

THE Seashore NEWS

A Weekly Newspaper Published in the Interests of Nags Head, Kill Devil Hills and Kitty Hawk Beaches—Foremost Summer Resort and for Fishing and Hunting

VOL. I; NO. 1 NAGS HEAD, N. C., JUNE 2, 1939

OUR CAPE HATTERAS NATIONAL SEASHORE

BEACH BRAWL REHASHED IN SUPERIOR COURT

Mrs. Whitehurst Draws Fine For Assaulting Mrs. Williams

Special—May 31.—Jethro Midgett, Jr., young Nags Head boy charged with the murder of Mrs. Ethel Drinkwater Hartley and Winston Green on the highway north of Manteo two years ago, was found here guilty by a Superior Court jury this evening. The jury deliberated for less than thirty-five minutes.

Young Midgett was found guilty of the manslaughter charge a year ago, and at that time was given a prison sentence; but his attorneys, P. W. McMullan and W. A. Worth, pleaded for a new trial on the ground that they had discovered additional evidence. Superior Court Judge Leo Carr of Burlington presided today.

The evening of March 11 turned out to be expensive entertainment for Mrs. Stella Whitehurst, who was found guilty of assaulting Mrs. Janie Williams on that night, and was fined \$25 and costs in the Monday afternoon session of Superior Court. Her 30-day jail sentence was suspended on condition that this amount be paid, the costs to include court costs and Mrs. Williams' doctor bill.

Before a courtroom packed by an appreciative audience, 99-pound, gum-chewing Mrs. Whitehurst, finishing her ringlets and wearing a purple and white polka dot dress and turban, testified that although she didn't court the blows she inflicted on the plaintiff, Mrs. Williams, "I beat her until I thought she had a plenty."

The testimony was substantially the same as on March 21 when the case was brought before the Recorder's Court and Mrs. Whitehurst, 35 and the mother of four children, was bound to the Superior Court, charged with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill.

Mrs. Williams, 38-year-old wife of Edgar Williams of Nags Head, exhibiting two scars on her forehead, was the first one on the stand. She testified that on the evening of March 11 she rode to Willis Baum's Red Top filling station with a carload of passengers including both her husband and Mr. Whitehurst. The men got out of the car she said, and went into the filling station for some beer, leaving her alone. Shortly afterwards, she claimed, when she was in Billy Mann's automobile, outside the station, Mrs. Whitehurst, without provocation, opened the rear door of the car and began cursing and beating her.

Mr. Williams, called next to the stand, said that when Mrs. Whitehurst came into the filling station admitting she had been trying to kill his "God damned wife" he ran out to Billy Mann's car and found his wife badly battered and bleeding and that there were two broken bottles in the car. He admitted throwing a stick through the window at Mrs. Whitehurst, who approached "in a sneering manner" while he was washing the blood from his wife's face. The stick broke the filling station window he said.

Not averse to giving the more amusing details of the fracas, Mr. Williams said that Stella slapped him, he slapped Stella, and Willis Baum, filling station proprietor, picked him up by the seat of his pants and tossed him out. The courtroom audience, at this point, had some difficulty in controlling its enjoyment.

Next to testify was Billy Mann, who said he drove Mrs. Whitehurst from Manteo to the filling station and then went inside and was not a witness to the battle.

Dr. W. T. Griggs testified that he treated Mrs. Williams' wounds in Elizabeth City a day or two after they had been inflicted. Mrs. Williams, in her testimony, had stated that not knowing how badly she was hurt, she had driven with her husband to Elizabeth City following her difficulty with Mrs. Whitehurst. Dr. J. C. Weeks, who gave Mrs. Williams 10 treatments after she returned to Manteo on Tuesday following the trouble, also described the condition of her scalp wounds, stating that they would have been serious if neglected but would prob-

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FIRST SERVICES IN NEW CHURCH THIS SUNDAY

Non-Catholics Invited to Opening of Chapel at Kill Devil Hills

A number of year around residents and summer visitors will gather up at Kill Devil Hills Sunday for the inaugural services in the newly erected Catholic Chapel, which has been officially designated as the Church of the Most Holy Redeemer.

