

# THE COASTLAND TIMES

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## ANOTHER LIFE SAVED BY FAST HELICOPTER WORK

### Helicopter Transports Soldier With Broken Neck To Hospital

BUXTON ON CAPE HATTERAS, June 17. — Old hands among Coast Guardsmen thought back to the days of the redoubtable Capt. Pat Etheridge one night this week when a helicopter from the big Coast Guard Air Base at Elizabeth City came churning through midnight darkness to rescue a young soldier who had broken his neck when he dived into shallow water off the docks at Hatteras village. Helicopters are not, according to previous theory, designed for night flying.

But when BM1c Edison Midgett, acting for the Group Commander in his absence, reported to Capt. Donald McDairmid that an emergency existed, and that a soldier's life was in the balance, the helicopter took off, through an overcast night and in the face of winds that had run small craft into harbor and within five hours the young soldier was in the Naval Hospital at Portsmouth, where a hastily summoned specialist awaited him, and a new first was chalked up beside Captain Etheridge's "the regulations don't say a damned word about coming back—they say you go."

Today young Corp. Caleb Stowe, U. S. Army, stationed at Camp Lucas, Michigan became able to wiggle his toes after total paralysis and his doctors say he will recover. And they add that getting him to the hospital in good time did more toward saving him than all their skill. The young corporal regained his speech Monday and his faculties are slowly returning to normal, though his neck will be encased in a cast for some months.

With young Bos'n Mate Midgett on the telephone co-ordinating the plan of operation began to tick at 9:24 when the helicopter took off for the two hour flight down the Outer Banks, its cruising speed reduced to less than 50 miles by headwinds. Lieut. Commander John A. Weber, piloting the big Sikorsky, had the light house to aim at for the last fifty miles and upon arrival the ground crew, led by EN1c Vance Midgett, had flares ready and the landing site marked off with lights. The flight and the landing were uneventful, even if epoch-making.

Stowe had been brought to the infirmary here by Dr. Donald Tharpe within a half hour after he was lifted, limp and unconscious, from the water at Hatteras. Dr. Tharpe turned his patient over to Chief Hospital Corpsman Patrick W. Jackson, an old hand at rescue work along the Outer Banks, who made the flight in lieu of the Base physician who was on leave. The return flight began almost on the stroke of midnight and at 2:14 a.m. Commander Weber set the helicopter down on the ball diamond adjacent to the hospital in Portsmouth. Stowe was turned over to the waiting specialists, one of them sent down from a nearby Army base.

Members of both the helicopter crew and the crew of the lifeboat station on Cape Hatteras were warmly commended by Capt. McDairmid for their fine Capt. Etheridge, were awarded medals. Dr. Tharpe, who reported the emergency to young Midgett, who is a great grand-son of Capt. Benjamin Dailey, who, with Capt. Etheridge, were awarded the Congressional Medal 71 years ago for heroism, said that Stowe would have died without prompt medical and surgical help, of the sort that he got as soon as he was landed at Portsmouth.

Besides Midgett and Midgett, others in the ground crew were Seaman Gray, Hendley, and Poling. AD2 G. H. Hallen was mechanic to the helicopter for the flight.

## ISBURY ANGLER HAS GOOD FISHING

Kill Devil Hills. — Lawrence Owens, Salisbury angler, a guest at Townley's Motor Court here during the first two weeks of June found the fishing in fresh and salt waters exceptionally good. His secret for the two weeks, as reported by C. J. Townley, follows:  
Twenty eight large mouth bass, 90 blue fish, 15 trout, 65 flounder and 43 sea perch He caught the fish trolling, bait casting or casting from the surf.

## FAMOUS COAST GUARD STATION GOES THIS WEEK



CHICAMICOMICO Coast Guard Station at Rodanthe, shown in the background of this picture by Aycock Brown, went out of service this week, along with Little Kinnakeet Station, which also was famed in olden days for the rescues made by the men who manned it. There are only two of the once ten stations on Hatteras Island now remaining in active service, plus the crew from Hatteras Inlet Station on Ocracoke Island, who have been moved across the inlet to the Gooseville Gun Club building, because the ocean was taking their old station.

