# HISTORIC SITE FILE: Occoquan Historic Dist. Town of Occoquan series PRINCE WILLIAM PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM: Messenger RELIC/Bull Run Reg Lib, Manassas, VA Harris Grocery Revives Past Memo

Editor's Note: This is the third article in a four - part series on the Town of Occoquan which will observe its centennial next year.

By Ann Holiday

Harris Grocery is to people who have grown up in Occoquan what the memory of the corner store is to folks from small towns across the United States.

eeds

any

ored

in

and

ould

1534.

call

) or

rks

:he

nd

ert

ew.

ol

of

la

ıd

'S

"You could come in here years ago and get practically anything you wanted to get, recalls Raymond Harris, whose father, Ogle Harris, started the business more than 55 years ago selling homemade ice cream on weekends.

So much a part of Occoquan is the store that the sketch of it by Billy Joe Shin of Woodbridge a top contender in the sketch contest held by the Merchants of Occoquan, Historic Occoquan and the town to raise funds to celebrate the town's centennial in 1974 and the nation's bicentennial in

Shin's sketch is one of five now on sale in a limited signed edition at selected Occoquan

The store looked the same when I lived on Occoquan Road and my grandmother would send me down there," remarked Mrs. Hazel Peyton, who operates the Colchester Shoppe with her daughter, Mrs. Pat Northcutt. The shop is one outlet for the prints.

When Harris Grocery was thriving, bushel baskets of fresh vegetables would be lined up on the bench in front of the store, where this spring Raymond Harris sat to pose for the sketch at artist Shin's request.

People would bring fresh produce from their farms to be sold by Ogle Harris and Sons. Briggs and Armour supplied sausage, hot dogs and luncheon

Ogle Harris was known for his fresh meat. He would buy a side of beef or lamb and cut it up himself. People came from as

### National Symphony Begins

Music Director Antal Dorati will conduct symphonies of Haydn and Mahler to usher in the National Symphony Orchestra's 1973-74 season at the Marjorie Merriweather

far as Lorton and Quantico for steaks, and even people who kept their own stores would come to Harris Grocery for steaks, Raymond Harris boasts.

Ogle Harris ran the store for 35 years before he died in 1949. according to one of his daughters, Saluka Toliver, who lives across the street. Mrs. Toliver, Raymond Harris and their six brothers and sisters were all born in "the home place," she said, nodding toward the handsome green-trimmed white house on the corner just up from the store. The present house replaces the family's original home.

Ogle Harris was born in a house which stood next to the home place.

The sketch was made from in front of the white house. In the yard between the house and the store, now enclosed by the fence in the sketch, Ogle Harris started making ice cream by hand in a 10 - quart freezer.

On Saturdays and Sundays, people would stop to buy ice cream to take home or eat there, and sales totaled as much as 25 gallons on a weekend, according to Raymond.

"Most of the trade was white, Mrs. Toliver recalls. "They came from Woodbridge, Lorton..all over.'' Many people in Woodbridge and Occoquan

### Golden Twenties' Can Be Seen Tonight

A documentary film, "The Golden Twenties," will be shown tonight at 7:30 at the Prince William County Public Library in Manassas.

This 70-minute film covers the American scene during the period between 1918 and the Wall Street crash. Frederick Lewis Allen, Robert Q. Lewis, Allen Prescott, Red Barber and Elmer Davis offer their interpretations of the varied events during this period of American history.

The documentary covers the fields of politics, sports and entertainment and casts light upon the manners and customs of the day.

This film is one of the presentations in the regular Wednesday evening film and lecture series.

today can remember regular family outings to Ogle Harris' ice cream place.

The cream came from a farm not far outside town, and the flavors were chocolate and vanilla" and it seems to me he made peach and strawberry.

Mrs. Toliver said.
The ice cream business grew into a store which "had a little bit of everything," she remembers, "but not as much as Mr. Lynn" who had shoes and rubbers. Lynn's Store is the only other remaining general store in town.

After Ogle Harris started to keep the store, he stopped making the ice cream and started getting it from Sealtest. At first, he remained working at the wharf on Mill Street while his wife and son Arthur minded the store. After the wharf closed, the elder Harris had more time for his store.

He and Arthur worked together, and Arthur carried on after his father's death. When Arthur died, his widow Doris took over. In recent weeks Raymond, retired after 31 years with the government, has been tending the store.

