

THE COASTLAND TIMES

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

VOLUME XVII — NO. 27

MANTEO, N. C., FRIDAY, JANUARY 2, 1953

Single Copy 7¢

OLD CHRISTMAS OBSERVANCE MONDAY NIGHT WILL DRAW WIDE ATTENTION TO COAST

Said to Be the Only Place That Holds Its Old Christmas Observance on Its Eve, or January 5th; Monday Night's Observance To Be A Good One.

Rodanthe.—While the December 25th Yuletide is just a memory sparked by bills for many, the residents of Rodanthe here on Hatteras Island are all geared up for their traditional Old Christmas celebration January 5.

This North Carolina Outer Banks community and its neighboring village Waves, (formerly South Rodanthe) two miles southward on the new Hatteras Island all-paved highway are the only places in the world where Old Christmas is observed on January 5. Twelfth Night or Epiphany, sometimes called "Little Christmas" which comes in January 6, is still celebrated in many parts of the world.

Here on Monday under the leadership of such old timers as Levene Midgett, Fred O'Neal, Brad Payne, Herbert Midgett, John Herbert and his wife, Mrs. Nora Herbert the custom which has been handed down from one generation to another since long before the oldest resident can remember, the celebration will be presented. In the old days Old Christmas observances began at daybreak and continued until after nightfall on each January 5. It was time when the residents of the two communities would travel by pony carts to visit their kith and kin. Fifers with their home made reed flutes made weird music as they marched through the village at dawn and accompaniment to the music was produced by an ancient drum, one which came from a warship carrying sail, a century or more ago.

"The drum, and the original one which has been re-headed several times through the years will like be beaten again on Monday night, even if we have no fifers here," said Captain Midgett, the chief boatswain mate in charge of Chicamacomico Coast Guard station. He explained.

"Brad Payne who used to live here but now makes his home in Wanchese on Roanoke Island was the drummer for many years. When he moved he took the Old drum with him, but he returned each year with it to take part in our celebration. The old drum and 'Old Buck' play an important role in our celebrations."

"He is the wild bull of Trent Woods down beyond the Cape," said Captain Midgett. "Old Buck we call him, because our fathers and grandfathers called him that, and on every Old Christmas he comes to our celebration to look over those who have done evil or otherwise during the years."

Actually Old Buck is only a local legend, but one that becomes real on January 5 each year at Rodanthe—even if it is a skull of an outer banks bull that was killed for beef, plus a paper mache or canvas body supported by two villagers.

"This year as in recent years, we will have an olster roose here in the community and everyone is See CELEBRATION, Page Five

HAROLD DANIELS HOME FOR HOLIDAYS, FIRST TIME IN 19 YEARS

Not all his friends know it, but Harold Daniels, the Wanchese boy who has been flat on his back in bed since 1935, is spending the holidays at Wanchese with old friends, and will leave to return to the Marine Hospital in Norfolk, on January 6. He is stopping at the home of his stepmother, Mrs. Deborah Daniels.

In 1934 he was taken with arthritis, while working on a fishing trawler and went to the Marine Hospital. He hasn't been out since, except during the War when he was transferred to the Marine Hospital at Pittsburgh. He is unable to walk or lie on his side. His hands are badly crippled.

Harold is enjoying his Christmas because he is seeing so many old friends. There are still some who don't know he is home, and he would be glad to see them. He likes to smoke, and to read, and can use small books and magazines that are not hard to hold. Despite his afflictions, he is jolly and agreeable and never complains. If everyone who grunts and groans because of a little minor discomfort could witness the example this boy sets, it would make one ashamed of complaining over trifles.

TO PRESENT PROGRAM AT NAGS HEAD MISSION



PHIL SAINT, noted artist of unusual platform ability, will present a program of art and song that is unique in the history of sacred programs at the Baptist Mission at Nags Head on Monday, January 5, 1953, at 7:30 p. m. This will be his only scheduled appearance in the county. The public is cordially invited to attend this service, says Rev. Frank Dinwiddie, the pastor.

Mr. Saint uses special lighting effects to obtain a colorful blending of hues by means of an easel and special equipment which he developed himself. The accompanying music is dove-tailed to the development of the feature picture which highlights each presentation. The artist sings and speaks as he draws, beginning with blank paper in his fast-moving program.

