

Folkways And Folkspeech

Old Tom Cat Fills 'Hard Times Stew'

BY ROGERS WHITENER

Recently this columnist sent out a call for depression recipes — pore folks fare of the 30's. A number of items have found their way to Folkways, sometimes accompanied by stories of their creation and use. One such combination from Mrs. London Yelton, of Bakersville, North Carolina, relates the preparation of a special "hard times stew" and the consequences of eating it.

"I don't have the recipe for this hard times stew, but I heard this story several years ago and though I would pass it on.

"This man said that back during the depression years his family always saved their best food for Sunday dinner. Well, there was this old loafer who came every Sunday and stayed all day long. This man said he wasn't stingy, but the old loafer wouldn't work a lick — he just came to get something extra to eat.

"One week his wife kept fretting about not having any meat to fix for Sunday dinner. 'I wouldn't mind not having any meat to fix if it wasn't for that old loafer,' she said. 'If I don't have any meat he will go around and tell the neighbors we are facing starvation.'

"Right then and there her husband decided she would have some meat on the table if it was the last thing he ever did. He told his wife to take her good, easy time and not serve dinner at the usual time. Well, the old loafer almost starved before she called him to the table. He would jump up every few minutes and stretch his neck toward the kitchen and sniff like a hound dog.

"Finally he got his feet under the table and was so busy raking and eating with both hands that he didn't notice the others hadn't touched the stew she had prepared. When he finally pushed back his plate with a sign of satisfaction, he owned

that 'that was the best stew I've ever tasted in my life. What was it anyway?'

The husband looked him straight in the eye and said, 'You remember them two big tom cats that was playin' around the house last Sunday? Well, you just et one of them.'

"The old loafer sat there for a few seconds with the strangest look on his face, then jumped up and ran out of the door, almost bent double. Finally he straightened up and went humping across the field. Then he stopped, shook his fist at them and said, 'If any of you ever tell this on me I'll kill you!'

"The family stood and watched him go on across the field, retching and heaving like an old cat with bread hung in its mouth. Since that time the husband has recommended this stew to cure the loafing fever."

Recent stories about the use of oxen in the mountains prompted an old apostolary friend, Edwin Judkins, of Bristol, Virginia, to send Folkways a recollection of these huge farm animals of the Past — their names, their use, and their pulling exhibitions. A portion of his letter follows.

"Many oxen were used on small farms before the coming of model-T cars. Favorite names of them were Buck and Bright or Buck and Baldy, the lead ox always Buck.

"In accordance with my custom, I always recall the story about my subject. This concerns a man who was urged by his friends to go to a church revival and get religion. He declined with the excuse that 'I can't snake logs with my oxen without cussing and I can't go up to the mourner's bench until my timber is cut and sold.'

"I went to the state of Maine in 1908 to visit my father's people and I attended the state fair at Lewiston in September. I found yokes of oxen competing in pulling a heavy sled — boats I believe they were called — loaded with rock. Prizes were given for the heaviest loads pulled the farthest."

Help! Help! Department. Information needed about possession and use of madstones and hairballs. Please write: Rogers Whitener, Folkways and Folk-Speech, Box 376, Boone, N. C. 28608.



J. F. BLAYLOCK



JULIUS K. MOODY

Three Foremen Named By Olin

Three persons have been promoted to process control shift foreman in Olin Corporation's Film Division plant at Pisgah Forest, according to an announcement of J. Donald Parker Plant Manager.

They are J. Frank Blaylock of Route 2, Canton; Charles A. Capps of Route 7, Hendersonville; and Julius K. Moody of 664 Crystal Dr., Hendersonville.

Blaylock, an employe of Olin since July 1951, was in the analytical chemistry operation of the Process Control section before his recent appointment. He worked at the Unagusta Manufacturing Co. in Hazelwood and the J. A. Jones Construction Co. before joining Olin.

A native of Canton, he attended schools in Bethel.

He is married to the former Romona Buckner of Canton, an employe of Dayco Southern at Waynesville. Mr. and Mrs. Blaylock have one son and attend Mt. Zion Baptist Church at Canton.

Capps, a native of Horse Shoe, was employed in December 1951 and has worked in Film Division's process control section since that time. Earlier work was with Pace Heating and Plumbing Co.

He served with the U. S. Army for two years. A graduate of Etowah High School, he is a member of the Horse Shoe Baptist Church. He coaches basketball at Etowah in a program sponsored by the Henderson County Recreation Department.

He and Mrs. Capps, the former Betty Lou Pettit of



CHARLES A. CAPPS

Hendersonville have four children.

Moody has worked in the process control section since joining Olin in August 1954 after completing his second tour of duty with the U. S. Navy. A native of Hendersonville, he graduated from high school in Knoxville where he later attended business college.

He is a member of Calvary Baptist Church of Hendersonville.

Moody is the father of five children.



"A man and his bachelorhood are soon parted."

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

Safe Energy Meet Saturday

Carolnians For Safe Energy, Asheville, are sponsoring a public meeting Saturday, March 15, at UNC-Asheville Science Building.

The morning session, 9 - 12:15, includes three speakers on the nuclear power issue and a panel discussion.

The afternoon session, 1:45 - 4:15, includes a citizen's workshop and two speakers on energy alternatives.

The afternoon session will be followed by a reception to which the public is invited.

The day long program will be followed by a reception for the speakers and the citizens attending the meeting.

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DR70-14	D78-14	Gremlin, Hornet, Javelin, Valiant, Duster, Barracuda, Maverick & others	\$54.70	\$49.00	\$2.65
ER70-14	E78-14	Matador, Ambassador, Nova, Chevelle, Camaro, Dart, Mustang, Cougar & others	\$55.65	\$50.00	\$2.80
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HR70-14	H78-14	Matador Wagon, Sportwagon, Vista Cruiser, LeMans Wagon, Charger Wagon & others	\$67.55	\$61.00	\$3.31
GR70-15	G78-15	Chevrolet, Polara, Galaxie, Monterey, Fury, Catalina & others	\$64.40	\$58.00	\$3.17
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