

# SWAN QUARTERLY

Hyde County's Country Magazine

Fall 2009



**Published Quarterly**  
- or whenever we feel like -  
**In print and on-line!**

**Issue # 12 - October 2009**  
**www.SwanQuarterly.net**

# SWAN QUARTER



Photo spread by Margie Brooks

**Each year this event continues to grow!**  
**This year, The Swan Quarter Yard Sale is going to be featured**  
**in the fall edition of the Down East Magazine!**  
**Over 30 families are participating!**



**Don't miss the annual**  
**SWAN QUARTER**  
**Community Yard Sale**  
**Saturday, October 3**  
**Rain date:**  
**Saturday, October 10**



**Whether you have items for sale or not, please make plans  
to visit your friends and neighbors' yard sales on this date!  
Questions? Call Margie at 926-9311 or email [yardsales@embarqmail.com](mailto:yardsales@embarqmail.com)**

**The charming coastal village of Swan Quarter is located right on Swan Quarter Bay, an inlet off the Pamlico Sound and minutes from famous one-of-a-kind National Wildlife Refugees, such as Mattamuskeet and others. Among the many quaint, small, beautiful communities along North Carolina's Inner Banks coast, Swan Quarter is said to be the quietest and maybe the friendliest. Take a moment to stroll along the village's well taken care of lanes, fields and farms, walk down to Swan Quarter harbor and you will discover that Swan Quarter is a real-old fashioned, maritime fishing village with shrimp and fishing boats, huge piles of oyster shells, and the ever inspiring smell of the ocean. Fishing, oystering, crabbing and farming have long been the main occupations of the friendly people of Swan Quarter. Fishing is supplemented by farming the rich land around the town. Today the village sees many more visitors than in times past. Tourists pass through on their way to and from the Ocracoke-Swan Quarter ferry, located close by. Swan Quarter is a village where life is still the way it used to be, real, simple, and at a slower pace.**



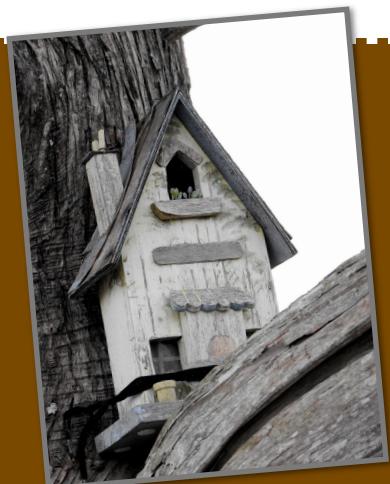
Photo: Ingrid Lemme

O C T O B E R

2 0 0 9

# SWAN QUARTERLY

PUBLISHERS: INGRID AND NELI LEMME



## Dear Ms. Lemme

Tom Carmine is one of the most wonderful person's I have ever known. I just finished reading the article Tom wrote and I must say it brought back memories of my own childhood. I am from a small town in New Hampshire.....

I love yard sales, big, small, commercial, community, neighbors - I have to go and check them out. Yard sales are like treasure hunting for me, - just never know what you find; and October 3rd is the largest yard sale I have ever attended, right in my home town of Swan Quarter. I am looking for garden plants and home

.....*I have never been to Tom's farm but I have heard lots about it. You are very fortunate to still have that small town community most people only dream off. I plan to read more articles in Swan Quarterly and I pray your community will continue to survive in this fast paced world.*

God bless, - Alice Osgood

Miss Alice is referring to Tom Carmine's story 'Beyond the

## Quote of the Quarter

*"The Hyde County Waterfowl Association has become one for the leaders in helping to fulfilling the three needs necessary for successful waterfowl management. Continued support for the Association from outdoorsmen from outside the County is a necessary ingredient for the continuation of the projects that the HCWA has underway. Let's face it; the future of Eastern North Carolina lies in the recreation industry." Fred Bonner*

## DEAR READER

decorations, and love anything 'country'. I am not into that modern city stuff and I don't care about fancy designer names. Actually most of my wardrobe is 2nd hand, believe it. Hyde County is real country, where people talk to each other and help each other and life goes at a slower pace. One country day at a time. - xox IL



*Fence' in the SQLY AUGUST ISSUE [http://issuu.com/innerbanks/docs/sqly\\_august09](http://issuu.com/innerbanks/docs/sqly_august09)*



## • Drum Fishing Trip on Pamlico Sound

- ...caught outside off Judith Island...
- ...Swan Quarter @ the mouth of Pamlico River....
- ...all too large to keep, (18-27 in. are keepers) returned where caught...
- **...Drum fishing trip out of Swan Quarter...**
- ... had a great day ... caught plenty of fresh bait and 4 nice Red Drum...
- ....( 39", 43", 44", and 48") ...
- ...Ricky Vanhorn, Walt Davenport, & Jimmy Fleming of Flemz Market, Columbia, Tyrrell County...
- Jimmy is also a writer of the Scuppernong Gazette - when he feels like writing ;)  
see Jimmy Fleming on the right ->

