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IMPROVED FERRY SERVICE PROMISED BY JUNE 15 FOR WATERLINKS IN DARE

8,216 Vehicles Transported By Dare Ferries Last Month; Oregon Inlet Situation Still Unfavorable But Ramps Being Rebuilt; Highway Commission To Meet April 29.

State Highway and Public Works officials have promised an improvement in Dare coast ferry service on or about June 15. On that date a new LCT vessel now being converted for ferry service will be added to the Oregon Inlet fleet and a similar craft is scheduled to be ready for operation by July 15 when summer travel peaks are reached.

During the Lost Colony season two ferries will be operating on the Croatan Sound link of U. S. Highways 64 and 264. Already plans are underway for the construction of a bridge across Croatan Sound to replace that ferry run. Test pilings are now being driven in the sound over the route proposed for the new span. Contract for construction of the bridge, expected to cost approximately \$3,000,000 is expected to be let during the early summer of 1954 and that would mean a completion date by the summer of 1956. Governor William B. Umstead's administration has already allotted \$750,000 towards the total amount necessary for construction of the bridge.

Inlet Situation

One of the principal ferry bottlenecks along the coast of Dare since the completion of the new all-paved Nags Head-Hatteras highway has been the Oregon Inlet ferry service. Just as the spring sportsfishing got underway this year, it was necessary to revert to the antiquated wooden ferries while new docking ramps were being installed. These ramps will be ready for traffic and the larger ferry will be in service again within one week. That will help some. Some persons believe that even the addition of the two new ferries at Oregon Inlet by mid-summer will not completely take care of the ever increasing traffic moving Hatterasward over the new road leading into Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area region.

March Traffic Figures

Traffic figures for the month of March indicated that a total of 8,216 vehicles used the ferries of Dare (Oregon Inlet, Croatan Sound and Alligator River). Of the total number of vehicles 6,346 bore North Carolina license tags and 1,870 were non resident vehicles. A total of 3,584 vehicles used the Croatan Sound ferry of which 635 were foreign or non resident cars.

A close runnerup was noted at Oregon Inlet where a total of 3,464 vehicles were transported of which 1,061 were foreign or non-resident autos or trucks. This indicates the fact that Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area is largely responsible for attracting tourists from other states to the area.

See MEETING, Page Four

MANTEO SENIOR PLAY AT SCHOOL APRIL 30

Just one more week and it will be time for everyone to see the delightful comedy, "Going On Seventeen," presented by the senior class of Manteo High School. The admission is 75¢ and 50¢ and the play will be presented at 8 o'clock, April 30.

It is a quickly-paced comedy replete with action, humor and gorgeous characterizations. Its central character, Buddy Carhart, is a three-dimensional study in all the serio-comic aspects of the age of adolescence. The plot revolves about the machinations of Buddy and his two young henchmen, Paul and Shrimpie. Together, the three have launched a new magazine, thanks to the generosity of Buddy's father in donating a hand press.

The three are, of course, confirmed woman-haters; confirmed, that is, until Buddy's elder sister Florence is visited for the summer by her school-chum, Joan, and Joan's younger sister, Lillums. This Lillums is a sixteen-year-old siren, and she quickly splits the ties that bind the three young musketeers. Skillfully she plays one against the other, and havoc results. Meantime, Buddy's father, a trusted employee of the town's bank, becomes involved in a serious shortage. Buddy takes it upon his young shoulders to track down the reprehensible culprit.

TO CONDUCT SERVICES ROANOKE IS. BAPTIST



REV. HARVEY L. COPPEDGE, who will be guest preacher for the spring series of special evangelistic services at the Roanoke Island Baptist Church. Mr. Coppedge is pastor of Green's Cross Baptist Church in Windsor.

The spring series will begin Monday night, April 26, at 8 p.m., according to an announcement by the pastor, the Rev. Frank B. Dinwiddie.

Mr. Coppedge plans to preach each night until the final meeting on Wednesday, May 5. In preparation for his coming cottage prayer meetings are gathering in various homes of the community each night this week.

He received his training for the ministry from Campbell College, Buies Creek, N. C., and Temple Hall University, Chicago, Ill. During the past nine years he has served as pastor of the following Baptist churches: Ephesus in the Tar River Association, Macedonia and Corinth in the Roanoke Association, Woodville and Riverside in the Chowan Association, preceding his present pastorate in the West Chowan Association.

The public is cordially invited to participate in these services.

