

The Story of Oswald, the Penguin

In nineteen thirty-two,
Oswald sailed the ocean blue.
His curiosity stirred him to roam,
Also the boredom of his Antarctic home.
His travels were many to sight a few,
Including the Galapagos Isles and Peru.
From there he finally hit his mark,
Where he settled among us here at Clark.

Penguins are strange, curious, fun loving birds who, with a stretch of the imagination, look like little fat men waddling clumsily on their way to a big formal ball. They can be found as far north as New Zealand, Peru, and the Galapagos Islands but most species prefer the small rocky islands of the far frozen South. Why then is Oswald rather than Hezzy the salmon or Lizzy the cow the mascot of Clark College?

As the legend is told, it was back in the days before Clark College had its first class in the Hidden home that Oswald left his cozy iceberg in the Antarctic to embark upon his epoch-making voyage across the sea. This was the beginning of the Penguin's Progress.

Why did Oswald leave home? Well he wasn't content being like other Penguins for he wanted life, adventure, romance and above all he wanted an education. His mother had, every day of his life, reminded him, "My son, what you need is a college education."

She seemed, however, not to know where such a thing might be obtained, or indeed, exactly what it was. Oswald canvassed the entire Antarctic only to learn that no one but his mother had ever heard of a college education. He at last resolved to swim the "seven seas" until he found someone who could tell him what he wanted to know. He made good time for even though penguins lost their ability to fly millions of years ago they can use their wings as paddles and swim better than twenty miles an hour.

He spent many days at sea asking everybody he met how to go about getting a college education, but to no avail. He was on the point of giving up and going home when he sighted the beautiful tropical islands, which he later discovered were called The Islands of the Galapagos. For years he was content there with fellow penguins until one day a vacationing Clark student, hearing of his desire, brought him to our campus.

And so it was that Oswald made his way to Clark College. Before long the small student body, which was then located in the Hidden home, decided that they should have an emblem which would be different and since Oswald had made such a hit he was quickly adopted. He now spends nine months of the year on the Clark campus "getting that college education", but every summer he returns to the beautiful tropical islands of Galapagos.

In his spare moments Oswald keeps a diary, portions of which we shall print with his kind permission throughout this Galapagon.