

MACCLESFIELD NORTH CAROLINA U.S.A.

Macclesfield was founded in 1900 by Mr. Henry C. Bridgers who built a railroad from Tarboro, N. C. to Hookerton, N. C.

Mr. Bridgers named this town for his ancestral home, Macclesfield, England. This fact is well known by all citizens and has always been a source of great pride to everyone here.

The town was chartered and incorporated in 1901, with a population of about 25 at that time. Mr. Bridgers was the first Mayor although he never lived here.

Macclesfield is located in the extreme south of Edgecombe County and in the Coastal Plains of N. C. centrally located between the following large towns not more than 20 miles from either Tarboro, the County Seat of Edgecombe County; population 12,000; Wilson, 28,000; Rocky Mount, 40,000; Greenville, 25,000; Raleigh, the State Capitol, 60 miles west and Washington, D. C. 225 miles north. It is 100 miles from the Atlantic Coast and 300 miles to the Blue Ridge and Great Smoky Mountains. It is on the direct route from mountains to the seashore.

POPULATION (last census 1960) 473. Present estimate 550. White 475 - Negro 75 Approximately 200 families.

CLIMATE is one of North Carolina's chief assets. Macclesfield enjoys North Carolina's finest weather being near enough to the coast to have mild winter weather and not too hot summers. Temperature in winter rarely gets below 20 degrees with an average of 42 degrees. Summer temperatures range from an average 80 degrees to highs of 95 degrees. January and February being coldest months, July and

August warmest. Other months we have most ideal weather. Rainfall is heaviest in summer. We enjoy on an average one or two nice snows each winter of about 1 to 5 inches. Frost arrives in October and lasts until mid April.

SOIL: Sir Ralph Lane, when he landed on the Outer Banks of North Carolina, centuries ago, said "This is the goodliest soil under the cope of heaven." This still applies today for a United States Secretary of Agriculture has said, Marlboro County, South Carolina and Edgecombe County, North Carolina have the richest most fertile soil in all United States.

RIVERS OR STREAMS: The Tar River, five miles from town. 1 lake 3 miles, several more within 20 miles. 3 ponds on outskirts.

TREES: Long Leaf Pines and Loblolly Pines predominate our town, along with the native flowering dogwood (the state flower). Also Maple and Oak. Handsome Prized Southern Magnolia trees can be found on numerous lawns. A dogwood tree is a must for every lawn with cultured pink ones being a little special. Pecan trees are used for summer shade and fall nuts. Fall undresses all of our trees except for the pines and magnolia, but also gives us a blaze of yellows, orange and red from the maples, oaks and dogwood.

FLOWERS: Early spring brings a burst of daffadils.. Azaleas are the next most popular, an abundance of these can be found in most every lawn and garden, camellias are equally favored. Forsythia, iris, roses, tulips, red garaniums, gladiola and crysanthemums are other favorites.

BIRDS: Doves, Quail, Mocking birds, Blue Jays, Cardinals, Wrenn

and English Sparrow, are the most predominating of wild life. Turkeys, Chickens, Ducks and Peacocks are fowls raised by our farmers.

WILDLIFE: Fox, Squirrels, Opossums and Rabbits reside in our gardens and the squirrels love our pecan trees. The fox affords many citizens hours of hunting pleasure.

TRANSPORTATION: Poor transportation, no buses or rail service nearer than Tarboro. Really isn't necessary for every family, practically, owns two cars. Most popular make, Chevrolet. Fords are second best. Oldsmobiles and Cadilacs are very evident. Every farmer owns trucks of various makes.

GOVERNMENT: The town is governed by a Mayor and a Board of four Commissioners. These officials are elected by popular vote for two year terms. Regular monthly Board Meetings are held on the first Monday in each month in Conference Room at Town Hall. The Town Clerk and Treasurer, are appointed by the Board of Commissioners and is the only salaried administrative employee. She serves as Manager, Secretary and Tax Collector. The Mayor is not a salaried official nor the Board Members. The town has two full time policemen, one Superintendent of Utilities and from three to five laborers for sanitation and maintenance work.

UTILITIES: The town owns its own electrical distribution system and purchases power from City of Wilson for resale to customers in and surrounding the town. (This being our greatest source of revenue.) We have a water and sewer system. Water is furnished by two deep wells with elevated storage tank. Telephone service is furnished by Carolina Telephone and Telegraph in Tarboro.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Fire protection is provided by two Volunteer Fire Departments, Municipal and Rural, both governed by the Town. Each department has 22 volunteer members. Two fire trucks and one tanker, for rural use.

