

# THE Seashore NEWS

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

VOL. 1; NO. 3 NAGS HEAD, N. C., THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 1939

## LOST CORDS

Fred Howard, who plays the part of Uppowac the Indian dancer, in the Lost Colony, has written a column this week about early preparations for this season's presentation of the symphonic drama.

By FRED HOWARD

Everybody agog over the news of Katherine Cale's marriage was even more surprised to learn on her arrival over the week end that she had been married nineteen months, ever since the winter after her first summer here. The ceremony took place far away from Manteo in the big town where nobody knows anybody's business.

The happy head of the newly announced household is an air-conditioning engineer and a law student named Sugrue.

The Lost Colony has its first actor-name of any ad value on the east this year in Russell Collins, who will be cast as John Borden. Collins played the title role in Paul Green's Johnny Johnson on Broadway.

Male fashion notes for the summer consider chiefly the sprig of a moustache on the upper lip of Bob N. Bowers and the black half masks of beard disguising Joe Mackie and Tommie Fearing. However, all three may be considered stage-born adornments not for the ordinary fashion addict.

Bowers, by the way, is the third incarnation of a dramatic spirit first known to me as Robert Nachtman. Born since the LC closed last summer, he has matured quickly.

A movement is underway for a systematic appeal to Director Selden to recast Wanchese, Don Rosenberg, as the Master of Ceremonies in the Queen's Garden Party scene. All who saw Don as Doctor Mahodan in the Playmaker production of Johnny Johnson are enthusiastic supporters of LC's off-stage cut-up for the part. Any who wish to sign a petition to this effect should let me know in care of this publication.

Once last summer Don was swinging a high-powered Sh-sh-Slap and Pat rhythm to swing recordings being changed by Bowers, then in the form and substance of Anthony Roberts, when Bowers followed Clyde McCoy's Sugar Blues with his favorite Caruso Tarantella recording. Rosenberg simply shushed away more ecstatically than ever. Says Rosenberg, "Rydm is Rydm."

Chief excitement of the local try-outs for the LC came when a good twenty of the town's young sprouts answered the call for the three little boys who bring in the fish in one of the later scenes of the play. Their concerted rush brought down the house.

My two roommates, Bowers and Gene Langston, joined with me this week for the third summer of living at the W. F. Baum's. We're the one set that has stuck together from the start of LC to the present, and no small part of our association has been Mamma Baum's wonderful pies and cakes. Once more we take on our circulating sleeping system. Bob now has the side of the double bed next to the window, I'm on the other, and Gene is on the single bed in the corner. You start next to the window and move away into the corner a step a week. Also our customary routine of sleep for Nachtman and me and work for Langston has been resumed.

Langston, to the benefit of the show, is its virtuoso. Brought here to stage manage the show, he has added one special bit after another from Indian and English dancer to the parts of Shakespeare and a drunken singer. A classic photograph shows him in the wings, half in one costume and half in another, prompting a scene, and telephoning to some of his assistants to be sure that the actors for the next scene are ready to go on.

Everyone in the cast is looking forward to the moment when Director Selden and his wife find time to relax and tell some tales of their winter's trip in Europe. I can't guarantee that any of them will be passed on to the Lost Chords to ruin Sam's market for his own stuff, however.

### At Wood Cottage

Miss Sophie Wood and Mrs. Will Foreman are spending the summer in the Wood cottage at Nags Head.

## GOGGLE FISHERMAN



MAJOR W. G. FARRELL, USMC, Quantico, Va., who is one of the nation's foremost goggle fishermen. Major Farrell is pictured on the beach opposite the wrecks of the steamers Carl Gerhard and Paraguayo up at Kill Devil Hills, where he got in a number of successful goggle fishing expeditions last summer. In his hands is a small harpoon which he used to spear the 14-pound sheephead and three large tautog which are strung on the harpoon leader. Behind Major Farrell is the seven foot dinghy in which he and his local companion rowed to and from the sunken wrecks, and on his forehead are the goggles he used for his underwater fish spearing. Please turn to the Sportsman's Column on page three for more complete details of Major Farrell's goggle fishing activities in this section.

