

I think it would be interesting to know who years, probably centuries ago, ate the first raw oyster. Now, he was a brave person, for there ever was one. And a hero, too, because he tried to tell our ancestors that raw oysters weren't as bad as they looked—they couldn't be—so we, too, could enjoy the delicacy.

Oh, I like oysters, raw, fried, steamed, roasted and stewed, although I must admit it was a long time before I could eat one raw. I threatened to try it often even if it killed me, but never commanded the courage until one night I got one in my mouth.

After that I didn't need any courage. The oyster took care of that.

You know, to eat one raw, all you've got to do is get him on the fork and in your mouth, throw your head back, and he's what we used to say in Cabarrus county—et. But, just think, now. The oyster brought up from the bottom of some bay or river is a dirty thing to begin with. From the outside, especially to the first person who ate an oyster, I know he didn't look any too good; and I'll bet he just about defeated the inquisitiveness of the brave one who wanted to know what was on the inside and tried to open him, without an oyster knife.

Forget that you ever ate an oyster. Recall a look at one in a just-opened shell. Now, isn't that about the worst looking thing you ever saw?

And just think about all the things the first person who ate one ran over in his mind before downing-house. Surely, the first thing he thought of doing was throwing it away, and the last thing was eating it.

And don't you think it must have required considerable fortitude (intestinal) to make up one's mind to eat it? Just to put it in his mouth?

Of course, after he got it in his mouth he couldn't do anything else. The oyster was gone—down—eaten.

I'm not mad about anything or crazy—I just think we ought to erect a monument to that fellow, whoever he was, that ate the first oyster and introduced us to one of the finest foods ever discovered.

An up-state reader, knowing an Eastern Carolinian's appreciation of an oyster sends in this with no credit line:

To A Wild Oyster
I gaze upon thy beauty, little beast,
And ask thee as I contemplate thee,
"What a dull life must be thine,"
But then, who knows,
"title crustacean creature,
"haps thy life has been eventful,
"s mayhap a heart of gold
"s beneath that mother-of-pearl
"gging thou hast on thee.
Hast thou loved?
And hast thou been loved?
What strange and cruel prank of
"s Gods
Hath made thee as thou art—
Cold, disdainful, little caring what
"s the world
May think of thee?
What wringing of the heartstring
has brought the tear
That formed the radiant pearl
within thee?
There must have been a tear
That there should be a pearl . . .
But then,
Perhaps thou hast no pearl.
Then, if thou hast not,
Thou art a helluva lousy oyster . . .
Thou fossil! ! !

CLIPPED:
"Over the hill trailed a man behind a mule drawing a plow. The clodhopper was broadcasting. Said the man to the mule:

"Bill, you are a mule, the son of a jackass, and I am a man, made in the image of God here we work, hitched up together, year in and year out. I often wonder if you work for me or I work for you. Verily, I think this is a partnership between a mule and a fool, for surely I work as hard as you, if not harder. Plowing or cultivating, we cover the same distance, but you do it on four legs and I on two. I, therefore, mathematically speaking, do twice as much work per leg as you do.

"Soon we will be preparing for a corn crop. When the crop is harvested, I give one-third to the land-lord for being so kind as to let me use his small speck of God's universe. One-third goes to you, and the balance is mine. You consume all of your portion, with the exception of a few cobs, while I divide my third among seven children, a dozen hens, two ducks, and a banker. If we both need shoes, you get 'em. Bill, you are getting the best of me and I ask you: Is it fair for a mule, the son of a jackass, to swindle man, the lord of creation, out of his substance. And come to think of it you merely help plow and cultivate the ground, while I alone must cut, shock and husk the corn while you look over the pasture fence and 'Hee-Haw' at me.

"All fall and most of the winter the whole family, from Granny to the baby, work from morning to night to help raise money to pay taxes and buy you a new set of harness and pay the interest on the mortgage on you. And, by the way, what do you care about the mortgage? Not a d—nt! You overy cuss, I even have to do the worrying about the mortgage on your tough, grateful hide!

"About the only time I am your father is on election day, for I can vote and you can't. And after election I realize that I was fully as great a jackass as your papa. Verily, I am prone to wonder if politics were made for me or jackasses—or to make jackasses out of men.

(Continued on Page Six)

VOL. VII, NO. 50

JACKSONVILLE, N. C., FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 1945

The News and Views Leads In

Paid Circulation,
Local Advertising,
National Advertising,
Classified Advertising,
Onslow County News.

