

THE COASTLAND TIMES

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HATTERAS MEN FILE SALE OF COUNTY LAND

Suit Started To Pull Worth's Chestnuts Out of The Fire

In a suit brought to restrain the Dare County Commissioners from selling a tract of beach land donated to the county by the late David Lindquist of New York, A. S. Austin, the leading enemy of the National Seashore Park is joined by his nephew, Lee Peele, Jr., and Lloyd Styron and Preston Bassnett who have been Mr. Austin's assistants throughout the long battle.

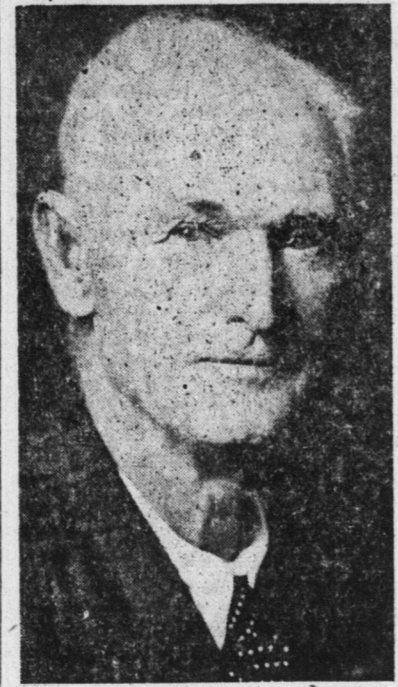
Mr. Austin, as chief drum beater for W. A. Worth of Elizabeth City was first in the fight with his former employer and associate G. Albert Lyon, Hatteras hunting property owner, who sent down some \$5,000 to fight the park, and later came around and agreed to sell his lands to the park. Mr. Austin continues to lead the campaign up and down Hatteras Island for Mr. Worth, and advocating donations by his neighbors for the employment of Mr. Worth and the fighting of the case through the courts.

The present suit, which is to be heard in Elizabeth City on February 7th seeks to hold up the sale of the land, and contends that the property being sold for \$50,000 is worth \$125,000, and the contemplated sale therefore is a serious loss to Mr. Austin and other taxpayers of Dare County, despite the fact that the land cost nothing, and was donated by the late benefactor as a gift to serve the public.

What is not so readily seen in this quite sudden burst of patriotism and public concern from an unexpected source is that it may serve the purpose of delaying the project, and setting a higher value for lands in the area, than present appraisals indicate.

Mr. Worth's adjoining Bodie Island tract of land is the key to the whole thing, for he is asking some several hundred thousand dollars of the fund donated for park, and a much higher sum is offered by the Park Ser-

MANNS HARBOR MAN IS NOW GOING ON NINETY



LEONIDAS ROSSER MANN of Manns Harbor, the eldest man on the Dare County mainland, observed his 89th birthday Sunday, January 3rd at a dinner attended by most his children, several grandchildren and other relatives. He is now fairly active, and gets about his premises, but has been retired from the fishing industry for some time. Among those present were Mr. and Mrs. Gaston Mann of Nags Head, Mr. and Mrs. Guy Mann, Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Beasley and Mrs. Ina Mann Waterfield of Manns Harbor, Mrs. Joe Ann Sawyer, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Green and their daughter, Carol Ann, of Elizabeth City; Mr. and Mrs. Richard Mann of Nags Head, and their two daughters, Frances and Janice; Dalton Lee Mann of Manns Harbor, and an old friend and neighbor, Charlie Scarborough of Newport News, Va., a former Representative of Dare County.

PROMINENT OCRACOKE MAN DIES SUDDENLY

Pinta D. Williams Had Just Returned from Putting Out Hunters

The death of Pinta D. Williams, age 43, on Monday morning, January 4th, was a great shock and sorrow to his many friends here. Mr. Williams suffered a severe heart attack while at Green Island Club, where he had been acting as a hunting guide. He had just returned to the Clubhouse from putting hunters in a blind at 7:41 a.m. when he became ill and died fifteen minutes later.

