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MARCH OF DIMES MOVING SLOWLY IN DARE COUNTY

Ball Game Last Thursday Night Raises \$110.03

The March of Dimes drive being staged currently in Dare County is lagging along very slowly, according to Mrs. Balfour Baum, chairman. Mrs. Baum asks that all persons wishing to contribute to do so as soon as possible.

At the benefit basketball game staged last Thursday night, the sum of \$110.03 was raised toward the county goal of \$1,000.

The national average cost of hospital care has increased 68% in the past five years, according to Mrs. Baum. The purchasing power of the March of Dimes dollar, like the one in your pocketbook, has been steadily decreasing. It now takes almost \$17 to buy one day of hospital care in today's market, compared with \$10 per day in 1946.

"Polio cases are three times as evident as they used to be. This human need underscores our urgent appeal for doubled support of the 1952 March of Dimes," Mrs. Baum stated.

JUDGE REQUIRES PEELE TO FORK UP WIFE'S PAY

W. J. Midgett, Jr., Discharged for Parking on Highway When Gray Dies

Two cases of interest have been disposed of during the month by Judge Baum in Dare Recorder's Court. L. W. Peele of Manteo finally came before the court with respect to collection of \$2,050 in support due his wife, Mrs. Etta Peele, and the court required him to pay \$1,000 in cash of the amount due, to continue paying at the rate of \$20 a week, and to give bond in the sum of \$1,000 for his appearance at the next term of Superior Court.

A case in which Peele left it up to his bondsmen, Frank White and Archie Burrus, some two years ago, when he skipped out and left them with the bag to hold, it still pending in Superior Court.

Judge Baum dismissed a charge brought against W. J. Midgett, Jr., of Rodanthe, for parking on the highway at the time his passenger, Richard W. Gray of Salvo, was killed Christmas day. While Midgett's car was stopped on the highway, it was run into by a car driven by Orville O'Neal of Rodanthe and Gray was killed. Riding with O'Neal was Linwood Midgett of Salvo.

Tuesday of this week, Judge Baum fined Willie Spencer, colored, \$25 and costs and gave him a suspended sentence of 60 days, for disorderly conduct in Lloyd Meekins' tavern near Manteo.

TRAVELING OUTER BANKS DECREASES IN DIFFICULTIES

Transportation along the Outer Banks of North Carolina is no longer the problem it once was, according to R. S. Wahab, prominent resident of Ocracoke Island. It will be a glorious trip when the road through Pea Island is completed this spring.

Mr. Wahab made a business trip from his island home to Manteo and returned the same day on Wednesday, and he used only established and scheduled transportation facilities to make the trip which includes two inlets along the route.

"In the old days by boat it was at least a two day trip from Hatteras or Ocracoke to Roanoke Island," said Wahab. "That was back in the days when it was necessary to travel by boat, and when boats averaged only five to eight miles an hour."

To reach Manteo on Wednesday from Ocracoke, Wahab covered the first leg of his trip by mail bus from the island community to Hatteras Inlet. At the inlet he transferred to boat and was in Hatteras in time to make connections with the Midgetts' Manteo-Hatteras Bus Line. With most of the Hatteras Island route now paved, the bus arrived in Manteo by 11 o'clock. On the return trip leaving Manteo at 2 o'clock, the bus arrived at Hatteras in three hours with plenty of time for Wahab to make connections with transportation across Hatteras Inlet and back to Ocracoke village.

"There is a ferry operating on appointment schedules now only between Ocracoke and Hatteras Island, but it is a great help to persons making the trip in their own automobiles," said Wahab. See BANKS, Page Eight

CLOSES FISH MARKET; BACK TO ENGINEERING



D. D. WHITSON, for many years operator of a fish market in Manteo, has sold his valuable waterfront property in Manteo to W. R. Pearce, cashier of the Manteo bank, and is going back to his old profession of marine engineering. Mr. Whitson is a popular citizen of Dare County, known and loved by fishermen. Decline in the fishing industry, he says, has caused him to quit. Much of his life was spent in following the sea, to South America, Europe and other far-away places. While in the merchant service during World War I his ship was torpedoed by a German sub, and he was dangerously wounded, and adrift at sea in an open boat for three days.

