



STAFF PHOTO BY ERIC CARLSON

Solitary Stroll

An early riser takes advantage of the secluded strand for a solitary stroll on Holden Beach.

Fort Anderson Was Critical In Protection Of Port City

Remnants of its earthworks are all that remains today of Fort Anderson, a Civil War era post built on the ruins of old Brunswick Town on the west bank of the Cape Fear River.

Fort Anderson was the uppermost in a series of six Confederate shore batteries along the Cape Fear River, the largest being Fort Fisher. Their role was critical to the success of the war effort: protecting the two ship channels into Wilmington through Old Inlet and New Inlet—vital to the Confederacy's extensive blockade-running effort.

During the last months of the struggle, according to John G. Barrett in North Carolina As A

Civil War Battleground, "blockade-runners practically kept the Army of Northern Virginia in supplies." Guided by range lights from the Confederate shore batteries, the blockade-runners managed to keep slipping through a gauntlet of as many as 50 blockading vessels right up until the fall of Fort Fisher.

After Fort Fisher capitulated to Union forces on Jan. 15, 1865, it was only a matter of time before the remaining batteries fell. On the night of Jan. 16 Fort Caswell (now the campus of the North Carolina Baptist Assembly) was blown up and abandoned. The installation (Fort Holmes) on Smith's Island (Bald Head Island) and Forts

Campbell and Johnston were destroyed, leaving Fort Anderson on the river as the defense for Wilmington.

Fort Anderson held out for more than a month. It was finally evacuated around Feb. 20, after a strong attack by Federal soldiers under the command of General Jacob D. Cox.

The Confederates next made a stand on the north bank of Town Creek. There, in a brief skirmish, General Johnson Hagood's Confederate force was defeated and driven back toward Wilmington.

On the morning of Feb. 22, Mayor John Dawson met the invaders and surrendered the port city.

Treat Yourself To North Carolina's Blue Highways

This is not for you good people from Charlotte and High Point and Fayetteville and all those other places we name our streets for around here. You should already be privy to the secret.

This is for you newcomers who still think "Carolina" is one state and that there's a city in the middle of it called "Rawleighdoorham."

This is for those of you who vacationed in Myrtle Beach for many years before discovering that the place you really wanted all along was just on the other side of the South Carolina line.

Congratulations on your good judgment! Now do something nice for yourself. Get in your car, go over to the welcome center on U.S. 17 Bypass and get yourself a brand-new copy of the free N.C. State Transportation Map. Open it only to the three easternmost flaps. Promise yourself to spend some time this fall exploring the wonderland that eastern North Carolina truly is.

"Wonderland," you ask? "You mean the bright lights of Atlantic Beach and Nags Head? The fishing at Cape Hatteras? The sailing off Oriental?" No, though all of those things deserve their glowing reputations.

I'm talking about the blue highways of ENC, those long stretches far from the interstates, where you're a couple of hours from any towns large enough to have a K-Mart. It's a great adventure for those who still enjoy a leisurely old-fashioned road trip on two-lane blacktop.

The only thing you'll really need to plan for is your ferry rides, an integral part of the ENC experience. The most popular is the two-and-a-quarter-hour Cedar-Island-to-Ocracoke ferry, which offers several departures a day. Even in the dead of winter, reservations are recommended. The phone number is on the map.

In the late autumn, a late afternoon ferry trip guarantees the most breathtaking show you can see for ten bucks—the sky flaming pink and purple as the sun dips into silver water with not a piece of land visible in any direction.

It takes about 3½ hours to get to Cedar Island from Shallotte, but allow at least twice that much time for side trips if you can. Take U.S. 17 past Wilmington and N.C. 172 through Camp Lejeune. Allow enough time to stop in Swansboro or Beaufort (or both) for a great meal and some shopping.

Swansboro, a quaint village on the White Oak River, has a downtown full of antique and gift shops located in rustic old buildings. Downtown Beaufort has dozens of beautiful waterfront sea captains' homes, most of which have been, or are being, lovingly restored.

Walk along the Beaufort docks any time of year, but especially during the fall migration, and you'll see an incredible array of sailboats and motor yachts, some whose sheer extravagance will astound you. Also in downtown Beaufort you'll find the N.C. Maritime Museum in a beautiful new cedar-shake building. Take time to browse there and get a feel for North Carolina's rich maritime history.

When you get to Ocracoke, spend a night there. Rent a bicycle and ride through the village and around Silver Lake Harbor. Go see the pretty white lighthouse and the British Cemetery and bask in the grandeur of miles and miles of never-developed beachfront. Check out the wild ponies whose forebears were left at Ocracoke by 18th century Spanish explorers.

