

## POOLE'S MEDLEY

(By D. Scott Poole)

Andy Gump says, man is the only animal that may be skinned more than once. That is true. But chickens can find a way out of the lot, but they can find no way to re-enter.

Folks killed a mutton in any month they had fat sheep, and they divided it among their neighbors and the neighbors would repay when he killed a mutton. They weighed the mutton, of course.

On every farm within my knowledge up on Drowning Creek there was a hilling trough and a tan trough. The hair was taken off the hides by a hedding down for some weeks in strong oak ashes, then taken up and the hair curled off; then soaked in a deep hole in the creek.

In a time hole in the creek was a good place for catfish fishing. Catfish are very good fried, but catfish stew is not so good. But any small creek fish, fried hard in bread is good eating—eat bones and all.

Farmers also built a spring house, a good place to keep milk and butter in hot weather. Our spring was on the side of a steep hill, and one summer there came a heavy rain, and the water ran down the hill, broke over the dam to stop such, and filled the several vessels filled with milk and butter with dirty sand. It was a serious loss.

Ben Nally, who lived on a farm two miles above father's place saw a large drove of blackbirds light in the farther end of a field in front of his house, so he took his musket, ran out and knelted by the fence, and when the drove rolled over nearby, he fired into the drive and then went inside and picked up 67 birds.

Pigeons used to come in the fall of the year in large drives, and a man up on Little River, not far from Raeford, fired a shot into that drove, and a few near the ground, and by a shot he killed a half a barrel of birds. Pigeons came in such numbers some fall, and were a help in making a good winter.

John Brown, the nearest neighbor to the old home farm, fired a load of shot from a shotgun into a drove of turkeys on the ground and a lot of them were killed. Birds have almost been killed out in this country. Raeford Institute was still going

on when we came to Raeford in 1905, and this school was still existing until 1908 when a majority of the people were desirous of a graded school.

But those private schools did good work. While the people are better informed than they were fifty years ago, they are not so well educated as they should be. Children should be so trained that they will go right along being students. Awakening desire to know is the thing to do.

I remember when North Carolina "thanked the day for South Carolina" because South Carolina stood lower in the scale of ignorance than North Carolina. Ignorance is a great work.

I opened a free school one Monday in July, 1889, and a girl, 12 and her brother, 10, wanted to be in a class to themselves. I found way. That sister taught her brother after she was old enough to go to school. Their first lesson was in spelling, and they both stalled on the word "shoulder." I said not a word just handed the book back to them. Fifteen minutes later I recalled them and they did not miss a word. From that opening day until the sixtieth day, they did not miss a single word correct answer. If they tried hard, everybody could do like that. I have known others to do that well. Teaching is delightful work when your pupils try.

The allusion to the 1 to John M. McNair meant to state that his complaint when the value of his farm was raised from \$2 to \$20 an acre for taxation. That man was not given to complaining. But that was a high jump from \$2 to \$20.

Folks never lived better than when cotton sold for 8¢ a pound, but they could not go forward—could not make advancement.

You have not seen any crowder yet this fall. Nor are there any crows worth mentioning in the whole state. Living is going to be a close game this next year. However, there are good crops and may come more.

French, German and other foreign students from abroad come to the Raeford Institute, and their parents were not so happy as when they were in the States. They are all well in Fayetteville.

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will be high costs to redeem their property.

There used to be Scotch fairs here and there over the country, and horse racing was the chief sport. Americans have always been great sportsmen. They are yet. Good sports are very important.

The town of Raeford got its name from a post office established in McRea and Wellfords store—the last syllable of their names. Rae and ford. Mail supplied people in this section by mail routes from some point on a railroad. Once there was post offices every few miles. The rural mail delivery routes were established around 1900. There were for several years three rural delivery routes from Raeford, but Rt. 3 was discontinued and its business added to routes one and two—at a time when jobs were the scarcest they ever were.

The emperor of Japan has abdicated, that means he has quit being emperor. He thinks that will keep him from being tried among the war lords of Japan, but that will not work.

The late James D. McNeill was the organizer of the fighting companies in this state and was president of the State organization until his death.

The North Carolina Presbyterian, The Fayetteville Observer, The Eagle and The Fayetteville Gazette, and The North Carolina Baptist were papers I remember published in Fayetteville.