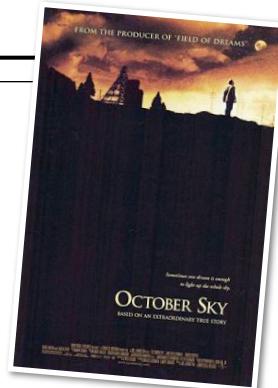
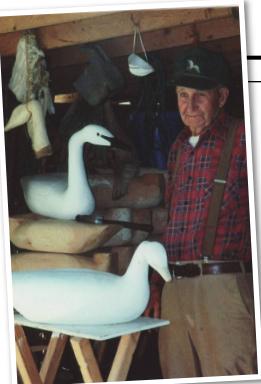
**Thank you to reader Ray McClees for photos**



## Catch of the Quarter



At Pat's "No Name Gas Station" in Swan Quarter this snapping turtle was regurgitating a whole fish skeleton. "They were ready to rescue with pliers if he choked!" posted Ben Cahoon on his twitter. <http://twitter.com/BigKahuna69>  
Photo: Ben Cahoon, architect from Nags Head, who works on projects in Hyde County.



# ...On the Board Walk...

## *Lady of the Quarter*

Merita Lewis-Spencer  
Hyde County Register of Deeds (right) here sworn in by the Hyde County Clerk of Court Honorable Sharon G. Sadler.

## *Man of the Quarter*

The late Percy Carawan.  
Percy was a knowledgeable hunter, trapper and decoy carver, one of the best outdoorsmen in Hyde County. Pg13

## *Movie of the Quarter*

Sometimes one dream is enough to light up the whole sky. The true story (1999) is a real piece of Americana, not for cynics!

## *Reader of the Quarter*

Sandra Steward of Wichita Falls, TX who scanned in pages from her old HC cook book to share with us, - Pg. 11

[www.SwanQuarter.net](http://www.SwanQuarter.net)

[www.SwanQuarterly.com](http://www.SwanQuarterly.com)

## ORGANIZATION OF THE QUARTER

Please contribute records about your ancestors

<http://www.ncgenweb.us/hyde/HYDE.HTM>



## AUTHOR OF THE QUARTER

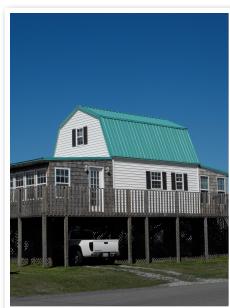
Jack Dudley, retired dentist - who has produced the most fascinating books on history of water-fowling throughout the NC east coast. For Hyde County he has done [Mattamuskeet](#) [and Ocracoke](#) [Waterfowl Heritage.](#)



Thank you  
Ms Kay Lynn Sheppard

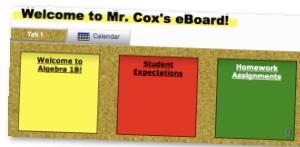
## TEACHER OF THE QUARTER

Mr John Cox  
Math Teacher  
Mattamuskeet High School

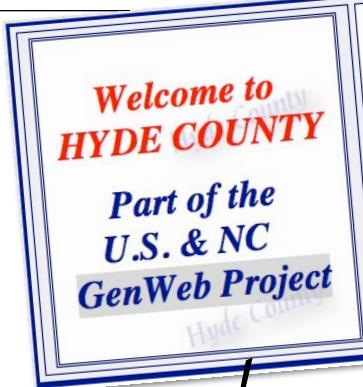


KEEPING HYDE COUNTY BEAUTIFUL

The owners of this little house at Swan Quarter Landing



[Visit his e-board <<<](#)



*A Road Less Traveled*

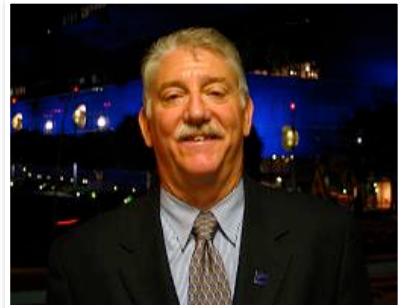


# One Credle moved to Hollywood

[credle@usc.edu](mailto:credle@usc.edu) "I haven't been to the homeland of the Credles since I was a small child, but your picture gallery brought back memories."

Thanks. George V. Credle III ( photo on the right)

[ilemme@mac.com](mailto:ilemme@mac.com) "Dear Mr Credle, r u the 'Credle' from Hollywood that I found through google? Would be nice to know. Also would it be OK to publish your e-mail in our next Swan Quarterly?"  
- Ingrid



"Certainly you may print my E-mail in the Swan Quarterly. The George V. Credle and Martha Credle who sold land to McGowan were my great grandparents who lived up near Fairfield. Many Credles lived around Rose Bay where the George V .Credle house, which is on the National Register, stands. When I wrote my e-mail "mentioning my visit of about 1954/56, I forgot that I had returned to Swan Quarter in 1967 or 68 with a girl friend who was then going to East Carolina. My cousin Thad Brown showed us around, and we met the late Albert Credle, my grandfather's younger brother. I grew up in Norfolk, Va. where my grandparents

had moved ca. 1910." My address is: 1211 N. Flores St. #9, W. Hollywood, Ca. 90069-2935, Thanks for your reply. - Geo.

