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**PHOTOGRAPHER: STEVE SMITH**



**GEORGE AND MARIE LITTLE** are two who enjoy life, despite the difficulties that have come their way.

STAFF PHOTO BY MARJORIE MEGIVERN

## Blindness Is No Handicap For George

BY MARJORIE MEGIVERN

A good antidote for self-pity is a visit with George and Marie Little in Ocean Isle Estates. A contented, sweet-natured couple who have every reason for bitterness at what life has handed them, they have a sense of humor, mutual devotion and a serene outlook on the cruelties of that life are humbling, to say the least.

When George, a tall, athletic-looking 68-year-old, walks into the room, the only clue to his blindness is a bandaged right eye. Holding himself erect, he steers confidently towards a chair, shakes your hand vigorously and looks right at you with a shy smile.

Telling the story of the World War II wound that changed his life at 21, he is interrupted continually by Marie, whose brisk banter contrasts with her husband's more placid demeanor.

The story itself is dramatic: George had enlisted in the Marines at the age of 17, and four years later was a lieutenant and platoon commander in the Pacific theater. He had seen action on Tarawa, Saipan, Guadalcanal and other locations that made headlines in the 40s.

It was on Okinawa one April day in 1945 that a snub-nose bullet caught him directly between his eyes. "It split open my left eye, tore out part of my nose, eyelid and cheek," he related. "The optic nerve was torn from the retina." The bandage, he added, covered an empty socket, as the other eye was taken out completely.

George chuckled as he recalled an incident in the aftermath of this battle. "They put me right away on the USS Comfort, a hospital ship, and when I woke up, I asked a corpsman what time it was. When he said it was 3 o'clock, I said, 'That sure was quick! I was just wounded at 1 o'clock.' Then the corpsman informed me that was three days ago."

Recovery and rehabilitation went on for the next 17 months, during which time he was in and out of the hospital. None of this hampered his love life, however. He had gone to war engaged to Marie, who was living Charlotte, and in December following that fateful battle, the two were married.

"When they told me about his being wounded," she said, "I only worried about his attitude, whether he would still be the boy I knew in high school."

He had a similar concern. "I knew if she still accepted me, I'd be alright," George said.

The high school sweethearts found the answers they hoped for and spent the next 46 years together in a marriage that most anyone would envy. "Believe it or not, we've never had a fuss in all these years," George declared.

The marriage got off to an exciting start when the American Foundation for the Blind brought the Littles to New York immediately after the wedding for two weeks of evaluation and rehabilitation.

(See BLINDNESS, Page 38)

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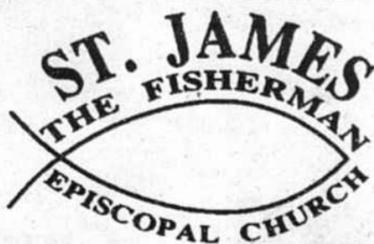
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The people of St. James The Fisherman Episcopal Church cordially invite you to join them in the joyful worship of God.

### The Mission Statement

St. James the Fisherman, a caring and active Christian community, seeks to carry out the mission of the universal church by providing a place where all people can find, restore and reaffirm faith in God in Christ, bonding together the parish family through worship, ministry, outreach and fellowship.

### SUNDAY SERVICES

8:15 AM - Holy Eucharist

10:15 AM - Church School for all ages, nursery through adult

10:30 AM - Holy Eucharist

Morning Prayer on 5th Sundays

Coffee and fellowship following both services.

Casual attire. Nursery available.

### WEDNESDAY SERVICE

7PM - Holy Eucharist and healing

Whether here on vacation or for a lifetime, we would love to have you join with us in an exciting journey. It just might be the best journey you ever take. The peace of God be with you.

Questions or pastoral concerns may be directed to The Rev. Dr. Richard W. Warner, Jr., Rector. Church 754-9313 • Rectory 842-8498.

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## Dear Kindred Spirits...

The South Brunswick Islands are filled with popular attractions, both natural and manmade. But the area's most alluring attraction isn't a specific place so much as it is the intangible feeling of harmony between man and nature exemplified by the Kindred Spirits mailbox on uninhabited Bird Island.

The mailbox, last located on the tiny island west of Sunset Beach, first appeared in 1981. According to local lore, a driftwood bench for weary visitors and the mailbox are guarded by the Great Blue Heron and move from place to place depending upon the forces of man and nature. Still, the mailbox and the journals it houses have weathered even the most devastating occurrences, including 1989's Hurricane Hugo.

Completed in Spring 1990, "Kindred Spirits" by Ocean Isle Beach artist Timberley Adams captures the serenity of the South Brunswick Islands in general and Bird Island in particular. Signed and numbered limited edition prints of the 14-inch by 20-inch watercolor painting are available at select shops or from the artist's studio home on Ocean Isle. To order send \$32 (per print) and \$4 postage & handling to:

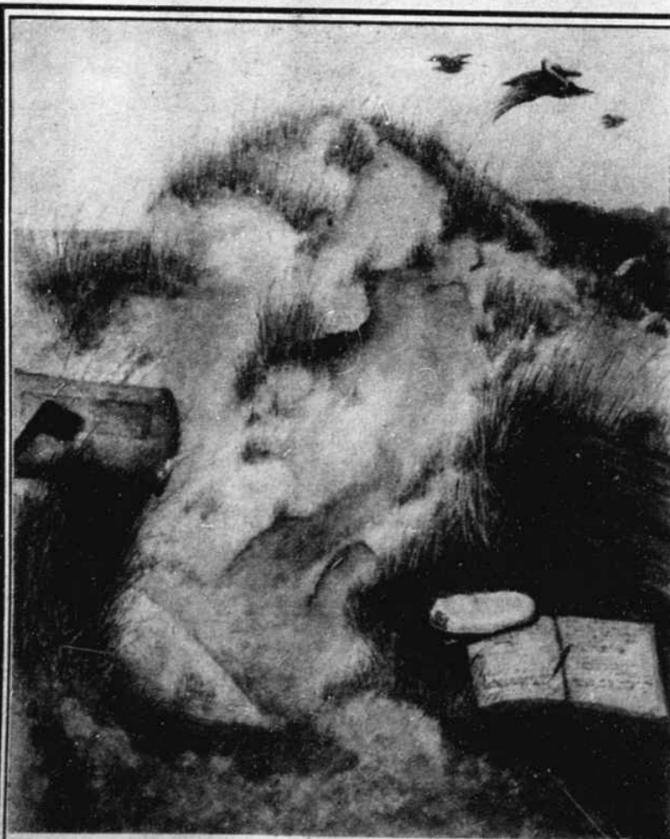
Timberley Adams, P.O. Box 2652, Shallotte, NC 28459

## Greetings from the Brunswick Islands!

Set of six Island Greetings Notecards with scenes from the Brunswick County Coast. Printed from original pen & ink artwork by Timberley Adams each with its own tale of history and legend.

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"Kindred Spirits"

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