

#5.1 12-25-05

To: Joe Willis

From: Wayne Willis

Last night I got one of the pictures of Babe Ruth and my uncle Ammie Willis, courtesy of Preston Davis, Ammie's grandson.. This is one of the two in existence I have seen. The one I have now shows Babe Ruth on the left with two men from the Camp Bryan Hunt Club, in the middle, and Uncle Ammie is on the right.

The other picture is the one of Babe Ruth holding a goose up with his wings spread out. I will have to get that one from the Craven County Library at a later date. By the way, Camp Bryan is in Craven County. Still in business I understand. Anyway, that is the reason I have been directed to New Bern to collect a copy of the picture for you.

Merry Christmas to you and all yours.

In a message dated 12/22/2005 11:50:26 P.M. Eastern Standard Time, wayne14@ec.rr.com writes:
Joe,

The hunting was all done from Davis. The blinds were at Core Banks either in the marsh or stake blinds out on the shoals with sandy bottom. The stake blinds were located where corn could be put overboard and in the sand would not sink and could be found by the ducks and geese. The marsh blinds were near ponds. There were also blinds at the edge of the waters of Core Sound.

Many people do not realize that it is not now nor ever has been against the law to bait ducks with corn or whatever grain you like. The trick is that you can't shoot over corn on the bottom near a duck blind. To get the ducks to come to the blind you have to put corn and some decoys out to attract them initially. Then you have to make sure the corn has all been eaten by the ducks before you get in the blind to hunt. If the game warden comes to you in a blind and finds corn on the bottom you are likely to get a ticket for hunting over a baited area. This is strictly against the law.

Game wardens have been accused of checking for corn and claiming it was there when it wasn't. In reality they might have had some in their own boat that was said to have been taken from overboard near a blind. Can you believe that game wardens would do such a thing? It is amazing the things people accuse them of.

There were so many ducks back in the 1930's that the first limit was 25 per hunter per day when the time came to regulate how many a hunter could kill . You might know also that there was a time a century ago that ducks were hunted and sold to northern markets. They were loaded on the train in barrels and eaten in restaurants mostly in New York. Bet you can't do that now.

Later,
Wayne

Wayne

Hope you got the Babe Ruth picture. I will forward the names of the two unknown men in the middle when I can verify them for sure. The Preston Willis reference was a mistake made by Pam. His name is Preston Davis, grandson of Ammie Willis. Preston has a lot of Ammie Willis stuff, but this was the only picture he had of Babe Ruth.

As I said the other one is in New Bern but I will get it for you probably after the holidays are past.

I included the story from the Good Old Days section of the CC news Times because while the picture is not precisely dated it could have been the hunt referred to in the news paper story. As you see Camp Bryan men were in the picture but they didn't always come here with Babe Ruth to hunt with Uncle Ammie.

The house Uncle Ammie lived in at that time had jmust been bought and did not have beds in it for his hunters to sleep in. When any of his hunting parties came they were bedded in other homes in the neighborhood. If Ammie was booked up he would send Babe Ruth or whoever he did not have room for to my other uncle Albert Murphy or Francis Murphy who were also hunting guides at that time in Davis. That is why Babe Ruth was at Uncle Albert's the morning of the hunt I told you about when Daddy shoved the purse boat to Henry Murphy's dock and found Babe Ruth standing there waiting for him.

Its a shame not more pictures were made but we have what we have and can find by lots of digging.

Merry Christmas to you again. Let me know if you received this begining of the Babe Ruth Saga.

Later,
Wayne

In a message dated 12/7/2005 9:42:11 A.M. Eastern Standard Time, wayne14@ec.rr.com writes:
Joe,

I got your reply so at least we can communicate. I too was really glad to see you again after all these years. The decoy festival is one of the few gatherings other than weddings and funerals that people can get together like this.

I had a meeting yesterday with Jack Dudley who had the Babe Ruth picture in his book. There is some kind of a rift between him and the museum so it will require kid gloves.

My next move is to go to New Bern to the Craven County museum where he got the pictures from. I was wrong about him getting them from my Daddy. That was a misunderstanding on my part. But the quest will just have to take a different course. When I get back from New Bern I will let you know how that trip went.

There is another picture of Babe Ruth taken at Camp Bryan in Onslow County. This is a big one of him holding a goose with its wings spread out.

Camp Bryan is the place I told you Babe Ruth spent most of his time here when he was on those hunting trips. It was a big lodge that could sleep larger groups than Albert's house in Davis or Ammie's either.

I will keep you posted.

Thanks again,
Wayne