

The Early History  
(to 1984)

of the

Georgia Council of  
Teachers of Mathematics

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## DEDICATION

The Georgia Council of Teachers of Mathematics had its origin in the Mathematics Section of the Georgia Education Association. Chief among the people responsible for the development of the Council were those who wrote the first constitution in 1950 and who initiated affiliation with the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics in the same year. These pioneers were:

Bess Patton, Atlanta City Schools, Chairman  
Herman Fulmer, Georgia Institute of Technology  
Isabelle Kinnett, Bibb County Schools  
Kathleen Dolvin, Fulton County Schools  
Gladys Thomason, Washington County Schools

With deep appreciation, the first history of the Georgia Council of Teachers of Mathematics is dedicated to these five mathematics educators.

## ORIGIN OF THE GEORGIA COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF MATHEMATICS

The name of the organization is the Georgia Council of Teachers of Mathematics. This is the name in the first constitution and the name by which the Council was affiliated with NCTM in 1950. Later, some officers began to call the organization the Georgia Mathematics Council. However, for many years the original name has been in use again. Hereafter, in this document the Council will be referred to as GCTM.

During the 30's, the Executive Secretary of the Georgia Education Association, Harold Saxon, would ask some teacher of mathematics to plan an hour session for the state GEA convention. At that time, these meetings were held annually, in a different city of the state each time. Among those selected by Dr. Saxon were Bess Patton, H. L. Lasseter, Dorothy Simmons, Beulah Lott, Gladys Thomason, and Isabel Drew. Bess Patton was a native of Illinois who came to Atlanta early in her career, loved Atlanta, and stayed after she retired. Many who later became leaders in GCTM gave more credit to Bess than to any other person for organizing teachers of mathematics in Georgia. For instance, she encouraged Gwen Shufelt when they were at Henry Grady High School, and she took Gladys Thomason to her first NCTM convention.

The earliest of these mathematics sessions that anyone on this committee remembers attending was the 1937 GEA convention held in Savannah. This one-hour meeting each year continued, arranged by GEA, until the rationing of gasoline caused the suspension of the GEA convention for

the duration of World War II. (For information that this committee has been able to locate on these meetings, see Mathematics Section of GEA, 1931-49.)

Sometimes at these meetings college teachers were asked to speak. They usually welcomed an opportunity to tell us that the high school teachers were not preparing the students for college. However, some of the college professors were very helpful. Dr. Herman Fulmer of Georgia Institute of Technology was a faithful worker with our group and later was president of GCTM. One year Bess Patton arranged for her friend, Kenneth Brown (then at the University of Tennessee, later at the U.S. Office of Education), to be our speaker. More often, the one-hour mathematics meeting was spent in discussion of such topics as what should be offered to the seniors who would be going to college.

In the late 30's, many people at the state level thought few high school students would need much mathematics, so it was decided that a general mathematics course at the freshman level would be sufficient for all except about 5% who might enter college to study engineering. Later, during World War II, many teachers taught night classes to prepare young men for the entrance examination into officers' training school. They learned the hard way that the one year of general mathematics was inadequate. Some teachers were finding the NCTM publication, The Mathematics Teacher, very helpful in supplementing the mathematics instruction. They felt a dire need to formally organize a council to help improve mathematics education in Georgia and to influence the Georgia Department of Education to provide more than the one course of general mathematics.

Meanwhile, mathematics teachers were becoming more active. In the mid-30's, some of these teachers worked on the state GEA Legislative Committee to lobby for the state sales tax. The talks given by this committee at civic clubs and other organizations were apparently very effective and were felt to be instrumental in the passage of the 3% sales tax in Georgia.

Until 1950 this group operated as the Mathematics Section of GEA for the one-hour annual meeting planned by GEA. In 1950 a committee composed of Kathleen Dolvin, Gladys Thomason, Herman Fulmer, Isabelle Kinnett, and Bess Patton as chairman met with Bess to write the first constitution and select a name for the Council. The membership dues were \$.50 (most classroom teachers in Georgia were paid about \$1,000 a year then), and \$8.00 was collected that year. The GCTM officers in 1950-51 were:

President: Gladys Thomason, Washington County Schools First  
Vice-President: Mary Dozier, Bibb County Schools  
Second Vice-President: Herman Fulmer, Georgia Institute of Technology  
Secretary-Treasurer: Albert Fisher, Decatur City Schools NCTM  
Representative: Bess Patton, Atlanta City Schools

GCTM also became affiliated with NCTM in 1950, and Gladys Thomason served as delegate to the Second Delegate Assembly at the 29th NCTM Convention in Pittsburgh in 1951.

The presidents of the Georgia Council in those early years paid all of their own expenses to the NCTM conventions, but about 15 years ago the Council began paying most of the president-elect's expenses to the national meeting. (A few years ago, a NCTM committee conducted a survey of the 150 or more affiliates, and they found that GCTM was one of the few affiliates that paid a considerable portion of the delegate's expenses.)

The GCTM president-elect serves as the voting delegate at the Delegate Assembly of the convention. This officer serves the next year as GCTM president, and the following year as program chairman for all meetings sponsored by GCTM.

#### MATHEMATICS SECTION OF GEA

1931-49

1931 - GEA Convention, Macon  
Presiding: H. L. Lasseeter, Bibb County Schools

1932 - GEA Convention, Macon  
Presiding: R. B. Plymale, Bessie Tift College  
Minutes: J. C. Sorrell, Bibb County Schools

Speakers: Viola Perry, South Georgia Teachers College  
Josiah Crudup, Mercer University

1935 - GEA Convention, Macon  
Presiding: Bess Patton, Atlanta City Schools  
Minutes: J. C. Eppinger, Fulton County Schools

Speakers: Henry A. Robinson, Agnes Scott College  
Kathleen Taylor, Fulton County Schools

1936 - GEA Convention, Atlanta  
Speaker: Dr. Laura Zirbes

1937 - GEA Convention, Savannah  
Presiding: Beulah Lott

1941 - GEA Convention, Atlanta  
Presiding: Isabel S. Drew

Speaker: Alexander J. Stoddard, Superintendent of Schools,  
Philadelphia, PA

1942, 1943, and 1944 - Because of the lack of gasoline for travel during World War II, the classroom teachers did not hold statewide meetings.

1945 - GEA Convention, Macon  
Presiding: William Brake, Bibb County Schools

1946 - GEA Convention, Atlanta  
Presiding: No one listed  
  
Speaker: Josiah Crudup, President of Brenau College

1947 - GEA Convention, Savannah  
Presiding: Gladys Thomason, Washington County Schools  
  
Speaker: Beulah Lott, Glynn County Schools  
  
Officers elected were:  
President: D. J. Hooks, Savannah  
Vice-President: Bernice Tracey, Glynn County Schools  
Secretary: Elma Witcher, Atlanta City Schools

1949 - GEA Convention, Macon  
No speaker, open discussion  
  
Officers elected were:  
President: Dorothy Simmons, Bibb County Schools Vice-President:  
Elma C. Witcher, Atlanta City Schools Secretary: Margaret  
Slocumb, Bibb County Schools

1950 - GEA Convention, Atlanta  
Speaker: Henry Robinson, Agnes Scott College  
  
Officers elected were:  
President: Bess Patton, Atlanta City Schools  
Vice-President: Gladys Thomason, Washington County Schools  
Secretary: James G. Grady, Americus City Schools

## THE FIFTIES

The fifties decade was the turning point for mathematics education in Georgia, and the influence of GCTM was immense in many ways. In 1954, Harold Saxon, then Executive Secretary of the Georgia Education Association, was so impressed with the well-attended, well-planned meetings of GCTM, that he asked Bertha Cunard, President of GCTM, to send some material to the Georgia Education Association Journal. A committee composed of Bertha, Isabelle Kinnett, and Marian Crider drew up some plans, including aims and objectives, for teachers of elementary-level mathematics for the GEA Journal.

In 1958, GCTM leaders urged the Georgia Department of Education to make grants available for teachers to change fields, with hopes of getting more teachers qualified to teach mathematics. Georgia was the first state in the nation to finance Grant-in-Aid. These monies were for further study by mathematics, science, and foreign language teachers. A grant for summer study was available to one teacher of each of these disciplines in each public high school in the state. This financial help inspired many GCTM members to return to the campus.

In 1959, a committee from GCTM met with the Director of Instruction in the Georgia Department of Education and was instrumental in getting The Mathematics Teacher journal of NCTM put on the library list for the Georgia schools.

When the State School Superintendent talked with Gladys Thomason about joining his staff as a mathematics consultant, she asked him why

she had been selected. She was told that the Director of Instruction had said she was a member of GCTM--an organization that was continually badgering the Department to produce guides, put appropriate teachers on the textbooks selection committee and similar things. The Superintendent said that the state was going to get lots of NDEA monies, which could be used to do some of the things GCTM had been requesting. He said teachers would need help in spending NDEA monies wisely. As soon as Gladys came into the Georgia Department of Education, she selected a committee of GCTM members to assist in making a list of appropriate equipment and aides for which NDEA monies could be used.

Many teachers have told these writers that such speakers as Gerald Huff ("Algebra as a Math System"), Henry Sharpe ("Introduction to Set Theory"), and Kirk Fort ("The A, B, C's of Topology") at the Georgia Mathematics Conference shook them up so that they scurried back to university campuses for refresher courses. The March 1957 GCTM meeting included a talk, "Mathematics.Curricula in England," by Elizabeth Parker, who had been an exchange teacher to Great Britain. The speakers for the March 1958 meeting were Marvin Sledd of Georgia Institute of Technology on "Math Today and Tomorrow" and J. A. Davis of the Georgia Board of Regents on "Math and College Admissions." In 1959, Gladys Thomason gave a report on the NCTM meeting she had attended in New York the previous Christmas. Some of the speakers she had heard were Dr. Meder (Rutgers University), "Sets, Sinners and Salvation"; Dr. Conant (President of Harvard), "The Place of Mathematics in the Comprehensive High School"; and a panel, composed of Ed Begle, Bob Rourke, Lynwood Wren, and Martha

Hildebrandt, discussing the SMSG materials which were financed by the National Science Foundation. At that convention, geometry received a great deal of attention, including a recommendation that plane and solid geometry be a combined course and the feeling that more informal geometry should be introduced in seventh and eighth grades and even lower grades.

In 1959, a state mathematics advisory committee was appointed by the State Coordinator of Mathematics after consultation with the president of GCTM on the membership. The members included teachers of all levels, and they served a rotating term of three years. The committee was disbanded after several years due to lack of finances. However, during the years that this committee functioned, they had a great deal of influence on the direction of the mathematics programs in Georgia schools. This committee had an effect on the large number of state colleges that initiated departments of mathematics education.

The office of Advisor was established by GCTM. In the mid-50's, the GCTM officers decided that, since the term of office was only one year, it would help if one of the past presidents who was still active in the Council would serve as an official advisor or counselor. Bess Patton had been unofficially filling this role for several years, but she refused the official position, saying they should select a younger person. Gladys Thomason was chosen and served as advisor until she became Executive Secretary of GCTM in 1972. Then Clare Nesmith was appointed advisor, and she served until 1980. In 1981 the Council revised the constitution and policies; the duties of the Executive Secretary were expanded, and the position of advisor was discontinued.

## THE SIXTIES

In 1960, a committee was selected to write state mathematics guides for elementary and secondary levels. The committee included GCTM members Amabel Lansdell, Susie Underwood, Betty Altman, James Baskin, Vada Kent, Venia Chamlee, and Flo Hudson. Gladys Thomason, Coordinator of Mathematics Education for the state, was the director of the project. As a direct result of the new guides, teachers returned to the campus for refresher courses. Changes of attitudes and methods took place. New content was learned. As has been stated, Georgia was the first state (in 1957) to have state grants, and these were continued in the 60's. Many teachers were taking advantage of NSF grants; in the summer of 1962, 339 teachers of mathematics and science received NSF grants, and 40 teachers of mathematics received Georgia State Department grants.

At the October 1960 meeting of the Sixth District GCTM in Macon were 103 teachers. Credit for this large crowd went to Mrs. George Stenbridge and Dorothy Simmons, officers for that district. The speaker was Dr. Don Richard Jolly.

In the fall of 1960, NCTM and the U.S. Office of Education sponsored regional orientation conferences for administrators and selected teachers of mathematics. The Southeastern meeting was held in the Biltmore Hotel in Atlanta. The local cochairmen were Mark Huie and Gladys Thomason. Several local superintendents have said that meeting was the turning point for the mathematics programs in their systems. Mrs. Fred Swain, Curriculum Director of the Marietta City Schools, said that

this particular NCTM meeting was the impetus prompting the immediate reorganization of the Marietta mathematics program. Martha Hildebrandt, Dora Helen Skypek and Louise Reeves of Emory University, spearheaded the Marietta inservice program.

For a number of years, the Council had made a special effort to get more teachers of the elementary grades to attend the meetings. This influenced the program committee to invite Glenadine Gibb, editor of The Arithmetic Teacher, to speak at the 1962 spring convention. The Council arranged with the elementary school principals for Dr. Gibb to speak to their group, also. The specialist in elementary mathematics at the U.S. Office of Education, Edwina Dean, worked with the group at the 1962 Georgia Mathematics Conference. Her subjects were "Geometry in the Elementary School" and "Implementing the New Georgia Mathematics Guides."

Also, in 1962 Max Beberman, Director of the University of Illinois Committee on School Mathematics Project, was in Georgia for several days. He served as a speaker for the Metro Math Club, the University of Georgia, Atlanta University, and Agnes Scott College. He appeared on WSB-TV and on Georgia WETV. Dr. Beberman said that growth comes through activity and stated that the key word in teacher inservice training is participation. Among other recommendations, he declared that geometry should be a tenth grade subject. (Most schools in the state soon went to that sequence of courses.)

Over 400 were present at the spring meeting of GCTM in 1963. Dr. Eugene Nichols spoke on "Mathematics in a Changing World." Teachers of

the elementary and secondary levels were invited. A special invitation had been sent to the local superintendents and principals, and many of them attended. At the 1963 state conference, Bill Guy from the University of Texas was the keynote speaker. Dr. Guy asserted that "teaching is not a profession unless the teacher studies constantly."

#### THE SEVENTIES

The decade was marked by significant events, changes and trends, reflecting local, state and national concerns in mathematics education.

In 1970 program planning for the ten district meetings held each year became the responsibility of GCTM's president-elect, rather than that of each of the district chairmen. This provision expanded access to outstanding speakers at both district and state meetings and provided for better coordination of program topics and information.

In 1975 regional conferences were initiated, and for three years, mini-conferences were scheduled during February and March at sites that represented different sections of the state. In 1977 GAE district meetings were discontinued. A regional structure, with six GCTM regions mapped out by a committee of Gladys Thomason and Lex Buchanan, was adopted by the GCTM Executive Committee. In 1978 the present structure of six regional mini-conferences was officially established. In the same year, the GCTM Constitution was amended to assign program planning to the immediate past president, rather than the president-elect.

