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SOME INTEREST IN DATE POLITICS IS BEING SHOWN

Changes Desired in Some
Localities; Candidates
Appear Slowly
However

Interest has been slow in shaping up in the primary campaign in Dare County this year, and there is no contest expected in any of the major county offices. Offices considered of lesser importance, but which in too many instances are of greatest importance, like County Commissioners and member Board of Education too often go begging. They are not profitable jobs, and qualified persons are hard to find who are willing to make the sacrifice essential to winning them and filling them.

It is difficult to elect good men to these offices for the entrenched politicians, who stay behind the scenes and exploit public affairs for profit to themselves, put forth a lot of time and effort to defeat candidates who will fairly serve the public. They prefer rubber stamp men, or men who know nothing about the job, and through this means keep their hold on public affairs, which means bad management, high taxes, and injustice to many people.

Some sentiment is being expressed at Rodanthe that it is now time for Kinnekeet Township to share either one or the other of the Board members with the north end of the Township, both of which have been held for many years by Avon. It is generally conceded that members of the Board for four years, and both Kennekeet and Hatteras townships should not stand for reelection. They have been on the Board for four years, and have accomplished nothing toward the progress of the schools, and have finally reached the point where they won't vote either way on anything important. After four years, they did nothing to offer to the people of the new high school at Hatteras Island. So far, the public generally views their net value officially to the Board or to the county as nothing.

Sentiment has been expressed in Hatteras community, that since the school in all likelihood will eventually be built at Buxton, that the Board of education office should go to Buxton, or someone very near it, while the county Commissioner post should go to Hatteras, in order to make for equitable distribution of the two offices. Reports have it that it will be hard to find any candidates willing to run in Hatteras township.

At one time or another, various members of the Board of Commissioners have expressed doubts they would run again, but Commissioner Lewark of Kill Devil Hills said positively after a few months in office he had had enough and didn't intend to run again.

CANCER CLINIC IN ELIZABETH CITY

People Desiring Examination
Should Make Appointment
At Early Date

The Northeastern Cancer Clinic will be held on Friday, March 5, 1954, in Elizabeth City, at the Health Center with registration beginning at 1:00. A free chest X-ray will be given to anyone wishing it along with the examination of the five areas of the body where cancer is most easily found and cured. There are no limitations as to sex, race, physical or economic status at the center; however, there are age requirements. Women should be 35 or more; men should be 40 or over unless referred by a doctor, or unless one of the "seven danger signals" or "symptoms" are present. Only 30 people can be seen at the Center each month due to limited facilities, so it is suggested that anyone who wishes to be assured of an appointment should write the Cancer Center, Elizabeth City, N. C., for a prior appointment. Examinees are asked to bring a robe or housecoat with them.

CURRITUCK HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PLANNED

Nearly \$230,000 is to be spent on widening and resurfacing U.S. 158 between Grandy and Point Harbor, in Currituck County, a distance of 13.41 miles. The road will be straightened and a number of houses will be moved.

\$60 Per Month Lured Richard Gray To Wanchese; Been On Job 41 Years

Globe Fish Company Brought Him From Buxton; Tells
of Better Fishing Days Many Years Ago.

By Roger Meekins
Richard H. Gray started working for the Globe Fish Company 41 years ago, at the age of 18, where he was raised, in Buxton. At that time the company had a small fish house, about 20 by 40 feet, one-half mile offshore from Buxton, and that is where he worked. He had to get out to work by boat. It was located there so the freighters of the company could load in the deep water. Richard Gray's salary was \$25 per month.

His parents are Mathew J. and Louisa O'Neal Gray. His father died about six years ago, but Mrs. Gray is still living and is 88 years old.

When Richard was 19, the Globe Fish Company wanted to transfer him to Wanchese. He didn't want to go at first, but the lure of the increased salary of \$60 per month brought him on anyway. While he was first here he thought he might go back, but in 1912 he married Miss Daisy Pugh of Wanchese, and that kind of anchored him down. He's been on the same job at the Wanchese Wharf now for 41½ years, buying fish for the Globe Company and selling oil and running a store for himself.

At the time he first came to work for the Globe Fish Company at Wanchese, the wharf was 900 feet long, with a hotel on the end. A hotel was necessary for the accommodation of passengers who traveled on the freight boats of the company. The hotel had eight rooms, and was always so full that some of the passengers had to stay on the boats overnight.

