



## Cummings... continued from Page 4A

the man was big and strong.

One day Prince Albert made a mistake while in the gin and his boss man was railing away using the foulest language that Papa had ever heard. Skeeter looked at the boys and asked if they were ready. All of them said yes. So, Skeeter eased up behind Prince Albert and poked the big man in the ribs while he said, "Punch him." The big man punched his boss causing his feet to leave the ground. While their boss man was unconscious, the crew closed the mill waiting for their inevitable dismissal. Eventually, the boss woke up with two blackened eyes and afterwards was very nice. He never used profanity toward his crew and they were always paid on time.

During my father's time he also experienced and made memories at the gin. Dad said it was so cold one fall that his

mother had buried him up to his neck in the cotton to keep him warm. Papa stopped the wagon just beyond Uncle Dan's house to take a bathroom break in the woods. While Papa was in the edge of the woods the mules began walking. Papa said, "Whoa mules," to no avail. Again Papa spoke, but the mules did not stop. Mind you Dad was still in the wagon buried up to his neck and couldn't move. Papa was crouched over in the woods taking care of business. Dad said, "One of the funniest memories I have is of my Dad running from the woods with his overall galluses dragging the dirt while he was trying to catch those stubborn mules. By the time I came along the gin was on its last legs. It closed when I was very young, but, I remember it well and its impact on four generations of my family.

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the history of the Experiment station.

In 1930, the Georgia Mountain Branch Experiment Station was established as a branch of the Georgia Experiment Station in Griffin, Ga. The initial 210-acre tract of mostly wooded land, of which only 35 acres were cultivated, was leased from Bob Christopher and purchased a few years later by the University System of Georgia Board of Regents.

In 1932, John Bailey was named to head the station, a position he held until his retirement in 1972. Early research projects at the station focused on the potential for vegetables and fruits in an effort to upgrade the economy of the area. This research revealed that good variety selection along with proper fertilizer produced excellent yields of high quality vegetables and fruits.

The station was expanded in the late 1930's and early 40's to include field research on feed grains, forages, soil fertility, dairying and sheep. A soil test laboratory, a fruit stand and a community cannery were built by the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Federal Emergency Relief Administration. In 1938, the station entered into a cooperative agreement with the Tennessee Valley Authority known as the GA-TVA. This council promoted economic usage of TVA fertilizers in the valley counties of Georgia. Station personnel produced results to illustrate that yields of feed grains and forages could be greatly increased with good fertilizer and proper variety selections. Consequently, a farmer from Union County was the first in Georgia to produce 100 bushels of corn per acre.

Research conducted from 1950 through 1990 produced gains in apple production, forage evaluations for sheep production, soil-test-crop-yield correlations, and variety testing of horticultural crops, beef cattle stocker feeding and swine production. During this time, a station researcher discovered that Black Rot fungus invades the apple at the time of bloom.

This outstanding tradition of research continued throughout the '90s included the cultivation and introduction of TifBlair centipede grass. The Center is managed by a Superintendent, currently Ray Covington, who oversees research projects conducted by UGA faculty.

Currently, there are 41 ongoing research or extension projects involving apples,

asparagus, beef cattle, blueberries, collards, field corn, forages, greenhouse pests, peaches, pumpkins, soybeans, turf grass, woody ornamentals and wheat.

The station was renamed the Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center in 2000 to better reflect the purpose of branch stations statewide.

In 2004, aided by funds raised by the Community Council of the Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center a series of adult outreach seminars was begun covering a variety of topics for the home and farm gardener. Hands-on field experiences for area school children were also initiated. Preparations and preliminary installations to the Appalachian Ethnobotanical Garden and the Jarrett House Heirloom Garden were completed to expand the preservation efforts at the Center. The station grounds cover 415 acres of orchards, test plots, pasture land, specimen and preservation gardens, historic sites and forests.

The GMRE Center is unique to the University of Georgia system because of its location at the southern end of the Appalachian Mountains and its growing season which is similar to southern Canada. The center is used by UGA faculty to conduct ongoing research and education projects. In addition, the Community Council of the Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center provides monthly adult education programs as well as environmental education programs for children and youth in Fannin, Union and Towns counties in Georgia, as well as Cherokee and Clay counties in North Carolina.

The Blue Ridge Soil & Water Conservation District and Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D Council regularly sponsor events and projects that help the Community Council present programs and events that make the learning experience for students, old and young much more interesting and meaningful.

Come out and take in one of the education programs, they are free and worth every minute of your time and you just might learn something new.

