work

has been seen by the director, and deemed of outstanding quality. Only artists who are award winners and professionals are included in this show.

There have been many pictures designed and made for special occasions and hung in places of honor. Some of these include the ones made for the House of Representatives, Congressman Walter Jones, and Billy Carter. A special design was made for the Federal Association



of Extension Service who presented it to the National President in Colorado. A design of the Armed Forces insignia was made for Diversified Marketing and carried to Surry, England, for approval. It was passed and contracts were drawn up. A special picture was entered into a state show and was chosen to be in a National show sponsored by the Extension Service; then it was displayed in Disney World for a week. This particular picture was taken from one of John White's paintings of the Indians cooking fish outdoors and was drawn by Max Liverman, a very talented artist who has been involved in drawing many of the personal pictures that have been put into copper.

A plaque of a peanut plant loaded with peanuts was made and presented by Delories Rose to Billy Carter at the 1977 Peanut Show in Ahsokie.

A picture of the original Tyrrell County Courthouse won first place in State competition in Raleigh. It will be submitted in National competition in New York in April 1977.

The Roses have had many of the leading magazines and newspapers to carry feature stories about their work and family. They have also been invited on several TV shows to be interviewed and to demonstrate their work. This publicity has been a tremendous help in carrying their work so far so fast. The editor of The Carolina Country Magazine received an award from the International Association of Business Communicators for an outstanding story on the family.

Each member of the family readily agrees that it has taken a great deal of hard work and patience to accomplish so much. Many wonderful things have happened and each one realizes that God blessed them with this talent and helped them. For this they are grateful.



Wesley Chapel

Located in Alligator, the Wesley Chapel Methodist Church is one of the oldest churches remaining in Tyrrell County.

On December 3, 1831, John Brickhouse, Sr., deeded and conveyed one acre of land adjoining his own, which was known as "The Island" for the purpose of building a house designed for a Methodist Meeting House to the trustees: Samuel Leigh and John Brickhouse, Jr.

This church was moved from "The Island" on May 20, 1844, to a 3/4 acre plot of land on the north side of Little Alligator Creek. This lot was sold by John McCleese to the trustees of Methodist Episcopal Church known as the "Wesleyan". After the church was moved, steel girders were put under it for security. Supposedly these steel girders are still there today.

On December 15, 1879, a 1/2 acre lot was conveyed to the trustees of Wesley Chapel Church by Benjamin Spruill and wife, Nancy Spruill. This lot joined the Wesley Chapel Church lot located in Alligator Township and has been used as a cemetery and church lawn since then.

Very few changes have occurred in the structure of Wesley Chapel since it was constructed in 1831. It remains as it was originally built, a one-room, wooden church with no classrooms or bathrooms.

The approximately thirty members of Wesley Chapel hold Sunday School each Sunday morning. However, at present, preaching services are held only on third Sunday morning with the Reverend Fred Dillon serving as pastor.



"IT Can Be Said She Retired with A Smile"

Mrs. Clara Alexander, a native of Tyrrell County, the daughter of Alonza and Mary Melson, holds a degree in Primary Education from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She began her teaching career in Tyrrell County schools in 1922. She taught for three years at River Neck School, three years at Sound Side School, and one year at Travis School. When Travis School was consolidated with Columbia High School, she came to Columbia as a first grade teacher, and taught until 1940. She moved to Jamesville then and taught first grade there for nine years.

In 1950, she moved to Durham and taught first grade at Hope Valley High School for fifteen years. She has now retired from teaching and moved back to Tyrrell County.

Mrs. Alexander shared with us some of her feelings and impressions concerning retirement.

"Clearing my desk and files before retiring as a first grade teacher for forty-three years in the public schools of North Carolina, I said, 'I always thought there should be someone who would be sorry when someone retires'. Then I laughed and said, 'Well, there is in my case. Billie Reese said she would miss me as lunch companion'.

"Teaching has been my life. Retiring before the required age limit has nothing to do with any dissatisfaction with school, administration or faculty. They are the greatest.

"It's just that there are some things I would like to do and do them at an age, when I can get the fullest enjoyment.

"My beginning in the teaching profession was in my home town, Columbia, North Carolina. The people were so good to me there. There was this wonderful loyalty from parents, the extreme kindness of my first principal, and dear superintendent, the Reverend Walters, and the comradeship of my students. I was a real greenie then. If I had started anywhere else, I may not have responded as much to the calling. Thank you, dear people, for your patience and understanding.

"In my forty-three years, it was a great pleasure working with the boys and girls and seeing them grow physically and educationally, for which I feel I have been greatly rewarded.

"It's great to be back home again".



Did You Know?

...Roads and transportation in the county were so poor that even as late as the early 1900's, many students who lived in the county boarded in Columbia in order to finish high school there.

...The way rattlesnake meat cooks determines whether or not the snake bit himself before dying. If he did, the meat will foam while being cooked.

...A mild winter can be expected if a pond has ice thick enough to hold a duck by Thanksgiving.

...A cold winter can be expected if:

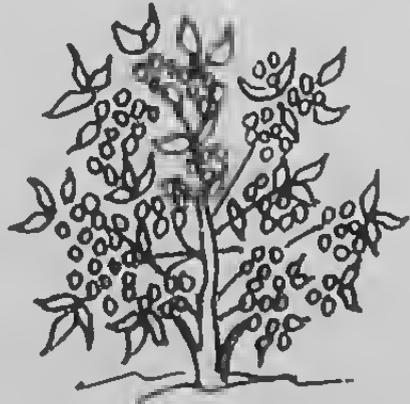
Trees have many berries.

Animal's fur is thick by November.

The Willie worm is furry by November.

Birds migrate early.

There's an overabundance of nuts.



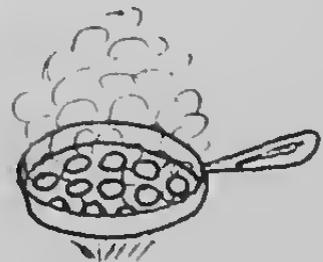
...The first sidewalks on Main Street in Columbia were of brick and were installed by owners of the property in the early 1800's. The pavement on streets and sidewalks (replacing the brick) was laid about 1927.

...The ancestors of a well-known American writer, Booth Tarkington, came from Tyrrell County. In fact, the Mr. Tarkington who gave the name, Heart's Delight, to the town now known as Columbia, was a kinsman of Booth Tarkington.

...Vepco first brought electric light to Columbia in 1926-27.