*Bk. 12, p. 89 - 14 Apr. 1873 : George V. CREDLE to John J. McGOWAN, 80 acres for \$340, in Swan Quarter Township, it being one half of Abram BOOMER's land on South West Bay and the lake flats in front of BOOMER'S and purchased from D.M. CARTER, at a stake on the bank of the Lake at James CLAYTON'S South West Bay Patent... to John J. McGOWAN'S line... to the line of the flats of John A. LEE and Martha LEE'S line. Signed: George V. CREDLE, Martha Ann CREDLE. {Apr. Term, 1873}*

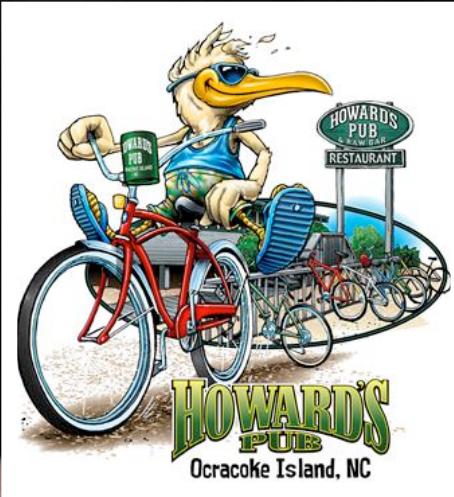
Thank you Ms Kay Lynn Sheppard for all your research, updating the Hyde County Genealogy website and for your help, dedication and support. <http://www.ncgenweb.us/hyde/HYDE.HTM>

# FISH PLENTY

The best time to eat and drink a freshly drawn tap beer at Howard's Pub is in the off-season. Though there is not really an 'off' at Howard's, they are open year round. We love to visit when the crowds sound more like their Inner Banks neighbors. They have a great beer selection, good food and are family friendly. Order the Seafood specials!!! - That's what Ocracoke is all about, Don't miss Karaoke on Saturdays in October.

- Hey and ya' got to have the hand-cut fries!

[www.howardspub.com](http://www.howardspub.com)



Photos: Ingrid Lemme

**EDITORS NOTE:**

Below are the e-mails we received from reader Ms. Georgia Phillips of Greene County, NC when we inquired in last months Swan Quarterly if anyone would know what year this old Hyde County cook book was first published.

Thank you Ms. Georgia

Dear Ingrid,

Thank you so much for Swan Quarterly. I was raised in the Oyster Creek area on the Farrow Road and was in the last graduating class at West Hyde School in 1964. So even though I have been away from Swan Quarter a long time and even though I have very few relatives left there, I still call it home.

I have the North Carolina Hyde County Cookbook. It was compiled by the Hyde County Home Demonstration Clubs in 1964. There have been several reprints.

(I still cook my favorite recipe in the book on page 59 - the Ambrosia Sweet Potato Bake.)

Thank you again,

*Georgia Phillips*

Dear Ingrid,

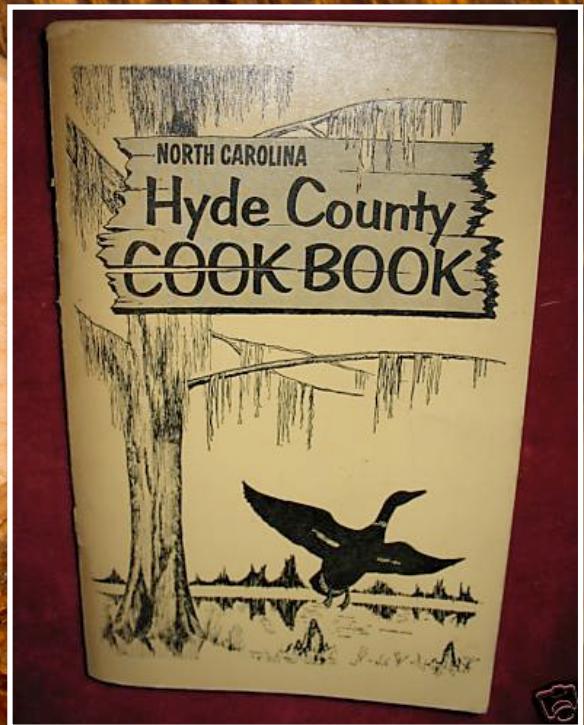
I'll be happy to send along the recipe for the Ambrosia Sweet Potato Bake. This recipe was submitted by Mrs. Carney Brown.

Here goes:

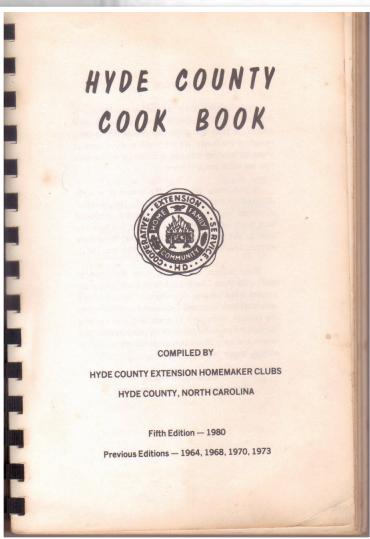
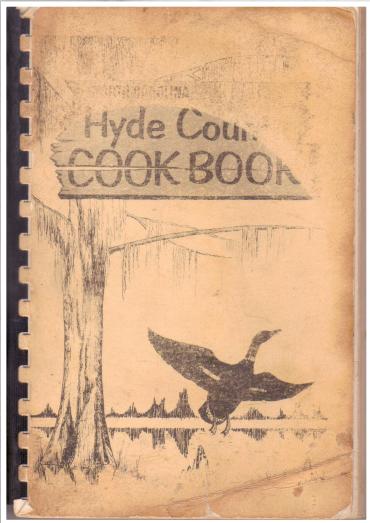
Slice 1/2 lemon, 1/2 orange - alternate with 6-7 cups sliced, cooked or canned drained sweet potatoes in 11 1/2 x 7 1/2 x 1 1/2" baking dish. Combine 9 oz can (1 cup) crushed pineapple, 1/2 cup each brown sugar and melted butter, 1/2 tsp salt. Pour over all. Sprinkle with 1/2 cup shredded coconut. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Delicious!

