

# Johnny Moore, Forgotten Man Of Aviation, Is A Celebrity No One Knows About; Plans 1948 Picnic

By BILL SHARPE

COLINGTON—Johnny Moore is a celebrity, but nobody knows it, and Johnny doesn't care. He tends to his crabbing, hunting, trapping and guiding on this little island which lies behind Kill Devil Hill, and which is still reminiscent of the 18th century settlement built around the placid waters of Blount's Bay. Tourists hardly ever get over here, although it is just a couple of miles from the "big road" running alongside Nees Head Beach, and Johnny is unlikely to pay much attention to them if they did come.

But Johnny Moore is the forgotten man of aviation. He is the lone surviving witness of the first powered airplane flight, the last

living man who actually lent a hand to the Wright brothers on December 17, 1903 when they put their flimsy craft into the wind and flew the astonishing space of 120 feet.

He is 82 years old now, weathered and carefree, and was 17 years old when he chanced by Kill Devil Hill on that memorable date, and helped put the Wright plane in position for its run down the wooden rails upon which it was launched and so became truly airborne.

Having thus found a couple of lucky stars to this historic event, watching the three other flights made the same day, and then seeing the other crash among the trees, Johnny usually goes back to his old post and does not get out of bed.

The other witnesses to that first flight are dead now—Will Doolittle, Adam Weir, John T. Daniels, and the two Wright brothers. Capt. Daniels died just a day after William Wright passed away recently in Dayton, Ohio. None of them lived and died unaware, honored as aviators, but not so Johnny. For many years on Kill Devil there assembled both visiting dignitaries and local citizens, with speeches, commemorative wreaths and often as not a band and squadron of modern military planes to fly over Johnny Moore, who lives within a hop and a lope of the monument, never attended these events. His fellow-witnesses were always on hand until they, one by one, succumbed, but Johnny for

some reason was up the creek, or up to Norfolk, or over to the mainland or down the beach. Not that Johnny was ignored by the local committee. Especial pains were taken to invite him and to get him atop the hill for the ceremonies, but somehow Johnny managed not to show up. He doesn't seem to like the crowds, the oratory, and the bands.

Johnny Moore is the son of King Solomon Moore and Mavy Moore, who was a fortune teller for the summer cottagers. He lives in a small home hard by the water, in the first house on the left after you cross the bridge beyond the monument. The father of 14 children, Johnny's stock joke, when asked how many children he has, is to reply, "Can't tell you; ain't burnt off the bush yet this year."

Collington, a pine-covered island, settled before history was recorded in this section, with houses built in the woods, along winding, sandy roads, has been happily unaffected by the burgeoning beach nearby. Sport fishermen wander over to engage guides to take them around the waters, and Johnny himself takes care of some of this business, and is glad to do so, if he is not otherwise engaged.

But 1948 is going to be a big year for him. He plans a family reunion early in May, and has invited all his family and friends to visit with him. "I'm a poor man," he said, "and we'll have to hold a sort of picnic as I have so many friends I couldn't hope to feed them all. But I would like to see them all before I die." Congressman Herbert Bonner has promised to attend and make the speech, and from the response the invitation is getting. Johnny may get to be a recognized celebrity after all.

Gallons of ice cream manufactured in North Carolina increased from about one million in 1926 to more than 16 million in 1946.

Although the acreage of corn grown in North Carolina has remained about the same since 1880, total production has almost tripled, due to the increase in yield per acre.

### NOTICE

Upon motion made, seconded and carried that is ordered by the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Murphy that an election be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in May, 1948, it being the fourth (4th) day of May, for the election of a Mayor and six (6) Commissioners of said Town of Murphy, said election to be held in the Courthouse in the Town of Murphy, the polling place established by the governing body of said Town.

Ben Fox is hereby selected as Registrar for said election who shall register those entitled to register, J. W. Franklin and L. W. Shields are hereby appointed judges of said election, who shall open polls and superintend the election; they shall keep poll books in which shall be entered the names of every person who shall vote and at the close of the election they shall certify the same over their proper signature and deposit them with the Board of Commissioners. That the Registration book shall be opened for registration of all persons entitled to be registered on the third (3rd) day of April, 1948, and each Saturday in April, 1948 these being the 10th, 17th and 24th days of said month. That Saturday May 1st, 1948 shall be challenge day. That the Clerk of the Town of Murphy have published this ordinance in the Cherokee Scout and at the Courthouse door for thirty (30) days as required by law. The Clerk of the Town of Murphy shall prepare and have printed sufficient necessary ballots for said



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election as previously prescribed by law.

Be it further ordained that all candidates for the office of Mayor and Commissioners must have their names certified to the undersigned Clerk not later than six o'clock April 24, 1948, in order to appear on regular ballot.

Town of Murphy  
36-4c E. G. HUGHES, Clerk

### NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

**NORTH CAROLINA CHEROKEE COUNTY**  
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
BEFORE THE CLERK  
DRUCILLA B. COLLINS,  
Plaintiff,

vs.  
PAT COLLINS and Wife,  
JOSEPHINE COLLINS,  
Defendants.

Under and by virtue of a judgment and order of the Superior Court of Cherokee County, North Carolina made in the above entitled

special proceeding, the undersigned Commissioner will on the 7th day of April, 1948 at 12 o'clock noon at the Court House door in Murphy, Cherokee County, North Carolina offer for sale to the highest bidder for cash the following described tract of land in Shoal Creek Township, Cherokee County, North Carolina, to-wit:

BEGINNING on a Small Spanish Oak on the North line of Tract No. 114, in the 8th District, Shoal Creek Township, Cherokee County, North Carolina, and runs South with a cross fence with the Collier and Robinson line to the Old Line near a bunch of Sassafras; then West with the Old line to three small Chestnuts; then North to R. R. Postell's fence; then Northwest with said fence to the Creek; thence down the creek to a large Maple on the North Bank of said Creek; then Northeast to a dogwood on the hillside, near the corner of the Postell

fence; then North East with the Old Line to a pine in a Hollow; then with said Old Line to the Beginning, containing 58 acres more or less, and being a part of Tract No. 114 in District 8.

EXCEPT, however, from the above boundary the 12 acres, more or less, conveyed by Meigs Collins and wife to J. W. Barnes and wife by deed in Book 102 at page 560.

The successful bidder will be required to make a good faith deposit of One Hundred (\$100.00) Dollars at the time of the sale or the property will be at once resold at the same time and place.

This 6th day of March, 1948.  
J. B. GRAY  
34-4c COMMISSIONER

### ADMINISTRIX NOTICE

Having qualified as administratrix of the estate of L. L. Mason, deceased, late of Cherokee County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against

the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at Murphy, N. C. on or before the 12th day of March, 1949, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment.

This 12th day of March, 1948.  
MRS. L. L. MASON  
Administratrix of  
34-4c L. L. MASON, Estate



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Murphy General Hospital  
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Murphy, N. C.

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## THE LONE RANGER :: By Fran Striker