

### REHEARSAL IN THE SAND

By JOHN SIKES

In The News and Observer There is something of a spectacle within itself in Paul Green's diligent search for The Lost Colony there on the banks of Roanoke Sound.

Sitting there the other night with Erad Fearing, local impresario of the show that is to go on Saturday night for the beginning of its third season, I, who have never met Paul Green and know him only from his photographs, was surprised to learn that a playwright is not simply a pedantic pen-pusher who writes the words and then cringes in trepidation while a hard guy with megaphone and leather puttees drags out their meaning.

I asked Brad Fearing for a mate to light my cigarette. I thought it permissible to smoke while the actors and actresses were trying out their lines, particularly in view of the fact that a score or more small fry of the island were playing hute and seek and hare and hounds, with complementary whoopings, up and down the sandy aisles and behind and underneath the benches of the amphitheatre without disturbing the entreaties of Sir Walter to Queen Elizabeth to send ships to the New World.

Brad said no he didn't have a match but could give me a chew of tobacco. Declining, I scrambled over a half dozen seats while Chief Wanchese was beating himself about the head and screaming something that sounded like "Weenie, weenie, wannie, weenie!" against the night air, fetched a match, and sat back down beside Brad.

"That's Paul Green down there," Brad said, pointing to a man below us who was pacing to first one spot and the other testing, I assumed, the effects from the stage at various points within the theatre. "He works just as hard as anybody, perhaps harder than most, trying to whip the play into shape. He charged us not one cent for writing The Lost Colony and he is paying no salary for coming down here with us every summer and helping us to put it on. He does just like the native actors; he accepts his share of the profits at the end of the season, if there are any profits."

About this time they were around to the point in the play where the colonists are gathered at the church on Roanoke Island to give thanks for the arrival of a daughter to Eleanor and Ananias Dare. They were raising their voices in thanksgiving there on the stage, and the Westminster Choir and the organ on the right. The general effect, I thought, was pretty thrilling. But just as they got midway the chant, Sam Selden stopped the action and Paul Green went up on the stage and said: "Folks, you're not singing! You're not giving it what you ought to. You know, it's healthy to open your mouths wide and give out. Let's go over that again and let me hear you sing!"

It was just like that. Here was the fellow who had written "O children by the waterside, life up your harps and sing!" begging for volume just like John Park exhorting a crowd of Raleigh Rotarians to give out on "My Country 'Tis of Thee!"

That gives you an idea why it's more fun to watch a rehearsal than the completed performance. It isn't every day you can hear Paul Green making a pep talk neither more nor less prosaic than the impromptu dinner speaker's "Well, fellows, I don't know how to make a speech and all I got to say is..."

It's a rare sight, too, to watch a Sir Walter Raleigh, dressed in sea-green play togs, pay courtly obeisance to his virgin Queen Elizabeth sitting up there on her throne in a cool and neat ensemble of brick-red slacks and matching jumper. If you're the imaginative type it is enlightening to watch the hostile Chief Wanchese gyrating through his war dance up there on the sand pile to the left and making the night horrible with his high shrieks and stopping short to come within arm's length of you to confer with Sam Selden and Paul Green over some movement that wasn't quite smooth enough.

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George O. Hatt and N. land Coast a hospital a heart ail.

At his ob buried bee under who many mon War. Cap weeks ago. O'Neal v. He is surv. Sam and Almy Burrus, all of Hatteras.

### CCC CAMP ACCEPTS 70 NEW ENROLLEES

Va. Dare Camp Swamped With New Members at Beginning July 5th Quarter

Dare county contributed 47 new enrollees to the Virginia Dare CCC camp at the quarterly registration from this area July 5. All Dare boys were assigned to the camp near Manteo which means they will be stationed near their homes.

Besides the Dare enrollees 23 boys were sent to the Roanoke Island camp from Washington, N. C., where they had passed enrollment tests. Commanding Officer Eldridge said they came from an area covering six counties, Camden, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Pasquotank and Tyrrell.

Following are the Dare county boys who were enrolled: Luther Garland Midgett, Buxton; Milton Wells Midgett, Waves; Rudolph Edward Stetson, Collington; Myron Arrington Garrish, Buxton; Charlie Robinson Austin, Hatteras; Troy Dalton Hooper, Stumpy Point; Roy Winfield Wise, Stumpy Point; Albert O'Neal, Collington; Herbert Hoover Bratten, East Lake; Hubert Floyd Midgett; Salvo; Willie Childers, Manteo; and Tine Tolson Willis, Jr., Hatteras.

### COUNTY PROVIDES POLICEMAN FOR TOWN OF MANTEO

Commissioners and the ABC Board Pay Provide Special Officer For Town Work

A special officer at county expense to serve as policeman in the town of Manteo, in addition to his duties as ABC enforcement officer was provided this week by action of the Board of Commissioners, cooperating with the ABC Board. The salary provided is \$75 a month. The ABC Board has been contributing \$50 of this amount during the past month, and the Commissioners joined this month with a donation of \$25 a month.

The town of Manteo will raise the salary of its other policeman to \$75 a month, paid for from town funds. It has been paying both policemen heretofore.

T. G. Dowdy, who has had many years' experience in police work was appointed town policeman and enforcement officer. While his duties are in town, he will be allowed to go out of town in cases of emergency.

Town officials expressed themselves as being well pleased with the growing feeling of cooperation between town and county. The Manteo fire department receives a large part of its support from a special tax contributed by all the taxpayers of Roanoke Island. In return the men of the fire department attend fires outside the town limit, and have saved valuable property in several instances.

Wilson—Attempting to cope with an unusual situation, Wilson authorities are seeking a reformatory for juvenile delinquents. Police estimate that 100 or more roam the streets, stealing, but all are too young for jail sentences.

