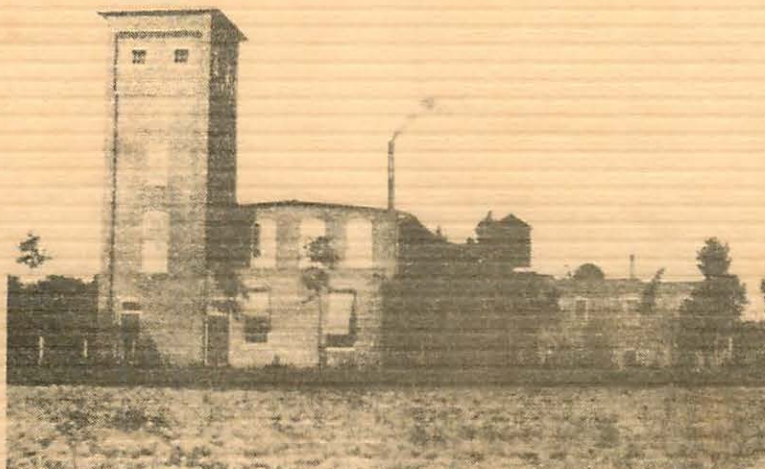


FIRST EVER RUNNYMEDE REUNION

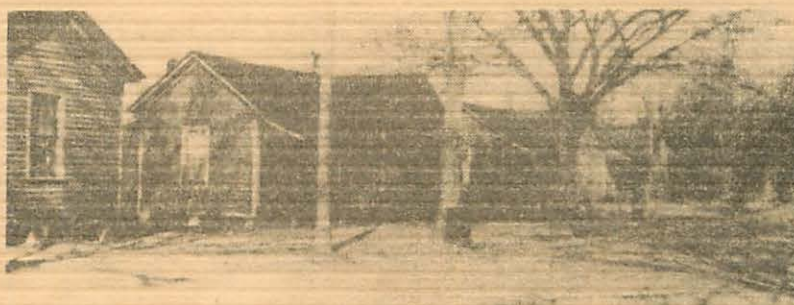


SEPTEMBER 10, 1988

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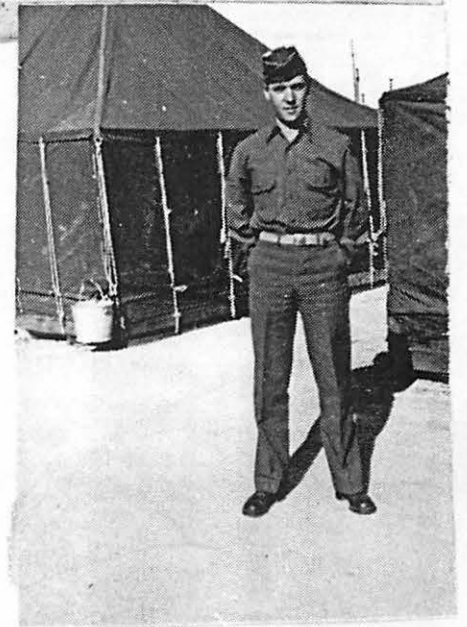
Village scene, Runnymede Mills.



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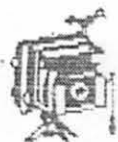