The one hour service this Sunday, which is to be the first in a series of Sunday morning services to be conducted in the Chapel each week during the summer, will begin at 11 o'clock. Official dedication of the little chapel, according to Rev. Michael A. Carey, pastor of the Saint Elizabeth's Catholic Church in Elizabeth City, will be held the first Sunday in July. Rev. Carey will serve as Rector of the Chapel, and in that capacity will conduct all regular services during the summer.

The first sermon will be delivered by Rev. John J. Scally of New York, who was instrumental in having the Church of the Most Holy Redeemer erected.

Attending also, will be the Most Rev. Eugene J. McGuiness, D.D., Bishop of Raleigh, who has been especially interested in the chapel at Kill Devil Hills.

Non-Catholics will be welcome at this and all others of the Sunday services in the new chapel, Rev. Carey said.

The building seats 100 persons and is finished on the outside with white asbestos shingles and on the inside with stained juniper siding. It is located on the west side of the Virginia Dare Trail, about two hundred yards south of the Croatan Hotel.

The land on which the chapel was built was donated by Mrs. H. C. Lawrence of New Bern. Plans for the building were drawn by Professor Mekelsie of the University of Virginia, the contract was accepted by Frank Stick, and the construction work was done by Cahoon and Son of Harbinger.

When it is finished the chapel will cost slightly more than five thousand dollars, which includes the complete priest's living quarters.

TROUBLE SHOOTER ON BEACH THIS SUMMER

There's a trouble shooter on the beach this season, fully equipped with pistol and other necessary implements. His name is Bernie Atkinson, and he's employed by the Virginia Electric Power Company to keep things running smoothly in this section. Today he moved into one of the rooms above Russel Perry's station, and he can be reached there during the remainder of the summer. As an added convenience for summer colonists, a complaint office for the VEPCO has been established in the Seashore News building, and all trouble should be reported there.

Atkinson, in addition to giving twenty-four hour service answering complaints, acts in the added capacities of meter reader, collector, and North Carolina representative for the power company.

YOUR UTOPIA—NOT MINE

Why all this to-do about finding a modern Utopia; a heaven on earth. The place doesn't seem so appealing to me. The Wise men; the literary masters who set down the requirements for this so called Paradise, paint a pretty picture, but one that doesn't seem to hit it off so well when it comes right down to practical appliance.

Criteria for such a settlement seems to be modeled after the ancients' description of their dream land. A place where there would be no hate, no fighting, murder or robbing; where everyone would be mentally, physically, and most important of all, spiritually perfect; where a medium of exchange, and the complicated modern economical system that goes with it would be unnecessary because all would have and would share alike; where

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The proposed Cape Hatteras National Seashore is to take in approximately 150 miles of seashore like this. The only ocean front property in the entire territory which is to be excluded from the park is the 14 miles of beach land adjoining the Virginia Dare Trail and making up the summer colonies of Nags Head, Kitty Hawk, and Kill Devil Hills.

The Northeastern North Carolina seacoast area was chosen for the great park site only after the National Park Service had carefully studied all available coastland in the country. In other words, the finest, most unspoiled section of ocean frontage in the country is to be found in this immediate locale, and only 14 miles of that chosen coastland is to be left for development purposes.

First Large Beach Hotel In Dare County Was Built 101 Years Ago

The Sound Side at Old Nags Head Was Even Then a Favorite Watering Place For Residents of the Albemarle Area

Editor's Note.—Mr. Emmerson has been prominent in newspaper work in this section for a number of years, and at present is associated with the Elizabeth City Independent. In the following article, which was written especially for the Seashore News, he gives an accurate and vivid picture of the Nags Head of old.

By JOHN C. EMMERSON, Jr.

Intent last year upon the production for its second season of the Lost Colony Symphonic Drama, Dare County people allowed to pass unnoticed another important milestone in their history. For with the year 1938 came the one hundredth anniversary of the Nags Head summer resort area. The history of Nags Head itself covers a broader span of years than that, for it was among the first regions of the New World seen by Sir Walter Raleigh's colonists as they coasted up the sound to gain their all too unstable foothold on Roanoke Island. Mangled relics of red man and white—Indian arrowheads and European weapons found at base of Meekins Hill near the Fresh Ponds—indicate some memorable event, whether of council or war, that occurred there in earliest times. But with the construction on the soundside at Nags Head in 1838 of the first resort hotel, may be dated its formal debut as a public watering place.

