

SWAN QUARTERLY

September 2009

Hyde County's Country Magazine



Issue# 11

www.SwanQuarterly.net





3rd Annual 'Thumbs Up' Trail Ride Fundraiser for the PONZER VOLUNTEER FIRE & RESCUE SQUAD

**US 264 EAST
BELHAVEN, NC 27810**

**SPONSORED BY ARMSTRONG, INC. AND
ARMSTRONG HAULING, INC.**

6:00 PM FRIDAY 09/11/09

THRU

4:00 PM SUNDAY 09/13/09

500 + acres of beautiful trails thru forests and open fields along the Intercoastal Waterway! All proceeds will benefit the Ponzer Volunteer Fire and Rescue Squad. \$20.00 per rider includes a Saturday night Bar-b-cue Dinner. Riders are responsible for their own trail snacks, drinks, etc.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, DIRECTIONS, REGISTRATION FORMS, ETC., PLEASE CONTACT:
lou@armstrongincorporated.com or 252 944-0100 (H) or 252 944-2810 (Fax)**

Temperatures above 90° F., a bad tropical storm/hurricane, or a raging fire are the only reasons we know of to reschedule the ride for the following weekend!

Trails are suitable for all riders, from beginners to highly skilled. Children younger than 12 years old are required to wear protective riding helmets.

A negative Coggins is required on all horses.

Registration Form

Please complete one for each rider

Rider: _____ **# of Horses & names:** _____

Address: _____ **City:** _____ **State** _____ **ZipCode** _____

Contact Numbers:

Home: _____ **Cell:** _____ **Other:** _____

Email Address: _____

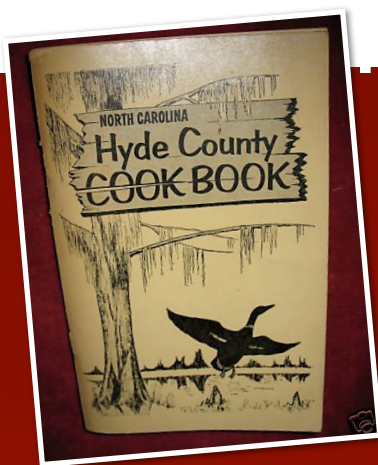
Additional plates for the Saturday Night Bar-B-Que Dinner will be available for guests, non-riders, etc. for \$7.50 per person.

Please mail registration forms to PVFD, c/o Lou Armstrong, 8581 Hwy 45 N, Belhaven, NC 27810; or E-mail them to lou@armstrongincorporated.com. or FAX them to 252 944-2810.

Additional questions, directions, etc. call 252 944-0100 (H) or 252 945-1396 (C) or 252 944-2810 (Fax)

S E P T E M B E R

PUBLISHERS: INGRID AND NELI LEMME



Old Hyde County Collectors Cook Book Anyone?

I found this old cook book on E-Bay at UNCLE FUDDLEY'S FUN-O-RAMA store for just under \$ 20. Can anyone tell me what year it was first published?

✧ Quote of the Quarter ✧

*"A paradise for fishermen and hunters, it is one of the oldest of North Carolina's counties and also one of the most interesting."
The State - April 11th, 1942*

DEAR READER

Our little grandson David is the new love of our live, and we are grateful for 'Skype' - What did people do who lived far away from their grand kids in 1942? - I have met by e-mail a fascinating lady named Kay Lynn Midgett Sheppard, who gave me permission to publish a truly interesting story about Hyde County from a 1942 issue of

"The State" magazine. Kay Lynn has been maintaining the Hyde County Genealogy website while her co-host, John McGowan, has been ill. We thank Mr. McGowan & Mrs Sheppard for their service to the Hyde County community. She is doing a lot of research and still finds the time to update the site frequently.
xox IL



Labor Day, Monday September 7th, 2009

Labor Day has been celebrated on the first Monday in September in the United States since the 1880s. In the aftermath

of the deaths of a number of workers at the hands of the US military and US Marshals during the 1894 Pullman Strike, President Grover Cleveland put reconciliation with labor as a top political priority. Traditionally, Labor Day is

celebrated by most Americans as the symbolic end of the summer.



Our 2009 Community Yard Sale will be:

Saturday, October 3

(Rain date: Saturday, October 10)



Each year our event continues to grow! This year, we are going to be featured in the fall edition of the Down East Magazine! We also advertise in surrounding counties and that helps our attendance. Last year we had over 30 families participating. Please let us know if you would be interested in participating this year. We are adver-

tising this as the: **Swan Quarter**

Community Yard Sales



We ask that each family (even if 2 or more families are together in the same yard) that plans on having a yard sale contribute \$5.00 to help pay for the paid advertising and for the signs on US 264. Please get your \$ to either

Margie Brooks or Patsy Jo Newman by September 15, so we'll know how many yard sales to advertise.

