

# THE DARE COUNTY TIMES

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## HYDE COUNTY DOCTOR SERVED ON BOMBED SHIP

### r. Nathan Fitts Awarded Purple Heart Bar by Navy For Service While in Danger

Dr. Nathan F. Fitts of Swan Quarter sometime ago was awarded the Purple Heart Bar in recognition of his gallant services and injuries received in action while a member of the crew of the Liberty Ship S. S. Richard Olney, operated by the Marine Transport Lines.

Dr. Fitts, a native of Rocky Mount, who first entered the Army, was later discharged, because of toxic neuritis. He then "shipped out" on the transport and at the time of the action in which he received his wounds, the ship was doing shuttle work between man bases and Salerno in the Mediterranean.

While on one of these runs in the daytime, the Richard Olney was sighted by a German plane and attacked. She was about 15 miles off the coast of Cape Bon near Bizerte, however, and after being hit by bombs and later torpedoed by a German sub, the ship finally was beached and all hands on board, including about 400 soldiers, were rescued.

When the ship was torpedoed, said Dr. Fitts, three members of the crew who were in the engine room at the time were killed and about 30 injured.

The German submarine was "run down" a few days later by British naval units and captured.

Dr. Fitts was in coastwise service in 1941 and 1942. The letter informing him of the award was sent to him by W. N. Westerland, president of the Marine Transport Lines, and read as follows:

"Dear Dr. Fitts:

"As operators of the vessel on which you suffered injury in northwest African waters on September 22, 1943, it is our privilege to present you with the Purple Heart Bar. This award is made on behalf of the United States Navy under direction of the President of the United States or injuries received in action against the enemy.

"Commander F. J. Lowry, in charge of the amphibious forces in that area, has requested that we convey to you his heartiest congratulations for a job well done.

"This decoration is one that we hope you will wear with great pride in the knowledge that you have served your country so courageously in carrying on your duties faithfully in the face of great danger. It is an evidence that you have contributed to the combined effort of the men of the American Merchant Marine in their splendid exhibition of loyalty and steadfast allegiance to the noblest traditions of our great American heritage."

In an interview with Dr. Fitts we are able to give a rather interesting account of his experiences as follows:

"I entered the Merchant Marine twice in 1941. I made one trip in July and sustained a knee injury that kept me on the beach for several months. In February of 1942 I again sailed. We lost our first merchant ship on the U. S. coast Jan. 14, 1942. Every month after that the going got tougher and tougher. Having sailed in the Navy in the last war, it was my lot to go to Texas City, Texas on a tanker, and to tell the truth, I don't mind admitting that I was plenty scared. During the latter part of March and to the 21st of April of that trip, some 30 or more tankers went down just off our coast. We passed over miles and miles of great slits of oil. It was a common occurrence to see so many poor tankers that got it. I was scared—coming back we were loaded with 105 thousand barrels of high octane gasoline. Every mile seemed to be 15 or 20 miles.

"On the morning of Feb. 15th we got five S.O.S. calls within a few minutes My cabin was close to the steering gear and all of a sudden things got very quiet. I got used to sleeping with the noise, and I presume the quietness caused me to awake. Anyhow, the "Gulf Bell," who were trailing us (she was a brand new tanker with a 16 man gun crew. We had not as much as an air rifle on the Pan Delaware) disobeyed intelligence orders and also the warning from our skipper, Captain Larson. She passed us an got it. I could tell by the wake from the propeller that our ship was circling very slowly. Our captain sent word to us to (Continued on page four)

## A BUZZARD FOR A PET IN BELHAVEN

### Sounds Rather Unusual, But the Bird Became Friendly With Dogs, Cats and Chickens

By W. C. Allen in the State

When anything of a strange nature is published in a newspaper or magazine, people are prone to say: "I wonder if that could possibly be true?"

In many cases they demand proof before they are willing to accept the story as a fact.

I believe that that is exactly what will happen in connection with this little story. By way of proof I wish to state that the lady who told me about it—Mrs. H. R. Way, of Belhaven—is known in that section of the state as being absolutely dependable when it comes to veracity, and other things as well.

