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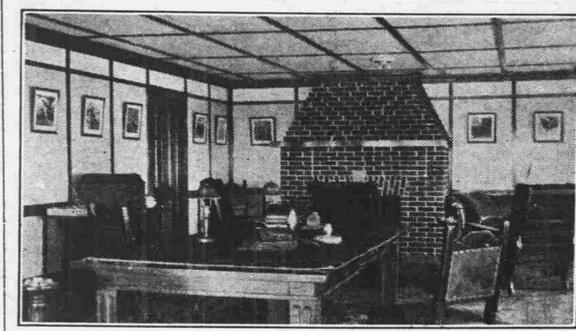
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PRESIDENT HARDING MAY BE GUEST AT DUCK ISLAND

Independent's Staff Correspondent Gives Readers of This Newspaper an Interesting Account of a "\$150,000,000 Club"

By D. V. MEEKINS

Ten years ago the occasional North-carolinian visiting Dare County to hunt, would have found on Duck Island a typical group of fishermen's camps, made of rough pine boards and furnished with a stove, a bench, and a built-in bunk. To-day Duck Island is owned by a club of forty millionaires whose quarters are conceded to be the finest and most handsomely appointed in the state, with their rich furnishings from garret to cellar and the completeness of their modern conveniences.



IN THIS corner of the living room of the Duck Island Club millionaires may thaw their aching feet this winter, at the same time viewing thru the spacious windowed front, millions of wild fowl sporting in the shallow waters of Pamlico. The picture shows only a small portion, but gives an idea of the room with its luxurious but unpretentious furnishings. The room is 27 by 40 feet, as large as the ground floor of many homes. Its most interesting upholstery is a 22 by 35 Oriental rug, costing \$2,500. Photo by Meekins.

How Duck Island came to be the hunting base of forty men whose combined resources are acknowledged to be above \$150,000,000.00, is herewith set forth for the readers of this newspaper, as the result of a visit by the writer; the completeness of the narrative being due to the courtesy of Mr. J. C. Wasson, Secretary of the Club, who is on the job making arrangements for the season's hunting.

Duck Island is on the southern end of Roanoke Island, about five miles from Manteo. It is located in immediate reach of hundreds of square miles of the best winter habitat of wild ducks and geese in the state. Its area is 244 acres and its boundaries are the waters of Pamlico Sound. Duck Island was originally entered and owned by B. F. Meekins of Manteo and late went into the hands of E. R. Daniels of Wanchese who made it the base of his fishing operations for several years.

A few years ago he sold the island to R. B. Holtz of Port Washington, New York, for \$2,500, who intended building a permanent club thereon. For some reason or other the plan fell thru and it was sold under mortgage for \$1,500. Mr. Daniels again became owner and in 1919 it was purchased for \$85,000 by Geo. W. Whitehurst of Norfolk who spent about \$1,000 in improvements with the idea of promoting a club on the property.

During the fall of 1920 J. C. Wasson of the Pittsburgh Hotels Company being anxious to find good wildfowl hunting, wrote the editor of Field and Stream to suggest a promising locality. The editor sent him a list of names stretching from Currituck to Charleston. After considerable deliberation and inspection he decided upon a trip to Duck Island and was accompanied there by Grant McCargo of Pittsburgh, President of the Pittsburgh Hotels Co. Both Mr. Watson and Mr. McCargo found hunting so pleasant and favorable in the vicinity that they later purchased the island outright for the sum of \$7,000.

Upon their return to Pittsburgh they decided to organize a club composed of their immediate friends. The response was so great that it was necessary to limit the membership to forty men who decided to erect suitable quarters at once. Work on improvements began this spring with the construction of a 600 foot bulkhead on the water front. The club-house just completed is of the bungalow type, 40 by 100 feet, constructed of wood and shingles with an asbestos roofing. The interior is completed with wall-board and natural wood finishes.

The living room is 27 by 40 feet with a large brick fireplace in one end. It is luxuriously furnished with mahogany and oak reading, writing and card as well as billiard tables, phonograph, bric-a-brac, rockers, lounges and armchairs. The walls are hung exclusively with paintings of migratory and native birds of the state. Many windows in the front permit an unbroken view of the lighthouse, inlet and beach for miles.

