

Woodland Mother Writes About Occoneechee Neck

(The following article is reprinted from the News and Observer.)

By Stella Lassiter

Woodland—Along the Roanoke River between Jackson and Weldon, there is a place called Occoneechee Neck which abounds with interesting stories and myths about an old Northampton County family, the Burgwyns. Here was the setting that Eugene Holoman Burgwyn chose for her recently published

children's book, "River Treasure."

Until "River Treasure" was published about a year ago, Mrs. Burgwyn had never seriously considered writing as a career. For her writing was and still is a hobby to be enjoyed at odd moments when she is not engrossed in her four children, Johnny, 11, Jo, 7, Henry, 3, and Stephen, 17 months. A visit in her home readily assured you that no matter how successful she may become as an author,



FIND NAZI MUNITIONS DUMP—Workmen cautiously remove German artillery shells from a cache discovered under the main railroad line between Milan and Turin, Italy. The munitions, part of a Nazi supply train that was bombed by the Allies in 1944, were buried under the tracks in a crater left by the original bombing.

her main interest will always be in them. She delights in telling funny experiences she has had with the children, especially about the time she discovered Henry, whom she terms as absolutely unpredictable, on the back porch standing up to his knees in soap suds and washing five kittens in the washing machine.

In fact it was her children who probably awakened her interest in writing. They were always quite interested in her bedtime stories about Occoneechee Neck, but she says that she never even thought of writing about these tales until three years ago and then only by accident.

After she had put the children to bed, she would practice on the typewriter, using as her material those same fabulous tales she had been telling the children. Writing in this manner, she states, opened a new field of recreation for her, and she became increasingly more interested in it.

Of particular interest to her was the tale she had heard when she had lived on a river farm at Occoneechee Neck which was supposedly buried in a near-by millpond during the Civil War. An old Negro who had once lived on the farm and had moved to New York wrote her

husband, telling him about this buried silver. She had kept the letter and one day happened to find it among some other things, and it was this tale which formed the basis for her first book.

However, she never seriously began weaving the stories together until her sister came home to write a book about her many interesting experiences as a cadet wife. Mrs. Burgwyn became very interested in her sister's book and helped her write it. Her sister then suggested that she submit for publication those children's stories that she had been writing. The two compared their manuscripts and criticized each other's work. However, her sister lost interest in her book, while Mrs. Burgwyn continued to write her stories, mixing many true experiences about Occoneechee Neck with fictional characters.

Finally after about a year, she completed the series of short stories for children and submitted them to a publisher in New York who became interested in them and suggested that she combine the stories into one book which she did, using illustrations drawn by Ralph Ray of Gastonia. She had originally planned to name the book Occoneechee Neck but decided to change it because of the difficulty of children in remembering such a title. When asked why she did not choose a pen name, Mrs. Burgwyn replied that she never even considered it and that she couldn't imagine using any name other than her own.

Mrs. Burgwyn is the wife of John Burgwyn of Woodland, who is the son of Superior Court Judge W. H. S. Burgwyn.

Since the publication of her book, Mrs. Burgwyn has given a number of lectures and previews of "River Treasure" both locally and throughout the State. Last year she spoke at the State Library Convention in Greensboro, at which time Straughn's Book Store carried a window display of the book. Her book was also displayed at WCUNC, her alma mater. Mrs. Burgwyn admits that she was a little frightened when she was first interviewed in Greensboro, but her love for people and her natural ability as a conversationalist soon set her at her ease among the reporters. At that time she also visited the Negro and white children's libraries during story hour, telling them excerpts from "River Treasure."

Concerning her writing Mrs. Burgwyn states, "I shall never forget the excitement I experienced when I actually saw 'River Treasure' in print for the first time. I still have to pinch myself to believe it." She considers becoming an author one of the nicest things that has ever happened to her, not only for the experience of writing alone, but for the contacts she has made, and details she has learned about writing that she never knew before.

She relates that as a young child she had visions of becoming an author and even wrote a few poems and short stories, but these childhood aspirations became obscure in college. In fact at WCUNC she originally planned to major in physical education but changed to primary education, a change which she noted her apparent interest in children. As for her technical background for writing, Mrs. Burgwyn laughingly admits that while she was in college she never had an English course beyond freshman composition other than one that included Eugene O'Neil.

