

THE COASTLAND TIMES

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE INTEREST OF THE WALTER RALEIGH COASTLAND OF NORTH CAROLINA

VOLUME XX — NO. 12

MANTEO, N. C., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1954

Single Copy 7¢

DARE TOURIST BUREAU REVIEWS YEAR'S WORK AND PLANS A PROGRAM

Mrs. Lucille Purser Elected President, Succeeding Lawrence Swain, at Meeting in Manteo Wednesday; Aycock Brown Continues as News Director.

Mrs. Lucille Purser of Nags Head, who has been very active in promoting and publicizing the Dare coastal region for several years was elected chairman of the board of directors of Dare County Tourist Bureau at the annual meeting of the organization in Manteo Wednesday.

She succeeds Lawrence L. Swain under whose leadership the Dare County Tourist Bureau was organized three years ago to become one of the outstanding agencies of its kind in North Carolina. At the June meeting of the board of directors B. M. Hedrick of Kill Devil Hills was nominated chairman, but in view of the fact that he plans to live at his home in Arlington, Va., most of the winter and away from the area he declined the nomination. While Swain had requested that he be replaced as chairman during the June meeting he plans to continue taking an active part in the Tourist Bureau's program of promotion and publicity.

At the June meeting A. H. Gray of Waves had been nominated to the post of vice-chairman, succeeding M. L. Burrus of Hatteras. At the same time W. H. McCown, secretary and treasurer of the Tourist Bureau during the past two years was re-elected to that post in the organization.

Primary discussion during the meeting Wednesday involved a refinancing program, and ways and means to best accomplish such a program. Mimeographed reports of the Secretary-Treasurer, gave a picture of the current financial status of the organization and an annual report the manager and news director was also made available to those present at the meeting.

The Tourist Bureau's budget of \$16,000 for 1953-54, has not yet been raised in full and immediate steps are being taken to collect all pledges from investors which have not yet been paid. Due to considerable more activity than had been anticipated during the 1954 season, it was necessary as the fiscal year's ending on September 30 approached, that certain curtailments in operation be made.

It was indicated at the meeting Wednesday that these curtailments in operation would have to continue until the Tourist Bureau is again on a sound basis financially.

The Year's Work

An annual report of Tourist Bureau's operation was presented to members of the board by Aycock Brown, manager and news director of the organization.

His report indicated that during the past year an average of 12 news items had each week been mailed to newspapers, magazines or columnists from the Dare coast, and in addition special stories were mailed daily newspapers or magazines upon request. An average of 100 newspapers in North and South Carolina, Virginia, D. C., and other States, and the Associated Press, United Press and International News Service received the news releases. During the summer months almost 300 weekly newspapers in North Carolina and Virginia received news releases at least twice monthly.

More than 2,400 new pictures were mailed newspapers magazines or provided to writers doing stories on the area or otherwise used in the public relations interests of the area. An average of two newspaper negatives weekly were forwarded syndicates on approval and many were accepted for publication and distribution to hundreds and thousands of newspapers.

The Bureau also worked closely with a hundred or more press representatives who covered events leading up to and the actual celebration of the Golden Anniversary of the First Flight at Kill Devil Hills and Kitty Hawk last December. This was the most publicized aviation event in history, according to experts who knew what they were talking about.

In addition to publicity and press relations, the Dare County Tourist Bureau distributed approximately 100,000 leaflets.

See BUREAU, Page Eight

OFFICIALS CONFER ON FERRY SAFETY AT OREGON INLET

Safety and Efficiency Aim of U. S. C. G. and Highway Dept. in Friendly Meeting

Safety and efficiency methods of operation of State-owned ferries at Oregon Inlet were explored in detail by representatives of the State Highway Department and the U. S. Coast Guard at an on-deck conference lasting most of the day Thursday and out of it will come a closer co-operation between the Marine Safety Division of the Coast Guard and the Ferry Operations division of the Highway Department.

Under present interpretations of regulations ferries or other craft not operated for a fare or for profit do not come within the jurisdiction of marine inspection and Friday's conference, called by mutual agreement between Admiral Russell E. Wood, commandant of the Fifth District and Chairman A. H. Graham, of the Highway Commission, was concerned primarily with recommendations that might come for the greater safety and efficiency of the operation.

