

Quiet Of Holden Beach Produced Two Books

BY MARJORIE MEGIVERN

"Libbylove" took seriously the advice of writing teachers: write about what you know. Under her real name, Lib Uzzell Griffin, she has just produced her second book based on her 48-year-old marriage and the mothering of nine children.



Griffin

Both books came into being only because this gregarious Durham woman had the peaceful haven of a canal-front Holden Beach cottage in which to write. In demand throughout the southeast as a speaker and naturally given to travel and talking, Libbylove (an appropriate nickname bestowed by her mother) had to impose a discipline of solitude.

"The Mirth and Misery of Marriage," written in six months from her Holden Beach retreat, has just been published by Broadman Press of Nashville, Tenn., following the 1985 publication of her first work, "The Pain and Pleasures of Parenthood."

While each purports to discuss a different topic, both these jolly little volumes have to do with the foibles of marriage and of big families. This wife and mother obviously enjoys both careers.

She happily juggles her other two careers, as well: writing and speaking. Both came about accidentally.

"I was trying to help a friend find something to do with her life," Griffin recalled, "and I thought she had great talent with words, so I persuaded her to attend a new writing class with me."

"Well! The professor immediately said, 'Write about what you went through to get here tonight.' With my nine children, I had plenty to say, so I dug in."

Griffin related the story's conclusion with a mirthful twinkle. "My friend, and half the class, dropped out, because they didn't know they'd really have to write, but I was hooked."

Writing "what she knew," the sketches of family life were praised by the teacher and eventually grew into "The Pain and Pleasures of Parenthood," carefully crafted over many months at Holden Beach.

"It was rejected 12 times," she laughed. "Once by Broadman, but they called me later and said they were interested."

The book is filled with scriptural references and its advice is heavily laced with Christian teachings.

However, Griffin noted she had not tried to write a Christian book, but the publisher had sent the manuscript back for the insertion of Scriptural references.

"Of course, I write from a Christian perspective, because there's no way you can raise nine children without the help of the Man upstairs," she said. "But I'd rather it would appeal to secular readers who might start to think about God."

This book is now in its second printing as "The Mirth and Misery of Marriage" comes off the press. It deals with her long relationship with "best friend and dancing partner," dentist Kimball Griffin, whom she calls Chief.

Her inspirational look at marriage includes a wealth of tips wrapped up in Griffin's cryptic one-liners. Her writing style is conversational to the extreme and deliberately so. "It took me seven years to learn to write an incomplete sentence," she said, explaining that a revered writing teacher advised writing in phrases, "because we talk and think that way."

Her books, therefore, are riddled with one-word sentences and other incompleteness that give the effect of an exuberant speaker, breathless and impatient.

Speaking is, in fact, her other love and she fell into it, too, in an act of friendship. Responding to the plea of (See QUIET, Page 14)

Holden Beach Information

Town Hall	842-6488 and 842-6080
Town Administrator	Tom Birmingham
Building Inspector	Dwight Carroll
Mayor, John Tandy	842-2834
Commissioners	
Guilford Bass, Mayor pro tem	
Gay Atkins	
Georgia Langley	
William Williamson	
Bob Buck	
Police Chief, Raymond Simpson	842-6707
Tri-Beach Fire Dept	842-6868
Coastline Rescue Squad	842-2222

Holden Beach Regulations

The town of Holden Beach prohibits the following:

- Climbing or operating motor vehicle on or removing vegetation from dunes;
- Motor vehicles and wind-powered vehicles on the strand;
- Open fires;
- Littering on the strand, roadway or private property;
- Loud or offensive noise, including music, profanity or obscene language;
- Pets not on a leash;
- Surfboards on the strand or in the water within 500 feet of any fishing pier;
- Use of skateboards on Ocean Blvd. or the bridge or bridge ramps;
- Discharge of firearms;
- Hunting, with or without dogs;
- Use of paths through the dunes or crossing over private property.

Visitors are urged to:

- Obey speed limits;
- Fish with nets in accordance with regulations, available at the Town Hall;
- Use designated public or private beach accessways only;
- Park off the pavement in unimproved areas only;
- Cook on the beach only in containers made for the purpose, such as B-B-Q cookers.

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Holden Beach

Holden Beach is the combination of two land masses, separated by an inlet, that were filled in by Hurricane Hazel in 1954. The portion from the east end to the pier was known as Holden Beach until incorporation in 1969, when the west end, including Robinson's and Colonial Beaches, was included.

The pre-Hazel beach had been a land grant, given to Benjamin Holden by the King of England in 1756, and it passed thereafter to his son Job, grandson John, and great-grandson John. It was then divided among John's six children, one of whom was Luther, father of John Holden, now living on the beach and father of realtor/developer Alan Holden.

Development was slow until tourism began to be a factor in American life after World War II.

The first bridge was built across a creek to the mainland in 1925, but construction of the Intracoastal Waterway in the 40s eliminated it. Ferry service connected the island and the mainland till 1954 when a turnbridge was built. In 1986 a curving highrise replaced the old bridge.

Holden Beach now has a permanent population of 342 and 1,587 housing units.

beach café

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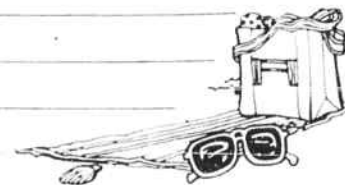
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