PRICE \$2.00 PER YEAR

First Army Gains Below Rochefort; Third Halted

Paris—(AP)—The American First Army tanks and infantry divisions are biting deep into the northern and southwestern tip of the Belgian bulge at Ardennes. The famous 101st Airborne Division is facing heavy German counterattacks around Bastogne. These counterattacks have halted temporarily the Third Army advances to the south where Von Rüdteck has thrown 200,000 men including armored and infantry divisions.

13th Attack on Reich
London—AP—Allied bombers, apparently the United States 15th Air Force flying fortresses and Liberators from Italy, today made the 13th straight daylight on the Reich.

Russians Give Ground
Moscow—AP—Russian forces have been forced to give ground in the last few days as mobile warfare rages between Budapest and Vienna.

Huge German tank and infantry forces marked the first counter-offensive on the eastern front since October, as they sought to break through the Russian lines to relieve the surrounded garrison in the Hungarian capital.

ELAS Reactions Awaited
Athens—AP—Reactions of left-wing ELAS followers are eagerly awaited here as indications of General Nicholas Plastiras' chances of restoring peace.

Plastiras is reported having retained four important posts in addition to the premiership. ELAS followers have previously insisted on filling these posts.

Two New Landings Made by Americans On Mindoro Island

McArthur's Headquarters—AP—Coordinated air blows today smashed at southern Japan, from Formosa and Ryukyu along a solid arc of 2,000 miles down through Luzon. Luzon is the mostly highly prized island of the Philippines by the Japs.

General MacArthur today disclosed two new landings have been made by American troops on Mindoro, the closest approach to Manila.

David Samuel Moore, Father of Local Woman, Dies at Aulander

David Samuel Moore, father of Mrs. C. V. Cheney of Jacksonville died last Wednesday afternoon in Aulander following a heart attack. Funeral services were held at the Methodist Church in Aulander on Friday and interment was in the Windsor cemetery.

Use of V-Mail Urged to Conserve Critically Needed Space

Use of V-mail by civilians in writing to service men overseas must be stepped up in 1945 to conserve critically needed transport space, the Office of War Information reported today on the basis of facts from the Army and Navy.

While the total volume of Army and Navy V-mail, incoming and outgoing, is almost twice that of 1944, more is in the use of the microfilm service by both service men overseas and civilians at home has been of concern to the Army and Navy.

Reasons pointed out by high-ranking officers for the importance of extended V-mail use by the public include:

- 1. The increase in the numbers of service men now overseas, with a consequent rise in the volume of mail to be handled.
- 2. The need for the maximum utilization of cargo space of all kinds, especially in air transport.
- 3. Extension of supply lines as action progresses in both theaters of war.
- 4. Continuing importance of a steady, frequent flow of letters to service men's morale.

Rear Admiral Joseph R. Redman, USN, Director of Naval Communications, said:

Old Saying Is Brought Up to Date By Former Governors

Washington, (AP)—Said the former Governor of North Carolina to the former Governor of South Carolina:

"It's a long time between cigarettes."

The exchange took place as the two former governors—Clyde R. Hoey of North Carolina and Olin D. Johnson of South Carolina—met at their seats in the U. S. Senate.

Not that it matters to Hoey personally. He doesn't smoke.

But he was thinking, he said, saying "It's a long time between cokes." Hoey really likes his cokes.

Also, the former Tar Heel Governor wanted to bring up to date what the North Carolina Governor said to the South Carolina Governor.

Several years ago at a Governor's Conference in Albany, N. Y., he lamented the scarcity of cokes.

Following are the final sales and ranks attained by the Ladies:

Mrs. E. W. Clement, Lt. General, County General, 205 bonds, \$54,150.00.

Mrs. J. C. Thompson, Lt. General, 167 bonds, \$33,150.

Mrs. H. M. Ennett, Sneads Ferry, Colonel, 57 bonds, \$3,575.

Mrs. W. L. Ketchum, Major, 34 bonds, \$12,850.

Mrs. Russell Brendell, Major, 35 bonds, \$2,575.

Mrs. John D. Warlick, Major, 38 bonds, \$3,150.

Mrs. C. D. Koonce, Major, 31 bonds, \$8,225.

Mrs. Hiram Leonard, Richlands, Lt. Lt., 1 bond, \$6,650.

Mrs. W. L. Humphrey, Verona, Captain, 24 bonds, \$2,000.

Mrs. T. Newton Cook, Captain, 21 bonds, \$1,700.

Mrs. W. Y. Richardson, 1st Lt., 17 bonds, \$6,125.

Miss Mary Stefanou, 1st Lt., 19 bonds, \$2,375.

Mrs. Sylvia Sabiston, 1st Lt., 17 bonds, \$4,700.

