

GROWING UP IN ROBESON COUNTY

Editor's note: This is another exciting article contributed from our friend, Ronald H. Lowry who lives in Virginia Beach, Virginia. He submits articles periodically and they always prove to be very interesting. The article is entitled "Growing Up in Robeson County," and will be presented in four parts because of space problems. The first of these four installments follows.

by Ronald H. Lowry
Life in Robeson County during my formative years was lived at a slower pace than that we experience today. The lack of mobility and communication limited one's knowledge of events going on in areas outside one's own community. There was no television, few radios, and the county's primary newspaper had not advanced to a daily publication. The primary way the people communicated was by word-of-mouth. The art of conversation was practiced on a large scale, and most of the local news traveled by this means mostly on week ends in the local towns, at church, and week end visitations by families in the homes of relatives and friends. This type communication took place on front porches and under shade trees in warm weather, and around fire places in cold weather. When I was growing up in Robeson County, children were supposed to be quiet and listen to adult conversations. As a result I developed the art of a good listener, and have heard some very good conversationalists perform in Robeson County before the modern age of mass communication arrived.

sometimes scary when the subject got around to telling stories about ghosts. Stories about Robeson County snakes have held top billing in many conversations which I have heard. My dad's favorite snake story relates an experience he had with a snake as a small boy growing up in Robeson County. He had gone down to the edge of the swamp to "slop the hogs," an expression early Robesonians used which meant feeding the hogs with an unbalanced diet concoction formulated from meager left overs from the kitchen. Just before he neared the hog pen down a path, he saw a big snake crossing over to a brush thicket. Unable to find a stick big enough to kill the snake, he decided to run back to the barn, one-quarter mile from the hog pen to get the pitchfork. When he returned with the pitchfork, he saw the snake's tail slowly disappearing into the thicket. We knew this had to be a long snake when the time element of securing a weapon is considered. In telling this story, my dad would describe the snake's size as being as big as his thigh, but we never did question him about whether he was talking about the thigh of a grown man telling the story or of a small boy experiencing the event. After hearing this snake story one Sunday afternoon on our front porch, a neighbor had one of his own to tell. On a cold late fall afternoon he was hunting for squirrels in the swamp. He decided to conceal himself in some bushes under an oak tree near some hickory nut trees, and wait for a squirrel to come within gun range looking for hickory nuts. He was sitting on a mound of falling oak leaves, when a squirrel appeared in a hickory nut tree. As he was attempting to get the squirrel in his gun sights, he felt the

ground move beneath his body. Not wanting to miss getting the squirrel, he made several attempts to line up his gun sights, but the shifting mound of oak leaves interfered and finally the squirrel was scared away. Upon investigating under the oak leaves, our neighbor found out that he had been sitting on a large rattlesnake. He theorized that this snake was beginning its hibernation period and his body heat was beginning to revive the metabolism within the body of the snake. In both these stories, the snakes were left to enjoy their natural habitats. I could tell a few myself about some close encounters with some of those "Lumber River" water moccasins, while growing up in Robeson County. Good conversation today is becoming a lost art, now that people have left the front porches for easy chairs in front of T.V. sets in their dens.

Next week's installment of "Growing Up in Robeson County" will be entitled "Grandpa's House." Don't miss it!

Students take part in Presidential Classroom Program

MBROKE—Two Pembroke State University "Upward Bound" students—Brian Dial of West Robeson High School and Jerome McDonald of Parkton High School—recently flew to Washington, D.C., for a seven-day visit to the "Presidential Classroom for Young Americans" program.

While there, they met with policy makers in the three branches of government plus

visiting with public interest groups, the diplomatic community, business, and labor. They also had the opportunity to visit the offices of the U.S. representatives and senators.

Dial, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Colden K. Dial, is a high school junior. He plans to major in mathematics and chemistry in college. He is vice president of the Junior Class and served as president of both his Freshman and Sophomore classes. He is an honor roll student, won the science award, and is a member of the Science Club, Spanish Club, and Engineering and Technical Society. In



Jerome McDonald (left) & Brian Dial took part recently in the "Presidential Classroom for Young Americans" program in Washington, D.C. McDonald attends Parkton High School, while Dial attends West Robeson High School. Pembroke State University's "Upward Bound" program helped to make the trip possible.