## Important Factors In Curing Potatoes

The two most important factors involved in the successful curing and storing of sweet potatoes are control of moisture and uniformity of temperature, says J. V. Lassiter, Extension horticulturist at State College. When the house is filled with potatoes for curing, raise the temperature to about 80 to 85 degrees and at the same time take the doors all outside ventilation.

The temperature of 80 to 85 degrees should be maintained during the curing period, which usually lasts from ten to fourteen days, depending on the weather and the condition of the potatoes. Proper curing can be determined by the velvety feel of the potatoes, and signs of sprouting throughout the house.

When the curing period is completed, reduce the temperature as much as possible to around 55 degrees. Lassiter says that it is most important to keep the temperature from dropping below 45 degrees during the storage period. Sweet potatoes are very easily damaged by temperatures below the 45 degree point.

Lassiter suggests that the sweet potato storage house be supplied with a number of standard thermometers. One should be placed near the floor and one near the top of the house so that observations may be made on heat and ventilation in the different sections. He also suggests that only one man be placed in charge of the storage house.

Sweet potatoes are best stored in crates or bushel tub type baskets with lids. They should be stacked just as in a box car for shipping. It is a good plan to keep the different grades of potatoes separate.

## Farmers Cooperate In Home Fruit Plan

In all sections of North Carolina farm families are cooperating in home fruit projects on a community basis, and these activities are proving very successful. Mother and father, and all the 4-H members work together to produce an extra supply of small fruits for the family. Then all the families in the community follow the standard plan, which is agreed upon at a general meeting.

Everybody grows the same fruit or fruits, and each swaps information with the other. It's a community affair.

The idea was first suggested by H. R. Newwinger, in charge of Extension horticulture at State College. In the counties the farm and home agents are cooperating to put it into operation in key communities.

Most of the communities are growing only strawberries; or strawberries with apples, peaches, sour cherries, and figs (in the eastern part of the state). Some communities are also including blueberries, where soil conditions are suitable.

"As a starter, the plans should be simple so that everyone can understand them," Newwinger says. "It's family and community cooperation that does the job. Generally two meetings are held each year—the first when the fruits are planted, and the second along in July or August when the results of the work may be measured."

Newwinger has suggested that home demonstration clubs, neighborhood leaders, and 4-H club members take the lead in establishing these home fruit projects. Cooperation between all the families in a given community is the key to success.

## WILLIAM JAMES McDIARMID

During the early morning of June 17, 1945, God in His infinite love and wisdom called home our friend and fellow-citizen, William James McDiarmid.

Mrs. McDiarmid was born near Raeford, July 4, 1873, and he spent his entire life near the place of his birth where he engaged in extensive farming operations. From early childhood he participated in the Sunday School and church activities of the Bethel Presbyterian church. As an eager and enthusiastic young man he gave his heart to the Lord and became a member of the church. The sincerity of his faith and his sterling Christian character were readily recognized by the members of the Bethel congregation and he was elected a deacon. After serving five years in this office the congregation elevated him to the office of ruling elder. For a long number of years he served faithfully in this capacity. During the major portion of this period he was clerk of session. When in later years he moved his membership to the Raeford church the Raeford congregation almost immediately elected him to the session. He served faithfully and well in this office until the time of his death.

A man of deep religious convictions, Mr. McDiarmid accepted wholeheartedly the principals and teaching of the Christian religion, and later, when he was elected to office in the church, he seriously and soberly shouldered the obligations that his several offices involved. He was by nature a timid and retiring man and always sought to be inconspicuous in his Christian service. But his diligence and faithfulness to his church were nevertheless outstanding and effective.

For several years he was in failing health, and in the early morning of June 17th he passed away in Highsmith's hospital, Fayetteville, where he had returned a few days earlier after a brief sojourn in the Medical College of Virginia hospital, Richmond. He was laid to rest in the Raeford cemetery on the afternoon of June 18th after funeral services conducted in his home by his pastor. We shall miss him in our church, in our session meetings, in the fellowship of Christian service, and in his wise counsel and helpfulness.

In view of the above facts, be it resolved by the session of the Raeford Presbyterian church:

1. That we bow in humble submission at the will of our Heavenly

Father, and that we express to Him our gratitude for the life of Mr. McDiarmid and for his faithful service to the church.

2. That we record our sincere appreciation for the privilege of being associated with him in Christian service as fellow-elders.

3. That we incorporate these resolutions to the Hoke County News-Journal, and that a copy be sent to his widow.

By order of the Session this 3rd day of September, 1945.

H. C. Holland, Moderator.

M. C. Dew, Clerk.

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