Mrs. Leon Gray, 1st Lt., 16 bonds, \$1,750.

Mrs. Vernon Allgood, Swansboro, 2nd Lt., 12 bonds, \$450.

Mrs. Lillian Russell Ray, Bear Creek, 2nd Lt., 12 bonds \$3,100.

Mrs. J. R. Gurganus, 2nd Lt., 11 bonds, \$8,025.

Mrs. C. E. Warn, 2nd Lt., 10 bonds, \$875.

Mrs. Gussie Rawls, Verona, 2nd Lt., 10 bonds, \$625.

In addition to the women listed above, other members of the Blue Star Brigade in Onslow County are as follows:

Pvt. Hardy Stonely, Richlands, Killed In Germany

Pvt. Hardy Stonely of Richlands was killed in action in Germany on December 6, according to word received by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Will Stonely, from the War Department.

Pvt. Stonely has been in the Army since the spring of 1943 and overseas more than a year.

Blue Star Brigade's Final Bond Figure Announced at \$196,425

The Blue Star Brigade, held by the woman's division of the Sixth War Loan campaign, came to a close this week after a close race between Mrs. E. W. Clement and Mrs. J. C. Thompson for the Onslow County Generalship with Mrs. Clement winning out for the title.

Mrs. David Sabiston and Mrs. C. E. Warn, co-chairmen, did a wonderful job and aided greatly in making the drive the success it has turned out to be.

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In addition to the women listed above, other members of the Blue Star Brigade in Onslow County are as follows:

Mrs. Adrian Aman, Mrs. R. S. Pinkston, Mrs. Dolores Tilbe, Mrs. L. P. Matthews, Mrs. Brady, Mrs. Eleanor Leslie, Miss Mary Herring, Mrs. Ralph Wolfe, Mrs. Ramon Askew, Mrs. G. E. Gurganus, Mrs. Ephraim Stein, Mrs. Walter Morgan, Mrs. Bill Crowe, Mrs. E. J. Feltway, Mrs. W. E. Harrison, Mrs. Edgar Koonce, Mrs. H. M. Loy, Mrs. O. J. Ruff, Mrs. Don Starkey, Mrs. W. E. Sabiston, Mrs. Z. E. Murrell, Mrs. Donnell, Miss Frances Batson, Miss Anne Yopp, Max Hyder, Aaron Farnell, Jr., Miss Anita Lewis, Miss Hilda Martin, Mrs. Townsend, Mrs. June Watson, Mrs. Doris S. Keller, Mrs. Leslie Loveloy, and Mrs. James Johnson, all of Jacksonville.

Mrs. Vernie Brown, Mrs. Ben Brock, Mrs. Whit Davis, Mrs. Victor Venters, Mrs. Paul Marshburn, Mrs. Dan Russell and Mrs. Nathaniel Sylvester of Richlands.

Mrs. Heyward Campbell, Mrs. Julius Segerman, and Mrs. Beasley Nelson of Lejeune.

Mrs. J. F. Foster and Miss Margaret Jones of Swansboro.

Rev. L. Grady Burgiss, New Pastor of First Baptist Church

The Rev. L. Grady Burgiss of Greensboro, has arrived to take over the ministry of the First Baptist Church here in Jacksonville.

Rev. Burgiss, a native of Yadkin County, has been the pastor of the Magnolia street Baptist church in Greensboro for the past six years. Prior to that he was the pastor of the Arlington and Ronda Baptist churches near Elkin.

Mrs. Burgiss, the former Miss Annie Cooper of Iredell County, is a graduate of W.C.T.U. at Boone and has taught for several years in North Carolina schools.

Rev. and Mrs. Burgiss have one son, Samuel, who just celebrated his first birthday.

They will make their home at 208 Stratford Road, in the Bay Shore Estates development.

Three Marine Officers Are Decorated and Cited at Lejeune

Camp Lejeune—Three Marine officers recently returned from overseas were decorated and cited here for their achievements in combat.

Lieutenant Colonel McDonald J. Shuford, 30, of Georgetown, S. C., received the Bronze Star Medal for directing a special weapons group of a Defense Battalion on Vella Lavella Island.

Major Carl M. Johnson, 26, of Salt Lake City, Utah, received the Bronze Star Medal for directing a 40mm. gun battery attached to a defense battalion on Vella Lavella Island which drove off repeated Japanese attacks and helped account for 42 Jap planes shot down during the operation.

Major William M. Tracy, 27, of Meriden, Conn., received the Bronze Star Medal for directing a 90mm. anti-aircraft battery of a defense battalion on Rendova Island in the British Solomon Islands.

All three officers are now attached to the Training Command at this camp.