REUNION ATTENDEES

ABRAMS, NORWOOD & FRANCES HARRELL
 ACREE, JEFFREY & MARGARET
 ALFORD, LAWRENCE E. & DELORES
 ALLISON, DON
 ARNER, DEBBIE
 BAKER, PEGGY
 BARNETTE, "BUNK"
 BEANON, J. W. & RONNIE MAE GRIFFIN
 BELL, NELLIE
 BLAND, FLOYD & MARIE
 BLAND, JASON
 BLAND, TREI
 BOYD, HELEN OWENS
 BRADDY, ADA
 BRADLEY, JESSIE L.
 BRADY, TONY & NORMA
 BREWER, CLEVE & NELL
 BREWER, LILIAN E.
 BROWN, ANITA
 BROWN, DEANA L. & BATTS, ANTHONY
 BRYANT, RUBY
 BUNTING, CLYDE & RUTH
 BURGESS, BRUCE & NAOMI
 BURGESS, JESSICA
 BURGESS, SUSIE
 BURRIS, CINDY
 BURRIS, STANLEY & BEVERLY
 BUTLER, BOB (BROTHER) & LENORA
 BUTLER, JACK & BETTY
 BUTLER, RONALD & BILLIE
 CAPPS, GARY & CHERYL
 CARPENTER, ALMA
 CARPENTER, BUDDY & ALICE
 CARPENTER, ELISE T.
 CHERRY, LILLIAN LITTLE
 CLARK, BUCK & EDNA
 CLARK, DAPHNE
 CLARK, DON & LAURA
 CLARK, GAYLON & CATHY
 CLARK, GENE
 CLARK, MICHAEL M. & JULIE
 CLARK, STEPHEN L. &
 CLARK, VERNON & RETHA
 CLARK, WILEY & JEAN
 COBB, BOBBY & GERRIE
 COCHRAN, RICKY
 COLLIE, TERESA NORVILLE
 CONNER, ED & GWEN
 COPPEDGE, MARY "DOODLE"
 CRADDOCK, MARGARET N.
 CRANDALL, CHRISSIE
 CRANDALL, JOHN & ROSALIND
 CRANDALL, WILLIE
 CRISP, RON & YVONNE
 CROSS, BOOCHIE & DOT
 CROSS, FRED & ODELL

DAUGHTRIDGE, WILLIAM F. & REBECCA
 DEWEY, CHARLES
 DEWEY, ELLEN
 ELLIS, ADELE
 EVANS, WILBUR O.
 EVERETT, JOSEPH A. (BUDDY)
 EVERETTE, ALTON
 FARMER, VICKI
 FARRELL, SAVANNAH
 FELTON, TOM & ROSA
 FLINT, JESSE C. & DIANNE
 FLOHR, WALTER & JO ANN
 FRAZIER, SALLY
 FUSSELL, TOM & JANET
 FUSSELL, WILLIE (BROTHER) & EVELYN
 FUTRELL, JOE & ROSA
 GODWIN, BRUCE & RUBY
 GREEN, ALTON (POP)
 GREENE, JANELLE
 GREENE, MADELINE
 GRIFFIN, BETH
 GRIFFIN, RUBY MAE
 GURGANUS, DOUGLAS & JEAN
 GURGANUS, HAYWOOD & GRACE
 GURGANUS, ROBBIE & DEE
 GURKINS, BILL & SARAH "SIS"
 HALE, BRANDON
 HALE, STEPHEN
 HANEY, CARLEE
 HARPER, BOB & JUDITH EVERETT
 HARRELL, BETH
 HARRELL, BOBBY & KAY
 HARRELL, DONNA
 HARRELL, FRANCES
 HARRELL, HAZEL
 HARRELL, KAREN
 HARRELL, PEGGY
 HARRELL, RICHARD & CARRIE
 HARRELL, ROBERT
 HARRELL, ROLAND & PHYLLIS
 HARRELL, SAMBO
 HARRELL, SAMUEL & SHIRLEY
 HARRELL, THOMAS
 HARRELL, WAYNE
 HARRIS, PAUL & ADDIE
 HITT, RICHARD & CHRISTINE
 HOOD, JOE & JUNE
 HOYLE, NORENE C.
 HUDSON, BARRY & BOBBIE
 HUDSON, BUD & DAISY
 HUDSON, CURTIS
 HUDSON, DENNIS & PATSY
 HUDSON, JESSE
 HUDSON, RICHARD (COTTON)
 HUDSON, TOM
 HUDSON, TONY
 HUNNINGS, HOWARD

