

Chesapeake's Smith Island Stop On Tour

By HOWARD JONES
Editor

EASTVILLE, Va.—Jack Burroughs' Hi-Way Market, which lies on the edge of this historic village, is one of the first convenience stores greeting travelers to Virginia's fabled Eastern Shore.

For years, the Eastern Shore, known alternatively as the Delmarva Peninsula, has been the site of extensive truck farming, which has brought a degree of prosperity to this wide finger of land separating the Atlantic Ocean and the Chesapeake Bay.

Despite reports in area newspapers which proclaimed a bumper crop at summer's end, Jack Burroughs was not too optimistic about the area's future. "The cannery located near here no longer buys local tomatoes," he said. "Instead, they import tomato paste processed elsewhere and shipped here in huge containers."

Now, instead of relying on an economy based solely on vegetable farming, Burroughs hopes that tourism can pump additional dollars into the region. "But, there are those who want to limit the number of persons coming here," he lamented.

Tourism is what keeps the Hi-Way Market going, as well as a next-door restaurant operated by Burroughs' wife, Susan. One of their mainstays—a favorite with visitors from both North and South—is Virginia ham, which they cook, slice paper thin and offer for sale.

In fact, it was the ham sign that initially attracted our party of three, which had only recently crossed the 20 miles of water separating Norfolk from the Eastern Shore.

With my mother and sister, Ann, we had come upon the Hi-Way Market right at lunch time, and instead of eating at the restaurant, had opted to buy a package of ham and put with some homemade beaten biscuits which we had brought along.

Minutes after we had eaten the biscuits, we drove into Eastville, a quaint village in which the first courthouse had been erected in 1677. It was from the door of this courthouse that the Declaration of Independence had been read in August, 1776.

Although our ham biscuits had been quite satisfying, we were a bit disappointed not to have been able to eat in Eastville's tavern, which has been serving meals since the early 1700s.

Eastville, like so many towns we have visited, grew up around the courthouse. The town contains several lovely old homes, and a few historical markers, one of which points out that three miles east of town was the main village of the Gingaskin Indians, one of the largest tribes on the Eastern Shore. According to the sign, survivors of this tribe were found here as late as 1860.

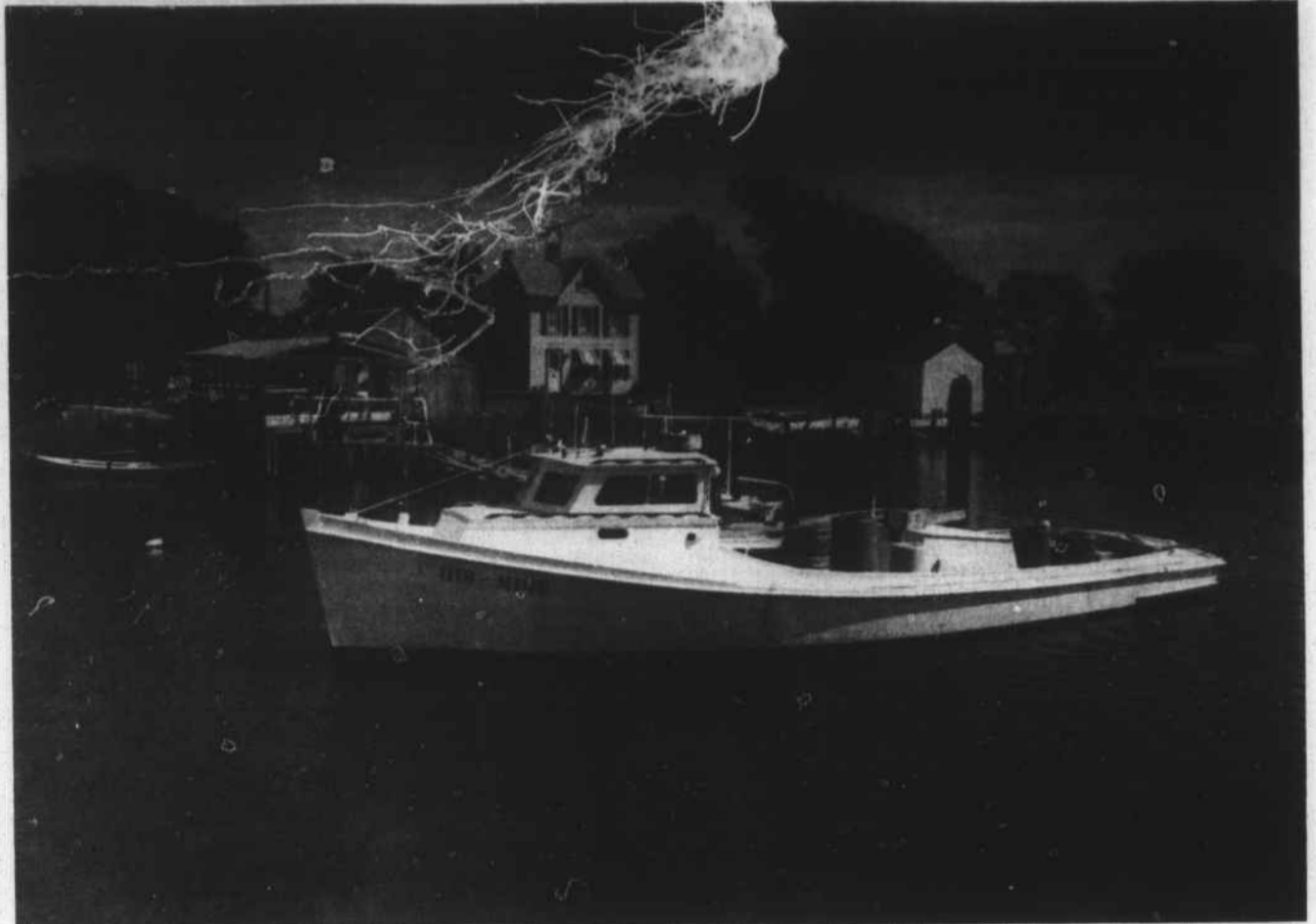
Eastville was an unplanned stop on our three-day tour of the Delmarva Peninsula. We had planned to spend our first night at Chincoteague, which with its sister island, Assateague, juts into the Atlantic, and our second night at Crisfield, Md., the home port of a paddle-wheel boat that would carry us to Smith Island, the largest inhabited island in the Chesapeake, and the actual object of our visit.