In the 70's, GCTM was the host for three NCTM Name-of-Site meetings

in Atlanta. In 1976 the 54th Annual Convention of NCTM was held in Atlanta, GCTM serving as official host. Gwen Shufelt chaired the Local Planning Committee and Gladys Thomason chaired the Program Committee (See section NCTM).

Many GCTM members served outside the state as speakers at NCTM regional and national meetings. In fact, the Georgia contingent at NCTM national meetings was always sizeable, be it Boston, Cincinnati, Seattle, or wherever.

In 1972, an ad hoc Committee for the Study of the Council's Effectiveness reported, "This examination . . . will lead to an improved professional organization" and recommended "a continuous self-study of the Council," with annual evaluations of goals and accomplishments. In its search to become more effective, not only in services to GCTM members but also in the improvement of mathematics education in Georgia, the Council established several task-oriented committees.

In the early 70's, the Special Projects Committee was formed with specific charges to explore the establishment of teacher centers, traveling workshops, and mathematics tournaments. In the late 70's, the committee, now formally and permanently chaired by a GCTM vice-president, was seeking the cooperation of school administrators in establishing a common date for the annual state meetings of professional organizations in the various teaching disciplines. Also, the committee sought a statewide policy of released time for teachers in grades K-12 to attend the meeting of their choice (See section Statewide Inservice Day).

In 1973, the Textbooks Study Committee was appointed. Its task was to design an instrument for elementary and secondary teachers to use in evaluating the textbooks currently in use. Their ultimate goal was to collect objective data for submission to the State Textbook Selection Committee.

Other GCTM task-oriented committees which were active during the 70's included the Curriculum Study Committee, the Relations with Industry Committee, the Professional Preparation and Standards Committee, and the Professional Materials (non-textbook) Committee. These committees conducted surveys, wrote position papers, and disseminated their findings through presentations at the Georgia Mathematics Conference and through articles in Reflections.

In 1977, the Council sponsored its first statewide mathematics contest--the culmination of efforts by the Special Projects Committee, first charged with that goal in the early 70's. An annual event since then, the GCTM Mathematics Tournament is now well established (See section Tournaments).

In 1972, the Council established the Gladys M. Thomason Award "for distinguished service in the field of mathematics education." It was first awarded to Gladys Thomason in 1972 (See section Awards).

Gladys Thomason was also honored by GCTM members' contributions in her name to the NCTM Building Fund. In 1973, she and Gwen Shufelt were special guests at the dedication of the new NCTM headquarters in Reston, Virginia, where a plaque permanently displays the names of forty

mathematics educators, among them "our" Gladys, in whose honor \$1,000 or more was contributed by friends and colleagues.

In 1976, GCTM adopted a constitutional amendment that the publications editor be appointed rather than elected. In 1977 the publication changed its name from Newsletter to Reflections and from the newsletter format to the professional journal style, with regular columns, special features, reviews of books and materials, and some series of articles on topics of special interest. It must be noted here that Dick George has served for years in the unofficial role of "official" photographer for Reflections. In 1977, GCTM acquired a U.S. bulk mail permit, making it more economical to mail the 600 copies of Reflections to GCTM members, as well as brochures for the Georgia Mathematics Conference, the elections ballots, and other regular mailings.

In 1977-78, the organizational structure of GCTM was significantly altered by a series of events, Executive Committee decisions, and constitutional amendments. In 1977 an ad hoc committee, appointed by GCTM President Lex Buchanan to study "The Relationship Between GCTM and GAE," made its report. A constitutional amendment to delete the requirement that GCTM officers be members of GAE was approved.

That year GAE did not sponsor its traditionally scheduled district meetings in the fall. Bill Bompert, president of GCTM, invited the GCTM district organizations to hold caucuses in lieu of their usual meetings at the annual Georgia Mathematics Conference.

At the GCTM business meeting on October 28, several constitutional

amendments to facilitate the administrative and planning activities of the Council were approved. (1) Elected officers would henceforth assume their duties on the first of July each year. (2) The time of the annual business meeting was changed to coincide with the Georgia Mathematics Conference. (3) The structure of the ten districts was changed to the six state regions. (4) The fiscal and membership years of GCTM would coincide with the terms of office of officers. (5) The president-elect would assume responsibility for the task-oriented committees. Finally (6), the immediate past president would be responsible for programs, a responsibility previously held by the president-elect.

To accommodate the administrative and fiscal changes, officers served an additional three months in the 1977-78 year and the newly elected officers assumed their duties on July 1, 1978. Lex Buchanan, Bill Bompert, and Dora Helen Skypek, who, as presidents-elect, had already served as program chairmen for the Georgia Mathematics Conference, agreed to serve repeat assignments as immediate past presidents in 1978, 79, and 80, respectively.

In 1978 the NCTM Committee on Affiliated Groups requested that a person from GCTM be appointed as the Government Relations Representative. The GCTM approved the senior NCTM Rep to assume this office.

With the guidance and financial support of NCTM's Committee on Affiliated Groups, the Executive Committee of GCTM hosted a leadership conference on May 11-12, 1979, for GCTM 1979-80 state and regional officers-, the Board of Directors for the Georgia Mathematics Conference,

the officers of GCTM's two affiliates--the Metro Math Club and the Georgia Council of Supervisors of Mathematics--and the chairmen of GCTM's major committees. It was a time to discuss and refine the revised organizational structure of GCTM and the necessary changes in policies. Participants also considered how the Council could become more effective in enhancing the professional growth of its members and in improving mathematics education in Georgia. Barbara Branch of Memphis, the south-eastern representative of CAG, assisted GCTM President Dora Helen Skypek in planning and implementing the goals of the conference.

The decade of the Georgia Mathematics Conferences, held annually at Rock Eagle (except in 1970 and 1973, when GCTM hosted NCTM Name-of-Site Meetings in Atlanta), could be summarized in several ways:

1. A list of invited out-of-state speakers who came to Rock Eagle in the 70's would read like a "Who's Who" of mathematics educators in the United States. Included in this group are NCTM officers, mathematics textbook authors, researchers, curriculum innovators, specialists in assessment and in computer-based programs, and an occasional skeptic who challenged our expectations for guaranteed solutions to all our problems (See section list conference speakers).
2. Speakers' titles reflected the teaching concerns and curriculum trends of the 70's. From seven different conference program booklets, the writer has selected the most often used "buzz words" in the titles: "Activities"--28 times, "Math Labs"--19 times, "These Things I Have Tried"--19 times; "Slow Learners"--17 times, "Metric"--14

times, "Calculators and Computers"--13 times, "Problem Solving"--12 times, and "Reading in Mathematics"--9 times.

In 1974, GMC offered a mini-course in diagnostic teaching for one quarter hour inservice credit at Emory, University of Georgia, or West Georgia College. The idea of mini-courses was abandoned, however, because participants preferred sampling the broad array of topics offered at other sessions. Programs during the second half of the decade included discussions related to criterion-referenced tests for students and teachers, competency-based and minimal skills testing, and continuous progress curricula. In 1979, the first "Math Expo" mini-conference, sponsored by the Georgia Mathematics Supervisors and the Georgia Facilitators Center, was scheduled to precede The Georgia Mathematics Conference with 14 sessions.

3. The number of sessions at each conference increased from 41 in 1972 to 68 in 1979.

Attendance increased steadily from about 400 participants to more than 600 participants. The total cost of attending the conference, including registration, was raised from \$18 in 1972 to \$36 in 1979. Throughout that period, the registration fee for GCTM members was \$4. However, beginning in 1978, one had to be an advanced registrant to take advantage of the \$4 fee; otherwise, a \$6 on-site registration fee was required.

In the mid-70's there was some discussion among GCTM members about changing the traditional site of the Georgia Mathematics Conference to a

more urban location. The choice of Rock Eagle was reaffirmed through a survey of the members in 1978-79. A large majority voted to keep the conference at Rock Eagle--or is that "Eagle Rock"?--that rustic place with bunk beds, no sidewalks, and a coffee machine that seldom worked.

For this writer, the most impressive and lasting memory of her involvement in GCTM in the 70's is one of awe at the thousands and thousands of hours contributed by caring, concerned mathematics educators from kindergarten through graduate school to "make it work."

- Contributed by Dora Helen Skypek and  
edited by Gladys Thomason

## ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY POSITION

For a number of years some of the leaders had felt that GCTM would profit by having an officer with a term longer than the customary term of one year. This longer term of office would facilitate more efficient handling of the Council's affairs. In the 1972 business session, the membership approved the establishment of the office of Executive Secretary, with a term of four years plus provisions for possible reappointment. That decision has proven very worthwhile, since this officer serves as an ex-officio member of all Council committees, as well as a resource person to the Executive Committee of the Council.

Gladys Thomason, a former President of GCTM who had served as an advisor to the Council for many years, was appointed Executive Secretary in 1972. She served until 1982 when she resigned because of family obligations. The Executive Committee appointed Bill Bompert to succeed Gladys.

The duties and responsibilities of the Executive Secretary have been expanded considerably, partly because of the excellent financial condition of the Council. For instance, this officer now is responsible for the membership drive, aided by a computer purchased with Georgia Mathematics Conference funds. However, in keeping with the policies of GCTM, all monies are deposited in the account of the Treasurer, who is an elected officer and who writes all checks of the Council.

GCTM SPEAKERS AT GEA CONVENTIONS

1950-1977

In conjunction with the GEA annual convention, GCTM had outstanding speakers each year.

- 1950 - Kenneth Brown, University of Tennessee
- 1951 - William E. Pafford, Georgia Department of Education
- 1952 - Joseph Crudup, Brenau College
- 1953 - Henry Robinson, Agnes Scott College 1954
- Forrest Cummings, University of Georgia 1955 -
- Sarah Nelson, Georgia College for Women 1956 -
- Marie Wilcox, President of NCTM
- 1957 - Robert E. Lee, President of Georgia College for Women
- 1958 - Marvin Sledd, Georgia Institute of Technology 1959
- F. Lynwood Wren, George Peabody College 1960 - John
- R. Mayor, Former President of NCTM 1961 - John Wagner,
- Michigan State University
- 1962 - Glenadine Gibb, University of Iowa, Editor of The Arithmetic  
Teacher
- 1963 - Eugene Nichols, Florida State University
- 1964 - Frank Allen, President of NCTM
- 1965 - Panel, moderated by Gwen Shufelt
- 1966 - William D. McKillip, University of Georgia
- 1967 - Donovan Johnson, President of NCTM
- 1968 - Julius Hlavty, President-elect of NCTM
- 1969 - Francis J. Mueller, Assistant Editor of The Arithmetic  
Teacher
- 1970 - Eugene Ferguson, Newton, Massachusetts, Public Schools 1971
- Alan Riedesel, Georgia State University
- 1972 - Gladys M. Thomason, Georgia Department of Education 1973
- Henry Pollak, Director of Research, Bell Laboratories

1974 - Mary Dolciani, Hunter College  
1975 - Max Sobel, Montclair College  
1976 - A panel of Larry Hutcheson, Peggy Neal, and Norman Wells  
1977 - Shirley Hill, University of Missouri, President-elect of NCTM

#### THE GLADYS M. THOMASON AWARD

During Len Pikaart's term as president-elect and through his leadership, the Gladys M. Thomason Award was established for Distinguished Service in Mathematics Education. This first award and plaque were appropriately made to Gladys M. Thomason at the GCTM luncheon on April 7, 1972, during the GAE Convention. This event was a total surprise to Gladys.

A special contribution was made to GCTM for setting up an annual award to be known as "The Gladys M. Thomason Award." This anonymous contribution was invested in a bond with interest to be used to pay expenses of the GMT Award and plaque to be presented annually.

A procedure for nominating future recipients was written by a special committee consisting of Helen Boatwright, Clare Nesmith, and Gladys Thomason. This procedure was approved by the Executive Committee.

The first Awards Selection Committee was then appointed for selecting a recipient of the next GMT Award. Members of the committee were:

Dorothy Simmons, NCTM Rep, Chairman  
Peggy Neal, President-elect  
Clare Nesmith, Advisor  
Edith Robinson, NCTM Rep  
Gladys Thomason, Executive Secretary

Each of the ten Georgia districts was asked to name a nominee. Those who drafted the first policy thought it was important to secure nominees from throughout the state; thus, all Georgia mathematics educators could be considered. In President Len Pikaart's memo to the districts, he said, "Personally, I believe that this award is and should be an extremely high honor. It was established by the Council to honor one of the most dedicated mathematics educators I have ever known."

Through subsequent years the procedure was updated for the six regions instead of former districts. Also, eligibility, criteria, and deadline dates for nominations were written in the policies for this award. One nominee would be selected annually from each GCTM region. From these six nominees, one person would be chosen by the Awards Selections Committee as the state winner.

The following mathematics educators have received the Gladys M. Thomason Award:

1972	Gladys M. Thomason	1978	Clare Nesmith
1973	Margaret Edenfield	1979	Lex Buchanan
1974	Gwen Shufelt	1980	Dora Helen Skypek
1975	Dorothy Simmons	1981	Doris C. Dickey
1976	Cherry Clements	1982	Peggy Neal
1977	Randall Hicks	1983	Jo Anne Mayberry

Randall C. Hicks, listed above as the sixth recipient, was the first college educator and the first male to receive the GMT Award. The Gladys M. Thomason Distinguished Service Award has become a coveted award which recognizes the excellence of service in the teaching of mathematics in Georgia.

- Contributed by Doris C. Dickey

## GROWTH OF GCTM

(Excerpts of a speech given at the GCTM luncheon  
on April 7, 1972)

by Gladys M. Thomason

Our Program Chairman, Len Pikkart, is very kind to invite me to review events which have contributed to the growth of mathematics education in Georgia and to point out some opportunities to continue this growth. I hope these will challenge the Council leaders as they plan for the next several years.

I have given the improvement of mathematics education in Georgia top priority of my professional time for about forty years. For more than twenty years, I have worked in a leadership role in the GCTM, but this is a rare privilege I have today--one seldom gets to preside at her own wake.

Every court needs a jester. I suppose I come nearer than anyone else to filling this role for the GCTM, as well as the Georgia Department of Education employees. I am not the kind of committee member who just appears at the meeting; I am always "also present," that is, I never keep quiet. Abraham Lincoln said, "Courage is the surest ingredient of success." I have had the courage. In fact, I have pulled the chestnuts out of the fire for a number of people and a number of projects related to mathematics education.

Let me share with you the history of the Georgia Council of Teachers of Mathematics. In the 30's and 40's, the Executive Secretary of GEA appointed a teacher to lead a discussion, as was done in each discipline.

I first attended one of these sessions in 1937, when GEA met in Savannah and Beulah Lott, of Brunswick, had been appointed to serve as leader for the mathematics discussion. Beulah, by the way, was selected three years ago as the first teacher for the Georgia Hall of Fame. At the meeting in Savannah, about six or eight of us sat around and talked about problems similar to those we would discuss today.

Most of the credit for the organization of the Council should go to Bess Patton, a native of Illinois, who spent more than 30 years teaching in Atlanta--one of her fine students was Gwen Shufelt. Among others who were involved and attended those early meetings of the Council was Ed Baker, who is currently Superintendent of Fulton County Schools, and Mark Huie, now an Area Superintendent, Atlanta Schools. In 1950, Bess served as the chairman of the committee which wrote our first constitution.