Questions? Call Margie at 926-9311 or email yardsales@embarqmail.com

Whether you have items for sale or not, please make plans to visit your friends and neighbors' yard sales on this date!

RESERVE YOUR TRIP TODAY!



...On the Board Walk...

Man of the Quarter

Adam Jones (AJ) of
Engelhard, Hyde C.
www.ajscaducksandswans.com

Website of the Quarter

The brand-new Hyde
County Waterfowl
Association site
www.hydewaterfowl.com

Boat of the Quarter

"First Light" - as seen
here docked close by
Swan Quarter Landing

Lady of the Quarter

Miss Margie Brooks,
our formers Chamber of
Commerce Director

www.SwanQuarter.net

Reader of the Quarter

Ben Cahoon of Nags
Head who likes to read
our magazines.

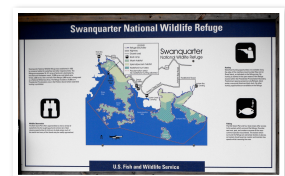


Event of the Quarter

Ponzer's 3rd annual
"Thumb up" Trail Ride
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Artist of the Quarter

Bob Pittman of Oriental
Page 7



Organization of the Quarter

Swanquarter National
Wildlife Refuge
Page 10

Reader of the Quarter

Ben Cahoon

Ben is an architect from Nags Head, who send us the photo of this friendly fellow, which he took on the way to one of his projects in Swan Quarter.

www.obxarchitects.com

<http://twitter.com/BigKahuna69>





Artist of the Quarter: Bob Pittman of Oriental

It is written that Bob Pittman is one of Eastern North Carolina's most admired artists. WE AGREE! He has painted hundreds of original Land and Seascapes of Eastern North Carolina, including Hyde County's Inner Banks and Ocracoke Island. Bob has enjoyed commissions for Original art for such clients as Wachovia Bank & Trust, The Southern Furniture Manufacturers Association and many private collections. Asking Bob about permission to publish his art in the Swan Quarterly, he answered: "Ingrid, That will be just fine. I have a lot of Hydy Co. paintings, but none that I know of of Tyrrell Co. As an engineer, I played a major role in getting water systems for Ocracoke Island, and all of Hyde Co. Over the years have enjoyed hunting and fishing and watching wildlife in both places.



Have retired now, moved to Oriental and am an artist full time. Will be doing more paintings in the future and some of them will be of Ocracoke and beautiful Hyde Co. If I can be of help in any way, contact me via email or phone. I also have reproductions available for sale of most all of my paintings should anyone be interested. Also, have a special love for Ocracoke Island since my grandfather was a methodist minister and lived and preached there from 1910 until 1912.

Also helped get water system for Ocracoke. Thanks, Bob"

THANK YOU

Above: Hyde County Farmhouse
Landscape Oil Painting on Canvas

On the right: Shrimp Boats in Hyde County
Oil Painting on Canvas

www.bobpittmanart.com Phone: 252 717 4535
email repittman@msn.com





Honoring Ferrell A. Berry & Percy Carawan

The Mattamuskeet Waterfowl Association was formed in 1973. The local Hyde County Chapter is called "The Hyde County Waterfowl Association". The only means of funds are donations through their Annual Banquet held during the waterfowl season, and through sales of Waterfowl Artwork. The Hyde County Waterfowl Association is a non-profit organization with no paid employees. The First Annual Mattamuskeet Decoy & Waterfowl Festival is held in Swan Quarter, NC at Mattamuskeet High School, Hyde County on November 21st & 22nd. The Festival will be held in the honor of **Ferrell A. Berry** and **Percy Carawan**, two men who have contributed so much to Hyde County's waterfowl heritage.



MWA Officers for 2009 – 2010 are:

- (252) 944-5636 - Brad Gurganus, President
- (252) 944-3090 - Gregory Berry, Vice President
- (252) 943-8754 - Brett Mason, Treasurer
- (252) 714-1635 - Natalie Wayne, Secretary

Waterfowl/Civic Center

Project

The Hyde County Waterfowl Association purchased 15 acres on Highway 94 just before the entrance to the Mattamuskeet Lodge and Wildlife Refuge to provide a space for waterfowl meetings, activities, special events and community needs. In September of 2008 a planner was hired to develop construction options, coordinating uses with the Mattamuskeet Lodge and local county groups and produce a comprehensive plan.





Hyde County Waterfowl Association

P.O. Box 91

Swan Quarter, NC 27885

www.hydewaterfowl.com

August 10, 2009

Dear Exhibitor,

The Hyde County Waterfowl Association (HCWA) invites you to be part of the First Annual Mattamuskeet Decoy & Waterfowl Festival on November 21 and 22, 2009 in Swan Quarter, NC at Mattamuskeet High School, just a few miles from the historic Mattamuskeet Lake, Wildlife Refuge and Lodge. The Festival will be held in the honor of Ferrell A. Berry and Percy Carawan, two men who have contributed so much to Hyde County's waterfowl legacy.