VFW LADIES AUXILIARY TO HAVE TURKEY SUPPER

The Ladies Auxiliary to Dare County Post No. 9959 VFW are sponsoring a turkey supper at the post home Friday night, April 23, honoring the 5th birthday of the VFW Post. A good time is expected by everyone. We would like to have all the friends of the Post with us for the celebration so anyone wishing to come, contact a member. They will be more than glad to extend an invitation, it has been stated by Marian Cochran, president.

ROANOKE ISLAND DOGWOOD IN BLOOM



ROANOKE ISLAND LASSIES pose here to compare well with the spring blossoming of the dogwood trees on the island. They are Mary Blanche Meekins, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. V. Meekins, and Virginia Hughes, who makes her home with Mr. and Mrs. O. J. Jones on Roanoke Island. Both are students in Manteo High School. The state flower is now in full bloom all over the county, and makes a panorama for visitors and natives alike. (Photo by Roger Meekins.)

LIGHT INTEREST IN POLITICS SHOWN IN DARE COUNTY

Fast Move At Last Minute Precludes Contest In Hatteras Township

Final candidate to file in the primary in Dare County Saturday was Estus P. White of Buxton, who made a quick trip across Oregon Inlet to see Hugh Basnight, Chairman of the Board of elections, accompanied by County Commissioner, Lloyd Scarborough. Mr. White filed for County Commissioner, and Mr. Scarborough withdrew as a candidate for commissioner, and filed for the Board of Education on which Mr. White served for several years, and at the time of leaving it in 1951 was chairman.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Scarborough brought Raymond Basnight, Buxton Deputy Sheriff, to Manteo to file for the Board of Education, but upon finding he could not continue to hold his \$150 a month job as county officer if elected, he declined to file for the school board. Whereupon Mr. Scarborough went home and by arrangement with Mr. White switched from the place which all his neighbors thought he would seek. By this fast work he wins for Mr. White an uncontested seat on the County Board.

Neither of these men will now have opposition among the Democrats in Hatteras Township, which means their election is assured. Isaac Jennette of Buxton, however, has filed in the Republican primary as a candidate for commissioner.

Contests in some other sections of the county shape up. James W. Scarborough, Commissioner, living at Avon, is opposed by Newcomb Midgett of Waves. Ellis Gray of this (Kinnekeet) township has no opposition for re-election, for Board of Education.

In Atlantic township, Walter Perry did not run to succeed himself on the Board of Education, but this post is being sought by Elwood Parker, former Board member, without opposition. The Commissioner of this township, Capt. W. H. Lewark is opposed for re-election by Dan S. Harris and Sam Liverman.

In Nags Head township, Lawrence Swain is unopposed for re-election as county commissioner, and R. O. Balance unopposed for Board of Education.

On the mainland of Dare County, Chairman C. C. Duvall of the Board of Commissioners is opposed by Ira Spencer, and Dick Best of Stumpy Point is being opposed to succeed himself on the Board of Education by Forrest Sawyer of Manns Harbor.

Jesse C. Groce of Manteo is a candidate opposing W. F. Baum for Recorder's Judge of Dare County. Mr. Groce was formerly Recorder's Judge of Hyde County, and came to Manteo about 12 years ago, engaging in mechanical work at the Manteo Boat-building Co. He has since served as Manteo town policeman.

Rep. R. Bruce Etheridge, Register of Deeds Melvin Daniels, Sheriff Frank Cahoon, Clerk of See POLITICS, Page Four

THE BIG CATCH AT MILL LANDING



CHANNEL BASS, over 1,100 of them, were brought into Wanchese Monday night by the crews of Willie Etheridge, Ralph Meekins and Dewey Tillett. The boats were full and running over the sides, and the drum were stowed in the cabin. "We let more fish get away than we caught," Ralph Meekins said. The nets were badly torn, but the fishermen will be back at work before the week is over. In the above photo the men are taking the copper colored beauties out of the nets which were hauled into the boats on the last set of the day. Quite a crowd gathered Monday night to see the sight. It is the first time in several years a catch that big has been made. (Photo by Roger Meekins.)



Fishing and Hunting AS REPORTED BY AYCOCK BROWN

ALBACORE TAKEN FROM SURF AT CAPE HATTERAS

Edgar Hooper of Buxton reports that anglers using Hopkins lures in the surf at Cape Hatteras landed three false albacore on Friday. The first was landed by Hayes Fulcher. The albacore weighed about 11 pounds each. These fish, normally caught offshore near the western edge of the Gulf Stream seldom come close inshore, and it was rare for them to be taken with rod and reel from the surf.