At first, our dues were set at \$.50--that first year we collected a total of \$8.00! Our current budget is over \$3,200. We have not always been so fortunate. Our present financial stability is caused, in part, because several past presidents have had their expenses paid to the NCTM Convention by their local systems. You are saving the expenses and honorarium for a speaker at this session.

Those of us who were the early presidents of the GCTM paid all of our expenses to the NCTM Convention. A few years ago a survey was conducted by a committee of NCTM which showed our Georgia Council to be one of the few affiliates out of more than 100 that pays the greater part of the expenses of the president-elect to attend the NCTM Convention. This

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president-elect serves as the voting delegate at the NCTM Delegate Assembly. He or she is also Program Chairman for all meetings sponsored by GCTM. He or she serves as president the following year and then as immediate past president.

One factor which has contributed to the success of the Georgia Council has been the leadership from different levels. Also, we have only a single organization for mathematics education, unlike some states which have several groups.

I was working in the GCTM long before I came to the Georgia Department of Education. The state school superintendent said one reason they chose me was because I was often on a committee from GCTM which badgered the Department to do thus and so. I had been on a committee which was successful in getting The Arithmetic Teacher and The Mathematics Teacher on the approved library list in Georgia. Additionally, this committee asked the Department to write state guides in mathematics.

For the past 15 years, I could not have given so much of my time as Advisor to the Council if I had not had such competent people working with me in the Department of Education. Dr. Ivie said my first criteria in employing a new consultant was--can she drive 80 mph? I assure you that has not been my yardstick. Some of these people are here.

Venia Chamlee was hired away from us by Titus Singletary, who was then in Chatham County.

Amabel Lansdell was one of the two southern belles (the other is Grace Yancey) among the Georgia educators.

Susie Underwood worked with me before she took over the migrant programs in Georgia.

Becky King left us to have a baby. I have been accused of working my consultants so hard that they sought other positions, but the stork was responsible for her leaving.

Betty Altman worked with me for four years. She is now at Brunswick College.

Lillian Price, who was with us for a number of years, retired several years ago.

Clare Nesmith is relatively new to the Mathematics Council. She was attending the Science Conference when the rest of us were starting the Mathematics Conference. However, Clare has been with us three years. I have been training her to take the position I now hold--I did not say to replace me. No one is going to replace me. I am an individual, as are each one of you. I have been appointed to a term on the Georgia Mathematics Board of Director, so I will be around.

Venia, Susie, Amabel, and Betty were members of the writing team for the three guides, K-12, published by the Georgia Department of Education in the early 60's.

One of my first jobs in the Department was to produce an NDEA, Title, III Materials and Equipment, pamphlet. As I recall, we worked all day on Thanksgiving and the Saturday and Sunday following, in order to have it ready to mail to the superintendents. The NDEA money would have been forfeited, if it had not been used soon.

In 1959, I appointed a State Mathematics Advisory Committee, composed of college and public school personnel. Many GCTM members have served on this committee. However, for the last few years, we have not had the funds to finance this committee. This committee should be reactivated.

Besides writing the three guides, K-12, which were published in 1961, we started extensive TV programs. In 1963, plans were underway for the Governor's Honor Program which has continued. Through the years, we have

observed a decided improvement in the preparation of the students in this program. We have drawn upon members of the GCTM to serve on the Selection Committee for the Governor's Honors Program.

When I first came to the Department, Dr. Shearouse, then Director of Instruction, and I started badgering Dr. Huff, Dean Dotson, and Kirk Fort at the University of Georgia to consider a department of mathematics education. The University did initiate a department of mathematics education. Edith Robinson came first, then Len Pikaart. Other colleges, such as Emory, Valdosta State College, and North Georgia College have also established mathematics education departments and have given us some fine people--Dora Helen Skypek, Randy Hicks, and Bill Roughead, to name a few. Georgia has the most cooperative people in the nation in the giving of their time to a statewide mathematics council. For example, recently at a party, someone started to introduce me to Len Pikaart. Len said, "Introduce me to Gladys? Why, she calls me every Monday to tell me what she wants me to do that week!" I responded, "And Len does what I tell him to do!"

As another example of cooperation, when Len first came to the University of Georgia, I talked with him about a NSF proposal for elementary teachers. As you may know, for two successive years he had an NSF institute for elementary teachers involving a total of some 1,400 teachers. The second of these institutes was voted the most innovative project in teacher education in the nation for that year.

As another instance of helpfulness, within the last few weeks, Gwen Shufelt, Flo Hudson, Edith Robinson, and Dora Helen Skypek gave up five

days of their spring vacation to work with me on the TV committee.,

I like to think that the first state guides, the increase in mathematics education persons in the colleges, and the Georgia Mathematics Conferences have made a difference in programs of mathematics in Georgia. Oliver Wendell Holmes once said, "One sees what he wants to see." I want to see improvement in-teaching mathematics in all Georgia schools, so that pupils and some teachers will not dread the mathematics class period each day. In summary, I would like to list some challenges for the GCTM leaders.

1. One of the most difficult problems in mathematics education is the negative attitude of many mathematics teacher. The problem is inertia and lack of creativity. In many cases, the enthusiasm of the new teacher is squelched by the inert teachers. As I heard a doctor say on TV recently, "Most educated people are open-minded and accept new ideas in everything except their own field."

I challenge the Council leaders to strive with every program and every conference to nurture a positive attitude toward learning mathematics, to plan programs to use activities and materials which make learning relevant to the child.

2. In the late 50's, Georgia became the first state in the nation whose legislature made available Grant-in-Aid monies. Dr. Shearouse worked very diligently on this project. Some teachers have taken advantage of this opportunity, but many have not.

I challenge the Council to consider what might be done about this problem.

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3. Georgia schools opened in September of 1971 with 89 vacancies of mathematics teachers. They even needed the marginally-prepared teacher, some of whom are deficient in both content and pedagogy.

I challenge the Council to develop workshops and materials which will aid the under-prepared teacher.

4. Georgia has one of the highest dropout rates in the nation. Many students cite a dislike for mathematics as a reason for leaving school.

I challenge the Council to offer to teach some of these mathematics classes. Unfortunately, most of these classes are assigned to the new inexperienced teacher or to teachers of other subjects.

5. Improvement in mathematics in high school is largely dependent upon improvement of the programs in mathematics in elementary school.

I challenge the mathematics education staff in teacher training colleges to examine their programs for the teachers at the elementary level.

6. The certification programs in Georgia need to be examined and revised. I challenge the Council to assist in this worthwhile project.

7. The TV programs in mathematics need to be correlated with the objectives in the new mathematics guides.

I challenge the Council to join with the State Department in an effort to determine if the vast amount of money being spent on TV is having a significant positive effect on the teaching of mathematics in Georgia.

8. College mathematics teachers have set a fine example in donating their time to statewide inservice meetings.

I challenge the high school and elementary school mathematics teachers to follow their example.

9. Only 11% of the mathematics teachers in Georgia, grades 8-12, are members of GCTM and NCTM.

I challenge the Council to make an effort to increase this percentage of membership.

10. Many Georgia schools participate **in** the mathematics contest cosponsored by MAA and NCTM. A number of schools take students each year to Stamford University, Birmingham, Alabama.

I challenge our Council president to appoint a committee to explore youth activities **in mathematics**.

In issuing these challenges, I continue my role as a brazen, brass person who has punched, pulled, and cajoled those in authority if I thought it would improve mathematics education in Georgia. I have asked a great deal of colleagues, but always less than I ask of myself.

## GCTM IN THE EARLY 1980'S

It is difficult to write "history" without the benefit of time to help determine events of lasting significance. At this time, it appears that our history in the early 80's can be organized around events in three areas. The decade of the 80's saw our organization experience both growth and frustration in organizational aspects, computer-related issues, and political activity.

As of this writing our membership is at an all-time high (with over 700 members). Attendance at the Georgia Mathematics Conference at Rock Eagle sets a new record each year--in 1983, we had approximately 900 registrations. From GCTM's standpoint, these statistics are very encouraging, especially when considered in light of the decline in membership in NCTM and declining attendance at NCTM national and regional meeting. With the national shortage of qualified and certified mathematics teachers growing during the 1980's, GCTM's performance is remarkable.

Along with growth in attendance, the Georgia Mathematics Conference now hosts commercial exhibits by publishers and computer-related vendors. Receptions are held after the evening meetings. After considerable study and debate, the decision was made to continue to use the Rock Eagle facility for the foreseeable future. The central location and the reasonable costs of using Rock Eagle were important elements in this decision.

Another positive experience for the organization, and for many high school students, has been the growth of mathematics tournaments in

Georgia. The GCTM tournament in May is designed to be the "capstone" tournament by admitting only those teams that had qualified by their performance at tournaments held earlier **in** the year. Policies and procedures for the GCTM tournament were refined during the early 1980's (Refer to section on Tournaments).

All GCTM policies were reviewed **in** this time period. A committee consisting of Lamar Blanton, Edith Maxwell, and Gladys Thomason was charged with proposing revisions to all policies. Major policy changes were adopted in the job descriptions of the Executive Secretary and the Vice-President for Membership. All membership functions were assigned to the Executive Secretary. The office of Vice-President for Membership was changed to Vice-President for Public Relations. Responsibilities of the Vice-President for Public Relations include oversight of the GCTM tournament and liaison with all regional officers.

We have been frustrated **in** efforts to assist regions and regional officers in providing service to the profession. Many regional meetings, designed for Saturday mornings during the spring, continue to languish in attendance. Some regions have chosen not to hold meetings. Only one region (the Northwest) has availed itself of the financial assistance available to hold a middle school tournament in conjunction with its regional meeting (Refer to section on Regions).

In computer-related activities, GCTM used modern technology to help keep up with organizational growth. We purchased an Apple computer to manage our membership records. And, as previously noted, we placed

responsibility for all membership records--and the computer--in the hands of the Executive Secretary. All records concerning the 1984 Georgia Mathematics Conference program were kept by computer. Subsets of all the information about each session, its speaker(s) and presider, were recalled and used to print mailing labels and the program brochure as sent to the printer. Plans are being considered to manage all registration information for the Georgia Mathematics Conference with the computer.

It is no surprise that the number of computer-related sessions and workshops at the Georgia Mathematics Conference grew during the 80's. In the 1984 conference, over 20 sessions and workshops dealt primarily with computers in the teaching of mathematics. Sessions and workshops were scheduled for intermediate as well as beginning users.

Our Task-Oriented Committee on Technology, however, has been frustrated as to how to provide leadership and service to schools and teachers as computers are purchased. The speed at which new products and services are coming on the market has been one factor in hampering the efforts of this committee. It may well be that our efforts to provide inservice in this area will be confined to articles **in** Reflections and presentations at the Georgia Mathematics Conference.

The 80's saw the GCTM become active in exerting influence on government officials. After years of going through channels, Gladys Thomason successfully spearheaded an effort to have the third Friday in October to be recommended by the school superintendents as a statewide inservice day--thereby helping teachers to attend the Georgia Mathematics Conference or other professional meetings (See section Statewide Inservice Day),

After studying the growing teacher shortage, the GCTM Committee on Professional Practices and Standards called for loans for college students preparing to become mathematics or science teachers. Loans are to be repaid with service--not dollars. GCTM leaders then directed considerable efforts at getting the necessary legislation through the Georgia General Assembly. After learning some practical political principles regarding the appropriations process (through trial and error), we were successful in getting \$135,000 appropriated in 1983 and \$300,000 appropriated in 1984-85 for such loans to prospective mathematics or science teachers at the secondary level. These loans are administered by the Georgia Student Finance Authority.

Political endeavors often result in frustration as well as success. We have not been successful in influencing the Governor's Education Review Commission's (1983-84) study of public education in Georgia. As this study will examine outcomes for students, working conditions for teachers, and financing for schools, GCTM nominated one of our members to be a part of the 40-member task force. We also volunteered to appear before committees of the Commission. We cannot report success in either endeavor. We did submit position papers on basic skills and the teacher shortage. The report of this Commission should be making headlines about the time of the 1984 Georgia Mathematics Conference. It is reasonable to assume that the leadership in GCTM will respond to recommendations affecting the mathematical education of Georgia's school children.

- Contributed by Ed Davis

## STATEWIDE INSERVICE DAY OF GEORGIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

At an Executive Committee meeting during the term of President Dora Helen Sykpek (1978-79), the success of the statewide inservice day in Florida was discussed. Would such a provision be helpful for Georgia schools? It was agreed that this consideration should be explored by the Special Projects Committee, of which Jim Hutcheson was then chairman. President Skypek appointed Gladys Thomason to serve with Jim on this sub-committee: the Statewide Inservice Day Committee.

In Georgia the students attend school for 180 days. The teachers work ten extra days; originally, five of these days were preschool and five were postschool days. However, by the early 70's, the State Board of Education had given approval for four of the teacher work days to be used within the school year for staff development. The GCTM proposed to work toward getting the local superintendents of Georgia to designate one of these days as a statewide inservice day.

Jim and Gladys made presentations at the business session of the "Bootstrap" meeting of the Georgia Association of School Superintendents (GASS). The idea was favorably received by many of those present, including State Superintendent Charles McDaniel and J. W. McAllister, President of GASS. However, as time passed, the chairman of the GCTM committee did not follow through with the charge to his committee on the inservice day project.

In the spring of 1981, President Rosalie Jensen reactivated the State-wide Inservice Day Committee, composed of Gladys Thomason, chairman, and

Dale Kilhefner of the Special Projects Committee. The second attempt was not easy, since many of the original GASS officers had changed and much of the enthusiasm had died.

A concentrated effort was made on several fronts, such as involving the other 20 state councils, especially the other eight councils who also hold statewide conferences. A meeting was held with State Superintendent Charles McDaniel. Help was solicited from Dr. F. M. Fulbright, Executive Director of the Georgia Association of Educational Leaders. Bob Cox, then GASS president, gave permission for Gladys to make a presentation at their July (1981) state meeting. The committee conferred with Gary Ashley, Executive Vice-President of the Georgia School Boards Association, and Gladys and Dale made presentations at the May (1982) meeting of the Directors of the School Board Association, stressing the point that a fixed, statewide day would save paying substitute teachers. The approval of this group really helped our project. Gladys and Dallas Stewart, who is the science consultant of the Georgia Department of Education, made presentations at the July, 1982, conference of the Georgia Association of Educational Leaders.

A committee of superintendents met with Dallas Stewart, Gwen Hutchinson (representing the Social Studies Council), and Gladys in the office of Tom Guillebeau, president of the superintendents' group, on September 2, 1982, and drew up the following resolution:

It is requested that the Association of Superintendents approve the third Friday of October as a universal, statewide inservice day, starting in 1983. This day would be

one of the four inservice or staff development days already approved for this purpose. This date would in no way be mandatory. It would be standardized so as to allow increased options for inservice or staff development for special subject matter interest areas. Local school administrators would retain full option as to whether or not they would adopt the statewide inservice day on their local calendars.

Ed Davis, president of GCTM, and Gladys were present at the Bootstrap meeting of the superintendents when this resolution was approved on September 15, 1982.