It is the goal of HCWA to maintain a standard that supports the art of decoy carving and collecting. The event will strive to convey to the public the best of the traditions and art of waterfowling.

Festival Highlights include

- The Mattamuskeet Duck, Goose & Swan Calling Competition
- Carvers & Antique Decoys
- Books & Local Waterfowl Art
- Retriever Demonstration
- Antique Tractors
- Tours of Mattamuskeet Wildlife Refuge
- Activities for Children
- Saturday Night Oyster Roast Special
- Locally prepared regional food

Information about set-up, event schedules, directions, local church services, additional forms and basic information about the area will be available on the HCWA website www.hydewaterfowl.com. To receive by mail please call. A registration form and lodging information is attached. Please return registration forms and payment on or before September 15, 2009.

For your use, posters and press releases will be available on our website September 15, 2009. Floor plans will be posted October 1, 2009. If you need us to mail them, please call.

If you have any questions or suggestions please let us know.

Sincerely,

Festival Committee

Brad Gurganus
President
(252) 944-5636

Gregory Berry
Vice President
(252) 944-3090

Calling Competition

Brett Mason
(252) 943-8754



Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge

Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge, located on Pamlico Sound in Hyde County, North Carolina, was established on June 23, 1932. Approximately 8,800 acres are included in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The refuge is made up of saltmarsh islands and forested wetland interspersed with potholes, creeks, and drains. Marsh vegetation is dominated by black needlerush and sawgrass while the mainland is forested by loblolly pine, pond pine and bald cypress.

An additional 27,082 acres of adjacent, non-refuge open water are closed by Presidential Proclamation to the taking of



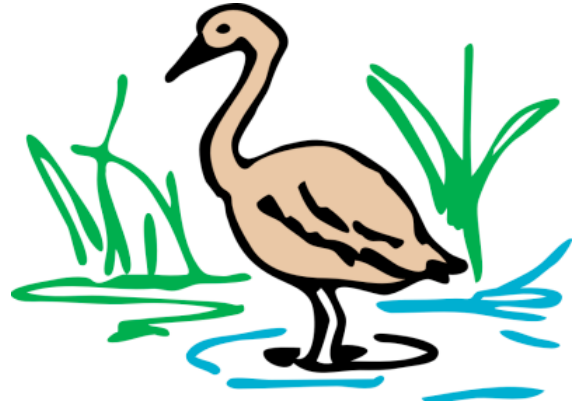
migratory birds. Swanquarter NWR is an important estuarine and wilderness resource, it and the surrounding proclamation waters provide winter sanctuary for black ducks and canvasbacks, redheads and scaup. Additionally, it provides habitat for nesting osprey and colonial waterbirds and supports one of the northernmost populations of the American alligator.

Getting There . . . The refuge lies about 60 miles east of Washington, NC, south of the village of Swan Quarter. A two-mile long gravel road south of Highway 264 leads into the upland portion of the refuge and to the site of the 1000 foot long Bell Island fishing pier. All other access to the refuge is via boat only.

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=42532>



Recreation & Education



FISHING:

The 1000 foot long Bell Island fishing pier is the most popular feature of Swanquarter Refuge. The fishing pier may be reached via a 2 mile dirt road off Hwy 264 just west of Swan Quarter, NC. Atlantic croaker, spot, weakfish, spotted seatrout, and Atlantic flounder are among the commonly caught fish. Crabbing is popular during the warmer months. Fishing the open water and marsh edges is accomplished via boat ramps operated by the state or private ramps at Swan Quarter, Rose Bay, and Juniper Bay.

HUNTING:

A 6,120 acre portion of marsh is open to duck and coot hunting in accordance with state and federal regulations. The hunt area includes Great Island and portions of the marsh north of Great Island bordering Juniper Bay. A Presidential Proclamation area prohibits migratory bird hunting in the remainder of the Refuge. For additional hunting information contact the Refuge:

(mattamuskeet@fws.gov)



WILDLIFE OBSERVATION AND

PHOTOGRAPHY: Visitors are welcome to hike or bike the two undeveloped roads on the refuge. Access the trails via the road to the Bell Island fishing pier. The Bell Island Road and the pier provide excellent wildlife viewing.

HOURS:

The refuge is open daylight hours only. There is no visitor center at Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge. Swanquarter is administered by Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge.

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/recEdMore.cfm?ID=4>



The road less traveled 1942...