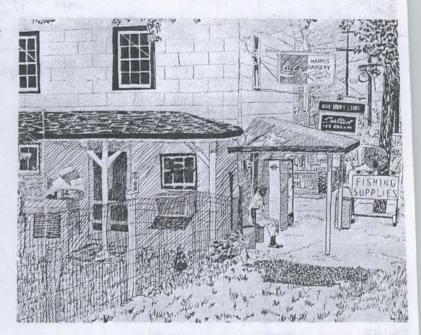
The family lived above the store when the original home was torn down and the present house built. Mrs. Toliver remembers playing house in the space under the old building. Later, the playhouse became a storage area for 100 - pound sacks of feed and for cases of soda pop.

Canned goods, soap, kerosene, seeds, thread, spices you name it and Ogle Harris was likely to have it or tell vou where in town you could get it. There were as many as five stores operating at once in Occoquan, all quite amicably, as Mrs. Toliver remembers it and they would refer customers to each other for merchandise they didn't have.

Arthur brought the fishing tackle into the store. "He would go fishing after he closed the store and reel in maybe a 15 pound bass," as Raymond tells it. Other fishermen would observe and ask what he was using for bait. They 'd follow him back to the store and buy the special bait - Pleuger Artificial Bait.

'He was a salesman,' Raymond smiled.

Fishermen now account for the bulk of the store's business on weekends. Raymond gets 500 night crawlers every two weeks to serve his regular customers. The night crawlers are likely to be sold packed in one of the old vellowed cartons left over from the ice cream days. Raymond found a supply of the wire - handled paper cartons in the attic when he came back to Occoquan to live after retiring.



"OGLE HARRIS AND SONS" BY BILLY JOE SHIN

ot da

ce To rei Sto and up spr Mrs bec

Woo are com to c. chic muc said.

fresh

died.

sup

went abou Bul days forev landn comf

## is Grocery Revives Past Memories

the part quan its

ople

uan

ner

nall

iere

ally

ose

the

ago

on

nis

by

ige

the

the

in,

wn

he

nd

in

ve

ed

an

ld

n,

et.

es.

far as Lorton and Quantico for steaks, and even people who kept their own stores would come to Harris Grocery for steaks, Raymond Harris boasts.

Ogle Harris ran the store for 35 years before he died in 1949, according to one of his daughters, Saluka Toliver, who lives across the street. Mrs. Toliver, Raymond Harris and their six brothers and sisters were all born in "the home place," she said, nodding toward the handsome green-trimmer of me dwhite house on the corner just up from the store. The present house replaces the family's original home.

Ogle Harris was born in a house which stood next to the

home place.

The sketch was made from in front of the white house. In the yard between the house and the store, now enclosed by the fence in the sketch, Ogle Harris started making ice cream by hand in a 10 - quart freezer.

On Saturdays and Sundays, people would stop to buy ice cream to take home or eat there, and sales totaled as much as 25 gallons on a weekend, according to Raymond.

"Most of the trade was white, Mrs. Toliver recalls. "They came from Woodbridge, Lorton. all over." Many people in Woodbridge and Occoquan today can remember regular family outings to Ogle Harris' ice cream place.

The cream came from a farm not far outside town, and the flavors were chocolate and vanilla" and it seems to me he made peach and strawberry,"

Mrs. Toliver said.

The ice cream business grew into a store which "had a little bit of everything." she remembers, "but not as much as Mr. Lynn" who had shoes and rubbers. Lynn's Store is the only other remaining general

store in town.

After Ogle Harris started to keep the store, he stopped making the ice cream and started getting it from Sealtest. At first, he remained working at the wharf on Mill Street while his wife and son Arthur minded the store. After the wharf closed, the elder Harris had more time for his store.

He and Arthur worked together, and Arthur carried on after his father's death. When Arthur died, his widow Doris took over. In recent weeks Raymond, retired after 31 years with the government, has been tending the store.

The family lived above the store when the original home was torn down and the present house built. Mrs. Toliver remembers playing house in the space under the old building. Later, the playhouse became a

storage area for 100 - pound sacks of feed and for cases of soda pop.

Canned goods, soap, kerosene, seeds, thread, spices—you name it and Ogle Harris was likely to have it or tell vou where in town you could get it. There were as many as five stores operating at once in Occoquan, all quite amicably, as Mrs. Toliver remembers it and they would refer customers to each other for merchandise they didn't have.

Arthur brought the fishing tackle into the store. "He would go fishing after he closed the store and reel in maybe a 15-pound bass," as Raymond tells it. Other fishermen would observe and ask what he was using for bait. They 'd follow him back to the store and buy the special bait — Pleuger Artificial Bait.

"He was a salesman,"

Raymond smiled.