Mr. Williams was the son of the late Alice and David Williams. Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Wilma Austin Williams of Ocracoke, one daughter, Mrs. Alice Belle Williams and one grandchild, Anne Denise Williams, of Patuxent River, Maryland; two sisters, Mrs. William Warren of Norfolk and Mrs. Adie Williams of Ocracoke; two brothers, Jasper Williams of Baltimore, Md., and Dallas Williams of Ocracoke.

Funeral services were conducted at 2 p.m. Wednesday by the Rev. Robert Vickery of the Ocracoke Methodist Church.

Mr. Williams was a civic leader in the Ocracoke community, a member of the Civic Club, owner and operator of the Ocracoke Electric and Gas Appliance Co., a wellknown hunting guide, and owner also of a shrimping and fishing boat.

SAYS OLD CHRISTMAS RITES MAY NEVER DIE

Rodanthe. — Several of the older residents here stated this week that their traditional Old Christmas celebration would never die. This was in contrast to a Sunday feature story from the area by a writer who indicated that the Old Christmas celebration held here at Rodanthe on January 5, this year, may be the last observance.

The older people of the community have played an important role in keeping the custom of observing the traditional Old Christmas alive, according to Capt. Levene Midgett, retired coast guardsman here. "But in late years the younger people of the community and the island of Hatteras have been showing more interest in the celebrations," he said.

"I believe instead of dying that Old Christmas at Rodanthe will be celebrated in a bigger way each year in the future," said Mrs. Nora Herbert. "That is because so much publicity has been given our celebration in recent years."

MANTEO REBEKAHS INSTALL OFFICERS

Mrs. Ann Basnight Newly Elected Noble Grand; Mrs. Susan Ballowe Outgoing Noble Grand

Manteo Rebekah Lodge No. 52 held the regular meeting, January 4, 1954, with Mrs. Susan Ballowe, Noble Grand, presiding. Following the business session, Mrs. Katherine Kennedy, Past District Deputy President, and her staff composed of Deputy Marshall, Mrs. Ella Cox; Deputy Warden, Mrs. Lessie Davis; Deputy Secretary, Mrs. Mamie Creef; Deputy Treasurer, Mrs. Hilda Beavers and Deputy Chaplain, Mrs. Lois Midgett installed the officers for the incoming year.

Noble Grand, Mrs. Ann Basnight; Vice Grand, Mrs. Lucretia Stetson; Secretary, Mrs. Anita Jessen; Fin. Sec'y, Mrs. Marion Cochran; Treasurer, Mrs. Mildred Holton; Warden, Mrs. Vivian Baum; Conductor, Mrs. Inger Lewis, Chaplain, Mrs. Irene Twiford; Musician, Mrs. Charlotte Cahoon; R.S.N.G., Mrs. Lessie Davis; L.S.N.G., Mrs. Bernice Cannady; R.S.V.G., Mrs. Fannie Payne; L.S.V.G., Mrs. Deborah Daniels; Inside Guardian, Mrs. Grace White; Outside Guardian, Miss Mary Hayman; Rt. Color Bearer, Mrs. Alda Francis; Lt. Color Bearer, Mrs. Hilda Beavers. Mrs. Lois Midgett was elected Lodge Deputy.

A very inspiring talk was given by each of the out-going and incoming Noble Grands.

Following the meeting delicious refreshments were served and a social hour enjoyed by the 35 members present.

THREE CASES TRIED BY DARE RECORDER

Judge Baum in Dare Recorders Court Tuesday fined Leon Jennette of Buxton \$25 and costs of court for driving past a school bus and reckless driving, at Nags Head.

T. A. Harrell, on a warrant sworn out by his wife, was fined on two counts \$10 each, and costs, \$8.20 and given a 30-day suspended sentence. He was charged with assaulting his wife, and being drunk and disorderly in his home and frightening his children.

Joseph Daniels, colored ministerial aspirant was fined \$15 and costs, and ordered to pay \$15 for damage to his wife's clothes which she alleged he tore off and assaulted her. He was in default from a former judgement to pay \$12 a week for the support of his child and the court ordered him to pay \$13 until he catches up with back payments due.

