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CLARION CALL TO OCRACOKE TO BE ISLAND EMPIRE ANEW BY UNION WITH NEIGHBORS

Diverse Winds of History, Economic Changes, Ambitions of Travelers and Political Fortunes Have Buffeted This Famed Island Into Wide Awakening to New Opportunities.

By MARVIN HOWARD
Ocracoke, N. C.

There is a challenge today for Ocracoke people to unite and once again become an Island Empire. For two centuries it was such, complete within itself. There are now new conditions facing it, there are golden opportunities knocking every day at the door of its people, and unless we bestir ourselves, we are going to lose rich rewards such as are bringing great prosperity and progress to our seashore neighbors to the north and to the south of us.

Orphaned by the wide water which divides it from the mainland, Ocracoke for many decades has not been so fortunate even as Hatteras Island, where although apparently forgotten at times, its people could if they desired reach their county seat and ask for recognition, even though if took them a day to make the trip. But a trip to Ocracoke's county seat for most people most all the year, has been entirely out of the question. And while Hatteras has gone forward, this has come of its having been part of a more favored county and now has good roads, Ocracoke's situation is not improved and in relation to changing times is worse off than ever, and there is no likelihood of an improvement unless good roads are provided like other stretches of the outer banks. On the other hand, Ocracokers may now travel north with ease and reach the county seat of Dare within three hours.

Ocracoke's plight, while considered by some as neglect on the part of the officials of its county, is more the result of chance and circumstance. It never seemed practical to the mainland people of Hyde County to do much for Ocracoke Island. It was just too far away, assuming there were the desire and the inclination which obviously has been lacking. A century ago, even a decade ago, before the days of good roads, Ocracokers were just as well off as anybody. It was a small but independent empire. Its people were resourceful and had plenty. They needed no help. It was their nature to live as thrifly on God's abundance as did the Banker ponies roaming the green meadows in the springtime.

In fact, Ocracokers in those days were better off than the people of the mainland who had their wet years or their dry years, or their crop failures and maybe like other farmers lost one crop out of four. Yet on Ocracoke Island nature lavished bounty abundantly upon the people, in season after season, throughout the year. It just wasn't natural for Ocracokers to ask for anything because the waters teemed the year round with clams, oysters, fish, in fact all kinds of seafood. Throughout the winter, multitudes of ducks and geese came from the north to further enrich the livelihood of the people. And again the sea often yielded unexpected bounty from shipwreck and flotsam useful to the people.

Once Money Didn't Matter.

What matter about money in those old days. Gardens flourished with green vegetables and there were fruits and anything else needed was easily obtained by barter. It was easy to salt and save plenty of fish and trade them off with neighbors across the water, bringing home corn and beans and potatoes and household goods and supplies for fishermen and farmers.

But after a time drearier days dawned, not once but several times through the years for Ocracoke and the whole coastland and each one of them became more dismal than the preceding one. And Ocracoke was not only less fortunately situated but less interested in building the hedge against disaster that so many other communities had the foresight to build and by which they now profit.

The loss in income to the people of Ocracoke, has followed a chain of events. In comparative years, the Coast Guard and Lighthouse service which em-

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METHODISTS MAKE MANY CHANGES IN PASTORATES

Some Ministers Returned for 8th Year; New Faces Appear in Circle

Some brand new ministers enter the field for the first time this year, and some of the old ministers have been returned for the eighth year, among the Methodist Pastorates in the Elizabeth City District. In Wanchese, Rev. C. W. Guthrie has returned for his 8th year, and at Avon, Rev. P. M. Porter is back for his 8th year.

Wilford Wise of Manteo, a new entry in the ministry will go to the Bath charge. Swan Quarter gets a new pastor, Rev. A. J. Stone. Stumpy Point a new pastor, Rev. Aaron Tyson. Rev. Stephenson goes to Ocracoke.

Rev. L. P. Jackson is returned to Belhaven; Rev. H. R. Ashmore to Manteo; Rev. Earl Meekins to Columbia; W. B. Gregory to Kitty Hawk.

Replacing Mr. Gregory at Hatteras is Rev. H. S. Garrison. Replacing Dr. F. S. Love at District Supt. is C. F. Heath.

MANTEO ROTARIANS HAVE LADIES NIGHT MONDAY

The Manteo Rotary Club entertained at Ladies' Night Monday evening in the Community Building. John H. Long presided, and a special program was put on by a group of high school students, by arrangement of program chairman Aycock Brown. Misses Pat Baum, Carol Ann Allen and Linda Gaskill, Bobby Ballance and Jack Burrus gave a floor show of musical numbers with Ballance as emcee. Lois Peterson did a tap dance in costume. Dick Jordan was accompanist for the evening.