The Wanchese wharf at that time was an exchange point. The boats coming from Elizabeth City would pick up the cargo from the Hatteras boats and make the return trip to Elizabeth City. The Hatteras boats would return to Hatteras and exchange passengers. "The engines in some of those boats would run for a solid week sometimes," Mr. Gray told. "There were a lot of fish back in those days, and they made one trip, then turned right around and made another."

All of the boats had engines, although earlier there were some with sails. The "Quide," "White Wing," "Pomano," "Rowena," and the "Fuerstein" were some of the freighters plying the waters between Hatteras and Elizabeth City. He Fuerstein had sails as well as engines.

Thirty-five years ago the dock, with its hotel, small store, and oil storage facilities, burned. "I went to dinner," Mr. Gray said, "and when I came back I saw it burning. There was nothing you could do. Everybody was afraid to go near it, because there was a lot of oil and gas on it at the time. Nobody else was around." The dock wasn't rebuilt, but facilities were moved nearer the shore where they are today. The dock is on the edge of the water.

The freight boats made their runs every day, carrying fish to Elizabeth City, Norfolk and northern markets. The Hatteras boat would leave about 3 a.m., make its run to Hatteras, pick up the load of fish, and make the return trip to Wanchese where the cargo would be transferred to the Elizabeth City boat. Some of the boats carried as much as 200 boxes, some 150, some 50.

Fishing was much better thirty years ago and longer than it is today. There was a fish house at Roanoke Marshes which did a booming business for a long time, with around 100 boats operating out of there. A nearby camp housed 20 or 30 fishermen. In 1918 the dock was filled full of shad, and it was all the boats could do to keep the fish going out to market. But the fishing has fallen off so much since then that the fish house closed and only a shack remains there today.

Ice was brought from Manteo to Wanchese by sailboat, although a dirt road existed. It was just as quick to travel by boat then. That was before Alvah Ward built the Wanchese plant.

In 1912, after the legislature passed the Vann Bill, which restricted the length of nets and prohibited them from being set in the channels, a gunboat was sent down to enforce the law. Some of the fishermen refused to remove their nets from the channels, which kept the fish from going up the sound. Soon after the gunboat, which was

SEES MANY CHANGES IN 40 YEARS OF FISHING



For more than 40 years, Richard H. Gray of Wanchese has been associated with the fishing industry, as agent for the Globe Fish Company at Wanchese Wharf. A story of his work is printed in adjacent columns. (Photo by Roger Meekins.)

left over from the Spanish-American war, came down, the fishermen moved their long nets from the channels. "At that time there were probably 28 or 30 nets, some as long as 3,000 yards, in the sound, but today there are only three or four," Mr. Gray revealed. "If Oregon Inlet were opened up fishing might pick up again," he said. "The shoals in the inlet throw them off to sea again."

Today, after 30 years, Mr. Gray is still in the oil business for himself, as well as running a small store on the wharf at Wanchese. And, he is still with the Globe Fish Company, although most of the fishermen take their catches to Mill Landing now. He has tanks holding 12,000 gallons of gasoline, fuel oil, and kerosene. He operates two trucks as well as fueling boats, and his gas is transported by land from Manteo. It used to come in by tanker straight to his wharf. He buys fish when they are available and crabs which the crabbers from Croatan Sound bring in.

During the busy season now about 30 boats per week are refueled at the wharf, and in the winter about 10 per week. Don, Richard's youngest son, helps him with the business now, and drives one of the two trucks which go to fuel up the boats at Mill Landing and other places when they are called to do so.

Mr. Gray has three children, Cecelia, who is now Mrs. Jethro Midgett, Jr.; Richard, Jr., who married Mildred Austin of Manteo; and Donald, who married Carolee Ballowe of Manteo. Also seven grandchildren; Jeffrey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Midgett; Wayne, Willie, Donna, Carroll, who are Richard, Jr.'s children; and Winfield and Christopher, Don's children.

LOUIS MANN GRAY DIES IN NEW JERSEY MONDAY

Funeral services for Louis Mann Gray, who died in Camden, N. J., hospital Monday morning, were conducted Sunday morning at 11 o'clock in the Assembly of God Church in Avon with the Rev. John S. Rasnick, pastor, officiating, assisted by the Rev. P. M. Porter, pastor of the Avon Methodist Church.

"Abide With Me" and "In The Garden" were sung by the church choir. "Beyond The Sunset" was sung by Mrs. Charlie Williams, Jr., accompanied by Mrs. G. H. Meekins at the piano.

The casket was covered with a pall of red and white carnations and purple orchids and gardenias. Burial followed in the family plot at Avon.

