

Nell Wise Wechter:

# Proud To Be From Carolina's Outer Banks

**STUMPY POINT** — They harnessed the atom. They sent man to the moon. They're still working on the cure for the common cold. Perhaps, if they could find a way to bottle the enthusiasm, fervor, and downright energy of Mrs. Nell Wise Wechter, they would come up with a whole passel of cures.

She lists her profession as retired teacher and working writer. Eight books are listed to her credit. Two, "Some Whisper of Our Name" and "The Mighty Midgetts of Chicamacomico" are musts for those who want to know more about the historic Outer Banks.

One would have to look night and day and a couple of Sundays to find someone who has more love for the Outer Banks.

"We have had progress on the Outer Banks. I would say GROW in capital letters. But I am thankful there has been some planning. They can never change the Cape Hatteras National Seashore, and I am grateful for that," she said.

Mrs. Wechter says that without proper planning the Outer Banks would lose an awful lot. "Sometimes I think of this as almost one of the last outposts."

When she left the Outer Banks (Stumpy Point) in 1950 there were houses on only one side of the street. Now there are houses on both sides.

"I can remember when people fished only for shad.

Now, you might find two or three who still do," she said.

Why do people come to the Outer Banks? "Peace and quiet. They want to get away from what they have faced for the past 11 months or so."

Time marches on. "I can remember going out into the savannas for cranberries. And you could pick figs and grapes. But the hurricanes ruined that. I once saw a black panther and four kittens walking along a shady road," Mrs. Wechter said.

"People also come here for the people..."

Mrs. Wechter knows that development is coming. You can see it every day. "What we must do is develop with intelligence."

"People also come here for the people. This is the greatest country in the world, and you'll find some of the greatest people right here on our Outer Banks."

She showed an old advertisement about the Outer Banks that simply said: "A Good Place to Idle for a While."

"You know I like what these writers are saying about the Outer Banks. Aycock Brown has been taking them around for years, and they come and see the area, meet the people, and come back," she said.

"You know down here we

are close to nature. We have learned to fight the sea and live with it."

"Now we are in a good old tooth and nail fight to save that nature. Why, my grandmother could remember when the trees went right up to the oceanfront. That was back in the ship building days."

Mrs. Wechter says the Bankers are fiercely independent, but if someone needs help, they'll come a running.

She laughs when she tells the story of Blackbeard and Matthew Midgett. "Blackbeard said he wanted to be a pirate. Well, old Matthew Midgett said he would be a landowner. And just you try and get some land now from the Midgetts."

The Outer Bankers have a love of the land and a love of the sea. They respect the sea, but are now afraid of it.

"I would say that most of the people who are born here are born with Outer Banks genes. They never forget their beginning or where they were born."

Mrs. Wechter is a direct descendant of the first Midgett to step on the sandy beaches of the Outer Banks.

"You know there was a time when the Bankers took everything from the sea, their livelihood, and even lumber from wrecked ships for their homes. All the Midgetts paid for their land and got it from land grants. They took no land from the Indians," she said.

Mrs. Wechter is quite a genealogist and thinks she has found a woman from



**CAROLINA AUTHOR** — Nell Wise Wechter might be called "Mrs. Outer Banks." She has taught, written books, and is continually exploring the history of the Outer Banks. Here she holds a sketch of Blackbeard who was killed off Ocracoke Island. Mrs. Wechter lives at Stumpy Point, N.C.

Michigan who is a direct descendant of Blackbeard.

"...There's just something inside of you that will not let you forget your roots."

Perhaps the quality of the Banker was best expressed when Mrs. Wechter said, "We can get fresh fish and we have our own garden. I counted seven things one day on the table that we had grown."

"Maybe we're like Alex Haley. There's just something inside of you

that will not let you forget your roots."

"You know we are just 15 miles and 393 years from where Sir Walter Raleigh had his dream. Those first colonists walked the same sands we do, and 'The Lost Colony' is one of the greatest mysteries of all time," she added.

Mrs. Wechter has done many things and has been included in many "Who's Who" listings, but there is a certain feeling that her greatest pride is being from the Outer Banks.

"You haven't lost your accent," a listener said. "I hope I never do."

## People In The News

E.Y. Berry is a patient in the Albemarle Hospital.

Tim Gregory of Chesapeake, Va. was a guest of Mr. and Mrs. Noah Gregory on Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. John Stallings of Greenville were guests of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Sawyer and Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Stallings, on Saturday. They were accompanied home by their son, Geoffrey, who spent last week with Mr. and Mrs. Stallings.