TURKEY DINNER IN MANTEO NOVEMBER 19

A Thanksgiving turkey dinner will be served in Manteo on Thursday evening, November 19, in the educational building of Mount Olivet Methodist Church. The affair will be sponsored by the Woman's Society for Christian Service, and dinners will be served from 5:30 on. The public is invited to attend. A reasonable charge will be made.

TO RESUME EDITORIAL WORK IN ELIZ. CITY



After having served 37 months in the Army, Wm. F. (Bill) Haskett, son of Editor and Mrs. Geo. W. Haskett, was separated from the service at midnight, Saturday, Oct. 31.

Haskett, who held the rank of first lieutenant at the time of leaving the service, with his wife, Barbara, and their young son, Jeffrey, who have been living at Fort Bragg, returned to Elizabeth City where they will make their home. They this week are moving into their home in Williams Circle.

Bill, the junior partner of the Independent-Star, will take up his duties as associate editor of the paper as soon as the family are settled in their new home. He is a graduate of the School of Journalism of the University of North Carolina. Upon graduation he came home and began publishing the Albemarle Star, a weekly, in April of 1950. He went into service in September, 1950. His paper continued as a weekly until Jan. 1, 1951, when his father went back into the publishing business. The name of the paper was changed to the Independent-Star and it has been published as a daily since that time.

BELHAVEN MAN PREST. SOUTHERN ALBEMARLE



DR. WILLIAM T. RALPH of Belhaven was unanimously elected president of the Southern Albemarle Association Wednesday following a luncheon at the Manteo Airport, succeeding Lawrence L. Swain of Manteo. Vice Presidents for the six counties of the association, all unanimously elected are as follows: Beaufort, Mrs. Scott Topping of Belhaven; Dare, Melvin R. Daniels of Wanchese; Hyde, N. W. Shelton of Swan Quarter; Martin, Alexander Corey of Jamesville; Tyrrell, Julian H. Swain of Columbia, and Washington, Harry W. Pritchett of Creswell. Mrs. Wilton Smith of Bath was elected Secretary, and M. A. Matthews of Columbia Treasurer.

Belhaven was announced as the place of the annual meeting of the six-county association next year.

During the welcome meeting in the forenoon, Melvin Daniels welcomed the visitors, and responses were made by P. D. Midgett III of Engelhard, and by T. R. Spruill as President for Washington County.

MASS CHEST X-RAY FOR DARE-CURRITUCK

A Mass Chest X-ray Survey, sponsored by the Currituck-Dare District Health Department in cooperation with the N. C. State Board of Health, is being made in Currituck and Dare counties, beginning October 30. For Dare County the schedule is as follows: Kitty Hawk Post Office, November 12; Kill Devil Hills Post Office, November 13; Manteo Health Office, November 14; Hatteras Hotel, November 17; Buxton Post Office, November 18; Avon School Building, November 19; Wanchese-Ralph Tillert's Store, November 20; Manns Harbor Methodist Church, November 21.

The hours are 10 o'clock A.M. to 4 o'clock P.M. It is urged that everyone 15 years of age and older take advantage of this opportunity to be X-rayed. Chest X-rays are not only necessary in finding early T. B. of the lungs, but other serious conditions may be discovered early, and too, chest X-rays are necessary in obtaining health certificates, marriage licenses, etc. EVERYBODY'S GETTING ONE, so get yours too.

W. W. JOHNSTON, M. D.
Health Officer

NOV. 8 FINAL DATE FOR PORT SECURITY CARD TEAM

A final reminder was issued by the U. S. Coast Guard today that the port security identification processing team will make its last appearance in North Carolina this Sunday, November 8, at the Nags Head Lifeboat Station between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Coast Guard officials said that waterfront workers and fishermen will have to apply for the cards in Norfolk if they miss the processing team at Nags Head.

The card processing team is equipped to complete all preliminary phases of card procurement for applicants, including the taking of identification photographs and fingerprinting. This means that in one stop applicants can take care of all they are required to do to get a card.

The Coast Guard emphasized that all applicants at Nags Head should bring with them some means of proving citizenship such as a birth certificate, baptismal certification, bible record, merchant marine documents, naturalization papers, passport, and insurance policy at least 10 years old or a military discharge certificate.

In addition, social security numbers must be available for the Coast Guard processing team.

TO GIVE PARTY FOR L. W. MIDGETT AT SHRINE CLUB

Popular Keeper of Chicamocomico Station to Retire December 2nd

Rodanthe. — Just where the event will be staged will have to be determined after there is some sort of co-ordination among his multitudes of friends but it is already certain that when he departs from the service of the U. S. Coast Guard on his birthday December 2nd BMC (L) Levene W. Midgett will have a farewell party that will be something not only for the veteran, and the last of the surman to remember long after the last unused oar has rotted.

