

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. 188

MANTEO, N. C., FEBRUARY 3, 1939

Single Copy 5c

WANTON DESTRUCTION OF TONS OF LITTLE FISH IS NOW GREATLY DEPLORED

Persistence in Practice of Killing Small Fish in Process of Taking Large Ones, and Many of Forms of Wilful Waste in the Industry, Considered One Great Cause of Grave Need Among Fishermen

That fishermen are rueing the way, or days when they continued senselessly to dump tons of little fish overboard—tons of fish that never made big ones, is indicated generally. One hardly hears a conversation come up without this subject being talked upon. More recently, in an article by Frank Stick, and other ills of the fishing industry, now sadly in need of aid, he studied at length. The article is herewith reprinted as it appeared in the News and Observer.

HE FLIES MONEY MEATS AND MEN FOR UNCLE SAM

Dave Driskill, National Park Service Pilot, is Santa Claus to 270 Men

The 270 men working on sand fixation and reforestation projects at Ocracoke in Hyde County, Hatteras and Rodanthe in Dare County, and Corolla in Currituck County, raise their eyes heavenward twice each month and experience an inner feeling of joy and thankfulness.

But it is not to Heaven that they are lifting their eyes and their thanksgivings. It is to Dave Driskill's Fairchild cabin plane which delivers the pay roll twice monthly to the WPA transients engaged in beach erosion control work in these more or less isolated communities on the "outer banks" of North Carolina.

To the 270 men whose pay checks are delivered by plane, Dave Driskill is what Santa Claus is to a five-year-old boy, and then some. For not only does Driskill deliver their pay twice monthly, but he also brings them a ton or so of fresh meats and other perishables every now and then, delivers hospital supplies to them, and rushes them to the headquarters hospital at Camp Wright on Roanoke Island in cases of emergency.

Driskill has been flying for the National Park Service for nearly three years now and is believed to be the pilot of the only plane regularly operated by the Park Service. Because of the scattered, isolated locations of some of the beach erosion control work crews, the Park Service decided about three years ago that it would be economical and sensible to purchase an airplane for use in delivering pay checks, hospital supplies and perishables to these camps and for the purpose of transporting inspectors and others having official business at the Ocracoke, Hatteras, Rodanthe and Corolla camps.

The first plane purchased by the Park Service was a Douglas, which was acquired in March, 1936. This plane was superseded by a Fairchild a year later, and the Fairchild is still in use.

Pilot Driskill's log book shows that he has flown a total of 686 hours for the Park Service, 133 hours of this being in the Douglas and the remaining 553 hours in the Fairchild. He has made 360 official trips, flying an average of three persons per trip, making a total of 1,080 passengers he has flown on official business for the Park Service in the past three years.

His passengers have included the paymaster, inspectors, engineers, Internal Revenue collectors, WPA officials and other government employees. His regulations permit him to transport any employee of the United States government on official business, but except in emergency cases the trip must be arranged in advance through regular government channels.

While Driskill is forbidden to take anyone with him except government employees who are on official business, he would be permitted to overlook this regulation in an emergency. For instance, if, on one of his regular trips to Ocracoke, he were to find some person living there in urgent need of hospitalization, he could take that person aboard and fly him or her to a hospital.

During the three years he has been flying the Park Service planes, Driskill has handled only one case such as that cited above, but he has made 15 or 20 trips bringing injured WPA transients to the Camp Wright hospital for medical attention.

Another interesting item revealed by Driskill's log is the fact that he has made a total of 1144 trips with perishable food aboard, his load on these trips averaging around a ton per trip.

While Driskill essentially is a pilot, his pay roll designation at Camp Wright is that of Supervising Mechanic and his duties, in addition to his flying, consist of supervising the upkeep of the trucks. (Please turn to page five)

MORE THAN A TON OF PROVISIONS BY PLANE



The picture above shows Pilot Dave Driskill superintending the loading of the Park Service plane, which carries officials and supplies along the outer banks in connection with the Beach Erosion Project of the National Park Service. In the picture will be seen halves of beef, tins of lard and other provisions. For complete details about the job of Pilot Driskill, see story elsewhere in this paper. Photograph by Ben Dixon MacNeill.

COAST GUARD HONORED IN QUARTER SERVICE

Interesting Sermon in Kitty Hawk's New Brick Church Sunday

Thirteen stations of the Seventh District Coast Guard were represented at the special service held for Coast Guardsmen at the new Kitty Hawk Methodist Church last Sunday. Led by Commander C. J. Sullivan, the group came in a body, many of the men being accompanied by members of their family and other relatives. Special seats had been reserved for the entire group.