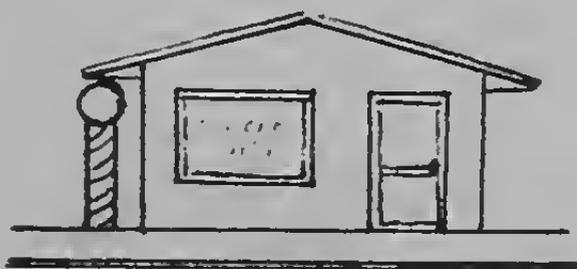
...Most of the large farms in Tyrrell County at one time had their own blacksmith shops with a tenant who could do repair work. Even some of the small farms had shops large enough to do their own work and some for the neighbors in exchange for their work, never for cash.

...Mr. Tom Holidia, who lived on the Creeks, could remove warts and other skin diseases. So could Mrs. Harriet Alexander.



...Tyrrell County was noted for its beautiful women.

...Billy Hassell ran a barber shop in downtown Columbia in the early 1900's.



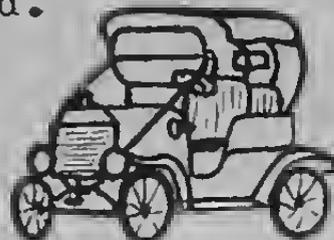
...Mrs. Ruth Leary could blow in a child's mouth and cure thrash.

...Bikes for children were introduced into the county about 1910. But it was rare indeed to see an adult on a bicycle. The streets were either too muddy or too rough for pleasurable and safe riding.



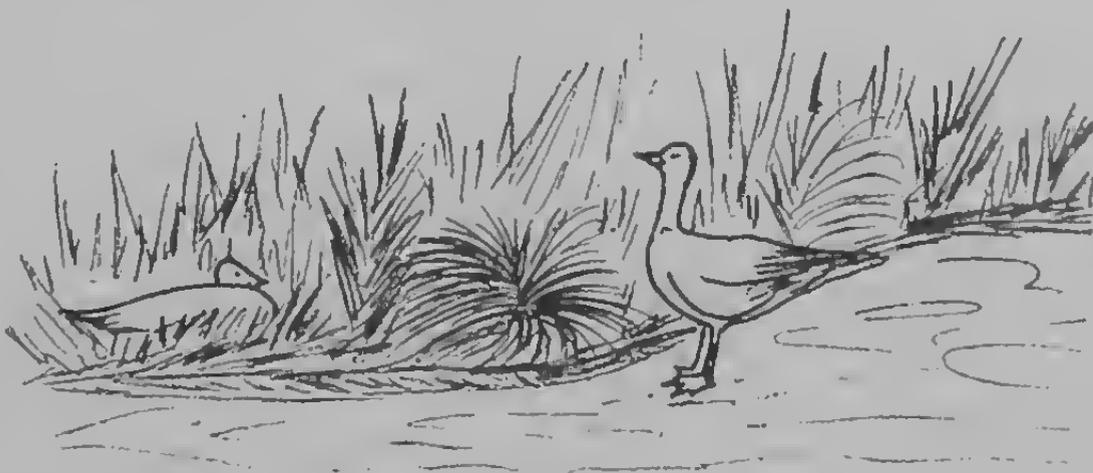
...Mrs. Sadie Spruill could cure burns by talking the fire out of the burn after blowing on it.

...In 1933, an old Model T Ford car was driven across the frozen Albemarle Sound.



...In 1891 when ice covered the river and sound, Israel Wiggins, mail carrier, carried mail from Columbia to Edenton across the frozen sound. Mr. Wiggins married Jane Spruill, and they were the parents of Mrs. Rachel Sykes of Columbia.

...Long before the coming of the Welfare or Social Service Program, Tyrrell County was taking care of its needy people. It had a Poor House or Charity House but with no inmates. The county helped with the support of these people so that they could stay in their own homes with their own families.



RECREATION

TYRRELL COUNTY — EARLY 1900

In the early 1900's in Tyrrell County there was a 9:00 P.M. curfew for young people under the age of sixteen.

With no radio and no television, people depended on the piano and the organ for music. It was a common occurrence for groups of young people to gather at the home of one of them to sing together around the piano. In addition to hymns, they sang popular songs of the day which included:

"Til the Sands of the Desert Grow Cold"

"Whispering Hope"

"My Little Margie"

"Just a Wearyin for You"

"Bells of St. Mary's"

"Memories"

"There's a Long, Long Trail"

"Missouri Waltz"

"My Little Dream Girl"

"That's How I Need You"

"My Little Girl"

"I'm Always Chasing Rainbows"

"Mighty Lak'A Rose"

"Break the News to Mother"

"Poor Butterfly"

"Ol' Man River"

"Kind Words Will Bring the Sunshine"

"For Me and My Gal"

"I Wonder What He's Doing Tonight"

"How'ya Gonna Keep 'em Down on the Farm After They've Seen Paree"

"Irene"

"Indiana"

"The Little Ford Rambled Right Along"

"Oh, Susie, Behave"

"My Sweetheart is Somewhere in France"

"Beautiful Ohio"

"I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles"

"I Hate to Lose You—I'm so Used to You Now"



Each Columbia Church had a regularly scheduled all-day picnic every summer. The Columbia Baptist Church held theirs at the Selby place (now Ulyless Clough's home). Captain Bob Knight had a "lighter", a small-type barge, which he fixed up with seats to carry those who had no other way to go. The Albemarle Church held its picnic on the church grounds. The children went swimming at the Sand Banks, now known as Bulls Bay. Chapel Hill Church had a picnic for all of the town churches together.

These all-day picnics usually began about 10:00 A.M. White table cloths were spread on the grounds; there were no tables nor chairs. Those who sat did so on the edge of the table cloth, filled with dishes of the most mouth-watering foods: fried chicken, ham, sausage, roast beef, salads, cakes, pies. Bottled soft drinks were just beginning to find their way into Columbia, possibly about 1914. At these picnics there were wash tubs of chipped ice, literally loaded with bottles of strawberry pop. The pop was sold for five cents a bottle to help defray expenses of the picnic.

Cars were very scarce then, but everybody seemed to find a way to get to and from these picnics. Dozens of young people went in horse-drawn wagons with hay strewn in them. Some people drove horse-drawn buggies and carts. Everybody, adults and children alike, seemed to enjoy this full-day outing of eating, swimming, playing baseball, and just plain news-swapping.

In the autumn there were berry-picking groups and hickory-nut gatherings.

Groups of teens gathered at certain homes during the evening hours and cooked candy. Favorites were fudge and pulled sugar. Games such as "Post Office", "Cut the Ribbon", and "Musical Chairs" were played with an occasional "Treasure Hunt".



It was also an almost nightly occurrence for a group of young men in the seventeen to twenty-five age range to gather on street corners and sing the barbershop type songs. A few of those who participated in this activity were: Donald Selby, Tucker Selby, Percy Selby, Judson L. Walker, Bill Armstrong, and Joseph J. Combs.

