

THE COASTLAND TIMES

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FORESEE OREGON INLET BRIDGE IN 5 YEARS

RODANTHE CELEBRATION NOW APPEARS TO GROW GREATER THAN FIRST PLANNED FOR

Aid Coming in From Other Communities To Aid Small Villages on August 12-14 to Stage Events Honoring the Coast Guardsmen and the Old Life Savers. Navy Chaplain To Speak.

The list of old veterans is growing. Plans for the celebration are growing. It's going to be a much bigger affair than was first anticipated when the committee got together about a month ago.

But August 12-13-14 will be big days in the memory of the Coast Guard, when the programs come off at Rodanthe. It's been a big undertaking for the communities of Rodanthe and Waves, numbering only about 200 people. Fortunately, their friends in neighboring towns have come to their rescue, and the committee now sees financial daylight again.

From Norfolk, Elizabeth City, and Manteo, as well as from Buxton and Hatteras, have come several contributions of cash to aid with expenses. Mostly these are from firms who enjoy the patronage of the people of Hatteras Island, and have enjoyed long business friendship and wish to help a good cause.

Many more names have come to the committee swelling the list of old Life Savers who are being invited as special honor guests. All Coast Guardsmen, retired and active are honor guests, and expected to come and be honored, but the old boys are something special indeed. It may be the last annual round up for some of them. Their names will be found in a column.

Committee considers itself quite in, having for the speaker Sunday the closing service of the program, Capt. Roy E. Bishop, USN, Chaplain of the Atlantic Fleet, who will speak in honor of the old men Sunday morning, August 14 at 11 a. m. at Fairhaven Methodist Church. At this service, Robert H. Midgett of Manteo will be guest soloist.

LATEST LIST OF THE OLD TIME LIFE SAVERS

The committee for celebration for the Coast Guard at Rodanthe August 12-14, have received the names of the following men who have served at some time in the old Life Saving Service, which was consolidated with the Coast Guard in 1915. These men will be invited as honor guests at Rodanthe, August 13th:

- Davis Littleton Gray, and Arthur V. Midgett, Waves, N. C.
- W. Bembury Miller, Eugene G. Gray, James W. Scarborough, Nelson Gray, of Avon, N. C.
- Clarence P. Brady, Nasa F. Jenette, Warren Midgett, Bernice R. Ballance, Cyrus H. Gray of Buxton, N. C.
- Charlie S. Styron, of Hatteras, N. C.
- Horatio J. Williams and Leonard D. Williams of Ocracoke.
- Willie H. Austin of Oriental, N. C.

John Marchant Meekins, Claude C. Jones, Edward W. Etheridge, Walter Otis Dough, Washington Franklin Baum, Christopher Columbus Midgett, Samuel Alonzo Stowe, Otho C. Ward, Clyde Hassell, W. Van Lewark, Roscoe Burrus, Sr., and John Alfred Farrow of Manteo, N. C.

Joe Etheridge Midgett of New York.

Arthur J. Fulcher, 3118 Cottage Toll Road, Norfolk, Va., Jess M. Rogers, 804 E. 26th St., Norfolk, Va.

SEA BEE SERENADERS TO PLAY AT RODANTHE DANCE

The Sea Bee Serenaders is the name of a new orchestra on its way to popularity on Hatteras Island. This orchestra, which will play at the dances on Friday and Saturday nights, August 12 and 13th at Rodanthe, is composed of Don F. Bradley, Duane W. Sayre, Bob Stapleton, and Dave Bennett. Their address is Buxton. Herbert Midgett is in charge of the program at the Rodanthe dance.

BIG DRUM FISH CATCHES IN PEA ISLAND AREA



CAPT. ZEKE MIDGETT of Rodanthe is shown here with a 40 pound drumfish caught Saturday night by Selby Gaskins. Mr. Gaskins caught many fish, ranging in weight from eight to 40 lbs. Many other fishermen made big catches, some fish weighing 28 to 30 lbs. Fishing was good in the vicinity of the old wrecks near Rodanthe and Waves and has kept good all this week. It is estimated that nearly 50 drumfish were caught by anglers Saturday night. Reuben Etheridge and Wallace Shannon of Manteo made good catches.

