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RODANTHE FOLKS ALL SET FOR "OLD CHRISTMAS" NIGHT

Community Get Together For Good Time Planned for Jan. 5th

It's going to be a busy period until January 5, when observance of "Old Christmas" takes place at Rodanthe. A committee of citizens of the vicinity are working on plans for a play, and the usual oyster roast.

John Herbert is in charge of Old Buck, that frightful creature who parades around on Old Christmas night. Capt. Levene Midgett is chairman of the oyster roast committee.

Old Christmas usually attracts a lot of people to Rodanthe, many of them coming from distant places. Its observance is handed down from the time when many descendants of the first English settlers, on all parts of the North Carolina coast, adhering to the old calendar, observed the date as Christ's birthday.

Fact is now, none of the present generation attach any significance to the date or the legend, other than it offers an excuse for a get-together, just as do numerous dates throughout the year. This occasion is most appropriately celebrated at Rodanthe, where for many years it gave the two neighboring communities an extra occasion for fellowship during the holiday season.

Anyway, a big time is promised Wednesday night of next week when the committee lines up the program. This committee consists of Mrs. Julian Gray, chmn., W. W. Edwards, Cecil Midgett, Mrs. Nora Herbert, L. W. Midgett, J. E. Herbert, Mrs. Fred O'Neal, Mrs. D. A. Midgett.

GOING-AWAY PARTY FOR MISS ELIZABETH SAWYER

Miss Elizabeth Sawyer, who has been a case worker for the Dare County Welfare Department for the last four years, and who is leaving January 1 to take a similar position in Currituck County, was guest of honor Wednesday evening at a going-away party at the home of Mrs. Rennie Williamson in Manteo. Hostesses were Mrs. T. S. Meekins, Jr., Mrs. Ben Creef, Mrs. Clarence Butler, Mrs. G. G. Bonner and Miss Helen Farrow.

The dining table was decorated in keeping with the holiday season, with pine, pine cones, yaupon and lighted red candles. Refreshments of punch, cake, mints and salted nuts were served and the honoree was presented going-away gifts. Seventeen guests were present.

MASQUERADE BALL

A masquerade ball by the Junior Class of the Manteo High School is to be held Saturday night at the Dare County Shrine Club Hall, Whalebone Junction, U. S. A. Young people this week are busy, making costumes.

QUINN EMPLOYEES ENJOY ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

When the Quinn Furniture Co. and Twiford Funeral Home held their annual Christmas dinner and party recently in Elizabeth City, employees from the Manteo business were in attendance. They enjoyed a bountiful dinner at the Carolina Coffee Shop, and received boxed candy and cartons of cigarettes as favors.

From the Manteo store were: Mrs. Lyna Harbour, manager; V. G. Williams, Dick Scarborough, Walter Harris, their wives; Rollins Tillett and girl friend Jean Bailey, who have since married.

TILLETT-BAILEY

The marriage of Rollins D. Tillett, son of Mrs. W. R. Tillett and the late Mr. Tillett of Manns Harbor, to Miss Jean Bailey, daughter of Mrs. Mary Camilleri of Brooklyn, N. Y., and the late William Bailey of Goldsboro, took place in the Manns Harbor Methodist Church on Thursday, December 23, at 7:30 in the evening. The ceremony was performed by Rev. A. L. G. Stephenson. Following a short wedding trip the couple will make their home at Manns Harbor. Mr. Tillett is employed at the Quinn Furniture Company in Manteo.

HAS HOLIDAY PARTY

Lawrence Swain, Jr., entertained a number of friends Monday night at a Christmas party at his home in Manteo. The guests enjoyed an evening of record playing and dancing and light refreshments were served. About 20 people were present.

SERVED AS POSTMASTER IN MANTEO 20 YEARS



CHARLES R. EVANS, after holding the Manteo postmastership longer than any other man, steps down January 1, having recently asked for his retirement under physical disability and will become one of the first in Manteo named Evans, ever to draw retired pay. Charlie Evans made Manteo a good postmaster, and throughout his career the office has maintained good service. He watched it grow from September 1, 1934 to a second class office doing a business of more than \$200,000 a year. The office now has four clerks. In all his career as postmaster there were no complaints until following the election of Eisenhower, when the Republicans became clamorous for the office. Then from various interested sources, complaints, some of them completely ridiculous began to pour into the postoffice department, which upon careful investigation the inspectors found complete denials from all who lived nearby and knew the postmaster. But such is politics as many practice it in this Democracy.

However, the postmaster sawed wood, and recently finding that his long hours had taken toll of him, and on advice to slow up, he asked for his retirement.

