

Reading The Funnies At Parkers' Outhouse

BY JAMES DRIGGERS
For The Brunswick Beacon

Some very famous faces are currently hiding out in Brunswick County.

However don't bother looking for them at any of the area golf courses, beaches or restaurants. These faces can only be found in an outhouse!

Now, before you jump to the conclusion that this is some sort of sleazy *National Enquirer* exposé on the sordid lives of the rich and famous, you should know that the faces are the creations of some of the country's most famous cartoonists, and that they are a treasured souvenir left from a visit about 15 years ago.

It all occurred in May of 1977, when the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce and the North Carolina Division of Travel and Tourism sponsored "The First and Probably Last National Cartoonists Golf Tournament, Seafood Eatin' and Kite Flying Extravaganza." The three-day event hosted 11 of the country's most well-known cartoonists in a whirlwind tour of golfing, fishing and eating. These included Mort Walker ("Beetle

Bailey"), Tony DiPreta ("Joe Palooka"), Curt Swain ("Superman"), Bud Sagendorf ("Popeye"), Jon Prentice ("Rip Kirby"), Dick Wein-gert ("Hubert"), Jerry Marcus ("Trudy"), Gil Fox ("Side Glances") and Bill Williams ("Dennis the Menace"). Rounding out the group were Monroe Eisenberg, an advertising cartoonist and illustrator, and Warren King, editorial cartoonist for a New York newspaper.

On their final evening in the area, the group were guests of Albert and Kathleen Parker of Supply. The Parkers had prepared an old-fashioned pig pickin', treating their guests to the taste of traditional North Carolina barbecue. In addition, Mr. Parker prepared such diverse game as deer, raccoon and bear, while Mrs. Parker offered a family specialty known as "Brunswick County Caviar," a chilled, marinated salad of black-eyed peas and onions.

Mr. Parker recalls, "It was just getting dark, and all these guys were really starting to cut loose and have a good time."

"We had just recently constructed an outdoor toilet as a convenience



PHOTOS BY JAMES DRIGGERS

ALBERT PARKER poses with his outhouse, its graffiti provided by well-known cartoonists.

when we were working away from the house, and I got the idea that it might be fun if all these famous guys would autograph it for me. Sort of writing on the bathroom wall—but in good taste and by classy people.

"Well, they all thought it was a great idea, so we went and got some paint and brushes, and pulled a tractor up close so we could shine the headlights for them to see well

enough to paint."

Since then, Mr. Parker has had the caricatures retouched by painter Frank Hewett, who used a more durable house paint in order to preserve this unusual memento.

Sound incredible? Seeing is believing. Ramble through the Parkers' lovely landscaped yard, past the barn and to the outbuilding, and there they are, America's favorite cartoon characters: Superman, Joe

Palooka, Popeye, Trudy, Dennis the Menace.

They were all smiling, all enjoying the Carolina sunshine, and undoubtedly the highest quality "graffiti" one is likely to ever see.

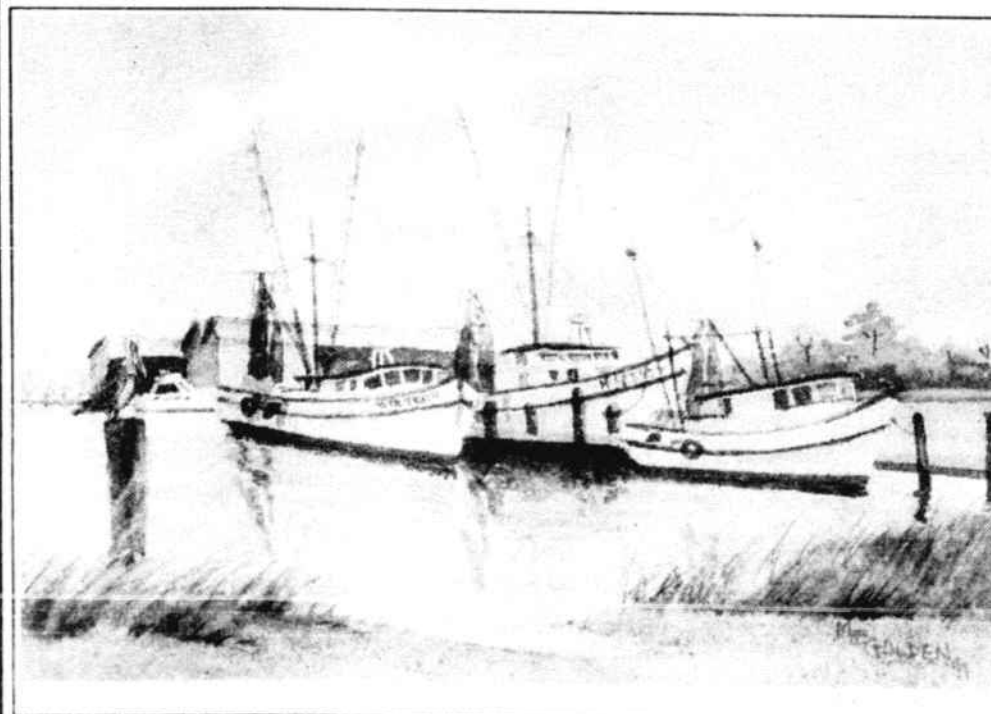
Sadly, the First and Last Cartoonists Golf Tournament seems to have been just that. The cartoonists didn't return after that one visit, but they did leave behind a whimsical keepsake of a good time.



PHOTO BY JAMES DRIGGERS

LOOK AGAIN. There are more drawing outside and in. One piece that now hangs inside was salvaged from a door that had to be replaced.

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