

THE COASTLAND TIMES

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WALTER RALEIGH COASTLAND OF NORTH CAROLINA

VOLUME XVII — NO. 4

MANTEO, N. C., FRIDAY, JULY 20, 1951

Single Copy 7¢

WANCHESE NO LONGER MERELY A FISHING TOWN: NEW HOMES, BUSINESSES MARK PROGRESS

Dare's Largest Village Transformed By Many Modern Homes, And Growing Investment of Its People in Accommodations for Sea And Inland Fishermen; Great Future Prosperity Predicted By Confidence of Its Citizens.

The community of Wanchese on Roanoke Island, which is so often referred to as "the largest village in Dare County," is going places these days. In a matter of three or four years it has shown remarkable gains in residential building. The pride of its people in their public buildings has been manifested by considerable investment in church property, and in the care of the public school, which is the community's chief concern.

Wanchese is said to have a population of about 1,800. However, a great many of its residents are employed in Norfolk or are seamen on ships, which occupations keep them away from home a great deal of the time. Some 25 years ago, the entire population was engaged in commercial fishing, and the camps at Roanoke Marshes, Hog Island, Duck Island and other remote spots were busy places in season. Fast motor boats have made it possible for fishermen to dispense with this expense, so all fishermen now live at home when night comes.

There has been a rapid decline in commercial fishing during the past several years, and about the beginning of the war times were pretty dull because of the necessity of many people changing over to other occupations. Luckily the sportfishing business has developed, and this new industry is employing a large part of the population, and bringing additional income to a number of tourist homes.

The growing number of boatmen at Wanchese who have abandoned commercial fishing and are catering to the rod and reel men and the trollers, has brought about modernization of many homes for the care of fishing parties, and has caused an enormous investment to be made in boats. Some of these are exceptionally fine craft, indeed, many of them using two motors, and now and then one with three motors. Your modern fishing craft today has to be good to satisfy the fisherman, and it must be assuredly safe. Boats used today are large and roomy as well as fast, and fishing parties often go as far as 50 miles away from their base during the day, and are therefore equipped with two-way ship-to-shore radio telephone.

Wanchese is becoming more and more an attractive community to visit, and it is becoming more important as a fishing center. Like all rural communities, it has its ups and downs, but it has neighborly people, and they are helpful to each other, as well as cooperative and hospitable toward the visitor.

Perhaps nowhere else in North Carolina will a community more readily respond to a plea for help, and when someone is in hard luck, the needed sum is quickly raised by taking up a collection. Nobody holds back, no questions are asked. It is a standing rule in some of the Sunday school classes to donate a given amount each week to a number of people who have gotten into hard luck through no fault of their own.

Wanchese has two fine churches. Bethany Methodist, the oldest, is one of the largest and best supported Methodist Churches in the Coastland. It owns a new and modern parsonage and extensive enlargement and improvement of the building has been underway for several years. Rev. C. W. Guthrie, now serving his third year, is a highly popular minister, and the church and Sunday school enjoy a most successful administration.

Remarkable gains have been made by the people of the Pentecost. See WANCHESE, Page Five

DEFEBIOS SEEK CUSTODY OF THEIR THREE CHILDREN

Dennis Hollowell, Washington, D. C., attorney, was in Manteo yesterday afternoon conducting negotiations with C. S. Meekins, juvenile court judge, and Mrs. T. S. Meekins, Jr., welfare superintendent, in the name of Mr. and Mrs. Frank DeFebio. Judge Meekins told the attorney that whenever the local welfare department was satisfied that the conditions of his judgment in the case, that the DeFebios had established a "proper home" for their children, the children would be returned to their parents at once. The children are at present placed in a boarding home in Perquimans county.

WANCHESE POSTOFFICE IS IN CENTER OF COMMUNITY ACTIVITY



THE WANCHESE POSTOFFICE is just about as near center of population in the community as it is possible to get it. It is kept by a genial, bachelor merchant, whose name appears upon the front. Wanchese's postmaster has run the office for 30 years or more, and he runs one of the biggest general stores in the Coastland. In the background is the home of Walter Gaskill, well-known travelling salesman, who formerly ran the store now owned by Mr. Davis.