In the early spring of 1983 and again in 1984, a letter from the Statewide Inservice Day Committee to the local superintendents reminded them to include the third Friday of October as one of their staff development days. Many systems have made this date one of their staff development days.

#### GCTM: A SOURCE OF PRIDE AND A SENSE OF CHALLENGE

How do you measure the strength of an organization? No one really knows! It is mostly a subjective matter, but there are several factors which are indicative of strength in a professional educational organization. Perhaps the best measurement of GCTM's strength would be to determine how it stacks up against these factors.

The first factor which points to strength is capable and dedicated leadership and an active and growing membership. It is difficult to prove capability and dedication, but through the years these two qualities have been very evident. To be sure, there have been a few examples of leaders

who were capable but not as dedicated as they could be, and the Council just had to live with the consequences briefly. In a few instances, a leader was not quite as strong as were some others, but was very dedicated. In these cases, the Council did not really suffer; dedication can compensate for other considerations. The great bulk of the leaders, however, have been both capable and dedicated. A perusal of the backgrounds of these people reveals outstanding teachers and scholars, authors of books and articles, leaders in many other areas of life, speakers at national meetings, and people who are consistently named to commissions, committees, etc. That the membership is active is evidenced by the fact that they, too, are chosen repeatedly as speakers at national NCTM meetings and as members of national committees and commissions. And the membership has been increasing steadily for several years.

Secondly, strength is indicated by meaningful activities. With the state mathematics tournament; an outstanding newsletter, Reflections; the Gladys M. Thomason Distinguished Service Award, participation in the state science fair, six annual regional meetings, and six active task-oriented standing committees, GCTM can offer activities of interest to the entire membership. In addition, the organization has produced a number of position papers concerning timely topics in mathematics education. And, of course, the annual Georgia Mathematics Conference is one of the truly outstanding state meetings among the NCTM affiliates and certainly the premier meeting of its kind in Georgia.

A third indication of an organization's strength, and surely the most

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important, is whether or not its goals are realized and its objectives achieved. GCTM's ultimate goal is to improve the teaching of mathematics in Georgia. Such a goal, of course, is very difficult to measure; success at this point can probably be addressed only by individual teachers. But teachers flock to the Georgia Mathematics Conference in record numbers each year, saying that they are helped by attending. They are introduced to new ideas from fellow teachers and inspired by nationally known mathematics educators. Articles in Reflections are aimed at helping as well as informing. And the fact that over 120 of our members are enlisted each year to share their ideas at the state meeting certainly aids their professional growth, as well as that of those who listen to them.

As subjective as the evidence is, it is clear that GCTM is a strong and influential organization whose strength and influence are on the increase.

But this is not to say that GCTM does not have its weaknesses because it does. However, this weakness can be a strength; if all were rosy, the organization might be content to sit back and relax. No one sits still--one either goes forward or goes backward.

One area of weakness is the difficulty of maintaining an effective regional organization. We have strong regional officers each year, but we seem to lack a mechanism for pulling things together within the separate regions. As evidence of this fact, the regional meetings have been poorly attended in spite of some outstanding programs. Perhaps these regional officers have been left to fend for themselves too much without the resources and support of state leaders.

Another concern is membership. At this writing, the membership is a record 850, and the pace this year is ahead of last year's pace. This is great. But as long as there are teachers in Georgia who could benefit from GCTM and contribute to GCTM we should not be content. If there were only one GCTM member in each public and private school in the state, we would have well over 2000 members.

Thirdly, we do not have an effective procedure for input from the general membership on issues which concern them. The leadership is sensitive to concerns of the membership, but these concerns are not always communicated to them for consideration. Examples of suggestions which have been acted on favorably are (1) publishing a history of GCTM, (2) encouraging the Metro Atlanta Math Club to affiliate with GCTM, (3) awarding free memberships to pre-service teachers, (4) writing position papers on several critical issues, (5) awarding certificates to science fair winners, and (6) beginning a publication primarily for students. Examples of suggestions which have not been favorably acted upon are (1) publishing a journal, (2) publishing a series of monographs, (3) establishing an associate membership for industry, (4) organizing a high school student conference, and (5) organizing a statewide speakers' bureau. There are unlimited ideas out there for new and improved services to the membership if we can just get them to the surface and act on them.

GCTM--love it and work for it. Be proud of its strengths and be challenged by its weaknesses. It can be a better organization with your help, and you can be a better teacher with its help.

- Contributed by Bill Bompert

## ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GEORGIA MATHEMATICS CONFERENCE

In the fall of 1954, Elizabeth Parker, who was at that time a teacher in Columbus, discussed with Gladys Thomason (then teaching in Thomaston) the possibility of GCTM sponsoring a statewide meeting with emphasis on aids and changes that were taking place in mathematics education. Bertha Cunard and Martha Rogers from nearby Griffin were invited to Thomaston to meet with Elizabeth and Gladys **in** the latter's home. A number of possibilities were discussed. However, the annual membership dues in the Council were only \$1.00, which usually left the treasury empty at the end of each year. It is difficult to plan a statewide meeting and procure a place to hold it without funds, so initiating a conference was "put on the back burner."

Soon thereafter, Elizabeth went to England as an exchange teacher, and Gladys started working on a doctoral program. More than three years passed before plans were finalized for the conference. Elizabeth was president of GCTM in 1957-58 and she, more than any other one person, was responsible for the first Georgia Mathematics Conference, held at the Rock Eagle Center on February 15, 1958. Some of the others who worked with Elizabeth and Gladys were Amabel Lansdell, Bertha Cunard, William Powell, Susie Underwood, Alice Binns, Sara Durham, and Margaret Wynn (See First Conference Program).

This first conference was on Saturday only. However, Elizabeth, Amabel, and Gladys had gone to Rock Eagle on Friday afternoon to take and arrange teaching aids and exhibits collected by Bertha Cunard, chairman

of that committee. During the night, a strange noise awakened Gladys, a native of south Georgia. When she investigated, she found that a heavy snowfall was covering the ground around their cabin. (Later, we learned from the Weather Bureau that it was one of the biggest snows ever to fall in Georgia.) Gladys could not go back to sleep. On the previous evening she had discovered that Elizabeth had not collected any money from the 140 persons who had made reservations for lunch. Elizabeth had made the reservations for that number, although the balance in our treasury was only \$18.75. The Lord must have looked after trusting teachers because about 110 teachers braved the inclement weather and came that day. (Since then, money has been collected before reservations are made.) The members of the Mathematics Council became known as very conscientious people who never let snowstorms keep them away from meetings.

Another story stemming from that first conference was recently recalled by Elizabeth Parker:

On a spring day in 1958, I was walking down Peachtree Street in Atlanta and met Mr. Ed Dickey from Bartow County. He greeted me by saying that I almost caused his home to be broken up. I asked, "How was that?" He said he knew his wife planned to attend a math conference on Saturday morning. The weather was nice when they went to bed. When he woke up the next morning he saw ice and snow on the ground and his wife was nowhere to be found. He realized she must have gone to the conference. He began to question the wisdom of being married to a lady who was so dedicated to the teaching of mathematics that she would risk her life and limbs on the icy roads of North Georgia to attend a mathematics conference. But that was Doris Dickey, who is just that dedicated. In reality, I am sure he was proud of her for her dedication, especially since she escaped unharmed.

We have continued to hold the annual conference at

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Rock Eagle. A few members--who must have expense accounts--would like to move the meeting to a metropolitan, more expensive convention center. However, when that was suggested a few years ago at a business session, more than 90% voted to continue holding the conference at this rustic center.

Soon after the initial meeting, the conference was moved to the fall of the year. Also the length of the conference has gradually been increased, so that, by 1980, it was starting on Thursday morning.

For the first few years, the registration fee was \$0.50, lodgin<sup>g</sup> in cabins was \$2.00 per night, and three meals cost a total of \$3.75. In 1983, the total cost for a member to attend the three-day conference was still less than \$50, and 839 people were registered for the conference. The increased attendance this year seems due to the approval by the local superintendents in the state for the third Friday in October to be a state-wide inservice day for teachers.

The dues of the members were never used to finance the conference; most of the expenses were paid with registration fees. In the early 60's, we had some federal funds to bring in out-of-state speakers. We also had the help of the U.S. Office of Education consultants, including Milton Beckman, Veryl Schult, Edwina Deans, Ken Brown, and Lauren Woodby.

For the first few years, the president of GCTM assigned certain responsibilities for the conference to different members of the Executive Committee. However, as attendance increased, the need for better organization became increasingly evident. In 1962 the GCTM president, Martha Rogers, appointed James Baskin and Gladys Thomason to brin<sup>g</sup> recommendations to the Executive Committee. The formation of the Conference Board of

Directors, discussed in another part of this document, was the result of this committee's work.

For many years, the president-elect of GCTM served as Program Chairman for the conference, but revisions of policy in the late 70's placed this responsibility on the immediate past president. In order to activate this change in policy, Dora Helen Skypek and Lex Buchanan each had to serve twice as Program Chairman. In 1982, due to the resignation of the president, Lex agreed to serve as Program Chairman for the third time. Such generosity and dedication is unusual, even **in** the teaching profession.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE  
GEORGIA MATHEMATICS CONFERENCE

In 1962 a committee was appointed to bring recommendations to the Executive Committee regarding the handling of the state conference. The Executive Committee approved the proposed recommendations, which were to set up a board of directors, with a separate treasury, to manage the conference.

In 1963, Vada Kent, president of GCTM, appointed James Baskin, Frances Goodwin, and Gladys Thomason to work with her to write policies for the state conference and the Council. The policies written by this committee have, for the most part, with minor revisions, continued to govern all facets of the GCTM and the Georgia Mathematics Conference.

In 1964, the president appointed the first Board of Directors: James Baskin, Treasurer; Doris Dickey, Facilities; Isabelle Kinnett, Registration;

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and Frances Goodwin, Publicity. James was appointed Chairman of the Board for that year. The Chairman also serves as a member of the Executive Committee of GCTM.

Since 1963 when the NDEA funds expired, the conference has been financed totally through conference registration fees. All GCTM membership dues go into the treasury of GCTM.

On the following page is a reproduction of the program of the first Georgia Mathematics Conference. This one-day program with ten speakers is quite a contrast to the program of today, a three-day program with approximately 100 speakers.

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FIRST ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
ON TEACHING OF MATHEMATICS  
Georgia Mathematics Council  
February 15, 1958  
Rock Eagle State Park  
Eatonton, Georgia

Program

- 9:30 - 10:00 Registration  
10:00 - 10:30 General Session  
Presiding: Elizabeth Parker, President, GCTM  
West Georgia College
- Greetings & Comments: W. E. Pafford  
Georgia Department of Education
- 10:30 - 12:00 Elementary Group  
Vitalizing Mathematics:  
Through the Use of Multi-Sensory Aids  
Bobby Hamil  
Fulton County Schools  
Through the Use of an Enrichment Program  
Floreine Hudson  
DeKalb County Schools  
Through Understanding of Mathematics Concepts  
Sara Nelson  
Georgia State College for Women
- 10:30 - 12:00 Secondary Group  
Vitalizing Mathematics:  
Through the Use of Multi-Sensory Aids Gladys  
Thomason  
R. E. Lee Institute  
Through the Use of Contests  
Jessie Garrett  
Chamblee High School  
Through Growth of Teachers  
James Brown  
Southwest High School, Atlanta Susie  
Underwood  
Rome High School

12:00 - 1:00 Lunch

1:00 - 3:00 Elementary Group  
Vitalizing Mathematics:  
Through a Variety of Materials  
Lois Snell  
Webster Publishing Company

1:00 - 3:00 Secondary Group  
Algebra as a Mathematics System  
Gerald B. Huff  
University of Georgia

The A, B, C's of Topology M.  
Kirk Fort, Jr.  
University of Georgia

Officers of Georgia Council of Teachers of Mathematics

President: Elizabeth Parker  
First Vice-President: Amabel Lansdell  
Secretary: Susie Underwood  
Treasurer: Alice Binns  
Past President: Sara Durham  
Counselor: Gladys M. Thomason

District Chairmen

Annie Shipp  
William M. Powell  
Mrs. Walton Ruff  
Martha Rogers  
Otis Henley  
James Fanning  
Isabelle Kinnett  
Lena P. Williams  
Margaret Wicht

NCTM Representative

Kathleen Dolvin

#### THE SECOND CONFERENCE, 1959

Amabel Lansdell, President of GCTM, Chose the theme for the conference: "Modernizing Our Approach to Mathematics." The main speakers were Bertram Drucker, Georgia Institute of Technology ("Mathematics and the Computer") and Henry Sharpe, Emory University ("Introduction to Set Theory"). A panel of Sara Durham, Rufus Godwin, Gladys Thomason, and David Lynn spoke on the subject "The Accelerated Program in Mathematics."

#### THE THIRD CONFERENCE, 1960

The conference started on Friday evening. The general session speakers were Milton Beckman, U.S. Office of Education; Ida Mae Puett, Director of NCTM; and Floreine Hudson, De Kalb County Schools.

#### THE FOURTH CONFERENCE, FEBRUARY 1961

The general session speakers were David Wells, Pontiac, Michigan Schools; Mary Tulock, U.S. Office of Education; Sara Nelson, Georgia State College for Women; Kirk Fort, University of Georgia, Martha Hildebrandt, Emory University; and Jude Robinson, Auburn University.

#### THE FIFTH CONFERENCE, NOVEMBER 1961

The general session speakers were Phillip Jones, University of Michigan, President of NCTM; and Edwina Deans and Mary Tulock, U.S. Office of Education.

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THE SIXTH CONFERENCE, 1962

The general session speakers were Lauren Woodby and Edwina Deans, both of the U.S. Office of Education; and Ira Aaron, University of Georgia. (Ira is currently President of the International Reading Association.)

THE SEVENTH CONFERENCE, 1963

The general session speakers were Bill Guy, University of Texas; Edith Robinson and Len Pikaart, University of Georgia; and Bernice McCullar, Georgia Department of Education.

THE EIGHTH CONFERENCE, 1965

The general session speakers were John Wagner, Michigan State University; Isabel Rucker, Virginia Department of Education; Dexter Magers, Florida Department of Education; and John Downes, Emory University.

THE NINTH CONFERENCE, 1966

The general session speakers were Eugene P. Smith, Wayne State University; Lola June May, Illinois Schools; John Neff, Georgia Institute of Technology; and Bill Palmer, Mercer University.

THE TENTH CONFERENCE, 1967

The conference started on Friday morning for two full days. The general session speakers were Vernon Price, State University of Iowa; Dan Sandel, South Carolina Department of Education; Bill Roughead, North Georgia College; and Gwen Shufelt, Fulton County Schools

THE ELEVENTH CONFERENCE, 1968

The general session speakers were Eugene Nichols, Florida State University; Lola June May, Northwestern University; Bill McKillip and Bob Willcutt, University of Georgia; Frances Moore, Clarke County Schools.

THE TWELFTH CONFERENCE, 1969

The general session speakers were John Wagner, Michigan State University; Mervin L. Keedy, Purdue University; and Elizabeth Glass, Connecticut State Department of Education.