Another veteran of the postoffice is retiring also. John D. O'Neal, one of Manteo's finest men steps down this week, and his place has been temporarily filled by Frank White, long a member of the Tarkington Grocery staff in Manteo.

Postmaster Evans succeeded the late Roscoe Jones who held the office through the preceding Republican administrations. O. J. Jones of Manteo, a brother of Roscoe also served as postmaster for several years before the election of Woodrow Wilson.

Ray W. Jones of Manteo has been appointed temporary postmaster to succeed Mr. Evans. He is a son of Roscoe C. Jones, and has been in business in Manteo for several years.

After having served as postmaster since 1934, Mr. Evans was appointed Postmaster under Civil Service in May 1939. In his more than 20 years in the office he has handled many millions of dollars, particularly in the war years when there was much military activity in the area.

The Evans family have always been active in the public life of Manteo and Dare County. His father, who came to Manteo in the eighties, the late Asa V. Evans, with his wife, Mrs. Celia Evans and three others, were the organizers and long were active in the Manteo Mount Olivet Methodist Church. A. V. Evans was long active and a leader in politics, serving as County Democratic Chairman for many years, several terms as Register of Deeds, town councilman, etc.

From early days, Charles Evans has been a hustler. As a school boy, he began working from early to late, and was the first in Manteo, when in his boyhood, to establish a newspaper route, and he supplied the Virginian-Pilot to the community each day. Back forty and fifty years ago, the Norfolk morning paper didn't arrive in Manteo until the steamer came in about 7 p.m.

In the succeeding years, Mr. Evans established himself in a mercantile business which continued to operate successfully until wiped out by the fire which swept the Manteo business district in 1939. Along with other affairs, Mr. Evans has continued active in real estate development, and with his brother, H. W., have developed ocean front property and a mercantile business at Nags Head.

BUSINESS LOOKS GOOD FOR 1955 ON DARE COAST

Bridge Project Winter Stabilizer; Confidence in Coastal Realty

The New Year is on us, and looking at it from this end, it looks pretty good in a business way for the Dare coast; and when business is good on the Dare Coast, it helps all the counties around, for the commerce and travel headed for the beaches, must first come through other places.

The three million dollar outlay for the Croatan Sound bridge now under construction, with new work crews coming on the job in January, is proving a good business stabilizer for Roanoke Island and Manns Harbor, in a season when business is usually poor. Local merchants and landlords with houses to rent already are profiting by the new business, and many citizens in this dull season have found employment with the contractors.

There seems to be no let up on the beach front, for business in the building trades goes on as usual, and appearances indicate as much construction as ever. There is little loss of confidence as the result of Hazel, for through the years the Dare Beaches have been fortunate indeed, and losses from storms were negligible while other places suffered more.

General indications are that 1955 will be a year of great business activity and profit. Employment will be at top level, and wages good. Hence business will be good and this means tourist business will be good. So Dare County, now being largely dependent on the tourist business, may look forward to its greatest year to date in 1955.

FREE TRIP AWARDED TO HYDE IMPLEMENT DEALER

W. H. (Bill Harvey) Cox and his wife, of Engelhard, left this week on a ten-day trip to California, with all expenses paid by the manufacturers of Massey-Harris farm implements. Mr. Cox, one of the operators of the Hyde Implement Co. in Engelhard, Massey-Harris dealers, was awarded the free trip for excellence in the sales of Massey-Harris tractors.

Mr. and Mrs. Cox left Elizabeth City by plane Wednesday afternoon. While in California, they will stay in a hotel in Hollywood. The company has provided them with free tickets to the Rose Bowl game on New Year's Day.

Swan Quarter Man's Generosity Makes Santa's Tour of Hyde County Possible

For 22 Years, D. E. Tunnell Has Sponsored a Visit of Santa Claus to Hyde on Christmas Eve

For the past twenty-two years, the generosity of a Swan Quarter man has made it possible for Santa Claus to make a visit to Hyde County each Christmas Eve. And Santa always tries to give at least an orange or an apple to each child who comes out to see him.

D. E. Tunnell, better known as Durwood, began sponsoring Santa's trips to Hyde County in 1933, when he decorated his billy goat and cart and lent it to Saint Nick so that the old fellow could come to see the boys and girls in Swan Quarter. Youngsters and old folks alike enjoyed the occasion so much that Mr. Tunnell and Santa repeated the visit again in 1934, this time with Santa Claus riding on Tunnell's small wagon drawn by a horse. In 1935, a double wagon with two horses was used, and similar arrangements were made each year through 1946.