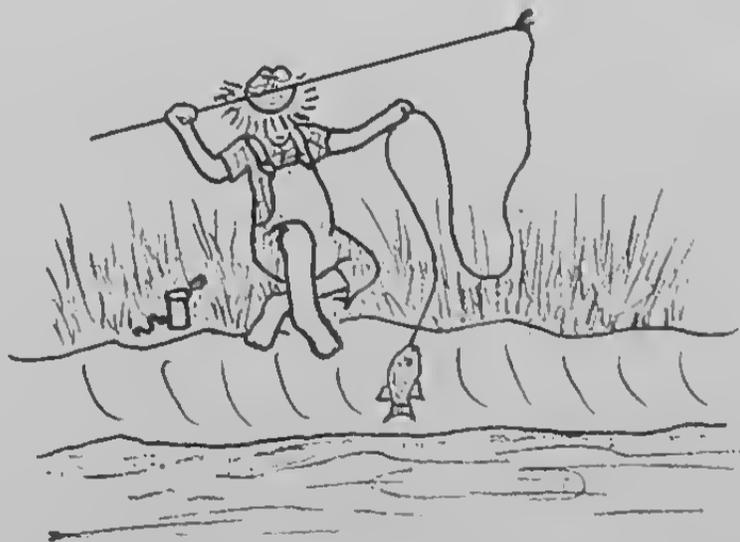


Caroling on Christmas Eve was another pleasant activity of several youth groups of the County. One group, representing Salem Baptist Church, especially stands out in the memory of many people. This group, involving fifty or more people and led by Oley Bowser, Clara Jenkins, and Roger Hill, beginning about 11:00 P.M. on Christmas Eve, made a tour around the entire town, serenading with Christmas carols and Negro spirituals. They did this regularly for many years, possibly twenty-five or thirty, stopping after Christmas of 1945. Theirs was a beautiful rendition, and the townspeople looked forward with eagerness to their coming. It was as if this group heralded the birth of the Christ child and brought joy to the hearts of all.

Fishing with poles in the Scuppernong River was a daily summertime activity by men, women, boys, and girls. It was done for enjoyment and to get a fresh fish for supper.

Swimming at the draw of the old bridge was a favorite summer afternoon recreation, especially for men and boys. Usually girls did not participate in the swimming but stood on the bridge to enjoy the antics.

Children waded in the shallow water in front of the home of Captain Bob Knight each summer afternoon, while their parents sat on Captain Bob's porch or doorsteps to look after their safety.



Any stranger coming to town by train seemed to have a welcoming committee because meeting the Norfolk and Southern train was a daily pastime for the youth of Columbia.

Twice a year, early Spring and late Fall, the "Floating Theater" came to town. That was a real treat. It usually docked on a Sunday about 12:30 P.M. After church services crowds gathered on the bridge to welcome its coming. It stayed a week and showed plays nightly. A reserved seat cost about fifty-five cents.

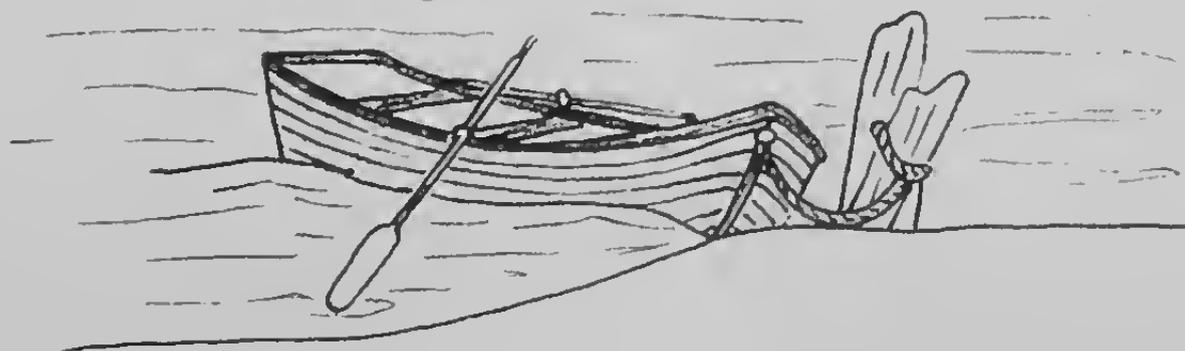
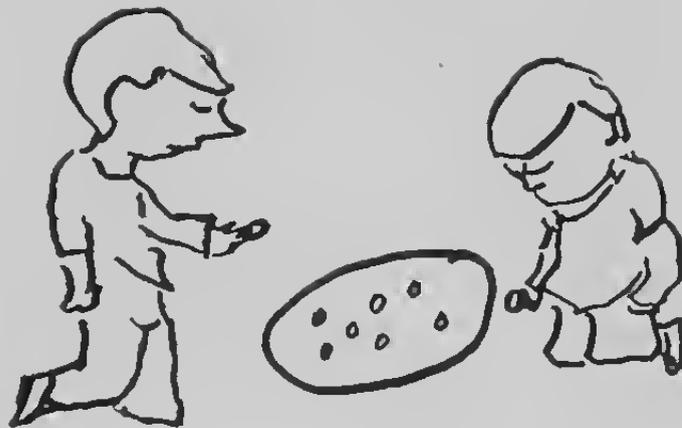
Tennis was beginning to be played in Columbia about 1915.

There were mullet roasts on the beach at night. Also there were chicken stews, sometimes with stolen chickens.

There were circus parades with Brass Bands and occasionally a caliope.

Rowing boats on the river were a common sight.

Smaller children made their own fun: paper dolls, marbles, outdoor games such as "Stealing Steps", "Hide and Seek", "Antony Over", and "Town Ball".



Columbia had a "Cracker-Jack" baseball team made up of local young men. One season they played twenty-nine games and won twenty-seven of them. The team had no coach, but the players themselves selected one of their members as a business manager. Earl Cahoon, first baseman, served in that capacity for several years. Other players were: Ess White and Will S. White, pitchers, Jimmy Taft, pitcher and second base; Tom Yerby, short stop; David Darden, catcher; Ray Cahoon and Joseph Combs, third base; Floyd E. Cahoon, Judson L. Walker, Donald Selby, and Tucker Selby, outfield. On an earlier team Clyde and Forest Liverman were good players.

There were bleachers at the last baseball park which was at the rear of Columbia High School's main building. Earlier there were ball parks at the rear of the Episcopal Church adjacent to Kohlass Street and at the Jim Pinner home beyond the town cemeteries. There were no bleachers at these parks; yet the town businesses closed and everybody attended the afternoon games.

And that is the way it was on the recreational front in Tyrrell County in the early 1900's - maybe not very exciting by today's standards, but good, wholesome fun just the same.