GAME WARDENS TO HUNT WILD DOGS ON BEACH

A pack of wild dogs are said to be roaming the woods of Nags Head and game wardens are planning a hunt for them in the near future, it was stated today by Jack Ballance of the Wildlife Resources Service. Owners of dogs in the Nags Head area are being notified to keep their pets or hunting animals up during the next two or three weeks. Actual hunting of the wild dog pack will be held by the game wardens early in February.

The wild dogs, about six in number are said to be doing considerable damage. Six young pigs were killed by the pack recently, according to Julian Oneto. The leader of the wild dogs is said to be a mixture of collie and shepherd. "Our main interest in getting rid of the wild dogs is to protect the deer that have been released in the Nags Head-Kitty Hawk woods recently in the Wild Life Resources Commission's restocking program," said Ballance.

The dogs may be those that have been abandoned on the beaches and left to shift for themselves.

ROBIN REDBREAST IN DARE PLENTIFUL THIS YEAR

The traditional "first robin of Spring" arrived in the pocosins and woodlands of coastal Dare County long before Christmas.

"As a matter of fact," according to the North Carolina Book of Birds, they spend the winter in Eastern North Carolina, and later many migrate northward to become "the first robin of Spring" in climates far colder than it ever gets in this state." Old folks say they mate on Feb. 14 and leave soon after.

Motorists driving over U. S. 264 between Stumpy Point and Manns Harbor Ferry are impressed with the great flocks of robins. Thousands may be seen during the 13 mile drive, and it is the same story over the route southward to Engelhard on 264 and between East Lake and Croatan Sound alongside U. S. 64. They used to be numerous in the dogwoods of Dare County, where they thrived on the berries. Biggest flocks now appear to be on the mainland.

In days gone by, killing these birds at night in "robin roosts" was considered one of the delights of the countryside, and robin pies the next day furnished gastronomic joys to many. But those days are gone. Today robins enjoy the same protection at all time that game birds and waterfowl enjoy except during the open hunting seasons. It is never legal to kill robins and the best friend of these birds today are the game protectors who enforce the laws for the State and Federal governments. On the other hand, worst enemy of the robin in many communities are housecats and youths who shoot the tame birds with air rifles. The Audubon Society is responsible for saving the robin, probably from the same fate of the Passenger Pigeons and Carolina Parakeets.

OVER 500 MINK TRAPPED IN DARE BY MAINLANDERS

Few Otter Taken and Muskrat Season Is Considered Good

By AYCOCK BROWN
More than 500 mink have been trapped in the vast woodlands of Dare County during the current trapping season, according to one of the many trappers that happened to be in the rural store at Buffalo City this week when a newsman stopped by. The trapper, whose name was not revealed, said that a few otter, two to his knowledge, had also been taken in the area.

"Mink is the fur bearer, that bring in the money though," he stated. Average price being paid for mink pelts this year of the quality caught in the Dare mainland woods is about \$10. That means trappers have shared in a \$5,000 trapping business so far this season in this general area.

Many persons are engaged in trapping here at East Lake and in the Manns Harbor and Stumpy Point area. In the Mashoes community a few persons trap for muskrats, but most of the muskrats taken on the Dare coast are caught in the marsh lands of the Nags Head, Colington Island, Duck and Kitty Hawk areas.

Trapping today is much simpler than in the old days. When an animal is caught today, the trapper does not have to bother about skinning the animal unless he wishes to do so. The whole animal is sold to fur buyers who make regular trips to the coastal area. This saves the trapper trouble of buying patented stretchers or making his own from boards. The fur buyers do the skinning and they prefer doing it as they have experts who know how to remove the pelts without damage to the fur or skin. There are dozens of persons in Dare County who spend their time trapping during the winter. In the other seasons they are fishermen, lumbermen or sportfishing guides.

DR. HAMILTON CLOSING OFFICE ON FEB. 8

Dr. J. Edward Hamilton, who has practiced optometry for the past seven months in Manteo, and more lately in Columbia, is closing his offices on Feb. 8. He is to be inducted in the Air Force at Connolly Field, Tex., the 14th of March.

