

# Historical Marker Commemorates Vessel *Mercury*

During the War of 1812, the security of New Bern and Ocracoke was maintained by the US Revenue Cutter *Mercury*. A North Carolina Highway Historical Marker was recently dedicated in July to commemorate the July 12, 1813, escape of the *Mercury* from pursuing British barges.

British Admiral George Cockburn landed with 15 barges and 1,000 men at Ocracoke and Portsmouth Island that day to execute a surprise attack and invade North Carolina's interior. The *Mercury* and two smaller boats were docked at Ocracoke at the time. Of the three, only the *Mercury* attempted to escape, carrying all the custom house papers and funds aboard. Several British barges gave chase, but failed to overtake the faster *Mercury*. The state's defense was ready and an invasion of the interior was averted.

The *Mercury* patrolled the waterways around Ocracoke for the rest of the war, capturing one and possibly two British vessels. After the war, the US Revenue Service, a forerunner to the US Coast Guard, began repairs of war-damaged seaside infrastructure with its cutters and worked to prevent smuggling of foreign goods through the state's ports.

The highway marker is located on Highway 12 in Ocracoke, near the Ocracoke/Cedar Island ferry landing.



## Christmas Wreath Sale

Again this year the Pine Knoll Shores Garden Club will be offering Christmas wreaths for sale. Wreaths may be ordered from any member of the club or by using the order form below. Orders must be placed by November 8. They will be delivered to town hall to be picked up Wednesday, December 4, between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon. These lovely wreaths of mixed greens last well past the Christmas season and are a perfect size for your front door. They are made in the mountains of western North Carolina and delivered to us the next day. You can only get it this fresh from a florist, but not for \$23.00! Make your check payable to PKS Garden Club and dress up your home for Christmas! For further information call Sheryl Woodbury at 726-9746 or Kay Howe at 240-0987.

Send your checks with the order form below to:

Sheryl Woodbury  
P.O. Box 3125  
Atlantic Beach, NC 28512

or

Kay Howe  
P.O. Box 3130  
Atlantic Beach, NC 28512

Name	E-Mail	Phone	How Many?

Remember, the pick-up date is Wednesday, December 4, from 10:00 to noon. Handmade bows for your wreath will be available at pickup for \$5.00.

## Carteret Arts Forum

Perhaps the most popular speaker to visit Carteret County, Dr. Elliott Engel returns to the Coral Bay Club on Sunday, September 22, at 5 p.m. His presentation on "The Rise and Fall of F. Scott Fitzgerald" is sure to please, inform and totally entertain this season's audience. Most will recall Fitzgerald's novel *The Great Gatsby*, which has been a Hollywood movie subject five times (1926, 1949, 1974, 2000 and 2013). Dr. Engel's treatment of Fitzgerald, one of the 20th century's most talented and important writers, is spectacular, filled with much humor, sadness, joy and penetrating insight.

Tickets for this non-subscription program are \$25. To purchase tickets or for more information, contact Alicia Ragsdale at [alicia0901@aol.com](mailto:alicia0901@aol.com) or 838-1193, or Bobbie Hill at [bobbiehill@embarqmail.com](mailto:bobbiehill@embarqmail.com) or 247-3932.

## World Champion Pogo Coming to Mumfest

With two days of free entertainment, New Bern's Mumfest fits everyone's budget. A variety of musicians, dance troupes, magicians, roving street performers and face painters add color to the excitement.

At this year's October 12-13 event, there will be an exciting addition to the entertainment—Extreme Pogo (Xpogo). Xpogo is an action sport performed on next-generation pogo sticks that have the potential to bounce over 10 feet in the air. The Xpogo team performing at Mumfest holds 13 world and Guinness records earned at Pogopalooza competitions since 2004. Without question, the Xpogo Stunt Team is the most talented and experienced extreme pogo performance team in the world today. Their worldwide performances have helped grow the popularity of this extreme sport. To see videos of the Xpogo team performances, go to [www.xpogo.com](http://www.xpogo.com)

Traditional Mumfest favorites include Alex Clark, performing jaw-dropping stunts; the Purina Incredible Dog Team with amazing aerial disc catches; the Silver Drummer Girl; a model train show; Little River Winery mobile tasting room and New Bern Police Department's K-9 Weller Retriever demonstrations. Be sure to stop by the 13th annual out-of-water boat show, always a treat for boaters and wannabes. There's even an opportunity to try your hand at songwriting and get feedback from published songwriters performing their original songs on Sunday.

Also new this year, wine and beer connoisseurs will enjoy a variety of samplings at the Galley Store's "Juice on the Neuse" Wine and Beer Festival, including "3," a tribute wine to Dale Earnhardt from the Childress Vineyard. Be sure to check out the #3, #29, and #27 Childress race cars on exhibit and try out your skills in one of the two racing simulators brought to Mumfest by Joe Alcocke Auto & Truck Center.

For performance schedules and more information, go to [www.mumfest.com](http://www.mumfest.com).

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