

# Roanoke Islanders Prepare To Celebrate Anniversary Of Noted 'Lost Colony' Play

MANTEO. — The people of Roanoke Island are getting ready to celebrate the tenth anniversary of "The Lost Colony," the play which has become America's patriotic Oberammergau.

It was on July 4, 1937, that this Paul Green symphonic drama opened in the Waterside Theatre at Fort Raleigh, Roanoke Island, three miles north of here. This is the scene of the events dramatized by the play—the establishment of Sir Walter Raleigh's ill-fated "Lost Colony" in 1587, and the birth of Virginia Dare, the first English child born in the New World.

That first year it was intended as only a local, one-season celebration of the 350th anniversary of Virginia's birth and the earliest English attempts to colonize America. But so great was the response that the drama was repeated each July and August through 1941, when it was suspended because of the war. Revived last season, it was witnessed by more than 52,000 persons.

New crews are at work at the theatre in preparation for the 49-performance season, which will be held in July and August, and Samuel Selden, who has directed the production from the beginning, is already busy with plans for a cast and staff which will again number more than 250 persons.

Among the improvements in the theatre this year will be rain shelters within the theatre stockade capable of giving bad-weather protection to over 2,000 persons. Though the amphitheatre is in the open air, the play has had remarkable luck with the weather—throughout its six previous seasons, only seven performances have been cancelled because of rain.

**Seats 3,000**  
The amphitheatre seats more than 3,000 persons. Across Roanoke Sound, whose waters wash the backstage area, the spectators can see the illuminated pylon of marble which marks Kill Devil Hill, the scene of the first flights of the Wright Brothers. The 125-foot stage is multi-level and so large that, by the manipulation of lights and almost instantaneous scenery-shifting, Director Selden keeps the action moving without interruption from Queen Elizabeth's court, to the streets of Plymouth, to the American

wilderness, to the Queen's court, and back again.

Celebrations had been held at Fort Raleigh as far back as 1880 to memorialize the Lost Colonists. But with the erection of bridges to Roanoke Island in 1930, the people of Dare county decided that the time had come for a large-scale celebration. They decided upon 1934 as the time for it, this being the 350th anniversary of the discovery of Roanoke Island by the explorers whom Sir Walter Raleigh sent from England to find a place for his colony.

**Determined**  
A congressional delegation, responding to an appeal for federal aid, inspected the site, became enthusiastic in behalf of the observation, but recommended that because of the depression it be postponed until 1937. But the people of Dare were determined that a celebration should be held in 1934. So they wrote and staged a pageant which was performed on July 17 and 18 before 2,000 persons. In the audience was Paul Green, the North Carolina playwright who won the Pulitzer prize in 1927 for his play, "In Abraham's Bosom."

So impressed was he by the story of the colonists and by the enthusiasm of the Roanoke Islanders that he consented to write "The Lost Colony." He went to work on it immediately—and so did the people of Dare. They became costumers, stage technicians, actors—though many had never seen a professional play—and Fort Raleigh was restored and the theatre built. President Roosevelt himself saw the play in its first season—on August 18, Virginia Dare's birthday—a night when two performances were necessary in order that all might see the drama.

Green calls his work a "symphonic drama" because music, the dance and pantomime play as important a part in telling the story and establishing mood as does the spoken word. To sing the powerful music which he wove into the script, the Westminster Choir college, of Princeton, N. J., has each season sent the Westminster choir, and this group will be back this year.

**Many Islanders In Cast**  
Well over half the members of the cast and staff are Roanoke Islanders, and most major roles are played by a group

of New York and Carolina Playmaker actors from the University of North Carolina, where Selden is head of the dramatic art department.