COASTLAND FAVORITES BEACH FOR TWO WEEKS



HON. LINDSAY C. WARREN, Comptroller General of the U. S. and Mrs. Warren, are again in Dare County for their annual vacation, spending two weeks at the Croatan Hotel at Kitty Hawk. Mr. Warren has been enjoying some excellent fishing off Oregon Inlet with Capt. Charlie Perry of Kitty Hawk during the past ten days.

HEALTH CENTER GROUP ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

The Women's Auxiliary of Cape Hatteras Health Center, Buxton Branch, met at the home of Mrs. Edna Barnette on the 16th of July at 8 p.m. The following new officers were elected: Mrs. Beuna Ballance, president; Mrs. Nina Hehl, vice president; Mrs. Edna Barnette, treasurer; Mrs. Paula Fulcher, board member; Mrs. Peggy Hornstein, secretary.

After the business was completed a parcel post sale was held which made \$8.00. Also two checks were donated from Mrs. Gladys Baker, New York City, \$20, Mrs. Edith Erwin, New Jersey, \$5, which brings the amount in the treasury to \$38.58. The health center thanks Avon for the two bed trays and Hatteras for the twelve yards of material for curtains and three bed spreads.

ROTARIANS PLEDGE TO HELP PURCHASE SPRAYING MACHINE

At the Monday evening meeting of the Manteo Rotary Club, Bill Hardy, Business Manager of the Lost Colony, presented a plan for securing a fogging machine to be used in protecting patrons of the Lost Colony and other Dare County tourists from mosquitoes and other insects. The club gave response to Mr. Hardy's suggestion that tickets be sold for the Virginia Dare Day Performance of the Lost Colony and the proceeds therefrom be used to defray the cost of purchase and operation of a new device which is said to be highly successful in destroying the bothersome insects. Attendance had been affected seriously in recent nights because of the presence of mosquitoes, and the machine which is to be purchased immediately will enable audiences to enjoy the local drama in a mosquito-free atmosphere for the remainder of the season. Other civic groups are being asked to participate in this project which will be of benefit to our entire vacation-land.

