



ON THE SCENE — Dr. William Friday, president of the University of North Carolina, right, interviewed Penny Harris, seasonal park technician, for the National Park Service and Leon B. Basnight of Manteo. Standing is Maurice Talbot, Producer-Director of UNC-TV who arranged the interviews on Sunday, July 22 at the Wright Brothers Memorial. The program is called, "North Carolina People" and will be telecast twice on UNC-TV, Channel 2, August 19 at 6 P.M. and August 24 at 9 P.M.

## Manteo Resident Recalls Famous Flight

By Natalie Case.  
"Dignified" is the word for Leon B. Basnight and his lovely wife, Sally, of Manteo.

He was 94 years old the week before and was being escorted by me to be interviewed by Dr. William Friday, president of the University of North Carolina, about his experiences with Orville and Wilbur Wright.

It all began when a director-producer from UNC-TV in Chapel Hill called the Tourist Bureau to get assistance with plans to do three television programs at the Outer Banks.

The program is called "North Carolina People" and is hosted by Dr. Friday. The programs are telecast on Sunday and Friday evenings. Maurice Talbot, the director-producer, talked to Aycock Brown, news director for the Dare County Tourist Bureau, about story ideas for the three programs.

Out of those discussions came three plans: an interview with Sen. Melvin Daniels atop the Wright Brothers Memorial in Kill Devil Hills; an interview with Leon B. Basnight, 94, of Manteo, in the First Flight Museum together with a tour of the facility; and a shoreside interview with Dr. Les Picker, director of the Marine Resources Center in Manteo.

My job was to escort Mr. and Mrs. Basnight from Manteo to the interview site by 11:30 A.M. on Sunday.

On the ride over, we talked about the day Basnight met the Wright Brothers. Although a frail man now, Basnight talked about being a strapping, husky youth who was called by the captain of the then-life saving station in Kitty Hawk to serve as a substitute for one of the men who was ill.

He agreed and together they rode across the Roanoke Sound in a small powered boat to the other side of the shore, which is the slender barrier islands called "The Outer Banks."

Once at the station, he was asked to go over to Kill Devil Hill, the large sand dune on which the Wright Brothers monument now stands, and help these two men with their flying machine.

It was December 18, 1903, the day after their unnoticed accomplishment. Basnight and others helped pick up the pieces of the plane and crate them for shipment back to Ohio.

"They were quite jovial and good-natured. It was a

pleasure to work with them," Mr. Basnight said. "Little did we know what was in store for the future," he commented. Basnight continued, "I kept a couple of pieces of wood from that plane, jotted the date down and took it back to the life saving station with me, but, of course, those were lost many years ago."

Several people, over the years, have claimed to know the Wright brothers and to have had some part in that extraordinary accomplishment.

In the case of Basnight, it

has been documented in the Washington's Department of Archives that, indeed, Leon B. Basnight was a substitute at the life saving station in Kitty Hawk on December 18, 1903.

Over the years, Basnight worked in Norfolk as a bookkeeper, then treasurer for an ice cream company. He went into business for himself and retired to Manteo about 15 years ago.

At the Wright Brothers Museum, he was asked for his autograph several times when visitors learned he was the last living survivor

of that historic event.

Dr. Friday was charmed with Basnight's alert, perceptive and interesting story of his experience with the remarkable Orville and Wilbur Wright.

The program will be telecast on August 19 at 6 P.M. and August 24 at 9 P.M.

Also, Sen. Daniels can be seen August 12 at 6 P.M. and August 17 at 9 P.M.

Dr. Picker's interview at the Marine Resources Center, Manteo, will be telecast on August 26th at 6 P.M. and August 31 at 9 P.M.

## Chowan District Court News

Bobby Bond was to have appeared in Chowan County District Court Tuesday morning for a hearing on a fugitive warrant.

Christopher Bean, his court appointed attorney, reported that his client had returned to New York and turned himself in to authorities.

Judge Grafton Beaman presided at the regular weekly session where Asst. Dist. Atty. Keith Teague prosecuted the docket.

Action taken included: William Morton Jones, stop sign violation, \$25 fine and costs.

Wade Thomas Nixon, failure to comply with suspended sentence, sentence amended.

Ronald Rea, probation violation, extended probation.

