

# SWAN QUARTERLY

Early Spring 2009

A Hyde County Publication



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Save the Date: May 16th, 2009  
Engelhard Seafood Festival



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# the SWAN Quarterly

PUBLISHERS: INGRID AND NELI LEMME



## Sausage Day

*Ponzer Ruritan Club Sausage Day is Sat., March 21. Only pre-orders will be sold. Call 252-833-4439 or 943-3123 to place your order. Pick up sausage between 3-5 p.m. on Saturday and 1-3 p.m. on Sunday. Last time to buy sausage until November.*



## ✧ Quote of the Quarter ✧

*"There is a great deal of poetry and fine sentiment in a chest of tea." -Ralph Waldo Emerson*

## DEAR READER

In just a couple of weeks, on March 20th, it will be the first day of spring, the wonderful season when life starts all over again. I'll ride my bike to Mattamuskeet where I watch the swans with the sun on my face. I'll ride back to my house, sit on the porch, sip my sweet tea and talk to a neighbor.



I'll walk down to the Swan Quarter Grill and buy a coffee, wave to Pat at the No Name Gas Station and visit the guys at the Swan Quarter Firehouse. I love spring, in Hyde County. Please send us your photos of things and people you love in Hyde County! Happy spring, Ingrid.

*Lake Mattamuskeet, one of the most beautiful natural resources in North Carolina, is located on the east coast, halfway between Maine and Florida. The lake is located near*

*the center of Hyde County, on the mainland just west of North Carolina's Outer Banks. Lake Mattamuskeet makes up most of Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge. The recorded history of the lake dates back to*

*July 11, 1585, when sixty English explorers from Sir Walter Raleigh's Roanoke Island expedition visited the lake.*





## ...On the Board Walk...

### Lady of the Quarter

Miss Carol M. Williams, customer service rep. of Eastern Carolina Bank, Swan Quarter

### Man of the Quarter

Brad Gurganus, owner and operator of Gurganus Guide Service, Swan Quarter

### Friends of the Quarter

Left to right: Kate Anderson and Macy Sadler of Hyde County

### Business of the Quarter

Gibbs Store of Engelhard, Hyde County, North Carolina

NC FERRY  
March 18  
Reservations Online  
[www.ncferry.org](http://www.ncferry.org)

SATURDAY  
March 21  
Sausage Day

SUNDAY  
APRIL 12TH  
Happy Easter

SUNDAY  
MAY 10TH  
Mother's Day

SATURDAY  
MAY 16TH  
E.SeafoodFest

### Couple of the Quarter

Mr. and Mrs. Sadler of Swan Quarter. Mr. Sadler turned 62 on Sunday, March 8th. Happy Birthday !!!



### Boat of the Quarter

The Pink Boat, as seen at Swan Quarter Landing., Swan Quarter, North Carolina



### Organization of the Quarter

The Mattamuskeet Foundation, a 501(c)(3) engaged in research and educational activities to preserve Mattamuskeet



### In the News

COVER STORY:  
COASTAL HAVEN:  
Sand and sea work magic at Ocracoke  
Atlanta Journal  
Constitution - Atlanta,  
GA, [www.ajc.com/travel/content/travel/homepage/index.html?cxntlid=nav\\_trvl](http://www.ajc.com/travel/content/travel/homepage/index.html?cxntlid=nav_trvl)



# PONZER

## *With a Heart of Gold by Judi Raburn*

Ponzer - The heart of Ponzer is the PEOPLE. The PEOPLE are honest, trustworthy, dependable, reliable, hard working, friendly, church going, 'give you the shirt off their backs' kind of PEOPLE. This is true today as it was when I grew up there in the '40s. When Ingrid asked me to do an article about Ponzer, I thought to myself, "Well, sure I can do that. I love Ponzer (now)." The love I have for Ponzer now is not the way I felt about Ponzer when I grew up there in the '40s and '50s. As a child I thought it was a boring place and I couldn't wait to get away, but then as the years flew by, I couldn't wait to get



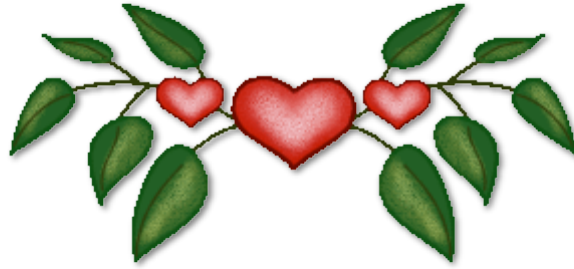
back there!" I left Ponzer and the area in the early '60s to "seek my fortune". That hasn't happened yet, but in the process as I was driving to work in heavy traffic, fighting my way through a hectic day, I'd drift off to Ponzer in my mind, reminiscing of the peaceful life I left behind and the peace waiting for me back in the woods on our family property.

