

Double-Decker Bus Tours Start

Always polished, shiny red and in tip-top running form, the Beaufort Historical Association's vintage 1948 Leyland Motor Company double-decker bus began making its seasonal rounds of the town on Friday, April 1. Narrated bus tours are offered Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. and on Saturdays at 11 a.m. through October.

Originally having served the people of London, the double-decker bus has carried people through miles of history since it was donated to the Beaufort Historical Association in the mid-70s. It seats 52 people, with most riders enjoying the tour from the open-air top which provides magnificent views of the town's waterfront with the wild ponies of Shackleford Banks on the horizon. Look closely and you may be able to spot Fort Macon or even the Cape Lookout lighthouse.

To the delight of thousands of visitors, the bus tours are enhanced with narrators, dressed in period attire, who entertain with facts and folklore about this colorful seaport town founded in 1709. Each lively bus tour weaves

through the streets of Beaufort's Historic District telling the story of Old Beaufort. Without getting off the bus, riders can take a look at Beaufort's architecture and water views and hear the stories of the Old Burying Ground and the legends of the Hammock House, a stopping place for the notorious pirate, Blackbeard. Skilled storytellers, bus tour narrators reveal the secrets of a Confederate spy and help point out the wild ponies just across the water on Carrot Island. A ride on the double-decker bus is always a treat for first time and annual riders.

From anecdotes of the Civil War to tales of ghosts, the bus tour is sure to please individuals of all ages. Tickets for bus tours are \$6 for adults and \$4 for children under 12. Tickets may be purchased at the Safrit Historical Center, the BHA Welcome Center, at 130 Turner Street. Proceeds from ticket sales benefit the preservation and educational programs of the Beaufort Historical Association. For more information about the Beaufort Historical Association, call 728-5225 or stop by the Welcome Center.

Bits and Bites More About Tsunamis

By Sigrud Schneider

A couple of issues ago, I wrote about the history of tsunamis and why and how they occur. I have recently read that the earthquake that set off the Dec. 26 tsunami was actually three times larger than originally thought. It was the second largest earthquake ever recorded.

A most unusual aftermath of the Dec. 26 tsunami was that tons of titanium ore were deposited along more than 300 miles of shoreline in India. The deposits, as high as ten feet in some places, were left on the sand dunes and went as much as a mile on shore, significantly adding to the titanium already

there. It is speculated that more than 40 million tons landed on the coast.

Most of the world's high-grade titanium is mined from coastal deposits using a modern version of panning for gold. The tsunami-dumped ore could help India keep up with a growing demand for the metal far into the future.

Titanium alloys are a favorite of the aerospace industry and are increasingly used in consumer products such as cars, computers and sports equipment. Titanium is 45 percent lighter than steel but is just as strong and is also resistant to heat and corrosion.

Spring Series With Rodney

A brand new series of "Lunch with a Dash of History" will begin on Friday, May 13, at 12 noon. Here is the schedule:

May 13 John M. Morehead and Family

May 27 Carolina City/Hollywood

June 10 Decatur Gillikin

June 24 Marsh Ponies

July 8 Beaufort Revisited

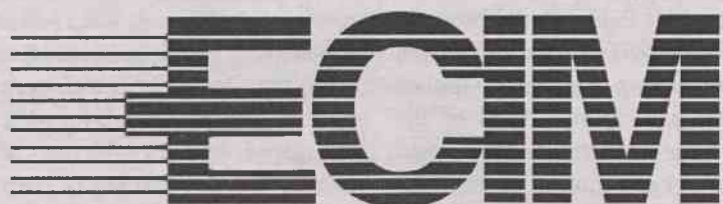
July 22 Preacher of note of Carteret County

Tickets are \$8 for lunch and only \$3 without lunch. Make your reservations before Wednesday prior to each lecture by calling 252-247-7533 ext. 106, or stop by the Museum Store. Remember, if you miss a lecture, we have copies of each of Rodney's lectures on video in the Museum Store at a cost of \$5 each.

Submitted by Cindi Hamilton, Executive Director

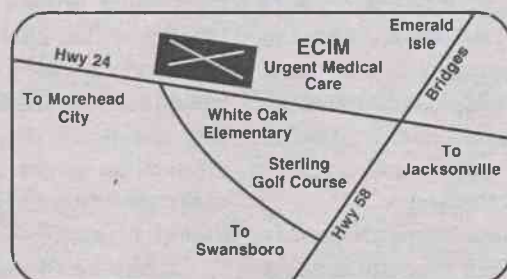
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