JENSEN, JENNIFER
 JOHNSON, MICKY P.
 JOHNSON, RAY
 JOHNSON, TREMAIN & ALICE RUTH
 JONES, EDDIE & ELIZABETH
 KEEL, MARGARET
 KEEL, TOMMY & BETTY
 KEELER, ELLEN
 KEENE, AARON L.
 KEENE, DORIS
 KEENE, PETE & EARLINE
 KEENE, STEVE & PAM
 KEENE, VINCENT
 KENT, JOHN E. & BETTY
 KINCADE, BILLY & TERRESA
 KINCADE, JESSIE S.
 KINCADE, JOE
 KINCADE, KELLY
 KINCADE, LISA
 KINCADE, MARY
 LACER, DOUG & LAUREN
 LAND, BERTHA F.
 LANGLEY, MELISSA
 LANGLEY, STELLA
 LANGSTON, BOBBY & VIVIAN
 LANGSTON, MICHAEL
 LASKI, CHARLES & MARGARET
 LEE, ROSA
 LEGGETT, CURTIS & VIRGINIA
 LEVINER, CARL & VIVIAN
 LEVINER, LINDA
 LEWIS, JOHNNY & ALDINE
 LILLEY, RAYMOND B.
 LITTLE, RABY & GUEST
 LONG, JIMMIE & BARBARA
 MANDT, CLAUDIA
 MARTIN, CHARLIE & MYRNA
 MELTON, MAHLON
 MELTON, RAY
 MELTON, ROYSTER
 MILLS, CECIL E. & MARY ALICE
 MOORE, BENNIE L. & BONNIE
 MOORE, LEVY E.
 MOORE, ROY
 MOORE, WILLIAM E. & OLBETA
 MORRIS, DONALD & PAM
 MORRIS, KIMBERLY
 MORRIS, LARRY
 MORRIS, NELL
 NEWELL, WARREN & ISABELL
 NORVILLE, MARTIN (RICKY) & JENNIFER
 NORVILLE, MIKE & GAY
 NORVILLE, TOMMY & HILDA
 O'NEAL, GLENDORA
 O'NEAL, MARY ELIZABETH
 O'NEAL, R. L. & RUBY
 OWENS, HERMAN



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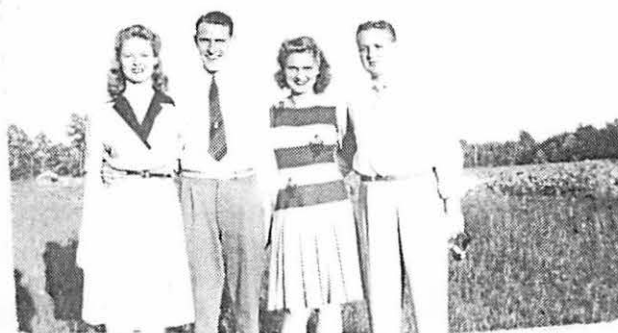
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DO YOU REMEMBER ? ? ?

- * 1938-1945: Playing behind the oil mill in the soybean hulls; Playing at the railroad trestle; Playing "Kick the Can"; Walking on homemade stilts; Building frog houses; "Borrowing" peanuts; Flying june bugs on the end of string; Lightening bug jewelry; Playing in the tower at the mill; Raking leaves and smelling them burn; "Bugging" collards; Going to see the Western serials every Saturday at the Colonial Theater for nine cents admission; Following the ice truck; The Watermelon Man; Shooting rubber guns and pop guns; Watching ball games in the old ball park on Hall Street.

- * 1954 - 1965: Being in the basement of the mill during Hurricane Hazel; Fried chicken every Sunday; Making houses and tanks out of yarn boxes from the mill; Playing hop scotch and jumping rope for hours; 1-2-3 Red Light & Red Rover; Pot holders from loops; Putting pennies on the railroad tracks; The headless train engineer light; The Mr. Softee Ice Cream Truck; Volleyball games in the park by the mill; Mama hollering out the back door to come to supper; The fog machine; Walking to Keene's Grocery and trying to convince him Mama said it was all right to charge candy; Riding to school in Oscar Page's station wagon; Wearing out a pair of roller skates every year; Playing hide and seek under the street light at night; Saturday night teen dances at the American Legion doing the Continental; Riding around and around and around the Hollywood Drive In; How many people we could get in Mr. Hurdley's station wagon; Burgundy and navy blue blouses, Peter Pan collars and roll up sleeves and white skirts and loafers; Madras everything.

