

THE DARE COUNTY TIMES

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HOW STORIES OF FIRST FLIGHTS WERE SENT OUT

The Name Drinkwater Is Identified With Aviation History in Carolina

By BILL SHARPE

Because Tar Heets have a peculiar fondness for anecdote and legend, the first flight of man at Kitty Hawk, N. C., December 17, 1903, produced an amazing crop of yarns which are not only flourishing but still multiplying. Any reporter can go to Dare county and dig up a half dozen different accounts of the flight—all of them interesting.

But the story of how the first word of the first flight was flashed from the lonely Banks of 1903 is fairly well nailed down because the people involved are still living.

There was more hard work and discomfort than romance in that first flight, and, as a matter of fact, Dare County was not particularly interested in the Wright Brothers on December 17, 1903. They had been a nine-day wonder when they came by sail boat from Elizabeth City and started their fantastic glider experiments on the sand dunes, at Kill Devil Hills. The dunes are located on the Bank near Kitty Hawk, and from the top of any of them you get a good view of the Atlantic rolling onto the beach. The dunes, ramble and roam most incontinently, devouring forests, roads, streams or anything else in their path, and Kill Devil itself has shifted a good quarter of a mile since it supported its historic burden.

After Warren had gotten the Memorial project through Congress, army engineers came in and planted grass and shrubs on old Kill Devil and anchored her down, so the majestic pylon could be erected on top.

Alone of all the great dunes, Kill Devil is clothed. The others stand out golden on hot summer days, and in the late afternoons become great, glowing rubies when viewed from Roanoke Island across the Sound.

But on December 17, 1903, Dare County had turned its attention to an even more novel and certainly it would seem, more practical matter. Fourteen days before, the submarine Moccasin had run ashore some miles north, and Theodore Roosevelt was demanding regular reports on efforts to free her.

Nags Head was long a shipwreck country. The beach is said to have derived its name from professional shipwreckers. But if an ordinary shipwreck was no novelty to these people, a submarine shipwreck certainly was. On December 12, Alpheus Drinkwater, then as now Coast Guard communications officer, had gone up to Currituck Beach to the wreck and tapped the Coast Guard telegraph line and set up his instrument on an orange crate. From this point he tapped out reports on the submarine's condition, so that the energetic Teddy's curiosity and anxiety could be assuaged.

The first newspaper stories of the first flight must have originated from a commercial message sent through the weather bureau station at Kitty Hawk. The message was relayed at Norfolk and Harry Moore of the Virginia-Pilot smelled a story, and checked back on it. Very few people in America paid any attention to the story, or believed it.

Only two people besides Orville Wright who were at Kill Devil when the plane took off are living today—John T. Daniels and John Moore. Daniels lives in Manteo and Moore in Collington, and both of them have been invited to participate in the 40th anniversary celebration.

Any parallel between Kitty Hawk of that period and aviation today is more discernible by going back to May 1908, when the Wrights returned for some real flying. This time, they were accompanied by a flock of reporters—skeptical but observant. The first actual newspaper story of an airplane flight was sent on May 6, 1908, by the long-suffering Drinkwater, who now began to learn something about newspapermen.

The first story—the original copy of which Drinkwater gladly show you the next time you go to one of his famous champagne lawn parties—began: "The Wright Brothers, the aeronauts, now at Kill Devil Hill, near here, made a first flight in their new airplane this afternoon. Although a test flight, it was successful in every respect, the machine being under perfect control of its two makers, traveling for a distance of 1000 feet. Apparently it could have (Continued on Page 2)

RECOVERING FROM RECENT STROKE



LESLIE SUTHERLAND of Manteo, who several months ago, suffered a stroke of paralysis which left him partially helpless, is getting better rapidly, and his many friends will be glad to know that he is able to be up most of the time, and recently took a few steps. A complete recovery is hoped for in the near future.

Mr. Sutherland came to Manteo several years ago from his former home in Yonkers, N. Y., bought a home and settled here. He has since made many friends in the community, who regretted his recent illness and who will rejoice to see him out and around town.