Such friends as Comptroller General Lindsay Warren suggest that the thing ought to be staged somewhere north of Oregon Inlet so that Chief's friends from afar can get at him for the festal day and, on the other hand, Admiral Russell E. Wood, District commander of the Coast Guard, inclines to the notion that the thing ought to be staged right in the ancient Chicamocomico Station of which he is the third and last officer in charge.

Admiral Wood has heartily agreed to come down to the Station on the day of the Chief's retirement and sign him out of the service right there in the station which he has commanded since shortly after the death of the late great Capt. John Allen Midgett early in 1938. He would like to see all of the Chief's retired friends and associates of the service come back to the station that day for a remembrance of things past.

On the other hand, scores of friends, like Lindsay Warren, who live at great distances from Chicamocomico and who, probably, have heard distressing talk of the crowding of the ferries, suggest that the thing ought to be had in some place like the Shrine Club on the beach so they could get down there in suitable numbers and with some chance of getting home again after it is over.

Congressman Herbert C. Bonner takes a neutral ground and says that where ever they have it he will attend and has even put forward the suggestion that two celebrations in one day, one down here and a second one north of the Inlet might be a feasible solution of the matter. Anyhow, it is apparent that there is going to be a farewell party, and maybe several of them. Chief Warrant Officer Cyrus Gray, group commander of stations on Hatteras Island aims to be present, helpfully, at any or all of them.

For the past several weeks there have been widely current reports that many of the Lifeboat Stations along the North Carolina coast were scheduled for closing but that question has been deferred at the instance of Congressman Bonner until after January. Even when it was planned to close them down as of last Monday, or at the beginning of November, Admiral Wood sent down word that there would be a station here as long as Levene Midgett was here to command it, which had deferred closing anyhow until after December 2nd.

Next January, if he were left in service and the station here were continued, Chief Midgett would be rounding out his 16th year as officer in charge. Preceding him, Captain John Allen Midgett had the Station from Capt. Bannister L. Midgett in 1915 and commanded it for 23 years. Captain Bannister helped See MIDGETT, Page Eight

MANTEO SCOUTS USHER AT OYSTER BOWL GAME

A group of Boy Scouts from Manteo went Saturday to Norfolk with their leaders, Edwin Midgett and T. H. Noe, to serve as ushers at the Oyster Bowl game, played by Duke and the University of Virginia. They were Davis Ballance, Billy Tugwell, Roy Gray, James Stillman, Paul Midgett, Tommie O'Neal, Tommy Biggs, Caleb Myers Brickhouse, Allen Dough and Byron Sawyer. Scouts from all troops in the Tidewater Council ushered.

Among others attending were Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Daniels, Jr., R. Bruce Etheridge, Mr. and Mrs. McCoy Tillet, Mr. and Mrs. Wallace McCown, Miss Mollie Fearling, W. W. Tarkington, C. R. Evans, Mrs. Edwin Midgett and daughter, Patsy, Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Peele, all of Manteo and Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Melson of Kill Devil Hills.

GOOD NEWS AND HARMONY MARKS SOUTH ALBEMARLE 19TH RALLY WEDNESDAY

Some 200 People in Manteo from Six Counties Hear Senator Alton Lennon Say Fine Things, and Commissioner Winslow Predict Great Advances Soon.

Looking backward over 18 years of achievement since it was organized in Columbia in 1935 with a handful in attendance the Southern Albemarle Association celebrated a birthday and looked ahead, notably in the vision of youthful Senator Alton Lennon and Highway Commissioner Emmet Winslow to what things are likely to be like when the organization comes to its 36th anniversary along in the fall of the year 1971.

Where a handful attended in a corner of the court room in Columbia in 1935 a throng gathered to virtually fill the Pioneer theatre in Manteo Wednesday morning when President Lawrence Swain called the meeting to order and Melvin Daniels, miraculously recovering since he heard there was to be a bridge over Croatan, arose to proclaim Dare county's welcome and again, a little later, to present Senator Lennon. Between times there was Mr. Winslow.

And this present meeting had qualities that will lend it remembrance for things other than looking backward to 1935 and forward to 1971. None who crowded the theatre will likely soon forget that this was the first county appearance of the youthful Senator Lennon. He had no red carnation in his button hole and he wears almost a crew-cut for his hair—and he was very young, very robust—and he talked sound sense very pleasantly Senator Lennon will be something to remember.

