

# THE COASTLAND TIMES

Published Continuously at Manteo, N. C., Since July 4, 1935

The Weekly Journal of the Walter Raleigh Coastland of North Carolina, Foremost Region of Recreation and Sport, Healthful Living and Historical Interest On The Atlantic Seaboard

Entered As Second Class Matter At The Postoffice At Manteo, N. C. Subscription Rates: 1 Year \$2.50; 6 Months \$1.50; 3 Months \$1.00

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY BY TIMES PRINTING CO., INC., AT 505 LODGE STREET, MANTEO, NORTH CAROLINA

VICTOR MEEKINS, Editor  
CATHERINE D. MEEKINS, Secretary-Treasurer

Vol. XX Manteo, N. C., Friday, May 20, 1955 No. 47

## THAT RED HOT \$85,000 IS GOING TO BE SPENT TO GIVE DARE COUNTY FOLKS A NEW JAIL OR TWO.

It is difficult to visualize the workings of the minds of a group of presumably intelligent men now employed in the Dare County courthouse, who are persisting in their scheme, come hell or high water, to spend \$85,000 of the money of the people of Dare County in the tearing down of a brick building now the county jail, and building a new one, which will be unfinished. Of course some of the officials, who no doubt expect to remain in office for life, expect to have a glorified office or two to strut around in. They wouldn't need so much space if they didn't have to have so much help to do for them, the work which they are paid to do.

It is amazing, the gall with which your county commissioners are planning to spend your money to hold an election in every precinct in Dare County, and expect you to go to the polls and vote an extra tax on yourselves whereby they can borrow more money so they can throw it away on this foolish project. Really, they do assume the people are suckers. Maybe it is because the people were suckers enough to elect them.

You are already in debt and paying interest on \$260,000 and they want to bring that debt up to \$295,000. Instead of doing something to lower the debt and lower your taxes, they want to increase your debt and increase your taxes, and they are going to work like fury to put this deal across at the polls at some date to be called soon.

The Board of Commissioners are going to hold a meeting at 10 a. m. on May 31, during court week. At that time efforts will be made to get the Grand Jury to report that this expenditure is necessary. But the Jury was picked by the Board of Commissioners, who are putting this deal across. The State Jail Inspector has said, that by spending a mere \$2,500, the present jail would serve the people better than the outlay of \$85,000 that is planning to be thrown away on an unfinished building.

Of course they promise to build the people a jail at Buxton out of this pot of money. It will look like Dare County is a tough place; the only county that we know of that can't get along with one jail. Quite a distinction for Dare—two jails.

Well, the county has had two prisoners during the year. Dare's prisoners can boast of occupying the most expensive jail quarters per capita in the United States.

The commissioners have set May 31 for anyone to come to object to building these jails for two prisoners a year. It is to be hoped that someone will come out and kick about it, but it's not likely to make any difference and cause the Board to desist. It is their intention to spend this money. It is burning them up to spend this \$85,000. What do they care, they must spend \$25,000 more later on to finish the job, and then still have nothing of which anyone may be proud. They want to spend the money. Why, why, why, and who is it going to benefit?

### WHY SPEND \$5,000 FOR JAIL AT BUXTON?

As if piling error on top of error, the County Board is anxious to spend \$5,000 to build a jail at Buxton. Some weeks ago, several citizens of the area, requested a lock-up be provided to aid the Deputy Sheriff, in case of unruly drunks needing to be kept overnight, when ferries were not running. But clearly the jail idea did not meet with the approval of many citizens, for numerous protests were heard later about this move.

Now let's examine into the commonsense of spending \$5,000 for a jail at Buxton. To begin with, the Government has given the county an adequate brick building on the grounds of the Cape Hatteras Health Center, which is temporarily used by the Masonic Lodge. But the Lodge is planning to build a new home soon. This building could be rented to the law enforcement division for a lock-up, and the rental would help support the health center, which the county now aids with tax funds.

