

THE COASTLAND TIMES

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

JME XIII — NO. 20

MANTEO, N. C., FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1953

Single Copy 7¢

MANY DARE FOLK WANT OCRACOKE TO JOIN COUNTY

Sentiment Prevails in Favor of Joining Hands With Sea Bound Island

A graphic letter published last week by Col. Marvin Howard of Ocracoke Island has aroused much interest along the Outer Banks, in Manteo, and other areas of Dare County. Consensus of opinion is that the already pleasant ties existing between the two areas should be strengthened, and that this might be best accomplished by becoming one political subdivision.

Col. Howard's article dwelt at length upon Ocracoke's past, present, and its future hopes. He recited the disadvantages through the years because Ocracoke was orphaned by wide waters, making it impossible for its people to get the maximum satisfaction from being a part of its distant county of Hyde. Now, he points out, new changes have virtually made it a part of Dare County, and this new accessibility puts its people in close touch with the County seat of Dare, whereas it is no closer to Hyde than before, nor is there any possibility it may be.

Theo. S. Meekins, born the year Dare County was created in 1870, says in his opinion the people of Dare should present a united invitation to Ocracoke folk to join Dare County. "We are interested in the same things, and will depend on the same things now and in the future. We belong together."

Melvin R. Daniels, Dare County Register of Deeds, says, "It would be greatly to the advantage of both Ocracoke and Dare to be in one county. It doesn't take long for Ocracokers to get to Manteo to do business. It would save them a lot of money travel, and give them quicker service. By all means we would like to see them. No one could be closer."

Wallace R. Gray, Manteo attorney, native of Cape Hatteras says, "We are all one people and should be together. Our families are connected by marriage, and our business interests are the same. Our future must depend on each other. I would like to see us under one flag."

Lawrence Swain, head of the Dare County Tourist Bureau says: "If Ocracoke people would like to join us, I would be happy to welcome them. We are set up to boost the tourist business and right now our efforts help Ocracoke and can do much more for it in future. We need more visiting and cooperation between communities, and I was pleased with the spirit of Col. Howard's letter."

COLUMBIA WOMEN ENJOYING HAWAII

Mrs. Blanche Cohoon and Mrs. Effie A. Brickhouse, the postmaster of Columbia are enjoying a glorious trip made by air to Hawaii in the mid-Pacific. Last week they were touring the most interesting and exotic points of interest. Names like Oahu, Waikeiki, Kauai, and Honolulu will live a long time in memory with them on their return, and they will have glorious memories of grand entertainment.

SCHOLARSHIP NAMED FOR MANTEO WOMAN

Mrs. Rennie G. Williamson of Manteo was last week notified that a scholarship, which was established last year by the northeastern district of the N. C. Federation of Music Clubs, has been named the Rennie Williamson scholarship, in recognition of her fine work with the music clubs of the district over a period of years. Mrs. Williamson has served several terms as district president, and for a term as state president, in addition to years of service to her own club, the Roanoke Island Music Club. This year's district meeting was held in Greenville on October 31, and it was at that time the scholarship was named.

WCS SEE PLAYET

The WCS of Mount Olivet Methodist Church met last Thursday night, with Mrs. Kenneth Ward as program leader. A playlet "The Sowers" was put on by Mrs. Ray Jones, Mrs. H. R. Ashmore, Miss Annie Laurie Kee and Miss Thelma Jean Williams.

LONG TIME ON ONE JOB A BIG LIST OF FRIENDS



WHEN ELMER REUBEN MIDGETT took time off this week to go to a Norfolk hospital for a check-up he was greatly missed. He thereby took a vacation for the first time in the nearly 30 years he has stuck to one job. You could always find him, during business hours of the day or night back of the counter in Fearnings Inc. As much as any one man, he has contributed to the success of that large organization, for he has stuck to his job, and he is universally loved because he knows how to make friends and to keep them.

Ordinarily, when one mentions Elmer Midgett in Dare County, it calls for another question, there are so many of them. We have to say "Elmer the Plumber, who is also a good fellow, or give some other designation. Maybe one of them will be called "Elmer the Bull" after awhile, altho the subject of this sketch is now passing the age of qualification. He is Elmer Reuben Midgett, and he is known because of his faithfulness to his job, his friendly nature, and his fine character generally. Elmer is the son of good natured and lovable people. His parents were the late Jerry and Mary Gray Midgett of Manteo. He married the former Elizabeth Hasty of Cumberland County, and they have two children.

Photo by C. B. A. Brown.

ROTARIANS HOLD LADIES NIGHT IN ENGELHARD CLUB

Five members of the Manteo Club were featured singers at the ladies night program of Engelhard Rotary Club Thursday night of last week. This Manteo Rotary quartette consisted of Johnny Long, Lawrence and Ralph Swain, Julian Oneto, and Dick Jordan, accompanist, who were accompanied by their wives.