ABSTRACTS of NEWSPAPER ARTICLES for HYDE COUNTY, NC (1938-1953)

COUNTY OF HYDE

A paradise for fishermen and hunters, it is one of the oldest of North Carolina's counties and also one of the most interesting. The first time we ever visited Hyde County was back in 1918 or '19. Jim MAYO, publisher of the Washington Daily News, owned a seven-passenger Studebaker at that time and decided to take a Sunday trip down into Hyde. He invited us to go along with him. We left Washington at eight o'clock in the morning. Crossing Pungo River at Leechville, we entered Hyde County over a deeply-rutted road with dense swamps on either side. We proceeded on to Fairfield and then went on around Lake Mattamuskeet to Engelhard, Lake Landing and Swan Quarter. When we got back home it was 10 o'clock at night. The distance covered was around 170 miles and it had taken us 14 hours to make it--including all stops. Not a foot of the trip was made over a paved road. Today--well, today you can make the same trip in a little over four hours. With the exception of the road on the north and east side of the lake, all of it is paved.

Hyde county was one of the original precincts of North Carolina and existed previous to 1729, when the Lord Proprietors (except Lord GRANVILLE) surrendered their rights to the crown. It was named in honor of Edward HYDE, who was Governor of the colony. It is situated in the extreme eastern part of the state and is bounded on the north by Washington, Tyrrell, and Dare, east by Pamlico Sound south by Pamlico Sound and Pamlico River and west by Beaufort County.

Like Dare and one or two others, it consists of two geographical divisions. One is the mainland, which comprises the greater part of its area, and the other is Ocracoke Island, which is located on the outer edge of Pamlico Sound. On several previous occasions we have mentioned the fact that certain family names are associated with most of the counties in North Carolina. This is particularly true of Hyde - JENNETT, WATSON, GIBBS, CARTER, SPENCER, CREDLE, and MANN.

We have before us WHEELER'S History of North Carolina. It was published in 1851. The information about Hyde County is rather meager, but mention is made of all the men to the Legislature from Hyde between the years 1777 and 1850. The first JENNETT to get elected to this office was Robert, in 1781.

The WATSON family was represented by James in 1792. David GIBBS started going to the state Senate in 1802, and Thomas SPENCER came along in 1804.

James CREDLE went to the House in 1805. But we don't find a single MANN in that list, which is rather surprising. Members of that family have been politically prominent in Hyde County for the last half-century, but evidently prior to that time they weren't interested. See if you haven't got a highway map around the house somewhere and let's get started on our trip through Hyde County. Leaving Leechville, on the Beaufort County side of Pungo River, we cross that stream over a wooden bridge and proceed along the paved road for a mile or more, with nothing on either side of us except swamps, covered with marsh grass.

...the road less traveled 1942...

Then the appearance of the countryside changes, and we pass through some attractive woodland. A few more miles further along and we cross a bridge which spans the Inland Waterway. A short distance away is a large freighter, heading south. The bridge tender is preparing to open the draw, but he firmly shakes his head when we inquire as to whether we can stand on the bridge while it is being opened. "Against government regulations," he announces. Which is enough for us. As a matter of fact, the large-sized revolver he carries on his hip would in itself have forestalled any argument on our part, even though we were inclined to argue--which we weren't.

Resuming our journey, we swing around the wide curve at Scranton, where extensive lumbering operations were carried on some twenty or twenty-five years ago. And four miles to the south is the settlement of Sladesville, consisting of a few scattered houses in the midst of excellent farming land. We come to Rose Bay, where the road branches off to Fairfield, but instead of turning in that direction, we drive straight on to Swan Quarter, the county seat. The courthouse is a red brick structure, built in 1850, to which two wings have been added. Drainage canals run along the edge of the streets and are crossed by narrow bridges in order that property owners may be able to reach their front porches without having to practice broad-jumping all the time.

These canals lend a picturesque touch to the appearance of the old town. It was named, of course, for the swans, which found a natural haven at this point. It is at Swan Quarter that "the rambling church" is located. We believe we've told

you about this before, so we'll only touch upon the story briefly. In 1876 the Methodists in Swan Quarter decided to build a new church. They went to see a large property owner who had some vacant land in the village and asked him to donate a lot. He refused. So they went to see a second man who also had some land--not quite so desirable as the first piece, however--and who cheerfully gave them a deed for a lot. So they built the church. They had the service of dedication. That same night a terrific storm came up. The water backed up into Swan Quarter Canal from Pamlico Sound and flooded the streets of the town. Next morning, somebody hollered out: "Look at the church!" The water had come up under the floor and had raised the frame structure from the brick piling's that supported it. And here, sailing along in majestic fashion on the crest of the flood, came the church. When it reached the intersection of the two streets (where the courthouse is located) it paused, and then, for some unknown and inexplicable reason, it drifted off at right angles to its previous course until it came to the property which had been denied it. And there it settled itself down in such a manner that it wasn't necessary to move its location an eighth of an inch when the flood waters abated. After that, the man who owned the property was glad to give the Methodists a deed. As a matter of fact, he literally begged them to take it.