Perhaps the return of the Currituck soldiers, who under Captain Bell guarded the coast during the War of 1812 first spread the fame of the coastal reef of sand, swept by cool breezes from sea and sound, and of the fish and game that abounded there. At first, visitors from the mainland took pot luck with the residents of the banks, but soon they were building rough cottages and bringing their families to the coast land for the summer months, and by 1830 there was a considerable cottage colony on the shores of the sound.

Conditions were primitive at first, and those who came in their own, or chartered, sailing craft, found no wharf for debarkation, and tradition has it that they were borne ashore upon the back of a strapping Negro named Tolar.

The fact that the hotel built in

1838 had accommodations for 200 guests is an indication of the rapid strides that the Nags Head resort had made in popularity. The new hotel, with its ballroom and bar, became the center of a typical antebellum social life. Plantation owners, with their retinue of body servants and house slaves, came from Pasquotank, Perquimans and Chowan, from Bertie and Washington and other counties of the Albe-

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SEASHORE NEWS OFFICE TO RENDER MANY PUBLIC SERVICES

Doubtless no office building so small as the Seashore News office, just opened for business this week will render so many public services for its size as this office. But in line with what should be a good newspaper policy, it will endeavor to serve faithfully the people of Nags Head, Kill Devil and Kitty Hawk beaches.

WESTERN UNION STATION. Here will be a clearing house for telegrams sent through the Manteo office and destined to people on the beaches, insuring prompt delivery. The office will be open from 8 a. m. to 7 p. m. Telegrams will also be received at this office.

PUBLIC TELEPHONES. Here will be found public telephones, and courteous service.

ELECTRIC LIGHT OFFICE. The Virginia Electric and Power Company has taken advantage of the facilities of this office to give its customers a much needed service on the beach. Complaints, requests for service, and other matters of business between consumers and the company may be transacted effectively and quickly through this office.

NOTARY PUBLIC. Here will be found a notary public and a public stenographer, if needed, to aid in the execution of the growing legal transactions on the beaches.

INFORMATION FOR TOURISTS. Visitors to the beaches may stop here, and obtain information about hotels, rooms, cottages, real estate, and other things they wish to know.

INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE. Here will be found the quickest way to get in touch with those who serve in this line.

The Seashore News believes its purpose is to serve the people of the beaches, with many facilities they have not had. It has faith in the future of the beaches, knows they are served by splendid business men and women, and is here to grow with the beaches.

THE SEASHORE NEWS office is located 300 feet south of the Nags Head Beach Club, on the west side of the Virginia Dare Trail. It invites the public to visit it. The News is edited by David Stick, and the office managed by Mrs. Dorothy Graham, an experienced office woman. In future, additional help will be installed when the principal season starts in a few weeks. The office will be closed for the season on Labor Day.

LARGE CROWD EXPECTED AS SEASON OPENS

PAPER TO APPEAR EACH WEEK

Seashore News to Be Distributed Free of Charge to Every Cottage on Beach

The first issue of the Seashore News appears on the Dare County beaches today.

The Seashore News is printed by the Times Printing Company of Manteo, and will come out each Friday from now until the first of September. It will continue as a seven column, four page paper until an increase in advertising and copy justifies enlargement. As an added incentive for advertisers the paper will be distributed free of charge each week to every cottage in Nags Head, Kitty Hawk, and Kill Devil Hills.

The recently constructed Seashore News office is located on the west side of the Virginia Dare Trail, two hundred yards south of the Nags Head Beach Club. Orders for job printing and advertisements, as well as news items should be delivered, phoned, or mailed to this office.

The Seashore News is the weekly booster for the developed beaches of Dare County. It will be taken up with news items, human interest stories, features, columns, comments and quips of local interest. It will contain no syndicated or second run features, and it will be written entirely by summer colonists.

Visitors to this section who would like to have the Seashore News mailed to their home town address can obtain this service by paying fifty cents in advance to cover the costs of printing and mailing.

In addition to a number of regular features covering the entire field of local doings the Seashore News each week will carry a special guest column, written by a distinguished visitor to this section. During the summer several interesting stories of ship wrecks that occurred in this locality in bygone years, will be printed, and a number of character sketches, and human interest stories will also appear in forthcoming issues.

Regular reporters will be appointed for each section of the beach, but other contributions will be welcome at all times.