Listen to Mrs. Way's story:

"I was visiting my son. One evening we were sitting on the porch when an ugly, awkward-looking bird walked through the gate and came up to the porch. He didn't seem to be the least bit frightened and strolled along as though he were an old friend. After getting a drink of water from the poultry water-pail, he looked around and made a closer examination of his surroundings.

"We immediately recognized the bird as a buzzard. We watched the intruder, but soon it became dark and we went into the house.

Appreciated Music

"Much to the surprise of everybody, the bird came up on the porch, sat down, and listened to the music.

"When the lights were turned out, he followed the cats and dogs out into the darkness, and the next morning he was waiting like a tramp for a hand-out.

"We put out some cornbread and a pan of clabber for the cats and dogs. The bird promptly moved forward and proceeded to get his share. By this time we became as much interested in the buzzard as he seemed to be in his surroundings."

"Each day he seemed to become stronger and less wobbly on his feet, but he never tried to fly. He would sit around demurely when he was not exploring the hen-house and nests, or the dog-house, or making frequent visits to the pan of clabber. He seemed to take a peculiar satisfaction in sitting beside the old black settling-sten.

"It wasn't long before all of our neighbors and friends were as keenly interested in 'Buzzy' as we were. He would wander through the yard, turning over pots and pans, as if he expected to find something underneath them.

"One day we caught a tub of rain-water, and the old, ugly bird jumped into it and took a bath. Apparently he enjoyed the experience very much, because he certainly took his time about it.

"He became very friendly with us. He would untie our shoes and would also jump into the car every time it came into the yard, always perching on the back of the front seat.

Helping "Lady"

"The crowning event came when we discovered the bird picking fleas from our pet collie, Lady. And, I might add that Lady, like Barkis, was willing. As a matter of fact, she was very appreciative of the service which Buzzy was rendering.

"Some time later, something occurred that proved to be Buzzy's downfall. He went out in search of the WPA lunch counter one day at a nearby camp. There he did not receive the same pleasant reception that had been accorded him at my son's home and in the immediate family. I don't know whether he was killed, whether he was chased away—and thereby got his feelings hurt—or whether he decided that his contact with human beings had been of sufficient duration.

"Anyway, that was the last we saw of him."

DAVIS-FRAZLE

Miss Ruth Frazle, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Frazle of Richlands was married to Coleman Davis, son of Mrs. Orphia Davis and the late George Davis of Lake Landing on Saturday, July 8. At home, Lake Landing.

MARSHALL-GIBBS

Miss Etha Mae Gibbs, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Gibbs of Engelhard to John Anson Marshall, son of the late Mrs. Marshall of Engelhard on Monday, July 3.

## Allied Wounded Flown From France



PLANES WHICH TAKE SUPPLIES to the Normandy battlefield airstrips return to Britain with battle casualties. This picture shows Corporal Lydia Alford, a nursing orderly of Britain's Women's Auxiliary Air Force, helping one of the wounded being loaded on a Douglas Dakota transport plane of the R.A.F. Her job will be to tend the wounded during the flight back.

### METHODIST GROUPS MEET WITH MRS. JONES

The Daughters of Wesley of the Manteo Methodist church, met Monday night at the home of Mrs. Ray Jones with 28 members present.

Miss Holland Westcott, president, called the meeting to order and turned it over to Mrs. D. E. Evans, program chairman. The program was as follows: America; prayer by Mrs. Nevin Westcott; trio, "Whispering Hope," sung by Mrs. M. W. Magess, Mrs. Kenneth Ward and Mrs. R. I. Leake; talk, "The Church's Responsibilities in the Post War World," by Chaplain Claud Collins; poem, "America First," Mrs. Donovan Twyne; hymn; class benediction.

