



# The Egg Crate



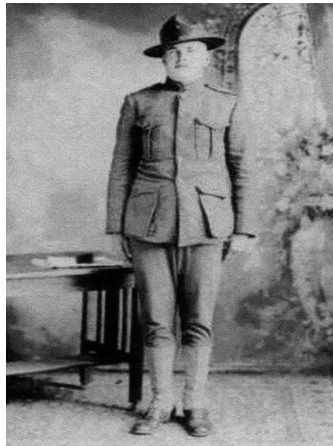
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## Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July

I hope that everyone will have a safe and fun July 4<sup>th</sup> this year.

### In Memoriam

As promised I am going to dedicate a part of this issue to Bob Eugene Heskett. There has been a lot of speculation regarding Bob and, his sad and untimely death. I hope that I will be able to dispel some of the myths surrounding his life, the kind of man he was and, the life that he had led with our Betty. I am not going to be one sided, and “boo and hiss him” or, show him in an unfavorable light. I will tell the truth good and bad.



Robert Eugene Heskett 1917-1918 US Marine's  
(photo courtesy of Debbie S.)

### Cedar Falls, Iowa

Robert Eugene Heskett, the first of four children born to Otis and Florence Heskett, was born October 28, 1895 in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Bob's childhood wasn't all that eventful; it wasn't until later in life that Bob achieved a form of

celebrity. In 1910 Otis Heskett moved his family to Blaine, Montana where Bob began working on a cattle ranch. For the next 7 years Bob continued to work on the Montana farm until 1917. It was during this time period that his oldest sister, Catharine, died in a drowning accident at the age of 18. Shortly there after, on June 5, 1917 Bob enlisted in the United States Marines. Bob's term of enlistment lasted a little over 9 months. Bob was medically discharged on June 12, 1919 for PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) or more commonly known as “Shell Shock.”

### Battre L'eau Avec Un Baton

(Beating water with a stick)

After his discharge from the military, Bob moved to Seattle to live with his parents. It was during this time that he joined his father selling insurance. In *The Egg and I*, Betty describes him as, “a tall, very handsome older man. His brown skin, brown hair, blue eyes, white teeth, husky voice and kindly, gentle way were attributes that enough in themselves and produced spasms of admiration from Mary and her friends, but the most wonderful thing about him, and the most outstanding touch, was that he liked me.” (*The Egg and I*. page 37). According to some sources, Bob had seduced Betty in the strawberry patch but, after a whirlwind romance, Bob and

Betty were married on July 10<sup>th</sup>, 1926  
(Bob was 12 years Betty's senior).

Anne and Joan. Unable to take the  
isolation and abuse, Betty took her two  
young daughters and returned to Seattle.

## The farm



The original "Egg and I" Farm  
(Photo courtesy of Debbie S.)

Soon after the marriage, Bob decided to  
quit his job at Mutual Life insurance  
Company and go into the chicken  
business. How soon after the marriage  
this took place, I can only speculate. For  
some unexplained reason, Bob decided  
on a small, run down farm located on the  
back roads of a small town in the  
Olympic Peninsula named Chimacum.

According to divorce records, Bob had  
failed to do his part in the operation and  
everything was left to Betty. After  
reading several magazine and newspaper  
accounts, and several reliable people  
who wish to remain anonymous, allege  
that Bob was running a moonshine  
operation. I have reason to believe that  
this accusation is true. In *The Egg and I*,  
Betty made constant references to moon  
shining. No matter how well Sydney  
prepared her daughter for married life,  
Bob apparently made Betty's life a  
living hell.

According to Betty, the majority of  
Bob's abuse occurred after the Births of

## The divorce

In July of 1931, Betty filed for divorce.  
In the divorce records we are given the  
true story behind the marriage. It wasn't  
for lack of electric lights or, indoor  
plumbing but abuse. On several  
occasions Bob had kicked Betty and had  
threatened to shoot her and the children.  
Bob had even gone so far as to pour  
kerosene on the side of the house and set  
it on fire. Betty even claimed that Bob  
threatened to disfigure her so that no one  
would ever look at her again. The  
divorce was granted with child support  
of \$20 a month that was never paid, in  
fact, Bob had gone to jail several times  
for failure to pay. It took 4 years for the  
divorce to finalize.