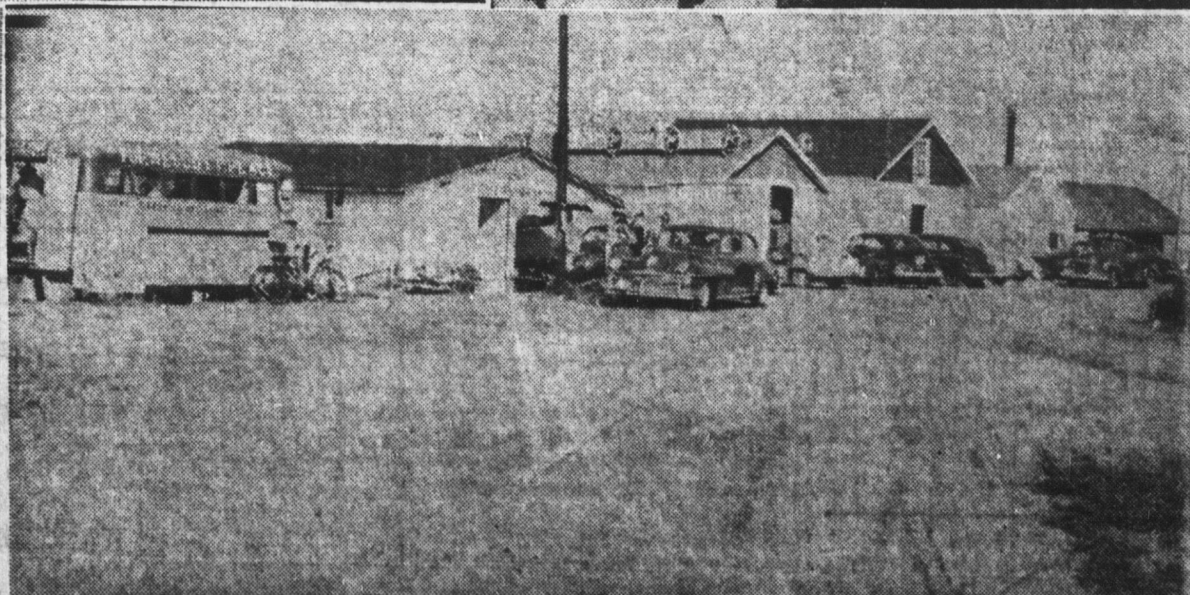
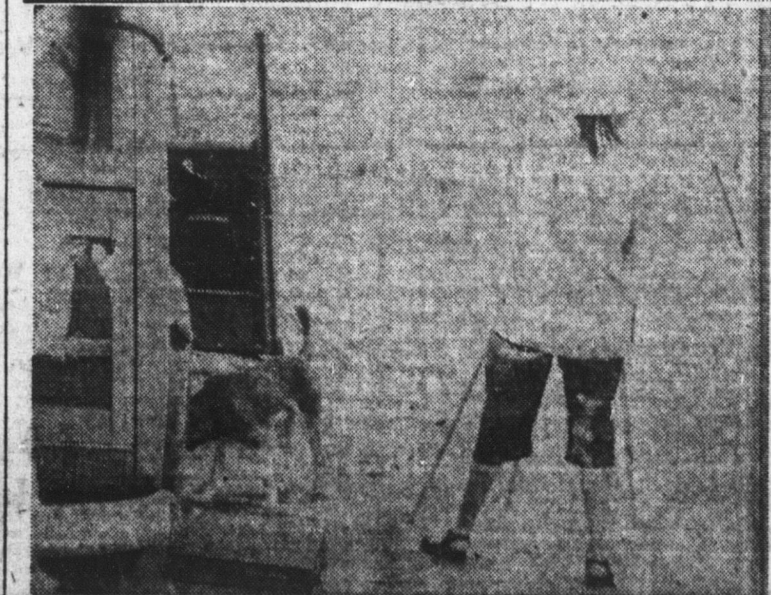
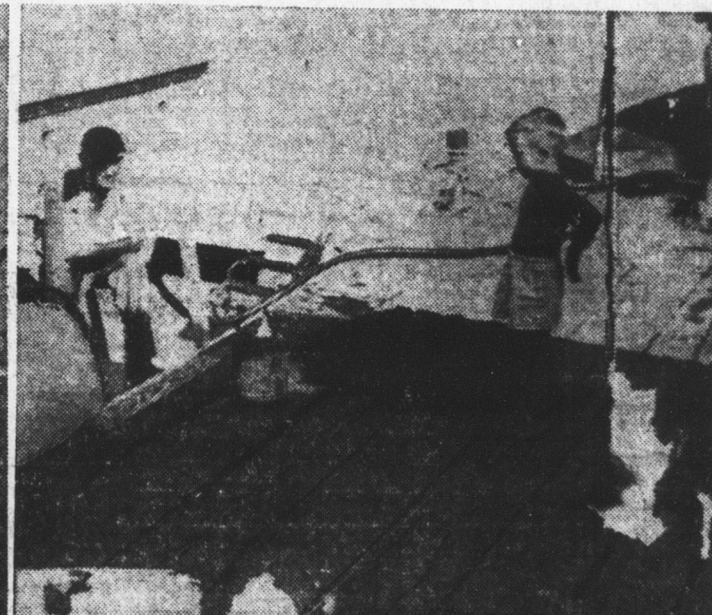
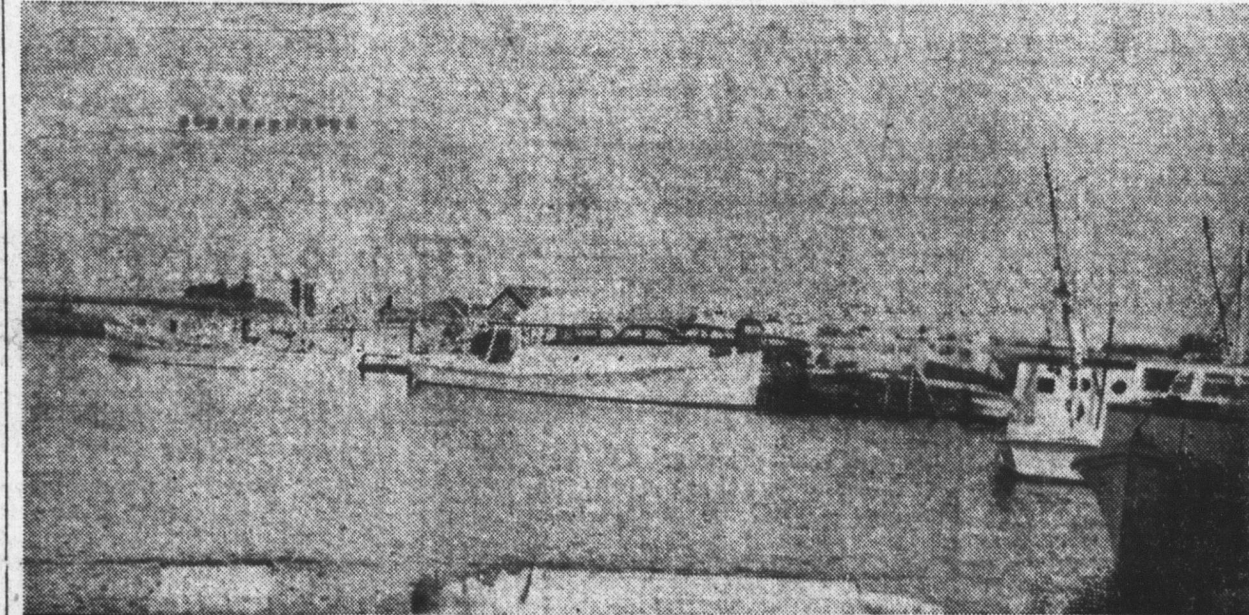
The club members and visitors enjoyed a program of vocal music provided by Mrs. Helyne McLain of New York City. Mrs. McLain plays the role of Dame Coleman in the Lost Colony and is also a member of the Lost Colony Chorus. Elza Cook of Princeton, New Jersey, and assistant organist for the Lost Colony, accompanied Mrs. McLain at the piano. Also the guest of Willy McCown, program chairman, was Gene McLain of New York City, who plays the Indian Chieftain Wingina in the Lost Colony. See ROTARIANS, Page Eight