He will visit in his home town of Trenton, Tenn., some time before reporting for duty. Dr. Hamilton wishes to express thanks to the people he has come in contact with during his stay here, for their helpful spirit.

Farm News about the AAA and other EXTENSION WORK From the County Agent

By R. S. SMITH, Dare County Agent

The gardening season is about here so we will want to make our plans for the year. First, let's make a list of fruits and vegetables we will want to plant and order the seed or plants immediately. Don't forget also the materials for controlling bugs and diseases. Let's plant heavy in early spring for our canning and freezing needs, but let's keep planting beans and corn every two weeks to keep the table supplied. In June or July let's start from seed broccoli, cabbage and collards for fall winter eating. Later on, of course, we'll plant the fall greens.

Let's get a few tomato plants out early. If you have wilt, let's get the whole planting out early and get a good crop before wilt strikes. Here's how I did mine last year. During February I planted tomato seed in plant boxes (large tin cans, strawberry baskets, etc., could have been used) and placed them in a sunny window. As the plants grew they were thinned to one plant to each container. Around the middle of March, I fertilized the plants lightly and moved them to a cold frame where they were held until the middle of April. The plants bloomed while in the cold frame and to insure a set of fruit, I sprayed each blossom with a hormone spray available from your seed dealer). Practically every blossom set fruit which is unusual during cool weather. When the plants were set in the garden, there was no shock since the soil and all was removed from the container.

HURT BY HORSE

Billy Edward Mann, son of Mrs. Carl Mann of Manns Harbor, was badly hurt when thrown and knocked by a wild horse Sunday. His leg was injured. He was taken to Columbia Hospital for treatment. The same horse recently broke Guy Mann's leg.

FOURTH ANNUAL VALENTINE SEASON FOX HUNT SCHEDULED; NAGS HEAD



By AYCOCK BROWN
The Valentine season may mean hearts, flowers and messages of love elsewhere, but in the Nags Head region of Dare County, North Carolina's northeast coast it means fox hunting. The fourth annual Valentine Season Hunt this year begins on February 14 and continues for three days, according to its sponsors.

The sponsors include Mrs. Lucille Purser and Mr. and Mrs. Julian Oneto of Nags Head and the Watkins brothers, John Ray and Chandler of Oxford along with the Bunch brothers, Will and John, of Edenton. Mrs. Purser and the Oneto's take care of local arrangements and the non-residents bring in the packs of Walker hounds used in the chase.

John Ray Watkins is master of the hunt, and Ira Partridge of Kill Devil Hills, takes care of the dogs that are brought here for the hunt, at his place near Colington Island. Planning to attend the Valentine Season Hunt this year is Miss Ann Hedrick, joint-master of the Loudon Hunt Club in northern Virginia.

Foxes Are Plentiful
Foxes are plentiful in this area. Already this year there have been several successful informal hunts. For the Valentine Season event initial plans call for one hunt in the Bodie Island area of Oregon Inlet with additional chases in Nags Head and Colington. Best hunting last year was in the Colington Islands. This year for the first time the sponsors may have one day of following the hounds in the Duck woods and northward to Caffeys Inlet.

BALLENGER LOW BIDDER ON HATTERAS ROAD JOB

Ballenger Paving Co. of Greenville, S. C. this week offered the low bid for grading and paving the 12.34 miles of road through Pea Island game refuge on Hatteras Island. This is the final link of road needed to complete a hard-surface road the entire length of Hatteras Island.

The bid offered was \$191,838. Ernest Bell of Charlotte, N. C. is visiting the Albert Q. Bell at their Roanoke Gardens home here in Manteo. The main purpose of his trip south was to visit his father, Albert Bell, Sr., well known Elizabeth City nurseryman, who is critically ill at Albemarle Hospital.

Mr. Bell left his home in the Canadian province at 4:30 o'clock Saturday morning. The trip was made by air and he was aboard plane almost continuously except for a three hour wait over in New Brunswick, Canada.