MANTEO OCTOGENARIAN FETED AT BIG PARTY

Alpheus W. Drinkwater Receives More Than 150 Guests On Occasion of His Eightieth Birthday

Manteo's beloved Alpheus W. Drinkwater, retired Coast Guard telegrapher, celebrated his 80th birthday on Sunday, July 31, with a party and buffet supper at the Sea Ranch Hotel at Kitty Hawk, and more than 150 guests enjoyed his hospitality and paid him homage during the evening. The hostess was his daughter, Miss Dorothy Drinkwater. Mr. and Mrs. H. Travis Sykes, owners and operators of the Sea Ranch, assisted her in making the evening a most memorable occasion.

Among the notables present for the occasion were Lindsay Warren of Washington, N. C., former Comptroller General of the United States; W. E. Debnam of Raleigh, radio commentator; and Edmund Harding of Washington, N. C., all of whom paid vocal tribute to the honoree at the microphone, with Mr. Harding acting as master of ceremonies. Many other well-known persons, too numerous to list, were on hand for the party. Mr. Drinkwater responded graciously to the homage paid him.

Known for the last 50 years and more as the telegrapher who sent out the first news of the Wright brothers' first flight at Kill Devil Hill, and always a booster of the Wright Brothers tradition, Mr. Drinkwater received, among other messages a telegram from Mamie Eisenhower, wife of the President, which read as follows: "Although it is not possible for the President to attend, he sends his best wishes to you and all the guests. See PARTY, Page Five

COUNTY LAND SOLD FOR LESS THAN TAX EVALUATIONS

Kitty Hawk Tract Sold By Commissioners for Less Than \$4 Per Acre; An Old Custom in Dare

The County Commissioners of Dare are making progress, for county land is not being sold now at ten cents an acre, but following the old custom of just about giving it away, the board this week sold the 52-acre Gallop tract of land near Currituck Sound in the Kitty Hawk area to Hallett Perry for \$200.

Without asking any questions, or seeing what the land might bring, they sold it for less than the tax values they put on neighboring land, which ranges not less than \$5 and up to \$10 per acre.

A peculiar situation has developed in the county, whereby a man who owns only a few acres of land, pays twice as much taxes per acre as the man who owns 50 or more acres. The little fellow's land is valued on the books for twice as much as the big fellow's.

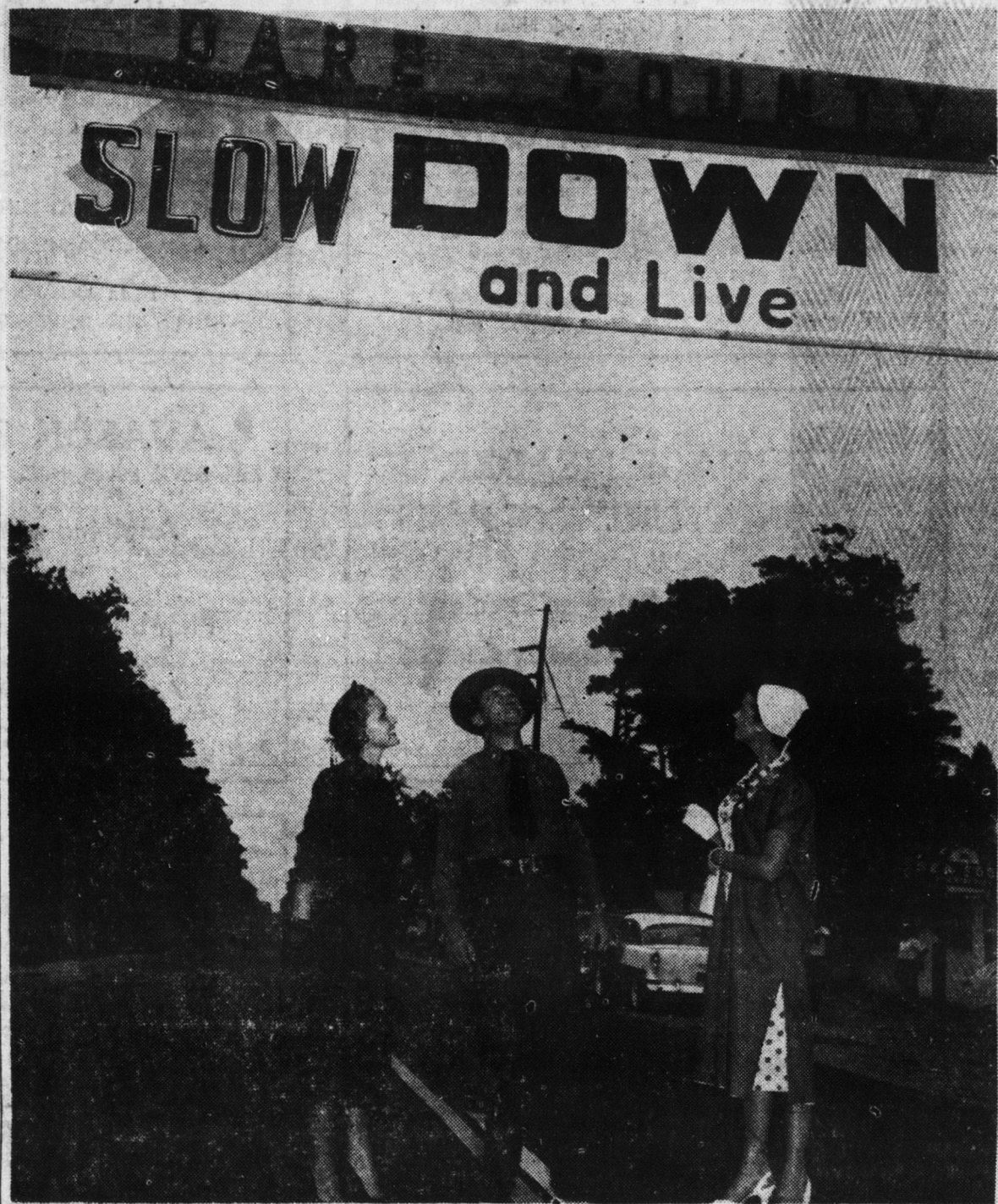
The land sold this week was one of several pieces recently deeded back to the county by the State of North Carolina, and was formerly owned by the county, and deeded to the state some 12 years ago, for inclusion in the contemplated seashore park. The county had foreclosed it for taxes, and the taxes involved in the foreclosure was far greater than the price the Board sold it for this week. It is estimated that the land sold for \$200 would easily bring one thousand dollars. There are a number of other county owned tracts which will probably go the same cheap way. It is an old custom, giving away the county's land. It just seems County boards lack backbone to break it.

