

MARLE OR MUSSEL BEDS OF BANDON

Site of the Chowanoak Indian Village

By J. L. WIGGINS

Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of years before Amadas and Barlow or Sir Walter Raleigh's colonists landed on Roanoke Island, evidence shows that many Indians from the tribes connected with this point by waterways, gathered at what is now known as Bandon on the Chowan River, eighteen miles northwest of Edenton. The tributaries of the Chowan River are the Meherrin, Weyanoke, Nottaway and Blackwater Rivers. (Indian name for Blackwater River not known.) At this point on the Chowan River there is a high bank or bluff twenty-five feet in height. The river here is about two miles wide with a sandy shore graduating in depth out to the channel. This sandy bottom of the river is the haven and breeding ground for millions of mussels, a shellfish somewhat similar to the oyster, but unlike the oyster in this respect. It does not grow in clusters, but only singly. It can move from place to place and leaves a plain track in the sand. White or colored people have never used mussels as a food as the meat has a yellow color and a nauseating taste. The Indians, however, evidently were fond of them or through hunger ate them from necessity.

It is assumed that the Indians from up country, for ages, made yearly pilgrimages in their dug-out canoes to this camping ground (perhaps thousands of them) to gather mussels and feast on them during the summer season. As evidence of this, there was a shell bank here twenty feet high and two hundred yards long.

About fifty years ago, Mr. John M. Forehand came into possession of Bandon and, realizing the fertilizer value of these partly decomposed shells for agricultural purposes, sold them by the load to farmers and also fertilized his own extensive acres with them. Thousands of bushels of shells have been moved, but there still remains thousands of bushels.

In moving these shells, which the farmers called marle, they uncovered many Indian relics, such as, arrowheads, pottery, tomahawks and even portions of human skeletons.

Dr. Dillard of Edenton, who was quite a historian, told the writer that legend gave the name of this Indian camping ground as Chowanoak.

In the pre-Revolutionary period, Parson Earle lived at Bandon and preached in St. Paul's Church in Edenton, driving back and forth eight-

teen miles or riding horseback. He had established quite a fishery at Bandon, in fact, he named Bandon for Bandon, Ireland. At that period, religion had reached a pretty low ebb in the Albemarle so the Church in Edenton became badly in need of repairs.

Cheap Alloys Replace Silver In Army Guns

WASHINGTON—Silver—which has been used in the Army's big guns through two world wars and the Korean conflict—soon may be replaced by cheap alloys.

Although not normally associated with weapons of war, silver is being used by the Army Ordnance Corps to make rings for the recoil systems of many artillery pieces. However, tests show that in many cases aluminum, babbitt and other metal alloys may be used successfully.

On the 105-millimeter recoils, for example, there are 12 silver rings.

Approximately one pound of silver is needed to make them.

The use of silver rings in the mechanisms of artillery weapons dates back to the old French 75 in World War I.

At that time, silver was hit upon as the metal best suited for this purpose because of its softness and flexibility, and the fact that it was non-corrosive and could be spun into shape easily.

Silver—like most other metals—wears and causes wear. Because of this, there comes a time in the life of every recoil mechanism when it must be re-built to assure proper functioning.

One of the first weapons to switch to the new metal rings which are cheaper and hold promise of more durability and dependability was the Army's 280-millimeter atomic gun.

Give what you have. To some one it may be better than you dare to think. —Henry W. Longfellow.

"The King of Swine"

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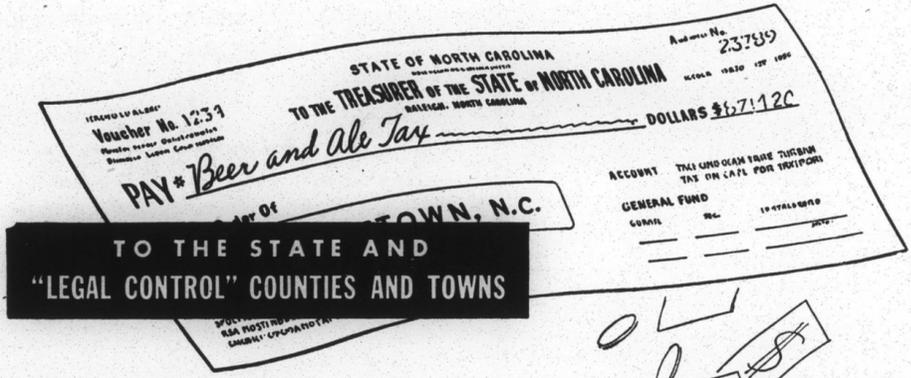
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"LEGAL CONTROL" COUNTIES AND TOWNS