Here on Roanoke Island the Prince Edward Islander found week end temperatures in the low 70's, considerably warmer than in his home city where there was 20 inches of snow on the ground as he took off with temperatures near zero. Prince Edward Island is roughly 1300 miles northeast of Manteo.

ENGELHARD HOST TO NEIGHBOR ROTARIANS

Rotary Club members from Engelhard and Plymouth entertained the members of the Columbia Rotary Club at a dinner Thursday night as the result of an attendance contest among the three clubs during the months of September, October and November.

The Columbia club won the first place by a margin of 42 points. The guest speaker for the program was Gene F. Booth, of Kingston, Superintendent of Kingston City Schools and a past District Governor of Rotary of the 279th District. Booth told of his trip to Japan in regard to the educational program necessary in Japan.

The speaker was introduced by Roy F. Lowry of Plymouth, president of the Plymouth Rotary Club. Harold Jarvis, president of the Engelhard Rotary Club, presided over the meeting and welcomed the visiting Rotarians and honor guests. The invocation was by the Rev. C. N. Barnette of Plymouth.

TAKEN TO HOSPITAL

Henry Twiford, who was stricken helpless this week, has been taken to Norfolk Marine Hospital for treatment.

SHAD SEASON ON; FAIR CATCHES IN CAROLINA WATERS

The shad season is on in North Carolina waters. And the run has started with many fishermen having gno nets ready. In fact some of the fishermen are now making nets.

Roy Midgett of Manns Harbor is usually a successful fisherman. His catch of shad Monday was 90. Some better catches have been reported at Stumpy Point, long famed as the shad capital, but where comparatively few rigs are now operated.

Usually the best of shad fishing is in March. But there have been occasional years where almost the entire catch was made in January. Such a year was in the mid twenties.

Fishermen have gone from cotton to linen for nets, and now they have gone to nylon. This new and most expensive type of thread is strongest of all. It is very white, and is said to have longer-lasting qualities.

GEO. H. MEEKINS GIVEN PRESENT BY SURFMEN

Buxton on Cape Hatteras, Jan. 31.—Four weeks after he relinquished command of the Cape Hatteras Group of U. S. Coast Guard Stations and retired from the service, crewmen of the four stations in the Group sent for Lieut. Commander George Harrison Meekins to come back and attend to some unfinished business.

"Something to remind you of us, not just occasionally but every half hour," CWO Cyrus Gray, who succeeded Mr. Meekins in command, said when he handed his predecessor a neat package. "Don't bother to open it here if you don't want to—everybody here knows what's in it because everybody here had a hand in putting it there."

Visibly moved, he looked around the assembled group uncertainly—and took off for home and the crew knew that he had sort of shed because he was unwilling to trust himself too far. And not until he got back to his home in Avon did he begin to tug at the cords that held the package together.

Inside the former group commander, who reached the age limit for retirement on last Christmas day, found a massively mounted ship's clock, one of that model that sets bells ringing at measured intervals. Underneath the dial a square gold plate was set into the ebony base and on the plate the words, "To Lt. Cdr. George Harrison Meekins, Retired, Group Commander, from the Crews of the four Stations in Cape Hatteras Group, U. S. Coast Guard."

For the brief presentation Group Commander Gray had assembled every man attached to the Cape Hatteras Station and the other stations in the Group, Oregon Inlet, Chicamacomico and Little Kinakeet were represented. EM2e James Sawyer, a neighbor in Avon, brought the retired commander down—and took him home again.

JOSEPH S. TILLET, NATIVE OF KITTY HAWK DEAD

Joseph Staniel Tillett, 75, died Sunday morning at 4:30 o'clock following an illness of 12 days.

He was a native of Kitty Hawk but had been living in Elizabeth City for the past 45 years. He was the son of the late Samuel Avery and Melissi Green Tillett and was a member of the First Christian Church and Woodmen of the World.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Lizzie Koch Tillett; two daughters, Mrs. Doris Tillett Reneker of Pennsylvania, and Mrs. Edith Tillett Roberts of Chicago; one son, Richard Tillett of Elizabeth City; one sister, Mrs. J. T. Combs of Columbia; one brother, Charlie W. Tillett of Elizabeth City and six grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted Tuesday afternoon at 3 o'clock at Twiford Funeral Home by the Rev. Howard James, pastor of the First Christian Church. Burial was in New Hollywood Cemetery.