Fishermen now account for the bulk of the store's business on weekends. Raymond gets 500 night crawlers every two weeks to serve his regular customers. The night crawlers are likely to be sold packed in one of the old vellowed cartons left over from the ice cream days. Raymond found a supply of the wire - handled paper cartons in the attic when he came back to Occoquan to live after retiring.

The store's main sellers now are soda pop, candy and fishing supplies, although the shelves carry canned goods, soap and other items.

The ceiling is hung with agedarkened display racks, and a placard bearing the Ten Commandments hangs from a razor blade rack near the ceiling. Next to it is a string holder advertising Post Toasties.

Now only two grocery stores remain in the town, Lynn's Store and Ogle Harris and Sons, and even the Harris store closes up in the fall and reopens in the spring.

The decrease in business, Mrs. Toliver believes, has come because of the cars and the supermarkets up the road in Woodbridge. The smaller stores are finding it difficult to compete.

compete.
"When the supermarkets had to charge 29 cents a pound for chicken, Arthur had to pay that much and charge more," she

The store stopped selling fresh meat after Ogle Harris died, and the packaged meat went after Arthur's death, about eight years ago.

But while the store's busy days are gone, probably forever, it remains to many as a landmark in Occoquan and a comfortable memory of a different time.

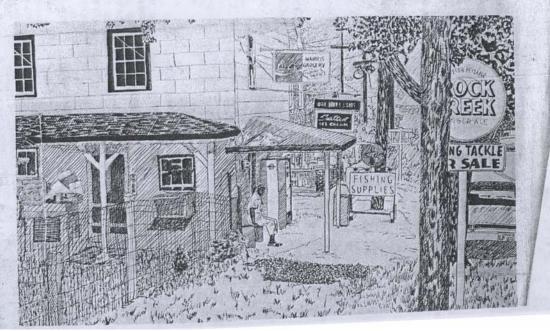
### Golden Twenties' Can Be Seen Tonight

A documentary film, "The Golden Twenties," will be shown tonight at 7:30 at the Prince William County Public Library in Manassas.

This 70-minute film covers the American scene during the period between 1918 and the Wall Street crash. Frederick Lewis Allen, Robert Q. Lewis, Allen Prescott, Red Barber and Elmer Davis offer their interpretations of the varied events during this period of American history.

The documentary covers the fields of politics, sports and entertainment and casts light upon the manners and customs of the day.

This film is one of the



years ago and get practically anything you wanted to get," recalls Raymond Harris, whose "You could come in her weekends selling homemade ice cream on business more than 55 years ago ather, Ogle Harris, started the So much a part of Occoquan is here

was a top contender in to raise funds to celebrate the Merchants of Occoquan, sketch he nation's bicentennial in lown's centennial in 1974 and Historic Occoquan and the town he store that the sketch of it by Joe Shin of Woodbridge contest held by

Shin's sketch is one of five now on sale in a limited signed edition at selected Occoquan

shops.
"The store looked the same send when I lived on Occoquan Road outlet for the prints Pat Northcutt. The shop is one Shoppe with her daughter, Mrs who operates the Colchester remarked Mrs. my grandmother would down there Hazel Peyton

at artist Shin's request. Harris sat to pose for the sketch where this spring the bench in front of the store thriving, bushel baskets of fresh vegetables would be lined up on When Harris Grocery was Raymond

meat Briggs and Armour supplied sausage, hot dogs and luncheon produce from their farms to be sold by Ogle Harris and Sons People would bring fresh

himself. People came from as of beef or lamb and cut it up tresh meat. He would buy a side Ogle Harris was known for his

the Orchestra's 1973-74 season Haydn and Mahler to usher in will conduct symphonies of Music Director Antal Dorati Marjorie Mernweather National Symphony

> were all place," their six original home. white house on the corner just green-trimmed up from the store. The present house replaces the family's loward the handsome brothers she said, nodding and sisters

home place. house which stood next to the Ogle Harris was born in a

On Saturdays and Sundays, yard between the house and the front of the white house. In the in the sketch, Ogle Harris started making ice cream by store, now enclosed by the fence The sketch was made from in

according to Haymond.
"Most of the trade was white,
Mrs. Toliver recalls. "They came from Woodbridge people would stop to buy ice cream to take home or eat there, and sales totaled as much gallons on a weekend

in Woodbridge and Occoquan Lorton..all over." Many people

# Can Be Seen Tonight Golden Twenties'

Golden Twenties," will be Public Library in Manassas. Prince William County shown tonight at 7:30 at the A documentary film, "The