It is most likely that in a matter of three or four years, Oregon Inlet will be bridged. Then why waste money? It just seems the officials have gone hog-wild on wasting money. Maybe the \$5,000 for the jail at Buxton is a sop to buy the vote of Commissioners in that area for the preposterous and foolish scheme to build a \$100,000 jail in Manteo. Who is going to get the gravy off this big waste of money for which the county debt must be increased and taxes raised again?

### HOW COME IT TAKES SO MUCH TIME?

(Hertford County Herald)

It is being predicted now that the overdue adjournment of the General Assembly will be accomplished by May twenty-fifth. By this time the legislative leaders estimate, they will have finished the business for which they were sent to Raleigh and will be able to come back home.

But more puzzling than when they can adjourn is what have they been doing these five months that could not have been done in three. With the exception of the bills to decentralize the control of the schools to avoid the immediate application of the Supreme Court's anti-segregation ruling—a step which we approve with or without the Supreme Court—nothing has been done in this session of the General Assembly that has not been done by other sessions before it in much shorter time. The time has been spent, it appears, not in debate or resolution of proposals for progress or reform but in wrangling with negative proposals of what to tax and what not to tax. Yet there has been no new departure in taxation. The State has the same taxation system now that it has followed for more than twenty-five years.

Constructive legislative proposals for reform of present practices and for new approaches to new problems arising in a growing state have fared badly while the men of the General Assembly have wrangled and piddled away the past five months. The proposal for annual legislative sessions has been killed. The legislators, either afraid of the people who elect them or jealous of all prerogatives to which they may lay claim, refuse to permit the counties and towns to solve their own legislative problems under the proposed "home rule" amendment to the constitution. The justices of peace reform bill, a reform much needed, has been so mangled that its most useful provisions have been eliminated.

The legislators have killed a lot of time in Raleigh. They have killed a lot of useful and needful legislation. They have done little that is new and constructive. The legislators, weary with the wrangling, no doubt wish very much now to return to their homes and everyday pursuits. We might feel

## LETTERS to the EDITOR

### MR. DOUGLAS SAYS POLITICS NOT USED IN HIS DEPARTMENT

This is News Indeed and The Change Will Be Welcome To Many Fishermen in N. C.

To The Editor:

I have read with interest and some concern your editorial of Friday, May 6, in which you criticize the Board of Conservation and Development for extending the shad season by ten days. May I assure you that, contrary to the statements in your editorial, no political requests were involved in this extension.

We were advised by experts in our Commercial Fisheries Division that weather conditions had been very bad and had caused a delay in the shad run, and an extension

sorry for them. On the other hand, it might be said that they brought it on themselves by their own yielding to negative attitudes rather than taking positive action to do what other General Assemblies have done in about half the time this one has consumed.

### THANK GOD FOR THIS MUCH!

As if once in two years wasn't enough for the long-suffering people of North Carolina, the House of Representatives recently had the temerity to approve a bill whereby the Legislature would be held every year. What a calamity it would have been to the state while the counties continue to be represented by so many of the stumbling blocks to progress and sane Government who make a profession of going to the Legislature. A five-months session at the hands of our "professional" legislators as an annual thing would be too much for the people of North Carolina.

But fortunately for the people of North Carolina, the evil day will at least be postponed. The Senate last week killed the bill. In spite of all the assinnity displayed by some members of the same, we can overlook much of it, and thank God that all reason has not fled, and that we owe them much for this one act. The Senate has just about redeemed itself.

would not be detrimental to the shad population any more than a normal season would, and would also be of benefit to the fishermen. For these and no other reasons we extended the season by ten days.

I am wondering if you are completely familiar with the laws and regulations as they affect shad. We are criticized by you for extending the open season from May 1 to May 10 yet the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission is permitted to have an open season on shad through June 1. I would like to state also that in the waters controlled by the Wildlife Resources Commission the shad does its spawning and therefore the longer open season in those waters, it seems to me, would be more detrimental than an open season in the commercial waters.

The regulations of the Wildlife Resources Commission make it possible for that body to license "special devices" and thus it is possible to use fixed nets, seines, and gill nets, as well as skim nets and dip nets.