In the foreground of this picture is shown Arthur V. Midgett of Waves, a retired Coast Guardsman who is one of the two remaining six men under Capt. John Allen Midgett who won medals from the King of England for their rescue of the Mirlo crew, victims of a German U-Boat in World War II. LeRoy Midgett of Wanchese is the other survivor of this crew.

Standing with Mr. Midgett, is Ellery Clark Midgett, a grandson of Capt. John Allen, who has been attached to this station. Monday was the day this station and Little Kinnakeet went out of service.

The other stations which have been decommissioned through the years since World War I are Pea Island, New Inlet, Gull Shoal, Big Kinnakeet, Creeds Hill and Durants. The Coast Guard service no longer considers life-boat stations, as they are now called, of the value in which they were held in the old days of sailing ships. So, through recent years, it has done away with most of them.

Fred Gray, Jr., recently in command of Chicamamico, has been transferred to Caffees Inlet, and the other members of his crew assigned as follows: Selby Gaskins, Curtis E. Scarborough, Bill O'Neal and Robert Rollinson to Oregon Inlet, and Ellery Midgett to Cape Hatteras. Victor Williams who was in command of Little Kinnakeet has been transferred to Cape Hatteras.

## PARK SERVICE DIRECTOR VISITOR IN DARE COUNTY

Conrad L. Wirth, Director of the National Park Service, with Mrs. Wirth and their son Peter, have been spending several days at the Cavalier Motor Court at Kill Devil Hills, and left Thursday for a visit to the Williamsburg area on their way back to Washington.

Mr. Wirth paid a visit Tuesday to the Cape Hatteras area, and looked over the Fort Raleigh and Kill Devil Hills area. He has spent a lot of time in behalf of the Cape Hatteras Seashore project, and has manifested great interest in it.

## GENERAL ROGER WICKS AND FAMILY, VISITORS

Brig. Gen. Roger Manning Wicks, USA, retired, of Southern Pines, N. C., visited Cape Hatteras Tuesday with Mrs. Wicks. The Wicks party, consisting of daughters and grandchildren, are stopping at Townley's Motor Court at Kill Devil Hills. Mrs. Wicks is the former Johnna Irgens. General Wicks has had a distinguished military career. He was promoted through the grades from a Second Lieutenant in World War I, and served in Europe in World War II. He is a native of New York.

## SOUTH BOSTON ANGLERS CATCH BIG AMBERJACK

Eleven amberjack, some weighing up to 35 pounds each, were landed by four South Boston, Va., anglers fishing in the Gulf Stream here on the week end. They were fishing with Capt. Clarence Holmes aboard the cruiser Secotan and in addition to amberjack they brought in one king mackerel, two bonita and two false albacore.  
The party making the catch includes C. A. Penick, Jr., R. O. Harrell, J. M. Irby, and John I. Crews.

## NEW FERRY, THE LINDSAY WARREN, DUE NEXT WEEK

### Boat for Oregon Inlet Named For Outer Banks' Best Friend

Some slight recognition for the man who has been the best friend of the Outer Banks of North Carolina during his long public career will be manifest next week, when the new converted 22-car ferry, the Lindsay C. Warren will go into service across Oregon Inlet.

The boat was expected to go in service Saturday, the 19th, but additional painting may require a few more days, so that the boat will be here late next week. A second boat of this type is expected to be completed for this run by July 25th, and will be named the Conrad L. Wirth in honor of the Director of the National Park Service.

The conversion of this ferry from a Navy LCT is being done at the Dunn Marine Railway in West Norfolk, Va. The project has taken two months.

The boats are being named for two good friends of the Carolina coast. These two boats were obtained for this run by the interior Department, and leased to the State Highway and Public Works Commission for \$1 per year each.

## BIGGEST EVENT ON JULY 3RD AT OCRACOKE ISLE

### Parades, Ponies, Pretty Girls To Be Featured in Celebration

Ocracoke, June 14.—Ocracoke Community will put on its second big parade on Saturday, July 3rd, celebrating the July 4th holiday, which this year falls on Sunday. Marvin Howard, chairman of the parade committee, is already at work with plans for the annual pony penning, the patriotic school and flag raising at the "schoolhouse, and the afternoon parade. By request some of last year's participants will take similar parts but for the most part a good many new, and at present secret, ideas for costumes and characterizations are cropping up here and there. When you see Mr. Marvin galloping around on one of the famous Island ponies, you can be sure another July 4th idea is in the making.