I have been living in Snow Hill in Greene County since 1991. You can publish my comment if you want to.

*Georgia Phyllis*



## PREFACE



Hyde County is one of the original counties that is steeped in tradition. One of these traditions is for a mother to pass on to her daughters the favorite recipes of the family. We are proud to share some of these old favorites with you, and also some new ones that we think you will enjoy.

It took many years for the dream of a Hyde County Cook Book to become a reality. The collection of recipes began in the 1950's and the completed book finally rolled off the press in 1964. The book has been so well received by the public that three more editions have been printed (1968, 1970 and 1973).

Many tedious hours have been dedicated to making the Hyde County Cook Book project the great success it has become. The efforts of Hyde County's very first Home Economic Extension Agent have been the primary instrument in organizing and carrying through the cause for nearly thirty years. It is for this reason and many others that we dedicate this, the 5th edition, to our beloved friend:

**Iberia Roach Tunnell  
Home Agent 1941-1949; 1962-1977**

I am responding to the question in the September Swan Quarterly regarding the Hyde County Cookbook. I have scanned and attached several pages for you: 1. Cover 2. Title Page 3. Preface 4. Reorder Cards – Last page in the book These are the only extra pages besides the recipes. My copy is much more worn than the one in your link to Ebay. I don't know if there was more than one edition, mine is the 5th edition 1980.

*I grew up in Engelhard and graduated from Mattamuskeet High School in 1983. I remember when I was in high school there was talk of putting together a Hyde County Cookbook. If I'm right, I think one of the History teachers, Mr. Morgan Harris, had something to do with it also. I think he was also into the Civil War researching members who served from eastern NC. I'm pretty sure I bought my copy while home on leave from the Air Force from Spencer's General Store in Engelhard. It has always been my little piece of home in a way.*

Of the attached files, my cover is very, very worn as it has traveled with me many years now, but the Title Page attachment shows the edition and date (5th ed, 1980). Hope this helps.

Sandra Steward - Wichita Falls, TX

*PS: I love the magazine, I was happy to find it earlier this year. It brings back so many good memories, thanks for all you do. Take Care.*



# Mattamuskeet Decoy & Waterfowl Festival

Hyde County's first Annual Mattamuskeet Decoy & Waterfowl Festival will happen in Swan Quarter at Mattamuskeet High School on November 21st & 22nd, 2009.

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.

## MEET THE GUYS

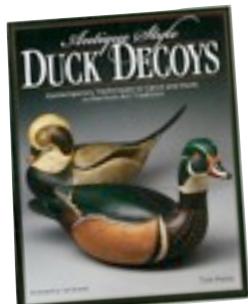
**PRESIDENT**  
Brad  
Gurganus

**VICE  
PRESIDENT**  
Gregory Berry

**CALLING  
COMPETITION**  
Brett Mason



- The Mattamuskeet Duck, Goose & Swan Calling Competition
- Carvers & Antique Decoys
- Books & Local Waterfowl Art



- Retriever Demonstration Saturday 9:00AM – 5:00PM
- Antique Tractors Sunday 9:00AM – 4:00PM
- Activities for Children One Day Pass \$5.00  
Adults/Children under 12 free



- Locally Cooked Favorites
- Saturday Night Oyster Special

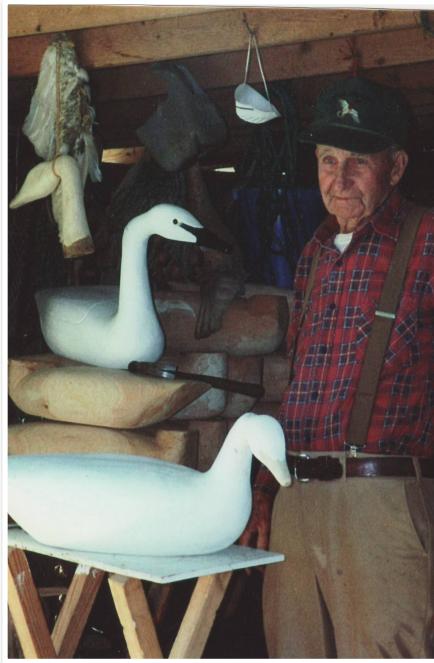
Located minutes from the historic Mattamuskeet Lodge, Wildlife Refuge and Lake.



