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OCRACOKE LIGHT MIGHTY OLD BUT MADE LIKE NEW

Improvements to 128-Yr. Old Structure Double Original Cost of \$12,000

By ALICE K. RONDTHALER

Historic Ocracoke Island lighthouse, oldest on the North Carolina Coast, and one of the oldest still in use on the Atlantic Coast, is undergoing its second major operation in two years. In November 1950 a new steel spiral stairway replaced the old wooden circular stairs. Now, it is a matter of face-lifting. For six weeks or more the lighthouse has been encircled with steel scaffolding and the noise of sandblasting has drowned out the pounding of the Atlantic surf. Cement dust has filled the air, annoying the nearby housewives. The sand blasting has left the tower a rough raw-red by penetrating to the original brick structure. Visitors approaching the island on the mailboat from Atlantic have missed the 80-foot white tower as their first object glimpsed from Core Sound. The red brick tower is scarcely discernible until the boat comes abreast of the island. To the historically sentimental person there was excitement in the fact that for a brief period he could touch and admire the original masonry put there a hundred and twenty-eight years ago.

Within the past week progress has been made on recasting the exterior; a gruesome gray cement replaces the raw-red effect to a thickness of one and three-fourths inches. A mixture of Shotcrete, sand and cement, is being applied over wire reinforcing and this will ultimately be covered with everlasting white, eliminating the need for future painting. The work is being done by the Hunt Waterproofing Company of Norfolk; approximate cost is \$6,000. The original cost of the tower in 1893 was approximately \$12,000; improvements and installation of modern lighting equipment since then makes its present evaluation approximately \$25,000.

The need of a lighthouse for Ocracoke Inlet dates back to the early days of the Republic when sites at Ocracoke and Cape Hatteras were both under consideration. By 1795 interested citizens had decided to the State or Federal Government several tracts of land along the Carolina coast, among them an acre on Ocracoke Island, ten acres on Cape Fear, all of Beacon Island (in Pamlico Sound, opposite Ocracoke Inlet), four acres at Cape Hatteras, and a parcel of land on Shell Castle Island (near Beacon Island, opposite Portsmouth).

At Ocracoke in September 1790 an acre of land was deeded by William Williams, John Williams, Joseph Williams, William Howard, Jr., and Henry Gerrish (Garrish); at Shell Castle Island in November 1797 a lot was deeded by J. G. Blount and John Wallace. It was upon this last-named plot, on Shell Castle Island, that the first light structure was built in 1798 by H. Dearborn, Esq., who also had the contract at that time for the building of the Cape Hatteras structure. Congress had appropriated \$44,000 for the two structures.

In process of time, according to a report by S. Pleasonton, Fifth Auditor of the Treasury, the Shell Castle Island structure was rendered altogether useless, due to the fact that the channel leading to Ocracoke Inlet moved away from the lighthouse a distance of one mile. A new appropriation of \$20,000 was then made by Congress and the present Ocracoke Island tower was built in 1823.

Had the original Hatteras lighthouse, built in 1798, stood the ravages of Atlantic storms, it would today be the oldest of the six North Carolina lights, but it proved inadequate and was replaced in 1871 by the present tower, which has the distinction of being the highest brick lighthouse (193 feet) in the world.

The present Ocracoke Island tower was erected in 1823 not on the land ceded in 1790, but upon two acres purchased by the Federal Government in December 1822 from Jacob Gaskill. Contractor was Noah Porter of Massachusetts. In 1860 Franklin lamps replaced the old valve lamp, but were removed early in the struggle of the War between the States, not to shine again until late in 1863. Since then the light has shown continuously except for minor lapses of short duration, and now with the use of electricity and modern automatic machinery the danger of blackouts is practically nil. If the local electric plant fails, an auxiliary motor at the lighthouse immediately takes over; and if the bulb burns out, in less than a second another automatically shines. During the last World War when much Ger-

LAUGHLIN SOLE OWNER OF OLD FISH DEALERS



THOS. LAUGHLIN of Philadelphia is the sole owner of the well-known firm of C. E. Warner Co., a 75-year-old firm of fish dealers of Dock Street Market. Mr. Laughlin has been with the firm nearly 40 years. One of the partners in this firm was a woman, Mrs. A. Gordan Leidy, who managed the office for thirty years, prior to her retirement two years ago. The Warner Company is well and favorably known among the fishermen of North Carolina, and Mr. Laughlin usually makes a trip to the fishing country each year, and expects to come this way in December.

