

Brunswick Between Bookends

By Al Arntsen



MARCHING ON. By James Boyd. Published in 1927. No. of pages 436. Available at Southport Public Library.

As an historical novel this one stands on its own merits. I found it quite absorbing, containing just the right mixture of rich descriptive phrases and well-written dialogue.

Though the locale is given as the Cape Fear country generally, one finds much in these pages to support the feeling that this might very well have happened right in or around Southport. Author Boyd, in well chosen words, brings before our eyes "the Cape Fear Plantations forming merely a narrow strip of splendor which followed the rich land by the river from Wilmington down to the sea". In contrast, outside this lay the swamp and forest where no one lived but a few poor farmers and the despised "Crackers". This second group were the outcasts who made their living by stealing and begging from the Planters.

Against this background the writer brings into focus the ways in which the War Between the States affected the people of

Brunswick County and Wilmington. Each of us know that historically the Cape Fear section stands out for its part in all phases of our country's past. This was not any less true during the Civil War years.

Rather than making this a drama of major political decisions and brilliant speeches by great men, the author has chosen another approach. He creates James Frazor, a poor farmer's son as the hero of the tale. Life was a matter of bitter struggle and deprivation for the Frazor family. For Jim's hard-working mother the object of life seemed to be keeping their standards from sinking to the level of the "Crackers". As we are carried along by the story we find ourselves seeing the Civil War through the eyes of these people. James Frazor, the central character, is a young boy whose ideas of life are simple and limited. Even happenings on the nearby plantations were as far removed from his dreams, and even his envy as the moon was from earth. Perversely, however, he fell in love with the Colonel's daughter on the neighboring plantation and this unusual love story is the one bright note in a book that is mainly quite somber. The boy, James, had always looked on the issues that were leading us into war as being quite simple and clearly defined. He didn't understand it all, but those Yankees did need to be made to see the right of it. He never felt though, that he would ever be directly involved in any of it. It was soon apparent that the situation was getting closer and closer to home, especially when, as the book puts it, "Lincoln added the supreme touch to Yankee folly by calling on North Carolina for militia to put down what he called rebellion in the Southern States". The Governor of the State's answer to this was to seize Fort Caswell and call for volunteers. Now the battle lines were drawn, and the end of peace came rapidly.

Our hero enlisted in the Cape Fear Rifles (very probably the counterpart of the well-known Brunswick Guard which were organized here in Southport). Following this, came the days of endless marching, little food and confusing thoughts. We live with him through the agony of battle in which he lost many of his buddies. He was held by the Yankees for a while, then sent home a tired, worn man. His return home to the beloved Cape Fear coincides with the capture of Fort Fisher, leading the story to a climatic conclusion.

The message of the book's human rather than partisan or

political. It would be well worth anyone's time to read it, but for those of us who live in Brunswick County it has the added attraction of being a Novel with a "right at home" feeling.

Garden Time

Plans are being made to use a mechanical harvester for Muscadine grapes in Onslow County in September.

Tests will be conducted in the Holly Ridge section of the county. If interested, you might keep this in mind and watch for further announcements.

The production of Muscadine grapes—the Scuppernon variety still being one of the best of this family—has a good potential in eastern North Carolina. High-quality varieties are excellent as fresh fruit, in jams and jellies and as unfermented juice.

There are hundreds of gift shops and trading posts in western Carolina catering to hundreds of thousands of tourists every year. Why don't you eastern neighbors join hands with your western counterparts and make some processed Muscadine products available to the traveling public? Don't overlook your East Coast tourists either, or your supermarkets.

I will let you in on a little secret. There is a growing interest on the West Coast in the production of Muscadine grapes. A column that I wrote about Muscadines some months ago got in the farm journal which has good western coverage. As a result I had a letter from a grape grower who requested information on the production of Muscadine grapes.

He said that he and his brother had over a hundred acres of Vinifera (old World or "California") grapes but he had heard so much about the delightful Muscadine that he wanted to try some and expand his acreage if the project proved to be successful.

Since that time—and get this—we have had a full-time staff member from the University of California who spent one semester of his sabbatical leave on our campus. His belief interests while here? The production and processing of Muscadine grapes and an advanced course in statistics. His enthusiasm for the possibilities he saw in the processing of Muscadines? Unbounded! If I have ever known a man more enthusiastic about a single crop, I can't remember him. He spent a major portion of his time in the laboratory analyzing juices, extracted from a large number of Muscadine varieties, for sugars, solids, etc.

Since his return to his station at Davis, he has been made chairman of the Division of Viticulture (grape-growing), a large and expanding industry in California.