The building has two 10 by 14 foot bathrooms with vestibules and lockers on the lower floor, a gun room 5 by 16 feet, six 10 by 13 foot bedrooms, a 22 by 22 foot dining room, and a 20 by 30 foot kitchen and pantry where Jeff Martin, who for 15 years was chef at the Tranquil House at Manteo, and his wife, preside with pride over a \$275 kitchen range. The entrance hall which opens in the living room, dining room and bath room is fitted with racks for 20 guns.

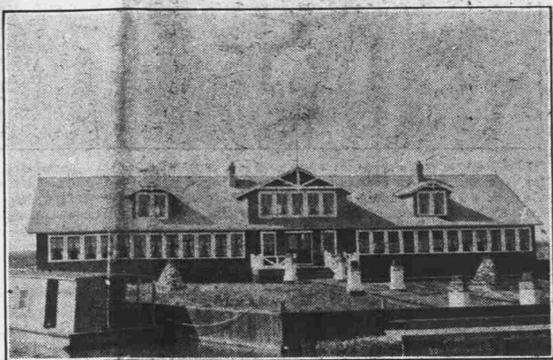
On the upper floor are a 33 by 40 foot and a 19 by 19 foot bed room. Then there is a 33 by 40 foot room for the guides, and quarters for the colored help. All these rooms are provided with numerous lockers. One of the rooms is said to be fitted especially for President Harding, who is expected to visit the club this winter. It will probably be occupied by Governor Morrison of this state, who is to be invited this fall.

The whole building is electrically lighted and provided with running water and sewerage. A wood house 10 by 18 feet and rack adjoins the kitchen. Besides, there is an oil house 8 by 15 feet. All the buildings are connected by elevated walks. A bathhouse 25 by 60 feet provides storage space for most of the hunting equipment. This is connected with inclined platforms to the water, from which the boats may be drawn over rollers with ease into the building. The club has eight boats in all, including one houseboat that accommodates eight hunters with guides and which will be towed to the best hunting in any part of the county. The equipment of the club also includes four double sets of sit-up, and four double sets lay-down batteries. (Concluded on Page 10.)

To Invite Harding

Acting upon the suggestion of THE INDEPENDENT, the Elizabeth City Chamber of Commerce will extend an invitation to President Harding to call at Elizabeth City on the occasion of his proposed trip to Duck Island, where he is expected to shoot wild fowl this winter.

Home of The Duck Island Club



THE new home of the Duck Island Club just completed in Dare County is declared by T. S. Meekins of Manteo to be the most handsomely appointed in the state. Mr. Meekins until recently was State Federal Game Warden and says he has visited all the hunting quarters in North Carolina. This building is 40 by 100 feet, faces the east and commands a view of Oregon Inlet and Bodie Island to the eastward, and sees only the horizon of Pamlico Sound to the south. Four miles to the northward is Roanoke Island. Photo by Meekins.

SAY THE INDEPENDENT HAS GIVEN FARMERS RIGHT CUE

Community Leaders Heartily Commend Independent's Appeal to Farmers to Convert Their Pork Into Hams, Bacon and Lard

ENTERPRISING AND FULL OF 20TH CENTURY PEP



DR. HOWARD J. COMBS

HERE is a newcomer to Elizabeth City, Dr. Combs is a Tyrrell County boy, the son of Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Combs, of Columbia. He graduated at the Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia in 1918 and was for 15 months in the Pennsylvania Hospital in that city, acquiring every experience of a general practitioner. All the time he had his eye on Elizabeth City and located in Columbia pending an effort to organize a hospital here last year. He was to have been one of six young physicians to start a hospital here, but that deal fell thru and Dr. Combs moved to New Bern, where he acquired an interest in a hospital there. Then came the organization of the Pasquotank Municipal Hospital and Dr. Combs decided to cast his lot here anyhow. He likes Elizabeth City. And being enterprising, and full of pep he should make good here without much difficulty.

This newspaper may have started something worth while last week when it sounded a warning to the farmers of Pasquotank and adjoining counties that they stand to sell their dressed pork at a loss this fall and their only salvation lies in adopting the sound practice of converting more of their pork into hams, bacon and lard.