KELLOGG LEAVES MAYOR'S PLACE FOR COUNTY JOB

Commissioners Appoint Attorney For County Prosecutor Replacing Russell

Martin Kellogg, Jr., Mayor of Manteo, was appointed County Prosecuting Attorney by the Dare Board of Commissioners this week at a salary of \$50 per month, replacing D. L. Russell, whose term expired. Mr. Kellogg now finds it necessary to resign as Mayor of Manteo, which post he has held less than a year. He was formerly prosecuting attorney in the Recorder's Court, but resigned when he became Mayor, but continued as County Legal Advisor for \$10 a month. Mr. Russell received \$30 a month as Solicitor of the Recorder's Court.

The problem of appointing a new Mayor now comes up with the name of O. J. Jones, town councilman in the forefront. Other suggestions are Former Mayor L. D. Tarkington, Theo. S. Meekins, Eber Westcott, M. K. Fearing, J. B. Peterson, A. W. Drinkwater, and Mrs. Lucetta Willis. Should Mr. Jones be appointed, there will be a vacancy on the town board and the name of Ras Westcott has been suggested for this place.

Mr. Kellogg's resignation as Mayor will be viewed with much regret. His short stay of office had been surrounded with many progressive features, and was a continuation of a progressive awakening that seemed to be coming to the administration of the town government.

NATIVE OF HYDE DIES AT BELHAVEN HOME FRIDAY

Funeral services for Samuel L. Sawyer, 83, of Belhaven, were held Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock from Trinity Methodist church in Belhaven with the Rev. O. C. Haas, officiating. Interment was in Mount Olive Cemetery at Ponzer. Mr. Sawyer, a native of Currituck township, died at his home in Belhaven Friday morning. He had been ill for several days.

The Hyde County native was engaged in the lumber business. He was employed as timber estimator for the John L. Roper Lumber Co., until it moved from Belhaven, and then he followed the same trade for various concerns. Surviving are his wife, Miranda Cuthrell; four sons, Chester of Belhaven, Clyde of Norfolk, Reuben of Ponzer and Harry of Princess Anne; one daughter, Mrs. Tom Edmundson of Princess Anne.

H. O. CHESNUT GETTING BETTER IN BALTIMORE

News reaching Manteo last week from H. O. Chesnut, former machine operator for the Dare County Times, was to the effect that his health is improving and that he is able to be out of bed part of the time. Mr. Chesnut has been a patient at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Md., for about two months. Mrs. Chesnut is at his bedside.

FISHERMEN MAKE MANY NETS FOR COMING SEASON

Strong Demand For Seafood Encourages Further Investment

The strong demand for seafood products, with unusually good profits for fishermen, has encouraged considerably new net making in the Dare County section in preparation for the coming shad season.

The fishermen of Manns Harbor and Stumpy Point are said to be making many new nets, or repairing and putting into the best of condition their present rigs, according to well-known dealers in the villages.

Fishermen of these communities for the better part have had a successful year's work. Many being released from work on defense jobs that are nearing completion are back home in the fishing business. On returning home they found considerable work and expense necessary to clean up their premises, to recondition their boats, motors and nets. They find now that it is mighty expensive to get stakes, and must pay upwards of 50 cents apiece for every stake they get. Most of the stakes are being purchased from East Lake men, who have made quite a little money this fall cutting stakes. It is likely the price of stakes will go up, now that ten cents apiece stumpage is being charged by the resident manager of the property.

Heretofore many stakes were brought to the villages by Tyrrell County truck owners, but now the scarcity of gas, tires, and transportation in General has reduced the availability of stakes, which worked to good advantage for the boys in East Lake.

Reports from Hatteras indicate a highly successful season, and preparations are being made for more fishing in the Spring. The scarcity of labor is the chief thorn in the flesh for the fishermen.