SANITATION: The town provides garbage collection and trash removal on a bi-weekly basis.

MUNICIPAL REVENUE: Tax levied on all real estate and personal property.

Utilities Revenue - State Funds provided for local government.

The 1968-69 town budget totaled \$136,335.00

SCHOOLS: To provide better education all schools in this community have been consolidated in what is known as the South Edgecombe School District. Our white students attend South Edgecombe School located 2 miles outside town. Elementary, Junior High and High Schools all combined in this one facility with 850 students, 598 Elementary and 251 High School. This school is intergrated and at present has 100 negro students. Compulsory plans for next year are for total intergration. This is a 40 teachers school with one being negro.

Our negro students attend two separate schools. Elementary one mile outside with 349 all colored students, 14 teachers, two being white. High students attend school located at Pinetops 3 miles away. Enrollment is 1,170 all negro, 43 teachers 3 being white. The students are picked up by bus at their homes and transported to various schools.

COLLEGES: Two four year colleges within 25 miles:

Atlantic Christian At Wilson, N. C.	15 miles
N. C. Wesleyan at Rocky Mount, N. C.	25 miles

Three Universities within 100 miles :

East Carolina At Greenville, N. C. 18 miles

N. C. State At Raleigh, N. C. 59 miles

Carolina University at Chapel Hill, N.C. 96 miles

Forty percent of our students enter college. A large majority choose these listed above. Many enter business, professional and trade schools.

CHURCHES: All Protestant, inside town we have 3.

First Christian

Presbyterian

Baptist (Negro)

In the Community we have:(3 mile radius)

3 Baptist ( 1 negro)

1 Free Will Baptist

2 Primitive Baptist (1 negro)

All of these community churches are attended by our citizens. All have large memberships. Five have Sunday School. Five churches have separate men and women organizations, five have organized Robed Choirs - that hold weekly choir practice - 3 have Youth Choirs also. Most hold weekly Prayer Service. All churches unite and hold a special service at Easter, World Day of Prayer, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Our churches are not intergrated.

HOSPITALS & DOCTORS: Macclesfield has one (very fine) physician, and clinic. Hospitals at Tarboro - 12 miles, 7 in a 30 miles radius. All our babies are born at clinic or in hospitals.

BUSINESSES: We have the following businesses:

- 2 Super Markets
- 1 Furniture Store
- 4 Auto Service Stations

- 1 T.V. & Radio Repair
- 3 Hair Styling Shops
- 1 Barber Shop
- 1 Saddle Shop
- 1 Billiards Parlor
- 4 General Merchandise and Hardware Store
- 1 Laundermat
- 1 Bank
- 1 Post Office
- 1 Alcohol Beverage Store
- 2 Oil and Propane Gas Companies
- 2 Certified Public Accountants
- 4 Insurance Agencies
- 2 Garages
- 1 Soda Shop with lunch counter

PROFESSIONS AND TRADES: In our town live farmers, who are in the majority. Others are: 22 School Teachers, 5 Beauticians, 3 Barbers, 1 Doctor, 4 Ministers, 2 Bankers, Numerous secretaries, auto dealers, factory employees and telephone workers. Some of our citizens hold public elective and appointive offices in the county and state government. For instance, we are proud to have the Representative to the State Legislature, from this ~~Seventht~~ as one of our fine citizens. (The Honorable Joseph E. Eagles)

FARMING: North Carolina is primarily an agricultural state of many small farms. Edgecombe County, with its rich and fertile soil is one of the leading tobacco producers in the nation, thus in Macclesfield farming is a way of life and tobacco is "King". Peanuts and cotton lead other crops in that order. Corn following close behind. In recent years farming has become more diversified, with many vegetable and berry crops being planted. The days of the mule and plow have given way to the most modern tractors. All of our farmers use the latest mechanized equipment. This has come about through progressive farming and the shortage of farm labor. 75 percent of our citizens are directly or indirectly connected with farming. They own thier own farms or rent them to other to

farm on a sharing basis or for a standard rent. The average farmer plants 12 acres of tobacco, smallest about 6 and anywhere from 25 to 60 acres being considered a "big" tobacco farmer. Total income from an average acre of tobacco is \$1,400.00 and \$1,800.00 being ~~very~~ high figure. An average acre of peanuts sells for \$300. A bale of cotton \$150. Other farm income is derived from sale of livestock, hogs, chickens, eggs and cattled.

