

THE DARE COUNTY TIMES

The Weekly Journal of the North Carolina Coastland—Devoted to the Interests of More Than 30,000 People of the Four Southern Albemarle Counties

VOL. IV; NO. 182

MANTEO, N. C., DECEMBER 23, 1938

Single Copy 5c

AND THE CELEBRATION WENT ON DESPITE THE BIG BAD WEATHER MAN

It Was a Great Show That MacNeill Put on Saturday, Although There Were Times When He Felt Like Calling it All Off and Jumping Into the Sound

If the so-called Weather Man could have assumed a corporeal form last Saturday morning, and if Ben Dixon MacNeill could have laid hands on him, said Weather Man undoubtedly would have received a swift kick on his sitting down place from said MacNeill, whose carefully worked out plans for a thrilling air show at Kill Devil Hills that day were spoiled by adverse weather.

But despite the contrariness of the weather, MacNeill, who was major domo of the celebration of the 35th anniversary of the birth of aviation, put on an interesting and entertaining program, sans the air spectacle.

The 182 Coast Guard and Navy planes that were scheduled to come down and put on an impressive air show over the Wright Aviation Memorial were all lined up at Norfolk, ready to make the trip to Kill Devil Hills, but a fog that made the ceiling what flying people call "zero-zero" made it impracticable and inadvisable for them to take to the air. So that was that. But the rest of the show went off pretty much as planned.

All the notables of the world of aviation that were invited to attend showed up or sent representatives with the sole exception of Assistant Secretary of the Navy Charles E. Williams, who was detained by business. Present were: Major General H. H. Arnold, chief of the Army Air Corps; Major General Frank M. Andrews, commander general of the GHQ air force; Capt. P. M. L. Bellinger, commandant of the Norfolk Naval base; Capt. T. L. Chalder, chief of the Coast Guard air service; V. K. Stephenson, passenger agent for the Pennsylvania Central Airlines, representing commercial flying; Mayors John Guirvin of Norfolk, George Isely of Raleigh and Jerome Flora of Elizabeth City; Capt. John T. Daniels and Adam Etheridge, surviving witnesses to the first successful flight made by man in a power-driven airplane.

"In the first place," this forgotten man of aviation explained, "I was eighteen years old, and not sixteen. I'm fifty-three now, and it was 35 years ago when Orville Wright flew that airplane off Kill Devil Hill, so that would have made me eighteen years old. I was kind of little for my age, though, and Orville and Wilbur Wright always called me 'Little Johnny' Moore."

It was not by chance, either, that John Moore happened to be at Kill Devil Hills that historic morning. "I was living at Nags Head then, and somehow or other I heard tell that a couple of fellows from up north somewhere were going to try to fly a contraption called an airplane that Saturday morning, so I left Nags Head about six o'clock that morning and walked to Kill Devil Hills to see what kind of a fool rig the thing was.

"I'll never forget that as long as I live. There was seven of us on hand that morning—the two Wrights, John T. Daniels, W. S. Dough and Adam Etheridge, all of the Kill Devil Hills Coast Guard Station crew, a fellow named W. C. Brinkley from Manteo, and me. Orville Wright crawled in the airplane, laying right flat down on the wing, and when he was all set he told us to shove her off. All hands of us pitched in and gave her a start, and then he started the motor and off she went. Brinkley was scared to death, and I don't think he stopped running until he struck the beach, where his boat was pulled up, and that was a good mile away. And there was a lot of cattle eating grass near the hill, and when that airplane started up they lifted their tails in the air, kicked up their heels and ran every which way.

"The very first thing Orville Wright had to say when he crawled out of that airplane was 'I've got all the money I want now.'"

Johnny Moore went up to watch the Wright brothers' experiments as often as he could after that day, doing little chores for them whenever he could. His admiration of the pioneer aviators is reflected in the name he bestowed upon one of his children, now a nine-year-old boy, who is named Orville Lindberg Moore.

In 1928, when it was decided to erect the Wright Memorial on Saturday night concluded the celebration, and MacNeill, who had been tempted to jump into the Sound around 11 o'clock that morning, decided that, after all, it hadn't been a bad celebration. And everyone else who attended thought likewise.