THE THIRTEENTH CONFERENCE, 1971

The conference started on Thursday evening. The general session speakers were John J. Kinsella, Newark State College; Lauren Woodby, Michigan State University; O. Robert Brown, Federal City College, Washington, D.C.; Emma Lewis, Mathematics Supervisor, Washington, D.C.

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THE FOURTEENTH CONFERENCE, 1972

The general session speakers were John LeBlanc, University of Indiana; Jack Forbes, Purdue University; Virginia Newell, North Carolina State University; E. L. Edwards, Virginia Department of Education; and Kenneth P. Kidd, University *of* Florida.

THE FIFTEENTH CONFERENCE, 1974

The general session speakers were Shirley Hill, University of Missouri; Joella Gibson, Wayne State University; David W. Wells, Pontiac, Michigan, Schools; and Marilyn Zweng, University of Iowa.

THE SIXTEENTH CONFERENCE, 1975

The general session speakers were George Immerzeel, University of Northern Iowa; and Jack Forbes, Purdue University.

THE SEVENTEENTH CONFERENCE, 1976

The general session speakers were Max Bell, University *of* Chicago; Bob Kane, Purdue University; and Tom Cooney, University of Georgia.

THE EIGHTEENTH CONFERENCE, 1977

The general session speakers were Joe Crosswhite, Ohio State University; Thomas Hill, University of Oklahoma; Len Pikaart, University of Ohio; Bob Willcutt, Boston University; and Edith Robinson, Educational Testing Service.

THE NINETEENTH CONFERENCE, 1978

The general session speakers were Robert E. Reys, University of Missouri; Don Lechtenberg, University of South Florida; Alan Riedesel, State University of Buffalo; and James D. Gates, Executive Director of NCTM.

THE TWENTIETH CONFERENCE, 1979

The conference began on Thursday morning and continued for three full days, setting a precedent which has continued to the present. This year, for the first time, some 25 vendors displayed their wares at the conference. The general session speakers were Carol Greenes, Boston University; Evan Maletsky, Montclair State College; Shirley Hill, President of NCTM, University of Missouri; Jon Higgins, Ohio State University; and Paul Trafton, National College of Education.

THE TWENTY-FIRST CONFERENCE, 1980

The general session speakers were Stephens Willoughby, New York University; George Immerzeel, University of Northern Iowa; Douglas Brumbaugh, University of Central Florida; and Donald Dessart, University of Tennessee.

THE TWENTY-SECOND CONFERENCE, 1981

The general session speakers were Max A. Sobel, Montclair State College; Paul Trafton, National College of Education; Linda R. Jensen, Temple University; and Mary P. Dolcini, Hunter College

THE TWENTY-THIRD CONFERENCE, 1982

The general session speakers were Zalman P. Usiskin, University of Chicago; Phares G. O'Daffer, Illinois State University; and Edith Robinson, Educational Testing Service.

THE TWENTY-FOURTH CONFERENCE, 1983

The general session speakers were Joe Crosswhite, President-elect of NCTM, Ohio State University; Joe Payne, University of Michigan; and Lola June May, Winnetka, Illinois, Schools.

## THE TWENTY-FIFTH CONFERENCE, 1984

The general session speakers were John Kenelly, Clemson University; Phares G. O'Daffer, Illinois State University; and-Albina Cannavaciolo, Hamden Hall School, Connecticut.

## HISTORY OF THE GCTM NEWSLETTER

### The President's Letter and the Early Newsletters

In the early 50's each president communicated with the members by an informal "President's Letter." In 1956 Sara Durham, then president, began a regular publication of the Newsletter which continued until 1961. Others who published the Newsletter were:

- 1957-58 Elizabeth Parker, West Georgia College
- 1958-59 Amabel Lansdell, Richmond County Schools
- 1959-60 Lex Buchanan (Appointed by Jim Brown), Fulton County Schools
- 1960-61 C. T. Purvis, Georgia Institute of Technology

### Newsletter Editors, 1962-71

During this period, Newsletter editors were appointed for a two-year term and were state officers, a policy which has continued.

- 1962-64 Frances Moore, Clarke County Schools
- 1964-66 Glenda Stevens, Thomaston City Schools
- 1966-68 Sue Boren, Decatur City Schools
- 1968-70 Bill Palmer, Mercer University
- 1970-72 Clayton Clark, Fulton County Schools

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### From Newsletter to Reflections

When Lex served as editor during 1973-75, the newsletter was transformed into the distinguished publication which we have today. A contest was held for the purpose of selecting a new name for the publication. As a result of the contest, won by Gwen Shufelt, the newsletter was given the name Reflections and the current masthead. In 1972 the ad hoc committee for the study of the Council's effectiveness recommended the creation of the Publications Committee. The title of the editor was changed to the Council Publications Editor, and the first Council Publications Committee was formed to advise and assist the editor and to consider other Council publications, such as journals. The size of the publication was expanded, and page reductions of the typed material and booklet form were initiated.

Recent editors have been:

- 1972-75 Lex Buchanan, Fulton County Schools
- 1975-77 Rosalie Jensen, Georgia State University
- 1977-79 Janice Gaylord, Atlanta City Schools
- 1979-81 Karen Schultz, Georgia State University
- 1981-85 Virginia Strawderman, Georgia State University

The Publications Editor requires special talents. For this reason, in the early 70's this office was removed from election by the membership. The President makes a recommendation for the office to the Executive Committee, which makes the final decision.

- Contributed by Lex Buchanan

## TOURNAMENTS

As early as 1958 Georgia students were participating in high school mathematics competition. This was the year Georgia Institute of Technology hosted its first annual mathematics competition. In 1959, 398 students from 93 schools participated in the Second Annual Mathematics Tournament. The competition consisted of a three-hour examination on topics from algebra, geometry, trigonometry, and mathematical reasoning. Cash awards were made to the five top contestants. Also, a gold medal was given to the first place winner. Students from College Park High School placed first and second; students from Georgia Military Academy placed third and fifth; and a student from Headland High School, East Point, placed fourth.

In the mid '60's, Lanier High School, Bibb County, hosted a mathematics tournament under the direction of Tommy Close. All middle Georgia high schools were invited to send participants.

In the late 60's, many Georgia teachers took mathematics teams to Birmingham, Alabama, to compete in the Stamford University Mathematics Tournament. Many Georgia students, chiefly from Bibb, DeKalb, and Fulton counties, went home as winners. Among the teachers of these students were Tommy Close and James Pettigrew, Bibb County; Ralph Voris, DeKalb County; Clayton Clark, Fulton County.

The first Fulton County mathematics tournament was held at Briarwood High School in March 1972. Fourteen of the 18 Fulton County high schools participated. The idea originated with the students and their teacher, Clayton Clark, to hold a tournament. They had the assistance of Gwen

Shufelt, Fulton County Supervisor of Mathematics. The tournament lasted for a full day, and teams of four students each competed. A trophy was awarded to the winning team, and ribbons were given to the runners-up.

At the GCTM leadership meeting on September 1972, Gladys Thomason recommended that the GCTM sponsor an annual mathematics tournament, beginning in 1973. She proposed that several colleges be invited to host the tournaments. Then, on September 21, 1973, the Special Projects Committee of GCTM established a sub-committee for tournaments. The ad hoc Committee on Tournaments was appointed and was composed of Hiram Johnson, chairman, Bob Catazano, Susan Fuller, Rita Long, George Thomson, and Earl Swank.

On February 11, 1976, the Committee on Tournaments made recommendations on: (1) eligibility of participants, (2) district level competition, and (3) the state contest. Recommendations were as follows:

Eligibility. Each high school in the state which met eligibility requirements of the Georgia High School Association will be eligible to enter the individual and/or team competition.

District Level Competition. The first stage of the competition will be held within the ten districts. On a given day in March, all teams will take the same written examinations. Each team will consist of experts in algebra and geometry, trigonometry, and advanced mathematics. The district competition will include a ciphering test. The written and ciphering scores will determine district standings. The top two teams, based on the highest raw scores, will be eligible for the state competition. Also, the

top 25 teams in the state, excluding the district winners, will be eligible for the state competition. Additionally, in order to encourage and recognize outstanding individual efforts in each of the four areas, the top two individuals (based on highest raw scores on the written examination, excluding those eligible for state team competition) will be eligible to compete for individual honors in the state competition.

State Contest. The state contest consists of both individual and team competition, with a maximum of 225 students competing at the state level. The competition includes a written examination for individuals and teams and a ciphering contest for teams. In both individual and team contests, first, second, and third awards are given. Like the awards for individual competition, the awards for team competition are based on highest scores.

In its meeting on July 8, 1976, the Executive Committee of GCTM approved the sponsoring of a state high school mathematics contest. The plans were modified in order to have the first contest during the 1976-77 school year.

Rules for Competition:

Eligibility. Each high school in Georgia meeting the GHSA eligibility requirements whose mathematics team has placed first or second in a recognized local or district mathematics contest will be eligible to compete in the GCTM state contest.

Team. Each team will consist of four members and an alternate. The team members may be in any high school grade 9-12.

State Competition. The state competition includes a written

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examination for individuals and teams and a ciphering contest for the teams. For the individual and the team contests, first, second, and third place awards will be given. An individual may enter in individual and team competition.

The May 1977 issue of Reflections gave the following report:

GCTM's First Annual Mathematics Contest became a reality on April 30. The contest, which had 27 teams and individuals from four other schools, was held at Northeast High School in Macon. Awards were presented by 1977 GCTM President, Bill Bompert.

Top honors went to Walton High School Math Team of Cobb County and Robert Thompson of Carver High School in Muscogee County, who was the individual winner. Teams placing second and third respectively were Henderson High School, DeKalb County, and Wheeler High School, Cobb County.

The first state tournament committee was composed of Brenda Tapp, Rachael Crowe, Pam Johnson, Hiram Johnston, Delores Jones, Rita Long, Phyllis Praytor, Sharon Shadden, and Earl Swank.

The May 1977 minutes of the GCTM Executive Committee reported the success of the first statewide mathematics tournament and discussed plans to have regional tournaments, as well as a state tournament in 1978.

The Second Annual Mathematics Contest was held in 1978 at the Northeast High School in Macon. Twenty-five schools participated in the tournament. The chairman was James Henderson, and his committee consisted of Rita Long, Dolores Jones, Phyllis Praytor, and Brenda Tapp. The trophies were provided by GCTM and the programs by GCSM.

In the state tournament of 1978, the morning portion of the tournament consisted of a written examination of 40 questions. The ciphering

portion of the test consisted of 20 timed questions. The timed intervals were adjusted according to the anticipated difficulty of the questions.

With the growth of mathematics tournaments in the state, the increase in the number of schools qualifying for the state tournament was phenomenal. Therefore, **in** 1979, it became necessary to search for a permanent method for the state tournament qualifications. In 1979 the Executive Committee of GCTM approved the designation of a network of "feeder" tournament sites. These qualifying tournament sites were selected in order to assure that at least one tournament would be reasonably close to each high school in Georgia. The sites, in 1979, were schools in Rome, Athens, Atlanta, Morrow, Augusta, Macon, Americus, and Savannah. Each of these eight area tournaments sent the four top teams to the state competition.

The members of GCTM who taught in private schools also wished to participate in the state tournament. The GCTM president, therefore, wrote to W. C. Fordam, Executive Secretary of the Georgia High School Association, and explained GCTM's dilemma with existing GHSA rules regarding academic competition with non-GHSA schools. Mr. Fordam's reply, made in his letter of March 23, 1978, specified that private schools could be included in state tournaments, but awards to private schools would be made separately from those made to GHSA members.

In April 1979, the state tournament, for the last time, was held at Northeast High School. Thirty-five teams participated from all over Georgia. The tournament chairman was Tom Hall; other members of the committee were Rita Long, Breanda Tapp, Hiram Johnson, and Jim Hutcheson.

In 1980 Mercer University became the host school. GCTM is especially

grateful to the Mercer Mathematics Department for their cooperation and help with the different areas of the Tournament. Les Peek, Professor of Mathematics at Mercer, has been most helpful in coordinating the use of Mercer's facilities with the special needs of the mathematics tournament since 1980.

Since 1981 the trophies have been provided by the Georgia Society of Professional Engineers. A member of the Society has been present at each of the tournaments for the awards presentation.

In 1981 the qualifying procedures changed. The first and second place winners of mathematics tournaments approved by the Georgia High School Association were invited to participate in the state championship. The qualifying tournament is held at least four weeks prior to the state tournament and has at least five schools in each category.

In 1982 GCTM designated the last Saturday in April as the date of the state mathematics tournament. This date was established so that qualifying tournaments would be able to set their dates without conflicting with the state tournament. In 1982 and 1983 the chairman was Mildred Sharkley. Other members were Diane Brewer, Margie Burge, Don Dorminey, Fay Early, and Rita Long.

The mathematics tournaments have attracted more participants each year and should be considered one of the most successful GCTM projects.

- Contributed by Rita Long

## ESTABLISHMENT OF GCTM REGIONS AND REGIONAL CONFERENCES

From 1950 until the fall of 1976, GCTM held a business and program meeting in all of the ten GAE (formerly GEA) districts, along with the other GAE affiliates, as part of the fall GAE district conventions. ,During the last few years of that period, attendance at those conventions declined significantly, as more and more school systems scheduled that day as a regular school day.

However, the concept of regional conferences for GCTM had been initiated and had proved to be successful. In the spring of 1976, Lex Buchanan and Gladys M. Thomason were appointed to designate these regions. Policies governing several factors were approved. Each region should contain colleges which could host annual regional conferences. On Saturdays, travel within the regions should be as convenient as possible. The population of the state should be spread as evenly as possible among the regions; for example, the counties constituting metropolitan Atlanta were distributed among three regions: Northwest, Northeast, and West Central.

At the request of the Executive Committee and, in particular, GCTM President Dora Helen Skypek, Lex Buchanan spent the summer of 1978 rewriting the Constitution and the Policies to conform with a structure of six regions, rather than the previous ten-district structure. The proposed constitutional amendments were voted on and passed at GCTM's fall business meeting at Rock Eagle on November 3, 1978.

The first GCTM regional conference was held at Georgia Southwestern

College in Americus in March 1976. The first Regional Conferences Committee, with Lex Buchanan as chairman, planned diligently, and the host college welcomed the 35 persons attending with gracious hospitality. That one conference paved the way for the future conferences.

Four regional conferences were held in February and March of 1977, at North Georgia College, Valdosta State College, LaGrange College, and Armstrong State College. Wanda White was chairman of that year's Regional Conferences Committee. All meetings were well planned and well attended.

As the regional structure became firmly established, it was appropriate for each region to have its own conference. The first of such regional meetings were held during the period of February and March of 1978, with Dale Kilhefner as chairman of that year's Regional Conferences Committee.

We have continued in the spring of each year since then to hold regional conferences on Saturday mornings, ending around noon. Each year a state Regional Conferences Committee coordinates the conferences in collaboration with the regional officers and representatives of the host institution. Although the programs are the predominant feature of the conferences, a business meeting is also held for each region.

GCTM is proud of its comprehensive regional structure. It has proved to be an extremely efficient way for GCTM to operate throughout the state.

