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CLAIM OF RICHES FROM ILMENITE IS NEW HUMBUGG'RY

Treasure Alleged in Outer Banks Sands Would Not Be For Our Land Owners

A big-headed story about purported fortunes in ilmenite, a material used in paint and other products, that is supposed to be in the sands of the North Carolina coast was published in Sunday's Virginian-Pilot. The story which had to do with surveys made by the National Lead Company last year, looks like some more of the planted propaganda to discourage the creation of the National Seashore Park, by filling people with the thought that the sand is loaded with veritable "gold."

While some people who do little thinking might fall for this line of stuff, a little thought may easily prove it is all sucker-bait. Nothing further deserves the title of poppycock. In the first place, if there should be ilmenite in the sands, it is not the landowners who would profit by it. The profit would go to the company fortunate enough to hook the people into giving leases to dig it out of the ground.

According to offers that have been made, the lease money promised is so negligible as to be laughable.

On top of this the value of the land would be completely destroyed because the operation would tear up all the grass, shrubbery, trees, and leave the soil to become the prey of the winds and tides and ultimately swept away. In a short time would be lost all the gains made in the upbuilding of our beaches that have taken place in the past 20 years.

It is a little difficult to believe there are people so stupid as not to see the damage they can do to our coast by encouraging the digging up and turning over of the sands, particularly since the financial gain is so trifling.

It is axiomatic that a thin dime immediately in front of the eye can obscure completely the vision of a ton of dollars some distance away. That is true in a case where anyone would consider accepting a few cents for permission to dig up his land. It is a blind man who can't see that other things in our future offer a lot more in every respect for the welfare of all of us.

This ilmenite propaganda is sheer humbuggery so far as profits go for our people. As said before, it is difficult to believe any folks are dumb enough to fall for it. There are some, perhaps, who will.

NON-RESIDENT ANGLERS ALLEGE FERRY IS "TRAP"

Oregon Inlet. — North Carolina's toll-free ferry on Oregon Inlet has been described as a "trap" by anglers in the Washington D. C. area who took their complaints to Kennedy Ludlam, outdoors editor, Washington Times Herald and a well known radio commentator of the District of Columbia territory.

Ludlam in a letter to the Dare County Tourist Bureau stated that he had "called the situation to the attention of the AAA who have agreed to issue proper warning." The "situation" as Ludlam put it, seems to hinge around the fact that anglers and tourists driving to Hatteras Island are being marooned on the south side of the Inlet when and if an automobile is the ninth car on the last north-bound trip which leaves (under present schedule) at 4:50 p.m., or if one fails to make this ferry on the return trip from communities south of the Inlet.

"It seems that before the State took over the operation of Oregon Inlet ferry the private owner used to operate the boat until all waiting cars had been ferried across north bound," said Ludlam. "Now, according to several who have been stranded on the south side, the last trip is at 4:50 P. M."

Actually during the summer months the schedules continue until early evening, but the summer schedules may not go into effect until June 1 or June 15. The 8-car ferry is soon to be replaced by a former government LSU now being converted which will haul 22 cars. There have been considerable local complaints, especially from residents of Hatteras Island, that

KILL DEVIL HILLS OFFICERS SWORN IN



Reading from the big book is Clerk of the Court C. S. Meekins of Dare County, in the ceremony of swearing in the new officials of the recently incorporated town of Kill Devil Hills in Dare County. Mayor J. L. Murphy is shown immediately behind Mrs. Millie Miller Osmond, town clerk and treasurer. The three aldermen are shown behind, they are: Frank Dean, Herbert Morrison and Robert A. Young.

TWO CARS CRASH NEAR GREGORY'S STORE ON BEACH

Gasoline Pumps, Automobiles Damaged in Monday Traffic Accident

Kill Devil Hills. — Automobiles driven by J. B. McDaniel of Wanchese and Alonzo O'Neal Willis of Hatteras collided Monday in front of W. S. Gregory's store and service station. One of the cars plowed into a gasoline pump, damaging it.

Except for a few minor scratches and bruises, no one was injured. Mr. McDaniel was able to drive his car away, but the other car remained in the sand at the edge of the paving. McDaniel was headed south, but turned to drive into the Gregory place. The other automobile, also headed south, was about to pass the other one. There was some confusion about the hand signal given by McDaniel.

In the car with Mr. Willis was his sister, Mrs. Glen H. Carlin, to whom the automobile belonged; her two small children, her mother and a dog. Mrs. Carlin is moving to Hatteras from Elizabeth City.

