

"CAPTAIN JAKE'S PLACE"

By EVELYN LEARY

Away back in the year of grace 1868, while Edenton was still struggling under the baleful influences of Civil War reconstruction, business depressed, property valueless and life uncertain, there appeared in Edenton Bay one beautiful spring morning a trim clipper-built sloop of good dimensions, wearing a new coat of white paint and a full complement of sails. Close observers saw that the name M. J. Forshay was gilded upon her stern.

The captain soon came ashore, and went up town where he purchased an old building which was destined to become one of the most unique institutions of the town. A sign soon appeared high above the door "Jacob Wool's, High Grade Liquors and Ship Chandlery," but later referred to as simply "Captain Jake's Place."

The building, what is still known as the old bowling alley of Colonial days, a long house with its green, standing on the extreme end of Main Street whose extension forms a sort of promontory jutting out into the bay, was divided into three compartments. The first filled with cordage, anchors, chains, cakum, cars, etc., the middle room composed of what the French call estaminet, where the finest of liquors were housed, and the rear apartment was used as a store room.

A side door opened upon a small court of closely cut grass, shut off from the street by a high wall but open on the back of the water, commanding a fine view and furnished with a few tables and high backed comfortable chairs of the Windsor pattern. It was an idyllic spot to loaf, drink, gossip and dream. There was also a covered walk along the side of the building forming a secret exit, through one might enter or leave the court without passing through the building. The habitués of this place were gentlemen of brocaded velvet vests and long frock coats, and you were nobody unless you were invited to walk down there and drink with them.

"Capt. Jake" was the purveyor and arbiter of elegance in liquors. He knew that the best old apple and peach brandies came from Gates County, and that Jim Cannon made the best suppenong wine in eastern North Carolina out at his winery at Center Hill. His whiskeys were the perfection of the blenders art, old, mellowed, with bouquet, and of long pedigrees. Under the sunny lea of the house grew a fragrant bed of spearmint, cultivated with great care for mint juleps, his masterpiece and classic.

They had some blue laws then, too, and drinks could not be sold on Sunday. But Capt. Jake with characteristic ingenuity opened a barrel of soda crackers and with purchases threw in a drink. Sunday mornings everybody, including Polly, wanted a cracker. Just inside the door on the counter was a rock the exact size and shape of a watermelon, which he had painted in stripes to resemble the rattlesnake variety. The deception was so perfect that the unwary would always stop and thump it to his sorrow "Capt. Jake" enjoyed this proceeding very much. It was the only practical joke he ever indulged in.

"Captain Jake" was born somewhere in Germany on the Rhine, but had more the appearance of a Dutchman just from the wharves of Amsterdam. He was below the average in stature, stout, of a swarthy complexion, with small black eyes, deep set, that twinkled and was clean shaven. His body was unusually long for his legs clad in full loose trousers, and as your line of observation drop-

ped from his head downward to his feet you would not have been surprised to find him wearing a pair of Dutch shoes. He was quiet, thoughtful, and shrewd, and carried a certain amount of aloofness that made one desire to converse with him.

4-H Members Learn To Select Crops

Results of Controlling Insects Vary In Chowan County

Four-H Club meetings last week devoted to teaching club members how to select corn, peanuts and sweet potatoes for fair and achievement day exhibits. Samples of these products were provided by C. W. Overman, County Agent. After Mr. Overman's demonstration, club members were given an opportunity to practice. The club members were urged to select exhibits and bring them in by Saturday noon for entries in the N. C. State Fair. Several lots of peanuts were in by that time. Others were picked up Monday morning.

According to yield reports, demonstrations on controlling cotton insects is quite varied. The field checks made in early August indicated that where the cotton had been reasonably well dusted with toxaphene there was a very good control of insects, but it continued to rain practically every day in August and as a result practically all of the August bloom propped due to the rains. Final yield results will be published when picking is completed.

Permanent pasture establishment in Chowan County this fall has far exceeded any year in Mr. Overman's recollection. Seed and fertilizer materials being made available at reduced cost through the P. M. A. demonstrations conducted during the past two years and the combined efforts of the agricultural agencies working in the county were some of the main contributing factors in this accomplishment. Pastures seeded in early September are up to a good stand and off to a good start. Those seeded the latter part of September and early October, especially on high land had enough moisture to give good seed germination as yet. It is believed that these will come when sufficient moisture is available.

Heating Equipment Should Be Checked

With cold approaching, farmers are advised by C. W. Overman, County Agent for the State College Extension Service, to check their heating equipment and condition it for safe winter service.

Fire strikes without warning, he pointed out, and it destroys about 90 million dollars worth of farm property annually—or about four farm buildings every hour.

The National Safety Council recommends a systematic check-up of heat-

ing equipment before a fire or injury occurs. Check the chimney to see that all joints are tight and that there is a spark arrester to protect combustible roofs. See that all stove or furnace pipes are in good condition and a safe distance from combustible walls, ceilings, curtains or paper. Use metal containers for ashes.

The misuse of petroleum and its

products causes many farm fires. Every time you use gasoline, kerosene or even tractor fuel to start or hasten a fire, you invite disaster. Don't gamble with leaky connections, defective equipment, or poor adjustments on kerosene stoves or oil-burning furnaces.