VARIETY OF FISH TAKEN FROM HATTERAS SURF

A variety of fish are being caught in the surf of Cape Hatteras and along the beach between the Cape and Hatteras Inlet. Northward of the Cape and in the surf along the entire stretch of Hatteras Island, kingfish (or sea mullet) have been landed in quantities by anglers using light tackle and shrimp bait. Willie Newsome, operator of a bait and tackle shop at Hatteras stated that one party of two anglers from Western Carolina caught more than 350 pounds of sea mullet during one afternoon and evening of fishing this week. Other large catches of this species have been reported from Avon to Hatteras by surf anglers. A few false albacore have been taken during the past week by surf fishermen and also a species known as "sunfish." Raymond Bassnett of Buxton landed two channel bass scaling at 40 pounds Wednesday night and dozens were taken last week.

CATCHES MADE IN CHOPPY WATERS OFF HATTERAS

Sea Bass, false albacore, dolphin, tuna and boneta have been landed by offshore boats going to Gulf Stream from Hatteras this week, but due to easterly winds sea conditions were not always favorable for the fishing boats. Frank Pratt and Leroy Brooks of Lynchburg, Va., fishing from aboard the Twins, skippered by Capt. Edgar Styron, landed 90 sea bass, one boneta, one false albacore and a trigger fish while See FISHING, Page Four

FIRST BLUEFISH LANDED IN HATTERAS INLET

First bluefish of the season to be taken with rod and reel this year was landed by an unidentified angler trolling in Hatteras Inlet this week. The fish weighed about one and half pound. Local commercial fishermen have been taking good hauls of blues, which indicates, according to M. L. Burrus, that the spring run is now getting underway and should be interesting to anglers within a few days.

TROUT AND BLUE FISHING IMPROVING ALONG COAST

Although only a few have been taken with rod and reel by anglers fishing from boats, sea trout (weakfish), striped bass (rockfish) and bluefishing prospects are improving. A few strippers have been taken by anglers trolling from boats in Roanoke Sound near the Nags Head-Manteo bridge, and also on the west side of Roanoke Island in Croatan Sound.

Capt. Jesse Etheridge, skipper of the cruiser "Caredwyn" of Wanchese believes that trout and rock and probably blues will be taking trolled lures near Oregon Inlet and the nearby sounds by another week. He bases his opinion on the fact that these species are now being caught by commercial fishermen operating from Wanchese and elsewhere along the coast. "Bucktails and special minnowlike lures usually attract these fish," he stated.

Anglers fishing near the little bridge between Roanoke Island and Nags Head have landed a few strippers and sea trout and on occasions from this brackish water a few large mouth bass have been taken.

CHANNEL BASS BEGIN TO RUN; 1,152 BROUGHT IN WANCHESE; GUIDES WITH MEDIOCRE LUCK

First Big Catch At Oregon Inlet Last Thursday; Commercial Fishermen Have Record Catch Monday Night, But Luck Fallen Off Some Since Two Truckloads Hauled Away.

By Roger Meekins

Monday night when the commercial boats began to come into Mill Landing at Wanchese the people gathered to see what the commotion was all about. The first boat that came in was spilling over the sides with drum. So was the second.

And the third boat had the copper fish stowed in the cabin even. The dory it towed behind to store the net was full too. This brought to a climax the run of drum which started last Thursday afternoon.

On this particular Monday Ralph Meekins, Dewey Tillett and Willie Etheridge went to fish their long nets at Baum's Slew about five miles southwest of Oregon Inlet. The nets were full of drum, and thousands more were inside. They took their drum nets and set around them, and began to pull them in.

The nets were full. The fish fell out, worked their way out, flapped out of the boat, and when the boat got full they fell back over the sides again. They transferred them to other boats and began again. They filed the boat up again, and the drum sloshed over the sides again.

The boats were about to sink so they came home, bringing the nets and what drum they got. The nets were torn badly.

"This will ruin us for a few days," Ralph Meekins said.

"It'll take at least a couple of days to get the nets mended again," Dewey Tillett said.

The catch totaled 1,152, plus whatever the men took home with them. Willie Etheridge hauled away two truckloads and kept another equal amount in the fish house for local consumption. They sell for \$2. The drum weighed anywhere from 35 to 55 pounds. The fishermen got about \$1,800 for the catch.

Started Week Before

On Wednesday of the previous week Ralph Meekins took about 200 of the copper colored fish into Avon. That was about the first catch for anybody north of Oregon Inlet.

