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## CURRITUCK SOUND BRIDGE USHERED IN NEW ERA OF PROGRESS 25 YEARS AGO

### Great Advances Were Predicted and Have Come to Pass in Many Directions Since Wright Memorial Bridge Was Opened to Traffic; History May Show Us What the Future Will Bring.

Twenty-five years ago this week the Wright Memorial Bridge across Currituck Sound was opened to traffic for the first time forming the first link between the mainland of North Carolina and the Dare County coastal wonderland.

From Kitty Hawk to Hatteras and Ocracoke a new era began and this centuries-old land of history and legend began to experience a boom the like of which has seldom been seen anywhere along the Atlantic coast.

Here is a story written by Earl Dean, a reporter for the Elizabeth City Daily Advance, gleaned from now slightly yellowed pages of that newspaper as the news appeared a quarter of a century ago:

By EARL DEAN

Headlines in the Elizabeth City Daily Advance heralded the quickest overland trip from Manteo to Elizabeth City which was made on Friday morning, September 27, 1930, by a party composed of Dare County Sheriff Victor Meekins, E. H. Peele, Jr., and Tom Basnight, of Manteo, who were accompanied by Steve Basnight, of Nags Head Coast Guard Station.

They arrived in Elizabeth City after the quickest overland trip ever made, the journey being made in two hours by way of the new Currituck-Dare Bridge. Although the bridge was not opened to traffic until noon the following day, Victor Meekins and his party, who wished to take some pictures of it, were permitted to cross.

The opening of the bridge was going to revolutionize Dare County, Meekins said, who stated he wanted next to see the State take over a right of way and build a road from Manns Harbor to Stumpy Point. With a ferry already in operation from Roanoke Island to Manns Harbor, he said, all of Dare County would then have an outlet and many people could come to Elizabeth City conveniently.

It was reported in the Elizabeth City paper that Friday afternoon 25 years ago that Capt. T. A. Baum, who operated the Point Harbor-Kitty Hawk ferry intended to discontinue it upon the opening of the new bridge but would continue to operate a ferry between Kitty Hawk and Roanoke Island until the hard-surfaced road from there to the Roanoke Sound bridge was completed.

Meekins even then had hopes of eventually seeing a hard-surfaced road down the beach south of Oregon Inlet to Hatteras where, he said, driving was then most difficult.

No formal ceremonies marked the opening of the new three-mile long bridge across Currituck Sound on Saturday morning, September 27, 1930. But Floyd Gibbons, the "Headline Hunter of the World" a quarter of a century ago, at the request of the late Capt. W. J. Tate, of Coinjock, broadcast the glad tidings over Radio Station WJZ, New York, at 5:45 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, September 27, that year.

In a letter to the editor of the Elizabeth City Daily Advance under the date September 27, 1930, Dare County's Register of Deeds, Melvin R. Daniels, had this to say:

"As a matter of news from Dare County I wish to impart the following good news:

"On the above date the Town of Manteo was honored by a visit of five of Pasquotank's most distinguished citizens, who were the first to make the entire trip from Elizabeth City to Manteo by way of the new bridge across Currituck Sound. They were: Mayor J. B. Flora, Howard A. Flora, George T. Koch, D. Guy Brockett and Bill Dawson.

"We were glad to welcome these gentlemen to the county seat of Dare County and take the same as a fore-runner of what is to come to Dare County by reason of the bridge. We, the citizens of Dare County, feel that this is going to be the means of cementing the friendly relations that have always existed between Dare and Pasquotank, more solid, and hope to see more of your citizens in the future than we have in the past; Welcome to Dare County ye citizens of Pasquotank; and this invitation is extended to all the

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## HIGHEST TIDES IN 40 YEARS IN HYDE AND BELHAVEN

### Deep Waters Virtually Wipe Out Hyde's Harvest; Belhaven Flooded Too.

Hyde County this week suffered its third and worst hurricane within three weeks, as Ione moved up the coast with its center passing along western fringe of the county, between Swan Quarter and Belhaven. Farmers again suffered the greatest losses, as all crops in the fields are considered a total loss. Flooding of homes, especially in the western portion of the county, was serious and many merchants suffered losses of merchandise.

Farm Agent Earl Topping places county-wide crop losses this year due to hurricanes at more than 90%, on top of last year's losses caused by Hazel in some areas. Ione destroyed virtually all crops remaining in the fields, and only a few farmers had harvested any crops because of wet fields caused by Connie and Dianne, which caused a two-thirds crop loss, and by the heavy rains which followed Connie and Dianne. During the past month alone, 30 inches of rain have been measured unofficially in the county, as compared to an annual average of six inches.