Among the matters worked out will be included direct contact between ferry boats and the Coast Guard's radio system by which, if help should be needed, it could be immediately called for. The representatives of the Coast Guard came, as they declared, to suggest helpfully rather than to impose regulations as they apply to normal commercial operations.

Present for the conference, representing the State, were Division Engineer W. N. Spruill, District Engineer George Mack and Ferry Superintendent John Wilson. Representing Admiral Wood were Capt. E. H. Thelle, chief of the Marine Safety Division and Commander W. J. Connelly, Marine Inspector for Virginia and North Carolina. Chief Warrant Officer Harold Glynn, group commander of Cape Fear.

See OFFICIALS, Page Four

PRICE MEEKINS, FORMER NEGRO COAST GUARD, DIES NEAR MANTEO

The death of Norfleet Price Meekins, 64 at his home near Manteo Friday night removes a highly esteemed citizen, and one who had many friends throughout the section. He was for 26 years a member of the crew of the all-Negro Coast Guard station at Pea Island and had been retired for several years.

He was the son of the late Theodore Robinson Meekins and Henrietta White Meekins, his father having been lost near Oregon Inlet while a member of the crew of Pea Island station in 1917. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Bessie Daniels Meekins; one son, Theodore R. Meekins of Manteo; three daughters, Mrs. James Lee of New York; Mrs. Clarence Austin and Miss Pensacola Meekins of Manteo.

He is also survived by the following brothers and sisters, Lloyd Meekins, Douglas Meekins of Manteo; Nicholas Meekins, and Theodore Roosevelt Meekins of New York and Noah Meekins of Baltimore, and Mrs. John Savage.

Rev. Kelly Golden preached his funeral Sunday, at Haven Creek Methodist Church. His former white comrades of the nearby Coast Guard stations added the military part of the funeral. A solo was sung by Mrs. W. M. Simmons, and two numbers by the church choir: "Sweet Hour of Prayer," and "Farther Along." Active pallbearers were former comrades: Lonnie Gray, Maxie Berry, Haywood Wise, Maloyd Scarborough, W. M. Simmons and Reuben Gallop. Honorary pallbearers were deacons of his church: Marshall Collins, Dave Alexander, G. H. Midgett, George Pledger, Balfour Wescott, Charles Whadbee and Leo Tillett.

HUT FOR BOY SCOUTS TO BE BUILT IN DARE

Manteo Rotarians Sponsoring Movement

Manteo Rotarians at their regular weekly meeting this week announced plans for sponsoring a movement to build a hut for Boy Scouts in the Roanoke Island and Nags Head area. A fund raising drive, spearheaded by members of the Rotary Club, is scheduled to start this week end and the present goal will be \$3,000.

The Hut which will be a completely equipped meeting place and club room with recreational facilities would be located near Manteo on properties already earmarked, but not yet purchased, for the project. A preliminary discussion of building the Hut was held last spring and at that time arrangements were made with owners of suitable properties for its location. The owners agreed to hold the property until the busy summer season was over and a serious drive for funds could be made for its purchase and likewise the amount necessary for erecting a suitable building.

The Rotary Club Boy Scout Building committee is composed of Ralph Swain, chairman, Gordon Kellogg and E. E. Meekins. It was at this committee's suggestion that sub-committees were appointed during the current weekly meeting to begin the drive for funds. The sub-committees follow: W. R. Pearce, Martin Kellogg, L. L. Swain-Waterford in Manteo west to Church Street; Bob Smith, Johnny Long, L. L. Highway; W. H. McCown, Char-Swain, Church Street west to Lewis Marshall and Archie Burrus; Highway from Midway Service Station to North End and Airport section; Aycock Brown, chairman of publicity and committee of one to contact subscribers in Community and Health Buildings; Charles Marshall to contact Park Service Personnel for funds or pledges; Chauncey Meekins, Ralph Swain and Roland Sawyer-Midway Service station to and including Wanchese; Allyn Hanks, Abie Williams, Dick Gray, Dick Jordan, Nags Head beach area.

E. E. Meekins will be treasurer for the funds, on behalf of the Rotary Club, or the agency in whose name the project will be owned when completed.