Thursday afternoon Capt. Willie Etheridge, Jr., went out Oregon Inlet in the "Chee Chee" just to see if any fish were milling around the inlet. Caps. Omie and Gilbert Tillett went along with him.

The fish were milling around the Inlet. Capt. Fred Basnight also was out and he got the first strike just south of the inlet. Ray Lewis and Ernest Yeates of Manteo were fishing with him, and they got 23 before the day was over.

But to get back aboard the Chee Chee, the three boys aboard started reeling them in and somehow just couldn't stop. One of the fish pulled a rod and reel overboard but they kept it at.

See BASS, Page Four

RED CROSS SEEKING SWIM INSTRUCTORS

Red Cross Paying Expenses For Two Dare County People To Attend Ten-Day School

The Dare County Chapter, American Red Cross is seeking qualified applicants to attend a ten day aquatic school in June, according to Charles S. Marshall, the chapter chairman. All expenses for the course will be paid by the Red Cross if suitable applicants can be located.

The purpose of the school, which will be held at Camp Carolina, Brevard, N. C. June 7-17, is for the training of swimming instructors who might return home and teach water safety classes in their communities.

It is the hope of the Red Cross to find at least two qualified applicants, one living north of Oregon Inlet and the other on Hatteras Island who would agree to take the course at Red Cross expense and then teach classes later in the summer. In addition to being at least 18 years of age these applicants, either men or women, would be expected to be reasonably good swimmers and would be expected to agree to teach swimming classes in their home neighborhood.

Persons interested in this program have been asked to contact Marshall either in person or by telephone. His home telephone is Manteo 29-J and his office phone is 243.

OPEN BUSINESSES SURE SIGN THAT SUMMER'S NEAR

7,500 Available Rooms In Dare This Year; Most Places Now Open

Mid-Spring vacation travel on the Dare Coast is attracting visitors from many states and some foreign countries. Some come to pit their skill against channel bass or Gulf Stream fishes which are now coming close inshore to the inlets or sounds or appearing at the edge of blue water offshore. Many of the Springtime visitors come to relax in the sun, or to see the mid-April flowers, which reached a blossom peak during Easter weekend, or to visit the sites of historical interest.

One of the biggest attractions this year is the new Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. Traffic figures from Oregon Inlet ferry indicate that most of the non-resident vehicles hauled by ferries during March were vacationists bound for the area.

Most of the hotels, motels and other places of accommodation between Southern Shores and Kitty Hawk southward to Hatteras on the Outer Banks have opened for the 1954 season. During the past week end many of the places now opened were filled to capacity or near capacity.

In addition to hotels and motels, most of the beach and Outer Banks restaurants have opened for the season. This is also true of the beach shops featuring wearing apparel, souvenirs and other objects which appeal to tourists and vacationists.

Fishing centers on Hatteras Island, at Oregon Inlet and in Nags Head, Manteo and Wanchese are open, booking sportsfishermen coming for channel bass or trips off shore.

Nags Head Chamber of Commerce, Dare Beaches Chamber of Commerce and the county-wide Dare County Tourist Bureau are taking care of inquiries from vacationists coming here for the first time or are otherwise assisting tourists in finding accommodations.

There are more accommodations on the Dare Coast this year than ever before. Approximately 7,500 rooms in the region are ready for reception of guests.

EXTENSION SPECIALISTS TO MEET IN DARE CO.

Mrs. Jewel Fessenden, extension specialist in foods and nutrition, will hold two sets of meetings in Dare County on April 29 and 30, to train foods and nutrition leaders to give the demonstration in the home demonstration clubs in May, and to train 4-H leaders. These meetings will be held as follows: Hatteras school lunch room, April 29, 10:30 a.m. for foods and nutrition leaders and 2:00 p.m. for 4-H leaders; Manteo community building, April 30, 10:30 a.m. for foods and nutrition leaders and 2:00 p.m. for 4-H leaders.

All foods and nutrition leaders and at least one other member from each club have been asked to attend the morning session. Teachers, parents, older 4-H Club members and any other interested persons are invited to attend the afternoon session.

NEWS PHOTOGRAPHERS TO SHOOT 'LOST COLONY'

News Photographers of North Carolina, Virginia and other states will be guests of the Lost Colony management for a performance of the drama on Sunday night, June 27. Then on the following night, Monday June 28, special scenes will be set up for the lensmen to shoot in color or black and white for competition in the annual contest among working photographers.

General Manager Dick Jordan announced this week that prizes totaling \$175 would be offered for the best published photographs taken by the news photographers at the special showing in their honor.