Chances are he was afraid of that church chasing him around Swan Quarter for the rest of his life. We stopped by the old building to take a picture. For years it has been used as a hay-barn, but now it has been repainted, has been moved up to the rear of the present brick church and is being used as a Sunday school room.

Keeping Hyde County Beautiful



Photos by Ingrid Lemme - Victorian house on the road to Wysocking Bay -



...the road less traveled 1942...

The Howard House is the hotel at Swan Quarter, and believe us, you surely get a good meal there.

The outstanding single feature about Hyde County is Lake Mattamuskeet (named for the Mattamuskeet tribe of Indians). It consists of around 50,000 acres. Several attempts have been made to pump off the water from this lake, which is below sea level and on sub-marginal land, but they were all unsuccessful. Not only that, but they also drove away the great number of geese and swans accustomed to wintering here. After the Government's purchase of this area in 1934, the pump house at the lake was converted into an administration building and many acres of grain and duck foods were planted to attract both upland game birds and waterfowl. In addition to geese, ducks and swans, the area contains egrets, herons, terns, loons, grebes, cormorants, bitterns, eagles, ospreys, sandpipers, gulls and quail.

Two areas of approximately 5,000 acres each, adjoining the lake, have been set aside as public shooting grounds and are operated seasonally by the North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development. A lot of the land in Hyde County consists of peat bogs. And, as you know, peat burns rather freely. That's exactly how Lake Mattamuskeet got started.

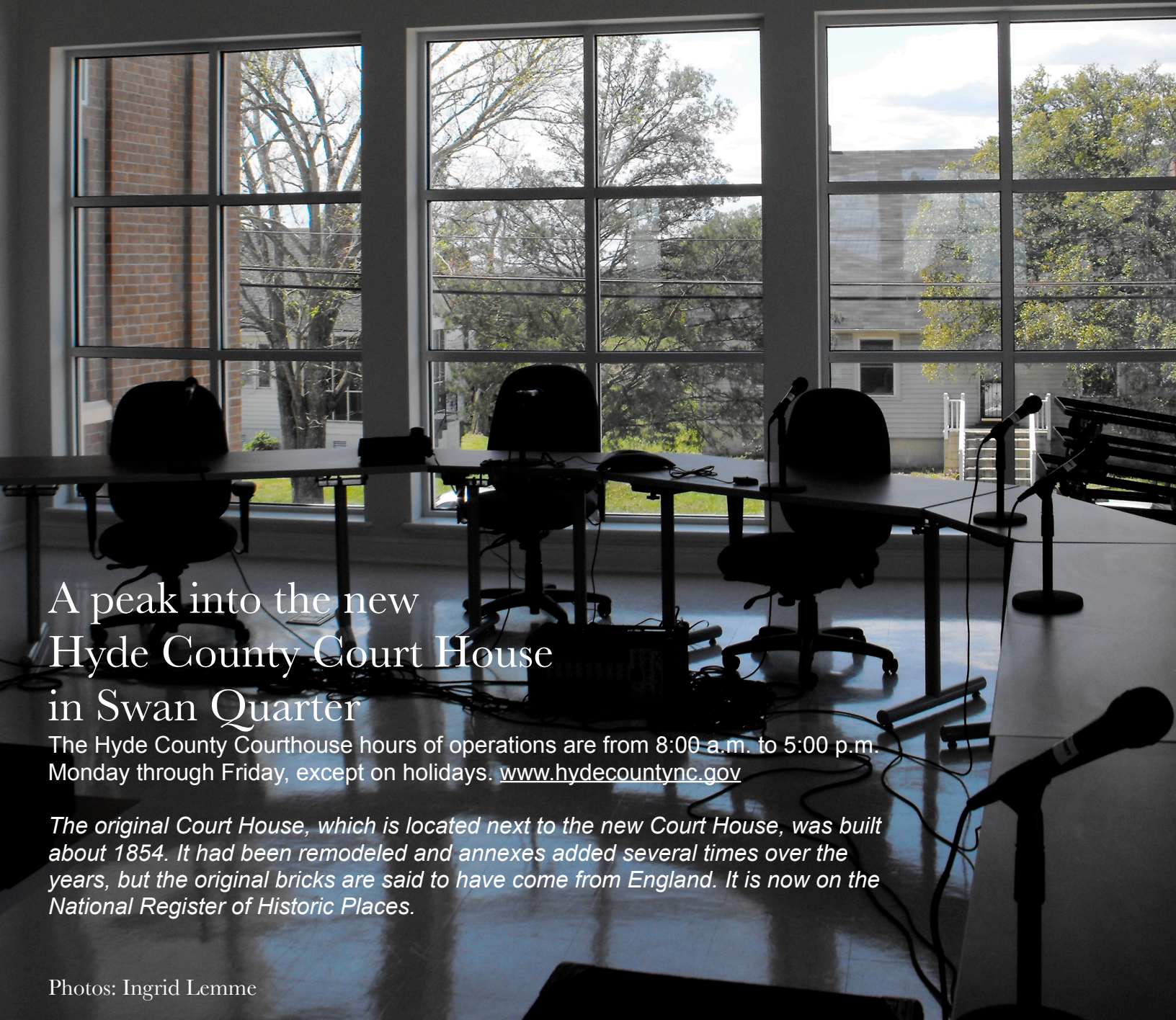
Somebody set fire to one of the bogs, the flames spread, and first thing you know, the whole lake bed had been burned out and filled up with water.

