

# Veterans of First World War Recall Armistice

By BOB SEYMOUR

Some may call it Veterans' Day but today is Armistice Day for Carteret County's World War I veterans. All of them remember that day 40 years ago quite well — from SN Grady Bell, home in Morehead City on sick leave, to Pfc. I. E. Pittman in the front lines between Metz and Verdun.

Mr. Pittman, now vice-president of First-Citizens Bank, Morehead City, was a veteran of trench warfare and was "up there shooting them as hard as we could" when the armistice was signed. He was with the 81st Division.

Mr. Pittman recalls that shortly after the armistice, several German soldiers came over for a visit. The American soldiers, however, stayed put. "We had no liberty and stayed in our positions for four or five days. Some of the fellows, though, piled up logs and started a bon fire as soon as the word came down that the armistice was signed," he said.

Things were a bit different in Paris, where John Crump, now of Morehead City, was a chief yeoman in US Naval Headquarters. "By the time people in the United States knew the armistice had been signed I was drunk," he declares.

Mr. Crump says he was one of the lucky ones overseas. He had time to enjoy the sights of Paris during the war and shortly after the armistice he toured battle-scarred France with a group of friends.

Mr. Crump now operates a real estate and insurance office in Morehead City. He has been here since 1926.

Grady Bell, who was in Morehead City when the armistice was signed, was recovering from pneumonia. He had been in the Navy for only seven months and was assigned to a coastal supply boat.

Mr. Bell was quick to add that his brother, Andrew, spent more time in the front lines than he did in the Navy. Grady Bell had served as mate on a party boat that carried Josephus Daniels on several fishing trips.

Mr. Daniels, secretary of the Navy at the time, spotted Bell one day during an inspection. He walked over to him, shook his hand and asked how he was getting along.

Evidently the word got around that Bell and the secretary were buddies. "Things seemed to go my way after that," he recalls. "I missed extra duty and dirty jobs and as soon as they started letting men out I was toward the top of the list."

Floyd Chadwick Sr., Morehead City, was a corporal in a field artillery unit when the firing ceased. "We were all set to move toward Metz, the town everybody said couldn't be taken," Mr. Chadwick says. "Of course, the town would have surrendered eventually, but the armistice saved the lives of lots of men from this area."

"The unit I was with, 113th Field Artillery, was made up of men from Pamlico, Carteret, Craven, Jones and Onslow Counties. We were restricted to our positions and the nearest town, Verdun, was all shot up anyway. We had no liberty until we got to the forwarding area on the way home."

Mr. Chadwick, like most soldiers, counted the days he was in France. "I was there 11 months and 27 days," he says. "The most distasteful part of the whole time was while we were waiting to come home. We had to police our area, picking up all scraps of metal etc. for salvage crews."

First Lt. Joe DuBois, now of Morehead City Chamber of Commerce, holds the distinction of being the only officer to serve with both the 26th Yankee Division and the 31st Dixie Division.

He recalls the relief of the trainees when they found out that the war was over and they would not have to go overseas as they had been fearing. "It was a great day," he says.

C. L. Beam, Beaufort, county veterans service officer, was a sergeant major in headquarters of the 81st Division. The division was in the front lines up until the last day and Mr. Beam was sent back to arrange billets for the troops two or three days later.

"I had to find places for a division of men to eat and sleep," he remembers. "As soon as the armistice was signed it made an entirely different situation. It became necessary to observe more of the social rules. No longer could we move up and move in where the Germans had stayed."

Mr. Beam spent about one year in France and another year in the United States.

Robert Atkinson, manager of the Blue Ribbon Club, was in the medical corps during the war. "I was with the 59th Pioneer Infantry Division, the only outfit ever moved from the United States to the front lines by presidential order," he says.

When asked what he did when he heard the armistice was signed, he said, "I did what everybody else did — headed straight for town! The Germans were in trenches a few yards away and they did the same thing. We all threw down our guns and packs and took off."

It didn't take the Americans long to discover that there weren't



John Crump



Robert Atkinson



Grady Bell



I. E. Pittman

## Just Thinking

### What Became of Stella Social Hall Association?

By TUCKER R. LITTLETON  
Beaufort Faculty Member

In our very first article we gave as one of the five purposes for this column the dissemination of information which we believe to be of interest to local readers. Accordingly, today's article will deal with a little bit of history that would be of interest to nobody but a citizen of Carteret County—or maybe Onslow.

It seems that we should take a greater interest in the history of our section of the state than what we do—if for no other reason than that no one else seems to be interested in it. There are two organizations that every citizen of Carteret County should be interested in and belong to. They are your own Carteret County Historical Society and the North Carolina Folklore Society, Box 523, Chapel Hill.

The little bit of history mentioned deals with the town of Stella. It seems that most people visiting the towns along the White Oak River today have the idea that these little towns have always been thus secluded and dead.