BARB WIRE FENCE DEMAND LEFT OUT OF ROAD PROJECT

Pea Island Right of Way Granted by Congress; No Further Reason for Construction Delay

The State Highway Commission can offer no further excuses for delaying the construction of the road through the Pea Island Game Refuge, the 12 miles needed to complete the road to Hatteras.

The Senate passed a bill Friday, which has been previously passed in the House, without amendment, and which permits construction of the road without cost to the State for the right of way.

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service which operates the Pea Island refuge had requested the State to build a heavy barbed wire fence on both sides of the road to protect the bird refuge from trespassers. The highway officials had dissented vigorously, claiming it would cost \$25,000 of the highway funds to meet the requirements of the Government.

There is ample funds on hand due Dare County to build this road. A request for the action that has just been taken was made more than a year ago, to the State Highway Commission by Victor Meekins, M. L. Burrus, and J. W. Scarborough of the Dare Board of Commissioners. The State Highway Commission, however, took no further action to bring the matter to a conclusion until recently.

Senator Willis Smith and Congressman Herbert Bonner are both pleased that the bill has passed, and look forward to joining the people of Dare County in celebration of the completion of this greatly needed road.

ONE MORE BIG NIGHT AT SURFSIDE BINGO

Lots of Meat Will Be Given Away Tomorrow Night

The last night of the season at Surfside Bingo will feature meat every game, beginning at 7:30 p. m. That will be Saturday night, Oct. 27.

Special prices will be offered for the night, and lots of fun is in store for bingoers, says Al Mater, prop. Twenty games will be for Smithfield hams, 20 games for shoulders, 20 games for turkeys, and twenty games for groceries. The stand will not be open Friday night.

WANCHESE MAN'S LEG IS BROKEN ON HIGHWAY

Luther Midgett of Wanchese suffered a broken leg Sunday night when struck by a car driven by Quentin Bell. Midgett, whose truck was parked at an angle jutting into the road, had stopped John Wilson who had parked on the road across from Midgett's truck, and was engaged in conversation with him. He is reported to have stepped back into the approaching car driven by Bell when it passed between the two vehicles. Midgett was taken to Elizabeth City hospital for treatment.

TWO KILLED ON BEACH IN CAR MISHAP MONDAY

Buxton and Avon Natives Victims as Car Runs Into Truck at Nags Head

Andre Fourshe Midgett, 51, native of Avon, and Albert Ruland Casey, 39, of Buxton are dead as the result of the automobile in which they were riding running into the rear end of a truck owned by Norman Gregory of Poplar Branch on the road near Nags Head Coast Guard Station Monday afternoon.

Midgett died instantly, and Casey died seven hours later in the Elizabeth City Hospital.

Believed by police to be the driver of the death car, Casey died Tuesday at 12:25 a. m. from multiple skull and facial injuries. He lived at 2119 Carolina Avenue, Estabrook.

His companion, Andre Fourshe Midgett, 51, also of Norfolk, was killed instantly when the 1939 automobile the two men were riding in reported rammed the rear of a coal truck driven by O. W. Gallop, of Poplar Branch, N. C.

Gallop said, he was driving 35 miles an hour when his truck was rammed, declared State Highway Patrolman R. C. Holt, stationed at Manteo. Holt added that the force of the impact was so great the motor block of the automobile was broken, the dashboard and steering wheel rammed into the front seat, and the windshield and top were entirely stripped off. Gallop was shaken up but not injured.