At the time that *The Egg and I* was  
published someone had convinced Bob  
to sign off on any rights that he may  
have had in the matter, and also on any  
payments from the movie. Rumor has it  
he was paid a princely sum of \$1000.  
How true this is I don't know.

## The End

**"FORMER HUSBAND OF 'EGG  
AND I' AUTHORESS KILLED:**  
*Oakland, (U.P.) — Robert E. Heskett,*  
*55, whom friends identified as the*  
*former husband of Betty MacDonald,*  
*authoress of "The Egg and I," was*  
*fatally stabbed here in a quarrel over a*  
*woman.*  
*Thomas J. Blake, 37, Visalla bulldozer*  
*operator, was held as his assailant.*

*Mrs. Thelma Blake, 35, told investigating officers that Blake came to Heskett's home here, where she had been living for a week. She said he told Heskett he wanted to see his former wife and Heskett asked him to leave. Then, she said, Blake pulled a knife and Heskett tried to defend himself with a hatchet but was stabbed in the heart and tumbled down a flight of stairs." (Oxnard Press Courier. Tuesday July 24, 1955)*

Bob was laid to rest August 8, 1955 at Golden Gate National Cemetery in San Bruno, CA.

## The Myths the Truth

**Bob was killed in a bar over another mans wife.** *Not true*

**Bob was killed defending a woman who was being beaten by her drunken husband.** *Again not true.*

**Bob was devastated when Betty left him and, turned to alcohol to ease the pain.** *Again, another myth. According to the divorce records, Bob was drinking heavily long before she left him. If this is the case I attribute his drinking to his experience in WWI.*

**Bob was a loving father who wanted contact with his children but was denied.** *I am not able to say whether or not Bob was a good father, but after all, he refused to pay any kind of child support stating that Betty and the girls were well taken care of by her mother and other family members*

**Bob lived on the farm for several years after the divorce.** *I do not believe this to be true. It wasn't long after Betty had left that Bob sold the farm and moved back to Seattle and returned to selling insurance for Mutual.*

## Q & A

Shannon writes: ***"I was wondering if anyone knows what 'Ma Kettle [Susannah Bishop] died of. I noticed she was only 64 when she passed."***

Shannon, while researching your question I made a great discovery, even though it doesn't answer your question it is a great historical find.

**March 4, 1937**

***"Susanna Bishop, Chinacum Lady, Passed Monday***

***Funeral was held Monday for mother of 13 sons and daughters"***

*Mrs. Susanna Bishop, mother of one of the county's largest families, passed away at her home at Chimacum Monday morning. In addition many friends, 68 of her relatives were present at the funeral services held at Chimacum Church yesterday. She was laid to rest in the Chimacum cemetery near the grave of her son, Kenneth, the only one of her thirteen sons and daughters not living.*

*Her husband and children were at her bedside as the death drew near. The loss of her son, Kenneth in the summer of 1935, by drowning, was a blow from which she never recovered and was undoubtedly was a contributing factor to her death.*

**Born in 1873**

*Mrs. Bishop was born in Ezenflul, Switzerland, August 1, 1873. Her maiden name was Susanna Ammeter and she was the daughter of Mr. And Mrs. John Ammeter. When she was to years old she came to Minnesota with her parents and the family later moved to Portland, where she was married to Albert Bishop October 5, 1891. In 1897 Mr. Bishop moved to Port Townsend and, as a contractor did much of the heavy*

excavating during the construction of Fort Worden.

In 1900 the family moved to Chimacum valley, and soon after purchased the present home farm, where they have continued to live ever since.

The funeral service was read by the Rev. Walter B. Bell of Port Townsend and music was furnished by H. C. McCormack, and Mrs. E. J. Snyder, Mrs. R. E. Vose, and Mrs. A. F. Richards. Pallbearers, all well known county citizens associated with the family for years were, Tom Yarr, John D. Phillips, Dave Bengtson, Jay Gould, George Cosby and, G. Harrison.