During the social hour the hostesses served a salad with iced drinks. On Tuesday night Mrs. Jones and Mrs. H. O. Chesnut were hostesses to the Irene Shearin Circle and the Ruth Maness Interest Group at the home of Mrs. Jones. Twenty five members were present and a program on India was presented by the chairman, Mrs. Caleb Brickhouse. Mrs. C. S. Meekins led in prayer and Mrs. Nannie Midgett gave the meditation, which was followed by a prayer by Mrs. R. M. Jennette. Mrs. Jere Parker made an interesting talk on "Our Work in India," and a duet was sung by Mrs. M. W. Maness and Mrs. Kenneth Ward.

The hostesses served punch and cookies. The August meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Jere Parker.

M. A. Matthews, cashier of the Engelhard Banking & Trust Company is in Chapel Hill this week attending the North Carolina Bankers' Conference

### WARREN, BAGLEY, BONNER MORRISON AT KITTY HAWK

Mr. and Mrs. Lindsey C. Warren of Washington, D. C., and Mr. and Mrs. Dudley Bagley are stopping at Kitty Hawk, and will be there about a week longer. Dinner guests on Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. Herbert C. Bonner, who spent the weekend at the First Colony Inn, Nags Head.

The Warrens have been the guests recently of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Morrison, who are stopping at the Daily Cottage, and Mrs. Morrison and daughter are there now, while Mr. Morrison has returned to Washington. Charles Warren of Washington has been visiting his parents, and various friends in the Coast Guard at Kill Devil Hills and Nags Head. Mr. Warren, Mr. Bagley and Mr. Morrison have been enjoying the fishing at Oregon Inlet with Charlie Perry, and Mr. Warren landed a 35 pound drum last week.

### MEN FROM DARE ENTER ARMED SERVICES IN JUNE

Four men from Dare County were inducted into the armed forces in June, and five more were accepted at the pre-induction examination. Those leaving for service in the Army on June 16 were Aubrey Rogers and Gerald Wise of Manteo, and Ivy Hooper of Stumpy Point. On June 30 Norman E. Brantley entered the Marine Corps.

On June 21 the following were accepted for service and will be called later: Thomas Allen Basnight Jr., Elwood H. Twiford and Henry Melvin Ambrose of Manteo; John Thomas Moore of Colington; and Thomas Glenn Gaskill of Wanchese.

## HIS NAME WAS . . . . .



An Army doctor with the Fifth Army in Italy looks at the dog tags of a dead American soldier so that his beloved back home may know that he gave his life for his country. All your country is asking you to do is to give your dollars to back up the men who are fighting for you by buying War Bonds.

## NEWS OF OUR MEN—WOMEN IN UNIFORM

### CORPORAL JAS. E. CLARK KILLED IN ENGLISH CHANNEL

Mr. and Mrs. James E. Clark of Manteo, formerly of Washington, N. C., were notified July 4 by the War Department of the death of their son, Cpl. James E. Clark Jr., who was killed in action June 15, 1944, in the English Channel.

Cpl. Clark was born in Washington, December 9, 1918, and was a graduate of Washington High School, class of 1938. He was active in athletics and student affairs.

He was a member of the local National Guard Unit prior to entering the regular Army September 19, 1940. He left with Battery "C" 113th Field Artillery to receive his basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. He was stationed at Camp Butler, Camp Blanding, Fla., and Camp Atterbury, Ind., leaving for overseas in February, 1944.

Besides his parents he is survived by one brother, McDonald Clark of Manteo, and two sisters, Mae Clark and Mrs. Albert Allgood, both of Norfolk, Virginia.

### LT. SAMUEL N. DAVIS HOME FROM PACIFIC

Lieut. Samuel N. Davis, USNR, is spending a month's leave at his old home at Wanchese, after serving in the southwest Pacific war zone for the past 20 months. Lt. Davis is the son of B. H. Davis of Anches. Before his transfer to the Naval Reserve, Lieut. Davis was chief engineer with the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, and lived in California and the state of Washington for about nine years while engaged in that work.

Mrs. Davis is visiting with him in Wanchese.

### THAW DANIELS, USCG VISITS AT WANCHESE.

Thaw Daniels, USCG, who has been stationed in Mississippi, is home for a ten-day leave, and is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Major Daniels of Wanchese. His wife is also visiting them.

