

THE "TIMES" PRIZE-WINNING COLUMN

From  
**ALMAR FARM  
In Transylvania**

BY CAL CARPENTER



I guess we might as well give up any idea of having a flock of Muscovy ducklings at the farm. Gwendolyn has tried setting three times now, and each time Haole, the big German Shepherd, has found her nest and carried off the eggs.

The first time she tried to incubate a family was last year. She made a nest on the west bank of the lake, across the driveway in a bunch of honeysuckle vine. She hollowed out a round depression in the ground, lined it with down from her breast, and laid eight eggs.

She sat on it for several days. Benji, Emma Lou's Basenji, first discovered the nest, but he didn't bother it because Emma Lou was with him. She's always with him, for that domesticated dog

won't even walk around the lake unless she escorts him.

Then, one day, duck eggs started showing up around the yard. It was like a mid-summer Easter egg hunt — eggs lying here and there as if they'd been placed for children to find. At first we didn't realize what was going on, then it dawned. We checked Gwendolyn's nest and sure enough, the eggs were gone.

We watched Haole. We saw him carrying an egg in his big mouth — very tenderly, being careful not to break it. He seemed to get some special enjoyment out of just carrying it around.

I collected the eggs and, realizing that any hopes for ducklings from that nest had gone, threw them off in the woods and broke them. I didn't want Haole to break one and find it was good to eat, for then he'd be an egg-sucking dog, and we didn't want that.

Then came this Spring. Gwendolyn fashioned a nest on the other side of the lake right in a big drainage ditch. I told Marge she'd never hatch her eggs there, for the first big rain would wash both her and her eggs away.

But "Gwen" didn't seem to be concerned about it. She laid 13 eggs and began what, after some research, I found would be her 30 to 35 day setting.

After about a week, eggs started showing up around the lawn. Another Easter egg hunt! I caught Haole with one in his mouth and made the mistake of yelling at him. He dropped it and it broke. Later I found him back licking the broken egg. I scolded him and scraped up the egg, but he'd already found it was good to eat.

Marge and I collected all the eggs we could find and threw them away. That took care of Gwendolyn's second try at motherhood.

Then, early this Summer, poor little Gwen gave it another try. This time, she made her nest on the lake bank, right down at the water line in a muskrat hole. She laid 12 eggs and began setting. Marge and I could see her head just barely showing above the muskrat hole when we sat on the porch in the evenings. She sat for nearly two weeks and we were beginning to wonder what on earth we'd do with a dozen

muscovy ducklings at the farm.

It's possible he could get some chicken eggs down at the house where one or two independent hens have strayed from the henhouse and have made nests. But, funny thing, he's never bothered these.

Maybe he's cultivated a liking for duck eggs only. Then again, maybe he's decided that nests out in the open are fair game — just like he has a rule that it's open season on pigs out of the hoglot, but won't touch them as long as they stay where they belong.

Whatever the case, it doesn't look like we're ever going to raise any Muscovy ducks. That's all right with us, for we don't need them anyway.

But it must be awfully frustrating for Gwendolyn.

When you think of prescriptions, think of VARNER'S. adv.

**Menus For School Lunchrooms  
For The Week Are Announced**

Menus for Transylvania County Schools for the week beginning Thursday, September 9th through Thursday, September 16th.

**Thursday**—Oven-Fried Chicken, Rice, Giblet Gravy, Broccoli, Cantaloupe, Freckle Face Rolls, Raisin - Oatmeal Cookie, Milk, Butter

**Jr. and Sr. High Schools**—Chicken or Hamburger w/Bun, Raisin-Oatmeal Cookie or Apple Cobbler

**Friday** — Macaroni and Cheese, Bologna Cup, Green Beans, Tomato Stuffed w/Slaw, Hot Bulgur Rolls, Strawberry Shortcake w/Topping, Milk Butter

**Jr. and Sr. High Schools**—Macaroni and Cheese or Dried Beans, Onions, Catsup Strawberry Shortcake or Pineapple Cake

**Monday** — Sloppy Joe w/School Bun, Corn on Cob, Basic Cole Slaw w/Green Pepper, Psychedelic Cake Squares, Milk, Butter

**Jr. and Sr. High Schools**—Sloppy Joe or Roast Beef Slices in Gravy, Cake Squares or Jello

**Tuesday** — Country - style Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Brown Gravy, Buttered Greens, Hot Biscuit, California Pudding Cake, Milk, Butter

**Jr. and Sr. High Schools**—Steak or Frankfurter w/Bun, Pudding Cake or Chilled Fruit

**Wednesday** — Brunswick Stew, Pear or Pineapple w/Cottage Cheese, French Bread

**Muscovy ducklings.**

Then, as they say in the soap operas, catastrophe struck again. Haole finally discovered the nest and duck eggs began appearing around the lawn. We collected and threw them away, for Haole, it seems, seldom breaks one even though he carries them with his big, sharp fangs. He still seems to like just carrying them around in his mouth.

