

THE FAVORITE POEM OF RICHARD J. QUIDLEY

Richard J. Quidley, Jr., a resident of Belhaven for many years, was born April 16, 1878 in Beaufort County. He has brought us his favorite poem. Mr. Quidley's father, Richard J. Quidley, Sr., was born April 5, 1840 at Hatteras, N. C., and died on January 10, 1916. Amanda Wright Quidley, the mother of Mr. Quidley was born October 7, 1843 in Beaufort County and died November 15, 1923.

Mr. Quidley was married in Belhaven November 9, 1902 to Janie Sermons Quidley of Hyde County. Born to this union were seven children, two of which died. He has eleven grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

TOM GRAY'S DREAM

Tom Gray lay down on the bar-room floor, Having drunk so much he could drink no more; So he fell asleep with a troubled brain, To dream that he rode on a hell-bound train. The engine with blood was red and damp, And brilliantly lit by a brimstone lamp; An imp, for fuel, was shoveling bones, While the furnace rang with a thousand groans. The boiler was filled with lager beer; And the devil himself was the engineer. The passengers made such a motley crew; Church member, atheist, Gentile and Jew, Rich men in broadcloth and beggars in rags, Handsome young ladies and withered old hags, Yellow and black men, red, brown

and white, And all chained together—a horrible sight. While the train dashed on at an awful pace, And a hot wind scorched them on hands and face. Wilder and wilder the country grew, As faster and faster the engine flew; Louder and louder the thunder crashed, And brighter and brighter the lightning flashed. Hotter and hotter the air became, Till the clothes were burnt from each quivering frame. Then in the distance there rose such a yell, Ha! Ha! croaked the devil, we're nearing hell. Then oh, how the passengers shrieked with pain, And begged of the devil to stop the train! But he capered about and sang with glee, And laughed and joked at their agony. My faithful friends, you have done my work, And the devil can never a pay-day shrink. You have bullied the weak, you have robbed the poor, And a starving brother turned from your door; You have laid out gold where the canker rusts, And given free vent to your fleshy lusts; You have justice scorned and corruption sown, And trampled the laws of nature down; You have drunk and rioted, murdered and lied, And mocked at God in your hell-born pride, You have paid full fare, so I'll carry you thru, For it's only right you should get your due; Why, the laborer always expects his hire, So I'll land you safe in the Lake of Fire, Where your flesh shall roast in the flames that roar, And my imps torment you more and more. Then Tom awoke with an agonized cry, His clothes soaked with sweat, his hair standing high, And he prayed as he never prayed before. To be saved from drink and the devil's power; And his prayers and his cries were not made in vain, For he never more rode on the hell-bound train.



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COAST GUARDSMAN RECALLS PROHIBITION ERA CRIME

By AYCOCK BROWN Sligo.—This little Currituck hamlet a few miles west of the county's Courthouse at the edge of the sound is situated at the intersection of Highways 170 and 34. Its location is about eight miles south of the Cavalier Kennel Club's racetrack at Moyock and 15 miles northeasterly from Elizabeth City. It's a busy little hamlet because the service station is a frequent change over point for bus travelers coming from down in Dare or enroute from Norfolk of from the southwest.

Sligo was the home address of Boatswain Sidney C. Sanderlin, a victim of the internal war this country had back in the Twenties between rum-runners and enforcement officers. Boatswain Sanderlin was one of the enforcement officers who with Robert Webster, a secret service agent, and Machinist Mate Victor A. Lamby was murdered in the Gulf Stream between Fort Lauderdale and Bimini on a Sunday afternoon in August, 1927.

Captain Frank Tuten, a resident of Morehead City, was in Boatswain Sanderlin's crew at the time of the massacre, which in addition to three enforcement officers being killed, resulted in the conviction and hanging of James Horace Alderman, the Miami rum-runner and murderer. Captain Tuten told me the story a few years ago following his retirement from the Coast Guard. "Webster had orders from his department to proceed to Bimini for a conference with certain schooner owners who were supposed to have important information concerning a recent flood of counterfeit money which had been issued from the Bahama Island and he made arrangements with the Fort Lauderdale base of the Coast Guard to provide transportation aboard the CG-249, a 75-footer," said Captain Tuten, as he recalled the incident.

