



NEW MAYOR FOR RAEFORD - County Clerk of Courts, Ed Smith, administered the oath of office to J.K. McNeill, Jr. the town's new mayor.

--MAYOR--

Continued from page 1

Snead, Jr., J.D. McAllister. Airport committee members are J.D. McMillian, Tom Cameron, and Bill Moses. Archibald K. Lovin and Company again received board approval to audit the town books this year. In other action the board approved the

adoption of a new set of by-laws for the fire department.

Town manager, John Gaddy, presented copies of the proposed town budget which will be discussed next Monday night at a special board meeting.

Tonic For Tired Laying Hens

Force moulting is the eggman's tonic for "tired blood" in a laying flock. Recycling the hens by stopping production gives them a rest and triggers a new laying cycle.

The purpose is to delay the expense of buying a new flock of pullets.

"Our poultrymen are interested in recycling because the cost of buying new pullets may be postponed and spread over 18 to 24 months rather than the usual 12 months," explains D. G. Harwood Jr., extension farm management economist at North Carolina State University.

"Also, in periods of severely depressed egg prices, poultrymen find it difficult to raise the capital for new pullets, even if this cost is justified," Harwood added.

Recycling is the practice of stopping production of eggs by hens that have been laying 8-12 months. They are forced into a moult by restricting feed, water or light, or some combination of these.

"I don't know just how many hens in the state were forced moulted last year," Harwood commented, "but I know it was a substantial number."

California, a big egg state, reported that one third of all hens there have been force moulted.

One of the North Carolina poultrymen who has tried recycling is Ed James of Conway. He had 10,000 hens that were moulted after the first normal laying cycle.

He removed feed for four days, removed water for two days, fed whole corn, oats and grit for 12 days, and then resumed mash feeding.

His hens peaked at 81 percent production after the first month.

After 12 months, James recycled these same birds again. After this moult, they peaked at 65 percent production. The hens were sold in April after they had produced eggs for six months following the second moult and had dropped to 50 percent production.

The poultryman indicated to Harwood that he will use the recycling practice more in the future.

"Recycling isn't recommended for all producers," Harwood cautioned. "Each producer must make a decision about his situation and whether he should force moult. It is more advantageous when capital is limited, where a premium is paid for extra large eggs and where labor is relatively expensive, and when a flock is healthy and has produced well during the first lay cycle."

Harwood added that specialists at NCSU are studying the economics of force moulting to watch carefully for poor egg quality for recycled hens and to keep records to determine just how well they are doing financially.

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TAR HEEL OUTDOORS

by Joel Arrington
Outdoor Editor, North Carolina Travel & Promotion Division

ORIENTAL - Many Tar Heel sportsmen feel that the gods of angling will not give up a channel bass until the fisherman has undergone a suitable period of suffering in cold wind and blowing sand.

A good case can be made for the proposition, if we are talking about spring and fall surf fishing. But here on the western shore of Pamlico Sound, a few locals are getting away with disgracefully comfortable fishing behind the gods' backs. What's more, they are probably catching more big channel bass than anyone on the beach.

Ernest Hudson runs a kind of general merchandise emporium at Cash Corner, but

lives down the road at Vandemere. Twice a week in the spring, he loads about 15 surf rods, a tow sack of sand spikes, frozen squid and a friend or two into his outboard tied up out behind the house, and they buzz off to some marsh point in the mouth of the Neuse or Pamlico river.

So far this year they have beached over 50 "old drum," as they are locally known. The fish, Hudson said, would average about 40 pounds each. I learned of Hudson's success last summer after several of us had caught channel bass from a boat on Piney Point Shoal in the mouth of the Neuse, but I did not have the pleasure of fishing with him until this week. Our guest was Karl Osborne, a fishing writer and himself an authority on channel bass fishing from Virginia to Florida.

There we were on Sow Point in our shirt sleeves and shorts, warm sun beginning to color our winter pallor, and the wind 10 knots from the northeast. It was like a picnic.

Hudson is an unorthodox drum fisherman in the respect that he likes to fish as many

rods as he can keep baited. Early in the year, before the bluefish and crabs move in, this means about five rods per man. The three of us tended 14 rods, baiting with squid and casting four ounce lead pyramids as far out into the sound as possible.

But most of the afternoon we lounged in the grass watching rod tips and talking about drum.

"Our fishing begins early in April and runs through the summer," Hudson told us, "but we never fish much for drum after the end of June because of bait stealers."

A few local anglers switch to lures in late summer and, on calm days, cast to schools they locate by sight.

"We prefer thick rough water for best fishing," Hudson said, "and for that reason we pick a point where the wind is blowing onshore."

"Unbelievable," Osborne said. "In many years of fishing, I have never heard of deliberately choosing wind and dirty water as best conditions."

As the afternoon wore on, Osborne and I were beginning to suspect a recurrence of what we call "writer's luck." In the past, when we have attempted stories on some aspect of North Carolina fishing, conditions have been bad. What's worse, conditions have sometimes been good, and still we have caught no fish.

But with the sun about to dip into the marsh behind us, Osborne's rod tip suddenly bent soundward and line began to pay out against a loose drag. Osborne sprinted to the throbbing rod, tightened the drag, and drove the hooks home. It was a powerful fish, but the 10-foot surf stick soon wore it down.

While I was shooting pictures of Osborne in his glory, Hudson shouted that I had a fish on. I probably did not put that expensive camera down as gently as the manufacture recommends. Karl's fish went 45 pounds, mine 44.

In three afternoons of fishing (we never went out before 2:30), we landed four fish and had twice that many on. None of them hit before seven o'clock.

I must admit that toward dark, we put on wind breakers, but most of the afternoons we spent in shirtsleeved comfort.



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