Charles G. Clark Succeeds Overstreet As County Agent

Charles G. Clark, formerly of Durham county, has succeeded Hugh Overstreet, as county agent of Onslow County.

Clark is a graduate of State College, and formerly was with the State AAA and served as agent of Johnston county.

Overstreet served Onslow County for the past eight years in this capacity before his resignation to retire to his own farm in Pender.

Emergency Crop and Feed Loans Available To Onslow Farmers

Applications for emergency crop loans (seed loans) are now available to farmers in Onslow County. The office for receiving applications for Onslow County, will be announced within the next few days.

Loans for crop production purposes or for the purchase of feed for livestock, and who have been unable to obtain adequate financing from other sources, including a production credit association, should contact W. F. King, field supervisor, in charge of this county.

Loans approved may include funds for immediate disbursal to meet early spring needs, such as the preparation of land, the purchase of fertilizer, or the planting of the early food or feed crops advocated by the Extension Service of the Department of Agriculture. Funds to meet later crop production expenses may be disbursed as needed.

Emergency crop loans are made to farmers, either owners or tenants, who own or can make arrangements to obtain land to farm; who own or have the use of work-stock and equipment with which to farm; and who can give a first lien on the crops to be financed as security.

Loans to finance the purchase or production of feed for livestock and poultry are also available under the same general terms and conditions, except a first mortgage on the stock or poultry, to be fed, is required as security.

King, field supervisor for this Department of Government, has served the farmers of Onslow County for several years and suggests, should they need or require crop loans for the year 1945, should contact him.

A more detailed announcement as to time and location for receiving applications, will be made within a few days.

PEANUT SHELL CORK

U. S. scientists have developed a substitute for cork, made from peanut shells, which should make America independent of foreign sources and put more money into the pockets of U. S. peanut growers.

China's silk culture has flourished for 4,000 years.

Cherry Recommends Preserving Tax Structure

Jacksonville Would Be Main Line Point on Daily Plane Service

Gastonia, Jan. 4—Jacksonville will be one of 40 mainline points in five states to be served fully with daily mail, passenger, and express schedules by recently-chartered South East Airlines, Inc., of Gastonia, N. C., under proposed plans for operations in the Carolinas, Virginia, Georgia, and Tennessee, it was announced today.

A pilot-controlled company with licensed pilots, as officers and directors and in top management posts, South East Airlines has filed application with the Civil Aeronautics Board in Washington for a certificate of public convenience and necessity and representatives of the Gastonia company will appear in Washington at a preliminary hearing on the application January 22.

Besides offering full daily passenger, mail, and express service to 40 communities in the five-state area, South East proposes operations to provide daily mail and express "pick-up" service for an additional 68 smaller communities in an area extending from Richmond, Va., south to Charleston, S. C. and from Wilmington, N. C., west to Chattanooga, Tenn.

R. B. Babington, Jr., prominent Gastonia business man who pioneered in construction of Gaston County's first commercial airport and in the establishment of Piedmont Airways, Inc., in 1927, is president of the recently-chartered airline company.

Latest type Beechcraft aircraft will be used by South East in the operation of its five-state "feeder line" service, which has been so planned as to not only offer complete local service along its routes but to connect conveniently with through airlines covering the entire nation.

Charlotte will be the terminal of the company's operations, but principal offices, headquarters, hangars, and repair and maintenance shops will be located in Gastonia.

Six main-line routes will provide daily passenger, mail, and express service for Jacksonville and 39 other communities in the five-state area.

Route No. 1, a "circle route" from Charlotte, will provide daily schedules for Gastonia, Shelby, Asheville, and Hendersonville, in North Carolina; Chattanooga, Tenn.; Gainesville and Athens in Georgia; and Greenwood, Columbia, and Rock Hill in South Carolina.

Charlotte and Norfolk, Va., will be terminals for Route No. 2, with two points in North Carolina, Statesville and Winston-Salem, and four in Virginia, Martinsville, Roanoke, Lynchburg, and Richmond being served as intermediate points.

Norfolk, Va., and Charleston, S. C., will be the southern and northern terminals, respectively, for Route No. 3, the South East "coastal route", which will serve North Carolina and two South Carolina communities as intermediate points in the Carolina coastal region.

These include Elizabeth City, Edenton, New Bern, Jacksonville, and Wilmington in North Carolina, and Myrtle Beach and Georgetown in South Carolina.

Cpl. Roger Hill, Beulaville, Wins Bronze Star Award

The War Department has announced the award of the Bronze Star Medal to Cpl. Roger Hill of Beulaville.