- Contributed by Lex Buchanan

## MERGER OF TWO STATE MATHEMATICS COUNCILS

The mathematics section of GEA began as early as 1930. The GCTM emerged from this group in 1950 and became an affiliate of NCTM and GEA. As of 1960, however, the GT and EA, the state association of the black teachers, did not have an affiliate for their mathematics teachers. Therefore, Gladys Thomason, coordinator of mathematics education for the Georgia Department of Education, and her assistant, Lillian Price, organized the Georgia Mathematics Council for the black teachers in the state. They established an annual state conference and arranged for programs at the regional meetings of GT and EA.

In the late 60's, GEA and GT and EA started merger procedures. The associations asked each affiliate to appoint three members to a committee to write a merger constitution. The mathematics committee consisted of GCTM members Ann Helms, Helen Boatwright, and Aurelia Henson (who served as chairman), with Anne Zachary, C. K. Dunson, and L. B. Blaylock representing the Mathematics Council of GT and EA.

On November 22, 1970, the constitution was presented to Clyde Kimball, chairman of the Constitution Study Committee for GAE. (The GEA and GT and EA organizations had merged to become the Georgia Association of Educators officially on May 9, 1970.) The GAE constitution study committee approved the new constitution of the mathematics council, namely the Georgia Council of Teachers of Mathematics, on March 20, 1971.

In keeping with the merger agreement, GCTM immediately started to identify leaders of the minority group for officers' positions. Gladys

Richardson, a black teacher in the Atlanta School system, became Third Vice-President of GCTM (with a two-year term) in 1972 and President-elect in 1974. When the president resigned in 1974, Gladys Richardson became Acting President for 1974-75 and President of GCTM the following year. The merger agreement follows.

#### MERGER AGREEMENT

The Georgia Council of Teachers of Mathematics, an affiliate of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and of the former Georgia Education Association, and the Mathematics Council of the former Georgia Teachers and Education Association agree to merge into one organization known as the Georgia Council of Teachers of Mathematics, and become affiliated with the Georgia Association of Educators and with the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

This organization shall include members of the minority race as state and district officers. It shall include members of the minority race on committees of GCTM.

GCTM shall nominate and elect persons, without regard to race, who are actively engaged in mathematics education and who are willing to serve this organization in a professional manner.

#### CHANGES IN RELATIONSHIP WITH GAE

Following the organization of GCTM in 1950, the Council was an active affiliate of the Georgia Education Association (GEA), which became known as the Georgia Association of Educators (GAE) in 1970. Along with the other affiliates, the GCTM held program and business meetings in all ten districts each year and held a luncheon-program-business meeting as part of the state convention. Over these two decades (1950-70), these meetings

enriched the active life of GCTM, along with the Georgia Mathematics Conference and other activities. GCTM reigned as one of the most active subject-matter affiliates.

However, during the early 70's, the structure, nature, and leadership of GAE were changed in many ways, particularly as follows:

1. GAE unified with NEA, so that an educator could not join one without joining the other of these two organizations, and many local professional organizations unified with GAE/NEA.
2. The goals of GAE appeared to be too much like a labor union to many members of GCTM.
3. Certain groups and individuals within GAE pressured GCTM to conform with GAE's controversial officer qualifications that "each state and each district officer of an affiliate must also be a member of GAE and NEA."
4. Most local school systems ceased their previous policy of scheduling no classes on the days allotted to the state convention and GAE's district meetings.

The advantages which GAE gave to GCTM diminished significantly. For example, in 1977 GAE ceased rebating to GCTM the money which its members specified for GCTM. The policy of GAE was that 10% of each membership fee be rebated to each affiliate. There were other services which GAE no longer furnished to the affiliates. During this time, some of GCTM's presidents made special efforts to maintain a close relationship with GAE by attending meetings of GAE's Council of Affiliates' Presidents. One GCTM president served as president of this group.

In July of 1976, the president of GCTM appointed an ad hoc committee to study the relations between GCTM and GAE. Following the report of this committee, GCTM, at the business meeting in 1977, ratified two constitutional amendments. The amendments deleted the requirement that state and district officers of GCTM be members also of GAE, for the following reasons:

1. Because of the unification requirements, many teachers who were members of GCTM but not of GAE had been denied privileges, i.e., the right to seek office.
2. The restriction on officers was in violation of GCTM's affiliation with the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, which requires "no restrictions on membership."
3. Because of the "officer requirement," it had become increasingly difficult to obtain candidates for state and district officers.

At the March 1978 GCTM Executive Committee meeting, It was agreed that GCTM did not intend to disaffiliate voluntarily and it would be the responsibility of GAE to initiate such a move if it were to take place.

In 1981 GCTM felt that some action was necessary because GAE had continued to list the Mathematics Council as an affiliate on the GAE membership form. The listing indicated that a rebate was to be given by GAE to the affiliate checked. GAE had not made a rebate to GCTM since 1977, although four years later GCTM was still listed on the membership form. Thus the Executive Committee of GCTM requested that GAE remove the name of GCTM from the list of affiliates.

## NCTM MEETINGS IN GEORGIA

### The First NCTM Meeting in Georgia, November 1964

In 1950, GCTM became an affiliate of NCTM. For several years in the late 50's and early 60's, GCTM had explored sponsoring an NCTM meeting in Georgia. GCTM leaders felt that NCTM was not giving serious consideration to the idea because the schools in Georgia were not integrated.

Permission was obtained for a "hearing" with the NCTM Board of Directors at their convention in Pittsburgh in 1963. Representing GCTM at that meeting were James Baskin, an officer of GCTM; Martha Hildebrandt, a past president of NCTM, who had come to Emory University from Illinois; and Gladys Thomason, Coordinator of Mathematics Education, Georgia Department of Education. The committee assured the NCTM directors that the Dinkier Plaza and Piedmont hotels would house anyone who attended, irrespective of race. Furthermore, they promised that GCTM would work with all teachers in Georgia to see that there would be no problems with regard to race.

The GCTM committee felt that Ken Skeen, then chairman of the Committee on Affiliated Groups, was instrumental in influencing the NCTM Board to approve the meeting. In August 1963, approval was given for an NCTM Name-of-Site meeting to be held in Atlanta on November 19, 20, and 21, 1964. It is thought that this meeting was the first integrated teachers' meeting of a national association to be held in Georgia. Due to the diligent public relations work of the GCTM leaders, there were no racial problems. This meeting, attended by 1,516 people, was the largest Name-of-Site NCTM meeting in 1964. The general session speakers were Esther Swenson,

Patrick Suppes, Carl Allendoefer, Bruce Vogeli, Julius Hlavaty, and Roy Dubish.

A highlight of the convention was a tea and fashion show given by Rich's Department Store in their Magnolia Room. Delta Air Lines, which was using old trolley cars for publicity, furnished free transportation from the hotels to Rich's.

The local committee had NCTM assistance in planning the meeting from Jim Gates, Acting Executive Secretary; Frank Allen, President; Bruce Meserve, President-elect; and Isabel Rucker, Chairman of CAG. The local committee chairmen were:

General Chairmen: Gladys Thomason and James Baskin

Program: Isabel Rucker and Betty Altman

Registration: Rembert Green

Signs & Printing: Cherry Clements

Hospitality: Amabel Lansdell and Martha Hildebrandt

Publicity: Leo Arnold and Martha Rogers

Sale, NCTM Materials: Doris Dickey

Banquet & Luncheon: Kathleen Dolvin and Inez Davis  
Equipment:  
George Thomson

Tours: George Pate

School Exhibits: Floreine Hudson

#### Second NCTM Meeting in Georgia

The second NCTM Name-of-Site meeting hosted by GCTM was held in Atlanta in November 1970. The theme for the meeting was "Excellence in Mathematics Education--For All." Phillip Jones of the University of Michigan, speaking at the opening session, stated that "both mathematics and educational

methods continue to change. The problem is to distinguish continuing major themes that need to be pursued and incorporated into school programs from fads that may come and go." Other speakers for general sessions were Vernon Price (President of NCTM), Richard Andree, Ernest Snapper, Charles Allen, George Immerzeel, and Lola June May. The local committee chairmen were:

General Chairman: James Baskin

Program: Gladys Thomason

Banquet & Luncheon: Cherry Clements Sale,

NCTM Materials: Margaret Edenfield

Hospitality & Tours: Mary Lallerstedt

Reception & Tea: Floreine Hudson Supplies

& Equipment: George Thomson Signs &

Printing: Mike Farmer Publicity: Len Pikaart

Meeting Rooms: Herman Bradshaw

Registration: Alex Truitt

School Exhibits: Myrtice Lunch

Student Pages: Richard Johnson

Newsletter: Clayton Clark

### Third NCTM Meeting in Georgia

The third NCTM Name-of-Site meeting hosted by GCTM was held at the Biltmore in November 1973. An affiliate of another southeast state was to have sponsored the 1973 meeting; however, they withdrew their invitation less than a year before the designated date. Gladys Thomason, a member of the NCTM Meetings Committee, persuaded GCTM to come to the rescue. The

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Local committee chairmen were:

General Chairman: Gwen Shufelt  
Program: Len Pikaart and Gladys Thomason  
Registration: Clare Nesmith  
Hospitality: Gladys Richardson  
Meeting Rooms: Peggy Neal  
Publicity: Dora Helen Skypek  
Membership: Dorothy Simmons  
Pages: Katherine Secrist  
Reception: Wanda White  
School Exhibits: Rosalie Jensen  
Sale, NCTM Materials: Edith Robinson  
Newsletter: Lex Buchanan Signs  
& Printing: Jim Davis Luncheon:  
Aurelia Henson

NCTM Annual Convention, 1976

The GCTM was host for the NCTM annual convention in 1976. This was one of the largest NCTM conventions ever. More than 200 members of GCTM worked for two years preparing for this convention, which required all the meeting rooms at the Marriott, Regency, and Atlanta Hilton hotels. There were speakers from 49 states. The committee chairmen were:

General Chairman: Glenadine Gibb, President of NCTM  
Program: Gladys Thomason  
Sightseeing & Tours: Doris Dickey  
Equipment: Michael Farmer  
Sale, NCTM Materials: Edith Robinson  
Student Aides: Jim Davis  
Local Planning: Gwen Shufelt  
Signs: Heyward Thomas

Student Exhibits: Susan Fuller  
Workshops: Catheryne Draper  
Hospitality: Gladys Richardson  
Meeting Rooms: Clare Nesmith  
Serendipity of Ideas: Len Pikaart  
Functions for Special Groups: Peggy Neal  
Films & Filmstrips: Gary Stoufflet  
Evaluation: Lamar Blanton  
Final Report: Dora Helen Skypek  
Membership: Randall Hicks  
Newsletter: Lex Buchanan

Fourth NCTM Meeting in Georgia

The fourth NCTM Name-of-Site meeting hosted by GCTM was held at the Regency in Atlanta in March 1982. Max Sobel, President of NCTM, and William Paul, a member of the NCTM Conferences Committee, worked with the Steering Committee, which was composed of Susan Fuller, Clare Nesmith, Gladys Thomason, and Dora Helen Skypek. The committee chairmen were:

General Chairman: Susan Fuller  
Program: Wanda White  
Registration: Rosalie Jensen  
Signs: Heyward Thomas  
Equipment: George Thomson  
Hospitality: Carole Weaver  
Sale, NCTM Materials: Larry Elbrink  
Evaluation: Edith Maxwell  
Student Activities: Phyllis Marshall  
Student Aides: Pamela Drummond  
Workshops: Karen Schultz  
Publicity: Beverly and Bill Bompert  
Membership: Dale Kilhefner

GCTM Members--NCTM Leaders

Many GCTM members have served in leadership roles in NCTM. Bess Patton and Gladys Thomason were members of the Program Committee for the NCTM Christmas meeting held in Gainesville, Florida, in 1950. The following are some persons who served as officers or on major committees in more recent years:

NCTM Board of Directors: Gladys Thomason, Gwen Shufelt, and Jim Wilson

The Arithmetic Teacher, editorial panel: Edith Robinson and Dora Helen

Skypek

The Mathematics Teacher, editorial panel: John Neff and Gladys Thomason

The Mathematics Student, editorial panel: Pamela Coffield

Journal for Research in Mathematics Education, Editor: Jim Wilson

Editor of a Yearbook: Gwen Shufelt

Professional Relations Committee: Gladys Thomason

Commission Committee: Clare Nesmith

Meetings and Program Committee: Gladys Thomason

Committee on Affiliated Groups: Gwen Shufelt and Gladys Thomason

Nominating Committee: Gladys Thomason and Jim Wilson

National Advisory Committee on Mathematics Education: Peggy Neal

Task Force--Problems in Mathematics for Women: Dora Helen Skypek

The NCTM representative for GCTM fills an important role as liaison for each organization. The GCTM had one NCTM representative until 1964. At that year's NCTM convention, the Delegate Assembly passed a resolution which the Board of Directors approved, encouraging all affiliates to

appoint one or more NCTM representatives for a specified term of office. The GCTM constitution was amended in 1965 to provide for a five-year term of office for two representatives. The following individuals have served as NCTM representatives: Bess Patton, Kathleen Dolvin, Sara Durham, Edith Robinson, Dorothy Simmons, Joe Gore, Doris Dickey, Larry Elbrink, Jo Anne Mayberry, Don Jolly, and Marian Tillison. These officers provide coordination between activities of NCTM and GCTM and assist in keeping GCTM members informed of NCTM activities and benefits. The senior representative serves as the alternate to the NCTM Delegate Assembly each year.

One of the important services of the representatives is to make available a wide selection of NCTM materials for sale each year at the Georgia Mathematics Conference. Many teachers might not get any other opportunity to review these materials. Edith Robinson, who served as a representative, commented, "There is quite a difference between reading titles on a list and having copies of these publications available to inspect. Different teachers have different requirements and many could find 'just what they were looking for' at the Sales of NCTM Materials Booth. In her reply to the committee's questionnaire, Edith added,

I recall many conversations between customers, with one recommending to another a book or pamphlet. I am sure both profited from the exchange. The materials could be purchased on the spot and were more apt to be used when the ideas gleaned from the conference were still fresh in mind.

More NCTM materials are sold at the Georgia conference than at any NCTM regional meeting.

## AFFILIATES OF GCTM

The two affiliates of GCTM are the Metro Math Club and the Local Supervisors of Mathematics.

### Metro Math Club

The Metro Math Club of Georgia had its origin as such about 1960. The members of GCTM in the old fifth district felt the need for more than two meetings each year. Arrangements were made with the Executive Secretary of GEA to use the conference room in the 197 Central Avenue building for four or five meetings each year. Often visiting college professors served as speakers at these meetings. Some of the Marietta teachers, including Nell Vickery and Edna Lee, asked if they could attend. Soon, other teachers from surrounding systems were coming to the meetings, although many of them were not in the fifth district. Eventually, Metro Math Club was chosen as an appropriate name for the group. Quite often, staff from the University of Georgia and other educators drive long distances to attend the Metro Club meetings.