J.H. Bagley is a patient in the Albemarle Hospital.

Doug Haskett of San Francisco Cal. will arrive this weekend to spend the Christmas Holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Haskett.

Kelli Rogers is a patient in the Albemarle Hospital.

Dr. and Mrs. Joe Haskett and family of Denver, Colo. will arrive this weekend to spend the Christmas Holidays with Mr. and Mrs. Ray Haskett.

Mrs. Luther Chesson, Sr. is a patient in the Albemarle Hospital.

Mrs. John Coston was hostess to her bridge club Tuesday afternoon at her home on Riverside Drive. Those playing were Mrs. G.W. Barbee, Mrs. H.C. Stokes, Mrs. W.C. Dozier, Mrs. J.T. Biggers, Mrs. T.L. Jessup, Mrs. C.R. Holmes, Miss Ruby White, and the hostess.

Mrs. Barbee won the high score prize. A sweet course was served.

Mrs. Johnny Broughton entertained her bridge club Tuesday night at her home on Church Street. Those playing were Mrs. Eldon Winslow, Mrs. John Coston, Mrs. C.E. Johnson, Mrs. Billy Winslow, Mrs.

Charles Whedbee, Miss Louise Chalk, Miss Thelma Elliott, and the hostess. Mrs. Whedbee was high score winner. A sweet course was served.

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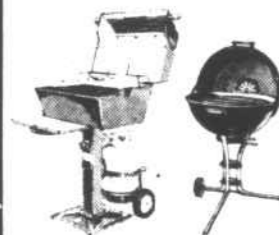
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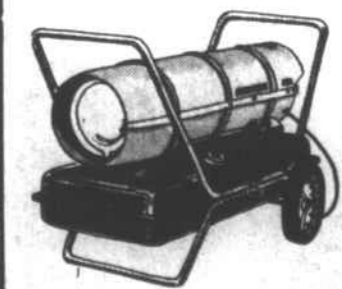
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## Library Update

By WAYNE HENRITZE  
Bookmobile Schedule

**NEW STOP.** There will be a new stop this week and every third Friday thereafter on the Durants Neck-Woodville route at Poole's Grove Baptist Church in Woodville. The stop at J.H. White's Store will be discontinued due to lack of use.

Destination	Arrives	Departs
Woodland Church	10:00	10:25
Whitehat Landing	10:35	11:00
Berea Church	11:10	11:35
New Hope Methodist Church	11:40	12:05
Overton's Store	12:10	12:35
Leigh's Temple Church	12:45	1:10
Pool's Grove Church	1:30	1:55
Woodville Baptist	2:00	2:25
Towe and Quincy Store	2:35	2:55
Parkville Holiness	3:05	3:30

### Genealogical Forms Available

The library now has pedigree charts and family record sheets available for sale for a nickel each. Most amateur genealogists find both forms very useful, the first for tracing direct lines of descent and the second for recording all children in a particular family.

### New Books

*The Return of Billy The Kid* by Norman Smith is an account of Billy Martin's return to the New York Yankees as a manager after a fiery career as a player.

*Surprise Surprise! How The Lawmen Conned The Thieves* chronicles a highly successful anti-crime operation in which the police fenced stolen goods for months and then arrested the sellers.

*Firefox* by Craig Thomas is a novel in which an American pilot steals a highly advanced Russian fighter plane.

*Slave Testimony* is a collection of 200 years of first hand accounts of slavery as told by former slaves in their letters and memoirs.

*The Rolling Stone Style* is a collection of 19 articles that capture the flavor of the rock and roll newspaper on its 10th anniversary.

*The Researchers Guide To American Genealogy* by Val Greenwood, is the best how to guide available on the subject.

*Eleanor of Aquitaine* by Marion Meade is the biography of one of the most powerful women of the middle ages.

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But, we're not growing just to keep up with the demand. We're growing to be ready for an

even bigger future. According to the federal government the railroads will get an increase in freight volume of 143% by 1990. And railroads' share or market will go up by a whopping 24%.

Will we get the lion's share of these increases when they come? Maybe. But whatever happens, we're getting ready for them by expanding right now. We're putting in a new \$40 million push-button freight classification yard in North Carolina. We're adding to our microwave communication system, which is already the largest in the South. We're changing our track to smoother, more reliable welded rail.

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