With one successful book behind her, however, she is now writing two more children's books which she hopes will be published within the next year. One, "The Unusual Mouse," is now in revision, while the other one, "Allen's Royal Mischief," is not quite completed. Even though she considers writing a hobby at the present time, if "River Treasure" is any indication of her talent as an author of children's books, Mrs. Burgwyn seems well on the way to writing seriously within the next few years.

Enfield Soldier Among War Dead Returning

Enfield.—Pfc Thomas Sledge, son of Mrs. Mamie Sledge, is among the 2,530 Americans who lost their lives during World War II, who are being returned to the United States from Africa aboard the United States Army Transport Barney Kirschbaum, the Department of the Army has announced.

Arrival of the vessel will be announced by the New York Port of Embarkation. Army dead originally interred in temporary military cemeteries near the battlefields of North Africa are among those being brought back to this country.

A total of 58 remains are being returned upon instructions of next of kin residing in North Carolina.

Principals To Meet

A meeting of the principals of all Colored schools is scheduled this afternoon at 3:30 o'clock in the auditorium of the County Office Building. Matters relating to school closing were to be discussed, and final reports forms distributed.

Dogs, Too, Can Have Heart Trouble From Excessive Exercise

Don't let your dog chase speeding cars if you want it to live a long life, pet owners were told this week.

Exercise is necessary for dogs, but overdoing it can lead to fatal heart trouble, the American Veterinary Medical Association declared.

Some owners do not realize that there is a definite limit on the amount of physical strain a dog's heart can withstand, AVMA authorities said. They cited a report by Dr. William J. Lentz of the University of Pennsylvania veterinary staff, pointing out that many pets "sportingly" required to run alongside the family automobile over long distances at high speed have suffered permanent heart damage as the result.

Other types of unusual strain may likewise bring on fatal cardiac involvement, as can fever

producing infectious diseases, such as canine distemper. In fact, nearly any serious disease may lead to cardiac ailments, it was stated.

Detection of heart disease is more difficult in dogs than in human beings, the association said, because heart-recording instruments used in diagnosing human cases are not entirely practical for veterinary use.

Many types of canine heart disease could be avoided, the AVMA believes, if all owners would follow a "rational schedule" in caring for their pets. This includes proper feeding, regular but moderate exercise appropriate to the animal's breed and physical stamina, and rigid adherence to professional advice when infectious diseases or other disorders threaten the dog's health.

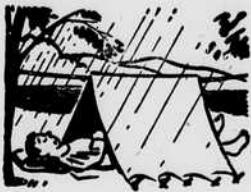
Navy medicine established a perfect record against tetanus during World War II, with not a single person developing the infection.

Couple Honored

Littleton—Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Cayhill, of Henderson, N. C., and Mr. and Mrs. Joe E. Hagwood, of Raleigh, N. C., entertained at a party May 8 in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Powell, newly wedded couple, at the Parlor Cabin in Henderson. The bride was presented with a corsage of pink roses and a piece of china.

Can Black-Draught Help an Upset Stomach?

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Texas Corn, 5 ears 29c	Fresh Tomatoes, 2 lbs. . . . 39c	Watermelons, lb. . . 3 1/2c
Red Bliss Potatoes, 5 lbs. . . . 29c	Tender Carrots, 2 bunches . 29c	Green Peppers, lb. 15c
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Libby's Fruit
Cocktail No. 1 24c
California Dried
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BUTTER 1-lb. Jar 35c
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Cleanser Pkg. 9c
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IVORY FLAKES 1-gal. Pkg. 34c	Woodbury SOAP 3 Bars 33c

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Steaks, lb. 89c
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Beef, lb. 49c
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Chops, lb. 77c
Veal Rump
Roast, lb. 69c
Lamb
Shoulder, lb. . . . 59c (Small)
Cured Hams, lb. 65c
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Picnics, lb. 49c
Thick
Fat Back, lb. . . . 25c
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