Many bankers, business men and farmers have expressed themselves as heartily indorsing the suggestions made by this newspaper. There is no likelihood of local capital being interested in a packing plant for several years yet, but it is possible for every farmer to be his own packer. One will not find thrifter farmers anywhere in the United States than in Pennsylvania and there, Secretary Job of the Chamber of Commerce tells us, when they haven't a smokehouse they smoke their meat in a piano box. R. C. Job, Secretary of the Elizabeth City Chamber of Commerce; W. G. Gaither, vice-president and cashier of the First & Citizens National Bank; Gurney P. Hood, vice-president and cashier of the Carolina Banking & Trust Co., and G. W. Falls, Farm Demonstration Agent for Pasquotank County, have communicated their views and suggestions along the same line, to this newspaper. Their letters follow. Every one is worth reading well.

THE ELIZABETH CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Elizabeth City, N. C., Oct. 25, 1921.
Editor, The Independent.

I can not help commending you on the timely article appearing in your paper last week, "How Farmers May Keep Out of the Glutted Dressed Pork Market."

If our local farmers will analyze this article they will find the solution of disposing of their porkers to good advantage.

Since coming to Elizabeth City, I miss the home cured hams, bacon, sausage, scrapple lard, etc., which could be procured from almost any farmer in the vicinity of my home, (Bethlehem, Pa.) They kill and cure their meat and dispose of the most of the products locally. The farmer and the consumer are both benefited in this way.

Almost every farmer in Pennsylvania has his smoke house, which is not always an elaborate structure by any means; in fact, I have seen meats smoked in a piano box.

I hope the local farmer will take the advice of The Independent and try the home curing method if only on a small scale. I feel sure a ready market is here for his products and should a surplus accumulate the larger cities are always looking for home cured meats.

Yours for Progress,
RICHARD C. JOB,
Secretary.

FIRST & CITIZENS NATL BANK
Elizabeth City, N. C.

Editor, The Independent:

I have found unusual interest in reading the article in your last issue relative to the pork situation, as I believe this is a matter of the greatest importance, at this time, to our community. In my opinion a packing plant in Elizabeth City would be the best solution of this problem, as it would assure a ready and permanent market for such products. Until the world recovers from this period of depression it is not likely that capital could be found for such an undertaking. I sincerely hope, however, that this can become a reality in the next few years.

In the meantime, I believe our Pasquotank farmers can benefit to a large extent by following the lead in their Perquimans and Gates brethren. There is a market the year round for good ham and bacon, but all of that seen on the market here is brought in by Perquimans county farmers. I understand from them that the profit for the farmer is much larger where the meat is cured and sold, rather than by putting the pork on the market during the fall when, as you say, the market is so likely to be glutted.

I have in mind one Perquimans County farmer who purchased a farm some years ago for about \$10,000.00. He has never made a payment during the fall of the year, but on the other hand generally meets his note either in February. (Concluded on Page 10.)

OBEY THAT IMPULSE AND FILL IN THIS HANDY BLANK

THE INDEPENDENT, Elizabeth City, N. C.

Send me The Independent for one year, for which I am inclosing my check or P. O. Money Order for \$1.50.

Name _____
Address _____

Write name and address plainly and state whether subscription is new or a renewal. If not convenient to send check or M. O. send a dollar bill at our risk and get the paper eight months instead of a year.

BOARD O' HEALTH ENGINEER HERE

Confers With Aldermen Preliminary to Abolishing City's Gravest Menace

H. E. Miller, engineer of the Bureau of Sanitation of the State Board of Health arrived in Elizabeth City yesterday to deal with the unsanitary privy problem in this city and its suburbs. Mr. Miller was in conference with the Board of Aldermen as this newspaper went to press Thursday afternoon and indications are that the Board of Aldermen will co-operate with the State Board of Health in the solution of the city's gravest sanitary problem.

Engineer Miller had been in the city only a few hours yesterday when he was convinced that there is only one practical solution to the problem here. It is probable that within the next three or four years Elizabeth City will have better sewerage facilities than it now has. Therefore it would be economically unsound and otherwise inadvisable to compel the owners of ground toilets to construct cement vaults or pits or put in costly aseptic tanks. On the other hand the ground pit type of privy which is comparatively inexpensive is not to be considered at all in this section where the water supply is so near the surface.