OL' RECIPES

"Scrapple"

Ingredients: pork liver
pork meat
corn meal
sausage
red pepper
black pepper
salt

Cook the meat and seasoning until the meat is very tender. Add the corn meal. It will form a mush. Cook the corn meal and meat together until the corn meal is done. Remove the mixture from the stove and pour into a loaf pan. Cook in the oven until brown. Let it sit until it is cold and then slice to your desire. It is great to eat with eggs and bacon.

"Good Ole Souse"

Ingredients: Hog's head, jaw,
tongue, feet
gristle
fat
salt
pepper

Cook the meat until tender. Remove from the bones and grind very fine. Add a little fat and all the gristle available. The gristle adds to the taste. Salt and pepper the meat to taste. Shape the batter and place it in a loaf pan. Let it sit until it is of slicing consistency.

"Glazed Pecans"

Ingredients: 1 egg white
1 tablespoon water
1 cup sugar
1 teaspoon salt
1 pound pecans
approximately 1 quart

Mix egg white with water and beat until frothy, but not stiff. Add nuts and stir gently until nuts are covered. Mix sugar and salt and add to egg white mixture. Stir carefully, being sure that all nuts are coated.

Spread on large cookie sheet and bake for 45 minutes at 350°. Stir every 15 minutes. Remove immediately from cookie sheet and let cool. Store in air-tight container.

"Old Fashion Pecan Pie"

This recipe makes two pies.

Ingredients: 1 1/3 cups ground pecans
1 1/3 cups sugar
1 tablespoon cornstarch
2 eggs
Dash of salt
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 can evaporated milk

Mix all ingredients together except pecans. Cook on top of stove at medium temperature until thick. Remove from heat and add ground pecans. Pour into baked pie crust. Cool and top with whipped cream. CHILL.

The Hassell Family Cemetery

Family cemeteries abound in Tyrrell County. The Stark Hassell Cemetery is one of the most interesting of these.

This cemetery is located on the Scuppernong Campground property in a grove of trees. This property, located on the banks of the Scuppernong River, is the old Hassell home place. The cemetery was found by Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Legacy in 1971, when they were clearing the land for the campground facilities.

In the cemetery there are thirteen marked graves and one unmarked grave. There are also several depressions in the area directly behind the line of marked graves. These seem to indicate other graves, but just how many is uncertain.

When the Starke Hassell cemetery was found, an interesting question was raised. From letters of the descendants of the Starke Hassell family, it seems there may be another family cemetery close by, this cemetery being that of the Tarkington family. However, this cemetery has not been located. From available information, it seems that it should be found in the woods directly across the Scuppernong River from the campground.

On the opposite page is a plat which shows the order in which the graves lie in the Starke Hassell family cemetery.



<p>Mary Wife of Jeremiah Phelps</p> <p>Oct. 12, 1777 Aug. 21, 1854</p>	<p>Several Depressions in this area</p>					
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<p>Starke Son of Starke H. and Mahala</p> <p>Sept. 3, 1842 Aug. 2, 1844</p>	<p>George Thompson Son of Starke H. and Mahala</p> <p>Jan 10, 1838 Sept, 1, 1842</p>	<p>Mahala Wife of Starke</p> <p>Sept. 11, 1804 Aug. 11, 1879</p>	<p>Starke Hassell Son of Joshua H. and Elizabeth</p> <p>Aug. 20, 1791 Feb. 12, 1846</p>	<p>William W. Son of Starkey H. and Mahala</p> <p>Apr. 28, 1830 Jan. 28, 1848</p>	<p>JOHN WILSON son of Starkey and Mahala</p> <p>Apr. 30, 1844 Oct. 10, 1848</p>	<p>James L. Hassell Son of Starke and Mahala</p> <p>Feb. 22, 1835 Dec. 22, 1865</p>	<p>Eliza Wife of J.L. Hassell</p> <p>Sep. 23, 1838 July 3, 1870</p>	<p>Georgianna Dau. of J.L. and Eliza Hassell</p> <p>1862 - 1865</p>
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<p>Mound</p>			<p>Martha E. Wife of B.F. Hassell</p> <p>Jan. 14, 1843 Mar. 2, 1916</p>	<p>B.F. Hassell Son of Starke and Mahala Hassell</p> <p>July 7, 1832 June 5, 1904</p>	<p>George Lee Son of B.F. + Mahala E. Hassell</p> <p>Sep. 9, 1865 Sep. 24, 1868</p>	<p>Somewhere in this area is buried. Webb Hassell Son of B.F. + Martha E. B. Dec. ---- 1868 D. July 15, 1931 This information supplied by his son Webb Hassell on July 24, 1973</p>
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North

Front of stones

MOUNT Mariah

The Methodist Church, now known as Mount Mariah, was established on March 18, 1886 and was located on Cobe Road. In 1922 the members of the church bought some land from Mr. Charlie Pledger, and moved the one-room, wooden, unpainted church to its present location. The members of the church moved it themselves by putting the building on logs and pushing it. The church was remodeled after it was moved. The name, Mount Mariah, was suggested by Mr. John Macpherson.

Among Mount Mariah's many pastors since its relocation are the following: Rev. E.R. Burden, Rev. Johnny Brickhouse, Rev. B. F. Harrison, Rev. Richard Dicks, Rev. Lewis White, Rev. J.J. Moore, Rev. W.F. Willis, Rev. Curtis Newby, and Rev. Turner. The present pastor is the Reverend Thomas White.

A trustee board was formed on April 24, 1887. It consisted of: R.F. Sykes, Thomas Respass, Spencer Brickhouse, Thomas McCleese.

At present the church members are engaged in a building fund drive in order to finish the new church now in the process of being built.



Coon Hunting - Tyrrell Style

Coon hunting in Tyrrell County has been a favorite pastime of much of the male population for decades.

Hunting coons today requires a license, the same as any other game hunting license. The season for hunting with dogs and guns is from October 15 - March 1, and the trapping season is December 20 to February 28. A coon's fur brings about sixteen dollars.

Coon hunting has helped fill Cecil Roughton's leisure time for forty years. His favorite hunting place is River Neck, right around his home. The swamps of Tyrrell County are a favorite habitat of the coons, which feed on crawfish and fish. Coons also like corn and can often be found in the fields eating the farmers' profits.

A coon dog is required for coon hunting because without a dog the hunter could get caught for firelighting. A good coon dog costs anywhere from one hundred to two thousand, five hundred dollars. The best dogs are about four years old. Two or three dogs tracking at a time is ideal. Dogs trail for the coon, and when they find a track, they jump and get the coon up a tree. After they have treed, they stay there until the hunter gets there. "A good dog will stay there all night", says Mr. Roughton. When hunters get there, they shine their lights up into the tree, and when they spot the coon, they shoot him. Sometimes the coon is in a hollow tree, and in this case the tree has to be cut down.

