

Newspaper Reveals A Bygone Era

July 27, 1905, this was the news in Duplin County: "Mr. George Lindsay, a prominent attorney of Snow Hill, has been taken into custody on the ground that he is mentally affected. He is subject to attacks of lunacy, and but for these is known as an able lawyer around Coldsboro."

Many nostrums still on the market at that time had no medical value, despite grandiose claims to the contrary. Some, in fact, proved under chemical analysis to be little more than grain alcohol or liquified opiates.

"A woman of questionable character has escaped from a hospital in Wilmington, where she was being treated for an overdose of laudanum (opium) taken with the evident intent of self-destruction. Street car companies have issued orders to their motormen to run their cars with especial care for a time, as the woman has threatened to throw herself across the tracks at some opportune time in order to kill herself."

Some of the medicines promoted in the Journal are still around, like Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound or Carter's Pills.

"Governor (Robert B.) Glenn was in the grand stand at a negro baseball game at Winston-Salem when it was struck by lightning and two negroes seriously stunned. He was not shocked in the least."

Others have disappeared: Mozley's Lemon Elixir for the Liver and Bowels, Paxtine Toilet Antiseptic ("for women troubled with ills peculiar to their sex"), Cascarets Candy Cathartic (for "Lazy Liver") and Kodol Dypepsia Cure ("Digests what you eat").

Other aspects of Duplin County life were not so charming.

These were all front-page stores from The Duplin Journal, a weekly founded in Faison in 1901 and edited by John M. Faison. A copy of its July 27, 1905, issue was found by Theron Leonard of Winnabow, the Morning News mailroom foreman, who collects and preserves old newspapers as a hobby.

In one of its editorials, the Journal noted that more than 150 cases of smallpox had been reported in Wayne and Sampson counties. It suggested that farmers get their families vaccinated as soon as their crops were in, as the disease was certain to spread.

Subscription rates were \$1 a year; 50 cents for six months. "All communications to be addressed to the Duplin Journal and when anonymous go to the wastebasket," the masthead proclaimed.

"The time is not far distant in Duplin when vaccination must be thorough and it will be up to our county commissioners to act in this manner," the editorial said.

Glancing through the four-page Journal takes today's readers back to a different era.

Elsewhere, the Journal took notice of Wilmington financier Hugh MacRae's efforts to promote colonization of the region by foreign immigrants.

Automobiles were still a novelty. A front-page Journal story, excerpted from the Raleigh Post, described how "Prof. Vernon Howell of Chapel Hill" had taken a friend for a ride in his motor car at Pullen Park. There, "the machine, weighing 1,600 pounds, plunged down a five-foot embankment."

In 1905, MacRae was just starting to bring Dutch, Polish, Hungarian and Greek immigrants to the Castle Hayne area. Italians were being brought to St. Helena in Pender County, and Germans were trying to settle in Columbus County at New Berlin--the original name of Delco.

The Chapel Hill professor had to hire a colleague from A. & M. College (modern-day N.C. State University) to "rescue" his car.

The Journal quoted with approval the comments of J.B. Blades, a lumber dealer from New Bern.

In place of today's car-crash accounts, the Journal reported that "Mrs. Alice Fowler, a rural mail carrier from Burlington" had been "painfully injured" when her buggy-horse was frightened by a passing train and ran out of control.

"We are doubtful of the advantage to the South of introducing Italian labor. I, personally, had rather see less manufacturing and a slower growth of the country than having them introduced. What we desire are the people from Northern Europe, who can assimilate with our people and become a part of them...We are not in sympathy with...the mafia systems. We do not want to be cursed with cutthroats and anarchy."

Banking was organized differently at the turn of the century. Instead of branches of three or four financial giants, each community seemed to have an independent bank of its own. The Bank of Duplin at Wallace, The Bank of Warsaw and the Bank of Faison (which boasted capital of more than \$38,000) all advertised in the Journal.

Like most white-owned publications of the period, the Journal supported white supremacy and segregation. Black people were referred to as "negroes" or "colored" with no capitalization. In its July 27 issue, the paper quoted an editorial from the Manufacturer's Record, a trade journal published in Virginia:

Even the crops were different. Cotton farming has largely disappeared from Southeastern North Carolina, yet in 1905 the Journal devoted twice as much space to cotton quotations as it did to tobacco prices.

"The most reliable of the negroes are those who came out of slavery and who have little if any schooling, while the youngest generation produces the poorest laborers, in every respect unreliable."