A colorful searchlight display

HON. JOSEPHUS DANIELS INVITED TO SPEAK HERE

Ambassador to Mexico Asked to Dedicate Manteo Community Building

The Hon. Josephus Daniels, Ambassador to Mexico, has been invited to make the dedicatory address at the formal opening of Manteo's new Community Building in early January. It was announced yesterday.

The building will be completed next week and will be ready for dedication around the first of the year. Ambassador Daniels will be spending the Christmas holidays at his home in Raleigh, and if he can possibly arrange to get off for a couple of days he has indicated that he will be available for the dedicatory exercises around the first of the year. He is due to reach Raleigh today, and the local committee expects to have a definite answer from him by the end of this week.

The Community Building is now ready for occupancy except for completion of the installation of the heating plant, and that is rapidly being rushed to completion, according to Capt. Jack Nelson, County WPA Engineer.

"I believe I can safely state that the building will be ready to turn over to the County several days before New Year's," Capt. Nelson said yesterday.

The \$20,000 building will provide a kitchen, space for the public library, and offices for the board of Health, the men and women's divisions of the WPA, the Board of Welfare and possibly the NYA and the Home Demonstration Agent.

The building committee is composed of the following men: Melvin R. Daniels, Chauncey S. Meekins, I. P. Davis, D. Bradford Fearing and Robert H. Atkinson.

SCHOOL PROJECT FOR DARE COUNTY IS APPROVED

Work Begun Yesterday on \$26,720.56 Schools and Playgrounds Project

A \$26,720.56 project for the improvement of Dare County schools and playgrounds was approved Tuesday by State WPA Administrator George W. Coan, and work was begun on three units of the project yesterday.

The three units operating at present are at Wanchese, Stumpy Point and Buxton, but the project may eventually embrace all the schools in the County, as it is a County-wide project and the County Board of Education can set up a unit wherever it deems one to be needed.

The project calls for repairing roofs, steps, ceilings, etc., painting school buildings, and making swings, teeter boards, skating rinks and other playground equipment.

This is a 12-months project and it may give employment to as many as 100 men in full operation. Only 40 men are at work on the three units now operating.

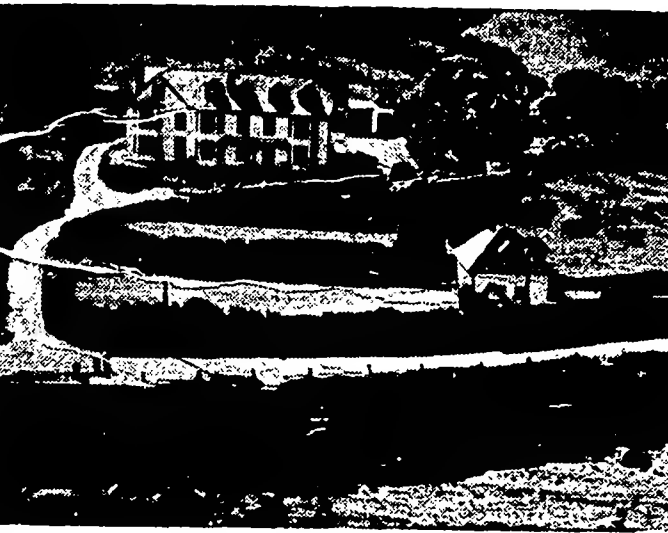
erect a boulder on the spot from which the Wright plane took off on that first historic flight, John Moore was asked to help in locating the site, because the sand hill had drifted away from where it was when the flight was made and few people knew exactly where it had stood in 1903.

John Moore is truly the forgotten man of the birth of aviation. He was one of the seven men present that day, including Orville Wright, and he was not only a spectator but also helped launch the plane. Brinkley and Dough and Wilbur Wright are dead, and only John Moore, John T. Daniels and Adam Etheridge survive. But when anything is said or done about that first flight and the living witnesses to it, John Moore's name is seldom heard. Captain Daniels and Etheridge have been banqueted and publicized and given considerable recognition in recent years, while John Moore fished his nets and eel pots, a forgotten man.

"I don't care nothing about a whole lot of writeups in the papers and such as that," John said this week. "But there's one thing I'd sure like, and I feel like I ought to have it. I'd like to have a job with the National Park Service on the Kill Devil Hills reservation. It looks like there would be something over there that a fellow like me could do, and I'd be a happy man if I could get a job here."

With that John Moore took leave of the writer and trudged over to a neighbor's house to finish mending some nets.

