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OCEAN BOTTOM OFF DARE COAST HOLDS FORTUNES IN JUNK AWAITING RECOVERY

Brown Predicts Effort Will Be Made to Salvage Something From Numerous Vessels Sunk by Submarines During World War II; Many Ships in Water Less Than 300 Feet Deep.

By AYCOCK BROWN
Ten years ago the Battle of the Atlantic which was to claim hundreds of lives and the loss of many allied ships, moved close to the shores of North Carolina. Now, according to a story recently published in Pathfinder Magazine, some of the ships that were sent to the bottom may be salvaged for their cargoes and for the scrap iron in their hulls. One such ship, the Equipoise, lies in water less than 300 feet deep, off the coast at Nags Head.

It was months before our military could perfect and put in operation an offensive warfare against the undersea raiders of Hitler's fleet, which were not only playing havoc with shipping off the coast, but also causing jitters on shore where blackouts and the strictest of security was being maintained.

First ship to "get it" and with terrific loss of life was the standard Oil Tanker Allan Jackson of 6,635 gross tonnage. The date was January 18, and the time shortly after midnight when without warning, the ship with its cargo of crude oil, was torpedoed near the Continental Shelf a few miles south of Diamond Lightship station. The tanker exploded and sank to the bottom at the edge of the Gulf Stream and near the 100-Fathom Curve. It was the first of many horrible incidents that was to bring suffering to hundreds of seamen who were to be hauled from the water or life saving craft as their ships were torpedoed out from under them. Survivors when rescued would usually be brought to the closest Naval Section Base for questioning.

It may have been the skipper of the submarine that sank the Allan Jackson who aimed the torpedoes that were to send two more ships to the bottom of the Atlantic's graveyard off Cape Hatteras on January 19. On the morning after the Allan Jackson sinking, the small Latvian freighter S. S. Cilvaira with her cargo of paper was torpedoed and during mid-afternoon of the same day, it may have been the Allan Jackson's killer that attacked the Ocean Steamship Company's City of Atlanta. The three ships were sunk within a radius of 75 miles of where the first vessel went down.

Before the shock of these first three sinkings had begun to sink in the nearby military along the state's coast, two more ships were sent to the bottom in the same general area. Shortly after sunset on January 23 the Ore Steamship Company's 8016 ton Venore, laden with much needed iron ore was torpedoed 5 miles southeast of Diamond Shoals and before midnight on the same date the British Tanker Empire Gem, laden with gasoline was attacked without warning in the same area. Because the Empire Gem was well inside the 100-Fathom Curve she was a menace to navigation so it was necessary to mark her wreckage with a red and white nun buoy. Before the end of January a decade ago, two more ships were torpedoed and sunk near Cape Henry. And it was many months before anti-submarine measures could be taken to curb the wholesale sinkings. Residents of Nags Head, Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands felt this phase of the battle of the Atlantic. It was not unusual to see smoke from two or three torpedoed ships at one time.

Some of those now on the bottom near the coast between Frying Pan Shoals and Cape Henry include the Caribsea, Ashkabad, Atlas, Portland, Suloide, W. E. Hutton, Manuela, Senateur Duhamel, E. M. Clark, YP 389, F. W. Abrams, Keshena, Dixie Arrow, Australia, Lancing, British Splendour, Kassandra Louloudis, Liberator, Empire Thrush, Frances E. Powell, Marore, San Del Fino, Baurque, Chenango, Byron Benson, Blink, Olinda, Arabutan, Arlo, Papoose, City of New York, Tiger, Otho, Malchase, Esso Nashville, Tamalipas, Ulysses, Naeco, Kingston Celonite, Bedfordshire and Equipoise. Most of these ships are in shallow water and some of them are believed to be salvageable. In the same area there are two or three submarines, but few of the undersea raiders were killed when the Battle of the Atlantic

BEAUFORT NATIVE HEAD MANTEO MASONIC LODGE



GEORGE GLENN BONNER, Jr., native of Aurora, Beaufort County, was recently elevated to post of master of Manteo Masonic Lodge. Mr. Bonner, who is associated with the mercantile firm of his father-in-law, O. J. Jones, has been living in Manteo for the past seven years. The lodge, which began operation in April 1945, with 20 members who withdrew from Wanchese Lodge, now has 72 members. Other officers newly elected and installed are: Raymond Wescott, Senior Warden; R. O. Ballance, Junior Warden; J. G. Kellogg, Treasurer; C. E. O'Neal, Treasurer; Belton Burrus, Senior Deacon; Elmer V. Midgett, Junior Deacon; Billy Cox, Tyler.