Mr. Roughton remembers one such hunt. "I was fifteen years old when I had to cut down a tree on a hunt. I was holding the dog to keep the tree from falling on him. The dog didn't get hit but a limb hit me over the head. Just busted my head a little".

Many coons inhabit our area. They are hunted at night; they are generally night animals.

The pelts bring good money, but, according to Mr. Roughton, coons also make a good dish. "I've eaten many a coon," he says.



Letters To SWAMPROOTS

The staff of SWAMPROOTS welcomes letters from its readers. Excerpts from two much-appreciated letters follow.

While visiting Columbia in 1975 and 76, I was pleased when your principal gave me a copy of SWAMPROOTS for the previous years. I found them very interesting and was most appreciative.

I wonder if it would be possible for me to buy a copy of the 1976 issue and place me on the mailing list for 1977.

I now have a 1974 and 1975; this would bring me up to date.

Thanking you in advance,
Fred M. Hall
Commissioner
Canoga Park, California

Thank you for the copy of SWAMPROOTS. I read it through before my wife could get me to the supper table. Both she and Lynn enjoyed it, especially the "sayings" that I continue to use.

We are too often unaware of local flavor because we live with it every day. Your reporters have a real task in determining those things which are unique to Tyrrell County and the surrounding area. For some reason I have had an awareness and appreciation of the foods, customs, speech, etc. for a long time and used much of it in my teaching.

One thing that is a "down East" specialty is the one-pot dinner. My guess is that the tradition began very early, and probably Indian cooking customs contributed.

I am sure that there are families which have traditional meals with a unique flavor. My grandmother Beasley served boiled rockfish and bag pudding for Easter Sunday. The bag pudding is probably from her Scotch-Irish background. There was home-made eggnog at Christmas and my grandfather Beasley always made it in a special large tumbler. For Christmas morning breakfast there were always freshly shucked oysters served as oyster stew with small round crackers called Oysterettes. My mother made fruit cakes at Thanksgiving and kept them moist with wine until Christmas. They were always made with dates, raisins, preserved fruit rinds, citron, pecan, walnuts, etc. Many of the ingredients she prepared during the year. The largest fruit cake that I remember weighed sixteen pounds.

My grandparents Beasley, my mother, and I have made wine for years. My grandparents had friends to whom they gave wine each Christmas.

We often "cut herrings" during the spring herring run. Mother would usually go to the home of Ed and Fanny Roughton and help dress

the herrings fresh from the pound nets. Pay was in the form of roe and milt, she-roe and he-roe. We ate the roe fried or scrambled with eggs. We also canned it for later use.

Oyster stuffing for turkey or chicken was made by both my grandmothers. Mother made a great variety of fritters-corn bread that had crunchy and lacy edges-oyster, fresh corn, etc. She made burgers from venison, bear, beef, and turtle. Turtle, either as fried burgers or stewed, was a favorite of grandfather Beasley. Perhaps his favorite seafood was stewed sturgeon, and therein lies a tale.

Jim Rhodes, Earl's father, fished commercially and sold some of his catch from the trunk of his car. Usually a half dozen or so mullets or other fish were offered as a unit, strung on wire run through the eye sockets. He would stop and ask my grandfather, Uncle Tom, what kind of fish he wanted. Once the choice was made he would turn back a sack, guano, and ask, "Wouldn't you druther have these?" The "these" would be sturgeon. I've seen the routine repeated a number of times. It was a game my grandfather cherished.

When I was young, we lived on the edge of the Newlands section. Our neighbors were Eugene and Lem Ainsley, Tom Smith, Than Armstrong and their families. Bobwhite quail were common around the farm as were wood cocks, locally called snipes. In late winter and early spring the woodcocks staged their mating rituals at dusk. The male bird flies upward in a tight spiral uttering a call all the while. Suddenly the call stopped and the male plummeted down to land beside his intended and uttered a "squamp" sound.

We carried corn and soybeans to be ground by Gilliam Ainsley in the Cross Landing section. Mr. Gilliam had a "one-lung" engine that went "putt, putt, - , putt, putt, putt, putt, - , putt" in kind of a stutter. Our grain was ground for toll - from each bushel a measure was taken by Mr. Gilliam as his fee. The mill was on the property of Mitchell "noll's" family.

While we lived at the Anne Liverman place, Newlands, we grew peanuts, and made wine from our Scuppernongs and cider. Sometimes the neighbors would gather at our house for a hoe-corn. Everyone brought something - butter, sugar, etc. Mother made fudge with freshly ground unperched peanuts. Mr. Tom Smith played banjo, Mr. Blake played fiddle, Wade Cooper played guitar and mouth harp, Henry Joe Liverman, Graham Liverman, and others played other instruments. There was a house full.

Often, when a family had sickness, fire, or other disaster, the neighbors came together and gave goods and money. There was much barter. My mother bartered surplus field and crowder peas, eggs, grapes, beans, and other produce for groceries. There was always a large garden and we canned a large variety of foods - mixed vegetables for soup, corn, beans, several types of pickles, watermelon rind preserves, peaches as preserves and pickled, a plesauce, grape and tomato juice, tomatoes, grape preserves, pumpkin, peas, beans, beets, fish roe, fish (in a pressure cooker came out like canned mackerel), meat, soup stock made from the bones and scraps of meat, and many, many more. Apples were dried as were peaches. All during the year fruit cake ingredients were prepared.

When we needed a plowshare sharpened, we carried it to Uncle Cherley Peele, the blacksmith. Uncle Charley came to Tyrrell County as a railroad worker but opened a blacksmith shop which he maintained for many years.

The fish fry on the shore has to be one of Tyrrell's fine traditions. My grandparents Beasley were good friends of Mr. Ab Rhodes

and his family. The two men fished together commercially. His son, Jim, and Jim's wife, Stella, were my parents' age, and they had a son Earl, my age. Late in the summer afternoon you could see the mullets jumping on "Ab's Shoal", as they headed into the shallow water for night time feeding. Nets would be set near shore. A fire made from driftwood would be started so it would be burned down to a bed of coals by time the nets were fished. Just at dusk the first check of the gill nets was made. Any fish were brought to shore, cleaned, and cooked. There were cornbread, coffee, and fresh-cut-of-the-water fish, and all delicious. Mr. Ab usually cleaned some fish, wrapped them, buried them in the sand under the fire, and baked them. At such gatherings, there were usually Ed and Fanny Roughton, who were also kin.