Under the supervision of Mr. D. N. GRAVES of Boston, the first effort was made to drain off the lake. He was followed by Frank THURKELSON. And then came August HECKSCHER, the New York real estate operator and philanthropist. It is

estimated that Mr. HECKSCHER spent close to \$2,000,000, trying to reclaim the lake bottom. Large acreage of soybeans, corn and other crops were grown for a few years. The pumping plant, which operated the largest centrifugal pump in the world, kept the water out. The plant had a capacity of 3,000,000 gallons a minute. A vast system of canals and lateral drainage ditches was installed. The only railroad ever built into Hyde County was run to the town of New Holland, on the southern shore of the lake, where a first-class stucco two-story hotel was erected. (It was torn down a few years ago. Rooms and meals, however, are still available at the pumping plant.) The railroad was known as the New Holland, Higginsport & Mount Vernon, and the man who painted that name on the sides of the cars did a whole lot of grumbling because of its length.

The U. S. Biological Service now maintains a wildlife refuge at the lake. The entire area is flooded once more. The wild birds have returned to the scene and the place is a paradise for hunters and fishermen. Lake Mattamuskeet probably attracts more sportsmen every year than any other place in North Carolina.

The present hotel (the old pumping plant) is located about a quarter of a mile off the main highway. Returning to the paved road, we continue eastward to Lake Landing. Near the outskirts of the place is what is known as "the ink-bottle house," and a very appropriate name it is, for the house is octagonal in shape and very closely resembles the conventional ink-bottle. It was built some time before 1860 but we don't know by whom. Continuing onward, we take a dirt road to the right and veer off to the village of Middletown, a quiet and peaceful little settlement.



A peak into the new Hyde County Court House in Swan Quarter

The Hyde County Courthouse hours of operations are from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, except on holidays. www.hydecourtync.gov

The original Court House, which is located next to the new Court House, was built about 1854. It had been remodeled and annexes added several times over the years, but the original bricks are said to have come from England. It is now on the National Register of Historic Places.

... the road less traveled 1942...

Two or three miles north is Engelhard, the most eastwardly town on Hyde County's mainland. There's a fine school at Engelhard. Several first-class stores, too, including that of Mr. Closs GIBBS, one of the business leaders of the county. Vast quantities of oysters and fish are brought to Engelhard every season. An oyster-packing plant has been started and when we were there recently they were canning oysters to beat the band. Three or four sailing vessels, loaded down to their gunwales with oysters, were waiting to unload. Fishing and oystering brings many thousands of dollars to this prosperous community every year.

The Engelhard Banking & Trust Company, with branches in Swan Quarter and Columbia- in addition to the home office in Engelhard--enjoys a unique distinction: a distinction which was given national prominence by Ripley in one of his "Believe-It-Or- Not" radio programs.

Remember when all the banks closed in 1933 ? Well, the Engelhard bank didn't close. It stayed open, and continued to cash Government checks and make change all the time. So far as we know, it was the only bank in the country that didn't close its doors.

They've got their own ice and light plant at Engelhard, the power and ice being supplied by the Pamlico Ice and Light Company, which also caters to other parts of Hyde, as well as to Dare. Mr. P. D. MIDGETTE is at the head of it. Boats leave regularly from Engelhard for various places along the banks. Used to be, many years ago, that the only way the people of Engelhard could get to the outside world with any degree of surety was by boat. The

road to Beaufort County was impassable a good bit of the time. But now the town is located at the head of pavement and you can drive to other parts of the state without traveling on a foot of dirt road.

Mr. MIDGETTE told us to be sure to see the new road that was being constructed right across the middle of Lake Mattamuskeet. "It's going to be one of the most interesting and most beautiful drives in North Carolina when they get it completed," he told us. "Just keep it in mind when you get to Fairfield. You probably won't be able to drive across it, but you can go out a little way and see what it looks like." Retracing our route a couple of miles, we turned to the right on a first-class dirt road and skirted the northern shore of Mattamuskeet until we came to the village of Fairfield. It was the first time we had been there in almost fifteen years and we observed many changes and signs of progress. People in this section certainly raise a lot of chickens: we observed several large flocks.