Mr. Saint's mastery of color is all the more remarkable because he is partially color-blind, a fact discovered when he was in the eighth grade and came home one day with a picture drawn with orange grass, and a red, white and purple flag. Those who watch him draw now find it very difficult to believe that he has this handicap. He comes from a family of artists. His father's stained glass windows adorn the National Cathedral in Washington, D. C. Mr. Saint's career as a cartoonist started when he sold a humorous cartoon to the Saturday Evening Post. On leave—See PROGRAM, Page Four

SNOW GEESSE DUE TO DEPART COAST SOON

By AYCOCK BROWN

Pea Island.—About half of the world's population of Greater Snow Geese which have been wintering here on the mudflats and in the marshes of Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge are scheduled to begin their migration northward next week. They are the most colorful of many species of wildfowl which enjoy complete protection from hunters in this Hatteras Island Refuge which begins at Oregon Inlet and extends southward to Rodanthe.

L. B. Turner, manager of the Refuge estimates there are between 12,000 and 14,000 Snow geese here this winter. Another flock of these wildfowl, solid white except for their black tipped wings, are wintering in upper Currituck Sound in North Carolina and in the Back Bay region of Virginia. The total population of Snow geese in America is estimated at 30,000. All but a few thousand of the Snows make their migratory flights along the Atlantic Flyway.

While it has become a legend here that these rare geese arrive at Pea Island each year on November 26 and depart for northern breeding grounds on January 6 each year, ornithologists believe that their arrival and departure is gauged on the phases of the moon as it becomes full during late November and early January. Their migration flights are usually made at night.

On rare occasions straggling Snow geese will show up in flocks of Canada Geese and Brant in the Ocracoke and Hatteras waters of Pamlico Sound. As matter of fact, they are called white brant, by Ocracokers, and years ago, when the late Rex Beach killed one near Ocracoke Island, he wrote a book entitled "White Brant" and also named a small boat he used for hunting after this wildfowl.

DEVELOPING PLAN TO MAKE "BANKS" MORE INVITING

Maritime Museum Included In NPS Plans for Development at Cape Hatteras

During December the National Park Service had officials of several of its technical branches in the Cape Hatteras Area to study development plans for the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Project. This group was headed by assistant Chief Naturalist Raymond Gregg of Washington, D. C. and Regional Historian James Holland from the Park Service office in Richmond, Virginia.

The group spent much time inspecting the lands scheduled to be acquired for the project and discussing types of development permissible under the law creating the Seashore Project. Consideration was given as to the best methods for interpreting this new outstanding project to the general public. It was agreed by all that the Cape Hatteras Project will rank high with other of the larger areas of the Park Service as a national attraction.

The custodian buildings at the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse were inspected with the view of transforming the larger of the two into a Maritime Museum. Among other projects under consideration is a Natural History Museum to tell the natural story of this unique area and by the use of electric maps trace the flight of migratory water fowl from this section to their summer nesting grounds in the far reaches of the Northern countries. Also under consideration is the marking of the more famous ship wrecks, access roads to the beach, a botanical preserve at Buxton, further development in the Cape Hatteras point section including a road erosion control work, and many other types of projects designed to attract tourists and hold them in this area.

Since it has become known that the Cape Hatteras Project is to be a reality, the Park Service Land Acquisition Office in Manteo has been deluged with requests for information and photographs about the Project. Photographer A. S. Burns has been in the Area recently collecting photographic material to be distributed with the printed information that is available for distribution by the National Park Service.

TOURIST BUSINESS BRINGS DARE BIG INCOME IN CASH

Cash Income Per Home Ranks High; Hyde Down Near Bottom of List

Dare County now ranks 48th among the 100 counties of the state in cash income per home, thanks to the big boost that has come to it because of the tourist and resort trade. The average cash income per home is now given at \$1,514. Its neighbor county of Hyde which is along with Tyrrell, is denied much of its rightful share of this tourist business, ranks 96, only four from the bottom with an average income of \$915 per family. Tyrrell ranks 92nd with a little better showing, the figure being \$1,040. These two counties are unable to fully share in the resort and tourist travel bound for Dare County, because of the lack of suitable highway connections.