Rev. Matt Gardner, minister of the church, welcomed the men, after which the choir sang the old negro spiritual, "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian." The pastor presented Commander Sullivan, who welcomed his men and their families and expressed his appreciation for the services honoring the Coast Guard.

"The Spirit of the Coast Guard" was the topic of the special address made by Rev. B. B. Slaughter of Elizabeth City, presiding elder of the district. His text was "Jesus went about doing good" and he said the spirit of the Coast Guard was one which "goes beyond the first mile." He praised the Coast Guard for its heroic service to humanity and recalled an incident at Hatteras when the risk of rescue was so great that the men did not expect to get back and "Capt. Pat" said "We do not have to come back."

Representing the District were: District office, Elizabeth City; Commander Sullivan, Captain and Mrs. Walter Etheridge, and daughter, Helen; Jennings Beasley; Will Perry, Mr. Wilson, Delton Dowdy, and Will Tillett; Caffey's Inlet Station, Captain Truxton E. Midgett and four men; Cape Hatteras, Captain Meekins; Ocracoke, Captain Basnight, and one man; Kill Devil Hills, Captain Lewark and six men; Nags Head, Captain Snow and five men; Fort Macon, Boat-swain Mate Robert Tillett and Chief Warrant Robinson; Pea Island, Captain Scarborough; Big Kinnakeet, Captain Grady; Wash Woods, two men; Capt. Dudley and son; Hatteras Inlet, Captain P. A. Tillett and one man; Oregon Inlet, one man.

HYDE PLANS BIGGER FAIR NEXT YEAR

Reorganization of the Hyde County Fair Association at Engelhard, was held January 26th. Fred T. Langford presiding, Annie L. Spoon read the minutes and financial report, showing a balance of about \$45.00. Resolutions were adopted expressing appreciation for the services rendered by the 1938 Fair Officers, including the Board of Directors. They were: Fred T. Langford, Pres., Annie L. Spoon, secretary, and M. A. Matthews treasurer. The Board of Directors were in addition to the above officers, P. G. Gallop, A. J. Harrell, J. O. Buchanan, Mrs. M. A. Smith, M. W. Weaver, P. B. Britton, H. C. Triplett, Robert Littrell, P. D. Midgett and J. M. Long.

The following officers were elected for the 1939 fair which is to be held at Swan Quarter in October, 1939. J. O. Buchanan, president, Mrs. Robert E. Tunnell, secretary; H. C. Jones, vice president, and M. A. Matthews, treasurer. Mr. Buchanan, the Swan Quarter Vocational Agriculture teacher, will name the committee on February 22nd, when the Board of Directors will meet, approve the Committees and plans for the greater 1939 Hyde County Fair.

NOT WILLING TO STOP FISHING IN SPAWNING AREA

Chowan Fishermen Oppose Restriction on Gill Nets Between Bridges

Gill net fishermen of Chowan and Washington counties met Saturday morning to register their protest relative to being forbidden to set gill nets for shad between the Norfolk Southern Railroad bridge and the new Albemarle Sound highway bridge according to The Chowan Herald. President at the meeting was John F. White, Chowan County's representative in the General Assembly, at whom was directed pleas for relief.

The meeting to enter protests and urge representatives of the two counties to use their efforts in having the ruling set aside materialized when fishermen were informed last week by Cage Hayman, deputy fish commissioner, that they would not be permitted to set gill nets for shad in the restricted area. Mr. Hayman was following instructions from the Board of Conservation and Development, which has aroused a considerable amount of dissatisfaction among gill netters. Fishermen are apparently not willing to permit the shad to spawn and hatch in peace, but want to catch the last one.

It was ruled two years ago that no gill nets for shad should be set between the two bridges, but fishermen were allowed to set nets last year so that they could wear out the equipment which was bought prior to the ruling. Nothing more was heard regarding restrictions and as a result many of the fishermen have again purchased new equipment in the expectation that they would again be allowed to fish. Hence, being informed last week that the ruling would go into effect this year, those engaged in this method of fishing are up in arms.

The area between the two bridges is considered spawning grounds for shad and for this reason fishing has been prohibited in the hope that more shad would propagate. However, those present at the meeting were frank in their complaint to Mr. White that it is nothing more or less than discrimination against them. They argued to Chowan's representative that it was no more detrimental to shad propagation to catch them in their spawning grounds than it is to trap them before reaching the places where they spawn. Washington County fishermen also discounted the fact that the area is a spawning ground. It was stated that a number of years ago shad spawned in abundance on the Washington County side of the Sound but that since mills at Weldon and Roanoke Rapids have been established very little spawning has been in evidence.