We motored north on U.S. Highway 13, past towns with Indian names and one village with the unusual name of Temperance, Va., until we reached the turnoff to Wallops Island, a few miles south of the Maryland border and familiar to many for its place in the space program.

Nearby lies Chincoteague, an island made famous by the wild horses found here and on nearby Assateague, and featured in the movie, "Misty."

After securing lodging for the night, we drove to Assateague and the massive wildlife preservation area administered by the Interior Department. Many specimens of wild birds were seen, including a large number of geese, and our car was brought to a crawl at one point by several wild horses meandering along the roadway. Despite signs cautioning visitors that they risked being bitten by the horses, their desire to feed the animals overcame their fear.

The next morning we completed the second leg of our trip which carried us to Crisfield, which proclaims itself as the crab capital of the world. It was here that we boarded a large boat around noon, and spent the next



This Chesapeake Bay vessel rests at anchor in one of the many small harbors which dot Smith Island, Maryland. The large island, made up of three separate pieces of land, is attractive to tourists who come to view the remote area and partake of Chesapeake Bay

cooking. The island was the object of a tour of the Delmarva Peninsula made by the author last month.

(Staff Photos by Howard Jones)

90 minutes cruising to Smith Island, which in actuality is three separate pieces of land rising from the floor of the Chesapeake.

We were put ashore on the main island just as the doorway of a restaurant located at pier's end opened and a hostess expecting the arrival of our troupe beckoned us inside. There we were seated at large round tables and treated, family style, to a meal consisting of crab soup, baked ham, macaroni salad, cole slaw, fried clam fritters, baked corn pudding, stewed tomatoes, crab cakes and homemade rolls and pies.

After lunch, one of the men who had helped with the voyage showed up driving a time-worn bus and gave us a tour of the little village situated several miles away. As opposed to Tangier Island, located 10 miles to the south and visited by us several years ago, there were no gift shops or craft boutiques to attract the visitor.

Following our return to Crisfield, which is filled with eating places offering steamed crabs and Maryland-style crabcakes, we enjoyed supper at a restaurant overlooking the bay.

Unfortunately, our boat did not return to Crisfield in time for us

to visit a museum devoted to the crabbing industry, and an adjacent visitors center named for hometown hero and former Maryland Gov. J. Millard Tawes.

The next morning, our plan to drive further north to the picturesque Maryland town of St. Michaels was changed by the prospect of heavy rains, and we retraced our steps, stopping once more at Jack Burroughs' Hi-Way Market to purchase three packages of ham to give to Warren County friends as proof that his product was just as tasty as we had reported.

Eastern Lawmakers Name Hardaway To Special Panel

Representative Thomas Hardaway of Enfield is one of six legislators who will serve with the two veteran Eastern North Carolina legislators who have been elected to a two-year term as co-chairmen of the Eastern Delegation of the North Carolina General Assembly.

Rep. Hardaway, who represents part of Warren County, will serve on the Delegation's Coordinating Committee, a group of eight legislators who carry out "detail work" for the larger regional body. Serving with Hardaway will be Senator Lura Tally of Cumberland County, Senator Marc Basnight of Dare County, Senator Robert L. Martin of Pitt County, Representative Beverly M. Perdue of Craven County and Representative Ed Bowen of Sampson County.

The appointments were made following the election of Senator Robert D. Warren of Johnston County and Representative Joe L. Mavretic of Edgecombe County as co-chairs of the Eastern Delegation, the 67-member group who serve residents in the 43 eastern counties from Raleigh to the coast. Both legislators have served on the delegation before, after having been elected to two-year terms two years ago.

The committee meets frequently during sessions of the General Assembly to work out details on projects the Delegation supports that will be helpful to their home region. "There are needs of a regional nature that local legislators would never discover, except while being involved as a group to examine the condition of regional programs and services," Senator Warren said. "All of this, in the end, helps our local communities located in the region," he continued. Rep. Mavretic concurred.



The "City of Crisfield" pulls away from the Maryland town by that name as it begins its voyage to Tangier Island in the Chesapeake Bay. A second tour group departed just behind to "City of Crisfield," this one a paddle-wheel boat carrying passengers to the largest occupied island in the Chesapeake, Smith Island. The mid-September cruise from Crisfield to Smith Island took approximately 90 minutes.



Geese were plentiful in the fields of Assateague Island's wildlife preserve toured during a visit to the Eastern Shore of Virginia and Maryland.



Wild ponies, made famous by the film "Misty," vie with vehicles for road space on the Virginia island of Assateague.



In photograph at top is the historic Eastville Inn, which has been serving food since before the Revolutionary War. Located next to the courthouse square of Eastville, Va., it was closed on our trip home following a mid-September trip to the



Delmarva Peninsula. At lower left is one of the handsome homes found along Eastville's main street. Bottom right photo shows the Hollybrook Plantation on Eastville's outskirts, which advertises antiques and accommodations.



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