MITCHELL-HEDGES NEW HOME IN CORNWALL



F. A. MITCHELL-HEDGES' home in Cornwall, England, from a picture recently sent the Dare County Times. In December he says the flowers were blooming, and the place has 1300 rose bushes. The lawn slopes down to a granite wall, where the sea rolls up. And stone steps lead to the beach. Nothing but beds of flowers and the gardens cover more than three acres. The flat piece of ground is a bowling green. The small building is a garage.

SO HE WENT A-HUNTING



ALTHOUGH he is one of the three surviving witnesses to the first successful airplane flight made by Orville Wright, and though he lives less than a mile from Kill Devil Hills, where the Wright Aviation Memorial is located, John Moore (above), Collington fisherman, didn't bother to attend the ceremonies at the Hills last Saturday in commemoration of the 35th anniversary of the birth of aviation. John had a hunting engagement and kept it. Read about him elsewhere in this newspaper. He is shown above with his youngest child. Photo by Ben Dixon MacNeill.

MITCHELL-HEDGES SAYS KING SHOULD VISIT DARE; CONGRATULATES PAGEANT

Explorer Who Lived at Hatteras Until 1936, Now in Cornwall, England, Says He Often Wishes He was Back There; Pleased With Success of "The Lost Colony"

In a letter to The Dare County Times, written from his recent home in Cornwall, England, F. S. Mitchell-Hedges, British writer, explorer and lecturer, favors the idea of inviting King George to Roanoke Island in 1939 during his visit to America.

Mr. Mitchell-Hedges, whose international reputation is covered in a half page of the 1938 British Who's Who, which lists his address as Frisco, N. C., has taken a house at Trerose, Cornwall, England, whose garden slopes down to a stone wall, against which the ocean tides rise and fall.

He congratulates D. B. Fearing and his co-workers on the success of "The Lost Colony" saying: "I am awfully glad the pageant is so successful. It should be. It is an historical landmark and marks one of the greatest milestones in the years of two great countries."

Referring to Hatteras, he says: "I was so glad to write the article for Field and Stream. It is what I always told you and I felt. Frankly, I wish I was back at Hatteras—those wonderful stretches of sand, the slow old rollers, the marvelous fishing and bathing—the peace—for removed from the hellish boiling pot Europe."

Referring to the world situation, he says: "What the world is rushing into, I do not know. Neither do I think anybody else does. But one thing certain, when senty peevils in this insane world, a world

INFANT ROASTED TO DEATH IN ITS BED WHEN WIDOW'S JARVISBURG HOME BURNS

Seven-Months-Old Baby Girl Was in Grandmother's Home While Its Mother, Mrs. Matilda Sears Was En Route to Elizabeth City On Christmas Shopping Trip; Home a Complete Loss

XMAS PROGRAM AT FORT RALEIGH TO BE GAY EVENT

Tree, Santa Claus and Carol Singing; Stockings Go Out Christmas Eve

Barring unforeseen circumstances, Dare County's big Christmas celebration will be held at Fort Raleigh Sunday evening at 7:30 o'clock more or less as originally planned.

Several changes have been made in the program in the last few days, but the program will be substantially the same as previously announced.

There will be a large decorated Christmas tree on the stage of the Fort Raleigh amphitheatre, and the program will center around the tree. Santa Claus will be on hand, too, but he will not distribute any stockings, because the celebration committee decided this week that the stockings will be delivered to the kiddies' homes on Christmas Eve night instead of being handed out at the tree on Sunday night.

There will probably be an invocation, but the religious exercises originally planned have been cancelled. The principal feature of the evening will be the singing of Christmas carols by a large mixed chorus. This chorus, which has been practicing for the past two weeks, has been trained by Miss Helen Evans, Miss Holland Westcott, Mrs. Pearl Scharff and Charles Overman.

If the weather is not suitable for an outdoor program in the amphitheatre, the program will take place in the Fort Raleigh museum.

The 500 Christmas stockings to be distributed to boys and girls in every section of Dare County were made this week in the Wanchese WPA sewing room. They are to be filled on Friday night by the local NYA girls in their workshop, and on Christmas Eve night they will be taken to the homes of the various children whose names have been turned in to the committee. The Manteo Rotary Club is to handle the distribution of the stockings. Each stocking will contain candy, fruit, nuts and other goodies which boys and girls enjoy.