events during this period of interpretations of the varied Prescott, Red Barber and Robert Q. Lewis, Allen Elmer Davis offer their American history. Frederick the Wall Street crash. the period between 1918 and the American scene during This 70-minute film covers Lewis Allen,

the fields of politics, sports and entertainment and casts customs of the day. light upon the manners and The documentary covers

presentations in the regular Wednesday evening film and This film is one of the

> store in town. only other remaining general and rubbers. Lynn's Store is the as Mr. Lynn" who had shoes remembers, "but not as much bit of everything," she

more time for his store. closed, the elder Harris had started making the ice cream keep the store, the store. his wife and son Arthur minded the wharf on Mill Street while At first, he remained working at After Ogle Harris started to getting it from Sealtest After the wharf he stopped

together, and Arthur carried on after his father's death. When with the government, has been took over. In recent weeks Arthur died, his widow Doris Raymond, retired after 31 years He and Arthur worked

store when the original home was torn down and the present house built. Mrs. Toliver remembers playing house in the space under the old building. Later, the playhouse became a tending the store. family lived above the

> and they would refer customers to each other for merchandise occoquan, an quite amicably, as Mrs. Toliver remembers it they didn't have.

using for bait. They 'd follow the special store and reel in maybe a 15 him back to the store and buy observe and ask what he was pound bass," as Raymond tells go fishing after he closed the tackle into the store. "He would t. Other fishermen would Arthur brought the fishing bait -- Pleuger

Artificial Bait. "He was a

weeks to serve his regular customers. The night crawlers are likely to be sold packed in after retiring. came back to Occoquan to live cartons in the attic when he 500 night crawlers every two days. Raymond found a supply of the wire - handled paper one of the old vellowed cartons the bulk of the store's business left over from the ice cream weekends. Raymond gets

salesman,"

Raymond smiled.
Fishermen now account for died, But

ceiling. Next to it is a string holder advertising Post Toasties.

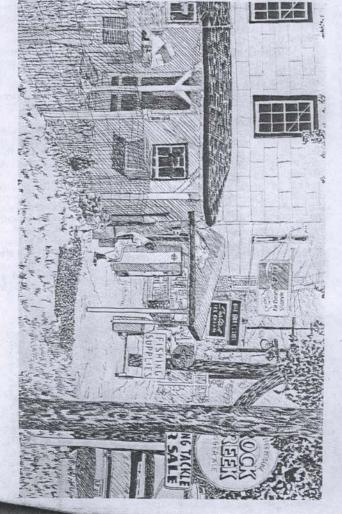
spring. remain in the up in the fall and reopens in the and even the Harris store closes Store and Ogle Harris and Sons, Now only two grocery stores town, Lynn's

compete. are finding it difficult to supermarkets up the road because of the cars and the Mrs. Toliver believes, has come Woodbridge. The smaller stores The decrease in business,

much and charge more," she to charge 29 cents a pound for When the supermarkets had

about eight years ago. fresh meat after Ogle Harris The store stopped selling and the packaged meat after Arthur's death,

different time. comfortable landmark in Occoquan and forever, it remains to many as a days are gone, probably while the store's busy memory of a



"OGLE HARRIS AND SONS" BY BILLY JOE SHIN

10 Or 2534. plinot and sored lany call In years ago and get practically anything you wanted to get," recalls Raymond Harris, whose Was weekends selling homemade ice cream on business more than 55 years ago ather, Ogle Harris, started the "You could שיר היווובח מושובצי come in nere

sketch contest held by the Merchants of Occoquan, Billy Joe Shin of Woodbridge own's centennial in 1974 and to raise funds to celebrate the he store that the sketch of it by he nation's bicentennial in Historic Occoquan and the town So much a part of Occoquan is a top contender in

edition at selected Occoquan now on sale in a limited signed Shin's sketch is one of five

and 1ew ert 00

shops.
"The store looked the same outlet for the prints. send me when I lived on Occoquan Road Pat Northcutt. The shop is one Shoppe with her daughter, Mrs. who operates the Colchester remarked Mrs. my grandmother would down there," Hazel Peyton

thriving, bushel baskets of fresh vegetables would be lined up on Harris sat to pose for the sketch where this spring Raymond the bench in front of the store When Harris Grocery was

A documentary film, "The

produce from their farms to be sold by Ogle Harris and Sons. at artist Shin's request. People would brii meat sausage, hot dogs and luncheon Briggs Armour supplied bring fresh

> Public Library in Manassas. Prince William County shown tonight at 7:30 at the Golden Twenties," will be

