

Despite protest, Lancaster women's basketball team made points

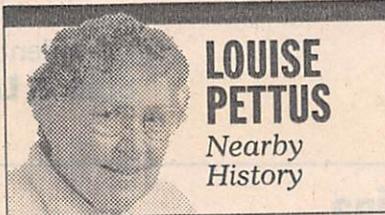
More odds and ends:

■ In May 1910 it was announced that a group of Lancaster women's basketball players were to play a touring team, the Western Bloomer Girls' Club.

Quickly a protest group assembled at the Lancaster County courthouse.

J.P. Nisbet presided with W.M. Moore acting as secretary. Various speakers, including the Baptist minister, condemned the proposed game. The protesters unanimously passed a resolution asking the S.C. legislature to legislate against such "disgraceful and immoral" performances in the state.

The protest did not stop the game. The Western Bloomer Club defeated the Lancaster team, 6-2. The S.C. legislature ignored the resolution. Girls' basketball teams



LOUISE PETTUS
Nearby History

were being formed in high schools all over the state.

A decade later, every high school had a girls' basketball team, most of them wearing bloomers as a part of their uniform.

■ There is some interstate rivalry between North and South Carolina today, but not nearly as much as in times past.

When the Spanish-American War broke out in the summer of 1898, Gray Toole, a black man from Rock Hill, recruited a com-

pany of 109 men, which he offered to the adjutant general of North Carolina. Toole was the company captain.

Initially the N.C. adjutant general accepted the men recruited by Toole, but when he found that 75 of the recruits were South Carolinians, he expressed indignation.

On June 30, 1898, Toole received a telegram that said, "As we do not want any soldiers from South Carolina, I have deducted 75 from your 109. You can bring only 40, and I will get you 75 from this state for your company."

The company was raised, but there was not time to get to Cuba — the "splendid little war," as the Secretary of War called it, was over in August.

■ In 1897, J.E. "Uncle Ned" Jefferys of Yorkville recalled the years

between 1835 and 1840 when passenger pigeons flew in such numbers that they blacked out the sun.

He estimated that the flocks were numbered in the millions, a figure borne out by a number of others. Jefferys added that the incoming flight lasted for many hours; some accounts stated that the flight lasted for several days.

At night the pigeons, as remembered by Jefferys, roosted in the Bethany area of York County, and "... came down into the trees in such numbers as to break down the limbs, and next day the trees would look as if they might have been visited by a cyclone."

The passenger pigeon wintered in South America. The spring northward flight was to the west of York County, but the fall return

flight path was over central Carolina.

Hunters filled large bags with the birds. Jefferys remembered hunters standing on Yorkville's main streets blazing away at the birds. They were so easy to kill that in 1913, the passenger pigeon was declared extinct.

■ The summer of 1846 was long remembered as the 'cold summer.'

The first plantings were killed by frost. Farmers replanted and lost most of that planting.

The summer was so cold that corn did not mature, and the cotton that managed to sprout produced little. Farmers were forced to import food for themselves and for the livestock.

Prices increased drastically be-

cause the cold covered most of the Atlantic states. New England even had snow in August.

Food and forage had to be brought in by outsiders. The local mules were underfed and not strong enough to haul supplies.

The result was a great demand for a railroad. Railroads could transport far more goods than wagons and did not have to be fed corn.

It took five years for the railroad (the Charlotte, Columbia and Augusta, commonly known as the CC&A) to be completed. This was the railroad that created the towns of Rock Hill and Fort Mill in 1851.

Louise Pettus is a retired history professor from Winthrop University. Her column appears Saturdays.