The Engelhard Hotel served a turkey dinner to about 75 people. P. D. Midgett III offered the welcome. Leon Ballance presented the program, and the response was by Mr. Jordan who is president of the Manteo Club.

IN MARINE HOSPITAL AFTER FOOT INJURY

Darcy Etheridge of Wanchese is in the Marine Hospital, Norfolk, and has had one toe amputated as the result of an accident at his home Sunday afternoon. While in the yard, he stepped on a loaded shotgun, which discharged and shot him in the foot. He was given first aid by Dr. W. W. Johnson of Manteo and taken later to the Hospital. He is reported to be improving satisfactorily.

MRS. MISSOURI QUIDLEY DIES AT AVON MONDAY

Mrs. Missouri James Quidley, 61, died at her home in Avon about 10 o'clock Monday night, following an illness of six months. She was the wife of Ernest B. Quidley, who survives her. She was the daughter of the late Joseph M. and Mary Austin Gray. Other survivors are one daughter, Mrs. Walter Williams of Colington; two brothers, Sanders P. Gray and Mitchell J. Gray of Avon; two sisters, Mrs. Pritchard Gray and Mrs. Sadie Scarborough of Avon; and four grandchildren.

Mrs. Quidley was a member of the Assembly of God Church at Avon. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday morning at 11 o'clock at the Pentecostal Holiness Church in Colington, John Rasnick officiated. Burial was in the Colington cemetery.

INTEREST GROWS FOR LONG SCENIC OCEAN HIGHWAY

Twenty-Five Year Old Project Spark-Plugged Now at Morehead City Gains Headway

Interest continues to grow in the proposed all-ocean highway from Nags Head, via Hatteras and Ocracoke to Morehead City, and it is being energized by the dynamic personality of Joe DuBois, Manager of the Morehead City Chamber of Commerce, and is widely supported in influential circles.

What our folks don't often stop to think about is that all great things come slowly. What we often readily enjoy and accept as a matter of course may be the fruit of long struggle. Take this project, for instance. It began 25 years ago, the idea of W. O. Saunders of Elizabeth City, in the columns of his Independent weekly. He also, some five years earlier had envisioned a great seashore park covering the entire N. C. coast.

Since Mr. Saunders first advocated the Seashore Highway, there have been many changes. The Carteret County ocean front has never recovered from the storms of 1933 and inlets remain a barrier yet in this area, so now it is proposed to skip a large area by operation of a ferry between Ocracoke and Atlantic.

Had the project gotten underway more than 20 years ago, we would have seen it all surfaced more than ten years ago, according to plans. But history changed things. Here is what happened:

Through the operation of the broader Hatteras Seashore project, the beaches were being conditioned through the labor of the WPA camps so that roadbuilding would have been more feasible. This work went on several years under the sponsorship of the National Park Service, then attempting to develop the Seashore Park. The road might have been built by now, but—

In the late thirties, our country began to anticipate defense needs. Factories began to perk up, and labor was in demand. There was a job for anyone who would work. This war prosperity not only made work, but it also put restrictions on materials essential to the building of roads and bridges. And then came the war. It is all mighty interesting. Like many another beautiful project, the war submerged it for the time being. But good ideas seldom stay down.

We are quoting here, from the files of the Independent of 1931, through the courtesy of Aycock Brown, a story which appeared in that paper concerning the road then proposed:

Three years ago or thereabouts THE INDEPENDENT electrified the Virginia-Carolina coast by proposing a great Federal scenic, recreational and military highway from Virginia Beach to Beaufort Inlet, to be constructed by the Federal Government. It was only an editor's idea, but that idea is beginning to materialize.

Congressman Menalou Lankford of Norfolk picked up the idea when he went to Congress two years ago and has tried to get Congress to act. Congress wouldn't listen, but now comes Congressman Lindsey Warren of the First North Carolina District with a workable plan. Congressman Warren has requested the State Highway Commission of North Carolina and Virginia to petition the Bureau of roads for a Federal Aid highway along the beach from Virginia Beach to Beaufort Inlet, North Carolina, a distance of 193 miles.

Mr. Warren who is a member of the Committee on Roads of the House of Representatives, said that no legislation was necessary, and that if the two state commissions would cooperate, he was confident he could get the road into the federal aid program and system. All of the road would be in North Carolina except 22 miles from Virginia Beach to the State Line.

Mr. Warren pointed out that Representative Lankford, of Virginia, has a bill pending in Congress for a road to be constructed by the government from Virginia Beach to Kill Devil Hill, but said that no action would ever be taken, the federal government did not build roads except within federal property, but merely assisted and cooperated with the states on a fifty-fifty basis.