Pallbearers were Elmer Gray, Vance Gray, Boyd Gray, Carl Gray, Bill Gray, Clemmie Gray, Ray O'Neal and Dan Markert.

LARGE MOUTH BASS LANDED

J. T. Cozart of Oxford casting in the fresh waters of Colington Island landed the first large mouth bass of the 1954 season a few days ago, and five others, the largest going to three pounds, in less than two hours of casting.

DARE CO. PEOPLE RESPOND WELL TO RED CROSS

Mrs. Marshall, Chairman, Appoints District Captains
In County

The interest shown by the citizens of Dare County in the work of the Red Cross is most encouraging, according to Mrs. Charles S. Marshall, Fund Drive Chairman for the Dare County Chapter. Mrs. Marshall reports that she has talked with leaders in all communities throughout the County. These citizens point out the need for courses in First Aid, Water Safety and Home Nursing among other possible activities which the Red Cross might sponsor during the coming year. In line with these desires the local Chapter has contacted Red Cross headquarters to start planning for courses in these various subjects to be taught during the summer of 1954. Definite plans still have to be made but it is hoped that First Aid and Water Safety courses can be taught in two or three places throughout the County this summer with possibly a series of courses in Home Nursing to follow later in the year.

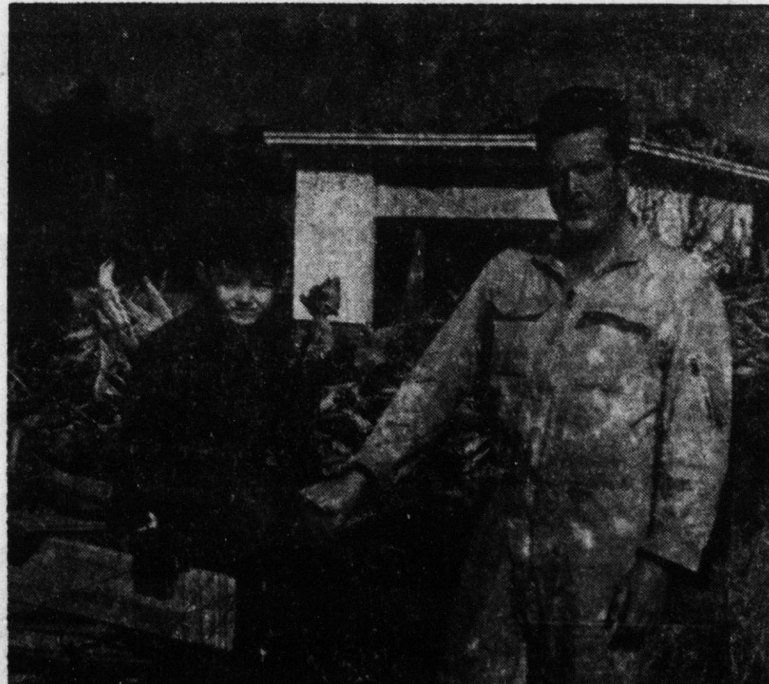
Mrs. Marshall also reports the District Captains for the Fund and Membership Drive appointed in most of the towns throughout the County. Leaders are still to be chosen in a few communities. The District Captains are as follows: Manteo businesses, Mrs. Louise Meekins; Manteo residential, Mrs. Leigh Hassell; Manteo Negro community, Mrs. Lonnie Gray; Wanchese, Mrs. Myrtle Tillett; Stumpy Point, Mrs. Doris Twiford; East Lake and Buffalo City, Mrs. Emily Smith; Duck, Mrs. Carrie Whitson; Nags Head, Mrs. Pat Bayne; Rodanthe, Mrs. Nora Herbert; Waves, Mrs. C. A. Midgett; Avon, Mrs. Thelma Barnett; Buxton, Mrs. E. R. Midgett; Frisco, Mrs. Elizabeth Stowe; Hatteras, Mrs. Harold Midgett.

OREGON INLET FISHING CENTER TO BE OPERATED BY CAPT. TOBY TILLET

Oregon Inlet Fishing Centers, now part of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area, has been leased to Capt. Toby Tillett, former owner-operator of the Oregon Inlet ferry. He is now making plans for opening the center to sportsfishermen with the arrival of channel bass in Oregon Inlet waters. Assisting Captain Tillett in the operation of the center will be Capt. Sam Tillett, one of the best known fishing guides along the Dare coast.

