

Just Thinking

# Mrs. Lina Smith, Swansboro, Recalls Stella Social Hall

By TUCKER R. LITTLETON  
Beaufort Faculty Member

Three weeks previous I mentioned in this column something about Stella and the activities along the White Oak River six or seven decades ago. Several of the elderly residents of this area have mentioned the Stella Social Hall to me, but only one has been able to tell me of the place.

Recently, Mrs. Lina Smith of Swansboro, who is now in her 88th year, told me that she remembers having attended a dance there when she was a girl. Mrs. Smith described the building as a two-story frame structure located just inside Stella.

It was back in the horse-and-buggy days when Mrs. Smith went to the Stella Social Hall. After going from her home to the river by horse, Mrs. Smith had

to leave the horses tied on the Onslow side of the river, and she and those with her crossed the river in a scow—or so it was called then.

Someone later explained to me that what used to be called a scow was really a ferry. After crossing the river, Mrs. Smith walked to the recreation center, and anybody living then would have told you that this was one of those big occasions.

While mentioning the Stella area, I thought a little humor might do us good. The sawmill at Stella afforded good jobs for many and the lumber industry in general was doing very well. Logs were cut and carried to the river by locomotive. Then they were made into rafts or carried by the old steamboat, the Nannie B., down to the inlet and thence were transported north.

The humorous incident is about the engineer on the locomotive that took the logs from the woods to the river. For convenience, I shall call the engineer Mr. W.

Now on this particular day Mr. W. was rushing the locomotive toward the river with a load of logs that had to be dumped into the White Oak River. The tracks descended the hill toward the river bank, and the locomotive was flying down the tracks. As he approached the end of the track, Mr. W. put on brakes to slow the engine down so that he could drop the logs gently into the stream. However, when Mr. W. applied the brakes, nothing happened and the whole locomotive sailed down the hill and plunged into the river with a splash.

It seems that Mr. W. always had difficulty when speeding! This same gentleman on another occasion was making a trip to Swansboro in a boat. The boat was run by an old-fashioned two-cycle motor, and the only way to reverse the engine was to turn the switch off and then quickly turn it on again. Thus the motor would automatically reverse.

Now, our daring young man came dashing down the river and was approaching the old town dock in Swansboro, where a number of people were gathered. Whirling the boat around at full speed, Mr. W. headed her straight

# Capt. Thurman Lawrence Wins Medal for Heroism

Capt. Thurman Lawrence, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thurman Lawrence, Beaufort, was recently awarded the Air Medal for his heroic work during the snowstorms that crippled the eastern United States during February 1958.

The Air Medal was presented to Captain Lawrence by Maj. Gen. George R. Acheson, Middletown Air Material Commander, Olmsted AFB, during a presentation ceremony this month. The citation accompanying the award cited his meritorious achievement while participating as a member of the helicopter teams which assisted in the removal of sick and injured individuals during the devastating snow storms in Eastern Pennsylvania. The citation commended him for his professional ability, skill, and devotion to duty.

Captain Lawrence is assigned to Olmsted Air Force Base, Middletown, Pa. where he serves as a helicopter pilot with the 303d Test Flight.



Capt. Thurman Lawrence ... flew 'copter rescues



News from NORTH RIVER

Dec. 2—Mrs. Letha Moore visited Mrs. Lutie Collins last Saturday. Mr. Ervin Pratt returned home from Morehead City hospital where he had been a patient for more than a week.

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Smith and children of Norwood, spent last weekend with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Hill. Her mother has spent the past week with them.

Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Murdock and children of Raleigh spent the holidays with her mother, Mrs. M. D. Pridgen.

Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Beachem and son, of Charlotte, spent the weekend with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Beachem.

Mrs. Polly Fulcher has returned home from Jacksonville where she had been visiting her daughter, Mrs. C. L. Springle and family.

Mrs. Graden Barker of Oriental visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Beachem, one day last week.

Mrs. Wallace Garner Sr. was called to Southport last week to be with her father who fell and broke his hip.

Mrs. Will Dail spent the Thanksgiving holidays with her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Bridges in Greensboro. Mr. Dail drove up Sunday to bring her home.

Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Pridgen of

Wilmington spent the holidays with her mother, Mrs. M. D. Pridgen. The Lord's acres of sweet potatoes were dug and sold last week. They realized a big yield and a good price for them.

parents, Mr. and Mrs. Delance Willis. She is a freshman at WC UNC this year. Mr. Will Dail visited Mr. Lon Willis last Saturday night in Sea Level Hospital. Seven from our WSCS attended the study course given by Mrs. Myrtle Smith at Ann Street Church last Tuesday night. It was very interesting.

# Everything Turns Out OK, Thanks to Alert Watchman

Car, boat trailer, no boat and no one around them for 24 hours could be mute testimony to tragedy in these parts. But everything turned out happily in this instance:

Before the rain started Friday night, a car and boat trailer was noted by Norman Canfield, watchman at Coral Bay Club on Bogue Banks. It was parked in the area near the club dock on the sound.

It was still there Saturday morning. Thinking the persons who were out on the boat may be in trouble, Mr. Canfield notified George Smith, Morehead township constable.

Mr. Smith and deputy Bobby Bell checked the car, and through the license number learned that the car belonged to Raleigh residents. The Raleigh home was contacted and the officers were told that David Cannon, Raleigh, and

his friend, Joe Stearn, were down here on a fishing trip.

Officers thought the two may have gone out Friday night. But they learned that the men hadn't left until Saturday morning. When they hadn't come back by Sunday, deputy Bell notified the Coast Guard.

From the lookout tower at Fort Macon, the Coast Guard spotted the two on Shackelford. The Coast Guard went over to the banks and learned from Cannon and Stearns that their boat had sunk Saturday night while it was anchored.

The Coast Guard brought them back to the mainland. Guardsmen making the assist were Earl Sells, ENC; Jack Miller, SN, and S. R. Weirsteiner, ET3.

The sunken outboard has been salvaged.

toward the dock. About three or four feet from the dock Mr. W. cut the switch and quickly turned it back on, but the motor didn't reverse!

The boat kept going ahead at full speed; and when she hit the dock, the impact tore the cabin right off the boat. Everybody just knew that Mr. W. was killed when, all of a sudden, he jumped up on the dock as per as you please and said, "That's all right! You needn't laugh. I was going to tear it off tomorrow anyway!"

### Found the Hole

Roanoke, Va. (AP)—City Councilman C. M. Cornell heard complaints about holes in the street. He discovered one—an open manhole into which the front wheel of his car dropped. What next? He said he replaced the cover.

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