



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

THE DRESSERS' AND PADENS' 1930 camping trip to the beach was a two-family effort. Pictured, from left, were Billy Paden, Mrs. Georgia Dresser, Alvin Dresser, Kenneth Dresser, Phil Dresser, Mrs. Lee Paden, Lucille Dresser (Blake), Harrell Paden and Jimmy Paden.

1930 Camping Trip Meant Work, Resulting In Many Fond Memories

BY LUCILLE BLAKE

In June of 1930 my father, Kenneth Dresser, and Mr. Lee Paden decided to take their families and go on a camping and fishing trip to Holden's Beach. In those days there was no paved road from U.S. 17 to the beach, there was no inland waterway and, of course, no bridge. To get from the mainland over the marsh to the beach, there was a rickety wooden walkway with a hand railing.

On Friday, Mama and Mrs. Paden spent the day cooking. They baked cookies, made bread and other goodies to carry with us. After work on Friday afternoon we would load provisions and families and head down U.S. 17. When we got to the dirt road leading to the beach, there was deep sand in places and the cars would get stuck. All but the driver would get out and push. (Sometimes the driver had to push.) First one car and then the other. After that we would ride until we got stuck again and then repeat the process.

When we reached the end of the road the fun (?) began. There were six children and four adults—sometimes five when Grandma Wingo was visiting. Remember, we had to take food, water for drinking, lanterns, cooking utensils, soap, towels, toilet paper, sheets to sleep on, camp cots for the adults (the children slept on the sand), and more things I can't remember.

We would go single-file across the walkway with the adults at the head and end and in between in case the children had trouble. All of us carried something, even the five-year-olds. The men always had to make two trips or more. They had

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to have two chests of ice for the fish they always caught.

Despite the hard work, we had fun. There were beautiful shells to

be picked up. Sunrises, sunsets and moonrises were never to be forgotten. The high sand dunes always gave us pleasure—run up and slide down. Our father always took the time to give us swimming lessons.

The only building on the beach was a big open-ended shed the fishermen used in the fall. There was a pump to be used for washing dishes, cleaning fish and washing the sand off our bodies.

Today, all that is gone, and beautiful summer homes sit side by side. There are limited access areas to the strand. In 1930, the men would walk to the Shallotte Inlet to fish. There was an old cart road there then. Now it is a private road and, unless you are privileged to own property there, you can't use it.

Such is progress...
Lucille Blake grew up in the Woodburn community near Leland. She serves on the Leland Town Council.

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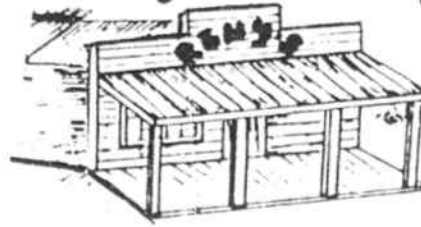
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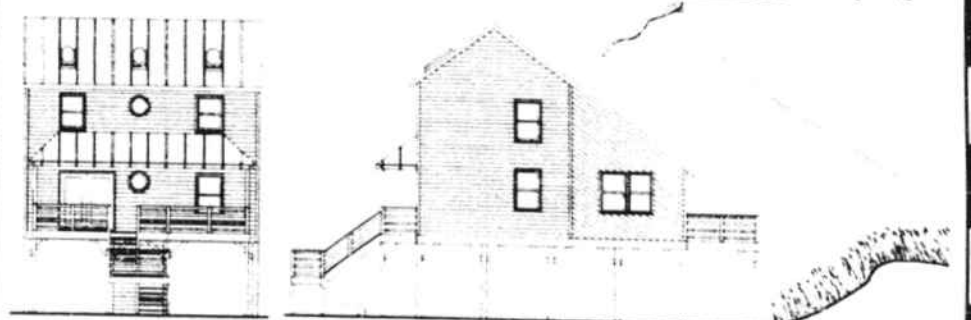


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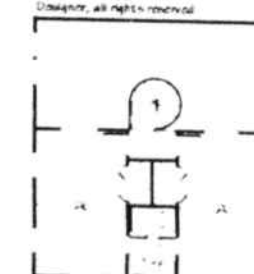


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