Keep your eye open for the next issue.

SEASHORE NEWS HANDLES RENTING OF COTTAGES

Since the first shingle with "For Rent" printed on it was hung in front of a cottage alongside the Virginia Dare Trail, there has been a steadily increasing need for some sort of a central clearing house, or rental agency, for cottages along the beach.

Such an agency has been established as an experiment this spring, and cottage owners who are interested in renting their cottage, as well as visitors to the section who want to rent cottages, can obtain information in that regard by telephoning or dropping by the Seashore News office.

The office will be open for this purpose from 9 o'clock in the morning until 5:30 in the afternoon.

FISHING GUIDES TO HAVE DIRECTORY

For the convenience of local fishing guides and visiting fishermen, the Seashore News will run a Fishing Guide Directory in future issues.

Any guides interested in having their name run in this directory should contact the Seashore News office, and for a small charge will be able to have their name, their home address and phone number, and their specialty as a guide, run in the directory.

Where's Their Enterprise?

American publishers must be losing their zowie. So far there has been no announcement of "The Memoirs of Freddie Bartholomew" or "The Life and Letters of Shirley Temple."—The Toronto Star.

Nags Header Ready For Business; Beach Club Opening June 10th; Casino Using Canned Music

The coming of June First on the Dare County beaches marks the beginning of the 1939 summer season; a season that bids fair to be one of the most successful in the section's history.

Several of the larger establishments along the beach, including hotels, boarding houses and stores, have their official opening this week end, and the others that have been opened for some time are preparing now for rushing business.

Ras Westcott's Casino, completely renovated and enlarged, has been open for business for three weeks, but like other businessmen of Nags Head, Kitty Hawk, and Kill Devil Hills, Ras doesn't consider the social season begun in full swing until the May sheet is torn off the calendar. The Casino's seven new bowling alleys are open at all times. Saturday nights a small admission is charged to the Ball Room upstairs, but Ras has decided not to bring an orchestra down this season but to rely on ned music for his establishment.

The Nags Head Beach Club, which was recently leased by Mr. Vick and Mr. Bluford of Norfolk, will have its opening dance June 10th. The following Saturday the same band, which has not been signed, will play for another big dance, and June 24 the Beach Club Orchestra will make its grand debut. Wheeler Fields will be connected with the Beach Club this season, probably in the capacity of manager, and he assures this paper that the Beach Club orchestra, which is to be selected by an elimination process early this month, will be one of the best that has ever played in this section.

The Croatan Hotel, the First Colony Inn, Parkerson's Hotel and The Arlington Hotel, have all been open for some time, and the Nags Header, according to Manager Wade, will be ready for business this week end. Parkerson's, which remained open all winter, reports excellent business during the fishing season, as does the Croatan, which has been open for over a month. The First Colony and the Arlington were late to open, and naturally did not get the early season business to compare with the others, but both hotels report good crowds during the last couple of weeks. Captain Tom Baum's new 47 room hotel up at Kill Devil Hills is still in the process of construction, and will not be opened until July 1st at the earliest. The Chowanoke Cottage, the Beachwood cottage, the Sea Rest Tourist Home, the Breakers, the Sea View Inn and the Atlantic Aiew, will all be open for business this week.

Roy Kessinger has kept his Sunshine Service station open all winter, and announces now that his bowling alleys are ready for use. Kessinger also handles a complete stock of magazines and newspapers. Baum and Son Service Station and the Sea Breeze Inn up at Kitty Hawk Beach both announce that they will be open evenings for dancing and refreshments, as is the Kill Devil Hills Service Station. The Little Hot Dog stand down at Nags Head Shores will be open at all times, and is advertising the best hot dogs on the beach. Burgess' Store at Kitty Hawk Beach and Gregory's Store at Nags Head Shores are carrying complete stocks and remain open throughout the day. With so many business establishments along the 14 miles of developed beaches getting ready for the biggest season in history, visitors to this section should find every additional incentive this year for enjoying their stay in Dare County.

She Got the Air

I discharged that new girl. What for?

She was too green. I told her to take the dog out and give him some air and she asked where the nearest service station was?

Not Even Companionate

Friend—I am told that your wife has started suit for divorce.

Movie Star—What! I am simply astounded. Why, I hardly know the woman.

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