So also will Emmet Winslow be something to remember. He stated categorically, on the personal assurance of Governor William B. Umstead, that people in great and increasing numbers would be driving across Croatan Sound over a completed bridge before the end of the Umstead administration, which still has three years and two months to go. Work, Mr. Winslow assured the gathering, will be underway on the bridge by next summer and it should be complete by mid-summer of 1956.

Nor was that all. He declared that negotiations are afoot for the acquisition of a second ferry to be used as stand-by at Oregon Inlet and to be used when traffic requires it. He declared that it was his belief, now, that traffic over Oregon Inlet would be doubled by next summer and he divulged, for the first time, actual traffic figures for the Croatan and Oregon Inlet, for the month of August. The figures:

Croatan Ferry—45,000 passengers.

Alligator River Ferry—20,000 passengers.

Oregon Inlet Ferry—30,000 passengers.

And here the Southern Albemarle Association saw a new objective—bridges enough to take care of all the traffic, over sounds, rivers and inlets. Mr. Winslow said they would come, because they will have to come. This was also the first, public session of speech-making that Mr. Winslow has had a hand in around this section since he was appointed by Governor Umstead to be highway commissioner last May—and it was also the first time that most of the counties in the Albemarle Association are now, by re-districting—allotted to the First Division.

Delegates began assembling for the meeting soon after the first ferries docked on Roanoke Island and the north side of the Inlet, which was early and they were still arriving when the meeting got underway, delayed a little, at the theatre. Senator Lennon and Mr. Winslow were among the early arrivals and if there was a hand left unshaken or anybody overlooked with his really amazingly infectious smile, no account has been made of it.

President Swain presided and since Mayor Martin Kellogg was off the Island unavoidably, he served through the morning session in that capacity. Melvin Daniels, he said, was about dead and a source of worry to his friends everywhere but that with the announcement that a bridge was to be built he had begun to recover. Further announcements See SAA MEETING, Page Eight

RAYMOND BASNETT TO BE BANKS DEPUTY

Two Justices of the Peace Recommended by County Board; Law Sought on Hatteras

Raymond Basnett of Buxton, was this week employed by the Dare County Commissioners as special Deputy Sheriff to police Hatteras Island's two communities at a salary of \$250 a month. The board also recommended to Governor Umstead for immediate appointment two Magistrates: Fred Gray of Avon and James Turner of Buxton, in Kennebec and Hatteras Townships, respectively.

The problem of law and order grows and grows on Hatteras Island, and has given the decent element of people great concern for a long time.

It is hoped that the plan now being formulated for quick trial close home will bring some results.

DARE RECORDER HEARS MANY TRAFFIC CASES

Several traffic cases appeared before Judge Baum in Dare Recorders Court Tuesday. D. A. Rogers, Jr., pleaded guilty to speeding at 75 miles per hour and was fined \$10 and costs.

Percy Leon Daniels pleaded guilty to failing to observe a stop sign and was taxed with court costs.

William Carl Jernigan, who failed to yield the right of way, and in collision with the car of Mrs. Clifford Midgett of Kitty Hawk, and whose car was greatly damaged, was taxed \$5 and costs.

R. C. Francis, charged with driving while intoxicated, testified to by the patrolman, and charged with driving with a defective muffler, to which latter charge he pleaded guilty and on this count only was found guilty and fined \$10 and costs.

DENTAL CLINIC FOR DARE BEGINS NOV. 9

Dr. W. W. Johnston of the Currituck-Dare Health Department announces there will be a series of ten weeks Dental Clinics held in the schools of Dare and Currituck Counties, beginning in Dare County November 9.

This service is made possible by the Division of Oral Hygiene of the State Board of Health cooperating with the Local Health Department. These clinics will take care of as many as possible in the first through the eighth grades.

There are many children in this group who need dental care badly and since this service is free the health department hopes to have the full cooperation of every one concerned in order that the maximum service may be rendered.

However, this is not compulsory and if any parents do not wish to have their children's teeth looked after in these clinics, they are asked to notify, in writing at once, the principal of the school the child attends.

LAND 73 TROUT IN LESS THAN 3-HOURS

Nags Head. — Three Salisbury anglers, L. W. Owen, Marvin Goodnight and Henry Carter made a record breaking catch of spotted sea trout while casting in the surf here at Nags Head on Thursday. In less than three hours the three anglers landed a total of 73 fish and all weighed one and a half pounds or better with a few going to four pounds. The anglers were using sea hawk lures to attract the fish.

Last week the big run of sea trout was centered in the waters of Roanoke Sound near the Nags Head-Roanoke Island bridges. Thousands of speckled trout, the weakfish of northern anglers were landed.

These fish, which have shown up in greater numbers this year than in many past seasons have been taking a variety of artificial lures ranging from sea hawks and other types of minnow-like plugs to nylon and feather jigs.