If the proposed highway was placed into the federal aid system it would mean that from time to time certain links of it

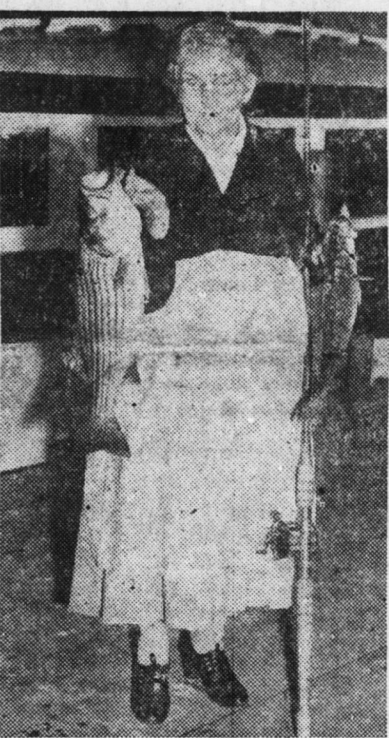
See INTEREST, Page Eight

OFFICERS FOR SOUTHERN ALBEMARLE ASSOCIATION NEXT YEAR



NEWLY ELECTED officers named at Manteo last week to head the Southern Albemarle Association for the coming year are, reading from left to right: Mrs. Miriam Topping of Pantego, Vice-President for Beaufort County; N. W. Shelton of Swan Quarter, Vice-President for Hyde County; Mrs. Wilton Smith of Bath, Recording Secretary; Alexander Corey of Jamesville, Vice-President for Martin County; Dr. W. T. Ralph of Belhaven, President; Julian Swain of Columbia, Vice-President for Tyrrell County; L. L. Swain, of Manteo, retiring President; Melvin R. Daniels of Wanchese, Vice-President for Dare County; Harry W. Pritchett of Creswell, Vice-President for Washington County. (Photo by Aycock Brown.)

88, THIS HATTERAS WOMAN IS FISHERMAN



MRS. SALLIE ANN AUSTIN of Hatteras is a remarkable woman. She is 88 years old. Last week we told about her fishing trip at Wanchese. Here she is shown with the rockfish weighing over 5 pounds which she caught.

(Aycock Brown Photo.)

COURT CREDIT CARDS NO GOOD IN PASQUATANK

Jeremiah C. Wescott of Manteo found he had no charge account in Records Court in Elizabeth City this week. His credit was no good as it used to be back home in Dare Records Court. He didn't have the money to pay a \$25 fine, so he has to do 60 days on the roads. He was also fined \$50 for contempt of Court for not appearing on time as ordered. It was quite a new experience for a Dare County negro.

WHEREABOUTS OF FORMER METHODIST PASTORS

Methodist who like to keep up with the whereabouts of former pastors of their churches will be interested in knowing recent assignments of a number of them, following the recent Methodist conference:

Rev. Madison W. Maness is at Lakewood near Durham. Charley Tilley at Broadway in the Fayetteville District. D. M. Lewis is at Aurora. D. M. Charlton at Daniels Memorial, Goldsboro. H. B. Baum at Kipling, N. C. Wake County. I. L. Strawbridge at Vance County circuit. W. O. Connor, Warren charge. Rocky Mt. District Secretary of Temperance, Roanoke Circuit, Matt R. Gardner. Leon Russell, First Church Rock Mount. L. D. Hayman, Carolina Beach. D. E. Earnhardt, Clinton. J. D. A. Autry, Richlands. Shallotte, J. T. Fisher. A. C. Regan, Creswell. Rev. W. F. Freeman who served Kitty Hawk for several years has retired and he and Mrs. Freeman will live near their children in Bladen County.

CROATAN BRIDGE LOCATION CREW MAKING SURVEYS

Max Collins, Jr., Engineer with the State Highway Commission established headquarters in Manteo this week and began the job of surveying various locations for the proposed free State Highway bridge over Croatan Sound which Governor Umstead has given assurance will be built during his administration.

Associated with Mr. Collins is E. H. Baggs, who supervised the building of the Roanoke Sound bridge, and who worked on various other projects in this area.

Capt. S. G. Basnight has been employed to operate the boat from which soundings will be made, and which will transport the crew from place to place. About eight men will be used on the project, the present highway employees being now utilized on this job.

FOUR SUFFER BROKEN BONES IN AUTO MISHAP

Earl Green's Car Collides With Croatan Fish Co. Truck Saturday Night Near Manteo

Four people suffered broken bones, severe cuts, and bruises Saturday night about two o'clock, when the new Chevrolet of Earl Green of Manteo collided with a big trailer owned by the Croatan Fish Co. of Manns Harbor, driven by a negro, James Edward Rickard, 33, of Engelhard, company employee.