Prizes totalling in value between \$100 and \$150 will be awarded to winners in various categories: first, second, and third grand prizes to the "most outstanding individual" or group; first and second prizes for decorated floats, trucks, cars or other vehicles—a prize for the "prettiest", a prize for the "most comical", a prize for the "most unusual", a prize for the "most realistic looking," and a prize for the "best use of local materials." Drivers of the winning vehicles will be given a box of 12 gauge shotgun shells, for their part in making the parade a success.  
See EVENT, Page Eight

## LANDS BIG TARPON AT CAPE HATTERAS



CHARLES WILLIAMS, JR., owner of Cape Hatteras Hotel and the new Seashore Cottage Court at Avon displays a 61 pound tarpon he caught in the surf at Cape Hatteras a few days ago. It was the second time that a tarpon had ever been landed from the surf there. Williams was using a Hopkins lure and actually fishing for blues and spanish mackerel when the big fish struck and was reeled to the beach. (DCTB Photo)

## TOURIST BUREAU DIRECTORS MEET NEXT WEDNESDAY

Summer meeting of the Board of Directors of Dare County Tourist Bureau, will be held in the Community Building, Manteo, next Wednesday, June 24, at 10 a.m., it was announced today by Lawrence Swain, chairman of the board.

"This is an important meeting, and one which will map the future operations of the Tourist Bureau after the present fiscal year, to a certain extent," said Swain.

In addition to the Board of Directors, members of the Board of County Commissioners were also extended an invitation to attend the forthcoming meeting, it was stated.

A luncheon prepared by Mrs. Raymond Wescott, will be served the group at noon on the day of the meeting, said Swain.

## OSPREYS BUILD NEW HOME

A pair of osprey built their nest at the top of an old dead tree between Manteo and Wanchese, near the state highway. After completing the nest and all set for their brooding season, the ospreys' new home was destroyed one stormy night. The birds immediately began rebuilding and this time luck has been with the birds. They have started their family of baby ospreys.

## PULP COMPANY EMPLOYEE KILLED BY DYNAMITE BLAST IN EAST LAKE WOODS TUES.

### "Hooker" Creef Dies Instantly While Engaged Alone in Dangerous Task of Blasting Stumps On Road Project; Formerly Was Captain of Alligator River Ferry.

A dynamite blast suddenly killed Lonnie Bland Creef, 52, while he was working in the woods for the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company on their road project in the East Lake Section about 1:30 p.m. Tuesday. The explosion tore his face badly. He was working without adequate attendance, blasting stumps ahead of the drag line operating on this project, while a working crew was clearing ground some distance ahead. It was not known by other workmen he was dead until his body was discovered floating in a canal, and was taken out when the crew was called to the scene.

Mr. Creef, was a friendly, likeable man, highly popular with those who knew him, a hard worker and a good neighbor. He was a native of East Lake, and until about a year ago, was employed for several years by the State Highway Commission as Captain of the Alligator River ferry. He lived at Manns Harbor, and was married, but had no children. His wife is Mrs. Mary Creef.

He also is survived by three stepsons.

He was the son of Mrs. Caddie Sawyer Creef of Manteo, and the late John Sanders Creef. Five brothers and five sisters survive him. They are Harry and Ray Creef of Norfolk; Bruce Creef of East Lake; Carson D. Creef of Manteo, and J. M. Creef of Manns Harbor; Mrs. Vernon Alexander of Elizabeth City, Mrs. John Basnight of Norfolk, and Mrs. Sherwood Jones, and Mrs. Robert Gwynn of Manteo.

The funeral was conducted Thursday afternoon, and burial was at Manns Harbor.

Rev. A. L. G. Stephenson, the Methodist Pastor, assisted by Rev. E. Hooper, Holiness preacher, conducted the services. Burial was in the Twiford Cemetery.