In fact, I suppose I had that idea until, after delving into some of my grandfather's papers, I came across some evidence that Stella, Swansboro, and Maysville were booming little towns about fifty to seventy years ago.

During that generation the White Oak River, part of which belongs to this county, was the scene of a considerable commerce. The manufacture of naval stores had long been an important source of income; the lumber industry was occupying the foreground; and the Swansboro Mill and Gin Co. was carrying on a pretty good business.

At Stella there was a fairly good industry of shipbuilding at what was called Shipyard Point. All of that trade meant a good income for those days; and wherever there is plenty, there is also a little leisure.

Back in those days when money—any amount of it—was big, the fellow who had a dollar or two in his pocket could afford some extravagant recreation. And apparently someone had an idea—he'd start a recreation center! At least that seems to have happened at Stella.

I had never heard any of the older people mention such a venture and was, therefore, surprised this summer when I found a receipt which established the fact that someone tried to start a social hall at Stella in the 1890's. What resulted or came of it is uncertain.

The receipt, however, read as follows:  
No. 35 Capital Stock \$300  
Stella Social Hall Association  
of Stella, N. C.

Mr. Memakis says it was his tour of duty in the hospital that caused him to come to Morehead City. "When I got to New York I had bad headaches and the doctors told me I had probably been exposed to mustard gas from patients in the hospital."

"When the doctors told me to move beside salt water I moved to my cousin's home at Belhaven. When I continued to have headaches I checked with the doctor and he said I should be closer to the ocean. That was when I moved to Morehead City — 39 years ago — and opened the Busy Bee Cafe," he continued.

"In all my years at Morehead City, I have never had another one of those headaches after the first three or four months I was here."

Yes, Armistice Day means a lot to these men and to thousands of their comrades all over America. It is to men like them, as well as veterans of World War II and the Korean War, that we offer our thanks for a free America.

Not a Dream  
El Paso, Tex. (AP)—Oralia Delgado told police she woke up screaming, thinking she felt a hand on her face. She dismissed it as a bad dream and went back to sleep. In the morning she found burglars had ripped out a screen and made off with a purse near her bed.

Number of Shares, 200 at \$1.00, Unassessable.

This certifies that James Parkin is the owner of Three fully paid shares of the capital stock of the Stella Social Hall Association, Stella, N. C., April 30th, 1892

William Kuhn, Treasurer  
It seems laughable in our day that a receipt would read "fully paid" for only three dollars, but that was a lot then. If any of the older folk at Stella know any details about the association or the location of the Stella Social Hall, I'd like to know that.

However, suffice it to say that whether the Stella Social Hall Association was a success or not, no one in the family remembers ever getting rich off those three shares of stock in the booming little town of Stella.

For our poem today, the reader will have to tolerate one of my compositions, a poem in unrhymed dactylic hexameter.

Down by the Riverside  
Down by the riverside let me live;  
down by the riverside let me die.  
Down by the riverside after death  
let me be carried and call it heav'n.

Give me the sands of the outer banks, sunsets that paint up the rolling dunes.

Give me the twisted old cedars weird leaning away from the stormy gales.

Give me the stiff, salty breeze in my face and the hurricanes raging wild.

Send me the thunderclouds from the sea lifting their heads in the swirling black.

Give me eternal, resurging waves beating my lonely, enchanted shores.

Give me to stroll o'er the shell-lined beach making me one with the ocean's roar.

Down by the riverside let me go after this life with its storms is o'er.

There let the sun in its warmth come out lighting the green, wooded riverbanks.

Sunlight to play on the stretching marsh, sunlight on islands that dot the bay.

Sea gulls to soar, and white clouds above—give me all these and I'll call it heav'n.

Give me the mem'ry of former times, faces of others who've walked these shores.

Voices of fishermen working hard, shouting to see the roe mullets come.

Give me to hear the Darkies sing, farming the fields of our countryside.

Give me the smiles of our native folk, salty old seamen and grandams good.

Speaking our lingo, our ancient brogue, telling our legends of long ago.

Down by the riverside, calm and still, give me all these and I'll know it's heav'n.

—Tucker R. Littleton

## Stopped Car Causes Wreck

Because a motorist had hoped to tow away a car blocking highway 24 Sunday night, a collision occurred at 10:25.

According to J. W. Sykes, highway patrolman, three Negroes in a 1955 Chevrolet were sitting in the middle of the highway about 10 miles west of Morehead City. The patrolman said all three were passed out inside the car.

David Clark Guthrie, Port Arthur, Tex., headed east in a 1955 Ford, saw the stopped car and took stock of the condition of the occupants.

He was going to tow it off the highway when William Oliver Davis, Beaufort, in a 1951 Ford pickup truck, struck the Ford in the rear. Guthrie had a trailer on the back of the Ford.

Davis said he was meeting a car and didn't see the stopped car and trailer. The pickup went off in a field to the right.