OLD NEIGHBORS MEET AND CHAT AT WANCHESE



FRIENDLINESS AND KIND WORDS go a long way with the older folks at Wanchese. This snapshot shows two of the best known people of the community, and two of the best loved ones, Capt. Jeff Hayman, 88, former Sheriff, former keeper of Fort Raleigh, lives in a little house by the side of the road, near the home of one of his sons. Aunt Mary Tillet, widow of "Uncle Bink," stopped to ask about his health and to wish him well. They stood together to be photographed.

WANCHESE HAS PLENTY TO ATTRACT ATTENTION OF THE TOURIST, FISHERMAN, LOVER OF THE OUT OF DOORS



MILL LANDING at Wanchese presents a lovely scene of an evening when the fishing boats come in and tie up. To the right a young fellow appears all ready to go out with the boys. They start early to learn all about a boat at Wanchese. Bottom row shows artist sketching a scene at Mill Landing. To the right are the fish markets, stores and stands that cater to the fishermen. Mill Landing is really the sportfishing center of the community. Photos by Victor Meekins.

MANTEO FIRE DEPT. GETS HIGH PRAISE FOR SPLENDID WORK

Fire Chief Ivey Evans recently received a letter commending the work of the Manteo Fire Department at a fire on the Dare beach from the General Manager of the Halsey Hardwood Co. of Edenton. His letter is a feather in the cap of the Manteo fire fighters. It reads:

Halsey Hardwood Co., Inc.
Edenton, N. C.
July 3, 1951.

Dear Sir:

I happened to be a spectator at the fire at Kitty Hawk Beach this past Saturday night, and as such, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate you and your Fire Department for the splendid work which they did in fighting the fire on the Beach Saturday night. During the past several years I have had an opportunity to observe fire companies from small communities, as well as cities, fight fire and I want to say that I have never, as yet, seen a Fire Department display such ability and courage as your Department did on the Beach during this fire. Knowing that the water supply was very limited, I noticed that they made every drop count and I don't believe they could have done a better job if they had had all the city water mains in a large city at their disposal.