Among other business transacted this week was the closing of a portion of Norfolk Avenue at Kill Devil Hills on the Diane Frank property. The Board heard a delegation from Kitty Hawk asking for aid toward the development of a small harbor for the community in the Poor Ridge section.

A bid was extended to the State Association of Commissioners and Clerks of Court to hold their 1956 Annual convention in Dare County. Notice was received that the state has approved hard surfacing of a road near the Walter Etheridge home in the Burnside Section of Roanoke Island, and known as the Etheridge road.

The Board expressed no deviation from their unanimous decision to continue with their wasteful scheme calling for the eventual expenditure of more than \$100,000 for a new jail at Manteo and at Buxton, which proposition was contrary to the decision of the voters of the county on July 9th. See LAND, Page Four

STATE BEAUTIES LEARN ABOUT SAFETY CAMPAIGN OF S-H-P



Kitty Hawk, N. C. Aug.—With Sergeant Logan Lane of the State Highway Patrol, on their recent Dare coast visit, Miss North Carolina of 1955, and her runnerup, stopped at the east approach to Currituck Sound bridge at Kitty Hawk to take a close-up look at the "Slow Down and Live" banner, one of several which members of Sergeant Lane's patrol unit has erected during a safe driving campaign. Faye Arnold of Raleigh, (Miss N. C.) and Pat Cowden, also of Raleigh, her runnerup, displayed interest in the sign and campaign and each congratulated Sergeant Lane and his patrol in their efforts to curb fast driving—the kind that kill. (Aycock Brown Photo)

THREE CASES SUBMITTED BEFORE DARE RECORDER

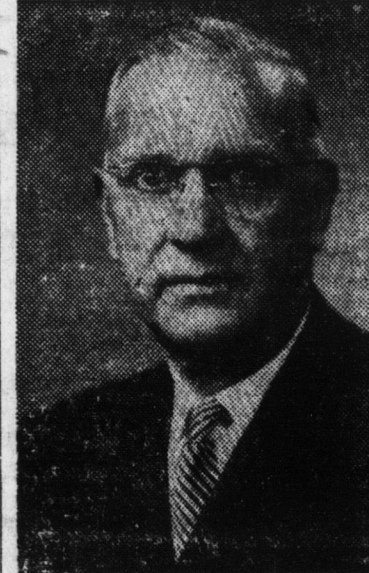
Louis Frank Sykes of Columbia submitted to a charge of failure to dim lights, and paid the costs in Judge Baum's Dare Recorder court in Manteo Tuesday. Steve Manuel submitted to being disorderly in Nags Head casino and was fined \$5 and costs.