AVON MAN PLANS TO BUILD A WHARF

Application has been made by Geo. H. Meekins of Avon, lately retired from the Coast Guard, asking permission to build a wharf 6 feet wide and 35 feet long, beside the southwest corner of the dredged harbor at Avon.

Col. R. C. Brown of the Corp. of Engineers, Wilmington, has given notice that objections, if any, will be received at his office until February 25, 1952.

AVON MEETING FOR PROMOTING YOUTH CENTERS

Entire Hatteras Island to Meet Saturday to Plan Recreation Advantages

Plans to promote recreational youth centers in the Lower Banks' communities will be discussed in a meeting to be held Saturday, Feb. 2, in the Avon schoolhouse at 10 a.m. At that time, a delegation from Hatteras and one from the Waves-Rodanthe community will meet with Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Wilson of Avon, who are successfully operating a youth center there, which has been in existence almost a year. This meeting is sponsored by the Dare County Council for Youth and Mrs. David Stick will represent the Board at that time and will meet with these groups. It is hoped that a group from Buxton will also find it possible to be present.

For some time now, these Lower Banks' communities have been concerned with the lack of wholesome recreation for their young folks. The purpose of this meeting is to try to work out plans for starting clubs and to pool ideas and suggestions. The Avon Club has been ably run by first Mrs. Mabel Meekins who was instrumental in organizing it, and since by Mr. and Mrs. Wilson. Undoubtedly they will have many recommendations to share with the citizens now wanting to start up. Mrs. Stick will present suggestions from the experiences of other youth clubs in operation in the county and recommendations from the N. C. Recreation Commission.

Heading the delegation from Hatteras is Mrs. M. L. Burrus, Council member from Hatteras; and from the Waves-Rodanthe area, the group will be headed by Council member Mrs. Cedric Midgett. All interested persons are invited to be present at that time. The meeting will probably last through noon, and it is suggested that those attending should bring their lunches.

The driver's name is D. C. Dew, and the colored helper Arthur Smith. They had left Manteo on the 10:30 ferry. Maynard Meekins gave them passage to Engelhard. The driver was bound for Engelhard when the truck, with 18 boxes of fish, upset in the canal at a bad curve at what is known as Payne's Creek Bridge. A colored helper was with the truck. It was owned by Fields Fish Co. of Sanford. The driver spent the night at Engelhard with Maynard Meekins, and the colored helper stayed in a fish house that night.

FISH TRUCK UPSETS NEAR STUMPY POINT

Fields of Sanford Has Mishap at Paynes Creek; Tires Stolen in Night

The theft of two tires from the front wheels of a heavy fish truck wrecked near Stumpy Point Saturday night is being investigated. The tires were taken off while the driver had gone for help at Engelhard.

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Sunday, when the truck was visited, part of the fish had been taken along with the front wheels and tires. A call was made to the Sheriff at Manteo, and was reported as saying he did not have the time to investigate the case. A highway patrolman from Hyde County came to the scene, and got an SBI man to investigate. It was pretty well known who got the tires, as well as one of the boxes of fish loaded on a pick up truck.

VISITOR FROM TRINIDAD

Mrs. O. G. Sande, who has been living in Trinidad, British West Indies, for the last year, arrived on January 14 to visit her mother, Mrs. Carrie Midgett, of Buxton. Mrs. Midgett, who has been ill, is recuperating at her home in Buxton. Mrs. Sande plans to leave in March to rejoin her husband in Trinidad, where he is aviation chief machinist in the Navy. Mrs. Sande, who has traveled extensively with her husband, as he has been transferred from one part of the world to another, reports a wonderful climate in Trinidad, and says she likes living there, were it not so far from home.

CANCER CLINIC

The Cancer Clinic of Elizabeth City will be open to the public at 12:30 p.m. on the first Friday of each month, and the next clinic will be held Fri., Feb. 1 at the Health Dept.