Wardrobe Seminar set for April 24 & 25

Image Impact, a relatively new image consulting agency, is sponsoring a two day wardrobe seminar, in the auditorium of the Robeson County Public Library, on

Chestnut Street, Lumberton, North Carolina. The seminar is set for April 24 & 25 from 7 p.m. til 10 p.m. (both evenings).

The agency is gearing the seminar to the career woman on a budget; yet, interested in achieving a better image and success in her chosen field. The goals of the seminar are:

1. To inform the participants how to use color effectively to enhance their appearance;
2. To teach the participants how to analyze their figure and ways to camouflage figure flaws;
3. To offer makeup tips and suggest hair styles for the office; and

4. To inform the participants of a new wardrobe building concept, "2+2+5=30" investment dressing.

PSU's "Upward Bound" program he has won the Director's Award.

McDonald, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel McDonalds is a senior in high school. He has been president of the student council plus a member of the National Honor Society, Beta Club, Dean's List, N.C. Scholar Bowl Team, and president of the Parkton Chapter of the Future Farmers of America. He also won an academic award in Fundamentals of Agriculture. In "Upward Bound," he was selected for a Director's Award.

McDonald plans to study engineering in college.

Seasonings appropriate for people on a low-sale diet include chives, curry, garlic, fresh parsley, mace, paprika, vanilla extract, vinegar, lemon juice, pepper and poultry seasoning.

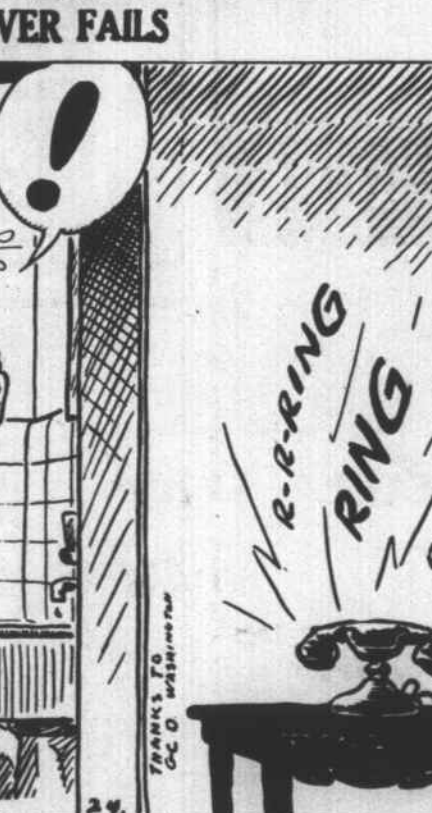
The seminar will entail lectures, demonstrations, and the finale, an informal fashion show based on the investment dressing concept. The perfect wardrobe plan for the woman on a budget who demands quality.

For reservations call Marsha McLean at 628-0861 or Constance Thompson at 628-0792.

CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
1. Nonalcoholic drink, as a bottle
 5. Glass water bottle
 11. Hint
 12. Beginning
 13. Ascend
 14. City (Wis.)
 15. Levels
 17. Eleanor swimmer
 18. Marry
 19. Oolong
 22. Sloth
 23. Cheerfulness
 26. Dinner course
 29. The beach
 30. Pledges
 32. Close to
 33. Belonging to us
 34. Churchill's title
 37. Trial
 40. Strong thread
 42. Baseball referee
 45. Affixes
 46. Climbing plants
 47. Slash
 48. Man's property
 49. Vegetables
- DOWN**
1. Twist
 2. Shade of green
 3. Joined, as metals
 4. Cardinal number
 5. Heart (med.)
 6. Constellation
 7. Wealthy
 8. Exchange premium
 9. Sibellus' land
 10. Foes
 16. Artist's workshop
 20. Half an em
 21. Declare
 23. Mr. Snead
 24. Owns
 25. At home
 26. Knife-like implement
 27. Greek moon goddess
 28. Behold!
 31. Solar deity
 35. Resorts
 38. Prong
 41. Stinging insect
 43. Rodent
 44. Large worm

SEE ANSWERS TO THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE Page 12



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