Back in those days Ponzer was quite rural. It consisted of the "upper neighborhood" and the "lower neighborhood." It had a country store/post office run by Mr. Fletcher Manning and another country

store just across the ditch run by my granddaddy, McCoy Ainsley; another two or three stores down in the "lower neighborhood" which was out on Hwy 264 run by Miss Bell Squires, Mr. Carlton Morris and Mr. Preston Simmons. Mr. Preston also ground corn meal and hominy grits there. Later on Mr. Fletcher closed his store/post office and Miss Bert Smithwick ran the post office.

>>>





## ...The Heart of Ponzer...

Later on, when Miss Bert passed away, my Aunt Rosalind Smithwick ran the post office. That post office building still stands unoccupied just across the road from the Ponzer sign approximately one mile up Hwy 45 from the church. Back then Hwy 45 wasn't paved; and it dead ended just past Mr. Rob Lowe's House up by Shallop Creek. We didn't have a car and were basically stranded in the outback. If we wanted to go to town for groceries for something other than what the local country stores didn't carry, either a neighbor with a car gave us a lift or we walked down to the church (Mt. Olive Church of Christ)

at Hwy 264 and caught the Engelhard-Washington Bus Line. It cost 25 cents to go to Belhaven and if memory serves me correctly, 40 cents to go to Washington. That was the one-way price. And if you went to Belhaven, you spent the entire day there because the bus made the round trip from Engelhard to Washington and back to Engelhard in a 10-12 hour timeframe. The bus station was on Main Street in Belhaven somewhere in the vicinity of where Fish Hooks Restaurant is now. The Fish Hooks building was the feed/seed store then and I can't remember which side of the feed/seed store the bus station was on. (it's either where the Raynor Law Firm is now or the vacant lot next to Fish Hooks) There was a "white" waiting room and a "colored" waiting room with each having their designated water fountain. This, of course, was prior to integration and that's the way it was then. - - - To be continued...

*Text and photos by Miss Judi Raburn of Ponzer and Florida*







## *Mount Olive Church of Christ*

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As early as 1862 there were Disciples living in the Ponzer community, originally named Shallop Creek. On October 14, 1866 the church was enrolled by the State's Annual Meeting when the congregation was represented by J.E. Gurkin and James Kelly Voliva. There were 26 members enrolled and services were held in Clark's Schoolhouse. The church did not start using the name Mount Olive until 1888 and the community became known by that name also. Later when a post office was to be located, the name "Mount Olive" had already been designated for another town, and the name "Ponzer" was selected in recognition of the man who had been most responsible for bringing the railroad into the area.

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In 1882 it was reported the congregation was making plans to erect a church building. In 1887 and 1888 the congregation spent \$95. 85 on "building and repairs." This indicated the church was built at that time using contributed material and labor, thus explaining the low cost for the construction of the building. It was reported that Samuel Boyd, Jr. was the first person buried in the church cemetery, and that he was buried just before the church was completed. Mr. Boyd died in 1886, so this gives added evidence that the church was built around 1887-88.

James Kelly Voliva was the first clerk of the church in 1887. The first Sunday School was organized in 1888 with Franklin Alexander Crary as superintendent. There were 56 members including 6 teachers. Mount Olive church has continued to grow over the years, and at the present time has a well kept physical plant. During recent years the church dropped its affiliation with the Christian Church, Disciple of Christ, in North Carolina and is now associated with the Church of Christ in North Carolina.

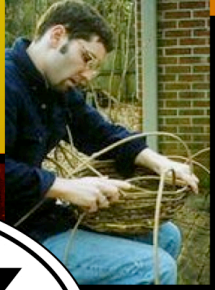
The church is a white structure to which additions have been made during the years. It is surrounded by the church cemetery and a beautiful grove of oak and pine trees.

(Information taken from Hyde County History published by the Hyde Co. Historical Society in 1976.)

(Church Photo by Miss Judi Raburn)



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## *How does your car fit?*

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### **WHAT:**

Come witness the launch of this first-of-its-kind program that could make a lifesaving difference to both older drivers and their loved ones. Developed through collaboration among the American Society on Aging, AAA, AARP and the American Occupational Therapy Association, CarFit is the first program to offer older adults the opportunity to check how their personal cars “fit” them.