ROWAN H. QUIDLEY, JR. DIES SATURDAY NIGHT

Manteo Child Passes After Long Illness; School Dismissed For Funeral

Funeral services for Rowan H. Quidley, Jr., nine years of age, were conducted Monday afternoon at two o'clock at the Manteo Methodist church, Rev. M. W. Maness officiating. The little boy died at his home Saturday night after many months of suffering from a heart ailment. He would have been in the fourth grade at school this year, and his passing is mourned by his many little friends. Music for the services was rendered by a choir made up of members of the fourth grade of the Manteo school and several other grammar grade students. Jack Cahoon sang "Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam," and the choir sang "Jesus Loves Me" and "Sweet Hour of Prayer."

Palbearers were Billy Cox, Jule Burrus, Billy Walker, Dan Canaday, Jr., H. A. Creef, Jr., and Harry Hostvedt, all high school boys. School was dismissed at noon in order that the students might attend the funeral.

Rowan is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Quidley, eight brothers and sisters, Mrs. Joe Jones, Jane Quidley, Irene Quidley, Earl Quidley, Leonard Quidley, Colleen, Billy and Odell Quidley, all of Manteo; and a large number of aunts, uncles, and cousins.

MANTEO BOY MARITIME OFFICER CANDIDATE

Robert Lee Midgette, of Manteo, has just enrolled as an officer candidate at the United States Maritime Service Officers School, Fort Trumbull, New London, Connecticut.

He is taking an intensive course in deck subjects which he expects will qualify him to take an examination in January for his merchant marine license as third mate on ocean-going vessels which today form the supply lines to all United Nations.

Mr. Midgette is the son of Mrs. Minnie Midgette of Manteo.

PONZER HOME CLUB PLANS OYSTER ROAST

The Ponzer Home Demonstration Club will sponsor an oyster roast and chicken supper at the Ponzer Club House, Friday night, December 17. The public is cordially invited to come and enjoy a delicious supper.

Buy War Bonds And Stamps

Wright Memorial at Kill Devil Hills



THIS memorial, erected by Congress in 1928, marks the spot where man first conquered the air. Lindsay Warren, while a member of Congress introduced legislation which resulted in the memorial and environs costing a half million dollars.

NAVY SQUADRON V-17 SEES ACTIVE FIGHTING

Men Who Trained Within Last Year At Manteo Airport Go After Japs and Get Them

Fliers of Navy Squadron V-17, who underwent part of their final training at the Manteo Naval Air Station within the past year, have recently seen active service overseas, and news from them will be of interest to the friends the men made during their stay on Roanoke Island.

An AP dispatch from a South Pacific base, dated November 13, read in part as follows:

"A navy land-based fighter squadron shot down 18 enemy planes Thursday in helping to ward off a Japanese air attack on our carrier force which struck Rabaul that day.

"Eleven of the victims were bombers, the others fighters.

"Ensign Ira Kepford, of Muskegon, Mich., shot down four bombers.

"I got the first three before they knew what was happening," he related.

"The squadron commander, Lt. Commander John Blackburn, of Washington, D. C., has been here only three weeks and in the first 15 days he knocked down 15 planes.

"Lieutenant Howard Burrus, of Grantville, O., got two bombers, and Lieutenant Clement D. Gile of Pittsburgh, Pa., Lieutenant and Ensign Robert Hill of Beauport, N. C., one bomber each.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT MANTEO METHODIST

Special Music At All Service on Sunday, December 19; Message By Supt. Clerg at Evening Hour

Special Christmas services have been planned for Sunday, December 19, by the Manteo Methodist church. They will begin at Sunday School at 10 o'clock, when a program of Christmas music and recitations will be given by the children.

At the morning worship at 11 o'clock the pastor will deliver a Christmas message and the choir will render special selections of Christmas music.

The Young People and Intermediates will meet for an hour of worship and fellowship at 6:30. The message of Christmas will be presented in song and discussion. At the evening service at 7:30 the choir will sing Christmas anthems, followed by a sermon to be delivered by Rev. W. L. Clegg, Superintendent of the Elizabeth City District. At the close of the service he will conduct the first Quarterly Conference for the year 1943-1944.

The finest CHRISTMAS present you can give is one of Uncle Sam's WAR BONDS. Keep on BACKING THE ATTACK.