## NORFOLK DENTIST LANDS 442 POUND MARLIN

Hatteras, Dr. J. C. Overbey, the Norfolk dentist who landed the world record blue marlin for 1953, boated another big fish of the same species off Hatteras Saturday, June 12, while trolling with skipped bait from aboard his private cruiser Snapper II. Last year, on September 19, fishing from aboard the same boat and in approximately the locality near the western edge of the Gulf Stream Dr. Overbey landed a 570 1/2-pound blue marlin, largest entered in National competition in the world last year.

His latest blue marlin measured 10 feet and 10 inches from tip to tip, its girth measurement was 61 inches and the tailspread was 49 inches. He was using a whole mackerel for bait when the big fish struck.

In length, his blue marlin of last Saturday was two feet shorter than the 1053 fish, but his latest catch, a definite record for the American coast so far this season was not as streamlined.

Capt. Wheeler Ballance of Hatteras was skipper of the Snapper II when the catch was made. He was also skipper when the big world record (for 1953) fish was taken last year.

## AMBERJACK REPORTED OFF OREGON INLET

Gulf stream fishermen trolling in waters off Oregon Inlet and Hatteras who have already landed sailfish, a blue or white marlin, red snappers, king mackerel, dolphin, school tuna, albacore and false albacore and some kingsize Spanish mackerel and bluefish so far this season were bringing in big catches of amberjack during the past week. Biggest catch by one party during the week was 36 'jacks landed by H. W. Sowers and party of Richmond last Sunday. They were trolling from aboard Capt. Ernal Foster's cruiser the Albatross I of Hatteras.

Later during the week Gulf Stream fishing parties on cruisers operating out of Manteo and Oregon Inlet were hitting See AMBERJACK, Page Eight

## A NEW CHANNEL FOR COAST GUARD AT HATTERAS

### Six Foot Depth Into Former Gooseville Gun Club; Old Stations Closed

Hatteras, June 17.—Dredging began this week on a six-foot channel leading from the dock of what was until two months ago the last of the once numerous gun clubs along the Outer Banks, now the property of the National Park Service and exchanged to the U. S. Coast Guard for its properties at Chicamamico and Little Kinnakeet Lifeboat stations. The club house will become a Coast Guard station and the two stations abandoned this week will become Park property.

Before the end of summer the converted club house will replace the lifeboat station on the Ocracoke side of Hatteras Inlet though no definite date has been fixed for the abandonment of the Hatteras Inlet station. It is being retained through the summer season on a stand-by status and the need of it when the inlet is crowded every day by sports fishermen many of them with their own boats and pilots not too familiar with local waters.

Elimination of the station on the south side of the Inlet has been necessitated by the unstable conditions of the beach at that point. The boat dock at the station has been sanded up for many months and even shallow water is about a mile away and the watch tower which tumbled down before the gnaw of the tide has been replaced. In order to reach the station from deep water a mile in a skiff and another mile in a jeep is necessary.

Plans for the replacement of the station are not new. Several years back lands were surveyed and options taken for a modern station in Hatteras village but the coming of the park to the area and the opening of until now closed lands made the move to the club house practicable and cheaper. A channel will be dredged that will eventually accommodate larger boats and the site is well away from present trends of erosion. Little work, relatively, will need to be done to the main building to make it a lifeboat station.

Noon Monday saw the final elimination of the stations at Rodanthe and Avon, and the Chicamamico station was placed again in charge of BMC Levene W. Midgett, third and last regularly assigned officer in charge there since it was built in 1882. The first was Bannister L. Midgett, the second John Allen Midgett, Capt. Levene Midgett retired early this year and the temporary officer in charge has been BM1c Fred Gray, Jr., who has returned to his regular duty at Caffey's Inlet. Midgett was retained in a temporary capacity as caretaker until the Park Service formulates plans for its utilization.

Personnel of the two abandoned stations were sent temporarily to Cape Hatteras and Oregon Inlet stations where full crews will now be maintained.