Engineer Miller recommends the box and can type of privy to take the place of the ground privies now generally in use where there is no sewerage. This would require an inexpensive remodeling of the toilets now in use. Good people will have to sacrifice that much cherished all-family affair consisting of a seat with three holes, one for man, one for pa and one for the baby. The box and can type of privy provides for one seat opening only. The city's scavenger carts remove the cans at stated intervals, leaving an empty can for the can taken away. The box and vent pipe for this type of privy will cost the property owner perhaps \$7.50. The cans will cost about \$1.25 apiece and would have to be purchased by the city. The city would have to increase its present scavenger tax of \$2 per annum on open toilets to defray the cost of the cans and a slight increase in the cost of scavenger service.

With the box and can type of privy designed by and used under the direction of the State Board of Health, Elizabeth City's health will no longer be imperiled by open toilets while waiting upon the working out of our sewerage extension problems. The type of privies recommended by the State Board of Health abates the fly nuisance, eliminates soil and water pollution and does away with a lot of unsightliness and bad odor.

ELIZABETH CITY SMALL BOYS ARE PLAYING OUT OF LUCK

Elizabeth City small boys are playing out of luck these days. The latest victim of a nearly fatal accident is Earl Dean, 11-year-old son of Mrs. Catherine Greenleaf Dean of this city. Young Dean fell 30 feet from the top of a pecan tree on the courthouse grounds Tuesday afternoon. His fall was checked somewhat by his striking lower limbs of the tree before hitting the ground. He is expected to recover without broken bones, but has suffered much pain from internal shock.

Renew your subscription to THE INDEPENDENT. Do not let it get away from you.

HOW R. R. STRIKE WOULD AFFECT US

Elizabeth City Could Live Long and Prosper Without Any Railroad at All

While the employees of the Norfolk Southern R. R. were not included in the first call of the railroad brotherhoods for nation-wide strike on Oct. 30, it is well enough to consider how Elizabeth City would be affected if the trains on the one railroad serving this town should stop running by reason of a walkout of all its operatives.

The situation here would not be so alarming as it might appear at first thought. Elizabeth City could exist indefinitely without the operation of a railroad. When a nation-wide railroad strike threatens New York or any other large city, that city must hasten to mobilize all of its resources to avert a real disaster. New York does not produce its own food and is utterly dependent upon a vast outside territory for its milk, butter, eggs, fish, poultry and meats. It has to send to the Pacific Coast for much of its fish, to the far West for its meats and much of its poultry and even its milk must be hauled, in many instances, hundreds of miles. But Elizabeth City can draw all of its food from its outlying farming country, including its bread. Motor trucks could supply this city with all of its meat, poultry, eggs and country produce; motor boats already bring us all the fish we can consume from the fishing grounds a few miles to the South and East of us.

It might be a good thing indeed for Elizabeth City to be shut off from the outside world for a few months, so that we might learn how easily we can get along without canned Salmon from the Pacific, canned beef from Chicago, and saw-belly from Baltimore.

But without a railroad, Elizabeth City would not be shut off from transportation. We have two steamboat lines to Norfolk, one operating daily via the Dismal Swamp Canal, the other thrice a week via the Albemarle & Chesapeake or government inland waterway. We have boats running from Elizabeth City to many points in Camden, Currituck, Dare Tyrrell and Hyde counties and we have a weekly steamboat service between Elizabeth City and Baltimore. We are only 50 miles from Hampton Roads and while we haven't as yet a hard surface road between Elizabeth City and Norfolk, Va., we have motor trucks that can easily negotiate such roads as we have. With two trains daily for Norfolk, jitney drivers still find it profitable even now to operate automobiles for passengers between Elizabeth City and Norfolk.

And that is why Elizabeth City refuses to lose sleep over a threatened railroad strike and why Elizabeth City people go gaily about their affairs just as if there were no railroads or railroad brotherhoods to worry about.

THE INDEPENDENT does the better class of job printing.

TO SAVE A TRIP

Your eyes should be attended to the first thing, then while you are shopping the glasses can be made, and delivered to you before you leave for home. After long experience I find a try-on after the glasses are made a necessity. I make the examination and glasses the same day.

DR. J. D. HATHAWAY
Optometrist
Bradford Bldg., Elizabeth City, N. C.