Early officers of the fifth district included Mark Huie, now Associate Superintendent of the Atlanta system; Ed Baker, retired Superintendent of Fulton County; Myrtice Lynch; Jim Brown; Rufus Godwin; Herman Fulmer; and Helen Winterbottom. The first officers of the Metro Math Club were:

President: James P. Brown, Atlanta City Schools

Vice-President: Mary Chappell, DeKalb County Schools

Secretary-Treasurer: Edna Lee, Marietta City Schools

### Georgia Council of Supervisors of Mathematics

Prior to 1960 there were no local mathematics supervisors in Georgia. The first school system in the state to establish such a position was the Atlanta City Schools in 1960. James P. Brown was the first to serve **in** that position. In 1961 Gwen Shufelt became the Supervisor of Mathematics in the Fulton County Schools.

In 1966 Gladys Thomason and Amabel Lansdell, both in the Georgia Department of Education, organized the group of local mathematics supervisors, seven in all, and arranged to hold several meetings per year. However, in some years the meetings were somewhat irregular.

In the early 70's Len Pikaart, University of Georgia, was director of several institutes to train supervisors of mathematics. These institutes were largely responsible for the sudden increase of supervisors in the state. By 1973, at least two-thirds of the teachers in Georgia had the services of a local mathematics consultant, provided one counted those consultants of the Georgia Shared Services.

In 1976 the Georgia Council of Supervisors of Mathematics (GCSM) became an affiliate of GCTM. Among those who made a concerted effort to establish this group as an important factor in mathematics education in the state were Len Pikaart, Susan Fuller, Myrtice Lynch, Catheryne Draper, Clare Nesmith, George Thomson, and Gwen Shufelt. Clare Nesmith has served as the advisor to the group for several years.

The GCSM holds an annual meeting during the winter. For many years they have arranged for seven or eight sections at the Georgia Mathematics Conference. They hold other meetings during the year as needed.

PRESIDENTS, GEORGIA COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF MATHEMATICS

The Georgia Council of Teachers of Mathematics originated in 1950.

In this year, the first constitution was written and the organization received its current name. In 1978, at the Georgia Mathematics Conference with President Skypek presiding, certificates of life membership were presented to all past presidents of GCTM. The policy of giving a GCTM life membership to each past president has continued. Presidents of GCTM have been/are:

- 1950-51 Gladys M. Thomason, Washington County School System
- 1951-52 Isabelle Kinnett, Bibb County School System
- \*1952-53 Herman Fulmer, Georgia Institute of Technology
- 1953-54 Bertha Cunard, Spaldin<sup>g</sup> County School System
- \*1954-55 Rufus Godwin, Atlanta City Schools
- \*1955-56 Marian Crider, West Georgia College
- 1956-57 Sara Durham, Coffee County School System
- 1957-58 Elizabeth Parker, West Georgia College
- 1958-59 Amabel Lansdell, Richmond County School System
- \*1959-60 James P. Brown, Atlanta City Schools
- 1960-67 *Margaret B. Wynn, Jeff Davis County School System*
- \**7967-62 Martha Rogers, Muscogee County School System*
- 1962-63 Susie Underwood, Rome City Schools
- 1963-64 Vada Kent, Clarke County School System
- 1964-65 James G. Baskin, Thomaston City Schools
- \*1965-66 Ida Mae Eubanks, Pickens County School System

\*deceased

- 1966-67 *Gwen Shufelt, Fulton County School System*
- 1967-68 Leo Arnold, Dougherty County School System
- 1968-69 Becky W. King, Atlanta City Schools
- 1969-70 *Doris C. Dickey, Cartersville City Schools*
- 1970-71 Aurelia P. Henson, Fulton County School System
- 1971-72 *Ann Helms, Muscogee County School System*
- 1972-73 Len Pikaart, University of Georgia
- 1973-74 Peggy Neal, Clarke County School System
- 1974-76 Gladys P. Richardson, Atlanta City Schools  
(In 1974-75, she was Acting President)
- 1976-77 Lex Buchanan, Fulton County School System
- 1977-78 Bill Bompert, Augusta College
- 1978-79 Dora Helen Skypek, Emory University
- 1979-80 George Thomson, DeKalb County School System
- 1980- Rosalie Jensen, Georgia State University
- 83 Ed Davis, University of Georgia  
(Due to a resignation of the President-elect, Jensen and Davis each served a term of one and one-half years.)
- 1983-84 Margaret Anne Pierce, Valdosta State College
- 1984-85 Wanda White, Cobb County School System
- 1985-86 Norman Wells, Georgia Southern College

GLADYS M. THOMASON HONORED

The December 1959 GCTM Newsletter quoted a speech that Gladys M. Thomason made at the fall district meeting of the Georgia Mathematics Council. Her theme song, "We never had it so good in the teaching of mathematics in Georgia" was echoed in a "number of new and exciting opportunities available to teachers of mathematics." Among the items listed were:

1. National Science Foundation scholarships, summer institutes, and academic year institutes
2. Shell Oil Company summer institutes
3. Georgia State Department of Education \$300 summer scholarships
4. National Defense Education Act (NDEA) money for teaching references and aids
5. Work being done and reports being issued by such national groups as the Commission on Mathematics of the College Entrance Examination Board and the School Mathematics Study Group at Yale University
6. The increasing flow of valuable materials and information to teachers who subscribe to The Mathematics Teacher and/or The Arithmetic Teacher.

The Newsletter cited Mrs. Thomason's modesty and commented,

Mrs. Thomason failed to mention that one of the big reasons we never had it so good in the teaching of mathematics in Georgia is that we never had Gladys Thomason before. To finally get a mathematics consultant added to the staff of the State Department of Education is a worthy accomplishment; to get Mrs. Thomason as the consultant is a great victory

for the students, the schools, and the teachers of mathematics. It is indeed good to have Mrs. Thomason as our consultant. Let's support her, use her, and report to her what we are doing that should be shared with others.

Gladys Thomason's position with the Georgia Department of Education enabled her to give invaluable support to the development of GCTM. By being a liaison between the State Department and GCTM, she was instrumental in benefiting both the Georgia Department of Education and GCTM, thus fostering mathematics education in Georgia.

GCTM members and friends were privileged to attend the gala event when Gladys was honored at the luncheon meeting of GCTM during the GAE convention in Atlanta on April 7, 1972. Since Gladys was retiring from the Georgia Department of Education, Len Pikaart, GCTM President-elect, chaired the event to honor Gladys. There was much planning and preparation. Friends donated towards a fund to buy gifts. (No monies could be used from the GCTM treasury.) Clare Nesmith contacted an Atlanta jeweler to design and make a gold Mobius strip pendant and Mobius strip gold earrings fashioned especially for Gladys, plus a gold chain for the pendant. Clare also asked Doris Dickey to prepare a scrapbook filled with letters and photographs from GCTM members, NCTM members, relatives, and friends from various parts of the country. There was also an orchid corsage for Gladys and a gift certificate to Lord and Taylor's from the gift fund. Another one of numerous surprises during the luncheon was the presentation of the first Gladys M. Thomason Award and plaque to Gladys on behalf of GCTM by Len Pikaart.

Many of Gladys' friends traveled from other states to be present at the luncheon. Several national leaders in mathematics education were there, including Jim Gates, Executive Secretary of NCTM; Vernon Price,

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President of NCTM; John Wagner, Professor of Mathematics at Michigan State; Isabel Rucker, Virginia Supervisor of Mathematics; Charlotte Jones, Alabama Supervisor of Mathematics; and Veryl Schult, U.S. Office of Education, Washington, D.C. Each person contributed "some reflections of Gladys" at the luncheon. Leaders of GAE and members of the Georgia Department of Education were also there to honor her, as were her daughter, granddaughter, and nieces.

Gladys was advisor and "official puncher"--in her own words--long before she became Coordinator of Mathematics with the State Department. She then moved into a different position as Executive Secretary of GCTM in 1972. The NCTM building, in Reston, Virginia, was dedicated in May 1973. Gladys Thomason's name was one of 40 mathematics educators placed on a plaque in the lobby of the new building (See section on The Seventies).

Gladys served ably as Executive Secretary until 1982, when she requested that a replacement be appointed. A tribute honoring Gladys was then written by Clare Nesmith with assistance from Dora Helen Skypek and Wanda White and was published in Reflections. She was also honored during the mathematics conference at Rock Eagle in October 1982, when she gave up the office of Executive Secretary. A reception was held in her honor after the address of the keynote speaker in the evening. Ed Davis, GCTM President, also planned for a corsage and gift to be presented to Gladys on behalf of GCTM at that meeting.

Gladys Thomason's dedication to GCTM continues in 1984. She has chaired writing the history of GCTM, as requested by the Executive Committee.

- Contributed by Doris C. Dickey

REMINISCENCES BY ELIZABETH PARKER

President of GCTM, 1957-58

As I recall, my early memories of GCTM revolve, around the Georgia Education Association. At the district meeting in the afternoon, the teachers would divide up into interest groups. The teachers of English would be in one group, the teachers of mathematics in one group, etc. These groups were called affiliates of the GEA. Most of the elementary school teachers attended the meeting of classroom teachers. This left the high school mathematics teachers to attend the mathematics meeting. The meeting lasted about an hour because it had been a long, trying day. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet old classmates and other friends from the district. These meetings were held in the fall. You were miserable because you had on your new winter outfit and new shoes that were too tight, and the winter outfit was too hot for the October day.

The district organization was patterned after the state organization. The state meeting was held in the spring, and no teachers got to attend that meeting except the official delegates and those who had responsibilities. At the GEA conventions you had the general meeting, delegate assemblies, and the departmental and affiliate meetings, to say nothing of Rich's fashion show. It was impossible to cram all of this into two days without having an overlapping of meetings. For example, the Department of Higher Education might meet at the same time as the teachers of mathematics. No wonder we were so frustrated that the teachers of mathematics wanted to get off by themselves and talk shop to their hearts' content.

For information concerning these early meetings, the GEA journal will be a source of information. The issue prior to the spring meeting would contain information concerning the program of the different affiliates, of which the teachers of mathematics was one. A study of the file of the printed programs of the annual meeting will be another source of information for your history.

There were no dues. When you joined the GEA, you checked the affiliate or department in which you were interested. The treasurer of the GEA would give to the affiliate a small share of the dues. Since most people checked a department rather than an affiliate, we had a nominal sum with which to operate. That is a brief description of the early organization of the teachers of mathematics.

No history of that period would be complete without paying tribute to Dr. Purvis of Georgia Institute of Technology. The state president or one of the state officers would be present at each of the district meetings. The Institute would send Dr. Purvis to the majority of the district meetings. By his help, we obtained some spirit of unity.

In February 1958, we had our first mathematics conference at Rock Eagle. Those who are affiliated with the sophisticated, efficient organization today will have difficulty in visualizing the early struggles. It was about this time that the Department of Education took us under its wings. It gave us people like Gladys Thomason, Susie Underwood, and Amabel Lansdell to work full-time with the teachers of mathematics. That really

breathed life into the organization. I am sure you have plenty of material for your history from that time on.

When we decided to have a mathematics conference separate from the GEA meeting, we were really operating on the proverbial shoestring. We had no mailing list, which was all right since we had no stamps. Our means of communicating with anyone who might be interested in such a meeting was to have Margaret Jones put a notice in "The Blackboard" in the GEA journal. This notice appeared in the December and January journals. Anyone interested in attending such a conference was asked to notify me in order that we might know about how many to expect for lunch. We were so inexperienced that we did not ask them to send cash "on the barrelhead." We received cards from around 140 people, stating that they planned to come to the meeting on February 15, 1958. The program was planned around two interest groups, the high school mathematics teachers and the elementary school teachers. We wanted to help them "vitalize the teaching of mathematics" (See attached program of first conference).

Gladys Thomason, Amabel Lansdell, and I went to Rock Eagle where the first conference was held. Imagine how our hopes were dashed to the earth when we awoke the next morning to find the ground covered with snow and ice! On top of that, it began to rain. Rock Eagle is an ideal place to have a conference, but not on a rainy day. Through the pouring rain, Gladys and I went to breakfast, and I asked Cecil Johnson, director of the center, how many days I would have to wash dishes to pay for the 140 lunches for which I had made reservations. But by nine o'clock, the sun came out

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and cars began appearing like termites out of the woodwork. I believe we had 126 people attending that first conference.

#### REMINISCENCES OF OTHER GCTM MEMBERS

In preparation for this history, Gladys Thomason sent a questionnaire to approximately 300 members who had been involved in leadership roles in GCTM. She received many interesting answers to the questionnaire and is sharing these with you.

1. Do you recall the first meeting of GCTM that you attended? When and where? Comments.

Mildred Sharkley. Savannah High School District Meeting, fall 1961. Gladys Thomason was there wearing a beautiful hat and lovely dress. I was able to get some free books to assist in teaching.

Bill Roughead. GCTM meeting in Macon, 1965--held in a gym or old hotel ballroom. Len Pikaart brought me down. I remember Doris Dickey and Margaret Edenfield. In 1966 at Rock Eagle, I heard Lola June May for the first time--I'll never forget it!

George Thomson. The 1961 Rock Eagle conference was a good introduction to the activities of GCTM

Edwina Thompson. In 1966, *Vannie Lou Roberts introduced me* to GCTM, and I remember the help of Becky King, State Mathematics Consultant.

Wanda White. In 1968. I remember Bob <sup>Wil</sup>cutt as one of the most exciting persons I had ever met. . . . doing mathematics.

Rosalie Jensen. I don't remember the date I first attended a meeting. I do remember the first time I heard about GCTM was from Gladys, coming back on a plane from an NCTM meeting in Tampa, about 1966.

Bill Bompart. I remember vividly the first GCTM meeting I ever attended. It was the Georgia Mathematics Conference in 1968. Several things stand out in my mind. (1) I was fairly new to Georgia, having come here in August of 1967 from Texas. The temperature outside was below freezing and I remember thinking, "Why in the world did I go north to accept a job?"; (2) The first person I met at this conference was Lamar Blanton, who was at ABAC at the time. It is a friendship which I have appreciated over the years; (3) I stayed in one of the cabins at Rock Eagle and felt that the accommodations were fine. (4) The conference was one of the best I had ever attended, and I recall realizing that I had joined a quality organization.

Alan Riedesel. I will always remember with warmth the phone call I received (from Gladys) the first week on the job at Georgia State. She welcomed me (I was feeling a little out of place at the time). After many years in this state where I am now located, I have yet to have contact with the mathematics people in the State Education Department. I really appreciated her concern.

Doris Dickey. I recall that my first GCTM meeting was at the Henry Grady Hotel in the early 1950's. Pat Weaver presided and Isabelle Kinnett participated as the president.

Dora Helen Skypek. I don't remember the exact date of the first meeting I attended. In the early 1960s while Gwen Shufelt and I were graduate students in the NSF funded program at Emory, Gwen invited this transplant from Florida to join GCTM.

Larry Elbrink. Yes. At Rock Eagle Conference **in** 1975. I was very impressed with the caliber of the meeting, especially the out-of-state speakers. I was delighted with the setting.

Edith Robinson. Yes. At Rock Eagle in 1963. I was impressed by the turnout, especially the number of elementary-level teachers present.