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## MAN OF THE QUARTER PERCY CARAWAN 1910 - 2005

### DECoy MAKER OF THE LAKE MATTAMUSKEET AREA DECoy MAGAZINE, MARCH/APRIL 1991 BY KROGHIE ANDRESEN



Mention Lake Mattamuskeet, hunting and decoys, and the name Percy Carawan automatically comes to mind. What makes Percy stand out over the many hunting guides that flourished in this popular hunting destination? The answer is simple; he carved many fine goose decoys, the craftsmanship unequalled by any other maker from the area.

Percy was born in 1910 in Lowland, North Carolina across Pamlico Sound from the Lake Mattamuskeet area. One of 18 children, he had to fend for himself at an early age. His father, Alvin Rufus Carawan, was an avid fisherman, trapper and coon and waterfowl hunter. For many years, Alvin hunted the Pamlico Sound area from Goose Creek Island to Pamlico Sound. He passed on his knowledge and skills to young Percy. Eli carved Percy his first rig of 15 decoys to get him started; after that, Percy was on his own. Since the mid-1920s, Percy has made 400 to 500 decoys. When asked what influence his father had on his carving style, Percy responded, "Very little." However, if you study his father's decoys, you see a similarity in body, paint and head style. Later, Percy mastered the art.

Percy's family moved to Beaufort County in 1918; six years later, the family moved again to Hyde County. They lived near the water, just west of Swan Quarter so, at an early age, Percy began hunting the sound for ducks and geese. Initially, he hunted with his father's decoys, but he soon carved his own. Percy would scoop up the small piles of discarded crushed beans and partridge peas left behind by the

local harvesters, collect it into sacks, then use this wonderful waterfowl feed to bait local areas near the shore. Thousands of ducks, geese and swans came to feed here. Percy never shot while they fed; but after the food was gone, he set out his decoys and waited for small groups of birds to return.

In 1930, Lake Mattamuskeet was drained for three years by August Hechsher, a wealthy New York developer, in an effort to farm this fertile land. Two hundred miles of drainage canals, the world's largest stream pumps and the best farming equipment available couldn't keep the farm operational. Equipment failure, insect problems and severe weather conditions eventually caused the farm to fail. Once again, Lake Mattamuskeet was allowed to fill with water. During the years the lake was drained, the geese learned to feed in the fields. They changed their eating habits, from feeding on the grasses in the sound, marshes and lakes, to feeding on grain in the agricultural fields. The change from hand picking corn to mechanical harvesters was a factor. The mechanical harvesters cut the corn stalks near the ground, allowing the geese to land freely, and their use was not



# "The Hyde County Waterfowl Association"

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 our Annual Banquet held during the waterfowl season, and through sales of our custom artwork prints. The Hyde County Waterfowl Association is a non-profit organization with no paid employees.



Our on going projects are our wood duck nesting boxes, which we distribute yearly and this year decided to install them in badly needed areas.

We also have a major project to purchase land and clear the property for a Civic Center underway.

Hyde County Waterfowl Association -



Mattamuskeet Waterfowl Association supports tundra swan, mallards, ring-necked ducks, pintails, blacks, teals, woods, widgeons or other waterfowl in beautiful Hyde County, NC.

**[www.hydewaterfowl.com](http://www.hydewaterfowl.com)**

Please check the website for updates on breakfast, lunch, dinner info <http://www.hydewaterfowl.com>

as efficient, thereby leaving grain scattered throughout the field.

In 1937, Percy became a guide for the Lake Mattamuskeet government blinds. He earned \$7.50 per day for four hunters. Percy always wanted to guide and got his invitation from Speedy Tunnel who was employed by the state to manage the lake's blinds. Each morning, Speedy came to the old quonset hut on the causeway next to Charlie Carawan's store for the daily 5:30 drawing for blinds. Afterwards, each hunter was assigned a blind. The lucky ones drew blind #3, Percy's blind. Percy's was the third blind from the west end of the lake. It faced southwest overlooking an area called "Piney Shoals." The hunters could expect to see large numbers of ducks and geese. The first blind on the end belonged to Harvey Flowers, Percy's best friend for almost 50 years. The next one belonged to Glen Balance. Each morning, Percy met his hunters at the quonset hut and led them to the Rose Bay/Hodges Fork canal for the ten to fifteen minute boat ride to his blind. Upon approaching the blind, you would see his magnificent decoy rig, consisting of four swans, 60 ducks and 60 geese. Percy's geese were his favorite decoys, and he was a master at carving them. The

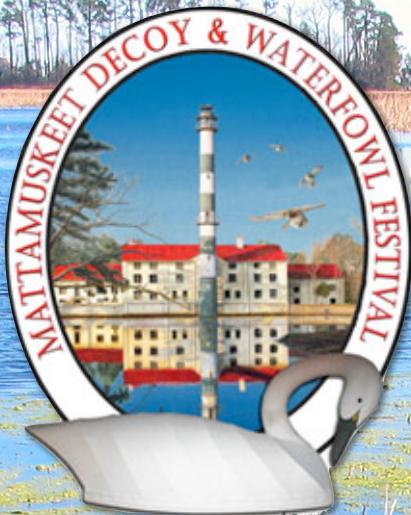
juniper bodies were large and well-shaped. Most had holes in the bottom for occasional use as stick-ups. Leather straps were placed in the front and rear to enable him to tie them end-to-end. The geese had large, flat bottoms to ride well in rough water. All of Percy's decoys had black gum root heads. The gum roots came from a swamp near Flower's house on Oyster Creek Road. The gum roots grew in an upside down 'U' shape in the swamp water. He chopped out the basic form of the head pattern while it was still attached to the stump "so I wouldn't have to haul out any excess." A trip to the swamp with an axe and burlap bag would generally produce ten to 15 roughly shaped head blanks. The roots added strength to the neck and hills because of the continuous grain throughout the head, plus they created an endless variety of head positions and attitudes. Percy had a typical set to his decoy rig. "I would put the four swans down the shoreline to the east near the willows," he said. The willows were rooted by sticking shoots into the water to create a more natural look. His blind was located in some cypress trees, 80 yards out into the lake. "I would always put out the geese behind the blind, and the ducks were put out to the leeward of the geese."