FOREST FIRES RAGE UNCHECKED

Burning From Moyock to Virginia Line and Spreading Into Camden

A forest fire which started near Moyock in Currituck County several weeks ago is now raging from Guinea Mill, just below Moyock, to the Virginia line seven miles away, and is spreading into the Northern part of Camden county. All efforts to combat the fire have been of no avail and it will continue unchecked until quenched by a heavy rain. Just how the fire started is not known. It probably started in many places about the same time. It is generally believed to have had its origin on the Wolcott farm, just back of Moyock, where a parcel of new land had just been ditched and the underbrush cut and piled up preparatory to putting the land in cultivation next spring.

The loss will run into hundreds of thousands of dollars. The uncut acres of valuable timber have already been destroyed and if the fire continues in its spread thru Northern Camden it may reach the Great Dismal Swamp above South Mills and sweep away the great Juniper forests owned by the John L. Roper Lumber Co. and the Richmond Cedar Works.

The destructiveness of the fire is indicated by the fact that the very land itself has in many instances been burned away to a depth of as much as two feet, the land being of a peaty nature and highly combustible following such a long period of drought as we have had this summer and fall.

THE DAMNEDEST THING H. S. WARD EVER SAW

Your Congressman Drifts Out on the "Flood Tide of Republican Prosperity and Exclusive Americanism"

Hon. Hallet S. Ward, Congressman from the First Congressional District of North Carolina doesn't think much of these so called labor auctions by which the unemployed in many cities are put up at auction and sold to the highest bidder. Under date of Oct. 24 Mr. Ward writes to this newspaper as follows:

"I have been hearing and reading and seeing pictures of these labor auctions that seem to have commenced in Boston, and have swept over the cities in their flood tide of Republican prosperity and exclusive Americanism. Last night I saw in The Star, notice of one of the things to be held at No. 225 Pennsylvania Avenue. I quit everything and went and saw it out with my own eyes. Immense crowd; numbers of young men, many in uniform, standing around in a hall; a preacher and an auctioneer; talking, singing patriotic songs, etc. Presently the man in charge announced that he could not get a city auctioneer on account of pressure brought to bear by the city government. The sale of labor has been regarded as similar to the sale of the man, which is unlawful, so he had fallen upon the plan of selling the fellow's bed by number, with the responsibility to the purchaser to take the fellow that sleeps on it and to furnish the young man labor at 30 cents an hour. So fifty beds, (little iron cots) were sold off to somebody representing some charitable institutions. Tears were seen in many eyes as the leader, a splendid talker, commenced and two policemen stepped to the front and stood in a few steps of him and watched him. Taking the whole thing all up and down and through and 'round, it was the damndest thing I ever saw."

FIRST PASQUOTANK HOSPITAL CASE A COMPLETE SUCCESS

Moody Haskett, the first patient to enter the Pasquotank Hospital in this city upon its opening a few weeks ago, left the hospital this week after a successful operation for appendicitis. The operation was performed by Dr. John Saliba, who has a national reputation among medical men for his skill and methods in such cases.

JOE KNAPP MAY BE FARMER YET

Enterprising New York Publisher Is Going to Get Rid of Some Bulls Anyway

By W. O. SAUNDERS.

Joseph P. Knapp, wealthy New York publisher, banker and manufacturer, whose home on Mackay Island in Currituck Sound was made the subject of an illustrated article in this newspaper a few weeks ago, doesn't altogether relish being twitted for his modest experiment in farming on Mackay Island.

Somewhere in my article about Mr. Knapp's farm appeared the statement that he had stocked his farm with a herd of cattle consisting of forty bulls and thirty cows. The publication of that statement has put Mr. Knapp on his mettle. He is willing to admit that as a gentleman farmer he hasn't made much of a showing as yet, but it's just because he hasn't tried. Once he finds time to put his mind to it he is not going to let any prowling news writer discover him with forty bulls for thirty cows.

