

# THE COASTLAND TIMES

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## SPEEDING CAR TURNS OVER, GOES IN CANAL

### Two Persons Hospitalized, Another Escapes Injury, As Car Is Demolished

Two persons were hospitalized Sunday and the car in which they were riding was totally demolished in an accident about 10 a. m. at Paynes Creek Bridge, located on U. S. 264 between Engelhard and Stumpy Point at a sharp curve.

Roy Gilbert Gibbs of Hickory, Va., and Mary Spencer of Norfolk were rushed to Pungo District Hospital in Belhaven for treatment, but another passenger in the car, Elford Richard Stedman of St. Brides, Va., miraculously escaped injury. Gibbs suffered a brain concussion, cuts about the head, and bruises, while Miss Spencer received a fractured ankle, cuts on the knee and face, and bruises.

According to Patrolman W. E. Williams, who investigated the accident, the car in which the three were riding was traveling along highway 264, headed toward Stumpy Point, at an estimated 80 miles an hour. The driver apparently lost control when he hit the bridge, and the car hit the right-hand shoulder after crossing the bridge. It then skidded back across the highway to the left-hand shoulder, turned sideways, and skidded down the road sideways for 136 yards; it then started rolling over and as it rolled over the fourth time it went into a canal on the right-hand side of the roadway. Stedman and Miss Spencer were thrown out but Gibbs remained in the car which was more than four feet under water. Help quickly arrived and they were able to rescue the unconscious victim from the submerged car. The car, a 1947 Hudson with an estimated value of \$500, was See CAR, Page Four

## MORE SHRIMP BOATS COME TO ENGELHARD

### Cold Weather Delays Season; Shrimpers Expect Good Runs in Next Weeks

As the shrimp season reaches peak, 300 to 400 boats are expected in Engelhard. At present about 100 boats are operating there.

Besides local shrimpers, boats will come from Hatteras, Atlantic, Morehead City, Norfolk, Pamlico River, Coinjock, Hoboken and other places. At this time of year Engelhard has more and better shrimp than any other area of the state, shrimpers report.

Only about 100 headed boxes were handled last week but shrimpers say that this was expected so early in the season. Unusually cold weather has delayed the season for as much as two or three weeks, but better weather and good runs should bring more shrimp into Engelhard this week, they report. Shrimp brought in, although few, are described as large and indicative of a good season.

Prices to shrimpers that were 12 to 13 cents a pound last week have picked up to about 17 cents and are expected to go higher. This compares unfavorably with 22 cents last year. Dealers ascribe the price drop to surplus frozen shrimp left over from last year's good runs.

Retailing from 50 to 60 cents a pound, the shrimp supply has not yet been great enough to merit more than local sale. A few have been sold in the Dare County resort area.

Five shrimp houses, two or three less than last year, are operating in Engelhard.

## DANIEL B. PAYNE DIES

Daniel Bradford Payne of Wanchese died in his home Monday, five days after his 80th birthday. Mr. Payne was born in Rodanthe on July 13, 1874, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Payne, and has been living there the last 55 years in Wanchese. A retired fisherman, he had been ill for ten days before his death. Mr. Payne is survived by a sister, Miss Elva Payne, and three brothers, Folger and Dameron Payne of Wanchese and Zion Payne of Norfolk. He was a member of the Fair Haven Methodist Church of Rodanthe and the Junior Order U. A. M. of Elizabeth City. The funeral was on Wednesday at 2:30 in the Wanchese Methodist Church with the Reverend C. W. Guthrie officiating. Burial was in Davis Cemetery in Wanchese.

## NATION'S POPULAR NEGRO BAND WILL PLAY AT PAGEANT

The Booker T. Washington Summer School Band of Norfolk, Va., will give a pre-curtain performance at The Lost Colony on Roanoke Island Friday night, July 23, when the annual "Negro Citizens Day" of Paul Green's symphonic drama is observed. The principal speaker for the occasion will be Dean Thomas H. Henderson of the Virginia Union University of Richmond.

Director James A. Clark of the band stated this week that plans and rehearsals for his group's appearance Friday night was now in progress and that the program would be associated with national history in music, including salutes to the kings, queen, sea voyages, friendly Indians, colonial church, North Carolina and Virginia state songs.

S. D. Williams, president of Elizabeth City State Teachers College is overall chairman of the event. On Roanoke Island Mrs. Lila Simmons and Mrs. Agatha Gray have charge of housing arrangements for Negro visitors. "This will be the first time that a nationally famous Negro band has appeared as guests to take part in a "Negro Citizens Day" program," said General Manager R. E. Jordan.