RECREATION AND AMUSEMENTS: The main source of recreation here and in surrounding communities is The Maccripine Country Club. This is an outgrowth of the desperate need for recreation in this area. Two years ago, citizens of Pinetops, N. C. (a small town of 1500 about 3 miles distant, also founded by Mr. Bridgers) and Macclesfield united their efforts to fill this need. These efforts and a federal government loan provided, "The Maccripine". It has a very fine 18 hole golf course, swimming pool and clubhouse. Golf is now our most popular form of recreation for the young and old. Regular dances are part of the clubs social life. Macclesfield has a Saddle Club and Riding ring this is second in popularity. Fox hunting and fishing are equally popular. Our teen~~age~~agers have numerous private dances and parties in in our Municipal provided Community Building. We have no movie theatre - many within 15 mile distance. Boating and camping ~~are~~ summer favorites. Pinetops and Macclesfield unite again in baseball - with little league and teen-age teams. For many male citizens gathering at the Service Stations, discussing the weather, arguing politics, comparing the progress of tobacco, or reliving a fox hunt is all they need in

the way of recreation. The fulltime housewives at homes over a cup of tea or coffee or a Coca-Cola for this same type of recreation - but the topics of conversation differ - clothes, antiques, food and social events are favorites.

CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS AND CLUBS:

Boy Scouts & Brownie Troop  
Woman's Club  
2 Homemaker's Club (1 negro)  
Saddle Club  
Boosters Club  
Men's Golf Association  
Ladies Golf Association  
Couples Bridge Club  
Ladies Bridge Club

A Community Council - with a representative from all churches, church groups, town council, and all civic organization. Those representatives are our most civic-minded citizens. It is through this council that united efforts are made to improve Macclesfield and make it a better more attractive place to live. Some citizens are members of Edgecombe Historical Society in Tarboro, N. C., Book Club of Pinetops and Garden Club in Tarboro, Masonic Lodge of Tarboro and Shrine Club in Wilson, N. C.

NEWSPAPER, INNS & RESTAURANTS: We have no local newspaper. Three newspapers are delivered daily to our individual doors.

There is no Inn, Motel or Guest Home here, however, any "stranded visitor" would be well taken care of in our homes. An abundance of motels within 10 miles of town.

We have one quick-lunch restaurant, for snacks only. Many fine ones within 15 miles.

FAVORITE FOODS: Cooking is to the ladies what farming is to the men. Here are our favorites:

MEATS Southern fried chicken, Roasted Turkey, Roast Beef, Barbecued Pork (Whole Pig) - Oven Roasted, Charcoal Steaks, Hamburgers, Country Cured Ham

SEAFOOD Fish (all kinds), Shrimp, Oysters, Crabmeat, Lobster

VEGETABLES String Beans, Turnip Greens and Turnips, Collard Greens,



Corn-on Cob and off, Irish Potatoes, Lima Beans, English Peas, Squash, Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Celery (not grown here), Lettuce, Cabbage, Onions, Beets, Yams. (All are grown in local vegetable gardens.

SALADS: Potatoe Salad, Congealed Salads, Fruite Salads, Chicken Salad, Shrimp Salad, Deviled Eggs

DESSETS Homemade Ice Cream, Apple Pie, Chocolate Cake, Strawberry Shortcake, Tipsey Cake, Ambrosia, Fruit Cake, All homebaked cakes - with various fillings and frostings. Pound Cake, Fresh fruits from local orchards.

BREADS Homemade Butter Milk Biscuits, Yeast rolls, Cornbread, Cornmeal muffins, Loaf Bread, Toast, Saltines.

BEVERAGES Tea - hot and iced, coffee, milk, Favorite sof drinks: Coca-Cola and Pepsi Cola about equal in popularity.

Favorite Alcoholic Cocktails: Bourbon and Ginger Ale, Champagne, Beer, Scotch and soda.

EMPLOYMENT: To live here and not derive ones income from farming means commuting to work for many people. The businesses previously listed are operated by local people and their employees are local, but this still leaves many others to seek employment out of town. A goodly number work in Tarboro, Rocky Mount and Wilson a nice distance from town. Their jobs are varied, the largest majority are employed by Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company as they have offices, and other departments in the three mentioned towns.