HATTERAS-OCRACOKE CAR FERRY BEGINS SCHEDULES ON MAY 1

Hatteras. — A new privately owned toll-ferry will begin operations on regular 3-round trip daily schedules between Hatteras and Ocracoke Island on May 1, it was announced today by Capt. Frazier Peele, the owner and operator of the new-facility. The new ferry which will haul several automobiles at one time replaces a smaller 2-car ferry which Peele has been operating on appointment for the past two years.

The new ferry, named the Hatteras Inlet, is now nearing completion here on Peele's rail-ways. Fare for each car using the ferry will be \$5 one way. The schedules are as follows: Leave Hatteras - 6:15 A. M., 11:15 A. M., and 5:15 P. M. On the return trip the ferry will leave Ocracoke Island at 7:00 A. M., See FERRY, Page Eight

SUSAN ONETO LEADS IN MANTEO PTA BABY CONTEST

Susan Oneto of Nags Head has forged ahead again this week in the Manteo PTA-sponsored baby contest with a total of 3655 votes. Archie Burrus, Jr., of Manteo is second with 2849 votes. Timmy Cochran of Manteo is third, with 2264 votes, and St. Clair Tillett is fourth with 2149 votes.

Winners of the contest, which closes Thursday night, April 30, will be announced in next week's paper, together with total votes of all contestants.

MANTEO HARBOR SOON TO SHARE IN IMPROVEMENTS

A dredging job in Manteo Bay is to be completed soon, a contract having been let this week. Congressman Herbert Bonner has been keeping in touch with this project for some time, and is gratified to receive the good news from Col. R. C. Brown of the Corp of Engineers of Wilmington. Writing to Mr. Bonner under date of April 24, Col. Brown says:

"After justification by local interests at Manteo and the Wilmington District, the maintenance dredging of Manteo (Shallowbag) Bay was approved by the Chief of Engineers on 23 April as an essential civilian requirement.

"Invitations to bid on this work were issued by this office on 8 April. The opening date of bids is 28 April next Tuesday. The successful contractor is required to commence work within 15 Days after notice to proceed, or about 13 May. There are an estimated 80,000 cubic yards of material to be dredged, at the rate of 50,000 yards per month. The project should be completed by 30 June.

"The order of work specifies that the shoals in Walter Slough be dredged first. The controlling depth of 2.5 feet will be eliminated and project depth restored in Walter Slough by 31 May.

"Your interest in the work of the Wilmington District is appreciated."

LITTLE HOPE THIS YEAR FOR SCHOOL ON OUTER BANKS

Discussion of the school site for the proposed Outer Banks school near Cape Hatteras has been tabled to the July meeting of the Dare County Board of Education, following notice from the Attorneys representing the county that the court hearing would not be held until April 27th.

A letter from Mrs. Raymond Wescott, President of the Manteo P.T.A., requested that the new addition to the Manteo School be named in honor of Miss Bonnybel Evans. Mr. Ballance moved that the Board approve the request. This was seconded by Mr. Best and unanimously carried. It was decided that the P.T.A. should select the name.

The Board authorized the superintendent to pay a bill of \$32.30 for work done on Hatteras School, and authorized the superintendent to place an order with the Division of Purchase and Contract for a truck to replace the maintenance truck now being operated. The Board voted to renew the lease on the County School Bus Garage located at the Airport. The Board adjourned to meet again on call.

The Board this week awarded bids for hauling coal to the schools. O. Burrus of Manteo was successful bidder, getting the contract for \$1,324. Rudolph Peel, the other bidder, asked \$1,494.

OPEN HOUSE AT SEA OATEL AT NAGS HEAD WEDNESDAY

Mr. and Mrs. Archie Burrus held open house Wednesday evening at their new and completely modern tourist court, the Sea Oatel, at Nags Head. The buildings, of brick construction, house 24 units, comfortably and attractively furnished, and offer the best in comfort and convenience to the traveler.

Mr. and Mrs. Burrus had used the sea oates motif in decorating, and the guests were served cookies and soft drinks by Mrs. Lina Harbour and Mrs. M. L. Daniels, Jr. Others assisting with the entertaining were Mrs. R. D. Sawyer, Mrs. Borian Quidley, Mrs. J. O. Basnight and Mrs. Eloise Cartwright.

NELSON MIDGETT HURT; IS FLOWN TO HOSPITAL

A Coast Guard helicopter Monday flew Nelson Midgett of Wadesboro to Elizabeth City to Norfolk where he was placed in the Norfolk Public Health Service Hospital.

The Coast Guard said that Mr. Midgett, a well-known retired Coast Guard chief engineer, suffered a broken hip and possible back injuries in a fall from a ladder at his home.