TWO MEN CHARGED WITH THEFT OF CAR

Ray Enoch Banks and Stewart Leon Ballance of Currituck County are to be tried in Dare Recorders Court Tuesday of next week for the theft of a 1951 Chevrolet valued at \$1,200, from M. U. Gard of Kitty Hawk on January 1. The car and the men were picked up in Norfolk. Gard has previously loaned the men \$2.

Noah Price, Jr., of Avon is charged with driving while under the influence of intoxicants on Dec. 25th and is to be tried on the same day. The charges were brought by County Officer D. R. Basnight as the result of a collision with another car.

PATRICIA AUSTIN WEDS GILBERT STEVE BURRUS

The wedding of Patricia Jean Austin to Gilbert Steve Burrus took place at Hatteras December 31, the ceremony being performed by Rev. Dan E. Meadows, the Methodist pastor. The bride is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Horton Austin; the bridegroom the son of Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Burrus, a member of the U. S. Air Force. Following the wedding the couple took a honeymoon trip, and returned home Tuesday.

L. E. SKINNER WEDS MISS GRACE HETRICK

Miss Grace Hetrick of Winston-Salem was married on Christmas day to Larry Ennis Skinner of Nags Head, the ceremony taking place in High Point with Dr. J. F. Jones, Baptist minister, officiating. Mr. Skinner is well known in Manteo and on the Nags Head beach, where he operates the Jackson Homes, a tourist court owned by his daughter, Mrs. William Jackson. Mr. and Mrs. Skinner plan to make their home in Dare County.

SEVEN AIRPORT BUILDINGS SOLD TUES. FOR \$1,768

Vacant Buildings Sold By Commissioners To Three Purchasers

Seven vacant and unused buildings of the former Naval Auxilliary Air station at the Manteo Airport were sold to the highest bidders Tuesday by the Dare County Board of Commissioners, by permission of the CAA, and the proceeds will be used for the upkeep of other buildings at the Airport. Five of the buildings were fairly good, but two were small and dilapidated. The seven buildings brought a total of \$1,768.80. Rev. Earl R. Meekins of Columbia bought three of the larger buildings; E. B. Macon bought one, and the three smaller buildings were bought by D. L. Hayman.

Three others were unsuccessful bidders: J. G. Kellogg, C. C. Dowdy and J. E. Ferebee. The buyers have 90 days in which to remove the buildings. The Board extended the agreement with D. V. Meekins for 90 days to lock after the airport property for the county and the CAA.

DRINKWATER'S PARTY WELCOMES NEW YEAR

Large Number of Guests Celebrate Season at Watch Party at Home of A. W. Drinkwater in Manteo

Alpheus W. Drinkwater of Manteo and his daughter, Miss Dorothy Drinkwater, entertained a large number of friends at their annual New Year's Eve watch party, at their home in Manteo. The house was festive with seasonal decorations. Mrs. R. H. Atkinson served punch from a silver punch bowl at one end of the dining table, and assorted hors d'ouvres were also served.

Among the guests were Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Evans, Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Evans, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Kellogg, Mr. and Mrs. Wallace McCown, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Swain, Mr. and Mrs. M. K. Fearing, Jr., Bradford Fearing, Miss Mollie Fearing, Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Basnight, Mrs. T. D. Etheridge, Misses Natalie and Annie Etheridge, Mr. and Mrs. John H. Long, Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Midgett, Mrs. Matilda Inge, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Glynn, Mrs. Nancy Lewis, Clarence Beals, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Marshall, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Swain, Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. D. V. Meekins, Mr. and Mrs. B. Ireland, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Ballowe, Mrs. Carolyn Tillet, Miss Jane Claiborne, Mrs. Juanita Parker, Martin Kellogg, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Midgett, all of Manteo; Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Jordan of Nags Head; Ernest Beale of Kill Devil Hills; Mr. and Mrs. John Booth of Norfolk, Va.; Mr. and Mrs. George Mazerelli of Virginia Beach; Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Atkinson of Baltimore, Md.; Mrs. Mallory Zahn of Alexandria, Va.; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Thomas of Burlington; Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Midgett of Tuckerton, N. J.