I have been fortunate enough for the past 12 or 15 years to have my family spend the summer at our little cottage at Kitty Hawk Beach. I manage to go to the Beach and visit them every weekend, and occasionally some night during the week. As a summer resident and property owner at Kitty Hawk Beach, I want you and your Department to know that after Saturday night, I have had a better feeling of security for my little family at the Beach, especially concerning the fire hazard since witnessing the scene at Kitty Hawk Saturday night.

Very truly yours,
C. T. Griffin,
General Manager.

DARE CHAMBER ASKS STATE TO COMPLETE ROAD

President to Sound Out Possibilities for County Travel and Advertising Council

The Board of Directors, Dare County Chamber of Commerce, met in the Community Building here July 11. It was agreed to ask the support of Gov. W. Kerr Scott by letter in completing the Nags Head-Hatteras road between Oregon Inlet and Rodanthe. It had been said that the work was held up due to the fact that the government had not approved the building of the highway across Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge. However, the federal government gave the green light to the project a few days ago as a result of the efforts of Rep. Herbert Bonner. When the state wishes to build the road-link, there is now nothing to prevent its accomplishment.

President Alvah H. Ward was appointed a one-man committee to contact and work with the county and town boards and civic organizations to the end that a travel and advertising council might be formed on a county-wide basis.

DARE BEACHES OFFICIAL RESENTS RECENT RUMOR

To the Editor:
The Dare Beaches Chamber of Commerce has been publicly accused by an organization in Manteo, N. C., of holding the tourist trade to the north end of the beach. The records at the Information Booth show that several parties have been sent to Manteo guest houses listed with us. Anyone listed with us will be recommended regardless of location. We do our best to place strangers in the accommodations they want regardless of district; but we cannot send strangers to accommodations that are not listed with us, neither can we make the tourist spend his vacation where he does not choose to go. See BEACHES, Page Eight

State Board Reverses Decision: Stumpy Point and Rodanthe Schools to Reopen

Dare Delegations Appeal to Board at Meeting in Raleigh July 12. Both Schools Limited to One-Teacher Systems, However.

The arguments of two delegations from Dare county at the meeting of the State Board of Education in Raleigh last Thursday resulted in the retention of the Rodanthe and Stumpy Point Elementary Schools.

After hearing appeals from Capt. Levene Midgett and Melvin R. Daniels for restoration of the elementary school at Rodanthe, and of Harvey Best, D. L. Meekins and Robert Midgett to keep open the Stumpy Point School, the State

Board agreed that round trips of 25-27 miles daily to attend school were not proper for primary grade children.

The delegations presented a resolution passed by the Dare county Board of Education requesting the continued operation of the two schools to the state school officials.

Strings Attached
The State Board did not accede to the entire propositions of the two delegations, however. It voted to assign one elementary teacher for the lower grades at Rodanthe and ruled that upper elementary pupils and high school students must be transported to the Buxton School. Last term Rodanthe had one high school and two elementary school teachers.

The Board refused to grant the Stumpy Point delegation's request for two teachers, one more than was assigned to the school last term. The second faculty member, the Stumpy Pointers contended, would make it possible for an elementary school of eight grades to be maintained, doing away with the necessity of sending any elementary pupils on the 27-mile daily trip to attend school at Engelhard.

The Dare County Board of Education was given authority to determine how many grades to establish in the one-teacher Rodanthe school. Stumpy Point, which had four grades last term, will continue on that basis.

LIONS INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR TO SPEAK HERE ON AUGUST 6

Curtis D. Lovill of Gardner, Maine, International Director of Lions Clubs, will be present at the August 6 meeting of the Manteo Lions Club, it was announced at Monday night's meeting by Edwin R. Midgett, chairman for this zone of Lions Clubs. Mr. Lovill will arrive here Sunday, August 5, and, after addressing the Lions on Monday night, will make a guest appearance in the cast of The Lost Colony on Tuesday, celebrity night. Members of the four clubs in this zone, Elizabeth City, Camden, Weckville and Manteo, will be invited to hear Mr. Lovill, Mr. Midgett said.

John Long of the Manteo Rotary Club addressed the Lions on the subject of assisting The Lost Colony to pay for a fog-spraying machine which the dramatic group is purchasing. Mr. Long explained See LIONS, Page Eight