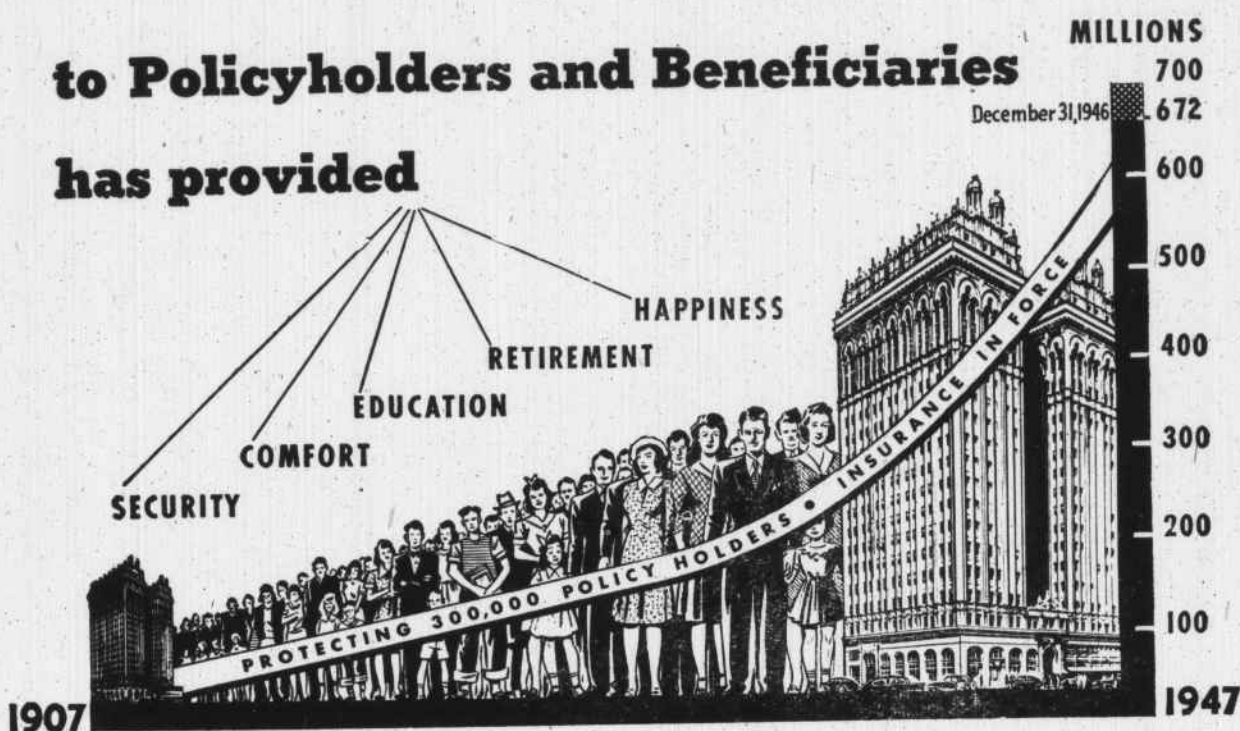
The play itself tells the story of a people almost overwhelmed by the savage forces of a new-found land. Governor John White, the artist and cartographer who gave the Old World its first graphic conception of the New World, left the colony late in August, 1587, to return to England for supplies. Because of the war with Spain, however, he was not permitted to leave England, and when finally he did return in 1590, he found no trace of the colonists. Nor has a satisfactory explanation of their history ever been found. Green's drama continues the story of the colonists after White's departure—he pictures them as suffering from hunger, despair, and Indian attacks, but finally rejecting Spanish enslavement and marching into the wilderness and to an unknown fate.

The season this year begins on July 1 and ends, as usual, on Labor day.

Say: "I saw it advertised in The Press."

Ask For—  
**JFG**  
Special COFFEE  
The Best Part of the Meal  
ONE POUND NET

## Jefferson Standard's 40 years service to Policyholders and Beneficiaries has provided



**THOUSANDS OF POLICYHOLDERS**, representing a cross-section of foresighted men and women in 28 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, are now sheltered by the protective cover of Jefferson Standard life insurance. During the year 1946 more new life insurance was purchased, both by old and new policyholders, than in any other year in the company's history. Such rapid growth is striking testimonial to the helpful service rendered policyholders and to the integrity and qualifications of the men and women who comprise the company's field organization. Entering its 40th Anniversary Year, Jefferson Standard is on the threshold of \$700,000,000 life insurance in force, with intensified plans for expanding the company's service to many new communities.