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Trained professionals from East Carolina University will lead older drivers through a 12-point checklist with their vehicle, recommend car adjustments and adaptations and offer community specific resources and activities that could make their cars “fit” better or enhance their safety. An Occupational Therapist will be on hand to provide information to older drivers on how to maintain and strengthen driving health.



**WHO:** All are welcome to attend - sponsored by the Ponzer Ruritan Club

**WHEN:** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. - March 28, 2009

**WHERE:** Ponzer Ruritan Club Building on Hwy 264 East.

**COST:** **FREE**

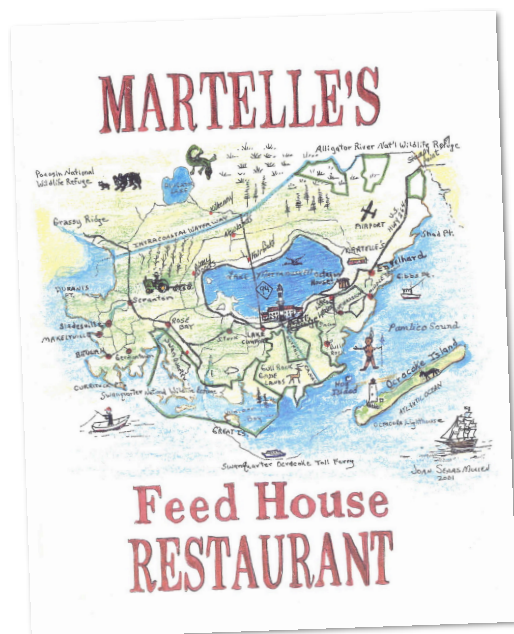
**CONTACT:** *June Wagner, President Ponzer Ruritan Club at 252-833-4439 or on e-mail at [junecarol7@hotmail.com](mailto:junecarol7@hotmail.com)*





## *When it's feedn' time in Hyde*

Martelle's was opened in March of 1997 by Martelle & Veronica Marshall. Three years later the moniker, "Feed House", was added after moving a feed tank from their old hog operation to the restaurant as a marker. Today it is Martelle's trademark. Martelle's Feed House is located 33301 US Highway 264, just west of the charming, historic village of Engelhard and it sure is worth it to go out of your way to eat there. The Marshalls operate their restaurant with the help of their sons Brandon, Justin, and Brian, and other family members. What started as a small restaurant and catering business



12 years ago has evolved into a full service restaurant offering a delicious menu. The locals say that they can be proud of their homemade BBQ, fried chickens, steaks, chops, all kinds of local seafood, and delicious sandwiches. A daily lunch buffet is offered as well as the full menu. The salad bar is available all day, and the prices are reasonable, in my humble opinion.

After an expansion in 2003 the Marshalls started an oyster bar, open in hunting season from November to January. Then they serve fresh LOCAL oysters, and shrimp. Oysters are served by the peck and half peck, while shrimp are served by the pound and half pound. As it says on their website, "Come enjoy the laid back atmosphere, while one of our friendly staff steams and shucks your oysters."

Photos and text adapted from

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

**NOTE: Sunday Buffet from 11 - 3pm**





## Learn About the Making Home Affordable Refinance and Modification Options

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The President's plan was created to help millions of homeowners refinance or modify their mortgages.

*Refinancing:* Many homeowners pay their mortgages on time but are not able to refinance to take advantage of today's lower mortgage rates perhaps due to a decrease in the value of their home. A Home Affordable Refinance will help borrowers whose loans are held by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac refinance into a more affordable mortgage. *Modification:* Many homeowners are struggling to make their monthly mortgage payments either because their interest rate has increased or they have less income. *A Home Affordable Modification will provide them with mortgage payments they can afford.*

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**Who is Eligible?** - Please use the self-assessment tools provided on this website to see if you are among the 7 to 9 million homeowners who can benefit from Making Home Affordable. Based on your results, we will provide suggestions about what you can do next.

**FIND OUT IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE.** - Beware of Foreclosure Rescue Scams - Help Is Free!

- \* There is never a fee to get assistance or information about Making Home Affordable from your lender or a HUD-approved housing counselor.

- \* Beware of any person or organization that asks you to pay a fee in exchange for housing counseling services or modification of a delinquent loan. Do not pay – walk away!