Consequently the Wildlife Resources group has the authority to license commercial gear in inland waters where the most damage

can be done to the shad. It just does not make sense to me that anyone should be permitted to use commercial gear in inland or game waters. While our commercial fishermen are barred after May 1, or after May 10 if the season is extended, from taking shad, the non-commercial folks have until June 1, using commercial gear and, I am quite sure in my own mind, sell the shad which brings it in direct competition with the commercial fishermen. So when you criticize us editorially for making an effort to protect the interests of the commercial fishermen, I feel that you should take into consideration other factors which I have mentioned.

This Department is trying to do a good job of promoting the commercial fishing industry and at the same time conserve the fish resources. Our actions in opening and closing seasons are dictated by scientific information furnished us by experts employed by the State for that purpose, and at no time do we act because of political reasons.

With every good wish, I am Sincerely yours,  
BEN E. DOUGLAS

### A GRATEFUL GROUP OF LADS APPRECIATE NEW UNIFORMS

Mr. Victor Meekins, Editor THE COASTLAND TIMES MANTEO, N. C.

Dear Mr. Meekins:

Our baseball team, the Manteo Cardinals, wish to thank you and your newspaper and members of the Rotary Club who helped us get our new baseball uniforms. Mr. Brown of the Rotary Club received the uniforms on Monday and turned them over to our teacher and coach Mr. Fry who distributed the uniforms to our team members. We wore the uniforms in our first game on Tuesday when we played Kitty Hawk on their diamond. We won the game 9 to 1.

Thanks from all of us to the Rotary Club, and to your newspaper for the uniforms.

Your truly, Manteo Cardinals

### HATTERAS PERSONALS

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Burrus of Norfolk visited Mr. and Mrs. Luther Burrus.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Glen Gaskill and Mrs. Betty Gaskill, visited Mr. and Mrs. Horton Austin.

Mrs. Boyd Peele of Norfolk visited her mother.

William Preston and H. J. Willis were home for the week end.

Mrs. Brittle Gaskill visited in panied home by Jack Hames, who Norfolk last week. She was accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Ulysses Peele.

Dock Austin of New York visited his parents, who accompanied him back to visit with Mr. and Mrs. Don L. Austin, Mr. and Mrs. Worth Austin and Mr. and Mrs. Earl Gray.

Mr. and Mrs. Keith Peele and children, Gail and Dale have been visiting Mr. and Mrs. Frazier Peele.

Charlie Ballance visited his mother, Mrs. Lina Ballance, at the Albemarle Hospital.

Steve Burrus spent the week end with his family.

Mrs. Kate Burrus left Thursday for Norfolk.

Rev. Dan Meadows is at East Lake this week conducting a revival.

The Bible Class met at the home of Mrs. Carl Hollis Friday night with 15 present. Part of the book of Proverbs was read and discussed.

Mrs. Minnie Burrus led the worship program, and with Mrs. Kathryn Midgett gave a reading on a Mother's Love. The Scripture was given by Mrs. Maude Austin, reading the 13th chapter of 7st Corinthians. Closing prayer by Mrs. Hazel Foster.

The hostess served delicious pie

Baseball Team: Billy Brown, Clyde Hassell, Bill Dough, Gary Meekins, Johnny Cox, Larry Holmes, Ralph Jones, Tommy Dowdy, Tony Tillett.

Thanks Boys. It's a pleasure to do anything to help a fine-looking bunch of boys like this. EDITOR.

and coffee. The next meeting will be at the home of Mrs. Inez Batten.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Dale Gray and children of Manteo spent the week end with Mr. and Mrs. Damon Gray.

Gary Austin was home for the week end.

Mr. and Mrs. Luther Dudley Burrus, Jr. announced the birth of a son at the Cape Hatteras Health Center, May 16th. Weight 8 1/2 lbs.

The Hatteras M.Y.F. meeting met Sunday night, opening with the song "Do Lord" with Mrs. Virginia Austin, pianist, followed with Scripture reading by Sonja Oden and prayer by Elida Austin. A poem was read by Cora Joan Austin. The group sang "No One ever cared For Me Like Jesus" followed by a discussion on giving a 4-H Club program the following Sunday. The group sang "Give Me Jesus" and was dismissed with the M.Y.F. Benediction.

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