There was some discussion about the ownership of the properties and it was decided that a special board, composed of members who have a deep interest in the youth of the area, would be named Trustees for the Building. Legal slants on this were provided by Rotarian Martin Kellogg.

In addition to the fund raising drive to be conducted immediately by the Rotary committees, the Boy Scouts themselves will also enlist their services in the drive by making house to house canvasses. Other civic or religious organizations in the area will also be invited to lend their financial support.

Theodore Noe is scoutmaster of the Manteo Boy Scouts. Under his leadership considerable interest in scouting has been created in the Roanoke Island and Nags Head area. The local troop is affiliated with the Tidewater Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

DUCK GETS ROAD BUILT BY STATE IN AUGUST

Raleigh. — Emmett Winslow, Commissioner of the First Highway Division, today said that 8.5 miles of paving had been completed by the State Highway Commission in his division during August.

In Camden, State highway forces laid a sand asphalt wearing surface on the following secondary roads, and their lengths: from US 17 in South Mills to US 17, about 1.2 miles south of South Mills, 1.6 miles; and from Lamps Corner to Sawyers Creek Bridge, 3.1 miles. Both Newly-surfaced roads are 16 feet in width.

In Dare County, contractor forces finished a mixed-in-place sand bituminous pavement from Dock south for 3.8 miles. The road is 16 feet wide.

Camden and Dare are in the First Division along with Bertie, Chowan, Currituck, Gates, Hertford, Hyde Martin, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell, and Washington. Division headquarters are in Ahoskie. W. N. Spruill is division engineer.

SAD TO LEAVE:



FRANCES RAY of Asheville is assisted to her cabin by Virginia Smith of Graham after they left the closing ceremonies on Sunday of the North Carolina Easter Seal Camp near Chapel Hill. Mackey Brown of Asheville walks beside Frances. Over fifty-five handicapped children from twenty-three counties attended the two-week camp.

CRIPPL'D CHILDREN ATTEND TWO-WK. EASTR SEAL CAMP

Physically handicapped children from all sections of North Carolina came together this month to attend the First Annual Easter Seal Camp for Crippled Children at Camp New Hope, near Chapel Hill.

The Dare County Chapter of the North Carolina Easter Seal Society is headed by Mrs. W. B. Fearing of Manteo.

Twenty-three counties were represented among the fifty-five children at the camp, many of them sponsored by their own county Easter Seal Chapters and civic groups. The children, who ranged in age from six to fifteen, had varying orthopedic handicaps, but braces and crutches seemed to have very little effect upon the participation in games and activities. There was the same amount of swimming, handicraft, picnics, games and hiking trips found at any summer camp, though many were modified in order that all the children could join.

An active project of the County Easter Seal Chapters throughout North Carolina and the State Society is a summer camp program and campsite especially for the orthopedically handicapped children of North Carolina, now estimated at more than 28,000.

Mr. Albin Pikutis, State Easter Seal Director said that "The cost of suitable land and building materials has delayed construction of our own campsite, but the tremendous number of applications received for our Easter Seal Camp this year shows that there is a critical need for these facilities in North Carolina. It was a difficult task to write so many children that they could not attend because our facilities could accommodate only fifty-five campers.

A Physical Therapist from Memorial Hospital in nearby Chapel Hill was on hand to make certain that the children maintained their special therapies and exercises. An Occupational Therapist from the Asheville Orthopedic Hospital instructed the children in many types of handicraft projects that they could make at home as well as at camp.

Announcing that the camping project had exceeded all the expectations of the State Society, Mr. Pikutis stated, "All children profit from the health and social experiences which summer camp provides, but these crippled children at Easter Seal Camp have a much greater need for these services. In many cases the crippled child has spent too much time indoors, or in the hospital. He needs the chance to make friends and develop his personality in a friendly, receptive environment."

SUBDISTRICT INSTITUTE PLANNED BY METHODISTS

A subdistrict institute for church school workers will be held in the Hatteras Methodist Church at Hatteras on Thursday, September 23rd, at 10:30 a.m., it has been announced by Methodist officials.

District directors of work in the children, youth and adult divisions will be present, along with other instructors, to present information concerning church school work. All pastors, church school superintendents, assistant superintendents, divisional superintendents, teachers, helpers, and all other church workers are urged to plan to attend.

