

## Meet Your Neighbors

(Continued from page 21)

a myriad of subjects including birds, folk art cows, horses and Santas. To gain more expertise, Nick took a course in waterfowl carving at Carteret Community College. Carving waterfowl soon segued into reading, studying and making models of horses. Nick explains that when he finds a piece of wood and examines its texture and patina, it generates a vision and a promise. Nick's first major project was the restoration of a model of an 18th century whaler that he found in wreckage. After doing his research, he was able to restore it with accurate detail. Other ongoing projects include heritage carvings of ducks and swans. The logo on the glasses of the Country Club of the Crystal Coast is another of Nick's designs. Nick's advice to any budding carver is "read the book and do the



research first." Patience and detail are the carver's words to live by. Nick explains that not only the creating but also the learning process are equally exciting. Nick's next project is to build a full-size carousel horse, a project he anticipates taking two years. After that, Nick plans to indulge his fascination with Greek and Roman history by carving a Greek sailing vessel.

Nick is not the only artist in the family. Marge belongs to the Crystal Coast Quilt Guild. She has done 13 quilts since she started

in 1996. Most have only been finished quite recently while Marge was teaching her granddaughter Brittney how to quilt. She is also known throughout the area as "The Bread Lady" for her authentic crusty Italian bread, which she once sold at the New Bern Farmers' Market, The Beartown French Bakery and Bistro. According to some, it is "The best Italian bread south of New Jersey." In fact, when Nick organized Men's Night at Bogue Banks Country Club, it was mandatory that he bring extra loaves of Marge's bread for the boys to take home.

The couple's love of history and art and the respect they give each are evident in the beautiful and original displays found throughout their home, including many and varied pine cabinets and chests, some of which hold Marge's exquisite collection of Swiss and American pottery in matched sets. Among other collectibles are an original Edison phonograph, which still plays wax records; a Victrola; and a desk from Marge's grammar school.

Family connections and treasured memories of vacations in Emerald Isle brought this couple, who had originally dreamed of retiring to the Catskills, to Pine Knoll Shores? When visiting Marge's brother Dennis in Kinston, he showed them the "perfect" retirement community, sans the snow and extreme cold of New York's mountains in winter. That perfect place was, of course, Pine Knoll Shores. They bought a home here in 1996 and have had no regrets about the move. The only challenges were the three hurricanes that wiped out their docks twice within one year. Seeking protection from the elements, they decided to move to a more protected location on the corner of Hawthorne and Sycamore, where they remain today amidst the privacy they crave without the isolation of the mountains during a long northeast winter.

## Carteret County (1722)

By Carteret County Historical Society

Carteret County, North Carolina was formed in 1722 out of Craven County. It is named in honor of Sir John Carteret, who later became the Earl of Granville and one of the Lords Proprietors of North Carolina.

Native inhabitants of the area were the Iroquois-speaking Tuscarora Indians. The Tuscarora Nation lived between the Neuse and Pamlico Rivers in eastern North Carolina. As early as 1706, white settlers of Huguenot, German, Scotch-Irish, French, and English descent arrived in the region. Most had migrated southward from northern American colonies rather than from Europe. Also, in 1721 Quakers from Rhode Island came in family units and settled on the north side of the New-  
port River.



Beaufort, Carteret's county seat, is the third oldest town in North Carolina. It was first known appropriately as Fishtown because the fishing industry was and has been an important part of the county's history. Beaufort was later named for Henry Somerset, Duke of Beaufort.

The largest plantations, given by grants or purchased, were in the central and western parts of Carteret County. Large land owners included Robert Williams, William Borden, and the Stanton family. Unlike other parts of North Carolina and Virginia, no large pillared houses were constructed in the county; the Williams' plantation home, for example, was brick and plain.

Carteret County participated in global trade almost from its beginning. Plantations produced goods such as tobacco, grains, and salted meats and fish to export to England. Lumber was also a major export due to the area's vast forests. The most significant commercial industry was naval stores--tar, pitch, rosin, and turpentine.

Portsmouth and Beaufort served as the county's major ports. Ships landed in Portsmouth, and workers transferred cargo to smaller boats for transport to the mainland. However, as its depth decreased, Portsmouth harbor declined as a port of entry, and the town was abandoned.

Formal education was not a priority for the early settlers of Carteret County. Most children were preoccupied with working on the farms. Wealthier families usually sent their children outside the colony for advanced training. In the community of Hunting Quarters, however, the Scotch-Irish established the area's first school; it became the first accredited high school in the county. The first Anglican Church in Beaufort, St. John's Parish, was organized approximately in 1724. However, the increasing opposition of Baptists, Quakers, and other denominations contributed to the decreasing number of Anglicans in Carteret County.

Carteret countians have witnessed war in their backyards. Many served in the Revolutionary War, and naval skirmishes occurred in the county's waters. Constructed between 1826 and 1834, Fort Macon was the site of a major battle during the Civil War. On April 25, 1862, Confederate troops surrendered the fort, and the Federal Government used Fort Macon as a prison following the war.

Although most of the settlements were developed prior to the Civil War, Morehead City was not established until 1858. It started as a railroad town and eventually attracted tourists. Today, tourism has replaced agriculture and exporting as Carteret County's largest industry.