## Mr. and Mrs. Nightjar Are Expecting Blessed Event

One of the most interesting visitors to the beach this season is Madam Nightjar, who has taken up her residence just north of the Parker cottage at Kill Devil Hills. A regular summer resident in this section for many years, she has, in the past, lead somewhat the life of a recluse, so far as mixing with her neighbors is concerned, sticking close to home in the daytime, and appearing in public only in the evening and at night. Yet, it appears that this desire for seclusion has resulted from no feeling of false pride in her lineage (Madam Nightjar is descended from the Choridelus family of Virginia) but rather from a naturally modest and retiring nature.

Once she decides to appear in public, however, she seems to lose much of this shyness, and in fact,

## PAUL GREEN HERE WITH REVISED SCRIPT OF DRAMA

Paul Green, noted Pulitzer Prize dramatist, arrived on the island today with the revised script of his historical drama "The Lost Colony," which will inaugurate its third summer season at the Water-side Theatre, July 11.

In addition to revising various bits of the drama, depicting the heroic adventures of the first English colonists to make a permanent settlement in the New World Playwright Green has added a new scene in which Sir Walter Raleigh is nighted by Queen Elizabeth in recognition of his exploration and colonization of the Roanoke Island area during the late 16th century.

Mr. Green plans to attend daily rehearsals of the drama while here. Though other duties may call him back to Chapel Hill, he will be definitely here for the formal opening ceremonies of the new season of "The Lost Colony" in connection with the 352nd anniversary celebrations on Roanoke Island.

"The Lost Colony" has been seen by more than 175,000 persons from all parts of the country, and 100,000 are expected this year before tation of the symphonic drama

### From Plymouth

Mrs. Thomas Nixon and Mrs. Lloyd Horton of Plymouth are spending June in the Nixon cottage at Nags Head.

## CRASH FATAL TO ERNEST SEYMOUR

Kitty Hawk Youth Dies After Sunday Night Wreck

Twenty-one year old Ernest Seymour of Kitty Hawk was killed and three other persons were injured Sunday night in one of the most horrible automobile wrecks in the history of Dare County's narrow beach highway.

The accident happened about a quarter of a mile south of Lindsey Dowdy's service station, a little before 8 o'clock Sunday evening when a Willis sedan in which Seymour was riding crashed head-on into an approaching car. The Willis, which was driven by Carl Hughes of Kitty Hawk, was reported to have been running between 55 and 60 miles an hour and without lights at the time of the accident.

On the side of the highway back of Dowdy's last night rested a grim reminder of the tragedy, in the form of the death car. The left front wheel was rammed back to a point under the windshield braces, the bumper was bent at right angles, and the entire left side of the car was little more than a mass of bent metal.

Seymour, whose head was cleft open when the entire upper part of his body went under the windshield, was not pronounced dead until late Monday night. He was buried in the family plot at Riddle at 22:30 Tuesday afternoon. Surviving are his parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Seymour of Kitty Hawk; five sisters, Mrs. Roscoe Forbes, Mrs. Sam Forbes, Miss Alma Seymour, Miss Vera Seymour, Miss Shelby Jane Seymour, and one brother, M. J. Seymour.

## "WILBUR WRIGHT" HOTEL AND NEW FISHING PIER



TOP PICTURE is of the new "Wilbur Wright" hotel, which is rapidly nearing completion. It is located on the ocean front directly opposite Kill Devil Hills, and is scheduled to be opened in July.

Bottom picture is of the fishing pier being built by the Jeanettes down at the southern end of the beach highway. When finished the pier will be 700 feet overall, and approximately 18 feet above the normal high tide. Between the pier and the highway are a number of buildings which are being converted into tourist accommodations.

Both pictures were taken from Dave Driskill's airplane Sunday.—Photos by Victor Meekins.

## THE OLD IRMA'S BONES ARE SCATTERED ALONG THE BEACH

Large Summer Colony Built Up About Schooner Wrecked at Kill Devil Hills in 1925

Dwarfed in historical background, by the glamour that surrounds the great Wright Memorial, the wrecked hulk of the three masted schooner Irma has nevertheless held its place these past few years as one of the show-places of the Dare County beaches.

Grounded in 1925 the ship remained almost intact for five years, but the storms of 1931 were too much for her, and they did away with a greater portion of the sturdy old vessel, leaving only her stern and a portion of her forward hull above water even at low tide.