The band frequently represented the City of Norfolk and it represented the State of Virginia in the recent Inaugural Parade. The band has 115 pieces and its director, James A. Clark was a former member of the Howard and Columbia University college bands.

## TOWN COMMISSIONERS MEET TUESDAY NIGHT

### D. L. Cannady Is Chosen to Replace Former Night Police- man Don Midgett

Manteo Town Commissioners, meeting Tuesday night with Mayor Martin Kellog in the Town Hall, elected D. L. Cannady to replace night policeman Don Midgett. Routine business of approving payment of bills occupied the remainder of the short meetings.

Commissioners present were Sam Midgett and G. T. Wescott. The regular monthly meeting of the board had been postponed from July 5 to Tuesday night.

The Commissioners received Midgett's resignation early this week. He returned with his family on Tuesday to their former home in Freeport, Long Island. Policeman Cannady leaves a temporary job as Dare County Deputy Sheriff, patrolling the beach area. He expressed his appreciation to beach residents for their cooperation in his work there.

## KITTY HAWK GIRL IS DUKE STUDENT



MISS TANYA DAWN TILLETT, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Linwood Tillett of Kitty Hawk, recently entered Duke University where she will work toward a diploma in the school of nursing. Miss Tillett, who graduated from Kitty Hawk High School in the class of '54, won many honors before her graduation. She was valedictorian of her class, having an average of 95.66. Previously she had been a commencement marshal, being chief marshal her junior year. She was business manager of the high school annual, a member of the girls' basketball team, held many class offices during her four years in high school, was president of the Kitty Hawk MYF and secretary of the Kitty Hawk Methodist See STUDENT, Page Four

## DARE COUNTY MAN ON RECRUITING DUTY

A former Wanchese resident, Dallas E. Quidley Jr., has been assigned recruiting officer for a new five county Air Force recruiting area to include Dare. Quidley, Technical Sergeant, US AF, has been living in Greenville and working in the Post Office Building there. He plans to begin weekly trips to Manteo on securing an office here.

Mrs. Rovena Quidley of Buxton is Sgt. Quidley's great-grand mother. He has other relatives who live in Buxton and for two years he went to school in Manteo.

"Since I like Dare County and have many friends and relatives there," Quidley says, "I am quite happy over this assignment."

"The Air Force is the greatest organization for preserving peace in the world. It is technical and fast growing. We need qualified young men and women badly at present and the Air Force is counting on filling new vacancies quickly. We hope to give these opportunities to many of the youth of Dare County," he concludes.

## ATTORNEY GRAY RURITAN SPEAKER AT WANCHESE

Attorney Wallace Gray of Manteo was the speaker Friday to the Ruritan Club of Wanchese. He spoke of the changes and opportunities taking place in the new Dare County, and cited a number of things that he expects to bring untold development. Our present development is only a drop in the bucket, he thinks.

Mr. Gray cited the Cape Hatteras Seashore Park as the number one item in his opinion to help develop our coast. He mentioned in this list, the Wright Memorial, the Lost Colony, the proposed coastal highway from Virginia Beach, the Croatan Sound Bridge, and a possible seashore road all the way down our coast.

The Wanchese Club heard a summary of club efforts to get a deeper channel into Mill Landing at Wanchese, and a post light in Davis Channel. The Club is continuing its efforts in this direction.

## MANTEO HAS NEW WELL DRIVEN TO IMPROVE WATER

The Town of Manteo's water consumers may soon hope for improvement in the water supply. A new well, costing \$3,500 has recently been drilled by a Norfolk concern, and it provides softer water of better quality, Seldon Midgett, waterworks Superintendent said this week. The well is 85 feet deep. It is gravel-packed and will have a capacity of 75 gallons a minute. It will be used in connection with a 65-foot well, and replaces two 20 foot shallow wells which have been in service for 12 years, and which has long since been losing volume.

Seven days were required to put down the cement-cased well. Pumping equipment and pipes will be added in the next three weeks to bring the total cost of the well to around \$4,000.

The well is located in the south-west corner of the water tower lot in a spot prescribed See WELL, Page Four

## Minister's Wife Finds Enjoyable Work Operating New Motel Near Manteo

### Roanoke Island's First Complete Motel Unit Built By Dare County People and It Is Now Enjoying Good Patronage

"It's a family affair," Mrs. Earl R. Meekins says of the new \$50,000 motor court located just north of Manteo. The idea that we should build the Manteo Motel just grew up in a natural way as we saw the need for such a place on the Island."