### ATTENTION, PLEASE

- I HAVE FOR SALE, NOW
- ONE- AND TWO-HORSE WAGONS
- WIRE — HAND PUMPS
- ATOMIC RADIOS
- ELECTRIC RADIO AND RADIO-PLAYER COMBINATIONS
- PUMPS

Electric Deep and Shallow Well  
I install your pumps. All pumps and work guaranteed  
PIPING — SINKS

Also call or write me for your Moving Trips. Friendly and safe drivers. Try my friendly service. Thank you.

**L. O. HOGSED**  
STAR ROUTE — HAYSVILLE, N. C.

### a nickel a week . . .

That certainly isn't a lot of money.

And The Press is well worth a nickel a copy. About 100 persons say so every week by buying the paper across the counter at The Press office.

But you can get it for even less!

For a nickel a week for 52 weeks is

**\$2.60**

And The Press is only \$2 a year, when you are a regular subscriber.

So it's **economy** to subscribe.

## THE FRANKLIN PRESS

P. S. There's another advantage—by subscribing, you make sure of always getting it.

#### EXCELLENT EARNINGS ON INVESTMENTS

Jefferson Standard again led all major life insurance companies in rate of interest earned on invested assets—the result of an alert and sound investment policy.

#### 5% INTEREST PAYMENT CONTINUED

Again in 1946 5% interest was paid on funds held in trust for policyholders and beneficiaries, thus continuing a rate that has been maintained for 40 years—since the company was organized in 1907.

#### STRONG FINANCIAL POSITION

(a) Contingency Reserve, Surplus, and Capital total \$20,800,000, an unusually high ratio of additional funds for policyholders' protection.

(b) Total assets \$179,000,000, an increase of \$18,000,000 for 1946. For every \$100 of liabilities there are \$113.12 of assets.

#### NEW RECORD GAIN IN INSURANCE IN FORCE

Insurance in force increased \$83,000,000 in 1946. Total is now \$672,000,000 on thousands of policyholders from coast to coast.

#### BENEFITS PAID

\$7,400,000 paid to policyholders and beneficiaries in 1946, bringing the total since organization in 1907 to \$159,000,000.

#### LARGEST INCREASE IN NEW BUSINESS

\$114,000,000 life insurance was purchased by new and old policyholders in 1946—an average of \$2,200,000 per week—a 64% increase over 1945.

### 40th Annual Statement

DECEMBER 31, 1946

ASSETS		LIABILITIES	
Cash	\$ 5,383,900	Policy Reserves	\$135,532,763
United States Government Bonds	33,440,997	A fund which with future premiums and interest earnings provides for the payment of policy obligations as they fall due.	
All other Bonds	21,472,579	Reserve for Policy Claims	1,035,734
Stocks	16,035,568	Claims on which completed proofs have not been received.	
First Mortgage Loans	78,061,244	Reserve for Taxes	689,228
Real Estate	7,319,067	Premiums and Interest Paid in Advance	3,920,296
Loans to Our Policyholders	12,252,226	Policy Proceeds Left with Company	14,250,570
Secured by the cash values of policies.		Dividends for Policyholders	1,795,787
Investment Income in Course of Collection	1,302,075	Reserve for All Other Liabilities	1,266,559
Premiums in Course of Collection	3,437,016	Liabilities	\$158,490,937
All other Assets	586,265	Contingency Reserve	\$ 800,000
Total Assets	\$179,290,937	Capital	10,000,000
		Surplus Unassigned	10,000,000
		Total Surplus Funds for Additional Protection of Policyholders	20,800,000
		Total	\$179,290,937

**E. J. CARPENTER**  
**DEAN CARPENTER**  
Agents



## JEFFERSON STANDARD LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

Ralph C. Pace GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA