

THE DARE COUNTY TIMES

The Weekly Journal of the North Carolina Coastland—Devoted to the Interests of the Lost Colony Country, Embracing the Cape Hatteras National Seashore

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STRATTON PRAISED FOR ABLY DIRECTING BEACH FIGHT AGAINST EROSION

Called a "Boyish King Canute" Holding Ocean Back; Youthful Director of Park Service Camps Subject of News Article by Bill Sharpe of State News Bureau

By BILL SHARPE

A 29-year-old Canute with a boyish grin and some new ideas about sand, has just told the Atlantic ocean where to get off. And the Atlantic ocean, not to mention a couple of sizeable sounds, is getting off.

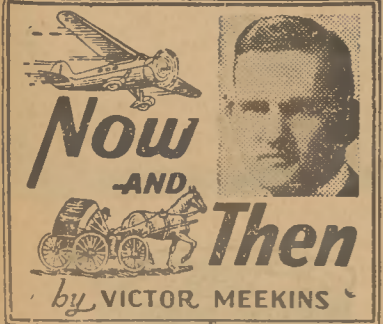
A. C. Stratton does not look like a figure in a cataclysmic chapter from nature's book, but North Carolinians as far inland as 50 miles or more might well regard him as the general of a long thin yellow line which is keeping their geography intact, keeping a wild surf from pounding over their farms and cities, and saving their network of inland waterways and a substantial fishing industry.

Geologists estimate that if the long finger of Outer Banks which points out into the ocean were to keep pounding to pieces, the banks would disappear—the time depending upon storm conditions—and the Atlantic, now held safely at bay, would invade the low mainland for many miles.

Less than 100 years ago the Banks seemed secure enough. When Raleigh's colonists arrived 352 years ago, they reported heavy vegetation covered the reefs—with great forests. A few generations ago civilization changed the habits of the Bankers who inhabited the thriving villages. Many entered the coast guard and lighthouse services and abandoned careful stock raising, turning their stock out of pens. A heavy demand for timber caused the great forests to be cut. Pigs, horses, and cattle roamed the forests, rooting up and eating the grass and shrubs. The constant winds blew sand from the beach and from around the roots of trees in the denuded ground and the destruction of the banks commenced.

Soon most of the banks became a great flat desert, lowering the land level until high storm tides cut inlets through to the sound. Inlets which should be kept open for waterways were filled; other inlets

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SETS OUT ALONE FOR NEW JOB IN COLORADO



THIS YOUNG FELLOW who is one of the finest chaps to grow up on this happy island, left Tuesday afternoon for Mesa Verde, Colorado, where he will be a Park Ranger in Mesa Verde National Park. Arvin Odell Basnight, as he is known, is one of the most popular young men in the county. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thos. A. Basnight of Manteo, and for the past three years has been on the staff of the Kill Devil Hills Memorial. Prior to that time he worked for the Government at Washington, D. C., after coming out of State College, Raleigh. The picture was made 2 years ago by Victor Meekins, and not having another one handy, we used this one. But it looks very much like him. His friends are much gratified that he is making his way up so well in the National Park Service. His life ambition is to come back and have a hand in the Development of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

352ND ANNIVERSARY OF VIRGINIA DARE'S BIRTH FRIDAY, AUGUST 18TH

For the first time since Paul Green's epic drama The Lost Colony has been presented at the Waterside Theatre here as a part of the local historical celebrations, Virginia Dare's birthday falls on a Friday, August 18, and her baptism on a Sunday, according to historical records of this colony.

That is the order in which the events happened 352 years ago and the Historian of the Paul Green drama makes a point of mentioning these dates. August 18th has always been a day of celebration to the population of Roanoke Island, but this year it is expected to be the largest because of this double-feature event.

Plans are now under way for a three-day celebration for Virginia Dare to begin Friday, August 18. Special exercises will be held at Fort Raleigh during the Sunday morning services to commemorate her baptism on that very day 352 years ago. The Roanoke Island Historical Association invites the public to take part in this historic celebration.

LARGE GROUP ATTENDS ELIZ. CITY MEETING

Some 200 people gathered in Elizabeth City Friday night to attend a meeting which proposed the organization of 11 counties into an organization to be known as the Greater Albemarle Association, and which would be operated on the lines of a district Chamber of Commerce, only much improved. It was suggested that the four counties south of Albemarle Sound in addition to seven others be invited to join, giving each county the same number of directors. The scope and purposes of the organization when carried out on the plan suggested, promises much of great advantage to the region. Howard Stevens, J. Henry LeRoy, W. O. Saunders, and several other Elizabeth City men of great integrity and ability are leaders in the movement. The membership fee is only \$1 a year.

Representatives were present from most of the counties involved.

IT MAY BE RUINS OF TEACH'S STRONGHOLD



SEVERAL WEEKS AGO the Times carried a story of the ruins of an old house recently discovered on a Tyrrell County farm. Here is a picture of the site, with County Accountant M. A. Davenport of Tyrrell County with a spade, turning up some of the bricks of the massive wall. It is four miles from the town of Columbia.

TOURIST ACCOMMODATIONS MORE SANITARY THAN EVER

P. F. MEEKINS DIES AT HOME IN STUMPY POINT

Pharoah Farrow Meekins, 69, of Stumpy Point died at four o'clock Wednesday morning after an illness that has extended over several years. He was one of the outstanding citizens of his community and for many years was noted throughout the district as a lay leader of the M. E. Church, and his fame as a Sunday School teacher spread far and wide.

At one time he served as a member of the Board of Commissioners of Dare County. Most of his life had been spent in the fishing industry. He was born at Rodanthe, and moved to Stumpy Point at an early age. He was an uncle of that large family of Meekins at Rodanthe of which County Commissioner John A. Meekins is one.

Mr. Meekins is survived by his wife, Mrs. Fannie Taylor Meekins, and by one brother, Arthur M. Meekins, and one sister, Mrs. Jerry Hooper, one son, Maynard Meekins, two daughters, Mrs. Calvin Hooper and Mrs. Roy Hooper. All except the last named are of Stumpy Point. Mrs. Roy Hooper lives in Elizabeth City. Also nine grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted Thursday morning, and burial was in the family plot at Stumpy Point. Assisting in the services were Rev. A. E. Brown of Moyock, a former pastor, and Rev. R. H. Lewis, Stumpy Point pastor.

TOM BARNETT'S WARM HEART FOREVER STILL

Thomas Barnett, 48, retired boat-swan's mate of the Coast Guard died Monday night at his home of a sudden attack following a long illness. Mr. Barnett leaped into fame in 1931 for his work in connection with the rescue of the crew of the ill-fated trawler Anna-May out of Hampton. He was retired some three years ago. He formerly commanded Fort Macon Coast Guard Station, Durants, and other units. He served at Little Kinnakeet, Big Kinnakeet, Cape Hatteras, and Creeds Hill.

Since his retirement, he had lived at his home at Buxton, Cape Hatteras. He was the son of the late Capt. David Barnett, a renowned Coast Guardsman of the old days. He gave a great deal of time and research to recording the deeds of the surfmen of years ago, and he was greatly interested in the service.

Beside his wife, Mr. Barnett is survived by the following children: Mrs. Otis Willis of Montauk, N. Y., Henry Belch of Hertford; Mrs. Aubrey Welch, Mrs. Willard Anderson, Miss Letitia Barnett, Miss Grace Barnett, Miss Georgia Barnett, Chiswell, David, and Ward Barnett of Buxton.

Funeral took place in Buxton Wednesday in the family burial plot. The services were conducted by the local preachers.

In the death of "Capt." Tom, as he was known to his friends, a big hearted citizen has gone to his rest. Tom loved the Coast Guard. He took much interest in seeing it get credit. He had a big warm heart, and he wanted to do something worth while all the time for the service. There are many who were his friends and none his enemies.

A traveling salesman received this telegram: "Twins arrived to-night—more by mail." The salesman immediately wired back: "Overjoyed regarding twins stop if more arrive by mail refuse them."

Charles Morgan Is Pleased by Good Showing Made This Season

According to Sanitary Officer Charles Morgan, hotels, tourist homes, cafes, camps, markets and dairies are rating higher this year than ever before and he is well pleased with the improvement.

The majority of hotels were given an A rating, with none rating lower than a B. The following received A ratings: The Breakers, Nags Head, First Colony Inn and Perkins' Hotel, all at Nags Head, and the Croatan and Wilbur Wright Hotels at Kill Devil Hills.

Tourist Homes

An A grade was given to all the tourist homes inspected. They are: Atlantic View Cottage, Nags Head. Baum Tourist Home, Bertha. Beachwood Cottage, Nags Head. Caroland Farm Tourist Home, Poplar Branch. Chowanoke Cottage, Nags Head. Eleanor Dare Tourist Home, Manteo. Manning Tourist Home, Bertha. M. L. Johnson Tourist Home, Manteo.

New England House, Manteo. Rest-Over Tourist Home, Manteo. Roanoke Inn, Manteo. Sea Rest Tourist Home, Nags Head.

Sleepy Hollow Inn, Nags Head. Snug Harbor Inn, Nags Head. Sarah Woodhouse Tourist Home, Grandy.

Cafes
Of the cafes, 14 rated A, six received a B rating, and three, a C. The sanitary officer gave an A grade to the following:

Baum & Son, Kitty Hawk. Colonist Inn, Fort Raleigh. Community Dining Room, Manteo.

Kill Devil Hills Service Station, Kill Devil Hills. Nags Head Casino, Nags Head. Owens' Quick Lunch, Manteo. Parker's Service Station, Kill Devil Hills.

Rose Cafe, Moyock. Sea View Inn, Nags Head. Snow White Cafe, Nags Head. Swain Confectionery, Manteo. Thompson's Cafe, Shawboro. Wigwam Tea Room, Manteo. Wright Memorial Service Station, Kill Devil Hills.

Two of the three tourist camps, the Jennette Tourist Camp at Nags Head and the Virginia Dare Tourist Colony at Manteo received A ratings, and both the dairies, Huleam Farm Dairy at Manteo and Edgewood Dairy in Elizabeth City, were graded A.

None of the markets were graded lower than B, and most of those receiving a B were prevented from getting an A because they lacked certain items of physical equipment and not because of uncleanliness. The City Market and Tarkington's Market, Manteo, both received an A.

BUDDING DEMONSTRATION

Lewis P. Watson, extension horticulturist from State College, recently spent two days assisting County Agent C. W. Overman with horticultural work. Mr. Watson took several pictures of garters, flowers, shrubbery, grapes and figs growing in sand.

The two men conducted a pecan budding demonstration with Roy Midgett of Manns Harbor, who has some young seedling trees about four years old, which were cut back last winter. The demonstrators placed several buds in the new growth on each tree, and Mr. Midgett plans to complete the work next week. A pecan budding demonstration was also conducted with M. M. Sawyer of Manns Harbor.

TWO APPOINTED TO SEEK SURVEY COUNTY ROADS

Commissioners Name Nelson, Daniels to Talk to Mr. Barnes

The Dare Board of County Commissioners Tuesday appointed a committee to call on Highway Commissioner D. Colin Barnes, of Murfreesboro, in the interest of surveys from Manns Harbor to Mashoes and from the Whale Bone filling Station to Hatteras.

J. D. Nelson and Melvin R. Daniels were named on the committee. The survey is sought with the ultimate view of having the State Highway and Public Works Commission and the Works Progress Administration to collaborate in building roads between the above-named points.

The Mashoes-Manns Harbor road would be three miles long, while the Whale Bone-Hatteras road would be about 50 miles in length.

The commissioners decided to reduce the Richmond Cedar Works valuation by \$10,000, making the new tax value \$93,697. Mrs. Flosie Russell's valuation was fixed at \$850, and that for the A. H. Ward Ice Plant, \$6,000.

The clerk was ordered to contact the owners of the island's flying field and get a renewal on the field for 12 months. This field has been rented by the County for two years at some \$175 a year.

The Commissioners gave some discussion to the revelation that while the county has been paying some \$240 a year rental to J. B. Griffin during the past five years for the land on which the WPA Camp Wright at the north end of the island sits, Mr. Griffin since January 1, unknown to the Commissioners had been getting an additional \$30 a month rent from the Federal Government. It is likely that the county's donation will not be forthcoming again this fall.

A LITTLE BOY'S PLEA TO HELP HIS DADDY IN VAIN AT HATTERAS

"Please, sir, come out here and see if you can help my daddy; he is feeling bad." A little boy ran into Dan Oden's store at Hatteras Monday morning. When help went to the car, the man was speechless and helpless. They took him to Dr. D. W. Crankshaw's office, and while Mr. Oden was in for a pill, he drew his last breath and died in the arms of Scotty Gibson, proprietor of the Atlantic View Hotel. It was a sudden heart attack.

The man was Edward Grimes Mullen, age 55, a traveling salesman of Charlotte, who with his wife and two small boys were spending a vacation at Hatteras, and had gone down to the wharf that morning to go fishing.

There was no undertaker, or embalmer at Hatteras. Charlotte is a long way off, the trip across to the mainland requires three hours; the weather was hot. The body of the deceased was put in the hold of the freight boat; fish boxes packed with ice were placed all around it, and the hatches closed. And in this manner the body was returned to the mainland.

SOUTHERN ALBEMARLE PRESIDENCY IS SOUGHT FOR MELVIN DANIELS

Rumors prevalent around Manteo this week were to the effect that Melvin R. Daniels, Dare County Register of Deeds, and Vice-President of the Southern Albemarle Association would be elected President of the Association next week, that is if President C. W. Tatem declines to stand for re-election.

The sentiment for Mr. Daniels comes from at least two other counties in the Association besides Dare, since he has been actively identified with the Association since it was formed four years ago, and one of its most enthusiastic workers.

Sentiment is overwhelming for Mr. Tatem to stand for re-election but in event he doesn't, Mr. Daniels seems to be second choice.

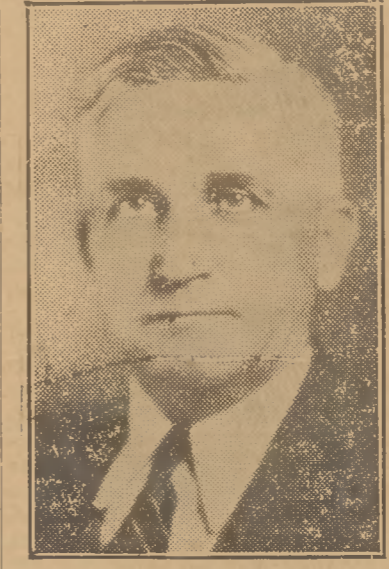
DIVORCE SUIT FILED

A divorce suit filed in Wilson County last week is of interest to Dare County people. The plaintiff is William T. Mason of Stumpy Point, against Dellon Hooper Mason, whom he married in 1910. The couple separated in 1933 after 23 years of married life. Mr. Mason for many years was a prosperous fisherman and merchant at Stumpy Point, and was a member of the Dare County Board of Commissioners. The mercantile business is now run at Stumpy Point by Mrs. Mason.

1,200 PEOPLE EXPECTED FOR MEET OF SOUTHERN ALBEMARLE ASSOCIATION

Daniels Stresses Fact That All Citizens of Four Counties, as Well as Official Delegates, Are Invited to Attend Big Meeting Here Next Week

PRESIDENT FOUR YEARS OF ALBEMARLE CROUP



C. WALLACE TATEM, rounding out his fourth year as president of the Southern Albemarle Association, which has achieved much under his leadership. Mr. Tatem will preside at Manteo next Thursday.

N. C. LAW HELPS HEALTH OFFICERS PREVENT DISEASE

Diphtheria Immunization and Venereal Disease Treatment Handled by Law

Dr. S. V. Lewis, district health officer, has recently written the Times asking that attention be called again to the diphtheria prevention act passed by the North Carolina General Assembly of 1939 and to the venereal disease quarantine law.

Diphtheria Immunization
According to the law, children between the ages of six and 12 months shall be given an immunizing dose of a prophylactic diphtheria agent meeting the United States Public Health Service standard, and those between 12 months and five years, not previously immunized, are also to be given the dose.

Parents or guardians should take children to private physicians unless unable to pay for the service; in such cases, children should be taken to the Health officer in their own counties for immunization. The law provides that a certificate of treatment be presented school authorities when the child enters any public, private or parochial school in North Carolina. Violation of the act draws a fine of not more than \$50 or not more than 30 days imprisonment.