Midgett, a tug master employed by McAllister Brothers in Norfolk, died of head and internal injuries. He lived on his own boat, the J.F. Robinson, which was tied at slip 22 in the Southern Yacht Marina, Norfolk. Born in Avon, N. C., the son of the late Christopher David Midgett and Mrs. Mary L. Midgett, he lived in Norfolk since 1917.

Surviving are two brothers, Louis H. Midgett, of Ocean City, Md., and William E. Midgett, of Norfolk, and two sisters, Mrs. O. Wendell Harvey and Mrs. Betty Crayn, both of Norfolk. Funeral services were conducted at the Twiford Funeral Home, Elizabeth City, Wednesday. Burial was in Hollywood Cemetery.

Casey was a son of Mrs. Cora Lee Casey and the late James Oliver Casey, of Buxton. He was born at Lowlands, N. C., and had lived in Norfolk 20 years. Besides his mother, he is survived by his wife, Mrs. Clara Owens Casey; two brothers, Maury T. Casey and Lionel Casey, both of Norfolk, and six sisters, Mrs. Rose Goodwin, of South Norfolk, Mrs. Hilda Spruill, of Bridgeton, N. C., Mrs. Charles Braxton of Ayden, N. C., Mrs. Edmund Midgett and Mrs. Raymond Gray, both of Buxton, N. C. and Mrs. Thurston Gaskill, of Ocracoke, N. C.

A veteran of World War II, he was a member of the Buxton Methodist church.

The body was removed to the Graham Funeral Home, South Norfolk, where funeral services were held Thursday at 3 p. m. Burial was in Riverside Memorial Park, Berkeley.

WANCHESE CLUB TO GIVE PLAY NOVEMBER 2ND

Ruritan Club Planning Home Talent Show to Raise Funds for Community Work

The Wanchese Ruritan Club set the date Friday night of their regular meeting, for the home talent show the club has been planning. Friday night, November 2, is the date the show is to be presented in the Wanchese school building. Gage Williams is Chairman of the committee working on the show.

About 25 people attended the meeting last week, at which time the annual election of officers was postponed until the November meeting, due to the unavoidable absence of two members of the nominating committee. New officers will take office in January.

One new member, Louis Cudworth, was present. One visitor attend. Melvin Daniels, president, led the discussions concerning community activity and the value of the club in promoting the general welfare and progress of the community. A chicken dinner was served by the ladies.

CLOSED

Dare County Selective Service Office will be closed Monday, October 29 through Friday, November 2.

Capture Two Convicts in Home at Skyco

The two convicts who escaped Monday at Wanchese, were observed Wednesday morning, crossing a field at Baumtown, Roanoke Island, and notice was given Sheriff Frank Cahoon. He immediately phoned to Currituck Prison Camp, and Supt. Evans came with dogs, and the men were trailed to the home of an aged widow, Mrs. Mary Midgett of Skyco, who, at the time was staying with relatives. They found the two prisoners in the house making coffee on Mrs. Midgett's stove. They had opened up some of her canned goods and were making a meal. The prisoners are Ira Barwick and Glenn Bumgardner. They offered no resistance and being scantily clad were apparently glad to be re-captured.

A search conducted Monday afternoon for two escaped prisoners, by officers who took off from the Manteo Airport in a Coast Guard Flying Boat, was unsuccessful. The prisoners, who escaped while working on the road near Mill Landing, took a row boat belonging to Dameron Payne. They left their prison clothes behind, and were clad only in undergarments. The clothes were found by the officers.

One of the escaped prisoners was Glenn Bumgardner, 20, from Newton, serving a six-to-ten year sentence for second degree burglary. Bumgardner escaped in June of this year, just eight days after being sent to the camp, but was recaptured on the same day. The other convict was Ira Barwick, Jr., 25, of Sarasota, Florida, serving a 23-year sentence for housebreaking, robbery and receiving. He has been at the Currituck camp since October 1.