AGED RESIDENT DIES IN BEACON NURSING HOME

In the Beacon Nursing Home in Manteo for aged and infirm people, Mrs. Mary Davis White of Elizabeth City, age 74, died at 8:30 Thursday morning, after a long illness. Funeral arrangements were incomplete at the time of going to press.

came close to North Carolina's coast in 1942.

Salvage Plans
Machinery has been set in motion by the Maritime Administration that may result in the salvage of some of the ships. In a recent See FORTUNES, Page Three

FERRY'S FOUNDER RETIRE AFTER 29 YEARS AT INLET

Capt. Toby Tillett who established Oregon Inlet Ferry 29 years ago has retired as skipper and will operate a fishing boat from Wanchese, his native village, in the future. Capt. Tillett operated Oregon Inlet ferry for many years as a commercial venture. Several months ago he sold out to the State Highway and Public Works Commission.

His Oregon Inlet ferry in the old days was the water link of a vast roadless beach oftentimes described as the toughest trip in the world, by writers who gave frequent plays to the Manteo-Hatteras bus line. Except for 13 miles of beachland through Pea Island, just south of the inlet, a paved road now stretches from Nags Head to Hatteras village. The Pea Island link of the highway is scheduled to be completed during the coming spring.

Captain Toby, like his brother, Sam, plans to go into the sports-fishing business. He is now having a cruiser built for taking out parties when the channel bass and Gulf Stream fishes start running, according to reports.

WINNERS ANNOUNCED IN DECORATION CONTEST

Many Doors Lighted and Festooned with Greenery For the Christmas Season

Many homes on Roanoke Island and the mainland of Dare county were gaily festooned with Christmas greenery and brightly lighted for the season just past, and judges for the contest sponsored by the Dare County Home Demonstration Clubs had a hard time deciding just where the awards should go. However, they finally made their decisions and the winners are as follows:

Stump Point: first prize, Mrs. Ruby Best; second prize, Mrs. Evelyn Meekins; third prize, Mrs. Edith Best. Manteo: first prize, Mrs. M. K. Fearing, Jr.; second prize, Mrs. Raymond Wescott; third prize, Mrs. Warren O'Neal. Wanchese: first prize, Mrs. Dewey Tillett; second prize, Mrs. Steve Tillett; third prize, Mrs. Wayland Baum.

SPORTSFISHING GOOD ALONG HATTERAS SURF

Hatteras.—Four channel bass were landed in the surf along the beach abreast Hatteras on Monday, December 31. They were taken by L. L. Browning, Jr., and his father of Winston-Salem who were here spending the Christmas holidays. The Brownings used corn mullet for bait and their fish were landed in less than an hour and a half.

OLD BUCK WILL ROAM AGAIN ON OLD CHRISTMAS



Old Buck, the mythical bull of Hatteras Island will roam again on Saturday night when the residents of Rodanthe celebrate Old Christmas. The custom of observing Old Christmas on January 5 at the famous Coast Guard community of the outer banks dates back for more than two centuries. The date falls on Epiphany Eve, the traditional time of the Three Wise Men's arrival at the Bethlehem manger bearing gifts for the new-born Christ Child, but the custom probably originated when 11 days were deducted from the Gregorian Calendar in Great Britain and her colonies during 1752. "Old Buck" plays an important role in the gaiety of Old Christmas at Rodanthe. The mythical bull of the Cape Woods looks like the make-believe animal in picture posed with Billy Hooper, Jazania Herbert, Yvonne Hooper, Jackie Farrow, Billy Hooper, Lance Midgett and Morgan Midgett. Beneath Old Buck is Avner Midgett and Bill Midgett of the communities of Rodanthe, Waves and Salvo. Also an important feature of Old Christmas celebrations in addition to Capt. Levene Midgett's oyster roast, is drum beating by a member of the group. The drum in picture dates back three generations and was salvaged almost a century ago from a ship that wrecked on Hatteras Island. (Aycock Brown)