There were some scattered reports of livestock losses, but farmers generally managed to save their livestock.

The ravaging waters of Lake Mattamuskeet cut away the eastern side of the NC 94 causeway across the lake, necessitating closing the road. The pavement itself was washed away on one side in about twelve different places. The worst place was approximately three-fourths of a mile long where the pavement was gone up to within about 2 1/2 feet of the center line.

As much as 30 inches of water was measured in homes in Swan Quarter; numerous roofs were damaged by the winds, which were much stronger than in the three previous hurricanes. Approximately 14 inches of water entered the courthouse, as the tide rose about 1 1/2 feet higher than during any of the other storms. A group of 35 to 40 people from low areas took refuge on the courthouse's second floor.

The Sladesville area received more tide than any of the three earlier storms had brought in. Stores there had considerable losses.

The town of Engelhard had about the same tide as it did during Connie and Dianne; the tide reportedly stayed up there longer than it did in Swan Quarter, however. Areas to the west of Engelhard reported slightly higher water this time than previously.

Some low-lying areas near Fairfield were flooded, and Wednesday morning roads leading to the Carnur settlement were still impassable.

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## TWO DISTRICT PTA CONFERENCES THIS FALL

PTA District No. 9 will have two district conferences this fall, according to announcement by Mrs. Lawrence Swain of Manteo, district director. The conference will be held at Buxton on October 4 and at Perquimans Central in Winfall on October 5. The same credit will be given those attending either conference.

Mrs. Hazel Crawford, president of the N. C. Congress of Parents and Teachers, will be present and will speak on "Building Today for the World Tomorrow". Two other state officers, Mrs. J. W. Burke, treasurer, and Miss Blanche Haley, field secretary, will also have part on the program.

Both Buxton and Perquimans Central have won great interest in making outstanding affairs of these meetings, according to Mrs. Swain. Registration will be at 9:30 and the meeting will begin at 10 a.m.

## MARTIN COUNTY TO BE HOST OCT. 28 TO SOU. ALBEMARLE

### Governor Luther Hodges To Be Principal Speaker; Alligator Bridge Subject of Interest

Delegates from the six member counties of the Southern Albemarle Association will be guests of Martin County Friday, October 28th, in Williamston, according to the president, Alexander Corey of Jamesville. Governor Luther Hodges is reported to have accepted the invitation to address the group in the forenoon, which speech will be followed by a dinner for some 300 delegates.

The business meeting will follow the dinner, and this usually lasts about two hours. The counties forming the Association are Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Martin Tyrrell and Washington. The Association was formed in 1935 at Columbia and has remained active ever since, its annual meeting, and its president, rotating from county to county. It will be the turn of Washington County this year to name the president.

A most important topic of this year's meeting will be the proposal for a bridge over Alligator River.

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## TOWN GROUP WINS FIRST ROUND AT KILL DEVIL HILLS

Some three weeks ago Judge Chester Morris at Currituck Court-house heard an action in which opponents of the incorporation of Kill Devil Hills sought to uphold an election dissolving its charter. The election had been declared invalid.

This newspaper is advised that Judge Morris has ruled in favor of the town officials who filed a demurrer to the action. According to this ruling, unless the litigants perfect an appeal to higher courts, the town officials will stay in office, and the town continue to function.

The officials were represented by the law firm of Edwards, Sanders and Everett of Durham. The opposition by Forrest Dunstan and John Hall of Elizabeth City.

The town officials are Mrs. Emily K. Mustian, Mayor, Elton Twiford, Herbert Morrison and Robert Young.

## CIVIL AIR PATROL LENDS AID DURING HURRICANE

Prompt on the job in Manteo, as well as other towns of Coastal Carolina in the path of the storm was the Civil Air Patrol. Lieutenant Tom Stewart of Henderson with a party of six arrived in Manteo at 1 a.m. Monday morning and set up their short wave outfit. Coast guard as well as commercial phone lines soon went out of service, but the CAP was in communication by its short wave radio phone, with various other towns in the hurricane area whose communications system had gone out of commission.

The party made headquarters with Alpheus Drinkwater. The CAP forces rendered similar service throughout the coastland.