Another thing we saw as we drove over the county was the number of sheep. We'd say that in proportion to its population, Hyde probably raises more sheep than any other county in eastern North Carolina. Near the southern outskirts of the community is the beginning of the new causeway across the lake. There was a sign up, saying that the road is not completed and is closed to traffic but, acting upon Mr. MIDGETTE'S suggestion let's drive out for about a hundred yards or more and see what the thing looks like.

Just as he told us, when they get that five or six-mile stretch of highway completed it's going to

In Hyde County

there are few stoplights...most are on the island of Ocracoke, too.
People can carry on about their business without having to slow down.

The Hyde County accent is the most endearing of all regional dialects in the World.
They even have their own words like "interdispersed"
..which is an oxymoron, but makes total sense down there, even to me...
when I used the word up here in Tyrrell (Turl) County,
I didn't understand it, nor did anybody else.

No foreign county or country can overtake Hyde County...
the journey is tooo long, therefore becoming a "travel of attrition".
The endless, but beautiful pocosin is the only scenery en route to the area.

Hyde County residents can spot invaders...
I was accused of being from Raleigh, which, by the way, is the ultimate put-down in
Hyde County...I quickly told them perpetrator that I was from Alabama...he had been
there - Montgomery, that is - and had less than fond memories of the Alabama State
Capitol...it's nice to have something in common!

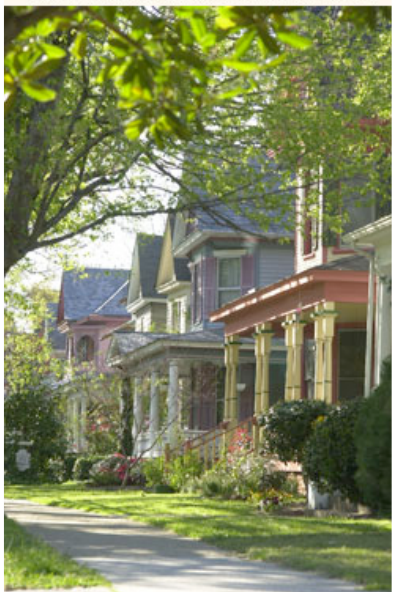
Every time I go to Hyde County, I realize how much I love it! Almost as great as Tyrrell
(TURL) County,
it lacks the beach traffic...

WHAT A SHOW!!! I had "tunzafun"!

By Chase Euker
4-H Summer Camp Director
Posted on his blog <http://eastern4h.blogspot.com>
after the Livestock show in Ponzer last April



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IBXHomes.com provides comprehensive,
up-to-date real estate offerings from across
North Carolina's beautiful Inner Banks.



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IBXHOMES.com

...the road less traveled 1942...

be a wonderful thing. Contractors have been dredging and throwing up dirt for fourteen months and have just finished the job. The causeway will have to be given time to settle, and then concrete will be laid. The causeway itself is about 250 feet in width, sloping upward from each side to the center. The pavement will be 22 feet wide. While we were standing beside our car, admiring the extensive view of the lake, another car came up behind us and we waved it down.

"Any chance of driving across to the other side of the lake?" we asked of the man who was driving. His car had a State Highway license on it. "Nope," was his answer. "The road is closed." We told him why we wanted to get across, so finally he said, "All right, you trail along behind me. Better stick rather close and watch the ruts, because the sand is rather deep in some places and first thing you know you'll get stuck."

We started out, and the longer we drove the more impressed we became with the project. What a marvelous drive that is going to be! Arriving at the southern shore (the total distance is close to six miles), we thanked our guide and then turned westward, passing on through Swan Quarter and Scranton and finally leaving the county at the Pungo River crossing.

Look at your map of the state and you'll observe the location of Ocracoke, a long, narrow strip of sandy land, timbered in some places, with Hatteras at its northern end and Portsmouth to the south. It is separated from each of these places by narrow inlets. Ocracoke!

To our way of thinking, it is one of the romantic places in North Carolina. It was here, in Silver Lake, that the pirate TEACHE was captured by Lieutenant MAYNARD of the British navy. The story is that while waiting for daylight to come, in order that he could get out of the harbor, TEACHE kept beseeching,

"Oh, crow, cock! Oh, crow, cock!"

And that's how the place got its name. But the cock didn't crow. MAYNARD appeared on the scene. TEACHE was captured, beheaded, and his head placed at the end of the bowsprit. In this fashion the Lieutenant sailed his craft up to Bath. The story goes that after being beheaded, TEACHE'S body was thrown overboard and it swam around the boat three times before it finally disappeared from view. We don't believe, however, that this could have been possible, unless somebody had rigged an outboard motor on him. Come to think of it, they didn't have outboard motors in those days, so you can just forget that part of the story. Ocracoke!