This 70-minute film covers

5 ped us

himself. People came from as fresh meat. He would buy a side Ogle Harris was known for his beef or lamb and cut it up

Frederick Lewis Allen,

the Wall Street crash the period between 1918 and the American scene during

### Symphony Begins Vational

American history.

the fields of politics, sports

The documentary covers

events during this period of

interpretations of the varied Elmer Davis offer their Prescott, Red Barber and Robert Q. Lewis, Allen

Orchestra's 1973-74 season at the Marjorie Merriweather will conduct symphonies of Haydn and Mahler to usher in Music Director Antal Dorat National Symphony

presentations in the regular

This film is one of the

customs of the day.

ight upon the manners and and entertainment and casts

Wednesday evening film and

place," up from the store. The present green-trimmed white house on the corner just toward the handsome house replaces the family's XIS she said, nodding brothers and sisters born in "the home DITTO CITTORIA

original home. nome place. house which stood next to the Ogle Harris was born in a

started making ice cream by store, now enclosed by the fence yard between the house and the front of the white house. In the The sketch was made from in sketch, Ogle Harris

as 25 there, and sales totaled as much hand in a 10-quart freezer.
On Saturdays and Sundays, according to Raymond. cream to take home or eat people would stop to buy ice gallons on a weekend,

came from Woodbridge, Lorton..all over." Many people Mrs. "Most of the trade was white, irs. Toliver recalls. "They Woodbridge and Occoquan

Golden Twenties'

as Mr. Lynn" who had shoes bit of everything," she remembers, "but not as much and rubbers. Lynn's Store is the mino a store which "had a little only other remaining general

keep the store, store in town. closed, the elder Harris had At first, he remained working at started getting it from Sealtest making the ice cream the store. After the wharf the wharf on Mill Street while nis wife and son Arthur minded After Ogle Harris started to he stopped

Arthur died, his widow Doris after his father's death. together, and Arthur carried on more time for his store. with the government, has been Raymond, retired after 31 years ook over. He and Arthur worked In recent weeks When

space under the old building. was torn down and the present house built. Mrs. Toliver store when the original home tending the store. Later, the playhouse became The family lived above the

> Occoquan, all quite amicably, as Mrs. Toliver remembers it they didn't have. to each other for merchandise and they would refer customers

the him using for bait. They 'd follow observe and ask what he was store and reel in maybe a 15 go fishing after he closed Arthur brought the fishing tackle into the store. "He would Artificial Bait. pound bass," as Raymond tells Other fishermen would special bait - Pleuger back to the store and buy

"He was a salesman,"

came back to Occoquan to live days. Raymond found a supply of the wire - handled paper cartons in the attic when he after retiring. cartons in the attic when one of the old vellowed cartons are likely to be sold packed in customers. The night crawlers weeks to serve his regular 500 9n left over from the ice cream the bulk of the store's business night crawlers every two weekends. Raymond gets

Raymond smiled.
Fishermen now account for

ceiling. Next to it is a string holder advertising Post Toasties. rack near the

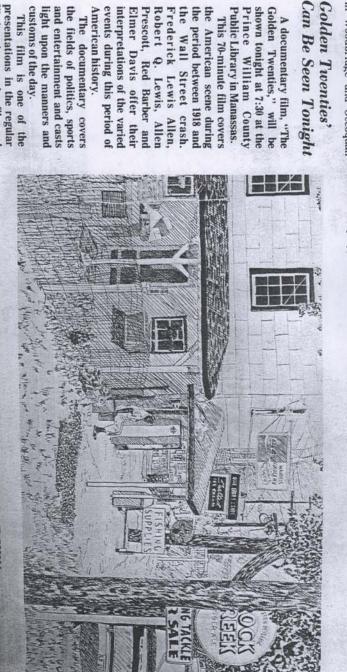
remain in the town, Lynn's Store and Ogle Harris and Sons, and even the Harris store closes up in the fall and reopens in the Now only two grocery stores

supermarkets up the road in are finding it difficult to Spring.
The decrease in business, Woodbridge. The smaller stores because of the cars and Mrs. Toliver believes, has come

said to charge 29 cents a pound for chicken, Arthur had to pay that "When the supermarkets had much and charge more,

died, about eight years ago. went after Arthur's death, tresh But while the store's busy The store stopped meat after Ogle Harris and the packaged meat selling

different time. days are gone, probably landmark in Occoquan and orever, it remains to many as a



"OGLE HARRIS AND SONS" BY BILLY JOE SHIN