Jeffrey Wayne Vaughan, probation violation, ex-

tended probation. Clyde Noland Spruill, reckless driving, \$40 fine and costs.

Robert Lee Taylor, spinning wheels, \$25 fine and costs. Notice of appeal entered.

Jerome Lawrence, trespass, dismissed; assault on a female, 120 days, suspended upon payment of \$200 fine and costs. Notice of appeal entered.

Archie Lee Stanley, excess speed and improper equipment, 60 days, suspended upon payment of \$60 fine and costs.

John Groff, speeding, costs.

James Ingram Voight, exceeding safe speed, costs.

Ernest L. McDaniel, Landon Belcredi and Gwin S. Belcredi, trespass, dismissed and ordered to stay off the property of Lia McDaniel.

Dan Junior Bembery, driving while license revoked, reckless driving after drinking and resisting arrest, 12 months. Notice of appeal entered.

Lorraine Boyce, worthless check, 30 days, suspended upon payment of \$35 fine and costs and make restitution. Notice of appeal entered.

Linda S. Arcera, worthless check, 25 days, suspended upon payment of \$10 fine and costs and make restitution.

Leslie Maroto Hawkins, inspection violation, called and failed.

Carolyn Bernales and Bobby Bernales, worthless check, dismissed.

Arthur Harrison, failure to comply with suspended sentence, sentence invoked. Notice of appeal entered.

One divorce was granted. Margaret G. O'Connell received a divorce from Frances William O'Connell.

## State Mails \$6,000 Check

RALEIGH — County governments received good news in the mail this week in the form of a check from the N. C. Department of Human Resources.

Secretary of Human Resources Dr. Sarah T. Morrow said in Raleigh that the department has mailed out the first quarterly installment of \$3,000,000 for special state aid to counties in the administration of their health and social services departments during the current 1979-80 fiscal year.

Chowan County received \$6,000.

"We are indeed pleased that the legislature appropriated this direct state grant-in-aid money in ad-

dition to other state funds appropriated for use in administering local health and social services programs. We have all been concerned with the rising financial burden being placed on county governments in providing human services. Hopefully, the funds will relieve some of that burden," she said.

The funds are being sent for the first time directly to

the boards of county commissioners to be used at their discretion in the administration of their local health and social services departments. The only stipulation by the state for the use of these funds is that it cannot be used to match other state funds.

The funds are being allocated to each county based upon their population.

## Baldwin Completes Training

FORT BENNING, Ga. — Pvt. Angelo Baldwin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Buck Baldwin, Roper, N. C., recently received a Parachutist Badge upon completion of the three-week airborne course at the U. S. Army

Infantry School, Fort Benning, Ga.

Baldwin entered the Army in February of this year. He is a 1978 graduate of Plymouth High School.

## Concert Association Conducting Drive

Directors of the Albemarle Areas Community Concert Association will conduct a campaign from August 5 to August 10 to increase the number of patrons of the concert series this year.

Mrs. W. G. Gaither, Jr., Elizabeth City cultural affairs leader, is asking for this support so that the general admission can be held to the minimum needed to pay the artists who perform. "We are selling student tickets through high school at \$7.50 for the three programs, and adults at \$15, but we have many expenses which we must meet through increased patron

subscriptions", stated Mrs. Gaither.

Mrs. Jim Blount, Edenton resident, is spearheading the Chowan effort to show support for the community concert concept of promotion for the arts. She says: "I am very excited about the artists we are being in this year. They are of the same quality that we would find in the larger cities and it is only through this group effort that we can enjoy these programs."

Mrs. Blount commented that all programs have been scheduled so that they will not conflict with football weekends.

John Raitt, well-known

baritone will be the first attraction, scheduled for October 22. He is known for his movie, stage and concert career.

The next attraction will be ragtime pianist Max Morath who comes on February 16, 1980.

The serie concludes with Les Brown and his world-famous Band of Renown bringing the big band sound to Elizabeth City on April 27 at 2 P.M. This matinee performance should be nostalgic occasion for many patrons, and may serve to introduce the younger generation to his melodic sound.

Patron support is \$25 per person for the three concerts and will assure the success of this year's programs. It will also enable the association to broaden the series in the future.