Tankheaters, feed heaters, and other types of heating equipment around

the farmstead should be checked carefully. See that they are in good condition and installed safely. Defective tank heaters, installations too close to buildings, and flammable materials may lead to costly winter fires.

Most of the people who are in a hurry have nothing else to do.

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October 20-21—
Loretta Young and Celeste Holm in
"COME TO THE STABLE"

Saturday, October 22—

Monty Hale in
"OUTCAST OF THE TRAIL"

Sunday, October 23—

Randolph Scott and Ella Raines in
"THE WALKING HILLS"

Monday and Tuesday,

October 23-24—
Percy Kilbride and Marjorie Main in
"MA AND PA KETTLE"

Wednesday, October 26—

Double Feature
William Eythe in
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Richard Travis in
"ALASKA PATROL"

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October 21-22—
Victor Mature and Coleen Gray in
"FURY AT FURNACE CREEK"

Sunday and Monday,

October 25-26—
Humphrey Bogart, Walter Huston and Tim Holt in
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Tuesday and Wednesday,

October 25-26—
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Sunday, October 23—

Alexis Smith and Eleanor Parker in

"WOMAN IN WHITE"

Cartoon

Monday and Tuesday,

October 24-25—

William Elliott in

"PLAINSMAN AND LADY"

Comedy and Cartoon

Wednesday and Thursday,

October 26-27—

Dennis Morgan and V. Lindford in

"TO THE VICTOR"

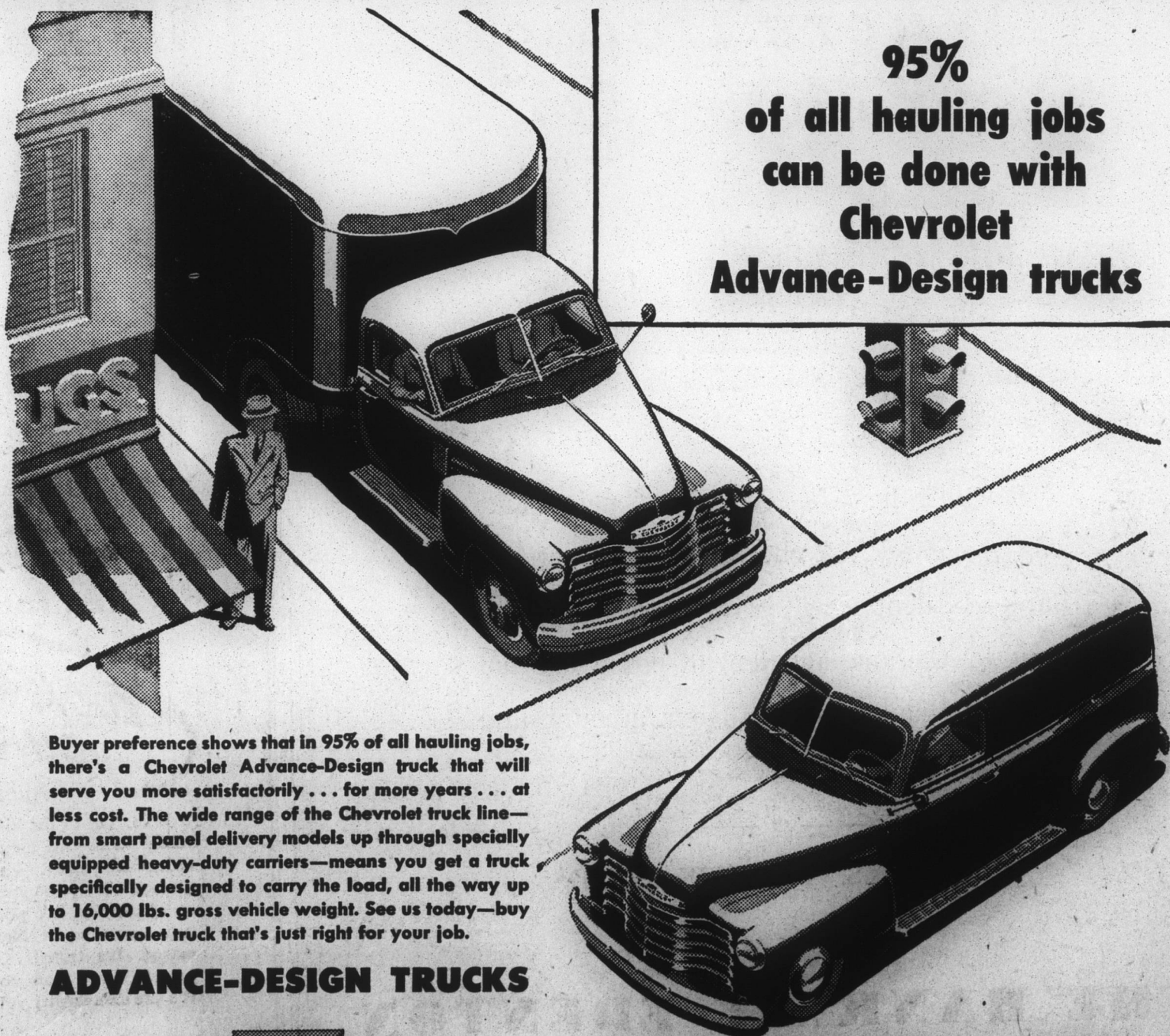
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