Ab Rhodes, Willy Spencer, and Henry Smith were excellent boatwrights. Each made a somewhat different type, but their workmanship was something to swear by. Henry Smith filled his screw holes with weldwood glue and fizzle dust, dust from his wood sander.

There were several now non-existent settlements in Tyrrell County, such as on the southfork in Alligator, Mills', and at Gum Neck. Colonial Beach was our local resort when I was very young. Logging was once a big business in Tyrrell County and oxen were used to drag logs from the woods. Once, near an old log skidder set, I learned a lesson in wild animal behavior.

I was riding my bicycle along the path to our house on the Anne Liverman place between Newlands and Cross Landing. A bobwhite quail suddenly appeared in the path beside the old skidder set. It was obvious that she was injured because she fluttered and couldn't fly. I jumped from the bicycle and ran to catch her. Little quail ran into the weeds. I never did catch that quail because she suddenly became "well" and flew off. Soon she was calling. My father told me it was a ruse to decoy me from her brood. Later I saw our dog, Promise, lured almost across the river where Ulysses Clough now lives. He was rambling the shore as we fished and flushed a wood duck from her nest. Promise swam at least 300 yards after that "injured wing" duck.

Keep up the good work. Too much of our meaningful heritage is being forgotten. Many of the ways of simpler days have not been replaced by worthy substitutes. If I can be of any assistance whatever, please call on me.

Sincerely,
William R. West
Burlington, NC

The Epidemic - 1918

In 1918 an epidemic of Spanish influenza more or less paralyzed Tyrrell County. Every home was affected, whole families in cases. Folks were dropping dead throughout the county. The epidemic was so serious that the United States Government was forced to send help. This army doctor lent a hand to the resident physicians in their too frequent house calls.

There was a meeting of all able Tyrrellinians in the courthouse to learn of necessary precautions against the flu. A couple of these precautions were wearing masks whenever in the neighborhood of the illness and always having a basin of water and Lysol ready for fast disinfecting of hands and arms after contact. Also discussed at this meeting were nursing methods for those already stricken.

Mrs. Beatrice Armstrong McClees, an outstanding willing volunteer nurse, tells of some of her experiences during this time. "The Episcopal Church bell ringing was a notice to us that the war was over". From that time in November on into the new year Mrs. McClees was busy working in contaminated homes. "I was in and out of the flu that year, and, do you know, not a member of my family had the flu". Mrs. McClees often made rounds with Doctor Stewart and Jenny Brickhouse, practical nurse. They would often go to homes and find everyone in bed.



In such cases the neighbors would milk the cows and tend to the chickens for the stricken.

The existing doctors in the county made their rounds and would make calls at any time. In fact, it was not unusual to hear of their working all night.

A soup kitchen was set up in Mrs. A. L. Walker's home to prepare broth for the sick. Mrs. Walker's son, Judson L. Walker, and daughter, Mrs. Blanche Cahoon, delivered this soup to the homes of the sick daily. As it was rare that any home didn't fall into this category, they were always busy. Mrs. Cahoon recalls that terrible time.

"As I remember it, it was the most dire situation that has ever happened in my lifetime. Whole families throughout the county and town were stricken with no one to care for them. People were afraid that they also would get it. It was almost an hourly message that some friend had died. A meeting was held in the court room in the Tyrrell County Courthouse for the purpose of our self protection against the disease. As I remember, Mrs. Beatrice McClees was the first person who volunteered her services to help a stricken family. Several women volunteered to

make soup to be carried to those stricken. My home was one of the so-called "soup kitchens". Three women, Mrs. Ben Duncan, Mrs. Yates, and another (I can't recall her name) who lived on Water Street, came to the home of my mother, Mrs. Arthur L. Walker. There they prepared the ingredients and made the soup. When the soup was finished and put into jars, my brother, Judson T. Walker, and I delivered the soup on our prearranged route. This route included all houses from my home on both sides of Main Street and beyond town to include Dillon's Ridge. One large family I recall where every person was stricken was at a Mr. Peter Alexander's. I did the delivery at the house in each instance and picked up the jars, delivered the day before, for sterilization. Strangely enough I did not get the virus until two years later. The Lord looks after those who help their fellow man".

It was very rare to hear of a household free from the dreaded and often fatal disease. This crisis showed how a time of need often pulls people closely together. Neighbors lent a hand to one another at the risk of their own lives. Though the epidemic only lasted three to four months at the most, it was the worst by far ever heard of. "There was no modern medicine when the pneumonia struck", said Mrs. B. Cahoon. "It was deadly".

According to Mrs. Margaret Meekins, the flu was brought over through infected World War I soldiers on the U. S. Mongola. These flu-stricken soldiers were packed so closely together that some of them actually died standing up. Having the flu was no joy ride. Mrs. Meekins told us, "In March, 1918, I had it. I



just collapsed one day and was carried to the hospital unconscious. I went to Sara Leigh, which is now Leigh Memorial, and they kept me there a whole month". The flu was not something that affected only the lungs. "It affected my heart and possibly started my blindness. I remember having pain in my eyes".

Even though it was a widespread and fatal disease, the doctors knew very little about it at the time. "They didn't understand it, didn't know what it was, only that it was something terrible", said Mrs. Meekins. "The doctors back then worked hard. They could cure broken bones and cuts, and they sometimes even tended to sick animals, but actually they didn't know what to do about the flu".



Flectwood Hopkins remembers that the towns

people were also confused. He told us, "Many people tied onions and asafetida around their necks to ward off the flu."

Marvin Cooper said, "The winter of 1917-1918 was very severe. The temperature ranged in the teens, and the snow was knee-deep."

The problem was not the weather, however. The catch

came with "hospitals running over with people who had no one to look after them", says Mrs. Betty Hassell. There were not enough beds, doctors, nurses, or volunteers to cope with the situation.





The Macmullen private home was converted into a make-do hospital for Tyrrell County, and people were brought from all over the county. It was not until 1922 that the Columbia Memorial Hospital was founded.

The Flu Epidemic of 1918 was something that people will long remember. When it struck, it left scars sometimes physical, sometimes in the form of terrible memories. Mrs. Ida Owens' memory contains one such scar. Her entire fam-

ily, save for her husband and oldest son, were taken with the flu. "It was an awful time", she said. One comfort was found in Preacher Cox going around with food, coverings, and prayers.

After the epidemic had finally run its course, there was much rejoicing. In the homecoming parade following World War I, there was a float depicting times during the epidemic. Mrs. Helen Melson described this float for us. The float was a small imitation of the hospital rooms of that time, with a small bed and a nurse dressed in a little Red Cross uniform.

The flu was over and the grief was finally easing, but the lesson it taught and the good nature of people will long be remembered.



Remember These?