Damage to the Ford's trailer was estimated at \$25, to the pickup \$300. Clara Sutton, woman under the wheel in the stopped car, was charged with driving drunk. Her two companions were charged with public drunkenness. There was no damage to their car.

Israel has practically no rain from April to November.

Carteret has a World War I group.

## Toastmasters Will Meet Tomorrow Night

The Carteret County Toastmasters Club will hear talks by Cecil Smith, Dave Willis and W. C. Wilkins when they meet at radio station WMBL tomorrow night at 7:30. Cliff Lewis will be toastmaster, Thomas Price will be topic master and John Baptist will give the invocation. Dr. W. L. Woodard will be the alternate prepared speaker. Critics will be Paul Bray, M. L. Davis and Dr. Theodore Rice, with Oscar Allred as master critic.

## Porcupines Compete With Pulp Companies

New York (AP)—The porcupine is making smorgasbord out of newsprint. The Newsprint Information Committee says these quilled animals take a heavy toll of Canadian pulp trees. For instance, one porcupine on the loose can destroy 2,000 trees, and if half are pulp trees, the raw material for more than 50 tons of newsprint is lost, the committee says.

Meat-Cutting Demonstration  
Mrs. Floy Garner, home agent, announces that there will be a meat-cutting demonstration at Camp Glenn School at 7:30 Friday night. Anyone interested is invited.

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## ROCKETS IN THE NEWS

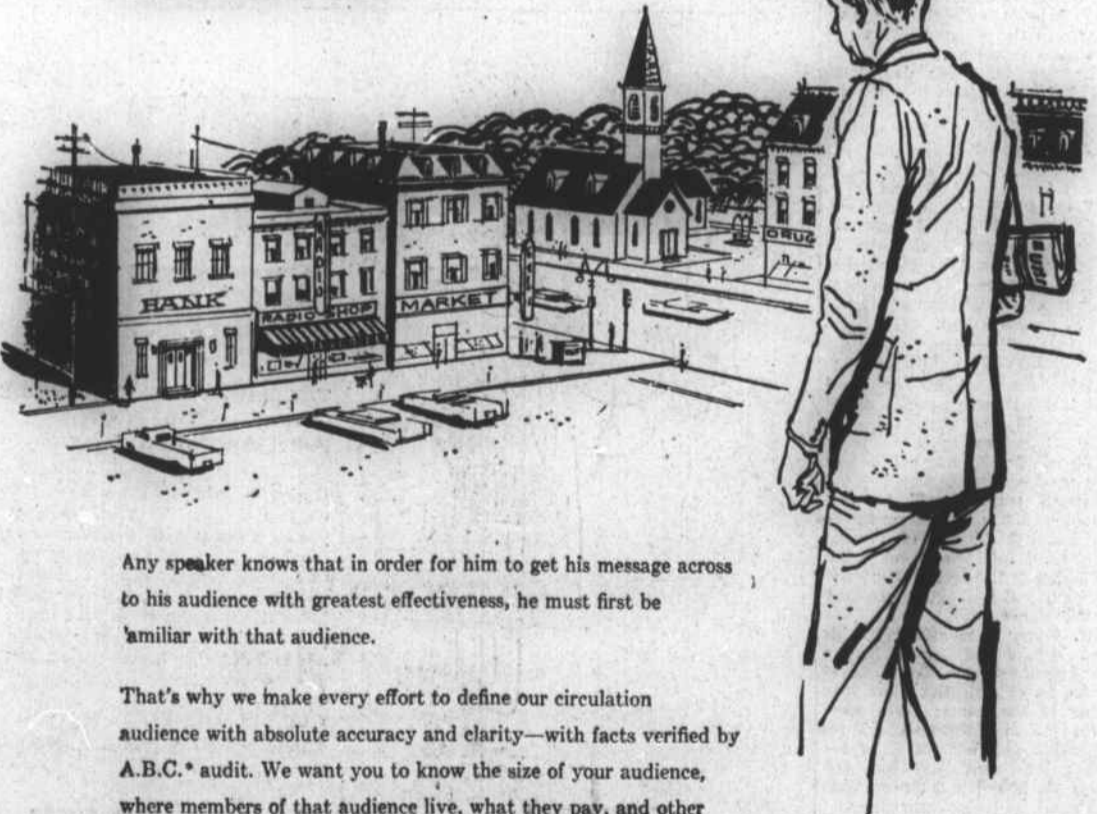


**Golf pro likes luggage space in '59 Olds**  
Oldsmobile's conquest of "inner" space gives you more room where it counts! For the man who travels on his job, Oldsmobile's increase in trunk capacity—up to 64%—means valuable extra luggage space. In addition, you'll find more passenger room in every Olds model for '59. Make a date to space-test the new Rockets... at your local authorized Oldsmobile Quality Dealer's, today!

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Carteret County's Newspaper

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