

Bucklesberry, Back in the Day

Extreme Animals (Part 2)

Unusual accounts of animals in extreme situations continued to occur among Bucklesberrians well into the third decade of the twentieth century. Several were widely reported:

1914, May 29: "LENOIR CLAIMS PRIZE FOR NUMBER FREAKS....A resume of the usual production of freaks in the country south and west of here includes a number of things out of the ordinary. A farmer named Sutton near LaGrange witnessed an extraordinary feat by a chicken of his own barnyard. The hen swam 60 yards in a millpond. Sutton's veracity, his neighbors say, is unimpeachable. Another hen of the same flock hatched a brood of chicks in a nest located on the top of a stump which is surrounded by water after heavy rains. A number of people have seen the aquatic chickens..." (*The Western Sentinel*, Winston-Salem)

1919, November 4: "Dempsey Wood, of this city [Kinston, formerly of Bucklesberry], and A. L. Baker, of Raleigh, are back from their monthly fishing trip in the coast country with big record for a week's outing. Mr. Wood, retired businessman who has fished for 'everything in the western hemisphere nearly,' reports a bear hunt as a side line on the recent trip. A month ago their yacht penned a porpoise family in a creek and enjoyed the novel diversion of capturing them. Messrs. Baker and Wood caught 277 black bass in Peplico [sic., Pamlico] and Pungo rivers last week." (*The Charlotte Observer*)

1922, June 10: "Farmers coming into town today reported many bridges washed away by flood waters in streams. La Grange was visited by another electric storm last night, and another torrential rainfall. Lightning struck a bunch of hogs on the farm of Mark [Julian Marcus] Sutton in the Bucklesberry section, killing 11." (*The Daily Free Press*, Kinston)

1922, July 1: "Scientists have long been puzzling over which came first, the hen or the egg. That question probably will never be solved. But sometimes the two can get along separately, and even without the offices of an incubator. On the farm of Alex Sutton, near La Grange, a sitting hen failed to hatch several eggs of a 'setting.' The eggs were thrown away. Three days later a small son of Sutton's went blackberrying and discovered one of the eggs to have been 'pipped.' Inside was a live chick. He took the egg home, and in a short time there was a new biddy in the Sutton backyard, a lively little fowl with a big appetite." (*The Daily Free Press*, Kinston)

1922, October 14: "You can't keep a good horse down. Most of the winners at the 10-county fair here were North Carolina nags, Goldsboro and Greenville owned. Frequently Carolina ponies won money in the races, but the Tarheel entries were generally first. Occasionally a Pennsylvania

owner won minor money. It was a thoroughly successful meet that was staged in connection, with the fair. There were several odd occurrences, one being a freak that nearly resulted seriously for horse and driver. Jere [Jeremiah, Jr.] Sutton's misunderstanding of the rules caused a home-talent heat to be run over. Mr. Sutton's local entry covered the half-mile like a house afire, along about second place in the field. Mr. Sutton, driving, slowed the nag up. Then he discovered that the others had gone on. Mr. Sutton whipped his steed up, but it was too late. It was one of those little mistakes that among professionals might have caused a furore..." (*The Daily Free Press*, Kinston)