Wm. Grandy Whaley of Eliz. City submitted to drunken driving and driving in excess of 75 mph, was fined \$100 and \$25 and the costs of court. Total \$133.20.

CORRECTING ERROR IN QUOTING DARE BUDGET

A mistake occurred in the set up of figures in 1955-56 budget items for Dare County, reported in our paper last week. It was reported that the increase in the budget of the Register of Deeds is \$1,930 when the correct sum is \$1,430. Of this sum \$600 is for the purchase of a new map book. We regret the error in typesetting. It is not our desire to report anything incorrectly.

GUEST SPEAKER



DR. C. SYLVESTER GREEN, Vice President of Wake Forest College in Winston-Salem, will be guest minister at the sixth of a series of Lost Colony season Sunday worship services in Waterside Theatre here, Sunday morning, August 7, at 11 o'clock. Dr. Green's topic for his sermon will be "Religion is a Relation". See INLET, Page Five

For several years Dr. Green edited the Durham Morning Herald before becoming Executive Vice President of the Medical Foundation. See SPEAKER, Page Ten

SCHEDULED ANNOUNCED FOR SECOND POLIO SHOTS

Dr. W. W. Johnston, health officer for Currituck and Dare counties, has announced that the second batch of polio vaccine for the two counties has arrived, and that the schedule for Currituck county has been set up as follows: Aug. 8, at the Currituck health center from one to four p.m.; Aug. 9, Knott's Island school house at 10 a. m.; Aug. 10, Powell's Point clinic, from one to four p.m.

All parents who wish their children to have the second polio shots are asked to have their children at these points on the dates stated. No other shots will be given before school opens.

The schedule for Dare County will be announced at a later date.

FERRY INADEQUACY RAPID GROWTH OF TRAFFIC FACTORS

Rapid growth of traffic across Oregon Inlet now leads to predictions of early construction of a highway bridge at this point. Some well-informed people predict the bridge will be built in three years. The more conservative say it will take longer.

Hon. Lindsay C. Warren of Washington, N. C. is one of the conservatives. Mr. Warren believes the bridging of this inlet may be expected in five years. Usually Mr. Warren has predicted pretty accurately about the outcome of things, in this section. To Mr. Warren goes the credit for having been for 30 years, just about the most effectively helpful friend of the coastland. He fathered the Kill Devil Hills memorial project, and many other things, including the legislation that made possible the development of the Lost Colony the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Area. His influence developed projects in sand fixation, and caused the expenditure of millions for the improvement and protection of our coast, and which came during the depression years in the mid thirties, when employment thereby proved a life-saver for so many of our people.

It's the wide advertising given the area by the National Park Service, or resulting from the Park services' activities, and the boosting done by the County tourist bureau, all of it growing out of tourist business that is going to force the bridging of Oregon Inlet. Five years sounds mighty good, and while some are eager to see it bridged this week or this month, reasonable people realize that these things don't happen overnight. The fight for the bridging of Croatan Sound took 20 years; it took a lot of money, a lot of time, a lot of work. It took the ablest and united leadership of many counties to finally sell the worth of the idea to the State and to the Governor. The advertising resulting from this long battle created a lot of traffic in the area to be served by the bridge, but finally the inadequacy of ferries proved a convincing argument.

If ferry boats proved inadequate over Croatan Sound, then the situation is much worse at Oregon Inlet where traffic is doubly heavy on the more frequent schedules now operated. Three converted Navy craft are in service and a fourth is under reconversion in Norfolk. But all these boats are ten or more years old, and were not designed for long lasting purposes. In the next five years, they may all well be out of commission by reason of age. In the next five years, the traffic demand might be ten or 20 times greater than today. And there will be no more free Navy boats to convert into ferries.

One may easily predict without much imagination, that the construction of new boats to handle this traffic would run into millions of dollars. A bridge is the only answer, and a bridge it will have to be before five years run out, or there is going to be a tremendous bottleneck of traffic.