COLUMBIA HIGH SCHOOL
COLUMBIA, N. C. (5)



MOVE
UP
FORWARD

PAGE II

COLUMBIA, NORTH CAROLINA, FEBRUARY 29, 1928

COUNTY COMMENCEMENT IS HELD FRIDAY

Last Friday morning marked the closing of the six months schools in Tyrrell county. It was a beautiful day. At ten o'clock all of the schools of the county assembled on the Columbia school grounds and then marched through the town.

The program was opened by the singing of America, and this was followed by the invocation, given by Rev. Crumpler. Supt. Cox introduced the speaker.

Before a full house Hon Walter S. Cahoon delivered an inspiring talk which rose to heights of eloquence at times. In substance he said that God had given man a brain to use and the people of Tyrrell county were not using it. He continued by saying the brain must be trained, and the school house was the only place to do it. If you want to reach a harvest in twenty five years build your school system. In closing words he told of Aycork's boyhood, and how he swore to help free North Carolina of illiteracy. Illiteracy is the cause of Eastern North Carolina's backwardness, and it is only eliminated through the school. We must be taught to use our brain as well as our hand.

A program given by the schools of the county followed the speech. One of the best numbers was a song by six jolly little pickaninies. A debate was held between Gum Neck and Columbia. There was also a spelling contest.

After lunch various athletic contests were held including a basketball game between Gum Neck and Columbia.

HIGH SCHOOL HONOR ROLL FOR FEBRUARY

Again the Muf makes an attempt to produce a high school honor roll asking the students to remember the selector has tried to take into consideration the many things that go to the making up of a good student—correct attitude towards the school, effort on his or her part to build up the school, effort to better oneself, sincerity of purpose, athletically inclined results.

Eighth Grade—
No all-round student.

Jim Reynolds—honest, good worker a promising farmer.
Ninth Grade—

Again no all-round student.
Nedum Brickhouse — good worker and gets results.
Tenth Grade—

William E. Bateman—athlete, a little boy, debater, good mathematician mind.
Eleventh Grade—

Vivian Wynne—earnest effort, very sincere, splendid attitude, good in basketball.

Travis Harris—All-round student.

Students may consider it quite an honor to find their names within the group of those who accomplish. The Muf would like to see the names of the students who are not in the group.

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watch clock repair

Vacant Lot

J.C. McClees Store

Sam Sykes store

Vacant Lot

Service Station

Draw Bridge

MAIN

Scuppernon

Standard oil station

Columbia motel

WATER STREET

Davis COFFIELD Store

ALLEY

William H. McClees Groceries

Post office

Drug Store

Carolina Banking + Trust Co.

