



Scenes from the LOST COLONY Paul Green's symphonic outdoor drama



From: Aycock Brown, Manteo, N. C.  
One of the oldest lighthouses still in active use is located on Ocracoke Island, one of the chain of islands which forms the Outer Banks of North Carolina. [Aycock Brown Photo]

# OUTER

## "Birth Of Aviation"

(Editor's Note: On Saturday, July 13, 1974, Project Upward Bound visited the Outer Banks on the East coast of North Carolina for their annual trip. Our departure from Wesleyan was at 8:00. We finally arrived on the Outer Banks at 1:00 after a state of elation and gaiety shown by the Upward Bound students by singing and telling hilarious tales on the buses. The students could not believe the fantastic sights of the Outer Banks. There was not a minute to spare. We concluded our trip by eating dinner at Tony's Sanitary Seafood Restaurant at Morehead City before returning to Wesleyan.

The following information (below) is promotional and all rights are reserved by Travel and Promotion Division, Department of Natural and Economic Resources, Raleigh, North Carolina, 27611.)

Stand very quietly on a sand dune and listen. Hear the whisper of the wind and the heaving and the sighing of the sea. A thousand tales ride these breezes on these banks that fringe the eastern edge of North Carolina a generation before Sir Walter Raleigh's grand dream flowered—and perished—here nearly four centuries ago.

Old people here say there's gold beneath these dunes—treasure tarnished with blood drawn by the rapiers of pirates. When they tell of these treasures, they speak with easy familiarity of the infamous men who allegedly buried them.

The waters that pound against the seaward side of the Outer Banks are storied, too. More than 2,000 ships have sunk just offshore in the "Graveyard of the Atlantic". The rusted stacks and boilers and masts that protrude above the waves mark the resting places of many. Often, the sands of the ocean floor shift suddenly, baring the skeletal remains of an old schooner or steamship, and giving truth to one theory that the sea raises all it has buried.

Oh, the stories are many in eastern North Carolina. And many are true, documented in the history books. On Roanoke Island, the first English attempt to settle America failed, leaving an unsolved mystery. Nearby at Kitty Hawk, man's attempt to establish a European-like feudal system was repudiated roundly by men determined to be free.

Indeed, a love of freedom and a distaste for any form of caste system have always run deep in the flatlands of eastern North Carolina! The remnants of grand plantations remain, but the eastern section is primarily the land of the yeoman farmer, self-sufficient, fiercely independent, but outgoing and friendly.

Early in its history, eastern North Carolina's spirit of independence prevailed against colonial governors who sought to impose their will on the people.

"All the governors that ever lived in fear of the people and

dreaded their assemblies," wrote Governor George Burrington in 1731.

England felt the ire of early easterners when it enacted oppressive trade, tariff and stamp acts. In Culpepper's Rebellion, the first rebellion against foreign rule in the New World, eastern North Carolinians resisted the Navigation Act. In 1774, before irate Bostonians dumped his majesty's tea into the sea, Edenton had had a tea party, organized by Mrs. Penelope Barker and attended by women angered by unjust treatment from the British Crown. In April, 1776, when North Carolina's Fourth Provincial Congress met in Halifax, a unified cry of "independence" was raised and the historic Halifax Resolves were adopted.

Ask a resident of North Carolina's midland or mountain region where eastern North Carolina is, and he'll fling an arm casually toward the rising sun, wave it southward a bit and declare, "Why, it's down yonder."

"Down yonder" is roughly one third of North Carolina, and encompasses a broad sweep of beaches and islands, rivers and fertile fields and gentle people. It is the land of broad savannahs created by the annual fires of colonial farmers, of pine and white oak trees, churches, barbecue, steamed clams, brunswick stew, tobacco, peanuts, and livestock. The east is the land of the flowering crepe myrtle tree, the lush scuppernong grapevine and the umbrella-shaped chinaberry tree.

The love the people of eastern North Carolina have for this land is an old passion, rooted in tradition, tested by trial. It is a love quickly acquired by many who visit here.

### Kitty Hawk

A shortway from Nags Head is the tiny village of Kitty Hawk. Here in 1900 Orville and Wilbur Wight began glider experiments that led to powered flight in a rickety flying machine in 1903.

Dominating the area is Wright Brothers National Memorial, with its monument rising from the crest of Kill Devil Hill. Constructed by the federal government to commemorate the Wright Brother's historic achievement, the memorial includes a museum depicting the history of powered flight.

### Nags Head

According to one ancient legend, the resort of Nags Head acquired its name from the unscrupulous practice of islanders who tied lanterns on the nacks of ponies and marched them along the high dunes of the islands. The lights swining from the ponies nacks simulated the lights of boats, thus deceiving captains into running aground on the shoals where the cargo of their vessels could be commandeered.

A more likely explanation for