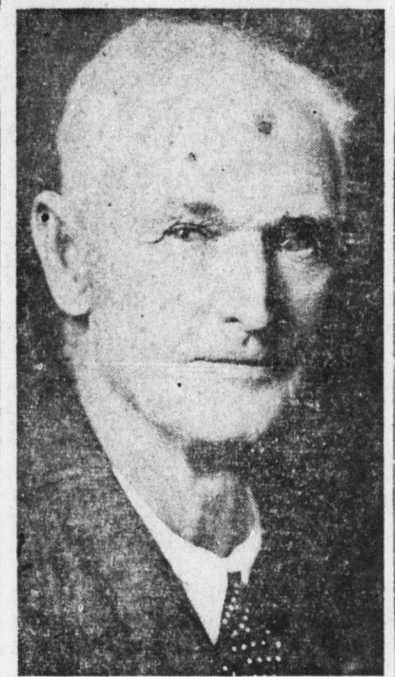
Dare County of course, has profited immensely from free advertising so liberally given through the years by its newspapermen friends. In addition, the National Park Service has advertised it widely through all the National Park System, in connection with the Hatteras project, which has been proposed for many years, and now approaches nearer reality. So evident is the value of the publicity for Dare County that the various interests of the county are now spending \$14,000 a year in operating a tourist bureau, whose primary function is publicity for the county. Currituck interests derive much benefit from the traffic flowing to Dare through that county. Of interest are figures concerning other counties:

Rank	County	Income
56	Currituck	1,424
76	Beaufort	1,269
77	Pamlico	1,256
92	Tyrrell	1,040
96	Hyde	914

Washington County with excellent agriculture and much industry now ranks 40th with income of \$1,691,—better even than the larger county of Pasquotank which is 44th with income of \$1,617.

Among highest ranking counties in average cash income per family are Mecklenburg, No. 1, \$2,690; Alamance No. 2, \$2,667; Guilford 5, \$2,476; Forsyth 7, \$2,406

MAINLAND'S OLDEST MAN WILL BE 88 SATURDAY



THE ANNUAL celebration of the birthday of Capt. Leonidus Rosser Mann of Manns Harbor, oldest living man on the entire Dare County mainland, will be celebrated Sunday by a dinner to be given at his home by his children. He will be 88 years old Saturday, January 3rd. Mr. Mann is well-known in Dare County. He followed fishing and boating all his active life, retiring about 15 years ago. His children are Harry Mann of Oklahoma City, Gaston Mann of Nags Head, Guy Mann of Manns Harbor, Mrs. Calvin Beasley of Manns Harbor and Mrs. Ina Mann Waterfield, who 25 years has been a civil service employe in Washington.

TROUBLES FOLLOW ROAD TO HAPPY OCRACOKE ISLAND

For First Time in 30 Years a Court Sits in Judgment As Peaceful Living Gives Way to Progress

By TROY WILLIAMS

OCRACOKE ISLAND, Dec. 27.—Ocracoke Island was shocked to the roots of its so-called Elizabethan brogue this afternoon when the first trial in approximately 30 years was heard before Justice of the Peace Harvey Wahab. The news of the scheduled hearing swept over this sand spit like a prairie fire and the natives from all over the island flocked to the recreation building to hear the testimony.

Maultby Bragg was charged with assault on the person of Stanley Wahab. He was found guilty of the charge and received a 30 day road sentence suspended upon the payment of \$10 and cost and on the good behavior of the defendant for a period of six months.

The trial and the events leading up to it has been called the "News of the Year." For a period of 30 years Ocracoke has been known as the one place in North Carolina without any form of law. It received much publicity due to the fact that it did not have jail, any law enforcement officers and there are no license on the cars and no license required for driving.

The fact that the problems of civilization were slowly encroaching this Island of legend became evident in 1950 following the construction of Scott's highway. The citizens were faced with the problem of speeders along the narrow highway, a highway which has been called the road which started from nowhere and ended at the same place.

In order to check the speeders and the Saturday night celebrators, Ansley O'Neal was appointed Deputy Sheriff. Additional problems appeared when it was discovered that following an arrest the defendant and all witnesses were forced to travel through four counties to get to Swan Quarter, the county seat of Hyde. This trip, due to the boat and bus schedule, requires a period of four days. As See TROUBLES, Page Four

BOOTH FAMILY HAS CLOSE CALL NEAR LYNCHBURG, VA.

Mr. and Mrs. John Booth, bound for Lebanon, Ky., with their sons John and Robert, had a close call near Lynchburg, Va., when their new Ford was demolished in collision with a truck which they encountered on the snowy, sleety road. The Booths had been spending the holidays with A. W. Drinker, water, Mrs. Booth's father, and were en route to Kentucky to visit Mr. Booth's parents. Mr. Booth returned Christmas day from Norway, where he has been stationed with the Navy. The four were uninjured in the wreck.

TAX LISTING BEGINS MONDAY IN DARE CO.