Since the first tourist drove over Dare County's ocean highway the wreck of the Irma has been a favorite stopping place for visitors, with her stern rising up high on the beach and what remains of her bow dipping into the successive breakers she made a picture that seemed to coincide with her surroundings.

When the Griggs built their Croatan hotel in back of the wreck the number of admirers was greatly increased until now a small village is centered around the Croatan and the Irma.

But the Irma wasn't destined to remain a tourist attraction forever. Her hull was sturdy, but it was

inevitable that some day when the waves got a little too strong and the water came in a little too far the remains of the three masted Irma would be scattered up and down the beach.

That day came in the fall of last year when the Irma, unable to continue resisting the forces that had been beating on her for so long, broke up.

Pieces of the Irma's hulk will for many years dot the beach in the vicinity of the Croatan, leaving a reminder of the sturdy ship that mocked the sea for over twelve years. Whereas in the past, interest in the Irma has been in the battered stern outlined against the horizon, and in scrambling over her hole and jauntily poopdeck, it is hoped that the sight of her remains dotting the beach will revive another interest; an interest in the story of the wreck of the schooner Irma.

Patrolling the beach a mile north of the Kill Devil Hills station at 12:45 on the morning of April 29, 1925, coast guardsman Marvin Midgett sighted a three masted schooner aground not far from shore.

Hurrying back to the station Midgett roused the Kill Devil guardsmen and at 2:45 they arrived at the wreck. Within an hour they had landed the ships crew of seven men, including the master, and 45 minutes later the survivors of the ill-fated Irma were drinking hot coffee in the kitchen of the station.

The rescue of the crew was a rush job; the actual shipwreck was even faster.

Bound south to Georgia for a load of pine the Irma had run into a storm off the Virginia Capes on the night of April 28, 1925.

Riding empty with a strong north-east wind at her tail the ship made good time, and confident that he was at least fifty miles off shore the skipper let her run.

Consequently it was as much a surprise for the master and his crew as it had been for Midgett and the other Kill Devil Hills guardsmen to find the Irma hard aground on the Dare County banks at 1:45 the next morning.

The rescue had been easy, despite the driving rain, a high surf, and strong winds, but floating the Irma

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## BEACH BUSINESSMEN REPORT BEST WEEK-END OF SEASON

LOCAL REAL ESTATE MAN OFFERS CLIENT FREE LOT

The other day a local real estate agent, discussing Beach property with a client who apparently questioned his values was heard to make this statement:

"If you will show me, anywhere on the Atlantic Seaboard, a single development where you can purchase an ocean front lot of equal size and with the advantages offered by this property at less than twice the price I am offering a lot to you, I will give you this property free of cost."

He went on then to point out that the lots he owned were from 600 to 650 feet deep, from highway to ocean; that they fronted on a main artery; that they were served with electric power at an exceedingly low rate. He mentioned other advantages, also, and quoted prices on properties in ocean front developments north and south of our Seashore, with which he was familiar, which ranged from three to ten times the value he placed on lots in his development. It sounded convincing, and at any rate, the customer bought.

Judging by the number of lots being sold and the new cottages going up, it seems that quite a number of people are convinced of the reasonableness of this real estate agent's contention.

Over 300 Persons Attend Beach Club Opening; People From Many States Registered at Hotels

The 1939 summer season on the Dare County beaches was in full swing this week with over 300 persons in attendance at the opening dance of the Nags Head Beach Club Saturday night and with the largest crowds of the season reported at the Nags Head Casino.

Hotels, too, had their best business of the year with people from almost every state in the union registering at The Croatan, the Nags Head, the First Colony, Perkerson's and the Arlington.

Lexy Ford and his popular 12 piece orchestra will return to the Beach Club this Saturday for the second big dance of the season. Sunday afternoon the Club will have a free tea dance, and Monday night the first regular girl break of the season will be held. An interesting feature of the Monday night the first regular girl dance stags will be allowed on the floor. At the Nags Head Casino Ras Westcott reports that he will continue his policy of providing nickelodeon music Saturday nights and charging a small admission in exchange. The Casino's new bowling alleys are available at all times.