B. U. Evans, prison camp superintendent, Harold B. Cartwright, guard, and J. C. Lloyd from the camp in charge of two bloodhounds and others had been on the search all day without results. Late Monday afternoon Mr. Evans met the plane at the Manteo Airport, and returned after an hour's futile search of the nearby waters.

A plane which came from the Elizabeth City Coast Guard Air Station piloted by Lt. Hardy Willis and with Radioman G. F. Ford, several highway patrolmen assisted in the search Monday.

SHRINERS OFFER 32-PC. CHINA SET SATURDAY NIGHT

Big Tacky Party to Be Pulled Off October 27 at 8:30 at Nags Head

The Dare County Shrine Club is to give a 32-piece dinner set at its tacky party and dance Saturday night at the Recreation Center of Nags Head. The chief prize will go to the most original costume as judged by applause from the audience.

Cost will be \$2 per couple. President Bob Smith says nobody will be obliged to dress expensively. "We hope everyone will wear a mask. I have one dozen that I can let a few have. We hope everyone will make their costumes out of old clothes. Here are some ideas for costumes: witches, clowns, cowboys and cowgirls, policeman, barber, ballerinas, cigarette girl, grandma, grandpa, bootlegger, mountaineer, bum, rich man, poor man, beggarman, thief, doctor, lawyer, Indian Chief, etc. I feel sure you can find a character you would like to imitate."

A special meeting will be held at the airport Friday night to plan for the dance. Proceeds are to be used in building a new home for club, on the beach across the road from Leo Midgett's hotel.

HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL AT HATTERAS HIGH SCHOOL

The P. T. A. of the Cape Hatteras high school is planning a Halloween Carnival for Wednesday night, October 31, at 7:00 in the school auditorium. The P.T.A. members, the principal and teachers have planned lots of entertainment for all groups. There will be a "fish pond," an old fashion country store, a cake walk, fortune telling and dart games. The carnival will begin with "a kitchen band concert," under the direction of Mrs. Dave West. Mrs. Edna Barnett and Mr. Byrd. There will be plenty of good food on sale, such as hot dogs, popcorn, lemonade, candy, pies and cakes. A door prize will be given away and also a prize for the most original costume. A large attendance from each of the seven villages is expected.

FEW CASES TRIED IN DARE COURT THIS TERM

Only a few cases were disposed of in Dare Court this week. After more than a day of haggling, the jury found A. E. Sadler of Nags Head not guilty of possessing gambling devices. Curtis Mann, Manns Harbor fish dealer, was given until next term to make good a \$2,200 check given W. M. Fields for fish. Two days were consumed in the trial of a case in which Lloyd Meekins was trying to make several insurance companies come across with money he alleged to be due on a building that burned in July 1947.

Victoria Austin Robinson of Hatteras got an annulment from her husband Stacey Robinson, whom she testified, after a two weeks trial, had not been able to prove himself a man.

GRAND JURY RAPS POOR CONDITIONS SCHOOL BUILDINGS

Has Praise for Condition of Jail; Some Schools Greatly Improved Recently

The Dare County grand jury this week reported mighty poor condition of the Manteo School building, and took a dig at crowded conditions in the Buxton School, where it, a consolidated school, is attempting in a building completely inadequate for the number of pupils. While other nearby schools have plenty of vacant space.

Some of the schools were reported as having been greatly improved recently, and work is continuing on repairs to still other buildings. The Kitty Hawk School was listed as one of the schools recently improved. The Manteo School seemed to be in worse condition, the result of many years of neglect.

The conditions in which the buildings have gotten is the result of many years of neglect, which the present new administration has been trying to correct in numerous instances.

School buses were noted as being in splendid mechanical condition. This condition is largely due to the operation by the county of a garage devoted exclusively to keeping the buses in repair.

The report praised the improved physical condition of the jail which has had considerable work done to it during the summer. Additional equipment was recommended for some of the county offices.

