

Ocracoke Island Proves To Be Poor Man's Bermuda

By HAL BOYLE
OCRACOKE, N. C., April 4 (AP)—Ocracoke island, a 16-mile-long curve of sand some 10 miles off the North Carolina mainland, is a "poor man's Bermuda," where wild ponies dig their own wells and a woman once lived to be 117 years old.

It is a timeless isle where money means little and a man has to think hard to find anything to worry about. There are really only three things to do here—fish, hunt ducks and geese or just sit and listen to an everlasting wind push the sea against the sand with a muffled "flap flup flup."

Some wealthy people spend a lot of travel money just to come here to do these things—which

the island's population of 700 enjoys free.

The world washed by Ocracoke during the war between the states. Before that it had been a notorious pirate hangout, a focal point of operation for shore wreckers—some of whom made a business of luring ships into reefs, and an important port of entry.

Bypassed Now
Now it is a peaceful, bypassed fishing village. You don't have to buy a state automobile license because there is only one small concrete road, built by the navy. But it doesn't go anywhere.

There are no police and no jails. The island was peopled by pirates and shipwrecked sailors, but there hasn't been a murder for more than one hundred years.

"A couple of the boys act up occasionally," said C. F. Boyette, manager of the village hotel, "but taint worth the trouble to go over to the mainland and swear out a warrant."

There is no housing shortage on Ocracoke, no doctor, no street cars, no saloons or drug stores, no race problems.

The one negro family on the island has been there for three generations. Its members attend the white church and school and are well liked.

Pirate Legend
There is a legend that the pirate Blackbeard named the island. To elude pursuers, he is reported to have exclaimed impatiently "oh, crow cock"; earlier sea charts, however, listed the island as Ocracoke—so the story is plain tourist Ocracoke and built, so to speak.

The two chief island families—the Howards and the Wahaas—are descended from William Howard, a quartermaster for Blackbeard who escaped hanging, and Ahab Wahab, an Arab sailor, washed ashore in the 19th century. The families are deeply intermingled. "Everybody on this island is just a little related—if you could trace it back," said one old resident.

The islanders are ruggedly independent and retain vestiges of the speech of Elizabeth England. They are friendly and courteous to outsiders but unimpressed by "important" people.

Every Fourth of July they pen and brand colts of the score or two of wild ponies which roam the marshes. The animals paw shallow wells in the sand to get water and lie down to drink it. Nobody yet has been able to teach them to sip through a straw.

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Portland Gets Guernsey Sale

Northwest Guernsey breeders are again able to come back to Portland, after three years of holding the Washington-Oregon Guernsey sales at Chehalis, Wash.

Arrangements have been made by The B. Wilcox, president of the Pacific International Exposition, and Walter A. Holt, manager, for use of the building.

The 1947 sale will be held Thursday, April 24, with 69 registered Guernseys, selected by a committee of four breeders, from the best herds in Washington and Oregon. Only the tops of any herd have been accepted by the committee, with careful selection based on production, type and ancestry.

Visitors are expected from all western states as well as from the east coast. A banquet for Guernsey breeders will be held at the Multnomah hotel Wednesday evening, April 23.

Catalogs are available at the office of the American Guernsey Cattle club, 302 Corbett building, Portland 4, Ore.

Klamath County VD Rate Increases

Veneral diseases in Klamath county showed a considerable increase for January of this year over the same month of 1946, according to the reports of the Oregon State board of health. There were 10 cases on syphilis reported this January in the county as compared with only one for the same period last year. Gonorrhea showed a decline with only four cases as compared with seven last year.

Also reported by the board of health for the week ending March 22, were two cases of measles, and one case each of chicken pox, mumps and scarlet fever.

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1947 Adler Award Winner



Looking over some sheet music is Ronnie Dimmick, 14-year-old baritone who won the Adler Award this year. Ronnie started singing with his three-R's, and had his first solo part when he was nine. He was a soprano until his voice changed last year to baritone.

Grazing Act Information

Due to recent heated controversy over the Taylor Grazing act, the U. S. forest service, Forest News, has released the following information.