- \* Beware of anyone who says they can “save” your home if you sign or transfer over the deed to your house. Do not sign over the deed to your property to any organization or individual unless you are working directly with your mortgage company to forgive your debt.

- \* Never make your mortgage payments to anyone other than your mortgage company without their approval.

- \* Need urgent help? Contact the Homeowner's HOPE™ Hotline: (888) 995-HOPE

- \* <http://www.financialstability.gov/makinghomeaffordable/index.html>

- \* [www.Treas.gov](http://www.Treas.gov) – [www.USA.gov](http://www.USA.gov) – [www.WhiteHouse.gov](http://www.WhiteHouse.gov)



## *Don't Miss Gibbs Country Store in Engelhard*

Gibbs Store or Gibbs Hardware - or Gibbs Country Store - located in Engelhard, NC, 35095 US 264, is a must, even if you just stick your head into the door and say hello to owners Gregg Gibbs and his wife Brenda and their helpers. The historic store now includes another floor upstairs and we want to give you a little tour and tell you all about it. There is a huge selection of top quality products with great prices! It really doesn't matter if you are entering these original old doors of Gibbs Store as hunter or fisher person, looking for some gear or you need a creative birthday gift, it is all there and then some.



*"Visit this "old-timey" hardware store and you can almost smell the oiled sawdust on the floor. For those of you not old enough to remember this kind of sawdust, it was sprinkled out just before sweeping up to collect dust and leaves a thin shine behind...." is says on [www.homegrownhandmade.com](http://www.homegrownhandmade.com)*





## *American History at Gibbs Hardware*

Gibbs Country Store of Engelhard is a 'makes me feel good' shop, and it works like a charm. Here time stands still and the worries of our often fast paced lives feel suddenly mercifully distant. One might be surprised to find Gibbs' own jams amongst things as hardware, tools, camping supplies, cookware, gifts, jewelry, Carhartt workwear and outerwear pieces such as shorts, woven shirts, pants, jackets and accessories, hunting and fishing supplies. Gibbs offers great customer service and with years of experience they know what an Engelhard might need. The quaint fishing village of Engelhard dates



back to 1650 and farming and fishing are still the two main industries, plus the more recently added eco-tourism. Gibbs' century old store is one of the stores that was built on the banks of Far Creek with rear doors facing the creek to enable easy loading, and customers are still taking advantage of that service today, confirmed Miss Pat Hubley, who works at the store.- IL

Gibbs Store - 35095 Us 264, Engelhard, NC  
Phone: 252 -925-4511



*Save the Date: Saturday May 16th, 2009*  
*For Our Engelhard Seafood Festival*

*The Engelhard Development Corporation, a non-profit organization, sponsors the Engelhard Seafood Festival. Members are concerned citizens striving to improve the quality of life in and around the village of Engelhard.*

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- Tideland EMC
- Hyde County Chamber
- Harris Steak and Seafood House
- Engelhard Florist
- Mayo's Com. Fishing Supply
- Tri-County Telephone Coop
- Rose Welding and Crane Service
- Engelhard Seafood, Inc.
- Cooperative Bank
- AgCarolina Financial
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[WWW.ENGELHARDSEAFOODFESTIVAL.COM](http://WWW.ENGELHARDSEAFOODFESTIVAL.COM)  
[info@engelhardseafoodfestival.com](mailto:info@engelhardseafoodfestival.com)

*Engelhard Development Corporation  
Seafood Festival Committee, Engelhard, NC  
2008 Chairperson: Charles Williford - 252-925-9911  
2008 Assistant Chairperson: Bethany Pugh 252-925-3719*







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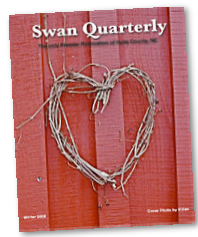
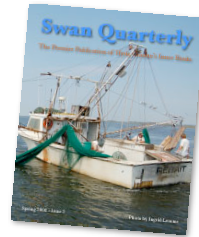
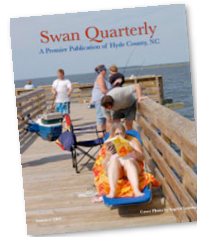
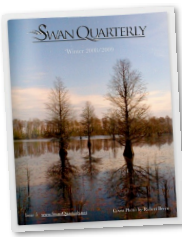
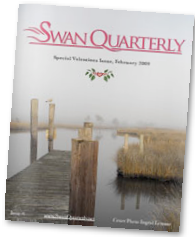


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