In addition to Sanderlin, the officer in charge, other members of the crew included John A. Robinson, Frank Lehman, Victor Lamby, H. M. Caudle, Jodie L. Hollingsworth and Tuten. The eighth man aboard was Webster, the secret service agent. The trip to Bimini started as a routine assignment but it developed into a rendezvous with death for three members of the party.

Reaching a point about 40 miles off the Florida coast Boatswain Sanderlin sighted a suspicious schooner as he scanned the water through powerful glasses. It was immediately assumed that the vessel was a "rummy", as the runners were called in those days. The schooner was ordered to stand by for search but it did not do so immediately. A blank shot was fired across the bow of the schooner from the one-pounder on deck the patrol craft. Twice this was done without results. Then a shot was fired across her bow and the schooner dove to instantly, and after circling the vessel the patrol craft was lashed to the

schooner.

Alderman, skipper of the schooner, claimed to be a fisherman and said that he had only some fish aboard. A search was made and 20 cases of liquor in burlap bags were found. Alderman and his one man crew, a character named Weech, were taken aboard the patrol craft. As Boatswain Sanderlin picked up the radio telephone to report the capture of the rummies to the base back in Ft. Lauderdale, Alderman with a queer expression on his face stood by. "You are caught with the goods," said Sanderlin.

Then without warning and quick as a flash Alderman picked up a .45 automatic lying in the pilot house and shot Sanderlin, killing him instantly with a bullet in his back before he could transmit the message: "Now I've got you dirty Coast Guardsmen where I want you," shouted Alderman. "I'll get the whole damn bunch of you before this is over."

Alderman then told his accomplice Weech to go down into the engine room and break all the gasoline lines and then set fire to the boat. In the meantime Lamby was shot in the side and, although he lived for several days, he was paralyzed as result of the shot. He had fallen into the engine room when struck by the bullet.

Weech told Lamby to get up and go out on deck, that he was going to set fire to the boat. As Lamby could not move, Alderman gave Weech orders to fire the boat and burn the man alive.

"That's when I spoke up," said Tuten.

"You're going to blow us all up. If you set fire to the patrol boat, there'll be an explosion and your schooner will catch fire. We won't have a chance, and neither will you," he added, stalling for time and a chance to rush the killer.

"I don't need any help nor any suggestions from you, Coast Guard!" shouted Alderman.

In the meantime Joe Robinson, who had jumped overboard to avoid being shot, pulled himself over the rail. While other members of the crew screened him he picked it up. Alderman had ordered the engines started on the patrol craft and as it started there was a backfire. This attracted his attention for a second.

As he turned his head, Robinson lunged at him with the ice pick. Taken off guard, Alderman dropped the automatic, and then the surviving members of the crew rushed him and it was only a matter of moments until they had beaten him into unconsciousness. Weech in the meantime was captured down in the engine room.

Webster was killed instantly a few seconds after Sanderlin was murdered.

With the criminals overpowered, a radio report of the incident was transmitted to the base at Fort Lauderdale and the craft, now under command of Tuten, returned to that port.

The incident resulted in one of the biggest trials of the prohibition era. Tuten recalls that much pressure was brought by crooked politicians and others in behalf of Alderman and Weech. Finally the trial was over. Both men were found guilty. Alderman was sentenced to death by hanging and Weech, his accomplice was let off with a year and a day in the federal penitentiary at Atlanta.

Alderman, who had come to be known as the "lone wolf of the sea," was hanged in August 1929. The execution took place in the air base hanger at Fort Lauderdale. It was the only time the Coast Guard ever carried out a death sentence.

