

A Story Told - It Always Rains On August 8th

By Sara Harrell Trexler
I have been told, at some time, never to start a story with "It was a dark and stormy night." Well - lately it has rained and stormed day and night. Yet much nicer than three years ago when it was so dry that cars could not be washed, the flowers watered, nor could we fill the swimming pool. I never did mind the heat of summer, nor the cold of winter. This comes very likely from growing up in the country during the years of no air conditioning - really, there was not even electricity out there then. You just took the season's as they come, knowing that they would soon change. The thunder storms I could do without - then and now. Now, as far as the eight day of August is concerned, I shall watch the sky for rain and thunder storms. I fear

there is a pattern. On August Eighth, Nineteen Hundred Eighty One, my granddaughter, Sally Shore, after much preparation and happy anticipation of a grand and glorious wedding day, woke to the crash of thunder and lightning streaking across the sky. The bride was not dismayed. She walked through the house time and again, made numerous trips to the church and she put her hair up in curlers. She called for grandmama to bring this and that and then she called again. Her mother put her going away outfit in her car, which was never used that day and which was some twenty five miles away when the bride was ready to change from her beautiful wedding dress. The storm may have gotten to the mother of the bride! At least they got her to the

church on time - and then the rain came again - the lightning flashed and the thunder railed. I think the bride and groom heard it not. Once during the service there came a very definite "grin" on the face of the maid of honor, Suzanne, the brides sister. When asked by the minister, their Uncle Bob, for the ring, one hand reached to the other and a better piece of acting you will never see. There was no ring. Suzanne had left it home. Fake it if you should forget the ring she had been told - and that Suzanne did! The soloist, the bride's dear friend, was taken with a sore throat and not a note could she sing, like Sally, she walked down the aisle with a smile that was as bright as the candles on the altar and in rare beauty made her silent contribution to the stormy wedding day. A new beginning that August day and a happy year just passed, but not to be outdone, weatherwise, this August Eighth the storm clouds came again. Sally and David were off to Ocean City and not aware of the different trip to the church that day for her mother, her aunt and her grandmama. Our Aunt Magnolia had died from a broken hip, suffered in a fall the week before. We were leaving

Virginia Beach for Chesapeake and the Funeral Home when the storm broke with such fury as to weaken the stoutest heart. We had waited out the storm, we thought. We took to the freeway and then it returned in full force. A world of water and little else could we see. We found a parking lot near Poindexter Street and a Police Car waiting out the storm when the water lessened we pulled up close and asked the nearest way to the Funeral Home. The officer was smiling and helpful - the rain was pelting him in his face. We reached the church and took our place near Aunt Magnolia and her flowers. A silent testimony to the life she had led from her friends, her church and the street on which she lived. Two different beginnings on two stormy August days. One on a new and happy road with their friends and families close - to share the rainy days that come in every life. One on a road free from pain and suffering and where the storm clouds have rolled away.

America's first "gold rush" was initiated after the 1799 discovery of gold in Cabarrus County.

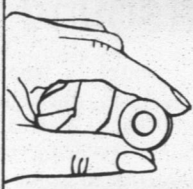
Farm Tips: Poultry & Egg Industry In N.C.

By Dr. J.W. Pou
Placed end to end, the eggs produced in North Carolina during 1980 would reach around the world - not just once, but five times. They would reach slightly over four - tenths of the way to the moon. They would make a ribbon of eggs six feet wide extending from the Pacific coast to the Atlantic. Dr. Fred R. Tarver, Jr., Extension Food Science Specialist at North Carolina State University, came up with these and other figures to emphasize the importance of the poultry and egg industry to the Tar Heel state. In 1980, he said, there were 13.2 million laying hens on farms in North Carolina and during the year they produced almost 265 million dozen eggs for consumption. That was enough to meet the needs of all 5,870,000 people in the state plus 5.8 million elsewhere. Tarver, whose work is in poultry products, said an average egg is about 2 1/4 inches long and 1 1/2 inches wide. Laid end to end, the eggs produced in the state in 1980 would reach almost 113,000 miles. That's equivalent to 208 trips from Manteo to Murphy. An average egg weighs two ounces. Each year an average hen produces 30 pounds of eggs - more than 6 1/2 times her own weight. Eggs produced in the state for consumption in 1980 weighed almost 199,000 tons. There were nearly 20,000 tons of shells, 119,000 tons of egg whites and 60,000 tons of egg yolks. North Carolina also produces a lot of young chickens called broilers. The output in 1980 was slightly under 400 million birds. From shoulder to base of tail, the average broiler is about eight inches long. Placed end to end, the state's 1980 output of broilers would reach 50,000 miles - about 93 trips from Manteo to Murphy, or more than two trips around the world. The state's broiler processors turned out enough broilers that year to supply the needs of all Tar Heels plus 17.9 million people elsewhere.

"Poultry food products, a luxury in bygone days, have become increasingly important in the diets of Americans today," Tarver said. U.S. consumption in 1980 averaged 62 pounds of chicken and turkey meat and 279 chicken eggs per person. "Poultry food products traditionally have been considered a good buy because of their nutritional value, relative low price and versatility," the NCSU specialist said. Poultry is North Carolina's largest food industry, and it is second only to tobacco as a source of agricultural income. Gross farm returns from poultry and eggs produced in the state last year reached a record high slightly in excess of \$800 million, said Dr. Thomas A.

Carter, specialist - in - wide range of products is available for consumers. Tarver said there are numerous poultry food companies in the state and they process chickens, turkeys, chicken eggs, duck and quail. This means a consumer can buy whole birds, processed items, or packages of cut - up parts such as drumsticks or breasts.

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