FUNERAL SERVICES ST CLAIR TILLET, JR.

Young Manteo Man Dies Sunday After Being Ill for Several Months; Passing Mourned By Host of Friends and Relatives

St. Clair Tillet, Jr., 27, of Manteo, died early Sunday morning in a Norfolk hospital after several months of ill health. Funeral services were conducted at four o'clock Monday afternoon at the Manteo Methodist church, by Rev. M. W. Maness, pastor. Special music was rendered by the church choir, and a duet was sung by Mrs. E. R. Westcott and Mrs. R. I. Leake. Burial was in Manteo cemetery.

Mr. Tillet, affectionately known to all his friends as "Punk," was one of the best liked young men in Manteo, and his death is mourned by a host of friends and relatives.

He is survived by his wife, the former Miss Alice Hampton; his father, S. C. Tillet of Manteo; his mother, Mrs. Emma Tillet of Portsmouth, Va.; one brother, McCoy Tillet of Manteo; three aunts, Mrs. R. C. Evans and Mrs. A. J. Eberhize of Norfolk; and a number of cousins.

Palbearers were Raymond Westcott, Belton Burrus, Sam Midgett, Earl Green, Dorian Quidley and Marvin Rogers.

Among out-of-town people attending the funeral were Mr. and Mrs. P. L. Hampton, Miss Elinor Hampton, Miss Mildred Midgette, Mrs. P. H. O'Neal, Mrs. Willie Walker, Mrs. Hardy Overton, Mrs. Geo. W. Meiggs, R. A. Griggs, of Coinjock; Mrs. Adrian Mathias, Mrs. W. B. McClannan, of Barco; Mrs. Alton Taylor, Maple; Mrs. Norman Ballance, of Currituck; Pierce Garrington, Charlie Dozier, of Jarvisburg; Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Midgett, A. B. Midgett, of Virginia Beach; Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Midgett, Mr. and Mrs. Curlliss Basnight, Mr. and Mrs. Melville Poole, of Norfolk; Mrs. Orlando Burrus and Mrs. Raymond Westcott of Portsmouth, Va., and Miss Wilma Jones of Norfolk.

Many of the visitors plan to leave Manteo to take in the Banquet at the Statler Hotel in Washington at night when Orville Wright is to be guest of honor, and President Roosevelt is on the program.

Horace A. Dough of Kill Devil Hills is arranging for the speakers and broadcasting facilities.

Many of the visitors will come into Elizabeth City several days ahead, and some will take in hunting trips. Others will come to Manteo before hand. Due to crowded hotel facilities, reservations for rooms must be made early.

WOODARD'S RELATIVES FIND HUNTING GOOD

Hyde Farm Agent's Brother and Brother-in-Law Kill First Deer

Clarence Woodard, brother of county agent J. P. Woodard and Yeates Creech, a brother-in-law, who visited Mr. and Mrs. Woodard at Swan Quarter last week took to the fields and woods in Hyde Friday afternoon and Saturday morning and found the hunting good.

Both of the men, who are from Kenly, killed their limit of geese both days, and each of them killed a deer while here. They enjoyed their trip very much and found hunting in Hyde County to be everything claimed for it.

There are many deer, geese and quail this year. Some hunters say never have they seen so much game or so many birds. There are few shells available, however, and this curtails the shooting.

KITTY HAWK HONOR ROLL THIRTH MONTH

Second grade: Angus Toler, Tanja Dawn Tillet, Stanley Beacham, Vonita Haskett.

Fourth grade: Kenneth Clay Tillet, Roy Dale Sowers, Fannie Austin Edith Rogers.

Fifth grade: Jimmy Culpepper, Zella Gamiel, Pernell Perry.

Sixth grade: Patricia Miller, Violet Keller, Jean Best, Elaine Stewart, Boyd Midgett, Lindsay Midgett.

Seventh grade: Jennette Tillet, Evelyn Gamiel.

Eighth grade: Rhoda Tillet.