The Oregon Inlet fishing center was built two years ago by W. A. Worth of Elizabeth City, former owner of the property. Former managing operator was Capt. Zeke Midgett. An immediate expansion program for the center is planned including the construction of additional docking facilities for charter boats in the fleet which makes headquarters at the center from early spring until late autumn.

DRIFTWOOD COLLECTING NOW BIG SCALE



Woodrow Stetson of Wanchese is using his spare time this winter to accumulate driftwood for next summer's tourists. The driftwood business is something that hasn't been developed too much, but Woodrow is going out full scale for it next season.

Last year he sold 200 pieces, in spite of the fact that he didn't advertise. This year he says he's going to advertise and try to sell all he has, which stands now somewhere between 1,000 and 2,000 pieces. They sell anywhere from 75 cents to \$2, for some of the larger pieces.

Pamlico Sound provides good

A CRIPPLED GANNET AT KILL DEVIL HILLS



While beachcombing Tuesday afternoon, Mrs. Wallace Mustian of Kill Devil Hills ran across a Gannet, which is a bird not too often seen at close distance. The bird, apparently crippled, is a big, white one, somewhat resembling an overgrown sea gull. It has a wing spread of about six feet, and the tip of its wings are black.

It is estimated that only about 14,000 of the American species of this bird are in existence. They range from Newfoundland to Cuba, and in the winter from Virginia to Cuba. They are found from the seashore seaward, but seldom more than 300 miles offshore. They live on fish that swim close to the surface, and they make aerial dives from as high as 100 feet. This bird also sometimes dives 50 feet below the surface of the water, using its wings to help propel itself.

The birds breed in the mouth of the St. Lawrence River, and at the time of hatching are grayish in color, turning to black, and mature in about four years into a very clean white. Their heads vary from an orange-buff color, through yellow, to white. The bird in Dr. Mustian's captivity has a white head. They live to be 16 years old.

In the accompanying photo Dr. Wallace Mustian and his grandson, Fred Murdaugh, spread the wings of the bird to show its span and beauty. Dr. Mustian, formerly of Durham, is now making his home at Kill Devil Hills. (Photo by Roger Meekins.)

BIG GAME FISHING CENTER IS BEING BUILT, HATTERAS

North Carolina's first exclusively constructed big game fishing center is nearing completion on the harbor front in Hatteras. Capt. Edgar Styron of Hatteras and Walter Wilkins of Norfolk are associated in its construction.

To be known as the Blue Marlin Fishing Docks, the center will include one large building and berthing space for several Gulf Stream cruisers. The building will house a tackle shop, refreshment rooms and a restaurant.

Captain Styron and his associate will have several cruisers available for big game fishermen, including his sportsfisherman "The Twins" built last year and a similar craft to be ready this Spring.

Two of the three blue marlin landed with rod and reel off Hatteras last year were taken from boats operating out of the Blue Marlin fishing center. Owners of the enterprise plan to develop Hatteras into one of the principal big game fishing centers along the mid-Atlantic coast.

Location of the Blue Marlin docks is just west of the former U. S. Weather station. Privately built concrete roadways lead to the spacious parking area of the new fishing center.

GOOD CHANNEL BASS FISHING N. C. FORECAST

By Raymond R. Camp

Outdoor Editor New York Times

The prospects for early channel bass fishing are excellent. That was the conclusion reached yesterday by our correspondent from the dunes of Dare on North Carolina's shore. He examined the color of the seaweed, the growth on submerged driftwood, the fatness of the local oysters, and had discussed the situation with Outer Banks netters.

The presence of channel bass in waters off Diamond Shoals in February, Aycock Brown, news director of Dare County Tourist Bureau insists, determines their time of appearance and forecasts their abundance along the shore in late March or early April.

They have a similar "yardstick" down there for bluefish, and it seems to work. If the blues are early, plentiful and large at Hatteras, they make an early appearance off New Jersey and Long Island, and are both fat and abundant.

The boats operating in the trawling fleet off Hatteras a few days ago came in with large catches of the copper-colored channel bass. One boat docked with 12,100 pounds. This, according to the local prophets, indicates that the fish are making an early appearance along the beaches from Ocracoke and Hatteras to Nags Head and Kitty Hawk.

Normally these fish are taken trolling at Hatteras and Oregon Inlets late in March, but usually it is two or three weeks later before they appear in any number along the beach. With the new road open from Nags Head to Hatteras village, anglers no longer need to worry about letting air out of their car tires in order to "run the beach." The modern world is just beginning to make its mark on the Outer Banks, so if you want to enjoy the old-fashioned pleasures of this area, don't postpone your trip too long.