Gladys Richardson. About 1963, in Atlanta, Inez G. Johnson and I were among the first black teachers to attend a meeting of GCTM. Especially, I remember that we were welcomed and made to feel part of the organization by Aurelia Henson and Gladys Thomason and others.

Lex Buchanan. Not only did I attend the First Annual Georgia Mathematics Conference at Rock Eagle in February 1958, but I brought in my car the principal speakers, Gerald Huff and M. K. Fort, Jr. While others were inside Banker's Building enjoying the exciting messages of the speakers and the warmth

of the building, I was outside in the pouring, cold rain, changing a flat tire on my car. Yet, it was wonderful to be there.

2. In your opinion, what have been the outstanding accomplishments of GCTM?

Bertha Cunard. Bringing together of leaders to improve the teaching of mathematics in the Georgia schools. Growth of the State Mathematics Conference has been outstanding.

Mildred Sharkley. Improved Reflections when Bill Palmer at Mercer mailed them out about 1961. Also GCTM State Mathematics Tournament and the state mathematics conferences at Rock Eagle.

Carolyn H. Owens. To provide an annual state meeting centrally located and affordable to teachers; to bestow the Gladys M. Thomason Award in recognition of excellence in mathematics education.

Rosalie Jensen. Bringing in so many college and university people into active participation in the Council. Bringing regional and national NCTM conferences to Georgia has been super.

Dale Kilhefner. Establishing mathematics tournaments for high schools. Furnishing an effective vehicle for exchange of ideas via Reflections.

Lex Buchanan. The coordination of activities in mathematics education around this enormous state and involvement from scores of school systems and organizations. "Unity" is the word.

Bill Bompart. I have to refer to the annual Georgia Mathematics Conference as the outstanding accomplishment of the Council because I think that this is where the classroom teacher receives a great deal of grass-roots level help and ideas for both immediate and long-range use in their classes. And what is even more important, when teachers come away from the meeting seeing what other people are actually doing in the classroom they are motivated to say, "I'm going to go back to my school and do a better job of teaching." And many of them do! There are certainly other accomplishments, but I think this is the greatest.

Doris Dickey. Outstanding accomplishments of GCTM include keeping the mathematics teachers of Georgia informed as to trends in mathematics education through true cooperation of GCTM, NCTM, and the Georgia Department of Education. Also engaging outstanding and knowledgeable speakers for all meetings and conferences, GCTM has afforded a means of camaraderie among mathematics educators throughout Georgia by means of the Newsletter (Reflections), committees, and social gatherings.

Bill Roughead. Maturity and growth in "tough" times for teachers and in times of shortage because we all have shared our good and bad experiences.

Randy Hicks. Providing means of communication across the state. Conferences and newsletters open new doors for teachers.

George Thomson. A strong, independent, professional organization for teachers in Georgia.

Edith Maxwell. Outstanding leaders of GCTM, several of whom have gone on to leadership in NCTM.

Len Pikaart. Growing from a small cadre of dedicated educators into an active professional service organization for the whole state. During my term as President (1972-73) a leadership meeting, sponsored by NCTM, was initiated by our Executive Secretary, Gladys Thomason, and our Regional NCTM Representative, Robert Clary. The meeting was designed to familiarize new officers with GCTM policies, NCTM policies, problems, and challenges as perceived by outgoing state officers.

Dora Helen Skypek. GCTM encourages and enhances the feelings of its members that they are professionals, with all the attendant rewards and responsibilities of belonging to and contributing to, an organization committed to the improvement of mathematics teaching and learning in Georgia.

Wanda White. Making mathematics teachers more visible within the educational community.

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Becky King. Providing outstanding annual mathematics conferences, especially for teachers in the state who do not go to national meetings.

Gladys Richardson. Some of the outstanding accomplishments have been: (1) the expanded program of the Rock Eagle Conference, (2) the establishment of the regional conferences of GCTM, and (3) the broad and diverse participation at the conferences and also in the membership--college and public schools, teacher and administrators, state department personnel, and local and national educators.

3. Describe committees and/or projects with which you have worked.

Sara Durham. Teaching elementary teachers for Len Pikaart's University of Georgia NSF grants. Helping write mathematics guides for Georgia schools. Even though these were Georgia Department of Education projects, members of GCTM were chosen to implement them.

Bertha Cunard. Chairman of exhibits and aids at the spring meetings. Two walls of the old City Auditorium were always *filled with teaching aids in the early 7960s.*

*Caroline* Hollingworth. *I thoroughly enjoyed serving as editor of the reviews section of Reflections.*

Dale Kiihefner. I consider serving as chairman for the regional meetings and serving on the committee for the Statewide Inservice Day among the more important.

Edith Maxwell. I served as chairman of the Policy Revision Committee in 1982 and as chairman of the Evaluation Committee for the NCTM regional meeting.

Doris Dickey. My first assignment as GCTM treasurer, 1959-61, included being treasurer of the state conference. (This was before we had a board of directors for the conference.) The constitution then required that the treasurer furnish the secretary with a list of members. There were 328 members in 1960. Membership dues had been raised to \$1.00.

Bill Roughead. For 15 years I have been a speaker at many meetings and have served on various curriculum committees. In 1979-83, I chaired the Professional Preparations and Practices Committee and authored a "white" position paper.

Lex Buchanan. Elections Committee, ad hoc Committee to Study the Effectiveness of the Council (1972-73), Council Publications Committee, GMC Program Committee chairman (three times), Revision of Constitution and Policies and many others.

Gladys Richardson. I have worked on the Membership Committee and Elections Committee, served as Third Vice-President, First Vice-President, and President of GCTM. I have served as chairperson of the Program Committee of the Rock Eagle Conference for two years. I have also served as an officer of the fifth district. I have served as chairman of

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the Hospitality Committee of the annual meeting of NCTM held in Atlanta and on the Steering Committee of the Atlanta meeting of NCTM. I was President of GCTM when NCTM met in Atlanta and served on committees of regional meetings held in Atlanta and served as presider at many Rock Eagle conferences.

Sara Durham. Member of the writing committee for the state mathematics guides in 1960 and served on the State Textbook Committee. I served four years as an NCTM rep for GCTM.

4. Relate some "fun" or pleasant incidents that you recall, connected with GCTM.

Randy Hicks. The card games at Rock Eagle at night after sessions.

Edwina Thompson. Rock Eagle conference is always a shot in the arm; being at a Georgia math conference is like a family reunion of mathematics education friends.

Caroline Hollingworth. GCTM'ers welcome you to their number right away and involve you in the organization. There are no cliques--we are all one. It was fun seeing Randall Hicks receive the Gladys M. Thomason Mathematics Award--I wish his *mother had* lived to see it bestowed on him.

Elizabeth Parker. I remember the beautiful hats Gladys, Grace Yancy, and Bess Patterson used to wear. It seemed the three tried to outdo each other!

Lamar Blanton. The fellowship of get-togethers after the programs at Rock Eagle.

Lex Buchanan. Having to wake up Gladys Thomason who was seated on the front row when Henry Pollack was speaking at a GCTM meeting. I never did believe that it was "sinus medicine" and not boredom that caused her drowsiness!

Gladys Thomason. Once in the early 1960s a male teacher, new to Georgia, heard about an upcoming state conference and decided to attend. He arrived late the night before the conference started and at the suggestion of the night watchman, he went to bed in a vacant cottage, planning to register the next morning. The registrar for the conference happened to assign a very sedate, elderly female to that room in that cottage. As the lady was unpacking, the gentleman stepped out of the bathroom in his undershorts. She ran out of the cottage, screaming, "A man is after me!"

Rosalie Jensen. A very pleasant remembrance is the elegant dinner with other officers at the home of Doris Dickey, to celebrate Lex's receiving the Gladys M. Thomason Award. Also, being publicity chairman of the 1976 NCTM convention in Atlanta, giving out fortune cookies.

Bill Roughead. Doing the "Bump" with Jo Anne Mayberry at Rock Eagle. Seeing Gladys Thomason as the first Gladys M. Thomason Award winner. Attending a GCTM party at Gwen Shufelt's

farm. Watching little ol' country girls like Gladys.T. and Clare M. get the University whiz kids in line.

Sara Durham. Attending the 1956 NCTM convention in Milwaukee as the GCTM delegate was a great experience for me. I appreciate, as a past president, being given a life membership to GCTM and receiving Reflections. I am so proud to have once been a part of all this in the early beginnings. Gladys, I think you're wonderful to be so active. I loved all the work and fellowship with you.

Bill Bompart. It would take a volume to write all the fun and pleasant experiences I have had connected with GCTM. Certainly, the most pleasant experience has been the opportunity through the years to work with some of the most capable and dedicated mathematics teachers in the country. We have some awfully good people in this profession in Georgia. Perhaps the funniest thing I remember is that during the year I was president of GCTM I traveled over 8000 miles, mostly for the Council. I was having so many meetings in Atlanta with Gladys Thomason, Clare Nesmith, Jan Gaylord, Gladys Richardson, and others that *my* wife started referring to *my* "harem" in Atlanta.

Another funny thing *was when I was speaking at the district* meeting in Savannah in 1971. Right in the middle of my talk (and totally unrelated to it!) a lady in the back of the room spoke up and asked if the correct <sup>P</sup>ronunciation was

"multiplicative" or "multiplicative." I told her it depended on which syllable you accent. She got hot as a firecracker and probably hates me to this day. I guess it was rather amusing when everyone used to check with me on my fishing tournament schedule before they scheduled any meetings.

Doris Dickey. I recall that I was overdressed in a suit and black hat with a plume to attend my first trip to Rock Eagle for the first conference (1958). I rode with Ann Lewis and her sister Miriam Pullen. We left Cartersville in a heavy snow. (Ann and Miriam are sisters of Alta Sproull, a mathematics professor at Berry College, who also helped with many district and state meetings of GCTM.) The next week after the conference I had a letter from Colbert Purvis, chairman of the GCTM Nominating Committee asking me to serve as state treasurer, which began a new chapter in *my* life.

Len Pikaart. The nicest compliment was when Gladys said at the Rock Eagle conference, "It was a lucky day for Georgia when these two Yankees came," referring to Bill McKillip and me.

Gladys Thomason. When Marian Crider was president of GCTM, in 1956, she had arranged for NCTM President Marie Wilcox to be the speaker at our luncheon. Since I knew Marie, Marian asked me to meet the train and take Marie to luncheon in Sparks Hall (which was then an off-campus center of the University of

Georgia, later to become Georgia State University). I was sitting at the head table, waiting to introduce Marie. A young lady was pouring coffee from an aluminum pitcher when her hand slipped and about a gallon of hot coffee landed between my shoulders and puddled in the seat of *my* chair. My first thought was, "If I had not been escorting the President of NCTM, I would have been wearing my old suit on this rainy day instead of my expensive new suit." Sara Durham went with me to my hotel to administer to my burns. I don't know to this day who introduced Marie Wilcox.

Elizabeth Parker. I have pleasant memories connected with Gladys and her little coffee maker which we used when we shared a room at the Piedmont during the GEA conventions.

Dora Helen Skypek. The time at Rock Eagle when everybody was tucked into their bunk beds in the cottages and almost asleep when a loud crash brought everyone upright. One of the women occupying a top bunk had jumped to the floor. We all asked, "What is wrong?" She said, "I forgot to take *my* birth control pill." It was funny then, in the mid-60's, in that rustic, isolated, crowded cottage filled with aging matrons!

It wasn't funny, but the first time I was asked to speak at a district meeting (in Griffin), I showed up on time instead at an empty high school in another town (in Macon).

Dale Kilhefner. Among the "fun" things is getting together after hours at the Rock Eagle meeting, especially if Bill Bompert is there with his unusual wit. When planning the regional meeting at Armstrong one year, I discovered, by accident, that a local teacher had been a student of Karen Schult at Northwestern and I arranged for her to introduce Karen, who was a speaker. Karen was very surprised.

Gladys Richardson. The thrill and the excitement of being able to attend *my* first Rock Eagle conference, about 1963.

When we drove to the grounds of the center, the simple and rustic beauty of the place--a perfect place for such a conference--was breathtaking. Some of the most pleasant incidents have been being able to meet many of the most prominent mathematicians, authors, and educators in the country. I recall with pleasure the honor of addressing the opening session, as President of GCTM, at the NCTM convention in Atlanta with over 8000 present. The fun of the reference to Gladys T and Gladys R as personalities in GCTM.

5. Relate other items that you think might be of interest to be included in this document.

Becky King. In 1967 NCTM held a leadership conference for the Southeastern Affiliated groups at Montgomery Bell State Park, Nashville, Tennessee. Leo Arnold, Gwen Shufelt, Gladys Thomason and I represented GCTM. When the groups met for

exchanging of ideas, GCTM turned out to be the leader in almost every area mentioned. We were very proud of GCTM's accomplishments.

Gladys Richardson. A history of GCTM could not be completed without this comment: In 1974, the person elected as president of GCTM resigned. I had been elected as president-elect and had the intention to use that year as a training ground to learn the people and the policies. When the Executive Committee of GCTM met and in the most professional manner pledged their total support to me as the first black president of GCTM, I felt humble and proud to be a teacher of mathematics in Georgia. Since 1955, I have attended about 20 of the annual meetings of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, and I can sincerely attest to the fact that in not one of the 50 states does there exist a more dedicated group of fine professionals devoted to the improvement of teaching and the learning of mathematics for all the citizens of that state.

Dot Hay. I'm grateful to Lex Buchanan, who has served three times as program chairman for the state mathematics conference.

Mildred Sharkley. Getting ideas to improve curriculum, discussing books, and getting to know the college professors, many of whom attend GCTM meetings regularly.

Bill Roughead. When I came to Georgia I was very impressed with the caliber of nationally known speakers at the Rock Eagle conference every year. This had not been the case at the mathematics council meetings in other states where I had lived.

Kathryn Bailey. Tony School was one of the pilots for the state guides in the early 1960s. As a teacher there it was my privilege to work with Amabel Lansdell on this project. I have always remembered her help and inspiration.

Lex Buchanan. I believe that the Council must strive to involve all mathematics teachers in the state, not only in attending and participating in conferences, but in demanding and helping to create a mathematics curriculum which is relevant to today's needs and attitudes of students.

Gladys Thomason. No one in GCTM or elsewhere ever thought to see me speechless. My glib tongue has often gotten me in trouble. However, as I rose from my seat at the 1983 General Session to present, to Jo Anne Mayberry, the Gladys M. Thomason Award for Distinguished Service in Mathematics Education, I looked at brave Jo Anne sitting there in the wheelchair with a smile on her face, notwithstanding her years and years of suffering. I opened my mouth to make the presentation, but no sound came forth. It seemed an eternity before I could speak.

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Wanda White. People I remember from year to year at Rock Eagle are Gwen, Gladys, Dora Helen, Edith, Peggy, . . . and lots of teachers walking with their arms full of workshop stuff or sitting on benches under the trees . . . all talking about mathematics teaching.

Doris Dickey. I recall with pleasure hearing Martha Rogers refer to GCTM frequently to Emory mathematics instructors, students, and colleagues who were participating in the 1961 Summer NSF Institutes at Emory. Some of the other GCTM members attending were Bertha Cunard, Venia Chamlee, Mary Catherine Counts, and James Baskin.