NO fewer than six fruit and produce wholesalers, from as far away as New York, Philadelphia and Boston, placed ads in the Journal--a reminder of how important strawberries and other fruits once were to this area's economy.

Another glimpse of social relations in 1905 may be found in the Journal's main local story, the hanging of Dan Teachey in Kenansville. North Carolina did not adopt the electric chair until 1910; before then, executions were carried out in the county seats.

In 1905, the Journal seemed to be a healthy newspaper: roughly half its space, including the front page was taken up by advertising.

Teachey was hanged on July 20, 1905, in the presence of 30 witnesses, "including officers, guards, physicians, ministers of the gospel and newspapermen," the Journal reported.

Of course, there were no ads for used cars, movies or TV shows.

"At 9:30, the death warrant was read to him, to which he listened unmoved, although his sister, who sat by his side, was greatly agitated. He was then baptized and received into the Presbyterian church... Prayers were offered by request by Rev. V.A. Royal, a Methodist minister, and Postmaster Jones."

On the other hand, the Journal was filled with promotions for all sorts of patent medicines, including some ads camouflaged as news stories. ("An Ohio Fruit Raiser, 78 Years Old, Cured of a Terrible Case After Ten Years of Suffering," read one headline.)

Teachey had been convicted of the murder of Robert Rivenbark. According to the Journal's account of the crime, the two men had met on March 4, 1903, "at the home of one Easter Williams, colored."

Congress did not pass America's first Pure Food and Drug Act until 1906.

According to witnesses, Teachey shot Rivenbark in the abdomen, beat him severely and then beat Easter Williams "with the pistol, which was still smoking in his right hand, and a stick in his left."

First Quarter Savings Bonds Sales

Rivenbark lingered for two days before dying, the Journal reported.

Sales of Series EE Savings Bonds in Duplin County during the first three months of 1983 totaled \$12,340,591, according to W. Ray Johnson, volunteer county chairman.

A letter to editor, signed only "A Friend," urged readers to take pity on Teachey's parents and seven sisters and not to blame them for his wrongdoing.

WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT WE ACCEPT FOOD STAMPS

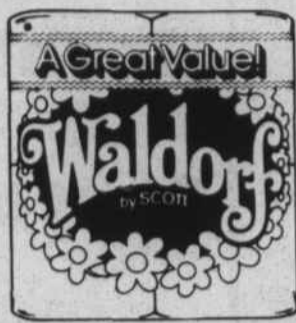


TEACHEY'S \$50.00 WINNER: KATHY CREECH RT. 1, PINK HILL

KRAFT MACARONI & CHEESE DINNER

2/69¢ 7 1/4 OZ.

WALDORF TISSUE 79¢ 4 ROLL



FRESH GREEN CABBAGE 15¢ LB.

KOOL AID 1.6 OZ. 5/69¢

ROYAL GUEST CHEESE SINGLES 12 OZ. \$1.19

DEL MONTE RAISINS 6 PAK. 79¢

SHOWBOAT PORK & BEANS 15 OZ. 3/85¢

RED GRAPES \$1.19 LB.



PINK SALMON 15 1/2 OZ. \$1.45

GENERIC TOWELS LARGE ROLL 2/85¢

POINTER DOG FOOD 15 1/2 OZ. 6/\$1.00

REYNOLDS WRAP 25 FT. 2/\$1.00

WHITE GRAPES LB. \$1.19

FRESH CANTALOUPE 23 CT. 59¢



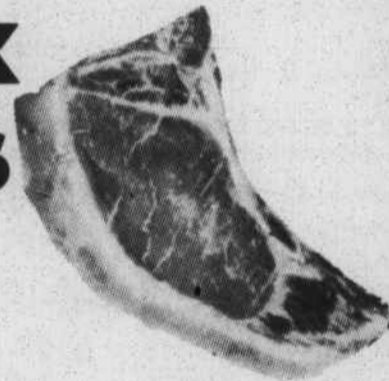
TOWN TALK ICE CREAM 1/2 GAL. \$1.19



CURTIS BACON \$1.19 LB.

POT ROAST LB. \$1.49

EXTRA THICK PORK CHOPS \$1.59 LB.



CENTER PORK ROAST \$1.49 LB.



FROSTY MORN COUNTRY HAMS \$1.59 LB.

TEACHEY'S SUPERMARKET
ACROSS STREET FROM PINK HILL SCHOOL
PINK HILL, N. C.