Land where old Cap'n. Bill GASKILL used to hold forth. Ben and Bill GARRISH, Simey O'NEAL, Big Ike O'NEAL, Dave WILLIAMS--all of them are names that have been associated with the island for many years. It has been a favorite summering place with large numbers of people, particularly those who lived in Washington, Greenville, New Bern, and other towns in the eastern part of the state. Hunters and fishermen have visited it from all parts of the country.



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North Carolina has three main types of shrimp: brown, pink and white. Shrimp are estuarine dependent - that means they live in marshes and estuaries when

they are very young because it's safe and there is plenty of food. They grow very quickly, doubling in size every few weeks. When shrimp are almost full grown, they swim out of the estuaries into the ocean.

Shrimp are considered an annual crop because they do not live very long, only about two years. The amount of shrimp we have from year to year varies, depending on the weather. If we have a very cold winter, then we will have a small shrimp population the following spring. If we have lots of rain, then the shrimp will move out into the ocean before they are fully grown.

Shrimp are the second most economically important fishery in North Carolina. In 2004, Tar Heel fishermen caught 4.9 million pounds of shrimp, worth \$9 million. Most of these shrimp were caught with trawl nets in our sounds and rivers....

...the road less traveled 1942.

It has no paved streets, no power, except that which is supplied by private plants, no sewerage or water systems, none of the many civic improvements that you will find elsewhere, but it's the grandest place in the world to visit and, if you listen to the natives, it's also the grandest place in the world to live.

The houses are mostly two-story frame structures, each of them being immaculately clean and most of them well painted. Practically every house has its small garden and chickens. The entire population of the island--it's around 700--depends upon the sea for its livelihood. No, not quite all either because there are a number of men who are in Coast Guard or else have been retired with pensions.

Wahab Village, originated by Stanley WAHAB, local boy who made good in the big city of Baltimore, has a first-class hotel, cottages and other accommodations. It promises to be quite a development.

Ocracoke lighthouse is one of the oldest on the coast. The Coast Guard station is located on the sound side of the island. We didn't get to go there on this trip through Hyde County, but we have been there any number of times in the past. There are no people anywhere whose friendship we value more highly than we do that of those hardy, whole-souled folks at Ocracoke. If you've never been there you have missed one of the most interesting of all places within the boundaries of North Carolina. And that goes for Lake Mattamuskeet and other parts of Hyde, too.

(The State - April 11th, 1942)

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The have found this wonderful old story about Hyde County written in 1942 on this website www.usgwarchives.org

ABSTRACTS of NEWSPAPER ARTICLES for HYDE COUNTY, NC (1938-1953)

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NOTE: *"Ingrid, You have my permission to publish this article in your magazine "*

- Kay Lynn Midgett Sheppard genie12@bellsouth.net

- Kay Lynn Midgett Sheppard, gave me permission to publish a truly interesting story about Hyde County from a 1942 issue of "The State" magazine. Kay Lynn has been maintaining the Hyde County Genealogy website while her co-host, Mr. John McGowan, has been ill. We thank Mr. McGowan & Mrs. Sheppard for their service to the Hyde County community.



A Celebration of Life

James Dennis

(J.D.) Ainsley

Oct. 4, 1936 - Aug. 8, 2009

James Dennis "J.D." Ainsley departed this life and his family to enter into eternal rest Aug. 8, 2009, after a courageous battle with cancer. James was born Oct. 4, 1936, in North Carolina to Dennis and Hilda Ainsley and spent many years in the Ponzer area as a child growing up. A celebration of his life occurred on Saturday, August 22 at his son Rusty's home in the Bowers Hill section of Chesapeake, Va. J.D. was a member of the N.S. Skirmish Association, "Dismal Swamp Rangers" (Swamprats) for nearly 50 years and his comrades came to honor his memory. They marched in information followed by J.D.'s wife, Dianne in a 1957 Chevrolet which commemorated the year they were married.

After an enlightening and heartwarming urology and music by Jim Pape, the Swamprats saluted J.D. with a 21-gun musket firing as they stood in formation with one member missing.



Although he has not been very active in recent years, he was one of the early members that formed and molded the team into a strong and winning team that it has become. He was on the team when they won their first skirmish, the Mason-Dixon Skirmish, in Winchester in 1969. He was on the team when they won the 100th National Skirmish and many others in between.

After the ceremony a barbecue with all the fixings was served to the many who attended and although it was pouring down rain, following the salute a rainbow appeared. There was a memorial presentation of photos and memorabilia of J.D. and his family from his very early age through his life showing his love and affection for his family, his wife, his children and grandchildren. Friends and family were given the opportunity to say a word or two about how J.D. had impacted their lives.

Photos by Judi Raburn of Ponzer. Judi will continue in the next issue with her column PONZER Continues... The obit appeared in the Virginia Pilot and @ [Hyde County Genealogy Web Page](#), thanks to Kay Lynn Midgett Sheppard.



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