TRAFFIC MISHAPS HIGH IN STATE DURING AUGUST

No Deaths Reported in Dare, Hyde, Tyrell or Washington; State Increase in Fatalities

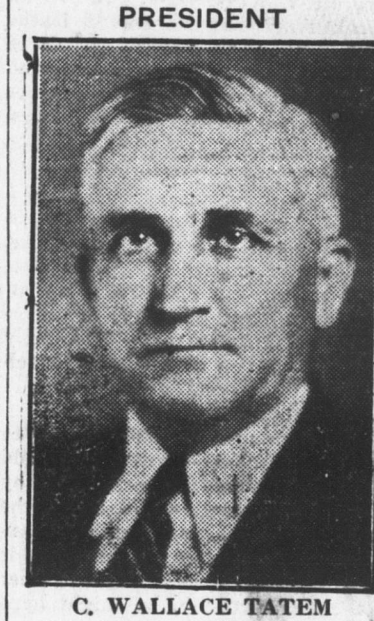
A record high in traffic accidents was established during August, 1951 with 3,404 accidents reported. This figure of 3,400 accidents is the highest that has ever been recorded since the establishment of the Accident Statistics Unit of the Department of Motor Vehicles. An increase of 946 or 38 per cent was reported in traffic accidents, as compared with the same month last year. This brings the totaled number of accidents to 22,616 for the first eight months, while last year during the same period 17,148 accidents were reported.

The death toll for this month remained the same as July with 93 persons killed. There were 16 fatalities reported in urban areas, and 77 in rural areas. This brings to 650 the number of persons killed this year, while during the same period last year 580 fatalities were reported. Fatalities increased 19 per cent over the same month last year. But none were reported from Dare, Hyde, Tyrell or Washington Counties.

Personal injuries reached an all-time high of 1,459 during August. Of this number, 366 were severely injured and 1,093 were only slightly injured. An increase of 35 per cent was noted in personal injuries. This brings to 9,461 the number. See TRAFFIC, Page Eight

SOUTHERN ALBEMARLE ELECTS WALLACETATEM OF COLUMBIA 16TH ANNUAL PRES'T THURS.

Original President and Organizer of Association Elected by Acclamation as Group Makes Plans at Engelhard for Enlarged Program. Bill Umstead of Durham Speaker at Morning Session.



C. WALLACE TATEM

PLAN A LARGER ASSOCIATION FOR KDH MEMORIAL

Unique Celebration Contemplated December 17; Anniversary of First Flights

By AYCOCK BROWN

Present at the meeting in Elizabeth City this week when plans for the international Kill Devil Hills Memorial Society, and the first flight celebration on December 17 this year were discussed, were Melvin R. Daniels, and A. W. Drinkwater who have had roles in every celebration honoring the Wrights here, and Aycock Brown, manager of the Dare County Tourist Bureau. Miles Clark presided at the business meeting and was later host to the group at a luncheon in Virginia Dare Hotel dining room.

Major Alexander Procoffieff de Seversky, noted aviation designer and author, has been invited to be the main speaker at the annual celebration of the Wright Brothers' first flight on the 48th anniversary of the historic event. December 17, it was announced this week by Ralph V. Whitener, organizational director of the Air Force Association. The Air Force Association and the Kill Devil Hills Memorial Association headed by Miles Clark of Elizabeth City will co-sponsor the celebration this year which will feature a display of all branches of the nation's air power, the appearance of high ranking officers of the Air Force, Navy, Marine and Coast Guard services and Elizabeth City's nationally famous High School Band which has added color and provided music for the celebrations each December 17, for many years.

During the meeting in Elizabeth City this week, called by Miles Clark, president of Kill Devil Hills Memorial Association, Whitener of the Air Force Association was present to offer plans for the celebration this year and to assist in the forming of an international Kill Devil Hills Memorial Society to participate in the further development of the historic aviation shrine here on the Dare Coast of North Carolina.