We could, very profitably, spend more time in North Carolina developing the opportunities we have, rather than worrying too much about what we haven't.

Boiling Spring Lakes Team Wins

The lady bowlers of Boiling Spring Lakes took a 3-1 victory from Watson's Pharmacy to retain their first place position in the Summer Bowling League.

The victory last Wednesday night at the Bowling Center was led by Sylvia James with a three game series of 421. Second high score was a 394 by Joy Gregory. Margaret Hickman had a 360 and Dot Mannis bowled a 339.

Mrs. Gregory had the high game of 168.

Boiling Spring Lakes will have their next game tonight at the Bowling Center in Wilmington. Leading scorers for the losers were Lena Fisher with a 379, Evelyn Gilbert with a 301 and Marie Brown with a 280. Virginia Walton is away on vacation.

Read It In The State Port Pilot

"Meet The Sails"

Foxy Howard, Jr., is only 19 years of age but has already been playing organized ball for almost a decade. He played on his first Little League team in Clarksdale, Mississippi, in 1952 as a pitcher. In 1953-54-55 he was in Southport playing on the Little League Teams. When the Howard family moved to Columbia in 1956 and to Sumter in 1957 it was the Little League and Pony League

runner, fast on his feet, and with ten years of baseball knowledge behind him. Foxy is the lead-off batter for the Sails. Currently batting .313 with ten hits, including four doubles, for 32 official times at bat, he has the fourth highest batting average on the Sails roster. Recently at Ogden Foxy had a good day with two doubles, two walks and two outfield flies for six trips to the plate; and a bad day in the field when he had the first error he has made in a league game this year charged against him.

Foxy will attend Wingate College this winter but will be back in Southport in time for the Sails first game next season.

Cape Fear League

	W	L
Southport	8	2
Seagate	6	2
Leland	6	3
Ransom Township	5	4
Hampstead	5	5
Riegel	5	5
Shalotte	2	8
Ogden	1	9

Leading Sails Batters

	AB	H	Avg.
John Carr Davis	31	12	.387
Ronnie Hood	24	9	.375
Jerry Spencer	31	11	.355
Foxy Howard	36	12	.333

Vastly increased use of fish meal and oil for poultry and cattle feed has helped to develop industrial fishing, and scores of boats go out only for this kind of raw fish material.

Harrellson's Pin Team Victors

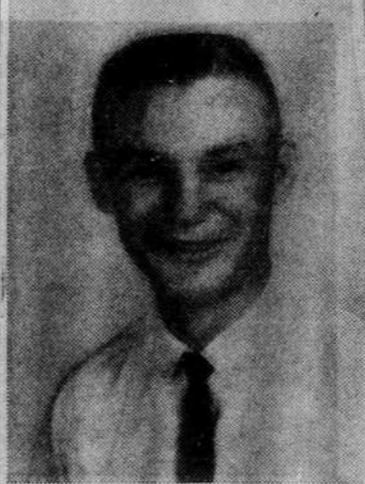
Harrellson's Hardware took over second place in the Summer Bowling League with a 3-1 victory last Wednesday, night at the Bowling Center.

Leading the Harrellson victory were Sue Jones with a 456 and Almeta Dixon with a 412. The high game of the evening was a 170 bowled by Sue Jones.

Miss Dixon is the official league secretary and figures all averages as well as posting team positions.

The University of North Carolina School of Dentistry is housed in the Dental Building which is attached to North Carolina Memorial Hospital by a passageway and which is a four-floor unit, occupying 781,000 cubic feet.

Tobacco is grown in 82 of Tennessee's 95 counties.



FOXY HOWARD

in those cities as a pitcher and catcher. Back in Columbia in 1958, Foxy played American Junior League Baseball as a second baseman and catcher; then on to Hamlet in 1959 and the Richmond County American Legion Junior team as a second sacker.

Foxy returned to Southport with his family in the summer of 1959 and latched on to the Sails as a substitute second baseman, seeing only limited duty during that season. For the next three years he played on the Southport High School team, alternating between shortstop and second base. In 1961 Foxy was the only Dolphin to get at least one hit in every game that the Southport High School team played.

This year he has moved into the starting line-up for the Sails at second base. A good base-

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Tentative Budget
 A tentative budget for the City of Southport for the year 1962-63 has been approved by members of the Board of Aldermen and lies open for inspection at the City Hall until August 9, 1962. If there is no objection raised at or before that time it will be finally adopted.
W. L. ALDRIDGE
 City Auditor

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