Ducks typically fed on the grasses or spoils pulled up by the larger geese.

Often, hunters wanted him to rig the geese in front of the blind. He responded, "Don't geese normally land 60 to 100 yards short of their feeding area and swim in?" The hunters would respond, "Yes." "Then that should put them right near the blind," he quickly added. He hated when hunters blew their calls because, "They scared more waterfowl than they ever brought in." Percy normally called with his mouth; after he got false teeth, he had to buy a wooden call. He never called a goose after it set its wings; he only called to attract the geese. Percy was a knowledgeable hunter, trapper and decoy carver, one of the best outdoorsmen in Hyde County. On many occasions, upon taking the hunters into his blind, the geese would "sound like thunder getting up." While the flock passed over, he instructed the hunters to get down and not shoot. This infuriated many, but Percy knew the geese would return in groups of five to 15 and this was the best way to consistently shoot waterfowl. Percy had several unique ways to rig out his stand of geese. First, he anchored a decoy line across the wind at both ends. Then, he

# Ferrell A. Berry

1946 - 2006



Mr. Berry was one of the founders of the Hyde County Waterfowl Association and is honored together with Percy Carawan as the two men who have contributed so much to Hyde County's waterfowl heritage at the First Annual Mattamuskeet Decoy & Waterfowl Festival in November.

*More about this honoree in the next issue of the Swan Quarterly. - Editor.*



Photo submitted by the Hyde County Waterfowl Association

ties each individual decoy line to the anchor line, varying the length of the lines. This caused the geese to sway from side to side and "look more like real geese." Percy varied the number of decoys depending on weather conditions, but also to prevent the geese from noticing a set number or rig pattern. Percy could tell when a goose was in the air by the sound of its call. This amazed hunters because thousands sat on the lake within vocal range and constantly honked.

Percy had a Chesapeake Lab, an excellent retriever, named Sam. Sam would actually place the heads of ducks or geese in the fork of a small tree to prevent them from floating away. When instructed, Sam would retrieve them to the blind. Sam had a love for Coca-Cola, so Percy would always bring a six-pack to share. Many hunters were surprised to see Sam stand on two legs to have a coke poured into his mouth.

Percy also guided at another government blind on the east end of the lake on Barber Shanty Road. He actually had two blinds here, one on the lake, camouflaged by willows, and an alternate in the marsh near several pot holes in case conditions on the lake were bad. Percy built a walkway through the marsh to avoid the sticky peat mud. The marsh blind was good

for both ducks and geese. One year, Percy made 100 decoys. He contacted a man named Cashie Dodge to place the order for juniper logs. Percy and Flowers borrowed Sheriff Charlie Cahoon's truck to pick up the wood. They arrived late in the afternoon and were stunned when Cashie told them,

"Boys, we can't get the wood until dark." After several hours, they drove without lights through a bean field to the edge of a juniper swamp. They loaded the truck, paid Cashie and returned to

Mattamuskeet wondering whose wood was in the back of Sheriff Cahoon's truck.

Percy and Flowers would often limit out their hunting parties by noon and go quail hunting. They would consistently bag 20 to 25 quail in an afternoon. "Those days are gone due to changing agricultural practices and letting the fox and coon populations get out-of-hand," he said. He sometimes made decoys for other guides. "I didn't make decoys for other people for the money, but only due to friendship," he said. Many of the guides recognized the superior workmanship of Percy's geese and asked for his assistance. His decoys improved their stands since most of the other area decoys were rather crude. "You put a rig of Herter's

goose decoys on one side of the blind and my decoys on the other, and the geese would come to mine ninety percent of the time," he said.

Percy has led a rich and rewarding life in the great outdoor environment of coastal North Carolina. Sentimentally, he still gets tears when speaking of the fondness for his father. Married in 1931, he cherishes his wonderful relationship with his wife. And he takes a father's pleasure in noting that his son Cleron still lives close to home.

The legend and memory of Percy Carawan will live forever through the magnificent swan and goose decoys he'll leave behind. Friends and associates will remember him as a master of his work. He once guided for me when I was a teenager; after 30 years, I've recalled that childhood experience. I still remember awaiting the early morning draw for the government blinds. I still remember the other hunters whispering, "I hope we get Percy Carawan because he's the best."