CALLS MEETING JAN. 17 SOUTHERN ALBEMARLE



C. W. TATEM, president of the Southern Albemarle Association has called a meeting of the executive committee at 11 a. m. on January 17th at the agriculture building in Columbia, to organize and to attend to important matters. Mrs. Margaret A. McClees is Secretary.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT LISTING YOUR COUNTY TAXES

January Is Tax Listing Month for Counties and Towns Throughout North Carolina; Here Is Complete Information As To What You Are Required to Do

Local governmental officials believe that taxpayers should know the facts about the taxes imposed on their property for the purpose of raising county and city revenue. Since North Carolina law requires property-owners to list their property for taxation every January, the time is ripe for a simple explanation of the law. People who live within the corporate limits of a city or town pay taxes on their property to both the county and the city or town, but for purposes of clarity this article is written in terms of county taxation.

Ten of the most common questions about the property tax are set out below. The answers are designed to help the average individual understand his responsibility.

1. What is the property tax?
The property tax is a tax on property itself. It is not a tax on income from property. Instead, it is based on the value of the property as a marketable item. That is why it is called an ad valorem property tax. This tax must be imposed uniformly on all property according to its market value.

2. What kinds of property are subject to this tax?

In general, all property within the county is subject to taxation by the county. It is important, however, to know that there are two main kinds of property. One is called "real property," meaning land, buildings, and items per-

FORMER RESIDENT DIES IN NORFOLK TUESDAY MORNING

Mrs. Blanche W. Midgett, Roanoke Island Born, Wife of Belhaven Man

Mrs. Blanche Wescott Midgett, 54, wife of Harry Midgett, formerly of Belhaven, and daughter of the late Robert and Carrie Wescott of Manteo, her birthplace, died in Norfolk Tuesday morning.

Due to the early death of her mother, she spent her early life with her aunts, Mrs. Alethia Wescott of Manteo, and Mrs. Lovie Taylor of Belhaven.

The couple had recently moved into a new apartment in Norfolk, and she was found dead in bed Tuesday morning, with a radio turned on beside her.

She is survived by two children, Mrs. Brownie Morrisette and Mrs. John Paul Jones of Norfolk.

Beside her husband, she is survived by several aunts and uncles, as well as several cousins in Manteo and Belhaven.

'52 March of Dimes Annual Drive Open For Entire Month

The 1952 March of Dimes opened in Dare County this week with the avowed objective of putting the fight against polio on a "pay-as-you-go basis" after four successive years in which the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis has gone into debt fighting the only epidemic disease still on the increase in America.

"During the last four years," said Mrs. Balfour Baum, Dare County campaign director, "the nation has experienced its worst polio years in history. Many people are not aware of this great increase because polio cases have been widely distributed rather than concentrated in specific areas. But 1951 marked the fourth consecutive year in which the March of Dimes has had to go into debt to pay for the care of polio patients needing help.

"The estimated deficit at the end of 1951 is \$5,000,000. Thus the 1952 March of Dimes will be mortgaged for this amount before any money may be set aside for scientific research or for contingencies that lie ahead next summer.

The campaign director revealed that whereas in previous years the average annual incidence of polio was about 10,000 cases, that figure has been tripled in the last four years, bringing the annual average to 30,000. The four-year

case total, Mrs. Baum said, was 132,000—more than all the polio cases reported during the previous ten years.

"The tremendous obligations facing the National Foundation," Mrs. Baum said, "have forced us to double the March of Dimes campaign period. It will extend from today throughout the entire month of January as we endeavor to raise enough money to wipe out the 1951 debt and avoid incurring another for 1952.