COMMANDANT COMMENTS HATTERAS COAST GUARD

Washington, N. C. — Royce W. Fulcher, Boatswain Mate second class U. S. Coast Guard, received a commendation last week from Vice Admiral Merlin O'Neal, who is commandant of the Coast He is a native of Hatteras. Last February 17th Fulcher was Officer in Charge of a Port Security boat in Baltimore harbor when a water front fire started in that area causing an enormous amount of damage. He and his crew were the first ones to fight the fire which lasted for nine hours and also rescued a civilian fireman from a burning pier. Fulcher is now stationed in Washington, N. C. on the Coast Guard boat Verbena.

MARINE CORPS ACCEPTS TWO-YEAR ENLISTMENTS

Qualified young men are now being accepted by the Marine Corp for two-year enlistments, according to Sgt. Clifford A. Jackson, recruiting sergeant for this region, who was in Belhaven Monday. He visits Belhaven on the first Monday in each month, and may be seen at the post-office, or contacted by mail at other times or in person, at his office in the Washington, N. C. postoffice building.

He says only those with outstanding physical and mental qualities will be accepted for two-year enlistments. A score of 31 or higher must be made to qualify.

LEVENE MIDGETT LAST OF THE OLD TIMERS



LEVENE W. MIDGETT

One of the most famous Midgetts of North Carolina's Outer Banks retired from the U. S. Coast Guard in December at the age of 62 with nearly 37 years of active service behind him, Chief Boatswain's Mate Levene W. Midgett, for the past 15 years officer-in-charge of the Coast Guard's Chicamacomico Lifeboat Station at Rodanthe, his home town.

Chief Midgett goes into retirement with a long list of memorable rescues to his credit, and carries with him, among other rescue medals and commendations, the nation's second highest life saving award, the Treasury Department's Silver Lifesaving Medal.

He was born in Rodanthe November 29, 1891, and even before he was old enough to join the Coast Guard, Midgett used to "take charge" of the Chicamacomico station for his uncle, L. Bannister Midgett, when "Captain Ban" was absent from the station.

Levene Midgett signed up in the Coast Guard at the old Gull Shoal surf station, three miles south of Salvo, N. C., in 1917 as a surferman, and stayed at Gull Shoal until 1924 when he was transferred up the beach to Chicamacomico, where he remained for four years.

Then he was moved back down the beach to the old Bogue Inlet station for a couple of months then to Cape Fear surf station where, in 1928, he was made chief boatswain's mate.

Soon afterward he went to the Oak Island station, and in about a year and a half to the Hatteras Inlet lifeboat station as officer-in-charge.

It was while at Hatteras Inlet that Midgett and several of his crewmen were awarded Silver Lifesaving medals for the rescue of five men from the fishing trawler Annie May, which ran aground on treacherous Diamond Shoals during the height of a storm.

In 1932 he was transferred up the beach a short distance to the old Creeds Hill station as officer-in-charge, and remained there six months before his assignment to the Boston, Mass., Harbor floating lifeboat station.

Only a month later he was sent to Woods Hole lifeboat station at Portsmouth, N. H., and six months later back to Hatteras Inlet as officer-in-charge. Then just nine days later he was made officer-in-charge of the Cape Hatteras station.

Chief Midgett has long been a champion of DUKW amphibious vehicles and cites an occurrence of several years back as a reason why the Coast Guard should place more reliance on them.

According to Midgett, a 37-foot yacht with two men and two women aboard ran aground in a violent wind and rainstorm in Oregon Inlet 15 miles north of Chicamacomico and was in danger of breaking up in the surf. The Coast Guard rushed a motor surf boat and a life boat to the scene, but neither could get near enough to the grounded vessel to be of assistance because of shallow water, when on the scene rolled Chief Midgett and one crew member of the Chicamacomico station in the station's DUKW, who drove into the surf and saved the yacht and its occupants.