By that time, Santa's visits to Swan Quarter had become such a popular custom that folks from all over Hyde County were bringing their children to Swan Quarter to see the old gent. And so, as the result of a great demand, plans were made for Santa to take a swing around most of Hyde County in 1947. In order to make this possible, Mr. Tunnell provided his truck for Santa's transportation and decorated it. That year, Santa made a big hit with the children in Fairfield and Engelhard also.

Since then, Tunnell's truck, bearing Santa Claus and a gaily decorated Christmas tree, has been a much looked-forward-to part of the Christmas Eve festivities in Fairfield, Engelhard, and Swan Quarter, and also all along the way between these towns.

This year, hundreds of children were thrilled with the opportunity of seeing Santa Claus. And it was quite a day for Santa too; he was kept on the go from dawn to dusk.

The crew which helped Santa this year met at Mr. Tunnell's house shortly after 6:30 p.m. In

GOOD CHRISTMAS SEASON ALONG COASTAL AREA

Happy Reports Favor People of Dare and Neighboring Counties

It's been one of the happiest of Christmases along the Dare Coast, in fact all through the Walter Raleigh Coastland, with mild weather to bless the season, and a shortage of accidents. No tragedy has come to this area during the season, and only one or two minor instances of injury reported.

In fact all through the year, no section has been more blessed than the Dare Coastland, free completely of disastrous damage in storms that harmed other communities.

Through this Christmas season, there have been an unusual number of visitors back home, to old scenes of their childhood and old friends. There is a good reason why so many of them are coming back home. The Coastland was never more interesting, nor with more advantages for making life pleasant. It has become modernized and those who have become accustomed to modern things away from home, may continue to enjoy them when they return to childhood scenes.

Throughout the Coastland there have been parties and entertainments, a few weddings. It has been an interesting and a pleasant season, and a most fortunate one. Because of its memories through the year, we may easily expect a finer holiday season next year.

QUIET WEEK END IN MANTEO AREA

D. A. Rogers, Jr. Receives Injuries When Pickup Overturns at Wanchese

The Manteo area observed a quiet holiday season, with no arrests, and no disturbances of consequence reported, according to Manteo Policeman D. L. Cannady.

D. A. Rogers, Jr. of Manteo was bruised and shaken up pretty badly Saturday evening when the Ford pickup he was driving went out of control on a curve at Wanchese. He is now in the Albemarle Hospital, Elizabeth City, where his condition is greatly improved. Damage to the truck was slight, which turned over on its right side.

NEW FIRM PLANS OPERATION OF BIG BELHAVEN PLANT

New Yorkers Buy "Cooperage" Mill and Expect to Employ Over 200

Belhaven received the good news yesterday that the lumber mill owned by Belhaven Lumber Industries, idle since early in 1953, has been sold and will be reactivated early in January.

In a telegram to Mayor W. T. Ralph, Dr. G. Hodges Bryant of New York City, general manager of the purchasing group, announced the completion of negotiations for the purchase of the mill by a group of New York investors, who are to form a North Carolina corporation.

The reopening of the mill will be a great boost to employment in the Belhaven area. According to the available information, the plant will employ three shifts of seventy men each, as well as an office force of ten. It is believed that the mill will engage in the manufacture of all types of lumber products, including processing sawdust and shavings, woodworking, and making doorframes and doors.

According to Dr. Bryant, the facilities of the mill are to be converted to electricity and modernized. Dr. Bryant himself will come to Belhaven to supervise getting the mill into operation.

Mayor Ralph was contacted by Dr. Bryant last week, and he assured Dr. Bryant that the town officials, civic clubs, Chamber of Commerce and townspeople will cooperate with the new corporation to the fullest extent possible. The telegram from Dr. Bryant yesterday expressed the buyers' appreciation for this promise of cooperation on the part of the town.

The sale of the mill was the result of efforts by George Schaefer, Jr., a real estate agent from Washington, D. C. Mr. Schaefer came to Belhaven early in December. Last week before leaving for New York to close the deal, Mr. Schaefer told a representative of this newspaper that the buyer was planning to have the mill in operation in ninety days.

The mill was originally built by the Interstate Cooperage Company, and was a part of a much larger operation. While in operation it was Belhaven's largest industry. But, it became uneconomical and impractical to operate its present battery of boilers, and it was closed. Several attempts to reopen the mill have been unsuccessful; the last was the one by the Belhaven Lumber Industries, which closed down after operating two years. The recent completion of Virginia Electric and Power Co. power lines into Belhaven will make possible the electrification of the mill.

YOUNG NAGS HEADER MAKES GOOD RECORD



CADET MICHAEL HAYMAN, son of Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Hayman of Nags Head, is this year attending McDough Military School, McDonough, Md. This is his second year at the school, where he is a member of the 6th grade, and a member of the drill team. Young Hayman is recognized for his high abilities, and recently made first honor roll in the middle school. In order to receive this honor, one must average 85 on all subjects, and make no less than 80 on any. In the year and a half in which he has attended the school, he has received no demerits. He is now visiting his parents over the holidays and will return to McDonough early in January.