Leave Ocracoke on the Swan Quarter ferry, a two-and-three-quarter-hours trip over a different piece of the wondrous Pamlico Sound. Take U.S. 264 east out of Swan Quarter to Lake Mattamuskeet, where in fall or winter you'll see dozens of species of migrating waterfowl. There's a blue highway around the lake, and N.C. 94 is a causeway that cuts right through it. There are lots of places to picnic or hike.

Take 264 west to Belhaven, another pretty waterfront village, then N.C. 99 to the Pamlico River ferry landing. That ferry is free, and it's a short hop to the little town of Aurora, where there's a fossil museum you might be lucky enough to find open.

Find your own way back to Brunswick from there; whatever route you take, you're guaranteed to go past tobacco or cotton farms whose tidy farmhouses all have meticulously prepared displays of pumpkins and other harvest markers in their front yards.

Stop somewhere and eat a big plateful of tangy, vinegar-and-pepper-sauced pork barbecue, the culinary specialty of this corner of the rural world.

By the time you're back in your armchair, you'll have discovered new wonders of nature, pieces of history and, if you have any soul at all, will feel like a genuine citizen of the Old North State—one secure in the knowledge that the South Brunswick Islands are not an appendage of the Grand Strand but rather a border guard of the beautiful, almost mystical, North Carolina coastal region.



Lynn Carlson

Century 21 579-3599

Island Realty of Ocean Isle

"Serving The South Brunswick Islands"



268 E. 1st Street, Ocean Isle Beach—Oceanfront cottage, 3 BR, 1½ baths, oceanside deck, covered porch and what a view. Only \$200,000.

1788 Wood Duck St. SW, Wood Duck Retreat—Beautiful and spacious home with fireplace, formal dining room, large master bath and much more, only 4 years old. \$49,900. What a great buy!!!

33 Richmond St., Ocean Isle Beach—Inside is very light and open with grey color theme throughout. Features: fireplace, formal dining area, full screened in porch, sundeck, floating dock, garage plus workshop area. \$156,500.

31 Dare Street, Ocean Isle Beach—Canal home, 5-BR, 5-bath contemporary home featuring wet bar, floating dock, upstairs den, fully furnished and a 1-car garage. \$229,900.

BentTree Moorings Lot #58 & #59. Great cul-de-sac setting, only \$29,000 each. Lot 1, Gate 1 \$25,000.

Goose Creek Lot-#31. \$22,000. #49 \$35,000, waterway community, quiet surroundings and lots of trees.



Forest Dr. SW, Bonaparte Retreat—Beautiful 3-BR, 2-bath brick home located on cul-de-sac in quiet subdivision close to beaches and golf courses. This home is priced to sell. \$115,000.

Shangrila (Mainland)—3-BR, 2-bath doublewide home near ICW. Large screened porch and fenced backyard with community boat launch and pier. \$79,900.

4195 Rounding Run Dr., Pine Lake Village—1370+ sq. ft. of living space. Featuring fireplace, breakfast bar, bay window, Jacuzzi tub in master bath, walk-in closets, built-in stereo, large screened in porch. Only 3 years old. \$64,900.

96 Monroe Street, Ocean Isle Beach—On the waterway. Beach living never got any better than this 4-BR, 4-bath home at the end of canal, directly on the waterway. Gazebo, floating dock, home approximately 2 years old. \$365,000.

65 Laurinburg Street, Ocean Isle Beach—Unique natural canal lot with unobstructed view of Ocean Isle Beach bridge. \$80,000.



Shipwatch Lane, Crown Creek—Cypress siding home with large corner lot, fireplace in great room and waterway view. 3 BR, 2 baths in private subdivision near Ocean Isle Beach.

Bricklanding Lot—182.46x115 on the 4th fairway. \$80,000.

Brierwood Golf Club—32 Fairway Dr. Spacious 3-BR, 2-bath brick rancher in excellent condition. Landscaped lawn has sprinkler systems in front and back yard. Deck off large Carolina room overlooks the #2 fairway. Reduced \$6,400 to \$138,500.

442 E. 2nd Street, Ocean Isle Beach—Oceanfront, beautifully furnished, top of the line appliances. Enclosed garage, deck overlooking ocean, 4 BR plus loft, 3 baths plus 2 half baths. Oceanfront at its finest. \$264,000.

476 E. 2nd Street, Ocean Isle Beach—Oceanfront home, oceanside deck with a perfect view of the beach. This 4-BR, 3½ baths with a loft has great furnishings and has been a super rental. \$170,000.

10 Raeford St. (Ocean Isle Beach)—Canal. Prestigious executive home. 3 BR, 2 full and 2 half baths, formal living and dining rooms, den and game room. Well for irrigation, floating dock and extensive landscaping. \$247,500.

Each office independently owned and operated ©1993 THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

Call or write for a Free Rental and/or Sales Brochure

Suite 1 Ocean Isle Plaza, Ocean Isle Beach, NC 28469

Sales Staff: Terry Barbee, Lou Hayes, Sennie Horton, Diane Suley