Cpl. Hill is a member of a ground force unit, now overseas at an undisclosed point.

Junior Red Cross Sends Medical Kits To European Schools

Washington, D. C.—Medical kits valued at \$87,500 are being purchased by the American Junior Red Cross National Children's Fund for immediate shipment to schools in Yugoslavia, Greece, Belgium and other countries.

Chairman Basil O'Connor of the American Red Cross announced today. The kits are sent both to liberated and enemy-occupied countries through the Joint Commission of the International Red Cross Committee in Geneva.

Each medical kit, large enough to serve 400 children, will contain approximately 30 items, such as aspirin, boric acid, scissors, soap and gauze. Only institutions able to control their use will receive them.

This latest project of the National Children's Fund, maintained by voluntary contributions, is another way in which the Junior Red Cross is participating in the rehabilitation of children in the liberated countries of Europe.

Plans already have been completed for Junior Red Cross members to pick in their classrooms gift boxes containing some 10,000,000 needed educational supplies for European children.

Kiwanis Club Installs New Officers at Regular Meeting

Installation of the new officers for 1945 was the key note of the Jacksonville Kiwanis club at their regular meeting on Tuesday at the USO Pine Lodge.

In the absence of the immediate past president, Billy Arthur, J. C. Thompson took charge of the installation ceremonies and introduced the following new officers: Ramon Askew, president; Horace Cotton, vice president; K. T. Knight, Jr., secretary and Harvey Boney, treasurer.

The Board of Directors is made up of J. H. Aman, B. J. Holleman, K. T. Knight, Jr., G. E. Maulsby, L. E. Rudisill, Steve Stefanou and Gautier Jackson.

Immediately following the installations Mr. Askew addressed the members of the club and expressed his appreciation to all members for the support they have pledged to the Kiwanis Club in an effort to make 1945 a banner Kiwanis year.

Fifty members and three guests were present and all joined in the community sing led by Reese Walter.

At the board of directors meeting which followed, three new members were accepted by the club; namely, Bob Hartsfield, J. R. Carroll and Jack Koonce, all of Jacksonville.

Rev. A. D. Leon Gray Appointed Temporary Manager of Hospital

Rev. A. D. Leon Gray was appointed temporary manager of the Onslow County Hospital, here, at the meeting of the board of trustees this week.

T. Fletcher Little, former manager of the hospital who recently resigned, has become business manager of the Goldsboro General Hospital in Goldsboro.

Rev. Gray will replace Little until a successor can be obtained.

Camp Lejeune Exceeds Quota in Sixth War Loan Campaign

Camp Lejeune—Staging a whirlwind finish and breaking all records, Camp Lejeune went over the top in the Sixth War Loan Drive by subscribing \$304,700, maturity value, it was announced by Capt. Henry Perrell, war bond promotion officer.

For the purpose of establishing working units and quotas, the camp was divided into ten groups. Leading the groups were: First, Service Battalion (\$26,150), Second, Infantry Training Regiment (\$22,725), Third, Women Reserve Schools (\$20,450).

Civilian personnel on the base came through with flying colors by subscribing \$35,775 for the drive.

Board of Commissioners Appropriate 10 Per Cent of ABC Proceeds for Hospital

At the regular Board of Commissioners meeting here last Tuesday, the board voted to appropriate 10% of the proceeds of the ABC store for the maintenance of the Onslow County Hospital.

A decision was reached to postpone action on the new school building in Dixon until the budget for the coming year was completed in June.

The board appointed Clayton Petteway to take the responsibility of seeing that the OPA office was sufficiently warned so that the office personnel could work in confidence. That office was forced to close two days during the past month due to lack of heat.

Fire Causes Damage To Shaw Farm Near Richlands

Fire destroyed considerable property, fertilizer, corn and hay together with several outbuildings on the Shaw farm near Richlands recently.

Fire fighters who volunteered to help were unable to check the blaze which started in the woods near the Shaw farm. Considerable damage was done to the surrounding woodland tracts.

By RALPH L. HOWLAND

Raleigh—(AP)—Governor R. Gregg Cherry told the North Carolina Legislature Thursday in his inaugural address that "the present tax structure should remain as it is," and called for a state-wide referendum on the sale of liquor.

"The Iron Major" of Gastonia, who gained distinction in the first world war and came home to prominence in legal and legislative circles, was the second governor of North Carolina to take the oath during wartime. The other was Zebulon B. Vance, in 1862.

Cherry, returning to the hard-hitting tactics of his speakership days in 1937, also asked the assembly to:

Make a study of current policies, with the view of framing a declaration of North Carolina policy in respect to all federal matters, foreign and domestic.