*Published here with permission of Joe Engers of [www.decoymag.com](http://www.decoymag.com)*

 **Decoy Magazine**  
The ultimate online source for decoy lovers.

*Alvin Percival "Percy" Carawan, 94, of Engelhard, died Thursday, Jan. 13, 2005, at Cross Creek Health Care Center in Swan Quarter.*

## REMEMBERING PONZER CONTINUED... BY JUDI RABURN

Besides rowing granddaddy's boat across the Pungo River to Leechville for some refreshments and fishing along the way, we also fished off the old Mill Creek Bridge and at "Log Landing." Log Landing was a cleared place about a  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile down the creek from the Mill Creek Bridge. We'd walk through the woods carrying our cane fishing poles with a can of worms which had been dug up behind the old smoke house. When my cousins weren't around to help, I'd go fishing from Mill Creek Bridge alone and since I was afraid to take the fish off my hook, when I caught a fish I'd have to wait from someone to drive by and wave them down. They'd stop and take that old cat fish or eel or robin off the hook for me. One of my most special fish removers was Mr. Fred Smithwick. He'd always be glad to help and would tell me fish tales and give me pointers or secrets of how to catch fish. Mr. Fred also used to call me "Pistol Packing Mama." The reason

he gave me that name is when I was about 12 years old, I'd take the 22 single-shot rifle out for some target practice.



I'd shoot at anything in those days: birds, squirrels, etc. (I'm not proud of that now). But one day I was shooting at targets and one was a Pepsi sign on the side of granddaddy's store which stood in the corner of the yard. I didn't realize the store siding was so flimsy and it seems the shot went right through the sign, right through the side of the store, right through the candy showcase and right through a candy jar that held penny candy. Thank goodness granddaddy wasn't standing at the cash drawer or that shot might have gone right through him too! Anyway, I got in quite a bit of trouble with that shot and that gun was put away out of my reach after that. But as usual, the word got

around about what I had done and Mr. Fred Smethwick named me Pistol Packing Mama after that. I kinda liked that name.

Granddaddy's store was a small general store which sold candy, sodas, hoop cheese, crackers, pork n' beans, tobacco products and odds and ends. It was a place to hang out and socialize too. There was a big ditch in front of the store and one of the past times was seeing who could jump that ditch without falling in. Most fell in sooner or later.



...remembering Ponzer to be continued...



## TEEN OF THE QUARTER MISS MINDY SMITH

---

History repeats itself it seems.  
My granddaughter, Mindy Smith,  
is the fisherwoman I never was.  
When she visits she fishes right here  
on the Pungo River and within 30  
minutes one day, she caught a  
bream, a crappy and a nice size  
puppy drum (spot) and as the true  
sportswoman she is, returned them  
to the river to grow some more  
(she's an animal lover too!) She just  
graduated from high school, goes  
to Wilson Tech and works part  
time at Food Lion in Wilson, truly  
a granddaughter to be proud of.



Meet  
Miss  
Mindy  
Smith



*Text and photos by  
Judi Raburn of Ponzer*

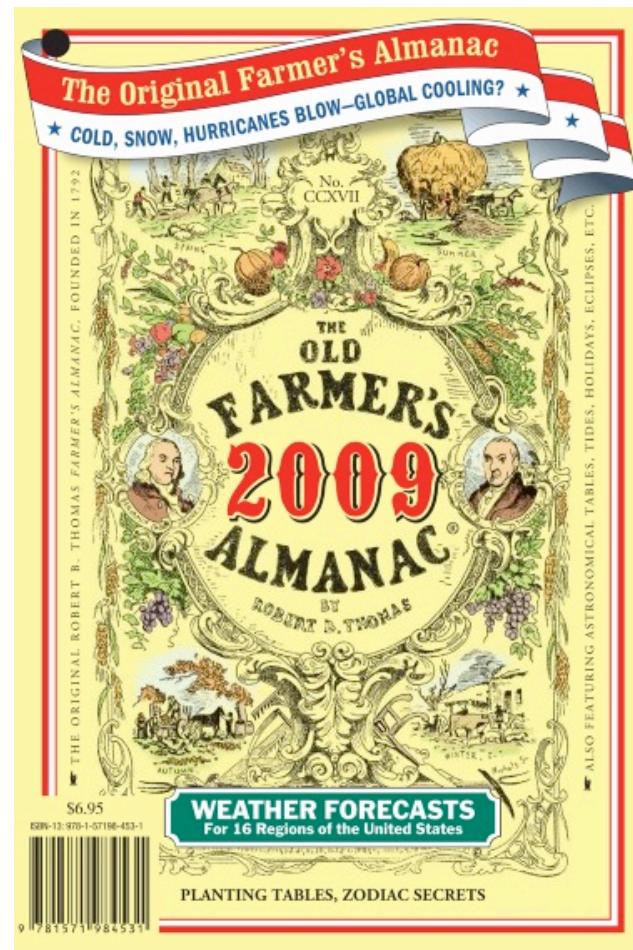
**Dear Ingrid**  
**In the magazine, they mentioned Middleton. I took this photo years ago and it still amazes people. I thought you might like it also. There was (I don't know if it's still there) a sign at the end of Lazy Lane in Engelhard (opposite end from Farrow's Red and White grocery store). Take Care.**  
**Sandra Steward, TX**

*NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: I am sure it is still there. Is there anyone who has recently taken a photo of the funny road sign?*