## WEEKLY WAR RATION GUIDE

CANNING SUGAR: Sugar stamp No. 40 good for five pounds of canning sugar until February 28, 1945. Apply to local boards for supplemental rations.

FUEL OIL: Period four and five fuel oil coupons good through September 30. During October unused coupons may be exchanged at rationing boards for new 1944-45 heating season coupons.

GASOLINE: A-10 coupons now valid and will expire August 8. MEATS & FATS: Red A8 through Z8 (Book 4) now valid at 10 points each, for use with tokens. PROCESSED FOODS: Blue A8 through Z8 and A5 (Book 4) now valid at 10 points each, for use with tokens.

RENT CONTROL: All persons renting, or offering for rent, any living quarters whatsoever must register each dwelling unit with rent control office in their rent area. In counties not under rent control, persons who feel that they are being overcharged for rents may submit complaints to OPA on complaint forms which are available at the local War Price and Rationing Board.

SHOES: Airplane stamp No. 1 and No. 2 (Book 3) valid indefinitely.

SUGAR: Sugar stamps No. 30, 31 and 32 (Book 4) good for five pounds of sugar each indefinitely.

Rationing rules now require that every car owner write his license number and state in advance on all gasoline coupons in his possession.

### BIBLE SCHOOL BEGINS AT ENGELHARD MONDAY

A Vacation Bible school, under the sponsorship of the Engelhard Methodist and Christian churches will begin Monday, July 17. It will continue through Friday and will be held in the Christian Church.

All of the children of Engelhard are invited to attend the classes which begin at 9 o'clock each morning. The school will be under the direction of the Rev. F. D. Davis, Methodist minister and the Rev. J. T. Brown, Christian minister.

## MYSTERIOUS DEATH OF OCRACOKE WOMAN LAST WEEK STILL UNSOLVED

### Mrs. L. C. Godfrey, Cafe Operator, Found Dead In Car on Outskirts of Morehead City After Mysterious Disappearance; Coroner James of Carteret County Had Made No Statement Through Tuesday

### 283 POLIO CASES REPORTED IN N. C. BY HEALTH BOARD

### Hyde and Dare Contribute Funds Toward Combatting Outbreak

Infantile paralysis cases in North Carolina since June 1 reached a total of 283 Wednesday, July 12, the State Board of Health reported. Most cases were in the Piedmont counties.

Seventy-eight of the State's 100 counties have made contributions toward combatting the polio outbreak, according to J. C. B. Ehringhaus, chairman of the North Carolina Polio Emergency Fund Committee. The total contributions amounted to \$38,737.85.

Dare county contributed \$33.62; Hyde, \$223.25; Tyrrel, \$247.72; and Beaufort, \$100. Contributions in most cases amounted to half of funds held by counties from the March of Dimes drive each January.

### THE TYRRELL, AN AKA BOAT, LAUNCHED MONDAY

The Tyrrell, the first of a number of AKA's (American cargo ships, attack) to be named for North Carolina counties, slid down the ways of the North Carolina Shipbuilding Company Monday afternoon. Others including one named for Hyde county honor Tar Heel counties.

The first five AKA's were named for counties of other states. The Tyrrell was the first boat named for an N. C. county. The names of six other counties have been assigned by the Secretary of Navy. The counties are Alamance, Caswell, Duplin, Lenoir, New Hanover and Stokes.

In addition to the names given to vessels which will be built at the Wilmington shipbuilding firm other naval craft honor several Tar Heel counties. They are Hyde, Pitt, Carteret, Bladen, Chatham, Clay, Edgecombe, Granville, Guilford, Rockingham, Warren, Wayne and Yancey.

### BASNIGHT-McLAUGHLIN

Thomas A. Basnight Jr. and Mrs. Charlotte Nowell McLaughlin were quietly married Friday evening, July 7, at eight o'clock at Camp Contentment, the home of Mr. Basnight's parents, near Manteo. Rev. W. C. Blue, pastor of the Manteo Baptist Church, performed the ceremony, which was witnessed by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Basnight, Sr. and Mrs. Curtis Lewis.