Earl Green suffered a broken left arm, cuts and bruises, Mrs. Green, whose head went through the windshield, had a broken right ankle and a cut across the forehead which required 40 stitches. Passengers in the car were Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Gaskins. Mr. Gaskins suffered a broken nose and two broken legs, and Mrs. Gaskins three broken ribs.

The party had been playing canasta Saturday night at the home of Mr. and Mrs. M. K. Fearing, Jr., and had gone to Sunnyside to take Norman Brantley home. On returning to Manteo they collided with the trailer, which they said was swung across the road in the dark, the truck itself facing north, and its lights preventing a view of the trailer.

Rickard was jailed, charged with reckless driving. Reports indicate he had been having a good time with the truck all evening.

DON'T FORGET CHEST X-RAY DATE IN DARE

Dr. W. W. Johnson of the Currituck-Dare Health Department reminds citizens of all communities in Dare County of the mobile chest X-ray survey, which began in Dare on November 12. The schedule is as follows: Kitty Hawk Postoffice, November 12; Kill Devil Hills Postoffice, November 13; Manteo Health Office, November 14; Hatteras Hotel, November 17; Buxton Postoffice, November 18; Avon school building, November 19; Wanchese, Ralph Tillett's store, November 20; Manns Harbor Methodist Church, November 21.

WIDER U.S. 264 IS EARLY AIM OF SAA COMMITTEE

Efforts Will Be Made to Improve Much Traveled Road

Reactivation of the U. S. 264 Committee of the Southern Albemarle Association, organized a year ago at Swan Quarter, is one of the early projects announced by the Association's new president, Dr. W. T. Ralph of Belhaven, who stated this week that a strong campaign would be waged to get this important highway widened and straightened between Swan Quarter and Washington.

Already, strong endorsements from the County Boards of Hyde and Beaufort have been enlisted, and facts about this road's inadequacy will be assembled to present to the Highway commission.

The road was one of the first roads built under the Morrison \$50,000,000 bond issue, and was designated for the traffic of nearly 30 years ago. It is a narrow road, only 16 feet, and in most places the shoulders are inadequate. It has several difficult and dangerous curves. Since it was built, in the days of the model T Ford, new demands have come upon it. The enormous boat trade now is on wheels. The hauling of logs, of lumber, of large produce-laden trailers of merchandise and farm produce, and a heavy tourist traffic jam this 60-mile thoroughfare to the limit.

When the day comes that Croatan Sound is bridged, it will be a sad one, if by then the road has not been improved far beyond its present condition.

CAN COUNT NOW ON ONLY 10 FT. THROUGH CANAL

Entire Inland Waterway Reduced, Due to Lack of Funds for Maintenance

Wilmington. — The Wilmington District of the Corps of Engineers has advised that defense considerations since the opening of hostilities in Korea have caused the controlling depth of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway in North Carolina to be reduced by two feet from the project depth of 12 feet at mean low water.

In fact, the office reports, only about \$150,000 a year is expended to maintain the 315 miles of the Waterway from the Virginia border to Little River, S. C.

The established project depth of 12 feet, mean low water, defines the depth to which dredging is accomplished when maintenance becomes necessary, the office says, explaining further that when shoaling to 10 feet occurs, the channel in that area is dredged to full project depth. The channel width varies from 90 feet in land cuts to 300 feet in natural waters.

Continuous maintenance to full project depth, the District observes, could be justified only in the event that there should be considerable change in the nature or quantity of traffic on the waterway. This traffic currently is about 1,500,000 tons of cargo and 3,000 passengers a year. In this connection, General B. L. Robinson, Deputy Chief of Engineers for Construction, said, recently that "we must recognize that there will be reduced funds in the foreseeable future for water resource projects" because of high priority of defense needs. "Dredging is being limited," he emphasized, "to restoring waterway and harbor channels to depths required for existing traffic on those projects essential to national defense."

General Robinson is a former Division Engineer of the South Atlantic Division and is well acquainted with water resource problems in North Carolina.

Fortunately, the waterway keeps itself clear in many stretches to depths ranging up to 15 feet. Experience and knowledge of the channel tend to indicate where shoaling is likely to occur, and field parties routinely survey such areas to determine the need for dredging.

The latest surveys show the following controlling depths in the links indicated: Neuse River to Morehead City, 10.9 feet; Morehead City to Swansboro, 11.1 feet; and 10.9 feet from Swansboro to New River.

In all other stretches, 12 feet or more is available, except in See CANAL, Page Eight

ONLY 65 MPH

In the account last week of the court charge against D. A. Rogers Jr., the charge was speeding at 65 m.p.h., and not 75.