For more information on GMREC or the Community Council, check the GMREC website <http://www.caes.uga.edu/center/gmrec> or contact Frank Riley, Executive Director at [info.ccrd@gmail.com](mailto:info.ccrd@gmail.com) or <http://www.chestchat-trcd.org>.

## Sims... continued from Page 4A

more than double their prior assessments during that time frame. Sure, inflation and property values have increased because of inflation, but income has not increased for the poor and the older folks on a fixed income.

Commissioner Paris is correct about not knowing what the county budget is going to be until all property appeals are settled and county assessments are completed. Only then can he create a budget for 2021 and into the year 2022.

This we do know: the Commissioner has stated the county budget will go up, which means a property tax increase. That increase may be high for some property owners and not as high for others. Some may see a small reduction in property taxes, very very few.

So why the budget increase by the Commissioner? For the simple reason that if there is no increase with higher taxes, the increased county-wide property assessments must present a rollback by state law, which means the county tax collections in dollars cannot exceed 2020 tax collections.

To prevent this roll-

back the county must increase property taxes by calling three county hearings for a tax increase and published in the North Georgia News. The announcement may include include several specific items he will cover. It also may include wording such as "other county business." The announcement may not include all items on the agenda, including raising taxes. State law puts the burden of increasing property taxes on county government for higher property assessments or use the same budget as last year to offset that increased value. The appeal process begins with the property owner. With such high assessments folks have received, the Commissioner can increase taxes while at the same time lowering the mill rates. I'm sure we will hear a lot about lower millage rates and less about our increased taxes.

So property owners, and all voters in Union County, are facing a double-edged sword of more taxes this year with higher property taxes and another 1% sales TSPLOST tax increase, both at the pleasure of one person.  
**Mike Sims**

## Williams... continued from Page 4A

a while. Products containing Spinosad or Bacillus thuringiensis have organic options and good control of armyworms. Applying as late in the evening as possible is best because that's when armyworms will be the most active and pollinators the least active.

In pasture and hayfields use insecticides when you have over three armyworms per square foot. Products Lambda-cyhalothrin and zeta-cypermethrin are both effective but have a short residual. Dimilin

or Intrepid will provide a longer residual but work best on smaller armyworms. However, they will cease to provide control after a rain. If armyworms are 1-1.5 inches then the window has passed for chemical control. Whenever using pesticides always read and follow the label before the application.

If you have questions about fall armyworms contact your County Extension Office or email me at [Jacob.Williams@uga.edu](mailto:Jacob.Williams@uga.edu).

## Paris...

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sonal papers, corrugated boxes and pallets. Rangers at the local county unit who respond to wildfires determine whether an Unlawful Burn Notice must be issued. UBNs may be issued if wildfire results from a yard debris burn AND if it is clear that the fire required safety precautions have not been followed.

A communication campaign is underway to help Georgians understand requirements of the new law and their responsibilities when burning. At the website: [GaTrees.org](http://GaTrees.org) you will find a copy of the legislation, helpful videos, and information about burning safety.

## Dyer...

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they are willing to make; the dedication to the service; and the acceptance of the lifestyle of being a firefighter. They join the department to help their community but they soon realize that this organization and lifestyle is helping them as much as they are helping their community. More on that later.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

## Fowler...

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sion, and not sacrifice, for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners" (Matt. 9:13). God showers compassion on you by creating you and the world you live in. He has compassion by calling you to receive His great gift from the cross, forgiveness of sins. When you are reconciled to God by faith, the Word accomplishes what He desires. The cycle continues when others see the power of the Word in you.

God designed nature to be predictable and to reveal its Creator and His purposes. When the rain falls and the creek swells, it proclaims that God's Word does not return to Him void. Send it forth, Lord! [mountainchristian@brmcmc.net](mailto:mountainchristian@brmcmc.net)

## Grazis...

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NEVER been treated as equals. We, as a nation, must go the extra mile and make things right. That is social justice. This anthem is doing something extra for them, not "dividing the country" as you accused. We do not have "liberty and justice for all." We are already as divided and as full of hate as I, at 75 years old, have ever witnessed. This is part of an attempt of many to do the right thing and bring us all together!!

**Jim Grazis**

## UC Historical Society's Brick Walk

To show our appreciation for the overwhelming community support for the Union County Historical Society's Brick Walk, we are extending the current price of \$50 per brick.

Please call the Historical Society at 706-745-5493 or come by the old courthouse to purchase one in memory or in honor of a loved one.

### Bell Ringing Union County Old Courthouse



**August 26, 2021**  
In Memory of  
**William T. Meeks, Sr.**  
on his Birthday  
By Ginger & Terry Meeks  
**Bell ringing information**  
at 706-745-5493