"Adjustments in numbers of livestock to be grazed during 1947 on the 19 national forests in the North Pacific region (Oregon and Washington) have been determined by a survey of the range situation.

"The average livestock owner

using the national forest range has retained his privilege for at least the present numbers of cattle for 15 years and present numbers of sheep for 17 years. He will continue to use national forest range indefinitely for whatever numbers the range will carry without deterioration."

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Potato Men Get Tule Spuds

The finest of Tulelake White Rose potatoes were on the menu at the Carlsbad hotel, Carlsbad, Calif., during the first week of March, when growers and dealers from the western states and Canada were in the California city inspecting the Oceanside seed potato test plots near that point.

The Tulelake Growers association shipped potatoes there for the occasion. Clifford Wood, manager of the association, has received a letter from Oscar O. Stamm, assistant hotel manager,

expressing appreciation for the gift, adding that many a comment was heard from guests regarding the quality of the potatoes.

In the six-months period from August, 1946, through January, 1947, civilians salvaged more than 43 million pounds of fat.

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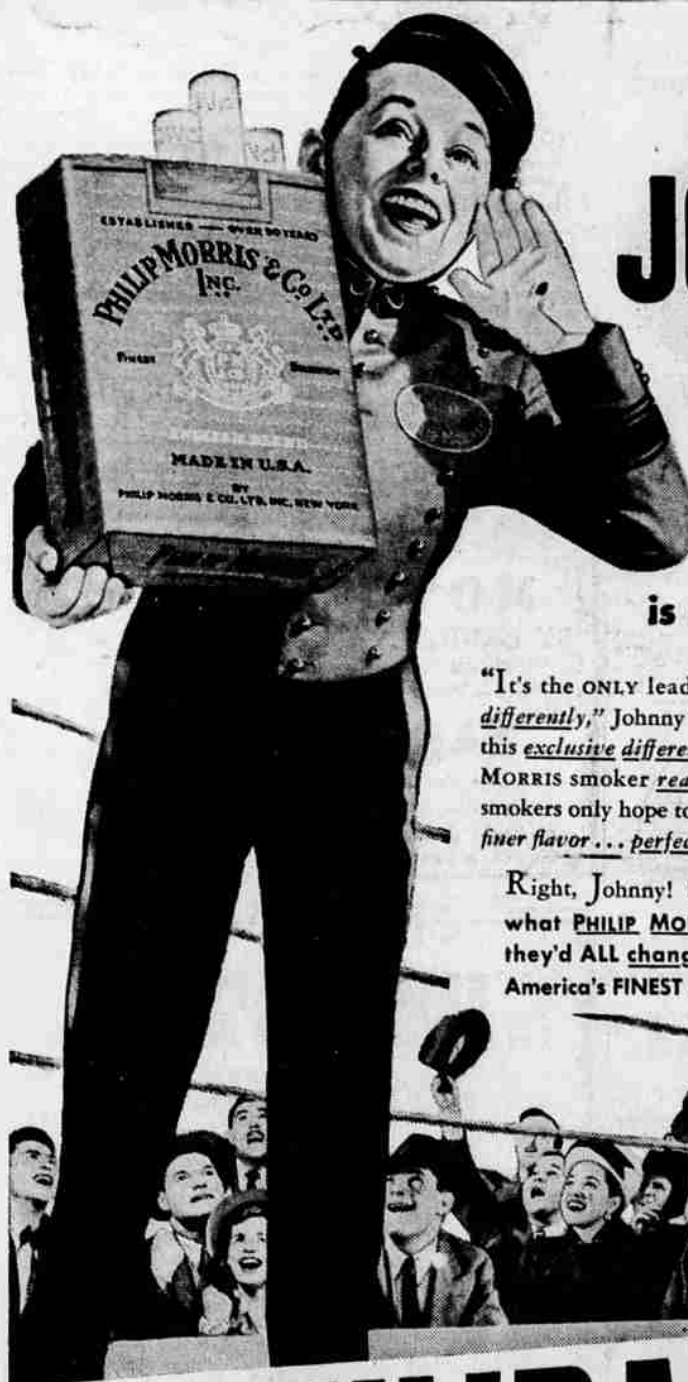
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