Viewpoint

A Brown Bag Christmas

(Editor's note: The News-Virginian is pleased to present this Christmas message for 1985 written especially for its readers by Dr. Ralph M. Piland, minister of Second Presbyterian Church and a frequent "special events" contributor to these columns.)

By Ralph M. Piland

Whenever I see a little brown paper bag during this season of the year, I think of my happy childhood Christmases in a mill village in a small southern town in the midst of the Depression.

A one-room church near my home always had a special Christmas tree for the children of the community. And under that tree was a heap of brown bags, just large enough to accommodate an apple, an orange, and some hard candy. There was always enough — not only for every youngster in the Sunday School, but for every child who attended the Christmas pageant.

And who could ever begin to measure the significance of those little bags in the eyes and hearts of children at a time when most of the world was frozen in poverty? For some of us, it was a kind of bonus in what would be a lean Christmas at the best. For others, it was Christmas. Period. There would be no more.

It was common knowledge among the children that oranges came straight from Heaven and were dropped on the earth only at Christmas time! With deliberate care, you could make an orange last a whole hour as you savored each luscious slice in a private banquet.

And the candy? Glory be! That little bag of hard candy could make you wealthy for an entire week. And you even had enough to share with close friends.

But there was a rub. You had to be present at the Christmas play to get your little brown bag. Worse still, some of us even had to participate in the little dramas.

Lord, they were terrible. Lines were forgotten, cues missed, and props fell. And the curtain. It was always a disaster. Fashioned from bedsheets and hung on a borrowed clothesline, it never would open at the right moment. Once open, however, it steadfastly refused to close. I can't remember a single play that was not a total flop by most standards.

And yet, each one was at least a tiny miracle in a harsh time when miracles were hard to come by. The audience sat in rapt attention as angels spoke through the mouths of kids. And adults who were struggling to make ends meet in a hopeless world became the spokesmen of hope. "For unto you is born ... a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

By the time we sang "Silent Night" a holy stillness had settled over the little church. And we felt ourselves bound together in warmth and joy and hope and love. Clutching our brown bags in our hands, we made our way out into the cold night, sustained by the generosity of caring folk and the divine mystery that is still being unfolded in the world.

Know what I'm going to do on Christmas Eve? Sometime during the day or the night I'm going to steal away to a quiet and sacred little corner. And in the corridors of the mind and heart I'm going to travel backwards to a place and time when human existence was exceedingly difficult. And once more I'm going to share my little brown bag with Bebo and Dinky and Teet and Shank and Pete and Aaron and ...

Then I'm going to remember how rich I was when I was poorer, and wish that you might be as rich this Christmas.

In concluding this stroll down memory lane, we wanted to include this excerpt from a Remembrance of Runnymede written by Dr. Ralph M. Piland. His words here below encompass the spirit and the tie that binds all of us to this tiny, but wonderful piece of real estate known as Runnymede:

"The names of the early inhabitants of Runnymede trip lightly across the golden tongue of memory and continue to weave magic in our lives: Clark, Kent, Taylor, Ellis, Carvin, Felton, Parish, Fleming, Gurganus, Fussell. And Rogers, Keene, Melton, Collins, Pollard, Eure, Sherrod, Sutton, Little, Rawls, Worsley, Brewer. And Mefford, Whitaker, Daughtry, Johnson, Butler, Everett, Edmondson, Cross, Piland, Moore, Alford. And Owens, Shaw, Fisher, Page, Bishop, Parker, Deal, Harrell, Ward, Richardson, Raynor, Thompson, Rountree, Futrell. And O'Neal, Merritt, Acre, Bowen, Watson, Armstrong, Gooch, Frazier, Hudson. And others.

Poor all, and most illiterate by today's standards. Yet each possessed dignity and had infinite worth. They were, for the most part, honest, hard working, good, decent, God-fearing people. They were, in reality, representative of good people all over in a nation still young--a people struggling for human dignity and a destiny befitting the children of God. They and their kind provided the spiritual backbone and moral fiber and strength of the nation--becoming, along with their offspring, the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

And they passed on to us the genetic structure of heart and mind and spirit that has in large measure determined the course of our destiny. We're all indebted to them and will always be.