Immediate nation-wide participation is anticipated through the governors of the 48 states who will be asked to appoint councilmen to serve with the society. The new organization, a development of the original Kill Devil Hills Association founded by the late W. O. Saunders and carried on through the years by such persons as Melvin R. Daniels, A. W. Drinkwater, D. V. Meekins, W. G. Gaither, Miles Clark and others would be governed by 12 directors to be chosen mostly from North Carolina. The officers would come from the membership.

Monies derived from the sale of memberships would be used to erect a museum at the site of the first flight and for creating an air strip at Kill Devil Hills at the site of the Wright Memorial.

Plans for the 48th annual celebration this year to be co-sponsored by the Air Force Association include a banquet made up of foods flown to the United States and thence to Dare County from all parts of the world.

C. Wallace Tatem of Columbia, one of the original organizers of the Southern Albemarle Association, and its first president, was again elected President by acclamation Thursday, altho he was ill and could not attend the meeting, the first one he had ever missed.

Vice-Presidents for the four counties elected Thursday were Guy Cutrell of Fairfield for Hyde; Paul Liverman of Columbia for Tyrell; Dewey Hayman of Nags Head for Dare; and Wade Hardison of Roper for Washington. Mrs. Borden McCleese of Columbia was elected recording Secretary, and M. A. Matthews, re-elected Treasurer.

A special vote of thanks was given retiring president P. D. Midgett, also to the citizens of Hyde County, its home agent, and others who had a part in providing a most excellent dinner. Recognition was taken of the splendid address made in the fore noon by Hon. Bill Umstead of Durham, who pointed out the immense possibilities of the Southern Albemarle Region. Among visitors recognized were Fred Latham of Belhaven, D. W. Lupton of Pantego, and Ashley Futrell, editor of the Washington Daily News.

The Association passed resolutions as follows:

1. Favoring the shortening of U. S. 64 between Roper and the Y in Washington County.
2. Urging the widening and straightening of U. S. 264 between Swan Quarter and Washington.
3. Urging the Army Engineers to provide a breakwater for the protection of Hatteras Harbor.
4. Directing the president to appoint a committee of two from each county to follow through on efforts in behalf of bridges over Alligator River and Croatan Sound.
5. Adopting Columbia as the meeting place next year, in October.
6. Planning for a program of better advertising the four counties.

Discussions at the meeting showed a trend toward further effort in the following directions. Promotion of newer agricultural methods; improvement of transportation and communications, particularly telephone service; home and farm beautification, etc. Group singing at the meeting was led by Robert Midgett of Manteo. Largest delegations present were from Dare and Tyrell Counties.

The address of welcome was by E. R. Clarke of Engelhard; responses by Zeke Arnold of Washington, W. J. White of Tyrell, and Melvin Daniels of Manteo. The speaker was presented by W. W. Watson of Hyde, and P. D. Midgett, retiring president, presided at all meetings.

GALA HALLOWE'EN PARTY PLANNED

A gala Halloween affair will be staged at the Manteo school Wednesday evening, October 31. The opening hour will be seven o'clock instead of 7:30 as announced in last week's paper.

The party will begin with a stage show and community sing in the school auditorium, and costume awards will be made at that time. Prizes are being offered for the best costume in the pre-school age group; the elementary school group; the high school group and the adult group.

The men will put on a ladies' fashion show, which promises to be one of the highlights of the evening.

Other entertainment will be in the gymnasium and will include games, rides for the little ones, and other forms of amusement. Candy, hot dogs, drinks, and other food items will be on sale.

"SHOW BOAT" COMING TO PIONEER NEXT WEEK

Among the tops in movie entertainment during "Movietime, U.S.A." will be the popular hit "Show Boat" which will come to The Pioneer Theatre next Tuesday and Wednesday. Among stars in the MGM production will be Kathryn Grayson, Ava Gardner, Howard Keel and Joe E. Brown. It is a technicolor film.