Upwards of \$200 has been raised for the Christmas Fund through donations from individuals and organizations, and a benefit movie and dance.

HYDE CHAMBER PLANS QUARTERLY MEETING

To Be Held at Engelhard January 9; Several Counties to Be Represented

The second quarterly meeting of the Hyde County Chamber of Commerce, scheduled to be held at Engelhard on January 9, 1939, is quite likely to be a big affair, judging from the plans announced this week by P. G. Collop, president of the wide-awake Hyde County organization.

This meeting, which is to be held in the Engelhard High School gymnasium at 6:30 p. m. on the designated date, will be in the form of a dinner program, with prominent citizens of several Northeastern North Carolina counties taking part.

Hon. R. Bruce Etheridge, director of the North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development, has been invited to make the main address of the occasion. Dudley Bagley, chairman of the State Rural Electrification Authority, and Chester Morris, new Solicitor of the First Judicial District, have been invited from Currituck County. John Darden of Plymouth has been invited to represent Washington County, and C. Earl Cohoon of Columbia to represent Tyrrell.

Sheriff D. Victor Meekins has been invited and has been asked to take along a delegation from Manteo and Dare County. Officers of the Hyde County Chamber of Commerce are: P. G.

Tragedy stalked into the home of Mrs. Pearl Jones of Jarvisburg Wednesday morning in the form of a fire which burned the house to the ground and cremated Mrs. Jones' infant granddaughter.

The child that burned to death in the fire was Elizabeth Jean Sears, seven-months-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Sears of Jarvisburg and Manteo.

Mrs. Jones, a woman in need and on WPA, lost her entire belongings. Mrs. Matilda Sears, the mother of the infant, had been gone only a few minutes, driving to Elizabeth City with a friend. They had planned to get Christmas trinkets for the little baby girl, and the other four children of the family—Ralph, aged 3, and Lois Marie, 2, and the older boy, Thurman.

The unmarried daughter of Mrs. Jones, and sister of Mrs. Sears—Minerva, age 16 was in charge of the home, while her mother was away at the sewing room during the day. She had found a chance to go away for a ride, and had gone down to the home of a neighbor to get some one to stay with the children.

Mrs. Jones, a widow, had gone to her work in the WPA sewing room at Jarvisburg, leaving her two small children and the baby in the house. The stove became overheated and set the curtains on fire. The little boy and girl, who were of their wits, ran pell mell from the house, leaving the baby to perish in the flames.

Neither of the children were large enough to carry the baby out of the house, and were probably too frightened beside.

Little Aubrey Dowdy, who lives up the road near Graham Woodhouse's store, was riding his new shiny bike along the road, and discovered the fire. He went promptly to a neighbor's house for aid. Tilbert Jones, son of Mrs. Jones who lives nearby came to the scene at once, but it was too late.

Neighbors attracted by the fire said afterwards that the baby might have been saved had any of the early arrivals known it was in the house. But when the baby's mother, summoned from her house a short distance away, arrived on the scene and screamed out that her baby was in the house, it was too late. The infant was burned to an ash.

It was the cruellest sort of irony that a man who reached the scene of the tragedy early smashed in a window, entered the flaming house and dragged a few articles of furniture and clothing outside and never knew of the presence of the infant in the house.

Mrs. Sears lives in a small house she has recently built across the road from her mother's home. It was not known that the baby was in her mother's house, as the children live with Mrs. Sears.

Some believe the little children, aged three and two alone in the room got the idea to play with the fire. Others say it is likely the chimney had caught fire in the ceiling and had been burning a long time before it blew out.

Herman Sears, father of the baby, is a fisherman operating out of Manteo. His wife, formerly Miss Matilda Jones, has been living near her mother's home between Grandy and Jarvisburg. Mrs. Jones is the widow of the late Bill Jones, who died about four years ago.

Gallop, Swan Quarter, president; Robert E. Tunnell, Swan Quarter, secretary-treasurer; and M. A. Matthews, Engelhard, vice president.

ABC STORE TO CLOSE

The Dare County ABC stores will observe Monday, December 26, as a holiday, it was announced this week by Roy Davis, County ABC Supervisor.

CORRECTION

Robert Mayer, who was connected with the New York Herald-Tribune staff in an article in last week's issue of this newspaper, writes and asks for a correction. He says he is not with the Herald-Tribune, although he would like to be.