If you listen carefully with the ear of your heart, you will still be able to hear the sound of their voices and sense the presence of their spirit as it broods over us and continues to influence our lives. I'm grateful for that and hope that it will always be so.

Once upon a time, a privileged few of us got to live out our own Camelot in a fairy tale kind of place called Runnymede. It was our schooling for life, the place of our dreams, and our crucible for becoming. And having lived there, we can never forget it or one another.

Thank God for Runnymede!"

REUNION ATTENDEES

PAGE, HELEN T.
PALMER, DAVID
PALMER, DENNIS & GALE
PALMER, DONALD & DIXIE
PALMER, SHERMAN & DEBBIE CHRISTOPHER
PARISHER, CARL
PARISHER, JOSEPH & PHYLLIS
PARISHER, TONY & LYNN
PARKER, JAMES RAY & JULIA
PARRISHER, HELEN O.
PARRISHER, KEITH & DEBORAH
PELT, CURTIS & BONITA
PILAND, DANNY M.
PILAND, ELSIE
PILAND, RALPH & MELVA
PITT, WILLIAM (BILL) & ALICE
POLLARD, VERNON (BUD) & JO ANN
PRIDGEN, MINNIE BREWER
PROCTOR, CAROLE
PROCTOR, DALE & PATRICIA LITTLE
PROCTOR, DONNIE (PEANUT) & RENEE
PROCTOR, GRADY
RAPER, J. T.
RAWLS, ROBERT & RACHEL
RAYNOR, BILL & LUCY
RAYNOR, JIM & JAN
RAYNOR, LARRY & ELLEN
REMFROW, JOE & PEGGY
RICE, R. L. & KAY
RILEY, RUSSELL & FREDDIE
ROBINS, CURTIS & JOYCE
ROBINSON, DOROTHY JEAN OWENS
ROBINSON, FRANK & SANDRA
ROBINSON, JERRY & MARY
ROCHINSKI, CAROL
ROPER, GLENN & MARSHA
ROSENKOETTER, BOB & EVELYN
ROSENKOETTER, MIKE & PATSY
ROUNTREE, DONALD & SHELBY
ROUNTREE, HURDLEY & LIBBY
ROUNTREE, TIMOTHY VAN
ROUSE, SARA BREWER
RUFFIN, MR. & MRS. MACK
SAVAGE, SCOTT
SAVAGE, SUSIE
SAVAGE, TOMMY & SUE
SCOTT, DOUG & MARCIA LEVINER
SHAW, LEVY & RACHEL
SHEARIN, BUDDY & VIRGINIA
SHIRLEY, MR. & MRS. PAUL D.
SMITH, DEBORAH
SMITH, FAYE
SMITH, GENE
STANFIELD, LOUISE
STARLING, CHICK & FAYE KEENE
STELL, BILLY & BLANCHE
SURLES, CHARLES & JULIA

SUTTON, BETTY JO
SUTTON, BONNIE
SUTTON, HERBERT & CAROLYN
SUTTON, LORETTA
TAYLOR, BET
TAYLOR, LILLY (BILLIE)
THOMPSON, GLENDA
TREVATHAN, LUCY EVERETT
VICK, DANNY & CONNIE
WALSTON, ROBERT & IRENE
WARD, ANNIE H.
WEATHERSBY, BRIAN & LISA
WEBB, KATIE
WEBB, LILLIAN
WEBB, MARY ELIZABETH
WHITAKER, CECIL & SHARON
WHITEHURST, ELLA
WHITEHURST, MARIAN K.
WHITFIELD, HORACE & DEBBIE
WHITFIELD, SUSIE SAVAGE
WHITLEY, RICHARD & SHIRLEY
WILLIAMS, CHRISTIE
WILLIAMS, KEVIN
WILLIAMS, SYLVIA
WOOLARD, MAIDA
WRENN, JUSTINE

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DEDICATION

THIS REUNION IS DEDICATED TO ALL THOSE WHO
REMAIN ONLY IN OUR HEARTS AND MEMORIES,
TO THANK THEM FOR GIVING US AN ANCHOR
IN THIS WORLD AND THE ABILITY TO
CARRY THE TRUE MEANING OF
HOME
FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS.