LOST COLONY STAR TO BE IN DISNEY FILM

Ann Martin of Cherokee, who played the role of Eleanor Dare in Paul Green's symphonic drama The Lost Colony this year, has been given a role as "Mrs. Davy Crockett" in a TV-trilogy built up around that noted frontiersman and the Creek War. Sequences of the first of the trilogy are being filmed at Cherokee in Western North Carolina at the present time.

It was only by chance that Miss Martin happened to get the role in the film. She had returned to her home at the Indian School of the Cherokee reservation to vacation with her parents for a few days when studio representatives of the new film saw her and immediately offered her the part.

In addition to the female lead of The Lost Colony the Davy Crockett trilogy will include a couple of hundred full blooded Cherokee Indians and several members of the cast of Kermit Hunter's symphonic drama "Unto These Hills." From the Cherokee and Great Smokies region the picture-making unit will move to Chattanooga where the final shooting of the trilogy will be held.

Miss Martin is only one of many Lost Colony cast members who have gained recognition for their acting and theatrical ability. Andy Griffith who once played Sir Walter Raleigh in the drama and Ainslee Pryor, who had been cast as The Priest and Governor John White, are now making the grade in Broadway productions. Ann Wyn Armstrong and Helene McLain will return to the Fred Waring show this winter. Each has been cast in prominent roles of The Lost Colony and they are also members of The Lost Colony Chorus. Robert Armstrong, male lead of The Lost Colony, is also scheduled for Broadway productions.

See STAR, Page Four

FISHING TOURNAY NEXT WEEK AT CHICAMICOMICO

A Fishing Contest offering several valuable prizes will be held next week for surf-casters in the vicinity of Chicamicomico. Dates are September 23-25. The area is between two upright pieces of machinery on Pea Island on the North, and Salvo on the South, a distance of some eight miles.

Ample sleeping and eating accommodations offer the sportsmen modern conveniences during their stay at Rodanthe next week. Information may be obtained from A. H. Gray's Store, Waves; Zek's Place, Rodanthe; and Owens Motor Court, Rodanthe. Many valuable awards will be made.

OCEAN PIER ANGLERS HAVING EXCELLENT LUCK

Nags Head.—Anglers fishing from the ocean piers in the Nags Head and Kitty Hawk region have been catching plenty of trout and kingfish or sea mullet during the past week. They have also been landing plenty of spot. Operator's of Jennette's Pier in Lower Nags Head reported that several small channel bass had been taken from the ocean's surf by anglers casting from the piers. Jennette's Pier at certain seasons during the Autumn is one of the best bets for channel bass along this coast. The big fish of the species are usually taken during northeasters in October.

CROATAN SOUND BRIDGE TO CAUSE LARGE EXPENDITURES ON NEARBY ROAD PROJECTS

Tremendous Outlays Will Be Required to Improve Accessory Roads Bringing the Bridge Traffic; U. S. 264 Through Hyde County and Belhaven Area to Demand Large Widening Job.

The building of the Croatan Sound Bridge may easily be expected to hasten the construction of many year projects on roads that lead to the bridge and call for the expenditure of many hundreds of thousands of dollars in order that the traffic increase caused by the bridge may be adequately accommodated.

Largest of these projects will be improvement of U. S. 264 through Hyde County and eastern Beaufort as well as in the south-west corner of Dare County. At present U. S. 264 is inadequate to handle the traffic of today, which is jamming a road designed 30 years ago in the days of the model T ford. Not less than a half million dollars will be required to bring this road part-way up to standard.

Likewise will some improvements be needed to U. S. 64 and of a certainty, the increased traffic will force a step-up in service over Alligator River.

Highway forces are now preparing for the widening and improvement of the road leading from the Roanoke Island end of the Bridge via Fort Raleigh and to the ocean. This will call for a considerable expenditure of funds.

Promoters of the proposed toll road from Virginia Beach to Kitty Hawk are now more hopeful of selling bonds to finance this project since the assurance of state construction of a free bridge across Croatan Sound will provide an essential link for the continuation of tourist travel. If, as and when such bonds are sold and the road is built, it will be due to the bridge, more than any other reasons, and it should mean the expenditure of two or three million dollars for construction in this area.