GLIMPSES OF THE PAST

By CAROLYN LLOYD

1954 is slowly slipping away. To some of us who are no longer sixteen it seems to be galloping away, as years now have a habit of doing. It was a good year in many ways, but taking a backward look at it, I find that there were several features of it that I can easily do without in 1955. Included in the list are the fall months that seemed like midsummer; "Hazel" and her lesser sisters; the antics of Senator J. McCarty; all the fuss about the "Flat Look", which didn't seem to change women's looks much after all; Marilyn Monroe publicity; the increasing output of "cowboy and injun" pictures.

And now comes a new year. New Year's resolutions? Not I. Why add extra burdens to the conscience; that still, small voice keeps me uncomfortable enough as it is. Instead I should like to suggest a few for others, who might be stronger characters than I: for my husband—to wash the dishes every night; for my friends—to invite me out to dinner once a week (then there wouldn't have to be so much dishwashing at my house). See GLIMPSES, Page Four

OBSERVE 25TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



MR. AND MRS. D. V. MEEKINS, who celebrated their silver wedding Tuesday evening with Open House at their home near Manteo.

ROANOKE ISLAND NEEDING GREATER FIRE PROTECTION

Support and Encouragement Demanded by Present Property Growth

Roanoke Islanders might as well look up to the facts and make plans for a fire fighting unit that can be effective in case of a bad fire. The rapid growth of property on this island, the growing congestion of homes, makes any fire threat more costly and disastrous each year.

For many years the people of Roanoke Island have grown to depend on the Manteo Fire Department to aid in case of a fire. For some 17 years, a tax collected from Roanoke Island taxpayers has been paid over to the town of Manteo to assist its fire department, to buy a new truck. In all from \$15,000 to \$20,000 has been paid into the town funds.

The town of Manteo is likewise in the same fix as Roanoke Island, and needs fire fighting equipment and men, perhaps worse, because houses are closer together in town. Fortunately the town has a water system, and since it has been installed, the limited fire department has managed it well. Not a home has been burned down since this system was installed in the town, about 21 years ago.

The Manteo Fire Department consists of a volunteer company. At one time there were about 22 active young men taking part in the work. As the years have rolled on, some have died, some moved away, some have grown much older, and some are in employment that prevents their participation in time of fires. Ivey Evans is the fire chief and a good hand at fighting fires, and he has given a lot of time to the work. But the department has shrunk until there is a mere handful of men ready at the first alarm to bolt to a fire.

Three readily come to mind who are the most faithful of the lot: Raymond Westcott, Edwin Midgett and George Creef. There are probably others, but these are usually seen along with the chief at every fire.

A review of the property that has been saved by this department, including Nags Head beach and even Currituck County will run into several hundred thousand dollars in value. Amazing it is when we consider that these men do the work without pay, and in fact, they seldom get any sign of appreciation. People take fire service as a matter of course, and never give it a thought that the firemen have dropped their work, usually at considerable personal loss, and are going to fight fire for other people, who in many cases do not help and in other cases hinder the work.

It is not reasonable to expect any group of men to work a long time for nothing. Nor is it reasonable to expect fire fighting service without an expenditure for equipment and operation. This is what the people must soon face, and work out plans for equipment to replace what is now either inadequate or obsolete. At any rate it is not sufficient.

Important still is the need for a plan to create interest among those who would be members of a fire company. In many towns, the firemen organize into an enjoyable, social, or semi-fraternal organization. In this town, features that usually belong to the fire department are found only in a number of other organizations.

It is high time that those who would benefit by their services should plan for the future so that there will be some rewards for these free hearted fellows who work for the public. In this age no one man should give all, in order that some others may receive all.

Fire Chief Ivey Evans says he thinks a meeting will be called early in January to discuss these problems. If it is, the whole community should turn out, and help do a good job for the future.

RETURN FROM FLORIDA

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Newman and son, Lance, of Nags Head, and Mrs. Newman's mother, Mrs. H. C. Smith of Manteo, have returned from a visit of several weeks in Florida. They visited many points of interest in Florida, including Key West.

MIDNIGHT SNACK PARTY ON CHRISTMAS EVE

Mr. and Mrs. M. K. Fearing and Miss Mollie Fearing entertained on Christmas Eve at a midnight snack party at their home in Manteo. Christmas decorations were used throughout the house and refreshments of punch, coffee, party sandwiches and party cakes were served. Approximately 30 guests were present.