Ninth grade: Gloria Midgett, Carolyn Culpepper, Doris Perry.

Tenth grade: John Baum, Burwell Beacham.

MORRIS OF LEECHVILLE GETS PURPLE HEART MEDAL

Machinist's Mate First Class Cornelius Morris of Leechville, who suffered wounds during the Japanese sneak attack on Pearl Harbor, was recently awarded the Purple Heart for his part in that battle. Presentation of the medal was made at an East Coast port.

CEREMONIES NEXT FRIDAY AT K.D.H. TO BE BROADCAST

Elizabeth City High School Band and Governor To Be On Air

Ceremonies at Kill Devil Hills Next Friday at which time General H. H. Arnold is slated to be speaker, will be broadcast over a National hookup, according to Bill Sharpe, Secretary to the Committee and representing Governor Broughton, who was in Manteo Wednesday.

The ceremonies honoring the 40th anniversary of flight, will begin at 10 a.m. but there is to be an initial broadcast in which Governor Broughton and the Elizabeth City High School Band are to be featured. Through the courtesy of Miles Clark, the Band's godfather, this remarkable musical organization will be able to take part in the ceremonies.

Meanwhile plans go ahead for the day, with the local committee consisting of D. V. Meekins, I. P. Davis, Melvin R. Daniels, Horace A. Dough and A. W. Drinkwater, ironing out the wrinkles. Mr. Drinkwater is master of special entertainment. Melvin R. Daniels, Secretary to the K. D. Hills Memorial Association, John E. Ferebee and I. P. Davis are arranging for a fish dinner.

Guy H. Lennon, head of the transportation committee, will arrange transportation from the Manteo Airport early in the morning, for air plane passengers who come for the occasion. These will be transported to the hill, brought back to Manteo to the dinner, and then to the airport for departure.

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Aeronautics Commission Meets December 15

The North Carolina Aeronautics Commission which is collecting data for a state aviation program, will hold a hearing in Elizabeth City, December 15th, Chairman Roy Rowe, of Burgaw, has announced.

Members of the commission will stay over until the 17th and go down to Kitty Hawk to participate in the 40th flight observance on that day.

Invited to attend the hearing at the Virginia Dare Hotel at 10 a.m. on the 15th will be mayors, chairmen (Please turn to page 4)

DARE SCHOOLS WILL CLOSE ON FRIDAY

Classes To Be Resumed Monday, January 3; Stumpy Point Will Not Close Until December 22

All schools in Dare County, with the exception of Stumpy Point, will close Friday, December 17, for the Christmas holidays, according to an announcement this week by Supt. R. I. Leake. Stumpy Point will close Wednesday, December 22, remaining open the extra days in order to make up some of the time lost at the first of the year when the school was without teachers.

Classes will be resumed Monday, January 4, in all the schools. Plans are already in preparation for observance of the Christmas season in most of the school's some time before they close on the 17th.

LIMIT YOUR CHRISTMAS LIGHTING THIS YEAR

Christmas lighting decorations should be confined to Christmas trees and such attractions as can be fixed up in the home. That is the information received by the Pamlico Ice and Light Co., at Engelhardt, and also released to newspapers by OWI.

The following is a statement by J. A. King, Director of the Office of War Utilities: "I am asking the American people to refrain from their Christmas lighting custom (street decorations, community Christmas trees, exterior home home decorations).

No mandatory order is contemplated, it is said, because it is felt that most people realize the need of conserving electric power, as has been suggested before by the Pamlico Ice & Light Co., and other utilities advertising.

Our Merchant Marine

Our armed merchant ships bore the brunt of sea warfare in the Revolution.

These privateers carried our ambassadors, dispatches and gold to Europe, under the enemy's guns, and brought back arms and ammunition for our troops.

1,000 merchantmen, commissioned as privateers, captured at least 3,000 enemy ships.

The greatest transportation job in history is now being done by the American Merchant Marine, moving men, equipment and materials of war to all parts of the world.

Information courtesy of American Merchant Marine Institute, New York.

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KEEP ON Backing the Attack WITH WAR BONDS