But, of course, as soon as he finds the nest and takes one egg, he puts an end to Gwen's setting. She won't go back to a disturbed nest. So it looks like there's not going to be any Muscovy ducklings at the farm.

Marge and I are concerned about Haole's carrying off the eggs, of course. He doesn't seem to have learned to break them except by accident, but we know he's tasted them and must realize they're good to eat.

Be that as it may, there's nothing we can do. Scolding and punishment will not stop his nest-raiding, for there is too much time when we're not watching him. So I guess he'll just have to remain a nest-raider. He can't do us any harm in the chickens house, for even if he should go inside, which he never does unless he's with us, he can't get our chicken eggs out of the nests because they're fully enclosed except for a high-level, hen-sized entrance.

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: the plaintiff seeks by said action to remove a cloud from the title to the lands described in the complaint and to bar any claims which you may have had against said lands and to have the plaintiff declared the owner in fee of said lands free any adverse claims of the defendants herein.

You are required to make defense to such pleadings not later than September 30, 1971, and upon your failure to do so, the plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

This the 18th day of August, 1971.

RAMSEY, HILL, SMART & RAMSEY  
By: John K. Smart, Jr.  
Attorneys for the Plaintiff  
Post Office Box 426  
Brevard, N. C. - 28712

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Toast, Ice Cream, Milk, Butter

**Thursday** — Cheeseburger w/Bun, Golden French Fries, Buttered Green Peas, Fresh or Chilled Fruit, Milk, Butter

**Jr. and Sr. High Schools** — Cheeseburger w/Bun or Spaghetti & French Bread Toast, Chilled Fruit or Chocolate Pudding w/Topping

**NOTICE OF SERVICE  
by  
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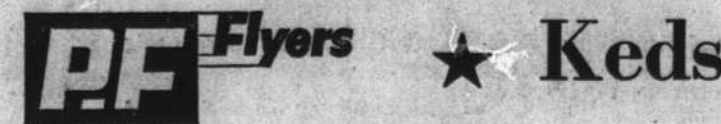
File No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Film No. \_\_\_\_\_  
IN THE GENERAL COURT  
OF JUSTICE  
DISTRICT COURT DIVISION  
State of North Carolina,  
County of Transylvania.  
SHERMAN FOX,

Plaintiff,  
vs.  
T. A. OWEN and wife, HELEN OWEN, LOUIS EUGENE OWEN and wife, ELEANOR OWEN, and STELLA O. WILKERSON, (Widow), MCKINLEY OWEN and wife, MARIE OWEN, NEIL OWEN and wife, BERTIE OWEN, and ROBERT L. OWEN and wife, ALBERTA OWEN, JERDA OWEN DAWLEY (Divorced), CHARLES C. GRAY (Sometimes known as CHARLES C. OWEN) and wife, KLENA GRAY (Sometimes known as KLENA OWEN), SYLVIA L. OWEN, PAULA LANE OWEN, WALTER LESLIE OWEN, NORMA JEAN OWEN, JOYCE DEAN OWEN, JESS STORKEY, GLENN STORKEY and wife, GEORGIA STORKEY, HENRY McDOWELL STORKEY, RICHARD OWEN STORKEY, JESSIE MAE STORKEY, NELLIE STORKEY, and CARL GALLOWAY, if living, and if dead, their executors, administrators, heirs and all other persons claiming any interest in the lands described in the complaint, together with their respective spouses, if any, together with all firms, corporations, stockholders, trustees and directors of any corporation claiming any interest in said lands, together with all creditors or lienholders, regardless of how or through whom they claim, the names and whereabouts of all such persons being unknown to the plaintiff,

Defendants.

To T. A. OWEN, and wife, HELEN OWEN, LOUIS EUGENE OWEN and ELEANOR OWEN, and STELLA O. WILKERSON (Widow), MCKINLEY OWEN and wife, MARIE OWEN, NEIL OWEN and wife, BERTIE OWEN, and ROBERT L. OWEN and wife, ALBERTA OWEN, JERDA DAWLEY (Divorced), CHARLES C. GRAY (Sometimes known as CHARLES C. OWEN) and wife, KLENA GRAY (Sometimes known as KLENA OWEN), SYLVIA L. OWEN, PAULA LANE OWEN, WALTER LESLIE OWEN, NORMA JEAN OWEN, JOYCE DEAN OWEN, JESS STORKEY, GLENN STORKEY and wife, GEORGIA STORKEY, HENRY McDOWELL STORKEY, RICHARD OWEN STORKEY, JESSIE MAE STORKEY, NELLIE STORKEY, and CARL GALLOWAY, if living, and if dead, their executors, administrators, heirs and all other persons claiming any interest in the lands described in the complaint, together with their respective spouses, if any, together with all firms, corporations, stockholders, trustees and directors of any corporation claiming any interest in said lands, together with all creditors or lienholders, regardless of how or through whom they claim, the names and whereabouts of all such persons being unknown to the plaintiff,

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