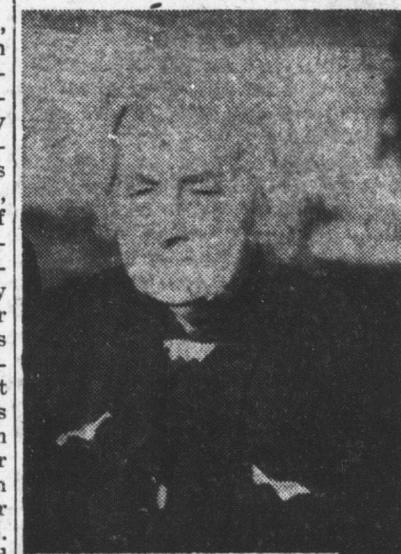
"Our committees have been formed earlier than ever before. We want every citizen in the county to play a part in making this March of Dimes the greatest ever conducted."

The Dare County campaign director said that calls for volunteers had drawn a fine response, but he added that many more hands were still needed. Residents of Dare County wishing to help may do so in a score of ways.

UNIVERSITY REPORT SHOWS HYDE HAD 30 PER CENT LOSS IN POPULATION IN 50 YEARS

Tyrrell's Population Almost Static While Dare Gained Only 648 People Since 1900; Many Factors Contribute to Depletion of Population.

COLINGTON'S OLDEST WOMAN 86 DEC. 27th



MRS. SALLIE SHANNON MEEKINS, wife of John Hawkins Meekins of Colington, celebrated her 86th birthday Thursday, December 27th with her family and her friends. She is the mother of three children, John O. Meekins, Mrs. Robanna Toler and Mrs. Henry Haywood. She has 12 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. Everyone wishes her many more happy birthdays.

NEW 1952 PLYMOUTH ON DISPLAY TODAY

The new Plymouth for 1952 will go on display in dealer showrooms throughout the United States, Friday, January 4.

A long list of improvements—46 in all—has been incorporated throughout the car. The new car, according to D. S. Eddins, president of Plymouth, has been improved and refined to provide "the most gentle ride, the smoothest engine performance and the greatest safety ever built into a car for the lowest price field."

The Plymouth has a road-hugging, sweeping appearance, accentuated by changes in the external adornment. A new luxurious standard for interiors is attained with the high quality upholstery fabrics in harmonious colors which blend beautifully with the instrument and door panels.

There are ten body types in the new Plymouth line, available in an array of eight regular, and two special sparkling new colors. The traditional interior features and the new "high-price" feel are times for which Plymouth has been distinctive have been retained throughout the new line.

Figures that are rather interesting, developed in the University News Letter show that Hyde County, during the fifty years between 1900 and 1950, lost in population 30.2 per cent. In 1900 Hyde had 9,278 inhabitants, and in 1951, 6,479, a loss of 2,799 people.

While Hyde lost heavily in population, Tyrrell and Dare had no gains worth bragging about. Dare gained only 648 people, and Tyrrell's population remained practically static. Dare had 4,757 as against 5,405 in 1950. Tyrrell had 5,048 in 1950, a gain of only 68 people.

Beaufort County gained 10,730 people and in 1950 had a population of 37,134. Washington also gained 2,572, having in 1950 a population of 13,180.

It has often been said that Hyde has a very high percentage of college graduates, causing many of its young people to leave home for employment. There are many factors which have contributed to Hyde's decline in population. In the early part of the century there was a large migration to Belhaven principally by people who got employment in the mills. There was also migration of many people to Washington and other towns.

When modern roads began coming to North Carolina 30 years ago, Dare, Hyde and Tyrrell were the last counties in the state to receive their due and full measure of benefits from this program. During this long period of discouragement, many citizens moved away.

There have been no industries developed in these counties, hence no migrations of people to fill up the empty places. A decline in commercial fishing has caused many people to seek opportunity elsewhere. Altogether, most everything has been a drawback, commercially and industrially, in these counties. The trend toward improvement appears now with a growth in the tourist industry.

NATIVE SONS RETURN FOR OLD CHRISTMAS OBSERVANCE

Many former residents, men and women are returning home this weekend to participate in the observance of Old Christmas at Rodanthe. Among early arrivals is Commander Ellery Clark Midgett, USN, now of Brooklyn, formerly of Rodanthe who plans to visit his relatives and enjoy the occasion which has so long been a feature at the village.