Altogether, the Croatan Bridge project might easily set in motion a train of construction that will total upwards of ten million dollars of which no small amount will be spent locally to the benefit of our local labor and business interests. This looks like a windfall, now that other sources of revenue, particularly commercial fishing, are drying up.

The bridge, which will be two years in the building will by virtue of publicity attending its construction, as well as its completion, gradually build up traffic, and accelerate the demand for the Alligator River bridge which will mean another short route to open up a vast amount of travel in this area.

CECIL S. MIDGETT OF STUMPY POINT PASSES

Cecil Sigsbee Midgett, fisherman and life-long resident of Stumpy Point, passed away at his home late Tuesday after a lingering illness. The funeral services were held Wednesday afternoon at 3 p.m. at the Stumpy Point Methodist Church, conducted by his pastor, Rev. A. L. G. Stevenson. Burial followed in the Stumpy Point Cemetery.

He was the son of the late Bethany Gray and Thomas Lee Midgett, and was a member of the Stumpy Point Methodist Church.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Ola Gray Midgett; two daughters, Mrs. Milton Hooper and Mrs. Faye Siegrist, both of Stumpy Point; one son Donald Midgett of Stumpy Point; six grandchildren; and three brothers, Edward Midgett of Stumpy Point, John Midgett of Mashoes Point, and Lee Midgett of Norfolk, Va.

PLANS BEING FORMED FOR FLIGHT OBSERVANCE

Kill Devil Hills. — Ralph Whitener of the Air Force Association has advised members of the Kill Devil Hills Memorial Society here that the 51st Anniversary Celebration of the Wright Brothers' famous flights of December 17, 1903, would be a token event this year in comparison with the Golden Anniversary event last year. Whitener is cooperating with the local agency in forming plans for the event.

BOARDING HOMES IMPORTANT FOR CARE OF AGED

Dare County Needs More Such Homes, Welfare Superintendent Advises

"More and more, licensed homes for adults are solving problems and helping to work out difficult situations throughout North Carolina," said Mrs. Meekins, Superintendent of the Dare County Department of Public Welfare, in discussing the need for these homes in Dare County.

Changes in recent years throughout North Carolina in housing, in customs, and in living habits have been reflected in the growing need for the development of licensed boarding homes for the aged and infirm, Mrs. Meekins said.

The trend toward smaller homes and apartment living has resulted in fewer households with spare rooms and fewer three-generation households. In many homes, both parents are working, some having the children provided for in licensed day care centers.

For most older people, the family pattern has changed materially since the living arrangements were established in the middle years of life. Many people need to change their living arrangements in their later years, not only because their family and economic circumstances are different, but also because their own needs have changed.

The Dare County Department of public welfare, according to Mrs. Meekins, renders services to older people by supplying information about available specialized boarding home care in licensed boarding homes. This program recognizes the fact that many older people who are on their own need a kind of housing arrangement that affords companionship, personal attention, and service short of actual nursing care.

In general, these boarding homes are licensed by the State Board of Public Welfare for a small number of older persons in order to assure a home-like atmosphere. The services given mean that the older person has not only a comfortable place to live, but also a satisfying social setting. In North Carolina we now have a total of 250 licensed boarding homes for the aged and infirm. Of these homes, 75 per cent are for white persons and 25 per cent for Negroes. Licensing requirements set up by the State Board of Public Welfare, in accordance with State Law, include satisfactory standards of health, sanitation, fire safety, and general welfare.

In Dare County, there is need for additional licensed boarding homes to care for the needs of older people. Particularly we need homes that will (here specify particular needs for homes for white persons, or for Negroes, or for any other specialized types).

"I hope that anyone who is interested in getting information will contact the welfare office," said Mrs. Meekins. "We can then give additional facts, including the financial basis upon which the aged provide for this type of service."

"By helping to provide these homes and encouraging their contribution to the needs of older people, citizens of the community may meet at least a part of their responsibility to this rapidly growing segment of our citizenry."

SPECIAL MEETING SEPT. 23

Mrs. Louise Eggleston of Norfolk is to be the speaker at "A Day Apart" on Sept. 23 at 10 a.m. The meeting is to be at the Mount Olivet Methodist Church, Manteo, and all denominations and those interested are invited to come. A drink will be provided but those who come are asked to bring a sandwich or light lunch.