

Governor Hodges asked to be driven up the beach-plains into the dune region where any proposed road would go. Sand-driver Wallace Spencer made the trip to Second Hammock Hills without getting stuck, as might have been the case with any mainland chauffeur.

At 1 p.m. an Ocracoke seafood luncheon was served to the visiting dignitaries, with officers of the local Civic Club as hosts. Unfortunately Benjamin O'Neal, president of the Civic Club, could not be present due to his line of duty on the U.S. Coast Guard patrol boat (Semper Paratus!), and vice-president Elmo Fulcher had to be away because of illness in his family. Treasurer Montford Garrish was present but didn't want his eating interrupted by any unnecessary duties, so secretary Theodore Rondthaler (in good professorial manner) did any presiding that was called for. Others of the Civic Club officials present were I. S. Garrish, Benjamin E. Spencer, Wahab Howard, Jack Willis, and Jesse Garrish, all members of important committees; and, as above mentioned, two other members, Park Ranger Hazen Brooks and All-Seashore-Highway Vice-president, R.S. Wahab.

At about 2:15 p.m. the group adjourned to the School Recreation Hall, where about 250 citizens were making use of the about 200 chairs owned by the school. Scouts and young people courteously stood as well as a few able adults.

Everyone was impressed with Governor Hodges. Venit, Vidit, Vicit (he came, he saw, he conquered) as the old Latin slogan reads. "That's a fine man! You can tell it by just looking at him, even before he says anything at all." The meeting was opened with the singing of "America" Rev. Walter Whitaker lead in prayer. Theodore Rondthaler presided, introducing first Rep. Russell Swindell, who in turn introduced our visiting County Officials. Then members of the Highway Department and of the Governor's party were introduced, and spoke briefly.

In his talk, Governor Hodges spoke of the long history of Ocracoke. He said that he had received letters from all over America about the road. Some had written, "It will spoil the Island"; others said, "Please do something for Ocracoke." Governor Hodges expressed the hope that spoiling would not come with progress. He said that Ocracoke "must share in the State's glories, opportunities, and problems" . . . "Ocrackers are the kind of people we need a lot of; try to preserve those traits of character that have made you great and simple . . . to me these are synonymous . . . invite the world in, but continue to keep your informal, lawful (without law) relationships."

He mentioned the difficulties of building a road down the Reef: time and money. It would take patience, but "we must make a start."

According to Highway Commissioner A. H. Graham a survey of the entire route has been authorized, and J. Emmett Winslow and others of the Division will work with the local committee "for the greatest good." (The individualism which marks all Ocrackers will bring forth a hundred and one ideas which will gradually be amalgamated with those of the highway officials and engineers into a concrete road!)

At about 2:30 p.m. the Governor and his party were back at the Coast Guard Station. Before leaving, Governor Hodges stepped down to the CG 83-footer to shake hands with the Civic Club's absent president, Benjamin O'Neal, on duty there. Then he boarded one of the two helicopters, and with much blowing of sand as the propellers whirled 'round, up went the two black birds into the blue sky, circled the harbor in farewell and disappeared into the southwest mainland haze.

Visitors from Swan Quarter, in addition to Rep. Swindell, were Mrs. Swindell and their daughter, Sue; Commissioners H. L. Sadler and Seth Credle; Sheriff C. J. Cahoon and Mrs. Cahoon; Clerk of Court, Mrs. Marvin Swindell; Register of Deeds, Mrs. Evelyn Swindell; Supt. of Schools, N.W. Shelton and Mrs. Shelton, and Patrolman, Bill Williams.