## Old Farmer's Advice...

Your fences need to be horse-high, pig-tight and bull-strong.  
Keep skunks and bankers at a distance.  
Life is simpler when you plow around the stump.  
A bumble bee is considerably faster than a John Deere tractor.  
Words that soak into your ears are whispered...not yelled.  
Meanness don't jes' happen overnight.  
Forgive your enemies. It messes up their heads.  
Do not corner something that you know is meaner than you.  
It don't take a very big person to carry a grudge.  
You cannot unsay a cruel word.  
Every path has a few puddles.  
When you wallow with pigs, expect to get dirty.  
The best sermons are lived, not preached.  
Most of the stuff people worry about ain't never gonna happen anyway.  
Don't judge folks by their relatives.  
Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.  
Timing has a lot to do with the outcome of a Rain dance.  
If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop diggin'.  
Always drink upstream from the herd.



# SWAN QUARTER



Old farm equipment, seen at the Tunnell Farm in Swan Quarter  
<http://tunnellfarmhouse.home.coastalnet.com>

## **TOO BUSY FOR A FRIEND?**

One day a teacher asked her students to list the names of the other students in the room on two sheets of paper, leaving a space between each name.

Then she told them to think of the nicest thing they could say about each of their classmates and write it down. It took the remainder of the class period to finish their assignment, and as the students left the room, each one handed in the papers.

That Saturday, the teacher wrote down the name of each student on a separate sheet of paper, and listed what everyone else had said about that individual.

On Monday she gave each student his or her list. Before long, the entire class was smiling. 'Really?' she heard whispered. 'I never knew that I meant anything to anyone!' and, 'I didn't know others liked me so much,' were most of the comments.

No one ever mentioned those papers in class again. She never knew if they discussed them after class or with their parents, but it didn't matter. The exercise had accomplished its purpose. The students were happy with themselves and one another. That group of students moved on.

Several years later, one of the students was killed in Viet Nam and his teacher attended the funeral of that special student. She had never seen a serviceman in a military coffin before. He looked so handsome, so mature.

The church was packed with his friends. One by one those who loved him took a last walk by the coffin. The teacher was the last one to bless the coffin. As she stood there, one of the soldiers who acted as pallbearer came up to her. 'Were you Mark's math teacher?' he asked. She nodded: 'yes.' Then he said: 'Mark talked about you a lot.'

After the funeral, most of Mark's former classmates went together to a luncheon. Mark's mother and father were there, obviously waiting to speak with his teacher.

'We want to show you something,' his father said, taking a wallet out of his pocket. 'They found this on Mark when he was killed. We thought you might recognize it.' Opening the billfold, he carefully removed two worn pieces of notebook paper that had obviously been taped, folded and refolded many times. The teacher knew without looking that the papers were the ones on which she had listed all the good things each of Mark's classmates had said about him.

'Thank you so much for doing that,' Mark's mother said. 'As you can see, Mark treasured it.'

All of Mark's former classmates started to gather around. Charlie smiled rather sheepishly and said, 'I still have my list. It's in the top drawer of my desk at home.'

Chuck's wife said, 'Chuck asked me to put his in our wedding album.'

'I have mine too,' Marilyn said. 'It's in my diary'

Then Vicki, another classmate, reached into her pocketbook, took out her wallet and showed her worn and frazzled list to the group. 'I carry this with me at all times,' Vicki said and without batting an eyelash, she continued: 'I think we all saved our lists'

That's when the teacher finally sat down and cried. She cried for Mark and for all his friends who would never see him again.

The density of people in society is so thick that we forget that life will end one day. And we don't know when that one day will be.

So please, tell the people you love and care for, that they are special and important. Tell them, before it is too late.

**E-MAILED TO US BY  
MAGGIE SPENCER**

Dear Lord,

Every single evening As I'm lying here in bed, This tiny little Prayer Keeps running through my head: God bless all my family Wherever they may be, Keep them warm And safe from harm For they're so close to me. And God, there is one more thing I wish that you could do; Hope you don't mind me asking, Please bless my computer too.

Now I know that it's unusual To Bless a motherboard, But listen just a second While I explain it to you, Lord. You see, that little metal box Holds more than odds and ends; Inside those small compartments Rest so many of my friends. I know so much about them By the kindness that they give, And this little scrap of metal Takes me in to where they live. By faith is how I know them Much the same as you. We share in what life brings us And from that our friendships grew.

Please take an extra minute From your duties up above, To bless those in my address book That's filled with so much love. Wherever else this prayer may reach To each and every friend, Bless each e-mail inbox And each person who hits 'send'...



*E-mailed to me by Lou Armstrong of Ponzer. Story was e-mailed to Ms. Lou by her very good friend, Polly Cox of Washington, NC. Ms Polly is 84 years young and spry as a 30 year-old!*

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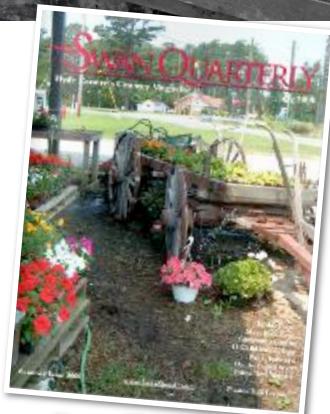
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