Citizens of Hatteras Island are generally very anxious for a bridge. They make repeated appeals to various county and state officials at all levels. Harassed officials try to find excuses to stave them off, sometimes to give them the "runaround". See INLET, Page Five

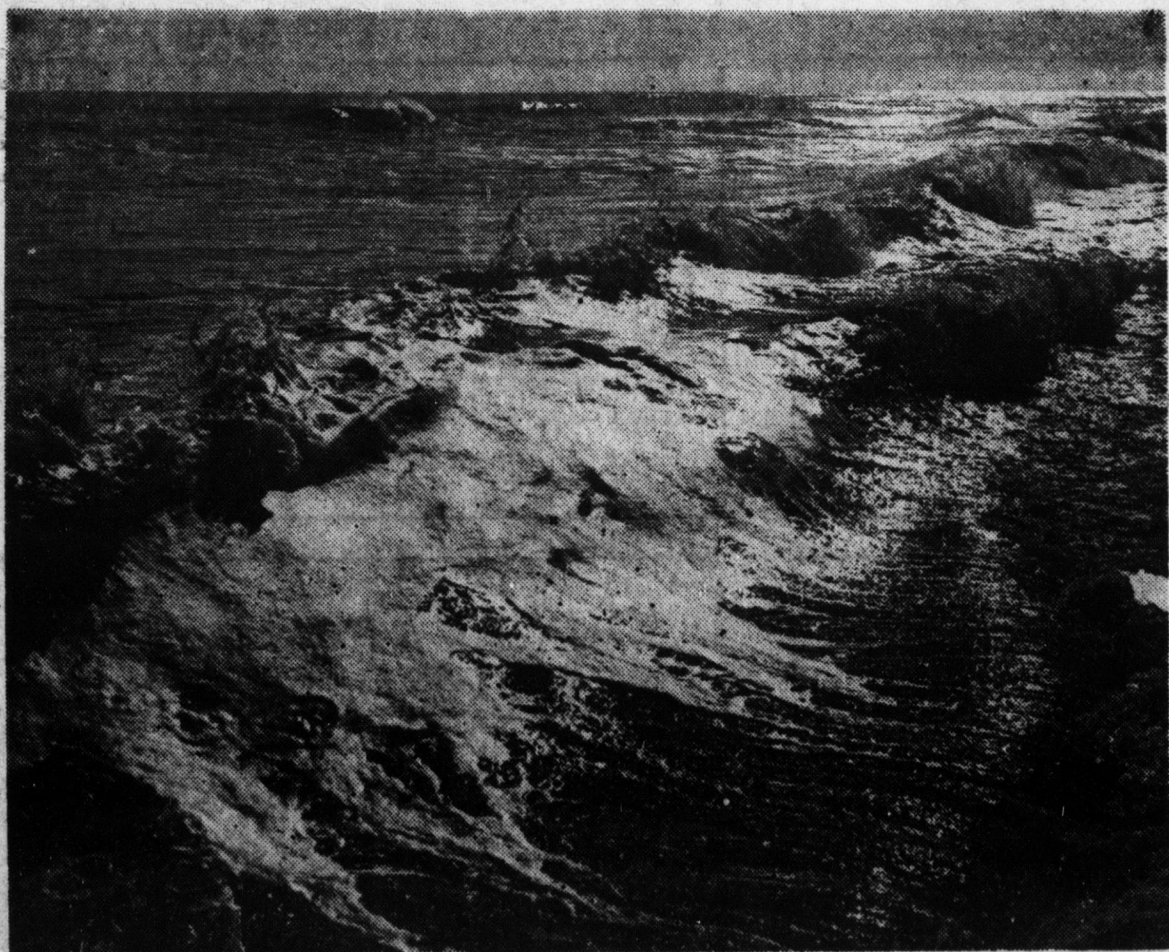
BOARD OF EDUCATION SETS UP PLANS FOR NEXT TERM

The Board of Education last week in Dare County made plans to bring the students of Stumpy Point school to Manteo this fall. Heretofore, they have gone to Engelhard. Mrs. Grace Hooper, who has previously taught in Engelhard will teach this year in Manteo. Parents of the children, petitioned for a change. The first to fourth grades will continue to be taught at Stumpy Point, until the bridge is completed.

Miss Arlene Venable was elected to teach in the Kitty Hawk School. It was decided to dispense with the use of gutters on the Cape Hatteras High School, since it appeared they would cost \$4,360 and more.

The Commissioners had included \$15,000 in their budget for a school site at Kill Devil Hills, but Mr. Parker of the Kitty Hawk District moved that request be made for an additional \$10,000. His motion received no second.

THIS IS THE BIGGEST DARE COAST ATTRACTION IN SUMMER



Sportsfishing, The Lost Colony and other attractions bring summer vacationists to the coast of Dare between Kitty Hawk and Hatteras, but the one thing which brings more people than anything else is the cool, cool waters of the ocean's surf. A typical surf of the Dare coast is shown in this photo by Aycock Brown, which he made recently on assignment from one of the nationally distributed magazines of the nation.