Mr. and Mrs. Buster Waddill of Henderson are spending June in the Turner cottage at Nags Head.

## Bob Nachtman, Anthony Roberts, Both Claim Name Of Bob Bowers

Back in the summer of 1937 when folks were first coming to Dare to see Paul Green's great symphonic drama "The Lost Colony" a young Carolina Playmaker named Anthony Roberts was doing a creditable job in the part of John White. Later that summer Anthony Roberts was shifted in the cast to take the part of Sir Walter Raleigh, and his complete readaption to the new lines at that time showed him to be an actor of no mean ability.

When the play went into its second season with a revamped and improved cast an ex-Carolina Playmaker named Bob Nachtman was proving his worth in the leading role of John Borden. And next month when the symphonic drama opens for the third successive summer, a young independent professional actor named Bob Bowers will be taking one of the leading roles.

Bob Nachtman, alias Anthony Roberts, alias Bob Bowers has had a lot of trouble with his name. He was pre-destined at birth to carry the name of Nachtman, which in its right is a good christian name, albeit hard to spell and even harder to pronounce. So when Bob was first signed for a part in the Lost Colony he re-dubbed himself Anthony Roberts, a monicker which he carried with him for the remainder of the season. But Anthony Roberts didn't pan out so well either—those who had known Bob before insisted on calling him by his original name, and he came to be known by a number of folks as Robert Anthony. So at the end of the Lost Colony's first run he discarded his adopted name and went back again to Bob Nachtman. But the old trouble of hard spelling and harder pronunciation lingered, and after the symphonic drama's second season Bob made still another change; calling himself that time Bob Bowers.

The story we have decided to write is about Bob Bowers, a young man who came into being last fall with the hitherto unknown birthrights of age, acting ability, and a college degree. In the first week of his existence Bob Bowers arrived in New York City and joined several million other small towners who had gone there seeking their fortune. For six weeks he hounded the offices of theatrical agents in quest of an acting part. He spent his nights thinking of new persons to see about getting him a job and he wasted his days seeing them. He tried every angle, every ruse, and every legitimate approach he had ever heard of, and he pulled all the strings his connections would permit him to pull. After five weeks he was miserably tired of working

to get work, and accordingly he decided if he was to continue loafing he might as well do the job up right. So he stayed home the next morning and lolled around his room until lunch time. It was the first morning he had not tried for work; the first time in five weeks that he had not spent the day downtown hounding the agents. In the early afternoon he had a phone call from an old friend who happened to know of a vacancy in a current play and two days later Bob Bowers was playing the part of a G-man in one of the most successful hits on Broadway, "You Can't Take It With You." For the last ten weeks of the play's New York run Bob Bowers nightly took the part of the G-man and each day during those ten weeks he brushed up on the lines of one of the leading characters in the show. He had been selected to understudy the part of the Russian ballet dance teacher. But the actor who took the part of the Russian, a man named Heller, was a healthy sort, and as Bob told us the other day, "That Heller didn't miss a single show."

For five weeks after "You Can't Take It With You" had closed down Bob Bowers was at liberty. He finally landed another acting job, this time with a one act repertory company, which Bob informs us was a first class flop and closed down after three performances. At liberty again for a couple of weeks Bob got in with several other actors who were unemployed at the time, and together they cooked up the idea of producing their own play. They got permission to use a play, found a backer and agreed to take care of the rental of a theatre, and formed a co-operative with all of the actors receiving shares in exchange for their services. After several rehearsals the project was dealt a killing blow when a couple of the leading actors found employment.

So Bob Bowers marked his first year as a professional actor and headed west to his home in Saint Louis, where he wound up the spring by appearing in three radio programs, writing some articles for local publications, and like a true adopted son of Tar Heelia, talking up the Lost Colony drama.

### At Jim-Mattie Cottage

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Reid spent the week end in their cottage at Kitty Hawk Beach.

### Blades

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Blades of Elizabeth City were at Kitty Hawk Beach over the week end.

## SEINE FISHING ON BEACH



THIS IS a typical scene of local fishermen hauling in their seine nets on the Dare County beaches. This particular group of fishermen were careful to box or destroy all of their fish, but several of the crews have been leaving surplus fish on the beach in front of summer cottages, where they usually remain to rot.