The helicopter landed at the Municipal Airport, Norfolk, Monday, at about 1:45 p.m. The Coast Guard said the accident apparently occurred Monday morning or late Sunday.

RE-ELECTED CHAIRMAN DARE SCHOOL BOARD



WALTER D. PERRY of Kill Devil Hills was unanimously re-elected Chairman of the Dare County Board of Education at its meeting on April 24. Mrs. Mary L. Evans was unanimously re-elected Superintendent of Schools for another term. The Board of Education consists of Mr. Perry, E. A. Gray of Avon, Roy Gray of Hatteras, H. E. Best of Stumpy Point and R. O. Ballance of Manteo.

The following school committees were appointed to serve for a period of two years:

Manteo—District 1—Mrs. McCoy Tillett, Mrs. Leigh Hassell, John H. Long.

Manns Harbor—District 2—Wallace Taylor, Jaccie Burrus, Thelbert Tillett.

Wanchese — District 7—Arnold Daniels, Malcolm Daniels, Richard Gray.

Stumpy Point—District 8—Carville Wise, Woodrow Best.

Avon—District 10—C. T. Williams, III, Eugene Gray, Percy Williams.

Buxton—District 11—Raymond Basnett, Mrs. Edna Barnett, Hayes Fulcher, Horton Austin, Mrs. Asa Gray, Jr.

Hatteras—District 12—Wheeler Ballance, Byron Byrd, Leonard Gillikin.

Kitty Hawk—District 5—Adolphus Hines, Oscar Sanderlin, Robert Young, Charlie Spruill, John Beacham.

Roanoke—District 1-C—Maloyd Scarborough, Marshall Collins, Seward Simmons.

FISHING FACILITIES INCREASE AT HATTERAS

Hatteras. — Construction of the new all-paved highway from this outer banks community to connecting highways at Nags Head north of Oregon Inlet has been responsible for a great increase in sportsfishing facilities here. Since the 1952 season, at least two new Gulf Stream cruisers have been added to the local fleet and two new quays or berthing places have been completed for accommodating local and non-resident boats which will come here to operate in the Gulf Stream waters which have become nationally famous for big game species of fish.

Capt. Ernal Foster owner of the Albatross fleet of Gulf Stream cruisers here has added another craft, the Albatross III. Recently launched in a Core Sound port, the vessel is now undergoing finishing touches locally prior to its maiden trip off Cape Hatteras. It will be the largest and fastest of the already famous Albatross fleet which in recent years has been responsible for landing most of the big blue marlin taken with rod and reel in waters off Cape Hatteras.

Another modern and fast Gulf Stream craft is soon to be delivered to Capt. Edgar Styron who will place it in Gulf Stream service. His cruiser is also being built by a Core Sound builder.

This season will see additional harbor space at Hatteras. Capt. Styron's boat will be berthed in his new harbor dredged recently and with new piers and mooring facilities for several craft. This harbor is located near the old U. S. Weather station.

Farther south along the shore See FACILITIES, Page Eight

MANTEO GIRL IS MAY QUEEN ATTENDANT

Miss Maxine Scarborough of Manteo, who is a student at Greensboro College, will be one of the attendants to the May Queen at the May Day exercises Saturday, May 2. Her father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Richard J. Scarborough, are in Greensboro attending the ceremonies. Miss Scarborough, who is a sophomore, has just been elected vice-president of the rising junior class.

DARE MAINLAND FOREST FIRES BURN THOUSANDS OF ACRES DURING WEEK

Pulp Company Lands Suffer Loss of Many Years Growth of Timber in Area Between Manns Harbor and Stumpy Point, as Both Villages Are Threatened with Destruction.

MANY FINE WORDS FOR DARE REPRESENTATIVE



For Robert Bruce Etheridge, the House had Golden Anniversary greetings and a little present Wednesday.

House members paid tribute to colleague Etheridge, the Representative from Dare who served his first House term in 1903, with a resolution of tribute, then a flowery speech by its sergeant-at-arms, Wayland Spruill of Windsor. Then it topped off the ceremony with a little gift, a watch fob.

In return, "Uncle Bruce" Etheridge said he would "carry it always in my heart... I am deeply grateful."

The longtime State conservation director was lolling in his seat reading the morning paper as they began the ceremony of tribute to him. The resolution came from Rep. Joseph Hunt of Guilford. In the speech that followed, Spruill reminisced about former sessions in which he had served with Etheridge.

The silver-haired Etheridge, a Manteo resident, was born on July 31, 1878. He attended Manteo's public schools, then Trinity College at Durham, now Duke University. From 1907 until 1933 he was cashier for the Bank of Manteo. He also had served as the postmaster of the little coastal town, as superintendent of the Dare schools, as State Senator in 1907, as a member of the Democratic State Executive Committee and State Conservation Director from 1933 until Kerr Scott took office in 1949. And once he was Clerk of the Court.