"I had no sympathy for Alderman, even though his execution came two years after his murderous exploits out there in the Gulf Stream," said Tuten. "I witnessed the hanging—and enjoyed it, because he had killed two of my shipmates."

The story of the Alderman murder trial that made front page news during the late Twenties is just about forgotten today—even here in Sligo where one of he murdered men lived.

MANNS HARBOR WOMEN'S CLUB ELECTS OFFICERS

The Manns Harbor Women's Club held its regular meeting Thursday night at the Community Building with the President, Mrs. Jaccie Burrus in the chair.

After all reports and a discussion of old and new business the following officers were elected for the coming year—1951-52. President, Mrs. Forrest Sawyer; vice-president, Mrs. Richard Mann; recording secretary, Mrs. T. H. Midgette; corresponding secretary, Mrs. T. O. Sutton; treasurer, Mrs. Jaccie Burrus; and reporter, Mrs. Helen Daniels. After adjournment refreshments were served by the education dept. to the 20 members present. Mrs. Thelbert Tillett was chairman of the committee in charge.

CHOWAN BAPTIST ASSN. MEETS AT POPLAR BRANCH

The Chowan Baptist Association has completed plans for its Missionary and Stewardship Week. Meetings are to be held in Poplar Branch, Swan Quarter, Gatesville, Corinth and Edenton, Monday through Friday, February 19-23.

Members of the Manteo Baptist Church who wish to attend any of the meetings in Poplar Branch on any of the five evenings are urged to notify their pastor, the Rev. Henry V. Napier, and he will see that transportation for them is arranged. He may be reached at Manteo telephone 118-W.

The distinguished speakers who will bring messages to the meetings at Poplar Branch are as follows: Mon., Feb. 19, Arthur R. Gallimore, for many years a missionary in China; Tues., Feb. 20, C. W. Bazemore, one time pastor in the Chowan Association, later missionary in the Roanoke Association, and now with the Biblical Recorder; Wed., Feb. 21, H. H. McMillian, veteran missionary to China; Thurs., Feb. 22, Earle L. Bradley, general missionary in Eastern North Carolina; Fri., Feb. 23, James W. Ray, secretary of the Student Union department in state work.

Offerings will be taken at all services to defray expenses of the speakers. Should there be any surplus, it will be used in the work of the Chowan associational mission program.

HYDE COURT MONDAY

The regular session of Hyde County Recorders Court will be held Monday, February 12. About 12 cases are on the docket.

The number of fires on national forests dropped from 2,154 in 1949 to 1,915 in 1950. The total acreage burned, however, was greater.

LEON BALLANCE NAMED TO HEAD RED CROSS

Middletown Man to Head Fund Campaign in Hyde County In 1951

Leon Ballance of Middletown, President of the Engelhard Rotary Club, has been selected to head the fund raising campaign of the Red Cross in Hyde County during the year 1951.

Mr. Ballance, who is a State College graduate is a community leader, and one of the most prominent farmers in Hyde County.

Further details of the campaign will appear in these columns later.

PLAN GUATEMALA TRIP

Mr. and Mrs. Carter Dalton, of Pungo Bay Farm, are planning a motor trip to New Orleans and a boat trip from there to Guatemala sometime soon.

WINTER FERRY SCHEDULES

September 11 through June 30 Over Croatan Sound

Table with columns: Leave, Roanoke Id., Manns Hbr., Leave, Manns Hbr. Times: 7:00 A.M., 8:00 A.M., 10:00 A.M., 12:00 Noon, 2:00 P.M., 3:30 P.M., 5:30 P.M., 10:30 P.M. (Wed.&Sat.) 11:00 P.M.

Over Alligator River

Table with columns: Leave, E. Lake, Leave, Tyrrell Co. Times: 8:00 A.M., 11:00 A.M., 3:00 P.M., 4:30 P.M., 9:00 A.M., 12:00 Noon, 4:00 P.M., 5:00 P.M.

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