

Nightfall Nightmare

By JONATHAN PHILLIPS
Special Correspondent

It seemed like the perfect setup.

After all, when one is doing hydrographic and land use studies on the entire Pamlico Sound and its tributaries, one must eventually visit the east side of the sound, right? And that, of course, means a visit to the outer banks.

What could be better? A summertime jaunt to Ocracoke and Hatteras Islands, and all supposedly in the name of research. Doesn't even count as a vacation, even though the three-man team planned a little side research into wave conditions for body-surfing, ocean and sound sport fishing, and physiological effects of relaxing in the shade.

Little did they realize the horror that awaited as they erected an ancient-but-mammoth tent at the National Park Service campground at Ocracoke.

Nightmare at nightfall

One thing you can be sure of. The gummint ain't wasting much of your money at Ocracoke. They decided to save on water by having fiberglass outhouses instead of toilets, and by having just two semi-outdoor showers to serve a large campground full of people who were by necessity covered with sweat, sand and salt spray most of the time.

That alone may sound like terror, but the nightmare hadn't even stepped into the mile-long shower line.

You expect a certain amount of discomfort camping anywhere, and a certain added misery camping at the beach in the summer.

Bugs buzz, sweat drips, and sand finds its way into every conceivable crack, crevice and orifice of camping gear and human body.

The Ozone Research Team (a whimsical name; the research has nothing whatsoever to do with ozone) was taking these annoyances in stride as they strode to the shore at twilight to make a scientific survey of the spatial distribution on the oceanfront of attractive young females.

None of the Ozoners expected the ambush that awaited as they recrossed the frontal dune at nightfall. It was the Nightmare at Nightfall, and the bloody slaughter began.

Ambush!

The brutal attack came at the dune ridgecrest. Attackers swarmed the surprised Ozone Research Team, drawing blood at every assault. The team fought back ferociously with bare hands, but was overpowered.

The blood-spattered troop ran screaming, cursing and fighting back to the home turf of the campsite. Groaning in agony and out of

breath, the team barely made the safety of the tent.

None of the brilliant young scientists had thought to bring a flashlight, so the three waited silently in the dark, knowing the bloodthirsty horde waited outside.

Suddenly a renewed assault began. The ORT realized the hopeless situation—the most brutal, bloodthirsty creatures on earth had breached the defenses of the tent.

The dreaded Ocracoke mosquitoes were inside.

Chemical warfare

There was just one hope left, and the Ozoners jumped to it: to the car, to the village, and to a store for aerosol-propelled poisons that might discourage the frenzied skeeters.

The ploy got the team through the night, but morning found them breaking camp furiously, still under unrelenting assault by the Ocracoke insects, which had mutated into a strain perfectly adapted to swarming even in high winds.

At Hatteras Island the team regrouped for a peaceful night in Salvo. Disguised as tourists, the skeeters ignored the Ozoners, except for an occasional free-lancer.

After a thunderstorm the next day complete with gale, had buffeted the campground, scouts for the horde located the Ozone team. Within moments the skeeters launched a full frontal assault; again chemical warfare bought some time.

But before morning the blood-choked swarm had made a shambles of the crumbling tent defenses. Whelp-covered and itching, the team retreated to the car to wait for first light.

Retreat to the mainland

Still under attack, the ORT broke camp and packed the car with a frantic speed under pressure that would have made the Wood Brothers pit crew green with envy.

The skeeters had won as the team blew off the main N.C. 12, not slowing until they hit the mainland.

"I've dealt with the evil Swift Creek mosquitoes, the infamous Pamlico County marsh skeeters, the deadly Hyde County Mattamuskeeters and the dreaded Green Swamp skeeters," Captain Ozone said. "These outer banks mosquitoes are the toughest yet."

There's a lesson there, Craven Countians. There are some mean skeeters here, but nothing like the banks bugs. So do your friends a favor. If any of them suggest a summer camping trip on the Outer Banks, tie them up and call the family doctor.

They'll thank you for it later.

Scare Prompts Action



By CHRISSIE CHANEY
Staff Writer

Last week an incident occurred in Vanceboro which was not exactly newsworthy, but the reaction to it was. On Thursday morning a woman came into a local business and asked someone to call the rescue squad for a child who had fainted. There were about six adults there in the store, yet not one of them was sure of how to summon help. We all tried to locate the number and procedure in the phone book, but were unable to find either.

Finally, one of the women present called the local pharmacist and asked him to contact the rescue squad and to please come to assist the child during the wait for the rescue squad to arrive.

He did so, and the child was not seriously ill; however, everyone was affected by the thought that had a real life or death situation occurred not one of us would have been able to call for help either efficiently or quickly.

The staff in the Highlights office wrote the number down that same morning, and I went home that afternoon and clearly marked the number in my phone book.

The purpose of this story is to ask all of our readers to have the number of all emergency personnel written where it can be easily and quickly found. You really don't realize how important it is until an emergency occurs.