HOW IT BEGAN . . .

There has always been a Runnymede. For a while, people in Tarboro associated the name with the local racetrack and fairground. But, since 1899, Runnymede has been associated with the mill. Runnymede Mills was established that year when Captain C. W. Jeffreys of Wilson convinced George Howard, Henry Bryan and Job Cobb to form a partnership and to manufacture the long black, brown and white-on-Sundays stockings worn by the children of the times. Erected at its present site, it has been in operation ever since. Around 1913, they also built the short-lived Wahree Knitting Mill located at the corner of Sunset Avenue and Wahree Streets, to produce men's work socks. By 1917, when the enterprise was incorporated, Wahree's operations were relocated under the Runnymede roof while the Wahree plant was used for a time as a finishing department. The name Wahree, an old Indian word, was dropped and the concern has been known ever since as Runnymede Mills, Inc. For many years, Runnymede was a family owned and operated business. Mr. George Howard served as President from its founding until 1923, Mr. Rawls Howard served as President from 1923 until his death in 1968, and Mr. Rob Howard, Sr. served as President from 1968 until 1986 when it was sold to Shogren Industries. Even though it is no longer a family owned enterprise, Mr. Rob Howard, Jr. still serves as President.

At one time, over fifty percent of the mill work force was comprised of neighborhood residents with 20 years or more of employment at Runnymede Mills.



The neighborhood housing was originally built by the mill to house its employees and rented for \$7.00 to \$10.00 a month depending on the size of the house. In the late 1940's, residents were given the option to purchase the houses. Depending on the size of the house, they were sold for \$600.00 to \$800.00.

Although the founders of the mill enterprise began their operation as a business, little did they realize the foundation they were laying for generations of friends and families that would stretch far into the future.

There are still residents of "mill hill" employed at Runnymede. But, like many other areas of the country, technology, education and availability of employment, has carried more recent generations far from their childhood homes.

However, it doesn't really matter how far we have traveled from these shaded, narrow streets. In our hearts and memories, there will always be a Runnymede!!

In these next few pages, take a stroll with us down memory lane--back to the days when growing up was just plain fun...

DO YOU REMEMBER ? ? ?

* The Daily Southerner, August 2, 1938: "Scoutmaster Herbert Taylor went to Camp Charles to bring back the ten Runnymede scouts who have been there for a week....Herbert said that he never saw such a fine change in anyone....six of the boys had gained 43 pounds in the week, and each boy had averaged one pound per boy per day....some record....They are members of Troop 98....Here are the names of the members: Lonnie Keene, Royster Melton, Jesse Kent, Levy Kent, William Taylor, Willie Richardson, Berry Worsley, Fletcher Daughtridge, Ralph Piland, Coleman Johnson....The boys went to Camp Charles on the 24th....They had a great time....Fine work, Herbert."

* Daily Southerner, 1938: "Young Lady Celebrates Nineteenth Birthday". "Miss Allie Brewer celebrated her nineteenth birthday at her home on First street Saturday night at eight o'clock.

Those present were: Misses Stella Keene, Ethel Rogers, Katherine Hudson, Thelma Owens, Thelma Bishop, Olga Colvin, Nellie Brewer; Messers James Taylor, Wiley Edmondson, Bruce Alphard, Osborne Morris, Norman Raynor, Thomas Melton, Willie Fanny, Norman Hudson, Jimmie Brewer and Woodrow Rawls.

Ice cream and cake were served. Everyone had a delightful time."

---Stella Keene

* Headlines, Daily Southerner, December 12, 1941: "Runnymede Mill W/202 Employees to Work Extra Day and Give Pay to Red Cross"

Letter to Mr. Shackell from Rawls Howard, President, Runnymede Mills, Inc.

"Something happened today in our mill which I know will be interesting to you.

Last night the Tarboro Southerner announced that Tarboro must raise \$5,000.00 for the Red Cross. Our mill has 225 employees and for years it has been our custom to close one week for Christmas holidays. The employees decided that they wanted to give more to the Red Cross than they were able to give in money. Today they presented me with a petition asking that I allow them to operate the mill as usual one full day during the holidays and instead of paying them for this day's work, that I send the check to the Red Cross.