BOAT CAPTAIN, NATIVE OF AVON DIES IN N. J.

Louis Mann Gray, 55, husband of Mrs. Mae Gray and son of the late George M. and Mrs. Monterey Meekins Gray, a native of Avon, N. C., and a resident of Camden, N. J., for 25 years, Monday died at 9 a.m. in a Camden hospital.

He was a captain for the McAllister Towing Company. Besides his wife, he is survived by six daughters, Misses Gladys, Myrtle, Barbara, Nadine, Winfred and Juanita Gray, all of Camden; two sons, Raymond and Ronald Gray, of Camden; three sisters, Mrs. Annie Midgett and Mrs. Lucy Gray, of Buxton, and Mrs. Carrie O'Neal, of Avon; four brothers, C. C. Gray, of Avon, Willie Gray, of Norfolk; T. J. Gray, of Port Angeles, Wash., and Curtis Gray, of Kitty Hawk.

FERRIES HAUL 34,032 CARS IN FOUR MONTHS

Estimated 100,000 Persons
Cross Croatan, Oregon
Inlet, Alligator River

From October 1, 1953, through January 31 this year, a total of 34,032 automobiles were transported on Dare coast ferries operating across Croatan Sound, Oregon Inlet and the Alligator River, it was announced this week by Dare County Tourist Bureau.

The Bureau's figures were obtained from District Highway Commissioner Emmett Winslow of Hertford who pointed out that of the total number, 24,270 of the cars and trucks carried North Carolina licenses while 9,762 were foreign to this State.

Greatest number of cars were carried on the Croatan Sound ferry during the four months period. The total for Croatan Sound was 14,943 and the close runnerup was Oregon Inlet, where 14,717 cars used the state maintained and toll-free facilities. During the same period 4,372 cars used the Alligator River ferry on Route 64.

It was interesting to note in the report that in October and November more automobiles were transported on the Oregon Inlet ferry than across Croatan Sound.

Travel statisticians usually estimate that each car carries on an average of three to four passengers. This being true, well over 100,000 persons crossed the water links of Dare highways via ferry during the four months period and approximately 50,000 persons were traveling on the Oregon Inlet ferry and a similar number on the Croatan Sound run.

The great amount of traffic during the four months period will increase greatly during the Spring as more and more tourists visit the Dare coast to visit the historic sites, Cape Hatteras National Seashore, to fish or to just visit and vacation, Tourist Bureau officials stated.

SIX TRAFFIC CASES IN DARE RECORDER'S

Dare County Recorder's Court had only traffic cases Tuesday, February 23.

Robert White, charged with speeding 65 miles per hour in a 55 zone, pleaded not guilty to the charge. Patrolman Holt, the arresting officer, gave testimony that he clocked White for about a mile and a half on the beach before arresting him. White, defending himself, whipped out a slide rule and figured out mathematically that he could not have been speeding, according to the testimony of time and distance traveled before the arrest. Judge Baum dismissed the case.

Clyde Elmer Stowe pleaded guilty to a charge of reckless driving on December 16. Stowe was driving a car headed east across the Currituck Sound bridge. The car turned over several times and scattered a prison gang working on the north side of the road. None of the prisoners were hurt, but Stowe and a companion were hurt. The sentence was 30 days on the roads, suspended on payment of \$25 and costs of court.

Uri Riggs of Currituck failed to appear on a traffic violation. A capias was issued for his appearance at next Tuesday's court.

Sam Moore, Negro, pleaded guilty to a charge of driving without operator's license, fined \$25 and costs.

Kleston Parker, Negro, pleaded guilty to the charge of operating a motor vehicle while his license was suspended. It was the third count against him since July 3, 1953, his other charges having been speeding. The sentence was 12 months on the roads, suspended on payment of \$100 and costs.

St. Clair Basnight was found guilty to a charge of drunken driving. He sideswiped a car driven by Johnny Krider at the time. He was fined \$100 and costs of court, with the right to appeal the case within ten days.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER IS TO BE OBSERVED

The World Day of Prayer will be observed in the Mount Olivet Methodist Church in Manteo on Thursday, March 4, and the public is invited to attend. A special service will be conducted at eight p.m. in the church by the Woman's Society for Christian Service, with Mrs. Lucetta Willis as chairman. The program will be the same that is being used all over the world, having been prepared by a native Indian missionary who died in January.

All homes and places of business are asked to stop for two minutes at some time during the day for silent prayer.