There's no telling just what Joe Knapp will do with that Mackay Island property before he gets thru with it. I wouldn't be a bit surprised to see him make of it one of the greatest agricultural assets in Northeastern North Carolina. Mackay Island, six miles from Currituck C. H., has an area of about 2,400 acres, 1,200 acres of which is highland. Mr. Knapp is not going to let that island stand in nonproductiveness. It isn't in his nature. He is not a waster and he doesn't play with losing propositions. He is one of the most successful business men in America. He is the rare example of a rich man's son who took up his father's work where the father left off and carried it on. His father was Joseph Fairchild Knapp, one time president of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. and who made that company the greatest insurance company in the world. Joseph P. Knapp himself is one of the largest stockholders in the Metropolitan Life and a member of its finance committee. He is president of the American Lithographic Co., which business alone employs 1,800 persons under one roof. He is fourth owner of a chain of worsted mills; chairman of the executive committee of the Crowell Publishing Co. and chairman of the board of directors of P. F. Collier & Son. He is connected with many another enterprise as well. He directs the publication of Colliers Weekly, The American Magazine, The Woman's Home Companion, Farm and Fireside and The Mentor. He has made a success of everything he ever touched. He doesn't know what failure is. And he is not going to make a failure of farming on Mackay Island, once he finds time to give it a little attention. I am venturing the prediction that Joseph P. Knapp will make something more of Mackay Island than a winter home and a game preserve. Being, among other things, the publisher of one of the most pretentious farm papers in the United States, he isn't going to let history pick up those forty bulls and thirty cows. It will be interesting to see Mr. Knapp apply himself to the development of his island in Currituck Sound, as he has applied himself to his many enterprises in New York City and in New England.

North Carolina should count itself fortunate in securing Mr. Knapp as a citizen of this state, even if he did nothing more than retain his home here and use the waters of Currituck Sound for a playground in the hunting season. The money that his estate will pay into the treasury of North Carolina in inheritance taxes when he dies will be a big price to receive for the pleasure afforded him by shooting our wild fowl in season. The money that he pays in taxes to Currituck county annually will help that county a long way in the betterment of its roads and schools. He will help Currituck County in a better way when he introduces new and better ways of farming and live stock production on Mackay Island, which he is sure to do.

DEEPENING THE WATERS OF DARE

The "Currituck" Digs 40,000 Cubic Yards a Day at Roanoke Island

If one would see a working gang, a visit to the U. S. Engineer Department Dredge "Currituck" at Roanoke Island will make him think the war was never begun. The Currituck has a crew of 63 men and in 24 hours can dig 40,000 cubic yards of sand, or enough to cover a 30 acre farm a foot deep. In nine days the plant has deepened a channel from 10 to 12 feet, a length of a mile and a quarter, and 200 feet in width. When completed this will unite the waters of Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds with a 12-foot channel leading all the way from Norfolk to Beaufort.

The Currituck came on this job during the first of the month after having finished a two year's job near Beaufort on the Adams and Core Creeks canal. At this place two rivers were joined together and approximately 3,000,000 cubic yards of sand were removed. The Currituck worked 65 men in crew and kept a survey party of 15 going strong. In addition 35 men were kept busy building dikes to keep sand and silt from running back off the land into the canal. This canal was deepened to 13 feet and was completed August 9, 1921.

The Currituck was built in Baltimore in 1914 by the Ellicott Machine Corporation, and on completion was placed on the Albemarle and Chesapeake canal between Norfolk and Albemarle Sound. This boat is 150 feet long by 37 feet beam and has a mean draft of six feet. Its main engines develop 800 horsepower, driving a 12-foot centrifugal pump which sucks the sand from the bottom and drives it thru a 20-inch pipe line to a safe distance from the channel. The Currituck weighs over 800 tons.

One of the Currituck's jobs was on the eastern shore of Chesapeake Bay where foundations were built for the fortifications at Fisherman's Island. The Currituck's master is Capt. D. T. Aldredge of Baltimore. His men say he is "All Dredge." Having worked up from the ranks he knows the ropes for he began as leverman and hasn't gotten away from it, for he dons his overalls with the rest.

CURRITUCK MAN DIRECTOR SAVINGS BANK & TRUST CO.

J. T. Guard, of Coinjock, was elected a director of the Savings Bank & Trust Co. of this city, at a meeting of the Board of Directors of that bank Tuesday of this week. Mr. Guard is a prominent merchant in Currituck County and was for many years postmaster at Coinjock. He is well known throughout this city and section.