When I asked them how many employees I could count on for that day, they assured me that more would be working than have been working on the days when they were paid for working. Two or three who know that they can not be here, are going to pay in cash the amount of their day's work.

The office force joined in and this made the officers either "put up" or be very lonely. We believe that it is going to be 100 per cent.

It is needless for me to say that I have the finest bunch of mill employees of any mill in the world. What they have done has proven this."

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The First Ever Runnymede Reunion Committee would like to extend its sincere and deep appreciation to the following people for their assistance and cooperation in making this Reunion a success:

Mr Rob Howard, Jr.
Mrs. Lillian P. Brewer
Mrs. Phyllis Parish
Rev. Vernon Clark
Mr. Ronald Butler
Mr. Johnny Kent
Mr. Paul Shirley
Mr. Wilbur Evans
Mr. Danny Piland
Mr. Vernon (Bud) Pollard
Mrs. Ellen P. Dewey
Dr. Ralph Piland
Mr. Mabry Bass
Mr. Donald Morris (Mayor Pro Tem)
Joe & June Hood

All the merchants listed who donated door prizes

Mr. Maury York, Historian Edgecombe Memorial Library, for his research on Runnymede and locating the picture of the mill houses which appears on our cover (original in the Janie F. Allsbrook Local History Collection, Edgecombe Memorial Library)

Special Recognition

To Mr. Gene Veillette, Veillette Printing & Advertising of Rocky Mount, NC. Without Mr. Veillette's assistance, having this booklet as a memento of our Reunion would not have been possible.

Our heartfelt thanks, Gene.

The Sons & Daughters
of Runnymede



RUNNYMEDE REUNION SONG

DAYS HAVE COME AND DAYS HAVE GONE,

IT DON'T MATTER WE'VE COME HOME,

WE LOVE RUNNYMEDE!

MANY GENERATIONS PAST,

FRIENDS AND FAMILY ALWAYS LAST,

WE LOVE RUNNYMEDE!

THROUGH TIME AND MILES WE'VE DRIFTED FAR APART,

BUT RUNNYMEDE WE'VE KEPT WITHIN OUR HEARTS,

THOUGH WE WILL LEAVE AGAIN TODAY,

ASK ANYONE AND HEAR THEM SAY,

WE LOVE RUNNYMEDE!

TO THE TUNE OF "BYE, BYE BLACKBIRD"

DOOR PRIZES

<u>PRIZE</u>	<u>CONTRIBUTED BY</u>
1. 50 Ft. Garden Hose	H.L.C. Home Center
2. 48 Qt. Igloo Cooler	Tarboro Coca Cola
3. Certificate 10 Gal. Gasoline	Boyd's Shell Station
4. Ratchet & Socket Set	Marrow Pitt True Value Hardware
5. Four Dozen Socks	Runnymede Mills
6. VHS Tape	Freuler's TV
7. Four Shirts	Shugar's Department Store
8. 14K Gold Bracelet	Brewer's Jewelry
9. Two Dozen Socks	Mayo Knitting Mills
10. Ice Cream Maker	Belk Tyler's
11. Corning Ware	Harris Furniture
12. Two Bar Stools	West Furniture
13. Skil Cordless Screw Driver	Ace Home Center
14. Deacon's Bench	Simmon's Furniture
15. Certificate 10 Gal. Gasoline	E.P. Mart
16. Clock	Rex Jewelry
17. \$25.00 Gift Certificate	Sammy's Mens & Ladies Clothing
18. Silver Bowl	Robert's Jewelry
19. VHS Movie	Video TV
20. Three Spotlights	Black & Decker
21. Two Flamebusters	Black & Decker
22. One Dustbuster	Black & Decker
23. One Power Driver	Black & Decker
24. One Cordless Drill	Black & Decker
25. One Spillbuster	Black & Decker
26. Dinner for Two (Thur. Rib Buffet)	Abrams BBQ
27. Shampoo and Set	Golden Touch Beauty Salon
28. Porta-Server	Thorne's Drug