### WRECK OF THE S. S. "METROPOLIS"

(Continued from last week)

The oldest residents of the beach say they have never known a more complete wreck. It was criminal to send her to sea as the debris shows how rotten the timbers were. Mr. W. A. Powers who has had large experience in breaking up vessels of all kinds, says that he never saw such rotteness, and the general opinion expressed is that the lives lost were a sacrifice to a criminal negligence wholly unpardonable.

"The wretchedness and misery of the rescued, their pitiable plight and appearance could not be portrayed. Huddled together, almost naked, many wounded and bruised, all in need of clothing. . . . The story is one of horror, it is one that speaks with no mingling words. It is one that will cause an indignation righteous and just against those who put at the mercy of the ocean waves nearly 250 lives in a vessel that was in every respect unseaworthy—that was as rotten as punk and that could be likened to a death trap.

"While deep censure should be put upon the guilty parties who were responsible for sending the hulk of the Metropolis to sea, a like censure is due the Government for the miserable apology of what is termed life saving stations. To think of it, on a coast like that of Currituck, Kitty Hawk and Hatteras, a coast that is strewn with milestones of wrecks, dismal graves of disaster, that stations are provided some 16 and 20 miles apart, stations with only a crew of seven men to each, this force to patrol a beach of the length stated, with no appliances in the shape of horses or teams to move with celerity the life saving apparatus that is to give aid to the wrecked, is a crime unpardonable—a crime that cries aloud for redress."

It is ever thus. The comforts that we enjoy today, the measures of safety that are provided for our security, the things that make for our happiness and welfare, have come to us through the wretchedness, misfortune and misery of others who went before us, or upon the labor and sorrows of unknown and unknown multitudes whose sufferings we cannot know. America owes much today to the memory of those humble laborers, on the Metropolis, whose little children were left alone to fare as best they might and to wait for the ship that never returned.

NOTE: It will be of further interest to read the following reference to the circumstances of the Huron as published in Col. Creecy's Economist at Elizabeth City under date of March 19, 1878.

The report of Capt. J. H. Merryman of the U. S. Revenue Marine and Inspection of Life Saving Service in reference to the loss of the steamer Metropolis, made to the Secretary of the Treasury, entirely exonerates the citizens of the neighborhood of the wreck from all the vile charges that have been made by some of the Northern papers. Captain Merryman says:

"The survivors were distributed among the neighboring dwellings, the life saving stations being too far away to be reached in their exhausted condition. The citizens fed and clothed them to the full extent of their means, and their generous hospitality is worthy of all praise. In this regard, the lighthouse keeper, Mr. Burrus and Messrs. T. J. Poyner deserve particular notice.

"Mr. N. G. Burrus, the keeper of the Currituck lighthouse, in his affidavit says: 'I furnished food and shelter for 61 persons that night, and for about 76 with breakfast and dinner, also sheltered them that night and gave them a breakfast the following morning.'"

### MANY COUNTIES GET AID FROM THE ASSISTANCE FUND

State Aiding 61 Poorer Counties With Relief Up to \$128,778

Sixty-one North Carolina counties will participate in the public assistance equalizing fund set by the State Board of Allotments and Appeal at \$128,778.36 for the 1933-40 fiscal year, Secretary Nathan H. Yelton said Saturday.

The fund is set up each year out of the public assistance appropriations to enable the poorer counties to meet their share of the cost of old age assistance and aid to dependent children.

Yelton estimated the caseload for the State during the year at roughly 60,622 persons in each of the two categories with 900 widows of Confederate veterans included in the 37,124 estimated recipients of old age grants.

For the needy aged a total of \$4,529,289 will be spent while \$1,527,352.80 will be used for dependent children. Average monthly grants are expected to run as high as \$10.16 for the former with \$5.42 for each child on the rolls.

The equalizing fund will operate in the 61 participating counties to prevent the tax rate from being too high where property valuations are insufficient to meet county needs for grants in aid. No county may participate in the fund unless the tax rate necessary to raise the county's share of the public assistance fund would exceed ten cents on the hundred dollars valuation.

Largest allotment of the fund went to Ashe County which was given \$5,257.29, while the smallest was represented by Perquimans' \$103.01 participation.

Allotments to the counties in this section was as follows: Camden, \$488.27; Carteret, \$1,801.20; Currituck, \$869.90; Dare, \$2,570.20; Gates, \$792.50; Hyde, \$874.72; Pamlico, \$1,273.60; Perquimans, \$103.01; Tyrrell, \$1,597.62; Washington, \$106.77.

### V. V. BRINKLEY FINDS OLD COIN ON BEACH

V. V. Brinkley working for the geological survey dug up on Pea Island dug up an old copper coin the other day. The piece was dated 1830 and was worth a penny then. Now it is worth considerably more to coin collectors. The one-cent piece pictured a woman's head on one side and simply the denomination of the coin on the other.

### EAST LAKE MAN'S TRUCK SEIZED IN HYDE COUNTY

A Ford pick-up truck containing thirty gallons of whiskey of the moonshine variety, was seized Saturday night at Engelhard by the Deputy Sheriff. The truck was listed in the name of Ben Cain of East Lake, and Sunday morning, the officers arrested Ben Cain, claiming he was in the truck when it was first observed. He is now held in jail in Belhaven for trial at Swan Quarter Monday.

# COME TO THE BEACH

More than ever this year the beaches at Kitty Hawk, Kill Devil Hill and Nags Head appeal to those who like salt water and out-of-doors. More than ever people come to fish. And thousands this year, in place of hundreds last year, will come to celebrate with Dare County the 352nd Anniversary of the Colonization of North Carolina. You will find these well-known firms below, ready to give you good service to help make your stay pleasant.

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