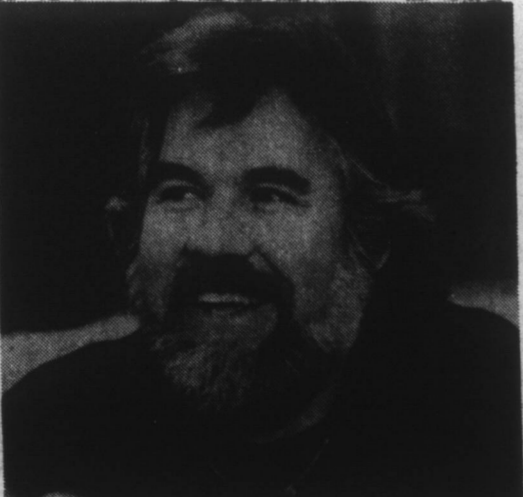


On Jan. 31, 1925, gray snow fell in Japan—a mixture of snow and ashes from nearby volcanoes.

**WBXB PRESENTS . . .**

### KENNY ROGERS DAY

**AUGUST 10th**

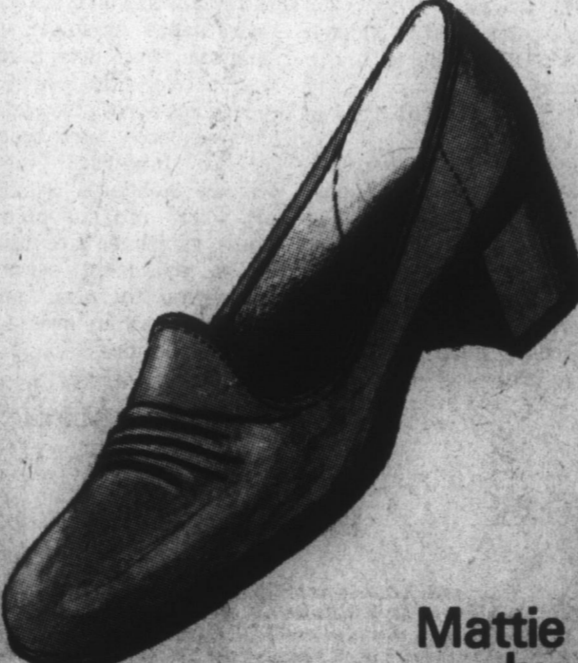


**LISTEN TO STEREO FM 100 FOR GREAT GIVEAWAYS EVERY HOUR! KENNY ROGERS DAY BROUGHT TO YOU IN PART BY THESE FINE MERCHANTS:**

Pick Wick Billiards	Village Florist	Woodard Pharmacy
Little Marina	Winslow Blanchard	The Pelican
Bridgeturn Exxon	Brickhouse Electric	Tastee Fraze
Hertford Hardware	Hudson's Air Service, Inc.	

**DON'T MISS IT . . . AUGUST 10th**

**Belk Tyler**  
downtown edenton



**Mattie by charm step SHOES**

Take our 10 day walking test! If you are not satisfied that our shoes are the best fitting and the most comfortable shoes you have ever worn. . . bring them back and we'll refund your money! Available in black, camel and burgundy in sizes 7 to 10N, 5 to 10M and 6 to 10W. \$18

Burgundy Not in Murfreesboro.

Charge it on Your Belk Credit Card, Master Charge, VISA or American Express.

Shop Monday Through Thursday 9:30 A. M. Until 5:30 P. M., Friday 9:30 A. M. Until 9:00 P. M., Saturday 9:30 A. M. Until

## WESTERN GAS SERVICE

**2 SUMMER SIZZLERS!!**

**SAVE \$100**  
On this Variable Power  
**Whirlpool**  
MICROWAVE OVEN  
• Meal Sensor Temperature probe \$299  
• Meal-Timer 35 min. 2 speed clock Suggested List \$399.95

**Model RFM7300**

**FACTORY AUTHORIZED SAVINGS** Quality Microwave Ovens and Ranges

**SAVE \$140**  
on this Continuous Cleaning  
**Whirlpool** deluxe 30" electric range  
• Black Glass Oven Door \$399  
• Meal-Timer digital clock Suggested List \$539.95

**Model RFE350P**

## WESTERN GAS SERVICE

705 N. Broad St.  
Edenton, NC  
Phone: 482-4483