## FOUR CASES DISPOSED OF BY DARE RECORDER TUE.

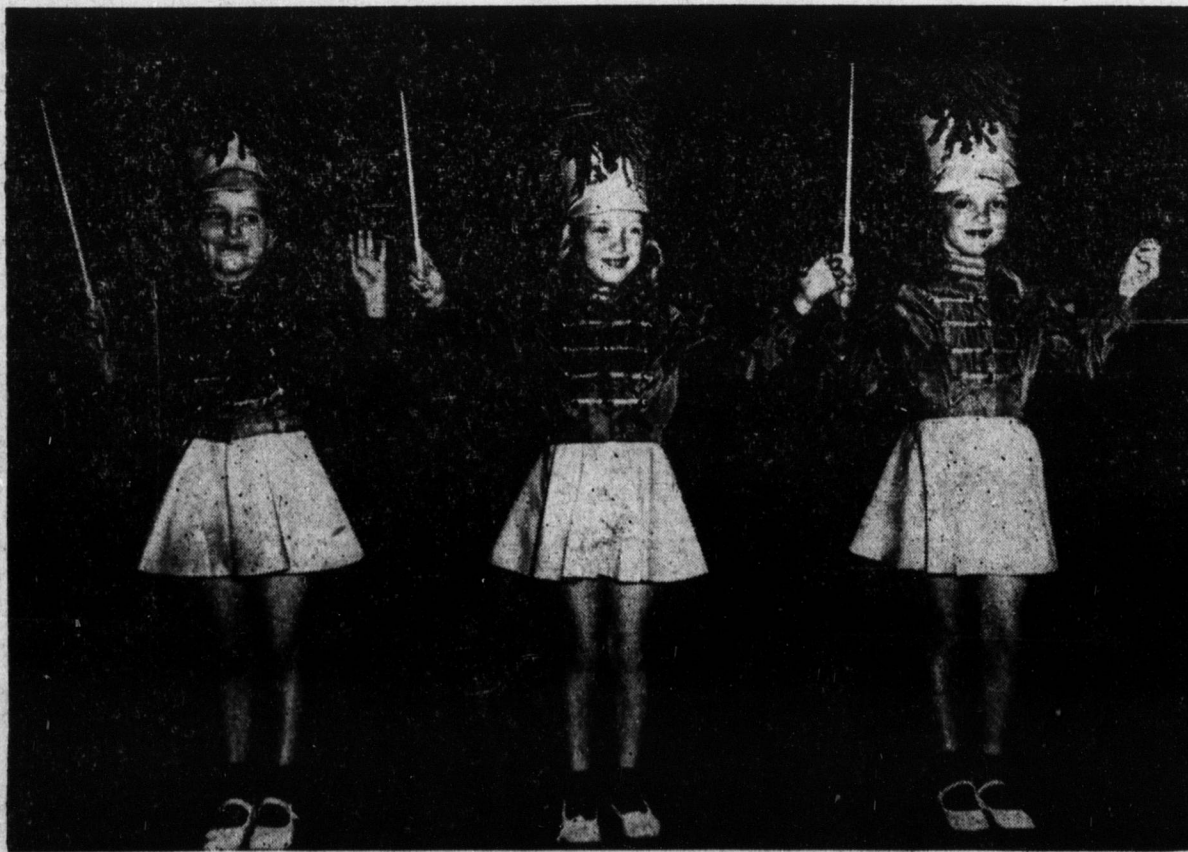
Four cases were disposed of Tuesday by Recorder W. F. Baum in Dare County. Jimmy Traffon Dowdy of Grandy, pleaded guilty to speeding at 90 miles per hour on the beach highway, and was fined \$50 and costs.

D. A. Rogers Jr., pleaded guilty to fighting and disturbing the peace at Manns Recreation Center, Nags Head, and was sentenced to 30 days in jail, suspended on condition he pay fine of \$10 and costs and stay away from the Recreation Center for a period of 12 months.

George A. McCleese, colored, for assaulting Sybil MacKey, pleaded guilty; sentenced to 30 days in jail, suspended on condition he pay a fine of \$25 and costs.

For failing to observe a stop sign, Shelton Umplett submitted and paid a fine of \$5 and costs.

## MANTEO RHYTHM BAND MAJORETTES



BIG SMILES show how proud these six-year-old first-graders of Manteo school were to be chosen as majorettes in the rhythm band of the Manteo primary school, with Miss Holland Westcott as director. The tots are, left to right: Edna Earl Watts, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Watts; Stormy Gale Brown, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Aycock Brown; and Shirley Frances White, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Erwin White.