In Memory Ballenger

Mr. Edward Harold Ballenger, Jr., 30, died Saturday in Leland. He was a resident of Route 4, Leland.

The funeral service was conducted at 4 p.m. Tuesday in the Wilkerson Funeral Chapel in Vanceboro by the Rev. Bill Wingard, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church. Burial was in the Godley Family Cemetery at Ernul.

Mr. Ballenger was a native of the Askins Community of Craven County and for the past two and half years resided in Leland where he was employed at the DuPont Company in Wilmington. He was a member of Calvary Baptist Church in New Bern and a 1971 graduate of North Carolina State University in Raleigh.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Sue Stanley Ballenger; a son, Harold Ryan Ballenger of the home; his mother, Mrs. Martha Morris Ballenger of Askins and two sisters: Mrs. Peggy B. Mayo of New Orleans, La., and Mrs. Arvis Barrow of New Bern.

Ipock

Mrs. Lora Ann Edwards Ipock, 86, died Sunday in Craven County Hospital in New Bern. She was a resident of Route 1, Vanceboro.

The funeral service was conducted at 2 p.m. Tuesday in the Wilkerson Funeral Chapel in Vanceboro by the Rev. Stanley Buck, pastor of Juniper Chapel Free Will Baptist Church. Burial was in the Stille Family Cemetery near Bridgeton.

Mrs. Ipock was a native of Craven County and spent

most of her life in the Ernul and Vanceboro Communities. She was a member of the Christian Church in Pamlico County.

She is survived by five sons: Clyde J. Ipock of Washington; Herbert Ipock of Bridgeton and Jake, Charles and Henry Ipock, all of Vanceboro; three daughters: Mrs. Vandy Sammons of Newport, Mrs. Myrtle Morris of Vanceboro and Mrs. John D. Marker of St. Joseph, Missouri; thirty grandchildren; forty great grandchildren; and three great great grandchildren.

Vogelsang

Mrs. Martha Ipock Vogelsang, 55, died Saturday night in Craven County Hospital in New Bern.

A graveside service was held at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday in Cedar Grover Cemetery in New Bern by Dr. C. Robert Tittard.

Mrs. Vogelsang was a native of New Bern and had lived in Richmond, Virginia, for a number of years. In 1980 she returned to New Bern. She was a Past Regent of the Bermuda 100's Chapter in Richmond, the DAR in New Bern, the New Bern Historical Society and the First Baptist Church of New Bern.

She is survived by her husband, W.H. (Bill) Vogelsang; a son, William Fredrick Vogelsang of New Bern; two daughters: Miss Anna Anita Vogelsang of Richmond, Virginia, and Dr. Georgia Boyce Vogelsang of Baltimore, Maryland; and her father, George W. Ipock of the home.

The family suggests that anyone desiring to make a memorial contribution consider the Shriners' Crippled Children's Hospital.

Free Immunizations

With school beginning soon, now is the time to have your child's immunization records reviewed to make sure he is properly immunized. State law requires a child to be immunized against childhood diseases before he or she can enter school. It is recommended that a child begin immunizations at 2 months of age, and by school age should have received a series of five DPT (diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis) immunizations, five polio immunizations, and one measles, mumps and rubella. A copy of previous immunizations is requested and a consent form must be signed by the parent or guardian before each immunization is given. Parents should check family health records with their doctor's office or the health department to ensure completion of the immunization schedule.

Craven County Health Department offers free immunizations Monday through Friday 8:30 to 4:30 at 2101 Neuse Boulevard. Immunizations are also given at these designated van locations:

Dover: Mayor's Office. Time: Second Monday of every month, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Fort Barnwell: Sermon's Store. Time: Third Friday of every month, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Vanceboro: Town Hall. Time: Fourth Tuesday of every month, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Christol Lee Factory Outlet

Opening Soon on Main Street in Vanceboro

West Craven HIGHLIGHTS

R. L. Cannon, Jr. Publisher
Business Manager: Christine Hill
Office Manager

Christine Chaney News Editor
Edith Hodges
Mike Hodges Office

Sharon Buck Production

P. O. Box 404, Main Street, Across from the Post Office
Vanceboro, North Carolina 28586
Phone: (919) 244-0788, (919) 244-8808

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

Second Class Postage Paid at Vanceboro, N. C.
[Permit entered March 1, 1978]

SUBSCRIPTION PRICES

Single Copy	20¢
1 Year	\$6.24
2 Years	\$10.40
6 Months	\$4.16
3 Years	\$14.56

[Includes N. C. Sales Tax]

[Tax not applicable to subscriptions MAILED from and for out-of-state customers. Deduct 24¢, 16¢, 40¢ and 56¢ respectively from above.] (USPS 412-110)

School Schedule August 28th

All students grades 1-12 begin classes.

Kindergarten students with last names beginning with letters A-L begin classes.

August 31st

All kindergarten students with last names beginning with the letters M-Z begin classes. Other kindergarten students do not attend classes.

September 1st

All kindergarten student's second day of school.