yerby clothing store

yerby quality store

Dr. C. Make Drug Store

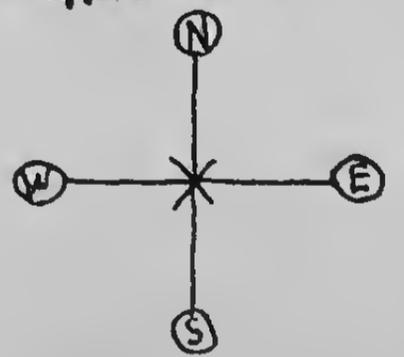
Carle

Texaco oil whole sale plant

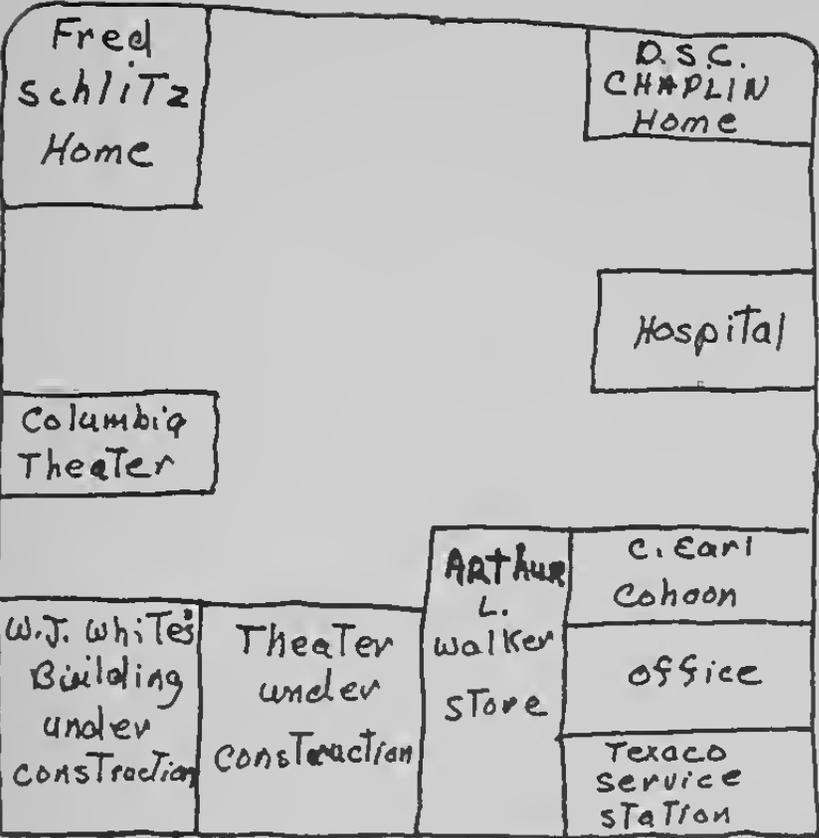
D. Wabbe Hossell's House



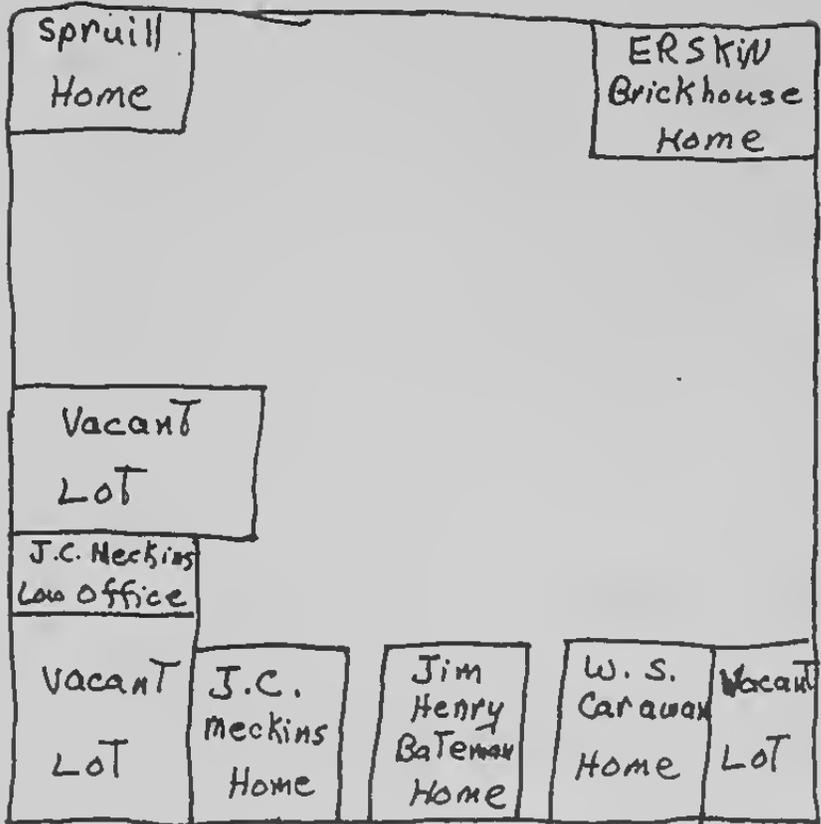
NORFOLK & SOUTHERN RAILROAD



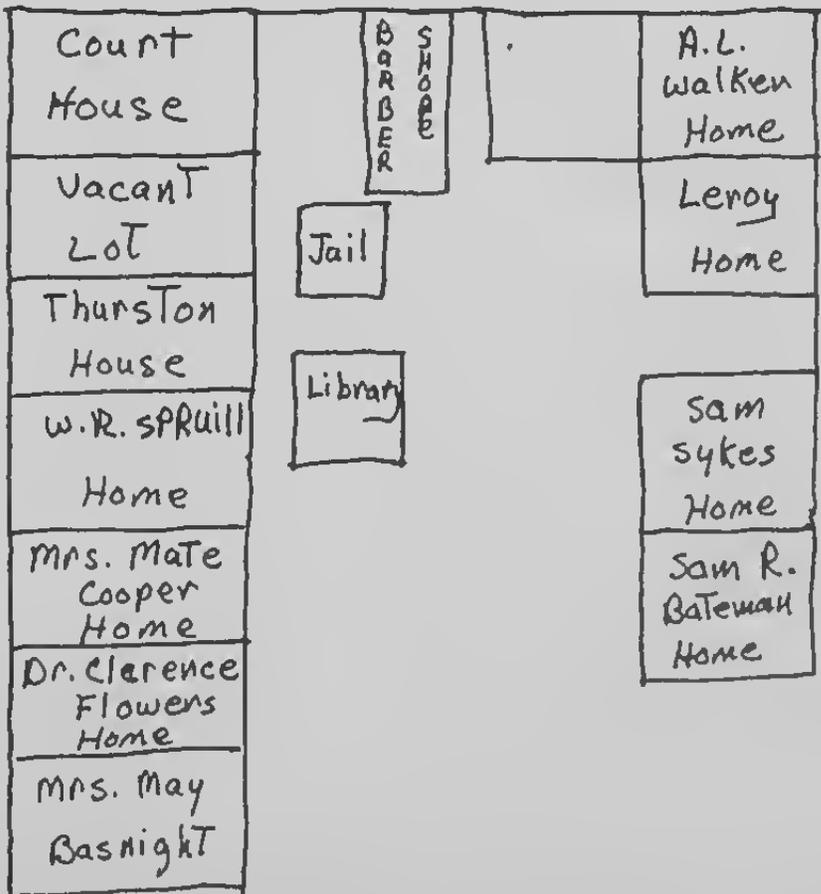
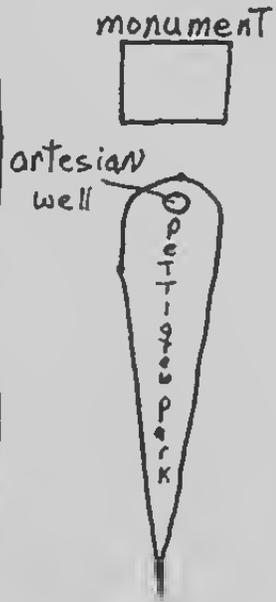
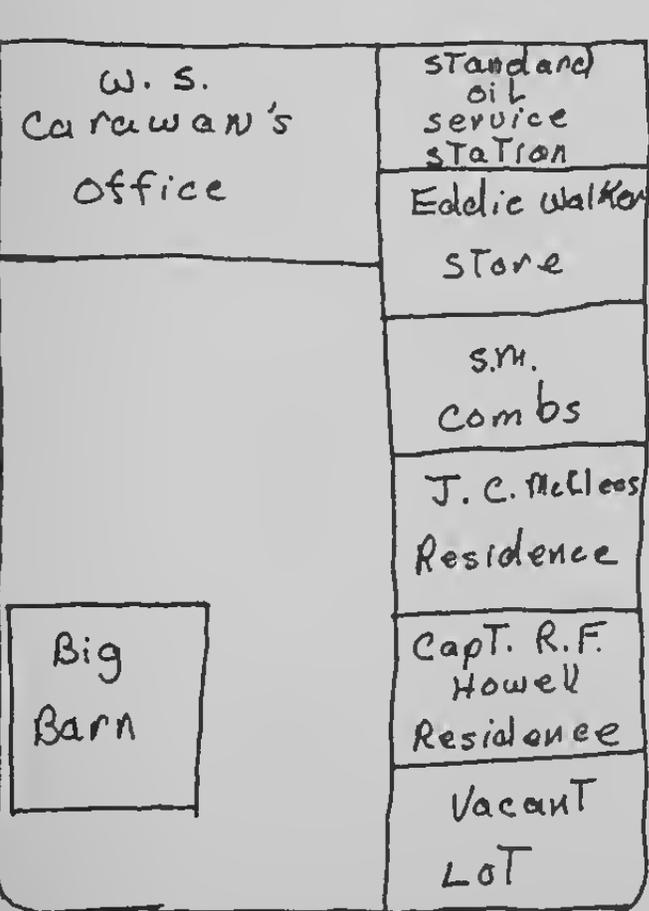
This may not be a completely accurate sketch, but it is Columbia in the early 1930's as remembered by one of her senior citizens.



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Rail Road Station

OUR SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Clara Alexander

Elizabeth Bowser

Buddy Brickhouse

Blanche Cahoon

Marvin Cooper

David E. Davis

Loretta Furlough

Betty Hassell

Fleetwood Hopkins

Lovie Howett

Beatrice McClees

Margaret Meekins

Helen Melson

Esther Mercer

Betty Sue Morris

Ida Owens

Sandra Owens

Register of Deeds Office

Maggie Respass

Delories Rose

Cecil Roughton

Sandy Simmons

Robyn Skinner

Theodore Skinner, Jr.

Karen Swain

William West

Bill White

Robin Woodard

Chris Reynolds

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