His first session as Dare Representative came in 1903, 50 years ago. He came back in 1905, 1929, 1931, 1933, 1951 and 1953.

"In his long, varied and honorable career he has served truly, faithfully, with native dignity and good humor... until he him- See ETHERIDGE, Page Eight

CHILD DIES AFTER RUNNING UNDER GRANDMOTHER'S CAR

Little Danny Gene Gray, three year old son of Sgt. and Mrs. Charlie Norman Gray of Manteo, died Sunday afternoon at 1:15 o'clock as the result of injuries sustained earlier when he was run over by an automobile.

Reports said the little boy was visiting his grandmother, Mrs. Jack Shannon. Mr. Shannon went into the garage and backed her car out. The child is said to have walked or run in the path of the backing car and was run over. He was rushed to the Albemarle Hospital in Elizabeth City but was pronounced dead upon arrival.

The child is survived by his parents, Sgt. Charlie Norman Gray and Mrs. Pauline Shannon Gray of Manteo, one brother, Norman Gray, Jr., paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Brinkley Gray of Wanchese; maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Shannon of Manteo, maternal great grandmother, Mrs. Mary L. Perry of Kitty Hawk; several aunts and uncles.

Sgt. Gray, the little boy's father, who was stationed overseas, arrived in the United States Wednesday night. Funeral services will be conducted Friday afternoon at 2:30 at the Wanchese Methodist Church, by Rev. C. W. Guthrie. Burial will be in the Cudworth cemetery.

Weary forest crews today had won a four-day battle to lick a destructive forest fire which charred more than 17,000 acres of growing pine stock owned by West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company. Company men and state foresters, who joined to battle one of the largest forest fires in this area in recent years, said the blaze was virtually under control. Still smoldering is a small area south of Manns Harbor, but unless high winds arise the fire fighters hope to "stamp out all remains of the fire within a day or so.

The fire, which was discovered about 8:15 a.m. Sunday by Wilson Ambrose, a Dare County smoke chaser, began at a point where the Point Peter Canal intersects Highway 264 and swept almost the entire area between the highway and Croatan Sound, from just north of Stumpy Point to a short distance below Manns Harbor, before it was brought under control.

Immediately upon discovery, company crews and state foresters were alerted by the company's new two-way radio system and fire fighting details and equipment were rushed to the scene. The fire was fanned by strong gusts of 35- to 40-mile velocity, however, and in a matter of hours had swept in a northeasterly direction to the sound, leaving in its wake a mile and a half strip of charred trees.

Shifts in wind direction on Monday sent the fire heading in other directions and at one point, on Tuesday, fire crews were unable to contain the blaze in the area between the highway and the sound. The flames leaped the highway and canal about halfway between Manns Harbor and Stumpy Point and burned out some 600 acres of company land on the east side of the highway before it was quelled.

When fires in the north area were whipped by northwesterly winds which threatened to again carry the blaze into company lands to the east and posed a threat to dwellings in the Manns Harbor area, the crews, who had worked almost continuously without rest since the outbreak, burned a controlled lane around the entire northerly tip of the fire area, which finally contained the blaze.

William Ernst, Jr., manager of the paper company's lands here, said the loss suffered by the company and the community could not be estimated.

"We lost 18,000 acres of growing timber and seedlings which cannot, of course, be replaced for years to come," Ernst said. "In dollars the loss was tremendous, but in terms of progress to our program to rebuild the forests of this area, the loss was even greater."

Ernst had high praise for the crews who battled the fire without rest and gave much of the credit for suppressing the fire to District Forester O. T. Wynne and his organization, who fought the fire with company crews and volunteers, including logging crews of O. F. Gilbert's operation.

Thousands of acres of Dare mainland forests and pocosins were destroyed by fire during the past weekend and the village of Stumpy Point seemed threatened Monday morning. Fire fighting equipment from Manteo had been called to the area.

The Roanoke Island-Nags Head area was blanketed with great billows of smoke throughout Sunday and until the wind shifted Sunday night from southwest to northeast.

In addition to the property losses running into thousands of acres and dollars, the loss to wildlife and in some areas valuable timber losses has been terrific, it was stated.

Fires earlier this month had already destroyed hundreds of acres in the area, but nothing compared to the weekend blaze which was still unchecked on Monday.

The West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company acquired more than 168,000 acres of Dare mainland lands last year from Fred M. Maloof who was once described as the owner of more acreage than anyone east of the King Ranch in Texas.