The chief is married to the former Lucretia W. Midgett, of Rodanthe. They have two daughters, both of whom are married to Coast Guard boatswain's mates — naturally.

ROAD PROJECTS APPROVED TUES. BY DARE BOARD

The Board of Commissioners of Dare County Tuesday approved several requests for roads, and had as guests Commissioner Emmett Winslow and Engineers Spruill and Mack. Mr. Winslow discussed the proposed Croatan Bridge for which two locations are being surveyed, and possibilities of a bridge over Oregon Inlet. He also said more ferry service at the Inlet will be provided this year.

The County Board approved a request for 700 feet of hard-surface road west of Manteo in the Roanoke Park area by way of the John Long home. Culverts were requested for the roads at Buxton. The survey of a road at Duxton was approved. A connecting road was requested from Scarborough town to the Lloyd Meekins home on Roanoke Island.

The Board approved the purchase of 40 pieces of 2 x 8 creosoted lumber for improvement of a canal at Stumpy Point which is used by fishermen. Donated \$200 toward the fund for lighting the proposed Manteo Ball Park. It heard a report on the status of the airport, and also a report by Mrs. Mabel Jones, Secretary of the Community center at Manteo, and she was highly commended for her good work.

Contracts were let for several thousand dollars worth of office and clinical equipment for the new Dare County Health Center at Manteo.

WANCHESE CHURCH HONORS PASTOR

New Year's Eve Watch Service Brings Large Crowd; Gifts to Rev and Mrs. Guthrie

A social hour and Watch-night service was held at Wanchese Methodist Church on New Years Eve at 10:45.

A brief devotional was led by Rev. C. W. Guthrie; then Melvin R. Daniels, president of the Men's Bible Class presented a gift from the class to our pastor for his faithful services.

The Methodist Youth Fellowship and Woman's Society of Christian Service also presented Mrs. Guthrie a silver cup.

Under the direction of Mrs. Dallas Tillet, assisted by Mrs. Reggie Tillet, Mrs. La Salle Tillet, Sr., Mrs. Lennie Tillet and La Salle Tillet, Jr., a social hour was enjoyed after which the Methodist Youth Fellowship, assisted by Mrs. Arnold Daniels, presented a worship service. A musical reading, "Another Year is Dawning" was given by Ruby Gallop. Bebe Daniels gave the scripture lesson, Pete Pool Daniels, a former MYF president, gave a meditation on "Building". The youth choir sang "We Would Be Building". Jewel Tillet spoke on the "Old and New Year", which was followed by a duet, "Ring Out the Old" Ring in the New" by Lottie Gallop and Joan Daniels. Mrs. Arnold Daniels spoke briefly on the MYF, the hope of the church which lies in the youth. Ann Daniels led the Litany of Dedication and the congregation sang the hymn of Consecration, "Take My Life and Let it Be." The benediction was given by the pastor as the old year ended. There were about 90 present for this service.

BANK OF MANTEO TO OPEN BEACH BRANCH

Nags Head. — The Bank of Manteo will have a branch "tellers' window" unit adjacent to U. S. Highway 158 here at Nags Head by late spring. Already work has started on the construction of the building, of brick, which will house the resort's branch of the long-established bank at the county seat of Dare on Roanoke Island.

W. R. Pearce is cashier of the Manteo Bank and Johnny Long is assistant cashier. Mrs. Z. V. Bingley of Manteo is principal owner of the bank which is one of the strongest small town banking institutions of coastal North Carolina.

HOLD WATCH PARTY

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Basnight entertained informally at a watch party on New Year's eve at their home near Manteo. Guests included Mr. and Mrs. Roy Etheridge, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Yeates and Mrs. O. J. Jones. Refreshments were served during the evening.

BEACH INTERESTS OPPOSE CHANGE IN POWER RATES

Nags Head Chamber Considers Roads and Advertising

Nags Head. — A protest against a proposed 10 per cent hike in Virginia Electric & Power Co. rates will be filed by Nags Head Chamber of Commerce with the State Utilities Commission.