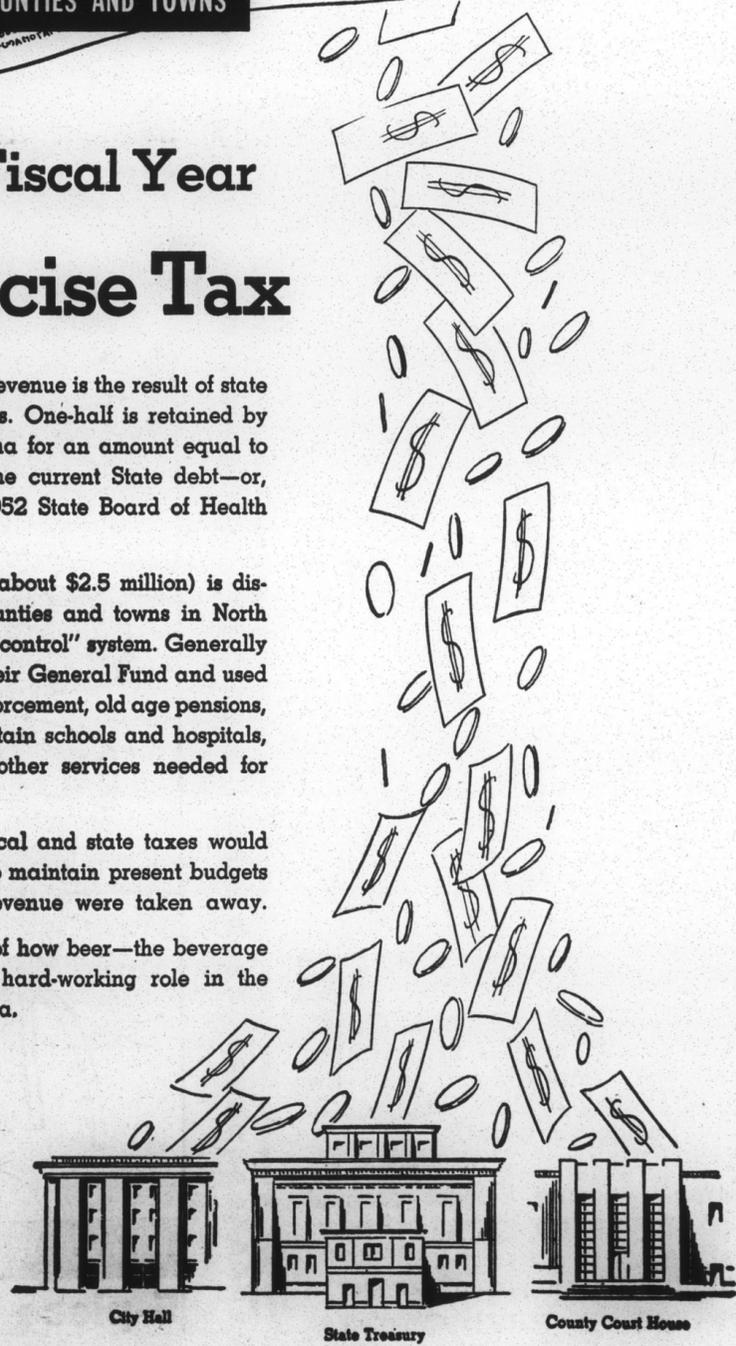
in 1953 Fiscal Year Beer Excise Tax

This huge \$5 million tax revenue is the result of state "legal control" beer sales. One-half is retained by the State of North Carolina for an amount equal to 5 times the interest on the current State debt—or, more than the ENTIRE 1952 State Board of Health Department expenses!

The remaining one-half (about \$2.5 million) is distributed ONLY to the counties and towns in North Carolina using the "legal control" system. Generally this money is placed in their General Fund and used for fire protection, law enforcement, old age pensions, money to build and maintain schools and hospitals, and pay for the many other services needed for modern government.

There is no doubt that local and state taxes would have to be INCREASED to maintain present budgets if the beer excise tax revenue were taken away.

This is another example of how beer—the beverage of moderation—plays a hard-working role in the economy of North Carolina.



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