Mrs. Meekins and her husband, who is a Methodist minister in Columbia, were born and reared in Stumpy Point. "We love the coast and our home county, Dare," she says. "Since our oldest daughter, Ina, lives here with her husband, Burwell Evans, this arrangement seems ideal to us."

"All our family together have a part in it," she continues. "I divide my time between here and Columbia. My youngest daughter, Mary works here and Ina and Burl take over much of the time. Our other daughter, Lois, and her husband, Neal Jackson Jr., are in McCormick, South Carolina where Neal is a chemical engineer with Milikin Mills, but they are a part too. Lois was a home economics teacher so she did much of the decorating, selecting color schemes, spreads, drapes and accessories. Burl did all of the electrical work when the place was being put up last winter."

"And I'm chambermaid" chimes in Mary, who will go to Greensboro College next fall. Mrs. Meekins laughs that Mary does any of the work that needs doing in managing a motel, from greeting guests to making beds. Mrs. Meekins doesn't say but one is sure that the Evans' two little girls, Martha Lynn and Olivia Dawn, and little boy, Burl Ray, also have their part in keeping this a going family concern.

"We have thought of this place to return to when my husband retires." And Mrs. Meekins hastens to add, "that won't be for 15 years or more yet."

The Rev. Meekins has been a minister for twelve years, the last nearly four of them at Columbia. Before that time he was a merchant and commercial fisherman. Mrs. Meekins says seriously, "the Motel must come second to my church work. When the winter comes I will not be able to spend any time here. We have not yet decided whether to hire someone to keep the Motel open or not. We will wait and see how many fishermen are here and whether there are enough customers to merit it before we decide."

The motel, accommodating about 50 people, is modern and beautiful. Mrs. Meekins says that it is filled about 70 per cent of the time and she adds proudly that almost all of the customers express their satisfaction with accommodations. "So many of them exclaim 'what pretty rooms' as they enter."

There are 18 sleeping rooms, 12 of them with private baths See MOTEL, Page Four

## STEAMER FLOATED AFTER TWO MONTHS ON HATTERAS STRAND COAST LOSES AN ATTRACTION

### The Honduran Freighter Omar Babun De- parted Monday Morning after Being Pulled Off by New Methods and the Help of People of the Villages of the Outer Banks; Was Drawing Card for Sightseers.

RODANTHE, July 22—Three transplanted mountaineers who didn't know they couldn't do it and who had the good sense to hire the first native who told them they couldn't do it, went away from here shortly after midnight Monday morning in the Honduran freighter Omar Babun and laid course for Norfolk and a profit for their ignorance reportedly well above a hundred thousand dollars.

Even as late as 10 o'clock Sunday morning anybody who had a dollar he wanted to bet could find takers along Hatteras Island who would give odds that even though she was floating easily at the end of her tether, the Omar Babun would never leave here. It had just never been done in the history of this Island and when the Graveyard of the Atlantic gets its hands on a ship it never lets go.

But daylight today and the Omar Babun was plumb past Oregon Inlet, towed by a tug but with her own propellers lending a hand at progress and a triumphant streamer of smoke flowing back out of her funnel. Also aboard were the three transplanted mountaineers, too tired and too sleepy to know whether they felt triumphant or not.

These mountaineers are the three Canipes, father, son and grandson, ranging in age from 60 for the grandfather down to 18 for the grandson who came straight here from Edwards Military Institute when the family decided to the undoable. The Canipes left their foothills in Cleveland County and around Shelby ten years ago and when the war was ended the whole tribe was established at Havelock where they took over the Buick agency and became purveyors of motor vehicles to the U. S. Marine Corps.

Not one of them has had time in the 59 days they worked on the Omar Babun to explain to anybody how they ever got the notion that they could do a piece of salvage that had been turned down by the professionals. They came up within 48 hours after the little West Indian freighter hit the beach three miles north of here at 4 a. m. of May 14th and started wanting to know why they couldn't get the job. Nobody wanted the job because it was hopeless. The Omar Babun would stay right there until she broke up.

There was considerable involved. The boat itself, an ex-net tender of 1250 tons, was insured for \$122,000. The cargo, mostly heavy cement and sugar mill machinery, was insured for another \$110,000. After a week's dickering with the insurance companies, the Canipes just bought the boat, reportedly for \$2,000 and made an arrangement with the insurance company to salvage the cargo. Details of that arrangement have not been disclosed.

