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Folklore Collection
By Greg NARROW

1981(27)

INDEX

REGIONAL FOLKLORE

This collection of folklore is of regional type. Stories, cures, predictions, superstitions and other types of folklore were collected from a man and his wife. Their names are Lisker Draughon and Virginia (Cricket) Draughon. They are residents of Pamlico County, near Oriental. They own a marina called Green Bay Marina, where they also rent lots for mobile homes which brings up my association with them. My father has a mobile home on one of their lots. Through our fishing trip down there I came to know them very well, so they were more than happy to help me with my collection.

While talking with them I recorded most of the important stories on a cassette while others I just remembered. Included in the conversation was the "Teach's Oak" legend. This is one of the many legends of Blackbeard. Mr. Draughon also showed me this oak which is no longer standing, but is visible in the edge of the water. I followed up on this legend and found it written in a book. They also told of another historical oak which was in their store yard. Mrs. Draughon claimed this oak had been that same size for at least 60 years. She also said it had the same chains hanging from one of the limbs, that had held up numerous swings in the past and now holds one. In the same book that the "Teach's Oak" story was in this oak was also mentioned. In the same article, the storm of 1933 was referred to. Mr. and Mrs. Draughon told stories concerning this storm. She said this occurred before hurricanes were named.

Among the stories told many were from Mrs. Draughon's childhood.

After hearing stories I asked about superstitions. From there I asked more about folk cures, weather predictions and a recipe for lye soap. Under the topic of superstitions was old fisherman's superstitions. One was that they didn't allow suitcases or women on the boat when they were going out to make a catch. They felt this would bring bad luck. As for the folk cures the earth's resources were very useful. When I asked about the weather predictions Mrs. Draughon told me of the ways her father forecasted the weather. Later she told me of the lye soap recipe which was Mr. Draughon's mother's. This recipe was accompanied with a story of the first time they tried to make lye soap while following his mother's recipe. These stories and other folklore mentioned are just a small part of my collections.

I think the majority of my collection is a good example of folklore. It has the characteristics of oral folklore. It is verbal, not published and it is one person's account of happenings, or stories and other folklore that has been passed down from elders.

This has been an enjoyable project, but it was still a learning experience. What I learned is something that cannot be learned in books. After gathering this material I feel that what I have learned has very much value. What is most important is that folklore affects the common man while books deal with those in fame.