Some have so many nets set that it is almost a miracle for any shad to escape to ever enter their spawning ground, and for them to continue to have the right to fish while those in one particular comparatively small area are prohibited to operate is nothing less than discrimination.

FISHERMEN LEARN NOT TO TAKE ALL CHECKS

Herbert Perry of Kitty Hawk, Caught by Syrian Frank Tebet of Norfolk

Herbert Perry of Kitty Hawk, a well known fish dealer, got gypped out of \$60 quickly some weeks ago when he sold a lot of fish to a Syrian-looking looking buyer giving his name as Frank Tebet of Norfolk. Tebet claimed to know many reputable fish dealers in Norfolk, and was such a glib talker, that Mr. Perry, being honest himself, thought his check was good.

When the bank returned the check, Mr. Perry sought Tebet. The Norfolk police looked him up and failed him. Tebet fought extradition. It also developed that a number of Currituck county men had been victimized in the same manner.

Meantime, the injured parties are awaiting developments, and hoping that the Virginia Governor will allow him to be brought back to North Carolina for trial. Many fishermen have been bit before by taking checks, and it is getting harder to buy fish without the cash.

JOHN B. THE FIFTH

Mr. and Mrs. John B. Etheridge, Jr., of Roanoke Island are the parents of a son born last week, and named John B. Etheridge V. Mother and baby are doing fine. He is the fifth in line of the same name in one of the oldest families of Roanoke Island. His grandfather of the same name is living.

STATE MAKES PLANS TO SURFACE ROAD BETWEEN HYDE AND DARE COUNTIES

Maps Posted at Courthouse Showing Plans for First Ten Miles; Stumpy Point People Want Boat Harbor Connected by Additional 250 Yards; Hyde Section Posted at Swan Quarter

DARE NYA GIVES EMPLOYMENT TO BOYS AND GIRLS

Some Manteo Youths Pay for Business Course with NYA Wages

In Dare County, 85 boys and girls rely upon the NYA each month to give them work and wages. Apparently one of the most popular relief organizations among the government's alphabetical agencies, the National Youth Administration in this territory has established workshops and given aid to a number of young people. About \$1,200 comes into the County monthly in NYA checks, according to Mrs. Helen Duvall Daniels, Dare's NYA supervisor.

"Over half of the boys and girls from Manteo on NYA pay for business courses at the Manteo Business College with the money they receive," said Mrs. Daniels. Working every other week, they have time to really get something out of going to school.

The main NYA project in Dare County centers around the workshops in which 47 youths are employed. The Boys' Workshop, under the foremanship of Marshall Tillett, in the past few weeks has produced eight large laboratory desks and 80 laboratory stools which will be placed in Dare County schools. Twenty boys work there. In the Girls' Workshop, the 21 girls employed produce about 300 garments per month. They are sewing for pre-school age children, and for the past few weeks have been specializing in making complete layettes for babies. There are only two sewing machines in the shop, and the girls work in shifts of ten every other week. The boys also work in shifts of ten, averaging about two full weeks of work per month.

Besides the workshop projects, there are several other fields for NYA workers. In Manteo seven clerical assistants working in county offices are on NYA. Four commodity clerks situated in towns throughout the county aid in distributing relief garments and food to indigent families.

In lunchrooms and libraries in the county schools NYA helps assist county employees with their work.

Mrs. Daniels, relating the work of the NYA in this county, explained the method by which boys and girls may go about applying for assistance. The applicants must sign up with Mr. Gossard of Elizabeth City, who visits the county welfare department every first and third Wednesday of the month. If certified, the applicants receive work assignments from the assignment office in Williamston which are given to Mrs. Daniels. No job can be assigned without certification and approval from the main office.

No money can be received for NYA labor. Conceived with the idea of helping the community and at the same time giving boys and girls employment, the NYA in Dare County functions as an aid to public enterprises. "Usually the county or the WPA supply the material and we supply the labor for our projects," Mrs. Daniels says. "We expect to have some orders for work on the community building soon."

SAWYER SAYS HE WILL MOVE HIS USED CARS

Roland D. Sawyer, owner of Sawyer's Laundry and Dry Cleaners, and salesman for New Fords and used cars, says he is going to clean up his lot, where he has forty or 50 cars on hand. He is offering them for sale, and says he has some especially good bargains, particularly for beach use. In the course of his trading on new and used cars, he has accumulated so many automobiles, that his whole yard is full of them, and Mrs. Sawyer doesn't have room for a flower garden. Spring is coming, and Mrs. Sawyer likes flowers, so Mr. Sawyer is getting ready to make room for a flower garden. Instead of moving the cars himself he is going to let folks buy them, and take them away, he says.