All Townships Subject to Quadrennial Re-Assessment; Much Property Increased in Value

A schedule of tax listing dates in Dare County, beginning Monday January 5th is being advertised, and is arranged convenient for the citizens of all precincts. There will be seven listing days at the courthouse, and three days each at Wanchese, Manns Harbor, Kitty Hawk, Stumpy Point, Avon, Hatteras and Buxton. There will be two days in East Lake township and at Kill Devil Hills, and one day each in Salvo, Waves, Rodanthe, Nags Head, Colington, Duck and Frisco.

The listers for townships are as follows: Nags Head, Mrs. Lucy Midgett of Wanchese; Atlantic, Mrs. Beulah Perry of Kitty Hawk; Kennekeet, Mrs. Rachel Austin of Avon; Hatteras, Mrs. Edna Gray of Buxton. Willis L. Daniels is tax supervisor.

The year 1953 is a re-evaluation year in North Carolina. Due to rapid growth in value of real estate in some portions of the county, there is much property not paying its share of taxes. On the other hand there is considerable property, notably on the mainland of Dare County which has declined in value. Hatteras Island property has shown a sharp upturn, for here property which currently sells at \$100 per acre and up is now listed for \$15 per acre. Likewise in some areas north of Oregon Inlet, where ocean frontage sells for \$35 a foot, it is sometimes listed at \$12 or less.

MORE BUILDERS BETTING ON THE PARK'S FUTURE

Investments Being Made at Hatteras In Hotels and Tourist Courts

By AYCOCK BROWN

Hatteras.—From Kitty Hawk to Hatteras, the Dare Coast vacation region is now experiencing one of its biggest off season building booms in many years. A check of construction work on vacation facilities along Dare's coastline of almost 100 miles was completed here today.

Andrew Austin, owner of Austin's Apartments and Durant's Motor Court, stated this week that he not only planned to build additions to his motor court properties, including the old Durant Life Saving Station Building but that he was also planning to build a 30-room hotel on the beach near the National Seashore Area's limits which will skirt the outlying section of this village. Ready for opening during the Spring vacation season is a new annex of seven rooms and a large restaurant at Scotty Gibson's Atlantic View Hotel. It was announced last week that Mrs. Nacie Austin has established the "Ocean Air Tourist Home" here and is ready for the reception of guests.

Edgar Hooper at Cape Hatteras is building several beach apartments adjacent to George Fuller's Cape Hatteras Cottage Court. Since the completion of the Hatteras Island Highway from Nags Head a number of Buxton residents have established tourist homes and guest houses and Mrs. Leona Jennette has a new and modern restaurant in that village.

On Nags Head, Archie Burrus, is building a 16-unit face brick construction motor court which will be ready for opening by Spring. The Carolinian Hotel is adding at least 24 units to its 64 room hotel and the dining room is being enlarged. B. M. Hedrick of Kill Devil Hills has completed renovation of his cottage court and many other facilities for vacationists are in the planning stages now for the Nags Head, Kill Devil Hills and Kitty Hawk regions.

R. D. Owens is planning to build a new fishing pier to be located at Rodanthe, if he is given a green See PARK, Page Four

MISS HALLIBURTON RETURNS TO HOME IN DARE COUNTY

Miss Sarah Halliburton, who in 1951 was editor of The Belhaven Pilot, and who spent 1952 in newspaper work in South Carolina has returned to her home at Kill Devil Hills in Dare County where she owns a number of beach cottages, and here she plans to reside. For the present, she has undertaken some newspaper work for the Coastland Times of Manteo. Miss Halliburton before coming to Dare County had done newspaper work in Roanoke Rapids and she has had wide experience in newspaper publishing, having owned several newspapers in Missouri.

GOVERNOR SCOTT MAKES A FINAL REPORT THIS WEEK ON FOUR YEAR'S PROGRESS

An Administration That Has Built Roads Where Roads Were Most Needed Is Now Ending; It Has Brought About Tremendous Rural Development, Aided Numerous Long-Forgotten People.

NEW DIRECTOR NAMED FOR THE LOST COLONY



CLIFTON BRITTON, founder and director of the Goldmasquers of Goldsboro High School, one of America's most outstanding high school dramatic groups, has been named director of Paul Green's symphonic drama The Lost Colony here on Roanoke Island next June 27. Samuel Seiden, head of the Dramatic Arts Department of the University of North Carolina, who has directed the drama since its original premiere in 1937, remains with The Lost Colony as supervisory director, a post he will also hold with at least two other symphonic dramas, including Horn in the West at Boone.