A public hearing is to be held Feb. 24, when Vepco's application will be considered. The Chamber of Commerce has taken the position that even without frequent and costly interruptions of service on the beach in summer, the rate already is higher than that charged by other distributors, such as Duke or Carolina Power and Light, Virginia recently granted Vepco's application in that state.

Although a petition for having the Nags Head area of the beach zoned has been signed, presentation to the county commissioners has been held up until February so that a similar petition from the Kitty Hawk and Southern Shores area can be submitted at the same time. Leo Midgett and Maj. J. L. Murphy are the only present members of the county zoning board and the latter has announced his intention to resign since he lives in Kill Devil Hills, which has its own zoning board. Due to this situation, the Nags Head Chamber of Commerce plans to suggest to the county commissioners names of several persons whose appointment to the county zoning board would be acceptable to the beach.

An appeal to the state highway commission for paving of roads from Highway 158 to the ocean got no further than a similar request submitted early last year by the Dare county commissioners. The Chamber has been informed that since such requested streets do not serve any houses, the commission's policy is against paving them. The Chamber took the position that such streets would serve the general public, which now has no access to the ocean without trespassing on private property or stalling their cars in deep sand.

To raise funds for road signs and other Chamber of Commerce activities, a dance is to be held in January or early February, probably at the Shrine club. A local talent floor show and a smorgasbord will be featured. George Fearing will head a committee to plan the dance. Appointed to serve with him were Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Williams, Mrs. Kitty Jackson, Mrs. George Fearing, Mr. and Mrs. John Evans, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Pat Bayne, Miss Margie Suthard, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Jordan, Mrs. Diane Johnson, Mrs. Polly Evans, Mr. and Mrs. Wallie McCown, Mrs. Julian Oneto and Mr. and Mrs. Orville Baum.

Although a membership canvass has been delayed until early spring, all present members are to be notified at once that dues are payable and non-resident property owners will be invited to become members. As in the past year, only the property of members will be included in the listing of beach accommodations sent to all who inquire about reservations.

Mrs. Lucille Purser and Aycock Brown, who constitute an advertising committee, have started work on a new folder to be issued next spring in an effort to draw more visitors to the beach.

In order to enliven Chamber See CHAMBER, Page Four

HIGH TIDES ON THE FISHING GROUNDS

OREGON INLET FOR JAN.

| | A.M. | P.M. |
|-----------|----------|-------|
| Friday | 8 9:28 | 9:51 |
| Saturday | 9 10:15 | 10:43 |
| Sunday | 10 11:06 | 11:39 |
| Monday | 11 — | 12:01 |
| Tuesday | 12 0:41 | 1:01 |
| Wednesday | 13 1:47 | 2:06 |
| Thursday | 14 2:54 | 3:15 |
| Friday | 15 4:00 | 4:20 |
| Saturday | 16 5:00 | 5:23 |
| Sunday | 17 5:54 | 6:12 |
| Monday | 18 6:43 | 7:00 |
| Tuesday | 19 7:27 | 7:45 |
| Wednesday | 20 8:08 | 8:28 |
| Thursday | 21 8:46 | 9:08 |
| Friday | 22 9:23 | 9:50 |
| Saturday | 23 9:59 | 10:28 |
| Sunday | 24 10:36 | 11:10 |
| Monday | 25 11:15 | 11:55 |
| Tuesday | 26 11:59 | — |
| Wednesday | 27 0:44 | 12:50 |
| Thursday | 28 1:39 | 1:49 |
| Friday | 29 2:37 | 2:50 |
| Saturday | 30 3:34 | 3:51 |
| Sunday | 31 4:29 | 4:45 |

HORACE A. DOUGH IS IN HOSPITAL

Horace A. Dough, superintendent of the Wright Brothers Memorial at Kill Devil Hills, entered Leigh Memorial Hospital in Norfolk, Va., for treatment. Mrs. Dough, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Lee Dough and Mrs. Nancy Lewis, visited him Wednesday in the hospital. A niece, Mrs. H. A. Glynn, visited him Tuesday afternoon.