Venereal Disease Treatment
Venereal disease patients who neglect taking regular and proper treatments are subject to quarantine, and quarantine violators are subject to indictment. According to Dr. Lewis, venereal disease patients are safe for any manner of employment if adequately treated but not otherwise. The Health department attempts to eliminate unnecessary hardships by locating clinics where most convenient to the greatest number of patients.

DR. LITTLE WILL SPEAK AT FORT RALEIGH SUNDAY

Dr. Luther Little, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Charlotte, will preach at the 11 a. m. services Sunday, August 13, at Fort Raleigh.

Dr. Little, who has been pastor of the First Baptist Church for the past 22 years, has the distinction of being the first religious leader in the entire country to broadcast his regular services. Since the beginning of radio his messages have been heard over the air as well as under the roof of the Charlotte church, which is the largest of its denomination in the state.

A native of Alabama, Dr. Little was reared and educated in Mississippi. After graduating from the Mississippi Baptist College, he entered the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville, Ky. His first call to preach was at the First Baptist Church of Fort Worth, Texas. Prior to coming to Charlotte, he preached in Jackson, Tennessee.

Twelve hundred people of the Southern Albemarle counties are expected to gather in Manteo next Thursday, August 17, for the meeting of the Southern Albemarle Association.

The big events of the meeting will be the speaking and the giant fish fry. Headlining the speakers will be Lieut. Governor Wilkins P. Horton, whose name is definitely linked with the 1940 Democratic gubernatorial race, and State Senator W. B. Rodman, of Washington, N. C.

The lieutenant governor will be introduced by State Senator D. Bradford Fearing of Dare, and Senator Rodman will be introduced by Dare's Representative Roy Davis.

Mevin R. Daniels, association vice-president for Dare County, said yesterday that arrangements are being made to take care of 1,200 people. John Ferebee is the fish fry chairman, and is making arrangements to feed everybody well.

"Although each of the Southern Albemarle counties is limited to 50 delegates and 25 guests, we want to make it plain that we are making preparations to take care of 1,200 people at the celebration here," Mr. Daniels said.

"We also wish to make it known that any citizen of the Southern Albemarle counties, whether he be a member of the Southern Albemarle Association or not, is cordially invited to attend the meeting. Of course, only the official delegates will have voting power."

Committees
The following committees have been announced for the Dare hosts: Decoration, M. L. Daniels, chairman, W. M. Joffill, M. K. Fearing, Entertainment, A. C. Stratton, chairman, O. J. Jones, J. E. Ferebee, R. L. Davis, Publicity, Ben Dixon MacNeill, Woodrow Price, D. V. Meekins.

Hospitality, D. B. Fearing, chairman, I. P. Davis, C. S. Meekins, R. H. Atkinson, General, Melvin R. Daniels, chairman, J. E. Ferebee, Roy L. Davis, Martin Kellogg, C. S. Meekins, D. V. Meekins, A. J. Daniels.

Bands will be on hand from Belhaven, Plymouth, Columbia, Edenton, and Elizabeth City. As an added attraction, the Elizabeth City girls' drum and bugle corps will hold forth.

Due to business, Congressman Lindsay C. Warren will be unable

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STAGE DIRECTOR SAYS PLAY IS BASIC ART FORM FOR NEW OPERA

Dr. Graf, Impressed by Lost Colony, Will Tell of it in Book on Opera

The Lost Colony has been described as the basic art form for the new American opera by Dr. Herbert Graf, stage director of the Metropolitan Opera House of New York City.

Dr. Graf, who directed opera throughout the various European capitals before coming to the Metropolitan seven years ago, attended the Lost Colony this week at the invitation of Theos Cronk, chorus director. Dr. Graf said of the play: "It goes back to the roots of folk-emotion by the story and the form of the production, and thus creates a real folk-theatre. It is from such sources that the development of a new theatre always drew its deciding forces."

"I was moved by the natural combination of folk-story, words, action and music. This is the way of the old 'song plays' or musical dramas which from the dreams of Aeschylus have been the important germ-cells of opera. I am convinced that it is from such original sources that the new folk-opera will develop."

In the form and material of the Lost Colony, Dr. Graf sees the trend of the basic opera form in America. A firm believer that the opera is not a dead art, Dr. Graf was recently assigned the task of writing a book on "The Opera: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow." He plans to mention The Lost Colony in the closing section of the book.