Great joy will prevail in Stumpy Point and Engelhard over the news that the State Highway Commission has posted in the Dare court house, a map of the proposed hard surface road extending from Stumpy Point toward Engelhard. A similar map was also posted on Tuesday in the Hyde county court house showing a similar project extending from Engelhard toward Stumpy Point. It is planned to begin construction as soon as weather conditions are favorable, of a surface project of five miles south from Stumpy Point, beginning at the E. M. Hooper home place in Stumpy Point and the Hyde county project of five miles will begin at the present terminus of the road at Engelhard. This will pave nearly half the length of this road and is considered the initial step in what will be a complete hard surface road connecting the county seats of Hyde and Dare Counties.

Citizens this week are signing a petition in Stumpy Point urging the Highway Commission to begin the paving 250 yards further south, in order to connect with the canal used by many fishermen as a small boat harbor, and the County Commissioners next week will be asked to pass a resolution endorsing this petition.

The question of the hard surfacing this road connecting Hyde and Dare Counties has long been discussed in these columns and has been a major project of the Southern Albemarle Association, which, for three long years has fought vigorously for an equitable system of principal highways in these immediate counties, not only from the standpoint of the fishermen of Dare County, whose markets would be brought nearer to them and their transportation costs reduced considerably, but for the farmers of Hyde County who would thereby find a principal market to the north of them via the Dare County resorts. This business of construction will be hailed as one of the most important things that has happened in several years and it is hoped by the time that these ten miles are completed that sufficient funds will be available to continue with the work, the entire length of the road as well as from Stumpy Point to Manns Harbor.

CORNELIUS MIDGETT'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATED

Sixtieth Anniversary Celebrated at Banquet at First Colony Inn; 80 Plates Served

Eighty guests at Nags Head, at the tables in the First Colony Inn dining room Saturday night, consumed 80 excellent plates of barbeque banquet, with all the trimmings behind and before, and departed, much delighted, inwardly and outwardly when Cornelius Payne Midgett, owner of the Inn, celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary.

Commander Christopher J. Sullivan of the Coast Guard, led the list of guests, many of whom were close relatives of Mr. Midgett, or Mrs. Midgett. And Mrs. Midgett who supervised the party, lived up to the usual Midgett fame for good food and hospitality.

The party was an exceedingly quiet affair. No songs, no speeches, no games, no felicitations. Mrs. John Allen Midgett, sister-in-law of Mr. Midgett had died suddenly the day before. The guests had been invited, the food had been ordered, all arrangements made. It was too late to cancel the event without confusion. So nearly everybody came; everybody understood the situation, and with only a quiet exchange of compliments, and after a complete show of gustatory avidity, the guests dined and departed.

TO VISIT IN FLORIDA

County Commissioner, John A. Meekins of Rodanthe, plans to go to Fort Pierce, Fla., next week to visit his son, Alton. Mr. Meekins is right much of a traveller and has seen a lot of the country in recent years. Two or three years ago he went to California to visit his daughter, Mrs. Rae Ashburn.

LEGUM'S PUTS ON BIG FURNITURE CLEARANCE

Furniture Store Manager Says Sale Just Opened Offers Great Reductions

"We are going to have several busy days," says Manager Frank Legum of the A. J. Legum Furniture Store in Manteo. "A wire from A. J. Legum while in New York instructed his stores to put everything on sale in one great clearance, to raise cash to pay for new goods for the summer trade. Cash talks, and in New York, good values go to the buyer who can get it up. Legum has always paid cash for their furniture, and we have bought close, and have always been able to sell bargains. We are announcing through the Dare County Times this week, a few of the exceptional bargains our store offers. Everything is marked down. We are going to raise cash to go into these new purchases. And Manteo store must go over the top. Nothing will be spared. We have found it pays to advertise in the Dare County Times. That is why we are probably the largest user of advertising space among all the retail interests of this section. Modern merchandising requires advertising, and without it, no store can do a large business."

WE WANT LETTERS ABOUT OLD WRECKS

For the best letter sent us about some adventure during shipwreck and danger in the old days, we will give a prize of \$5; for second best, \$2, third best, \$1. The contest is open to everyone, but must be about bonafide happenings. Letters eligible for prize-winners must contain not less than 1,500 words. Address: Feature Editor, Dare County Times, Manteo, N. C.

THERE COMES a MOMENT

• A story of human emotions, personal achievement . . . featuring a young girl who, through her own efforts, forged her way to a life of success and happiness.

SERIALLY IN THIS PAPER