The bride was becomingly dressed in a zinnia print with matching headdress of zinnias, and black accessories.

Mrs. Basnight is the daughter of Ernest Prescott Nowell of New York and the late Mrs. Helen OPA on complaint forms which are available at the local War Price and Rationing Board.

Quincy, Mass., high school and later attending business school in New York.

Mr. Basnight is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Basnight of Manteo. He graduated from Manteo high school and attended Georgetown University, Washington, D. C. He is at present Assistant Chief Controller, Civil Aeronautics, at the CAA tower at the municipal airport, Norfolk, Va.

The couple will establish their home near Manteo.

Immediately following the ceremony, the bride and bridegroom entertained informally at the home of Mrs. Harold Glyn Punch and sandwiches were served from a table covered with a flowered organdy cloth and centered with the punch bowl encircled with ivy. Gardenias in gold and white vases and tall white tapers in silver candlesticks completed the table decorations.

Guests included members of the immediate family and a few close friends.

Carteret County officials investigating the death of Mrs. L. C. Godfrey, Ocracoke cafe operator, who mysteriously disappeared following her arrival in Morehead City from Wilmington last Thursday, had no statement to make regarding the case Tuesday. Sheriff Sherman Holland said that there was little evidence of foul play.

Mrs. Godfrey's body was discovered Monday morning by members of the Morehead City police. They had been notified Thursday by her husband who lives in Wilmington that she had been missing.

Mrs. Godfrey was reported en route to Ocracoke from Wilmington, accompanied by Ila Riggs Smith of Atlantic. They picked up a serviceman, Richard Matthew Coster of Toledo, Ohio, stationed at Atlantic, en route and stopped to shop in Morehead City. Miss Smith left Mrs. Godfrey in order to fill an appointment and was unable to find her at the appointed place and hour.

Morehead City police were notified of her disappearance Thursday night by her husband and her body was found in a car Monday morning on the outskirts of the city off the New Bern highway by a member of the Morehead City police as he went about his rounds.

The woman's clothing was not torn and there were only slight bruises on her body. Officers said that there was a possibility of gagging.

The body remained in a Morehead City funeral home through Monday while the Carteret County coroner, sheriff and Morehead police investigated the case. The provost marshal and his assistant from Cherry Point studied the records. No date had been set Tuesday for the testimony of Miss Smith and Coster.

Funeral services for the 41 year old cafe operator were conducted Wednesday from the Yopp Funeral Home in Wilmington with the Rev. C. D. Barclift officiating.

Interment was in Oakdale Cemetery, Wilmington.

### CIVIL SERVICE WORKERS NEEDED AT FORT BRAGG

Henry R. Rose, Senior Recruiting Representative of the United States Civil Service Commission, announced today the great need for Watch and Instrument Repairmen, Armament Machinists and Repairmen, and Auto Mechanics for employment at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

The civilian employees of Fort Bragg are proud in knowing that they have played an important part in the successful invasion of Western Europe. Without the thousands of tanks and other motorized equipment that were prepared at Fort Bragg for overseas shipment, the invasion could never have been started. The successful beginning of the invasion has not diminished the demand on Fort Bragg for the implements of war.

Veterans of the Army, Navy, or Marine Corps are especially desired for these positions.

The wages, hours, and working conditions are good.

Anyone not presently engaged in an essential activity at his highest skill should immediately contact the local Civil Service Secretary at the Post Office or the nearest office of the United States Employment Service or write to the Civil Service Commission, Building 310, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

### RAINS STILL BADLY NEEDED ON COAST FARMS

More rains are needed on coastal farms, and crops are burning up or maturing too early. The dry spell has continued all the week, and in Dare County there had been no rains up to Friday save a scattering shower now and then which did little good.

Gardens on Roanoke Island and vicinity which started out with the greatest promise in years had proved a complete failure, there being mighty few exceptions to the rule.