Salvage people in Norfolk and to haul on the foundered vessel, with no promise that they would get her off. That was too much and the Canipes got their heads together, hired Ray Austin of Salvo and a dozen other Islanders and went to work. They summoned a fleet of bulldozers and trucks, bought some steel land- See STEAMER, Page Four

## MANTEO BOY SCOUTS TO INSPECT CARRIER

Twenty nine scouts from the Manteo Troop 165 will inspect the aircraft carrier, Intrepid, in Norfolk Saturday. Scouts from the entire Tidewater Council have been invited aboard the carrier from one to four by the Commander and officers of the ship.

The boys solicited contributions last week to charter a bus for the trip. Scout Leader, Theodore H. Noe, will go with the Scouts. While on board the Intrepid, they will observe the presentation of a Liberty Bell to the ship.

The Tidewater Council includes troops in the Norfolk, Portsmouth, Elizabeth City, Currituck and Manteo areas.

## GREAT GRANDMOTHER FLIES THE CONTINENT

### Aged Woman Pilot Visits Lost Colony Tuesday Night and Departs Via Outer Banks Wednesday

Mrs. Zaddie R. Bunker, 66-year old great-grandmother of Palm Springs, California, who learned to fly and soloed at the age of 64, completed a coast-to-coast flight here yesterday when she flew over the village of Kitty Hawk, where the Wright Brothers began experiments in 1900 which led to their first successful powered-flight at the base of Kill Devil Hills on December 17, 1903.

After flying over the area with Myrtle Thompson, woman aviation columnist of Selma as her passenger she landed at the Manteo Airport where Manager Bill Henderson provided them with an automobile in which to visit the historic sites of aviation's beginning. The famous woman pilot was often in the spotlight in the recent transcontinental flight of the 99-club which held its convention in Asheville. She and Miss Thompson were special guests at a performance of The Lost Colony Tuesday night. They departed Wednesday morning for a return trip to Selma, N. C. Miss Thompson's hometown via the Outer Banks and Beaufort.

Mrs. Bunker, when asked how it happened that she started flying at her advanced age replied, "I feel that God has some special work for me. Maybe it is flying, because my flying has attracted attention. I believe flying has added 15 years to my life." She loves to talk about her children, her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

"I was born in Missouri but moved to California many years ago. California is a great state, but it took this flying visit to North Carolina to teach me what real genuine southern hospitality is like," she said.

She praised Paul Green's drama, The Lost Colony. "Just think, Miss Thompson's suggestion that I visit her in Selma resulted in me visiting not only the birthplace of modern aviation, but also the birthplace of English-speaking America."

## HOPE TO START THIS YEAR ON TOLL ROAD

### Kitty Hawk to Virginia Beach Project Being Revived

The proposed 53 mile coastal toll road between Nags Head and Virginia may be opened to traffic during the fall of 1955, State Highway Chairman A. H. Graham revealed last week.

The road surface may be of one of three types—gravel with asphalt surfacing, five-inch plant mix asphalt or five inch mixed-in-place asphalt of the type used in paving the state-built highway down the Outer Banks. Designed for tourist traffic the road may be 22 or 24 feet in width depending on final traffic estimates and costs.

The Carolina-Virginia Turnpike Authority meeting jointly with the Virginia Coastal Turnpike Authority last week agreed to the sale of approximately \$3,000,000 in bonds to finance the project. They instructed engineering firms to have plans and specifications ready by August 15.

The project will then be advertised for about 20 days, Graham said, and the bids opened by mid-September. Bonds will be sold sometime after the bids are opened and before the contract is let.

Work should start in October or November, it is said.

William F. Freeman, Inc., engineers and architects, of Highpoint, will have charge of construction. The DeLuw, Cather and Company firm of Chicago is handling the traffic survey. A Syndicate of Strader-Taylor of Lynchburg, Va. and Alex Brown and Company of Baltimore, Md., and associates will handle the bond sale.

HERE IS A PICTURE OF THE OMAR BABUN AS SHE LOOKED ON THE MORNING OF ARRIVAL



THIS PICTURE, made the day of the stranding of the Omar Babun on Pea Island shore, early in May, shows the Coast Guardsmen on the beach making ready to rescue the crew. In the left fore-ground is a Coast Guard duck, amphibious vehicle used by surfmen. The crew was landed by use of a breeches buoy.