

Summer's End

By Charlie McBriarty



Labor Day has evolved into the three-day holiday weekend that wraps-up the summer season. However, Labor Day has not always had such significance. Actually, this holiday celebrated on the first Monday of September can trace its roots to the labor union movement that emerged and grew through the Industrial Revolution of the 18th and 19th centuries. As late as the 1880's and 90's, many workers—men, women and children—labored 12-hour days, seven days a week for meager wages with poor working conditions. The labor union movement became the means to stand up for employees against the ever-increasing need of industry for cheap labor.

On Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City, the Central Labor Union sponsored an event that involved an estimated 10,000 workers who took off the day without pay to march from City Hall to Union Square. The purpose of the march was to protest poor working conditions and recognize the contribution of workers. This demonstration has been identified as the first Labor Day in the United States. One year later, the Central Labor Union repeated the workers' unpaid "holiday" and march, and similar events took place in other industrial cities. By 1894, this type of labor-focused demonstration had quickly spread, and the first Monday in September was designated as Labor Day. Just three years later, in 1887, the state legislatures of Oregon, Colorado, New York, Massachusetts and New Jersey passed measures recognizing Labor Day as a state holiday.

It was in 1893, that the small town of Pullman, Illinois, received national attention when President Grover Cleveland declared a strike by workers of the Pullman Company illegal and ordered 12,000 troops to break the strike. The ensuing clash eventually ended the strike, but it also put the spotlight on the plight of workers throughout the country. In an effort to reach out to the labor movement, Congress quickly passed a measure identifying Labor Day on the first Monday of September as a national holiday. Although he was not an advocate of the labor movement, President Cleveland signed the measure on June 28, 1894.

It is interesting to note that International Workers' Day is when most of the rest of the world celebrates the accomplishments of labor. This day also known as May Day is held on May 1. However, our neighbor to the north, Canada, shares the first Monday of September as its Labour Day.

Ordinance of the Month

Editor's Note: Each month, space permitting, one or more of the town ordinances will be summarized as a service to our readers. All ordinances are available on the town's web site: www.townofpks.com.

Each Monday all of the residents of Pine Knoll Shores have the opportunity to dispose of household garbage and trash that is picked-up from the front of each residence by a provider contracted by the town. This service is governed by a town ordinance, Chapter 42 – 1: Garbage and Trash Removal. The following is a summary of this ordinance:

Garbage and trash must be drained of liquid, wrapped or deposited in a plastic or paper bag and placed in watertight containers (cans) of galvanized steel or plastic with tight fitting lids. These containers shall be the 35-gallon variety or less or the 65- or 95-gallon roll-out containers. Heavy-duty plastic bags are permissible, but those bags cannot be left out overnight.

The containers may not be placed on the right-of-way any earlier than 12 hours prior to the scheduled collection time. Once the containers are emptied they must be removed from the right-of-way within 12 hours.

The ordinance also prohibits the construction of any permanent racks or containers of the garbage receptacles in the right-of-way.

GARBAGE CAN SERVICE

CUMMINS AND
GOINGS – PKS

247-0063

422-5313

OR

BOGUE BANKS
SERVICES

503-2197

Future Job Grown

A recent item from the Office of Governor Bev Perdue newsletter revealed that a New Bern company will have the "Help Wanted" signs posted in the near future. The Brunswick Corporation has announced that it intends to expand its New Bern-based Hatteras Yachts that will add 350 jobs over the next five years. Brunswick will invest \$4.7 million that will be coupled with state grants from the Job Development Investment Grant and One North Carolina Fund to expand Hatteras Yachts to accommodate the production of both its Hatteras Yacht and CABO Yacht brands.

Hatteras Yachts currently employs 279 full-time workers and with the addition of 350 new employees anticipated with the addition of CARBO Yacht it is expected that the overall average for the new jobs will be more than \$31,000 per year as contrasted to the current Craven County average of just under \$30,000.

For more than 20 years CARBO Yachts has benefited from a reputation as one of the world's top builders of sport fishing boats from 32 to 52 feet. Hatteras Yachts is recognized as a world leader in the building of convertible sport fishing and luxury motor yachts. This New Bern base company has been a pioneer in the production of large offshore fiberglass powerboats, first introduced in 1959.

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The *Shoreline*

RIVERTOWNE REPERTORY PLAYERS
Present

"Southern Hospitality"

August 20, 21, 27 and 28 at 8 p.m.

August 22 and 29 at 3 p.m.

Masonic Theatre at 516 Hancock St.

The Futrelle sisters are in trouble again. This time, the problem is bigger than ever: their beloved hometown, Fayro, Texas, is in danger of disappearing and it's up to the sisters to save it from extinction. How the Futrelle sisters and the other citizens of Fayro, including sweet, simple Raynerd Chisum, pull together and save their town is a testament to Southern strength and ingenuity – and a recipe for total hilarity.

By Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope and Jamie Wooten

Tickets go on sale two weeks prior to performance at

The Bank of the Arts

317 Middle St., New Bern, 638-2577.

Tickets are \$12 in advance,

\$15 at the door.



For more information, go to rivertownerepertoryplayers.net

