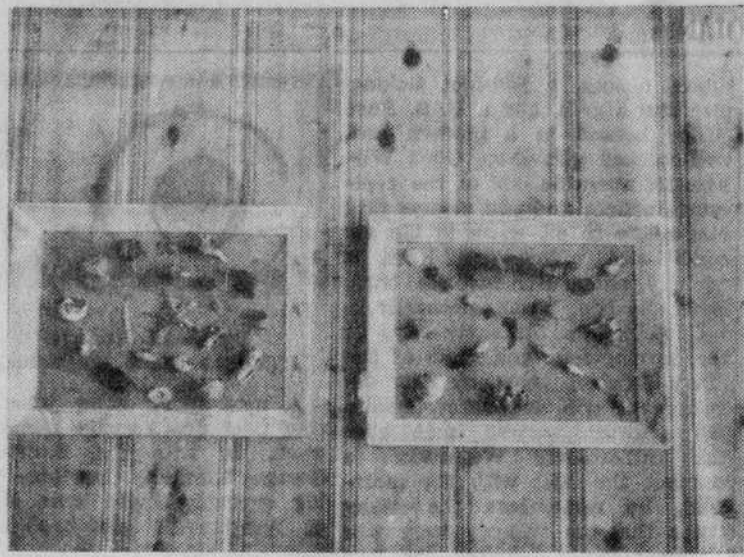


Development

Continued From Page One
 already been mentioned prominently in the North Carolina political circles as a good bet for the next Democratic nominee for governor. Who knows, maybe someday the "Little Mansion" will be at Ocean Isle Beach.

The town commissioners include Odell Williamson, mayor; and Watt C. Huntley, of Raleigh;



Unusual Decorations In Johnston Cottage

John Edwards, also of Raleigh; Homer Johnston; Noah Meggs, Clarkton businessman; and Dr. Roy McKnight, former head of the North Carolina Library Commission, who is now living just across from Ocean Isle. One thing that all of the commissioners agree on is that Ocean Isle is a family beach where families can get away from the honky-tonk atmosphere found in so many vacation spots to a quiet place where the individual members of the family can get to enjoy each other for a change. There could have been a larger business development at Ocean Isle, but Mayor Williamson points out that they have restricted this growth to the growth rate of the town so that they will never have

their first business failure. They also point out several little-known facts about Ocean Isle. It is the closest beach in North or South Carolina to such metropolitan centers as Greensboro and Charlotte; and it is the nearest beach in North Carolina to Highway 17, the main coastal traffic artery. A new access to Highway 17 has just been completed, making Ocean Isle only 3.9 miles from the highway.

As you leave Ocean Isle and cross the Intracoastal Waterway bridge, you find other necessary facilities such as the Ocean Isle Grocery and Gift Shop, the Ocean Isle Super Market, the Ocean Isle Restaurant and Oyster Roast, a miniature golf course operated by Parker Phillips, and the Causeway Motel. The Causeway Motel is owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Harriss Thompson, and features thirteen air-conditioned units. It has grown from their original ten units in less than two years.

The Thompsons have recently installed a boat-trailer parking area to make it easier for their customers who pull their boats and trailers to the beach for the week-end. The Causeway Motel is only one-half mile from the Ocean Isle boat-ramp. Mrs. Thompson recalls that last year a man from High Point whose name she has forgotten, staying at their motel, caught the first tarpon from the Ocean Isle fishing pier. She says that many travelers who have visited quite a few of the beaches on the eastern seaboard have remarked that Ocean Isle should be re-named "Little Daytona" because of the remarkably wide, level and white strand found at Ocean Isle but at few of the other eastern beaches.

One thing that any visitor to Ocean Isle will find is friendliness. You will find that it is impossible to knock at any door if there is anyone home. Before you can get to the door there is someone there holding it open and inviting you in out of the hot sun for rest and refreshment. Their smiles are so open and friendly that no

PLANTATION MEMORIES
 of the Cape Fear River Country. By: Fanny C. Watters. First edition in 1944. Revised in 1961. No. of pages—48. Available at Southport Library.

As Fanny Watters grew older she loved to remember back to the happy days lived on Clarendon Plantation here in Brunswick County. We learn in the preface that her friends and relatives always encouraged her to write something of those by-gone days. Then, at the age of ninety she showed them a blue-black composition book and said "Here's my book!"

On each page was a different memory or story. Some cover no more than half the page, because here is a lady who can say what she wants in few words. That she loved those happy childhood days along the Cape Fear before the Civil War there can be no doubt. Mrs. Watters writes in a chatty, personal way; as if you were sitting visiting on the porch and she was letting her mind wander at random through her youth.

The first story has the provocative title of "The Tipsy Hummingbirds". If this sounds to you like it is a tale of inebriated birds, you're right! It seems there was a lovely English honeysuckle vine on one of the porches at Clarendon, which the Hummingbirds loved. A visiting neighbor decided to have some fun, and mixed together a little brandy and sugar. This he put in the honeysuckle blooms. They enjoyed their treat thoroughly, and soon became tipsy indeed. However the birds recovered shortly with no ill effects.

The author recalls (with a shudder) how she would go frog-hunting on expeditions with her three brothers, and how much they enjoyed eating them after Cook had prepared them. It is evident that the culinary art was a most important part of plantation life and she enjoys reflecting on all the good things they had to eat. One page she describes the preparation of birds known as Coots. In her opinion these were the most delicious fowl ever eaten, even better than partridge. She follows this up by explaining how they prepared a vegetable known as Tanya. This is a plant called Elephant Ear by many people and considered

matter how hot and tired you are you find yourself smiling and accepting their hospitality.

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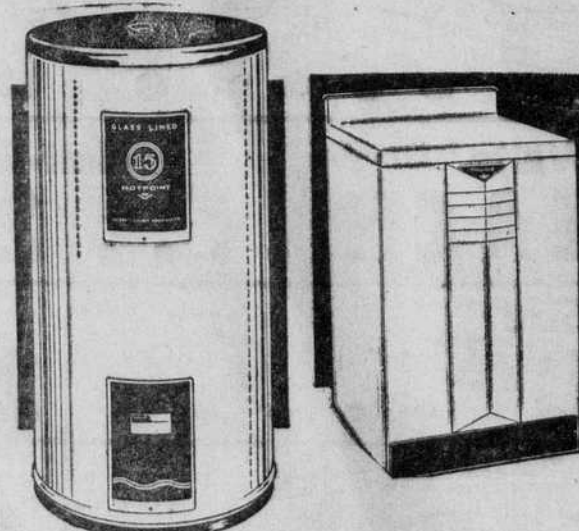
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