General Manager Dick Jordan of The Lost Colony announced Britton's promotion to the directorship of the drama this week as he opened the drama's business in Manteo.

"There is no question but what Britton with his dramatic background, will produce an outstanding production of The Lost Colony during its 13th season," said Jordan. "He has been with the Lost Colony Company, first as stage manager and more recently as associate director for the past six seasons and with Britton and Seiden working as a team, we believe those who witness performances of The Lost Colony in 1953 will be seeing the best produced show in its history."

Britton's "Goldmasquers" is the largest high school dramatic department in the South. He also founded and directed the Chi Pi Players at East Carolina College in Greenville, has acted in or directed more than 200 shows and authored four plays during his career.

NAGS HEAD SHELL COLLECTOR VISITS MEXICAN BEACHES

Nags Head.—Jesse Newman, owner and operator of a shell craft shop and shell museum at Nags Head is now on a tour of Mexican and Central beaches searching for new specimens to add to his stock. His collection here is one of the most complete, privately owned shell collections in America and in recent years has become one of the resort's show places and a mecca for conchologists from many states.

This is his second trip to the beaches of Latin America in search of shells, both on the east Gulf coasts and the coasts of the Pacific.

A few weeks before his departure for Mexico and Central American countries, Newman received some 4,000 pounds of sea shells from the Philippine Islands and the South Pacific. Hundreds of varieties of shells were in the lot ranging from minute specimens that one must look at through magnifying glasses to giant Sea Clams and all types of conchs.

Newman started shell collecting as a hobby several years ago. He came to the Dare Coast during the mid-30's to work at one of the national park service sand fixation camps, married here and decided to go into the shell business. In addition to the many varieties he has on display in his museum, many common variety of shells are made into souvenirs by the Newmans and sold to tourists.

Governor W. Kerr Scott is closing his administration this week. At times it has been a stormy one, but accomplishments for the State have been many, particularly in the aid given to long-forgotten rural areas. The state has made progress, and Governor Scott leaves to his successor a 40 million dollar surplus. Some 27 millions more than he found on entering office.

On Tuesday night, the Governor made the following statewide radio address which is a comprehensive report to the people: Fellow Citizens of North Carolina:

From time to time during the past four years I have enjoyed—through the magic of radio—the privilege of many talks with you.

This is my final visit, as your Governor, into your homes. Ten days from now, a new administration will take over; and I am confident that it will continue to build upon the firm foundation laid, step by step, by succeeding administrations since the days of Governor Charles B. Aycock.

The political structure that our forefathers fashioned is flexible and guarantees to the people the power to obtain for them selves and for their children the services and facilities they desire and feel they can afford.

The people are sovereign. When the shouting and tumult is over, their expressed verdict always prevails.

Oftentimes the thinking of the people is far ahead of that of their political leaders. This has been demonstrated time and time again.

My recognition of this fact came more than thirty years ago. Some of you have wondered what forces worked, and what circumstances operated, to lead my feet along the path of the Governorship. It was realization, shared by my Haw River community neighbors, of intolerable road and school attendance conditions that started my feet along that path. Political and social leadership was lagging far behind the needs of the people and the conscious longings of the masses of the people for better roads, better schools, adequate hospital and other health facilities, and access to electricity and telephone services.

When I think back upon what life was like in Alamance County years ago, I remember that my children and my neighbors' children walked two or three miles in snow, sleet, rain, and mud to drafty schoolhouses. At noontime, they would eat cold and soggy sandwiches that their mothers had prepared for them before daybreak.

Sniffing colds flu, sore throats and pneumonia were the common lot of all children in those days—leaving the little victims, in many instances, crippled for life. Going to Church on Sunday was a struggle because of the roads—for days at a time—were impassable even for buggies and wagons.

When I became county agent of Alamance County, and later your Commissioner of Agriculture, and my geographic horizons expanded, I found that the same content existed elsewhere throughout the state.

As we review the past, let us not forget that two-thirds of North Carolina's population is rural—that one-third live and work in the cities and towns; another third live in the country and work in the cities and towns; and the other third both live and work on the farm.

And let us also remember that what is bad for two-thirds of the people is bad for all—an impoverished, mud-tax afflicted, rural population makes poor customers for any trading center or metropolitan area.

I became a candidate for Governor because of these two convictions—that rural North Carolina was a land of forgotten people, and that what is bad for two-thirds of the people is bad for all.

And now I am going to let you in on a little secret. For a quarter—See SCOTT, Page Five