#### **Twelve Children Survive**

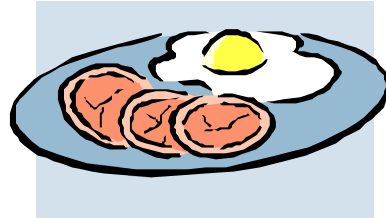
Mrs. Bishop is survived by her widower, Albert Bishop and her 12 children, Edward of Chimacum, John of Pomona, Calif.: Charles of Hoquiam. Mrs. Edith Stark of Goldbar, William of Port Townsend, Herbert of Bremerton, Mrs. Madeline Twiggs of Irondale, and Walter Wilbur, Arthur and Carl Bishop, all residents of Chimacum.

There are also two brothers, Albert Ammeter of Chimacum, and Raymond Ammeter of Port Townsend, and Mrs. Mattie Bishop, Mrs. Lena Lomadalen, Mrs. Bessie Van Trojen of Chimacum, and Mrs. Freda Talbot of Callam Bay are sisters.

First cousins include John Ammeter and Fred Ammeter, both of Chimacum, Ernest Amacher of Portland, and Mrs. Hattie Dalgado of Port Townsend. There are also 21 grandchildren. (Port Townsend Leader March 4, 1937 Article provided by The Jefferson County Historical Society).

Shannon, just for you I made some calls to the descendants of Albert Bishop. I was received very warmly, except by one great grandson who still holds a

grudge, I was told that Susanna grieved to death. After the death of her son, Kenneth, Mrs. Bishop was never the same.



## Recipes

This month's recipe is one taken from a Depression Era cookbook. I haven't had time to test it but it is the old tried but true "Southern Fried Chicken" The best pan for frying chicken is a **BIG black** iron skillet.

- 1 2 ½ - 3 pound fryer chicken
- ½ cup flour
- 1-teaspoon salt
- 1-teaspoon paprika
- ¼ teaspoon pepper

Shortening, salad oil or, bacon drippings.

Cut chicken into serving size pieces. Rinse in cold water, do not pat dry. In a large brown paper bag blend all ingredients. Place 2 to 3 pieces of chicken in bag, close and shake. Heat ½ inch oil in skillet until hot; add chicken (bacon grease gives the best and tastiest chicken). Reduce to medium high and cook until done. Serve with homemade potato salad.

## July Contest

Congratulations to Shannon for guessing the name of the person in the picture. The answer was Dee Dee. Shannon won a first printing paperback of "The Egg and I."

This month's contest will be a simple question. What was the name of the woman who was stalking Betty in "Anybody can do Anything"? The first person that correctly guesses the name of this person will get a copy of the play, "The Egg and I"

Remember to put your name and mailing address in the email along with your answer so I can mail your prize to you.

## Mail Box

I received this wonderful email from Dorothy, who by the way is Dee Dee's daughter in law, after she had received the newsletter. ***"That was nice. I remember Dee Dee making that very meatloaf recipe. It was good. Dee Dee was such a good cook-she could make anything. That was learned from her mother. Being a young, widowed mother of 5 children, she was challenged daily trying to cook meals on a very limited budget."*** Thank you Dorothy, it means a great deal to me that you like our little newsletter and I hope you will continue to enjoy it.

## Family Tree

As we all know I had worked on a family tree. I had accomplished a lot in regard to tracing Betty's roots, thanks to Betty's great niece Brooke, (Dee Dee's Grand daughter), I had gotten as far as the year 1757 on the Ten Eyck side of the family and, 1791 on the Campbell side. Sadly this site is now gone and all my hard work was for naught, I didn't have the foresight to print off pages when they were complete. However, I was smart enough to keep paper copies. I would like to redo the Family tree, but my problem is, do I put it on the Internet, or put it on my hard drive and add it to the newsletter in installments (it is way to large to put in one issue.)? I would welcome your suggestions.

## Today in Bard History

Darsie Campbell Bard was born July 15, 1878 to James Fletcher Bard and Anne Elizabeth Campbell Bard

I hope you enjoyed this month's newsletter. I would eventually like to begin doing a short story section. Any Input?

Until next month...

John