## MANTEO REDSKINS WALK OVER SUFFOLK 43 TO 0

The Manteo Redskins opened their 1955 football season with a bang Saturday night by defeating Suffolk Junior Varsity 43 to 0.

The Suffolk team gave the local team a good battle for the first quarter, but the Redskins broke the game wide open in the second quarter and went on to an easy victory which saw Coach Ayers use every man on the squad.

The entire first team played well with Woody Woodward and Davis Ballance leading the way with two touchdowns each. Woodward had one extra point. David Simpson, James Stillman and Allen Dough had one touchdown each. Coy Tillet and Allen Dough were standouts on defense. The Redskins made five first downs to one for Suffolk.

## MANTEO REDSKINS INVADE PLYMOUTH FRIDAY NIGHT

The Manteo Redskins will meet the strong Plymouth team this Friday night at Plymouth.

The locals have had little practice this week due to Ione, and as a result will probably not be in tip-top condition. Coach Ayers is expected to take his entire squad along with Manager Butch Kelford to Plymouth, and start the following line-up:

LE Meekins, LT Dough, LG Biggs, C Hayes, RG O'Neal, RT Midgett, RE Tillet, QB Woodward, RH Stillman, LH Ballance, FB Simpson.

## AWARD TO H. C. BONNER BY AMERICAN LEGION



Congressman Herbert C. Bonner, Representative from the First District of North Carolina, and Chairman of the Merchant Marine & Fisheries Committee of the House of Representatives, will be awarded the American Legion's Distinguished Service Medal, it was announced today in New York by Millard G. Gamble, President of the Esso Shipping Company.

The North Carolina Democrat, who will be the guest of honor at the post's dinner scheduled for November 5th at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York, will be cited for his outstanding role in keeping this country's merchant marine strong.

## COSTS AND BENEFITS OF ADVERTISING

By DAVID STICK  
Next time you're in New York pick up one of the numerous daily newspapers, and you're almost sure to find a full page advertisement for Gimbel's Department Store and another for Macy's. These are two of the largest and best known stores in the country, and they got that way by advertising.

Funny thing about it, though is that they devote a large part of their advertisements to the same items. One will come out with an advertisement for a certain type of electric toaster, and the other will follow right up advertising a toaster they claim is better, or with a lower price on the same toaster the other is selling.

You'll find the same thing in magazines. Automobile advertisements are backed up against each other. One cigarette advertises on the inside back cover, another on the outside.

Same thing with resort areas too. Here's a Florida advertisement on one page, California on the next; and then maybe Hawaii, Cuba, France, or even Sun Valley, or Miami, or Virginia Beach or Asheville. They're all fighting for business; all selling the same thing, only claiming it's a little better or offering it at a lower price. Dare County should be right in there with them, except that a single page advertisement in one of the leading magazines costs considerably more than the entire budget of the Dare County Tourist Bureau for an entire year.

## JOHN TYLER ETHERIDGE 90, DIES IN NORFOLK

John Tyler Etheridge, a native of Roanoke Island, retired ship-builder, 90 years old, died Wednesday night in his sleep at his home in Norfolk. He had been fairly well up until his death, and sat up late enjoying the prize fight in New York. He left a brother, Charles P. Etheridge of Norfolk. Two weeks ago he visited his cousin R. Bruce Etheridge of Manteo. He had many relatives on Roanoke Island, his father being the late Daniel Etheridge who was in charge of Life Saving Stations on the Currituck Coast. On his last visit here, he said it might be his last trip, but if he lived, he expected to be back Christmas, as he often visited Roanoke Island. He made his home with a step-granddaughter in Norfolk, where the funeral will be conducted Saturday.

## AYCOCK BROWN IS IN THE ALBEMARLE HOSPITAL

Aycock Brown of Manteo, publicity director for the Dare County Tourist Bureau, entered the Albemarle Hospital in Elizabeth City Wednesday. Mr. Brown is scheduled to undergo an operation some time this week.

## GOVERNOR HODGES AND PARTY SURVEY STORM DAMAGE

### Plane Load of Officials Stop at Manteo Thursday Afternoon on Tour of Coast.

Governor Luther Hodges has been on the ball throughout the hurricane season in the interest of his people of North Carolina, and regardless of where he might have been, he has cancelled his schedules and come straight home to make a personal survey on the scene, of damage done, and he has immediately followed up by bringing all interested Governmental agencies on the spot to see for themselves.

Thursday afternoon on a flying tour of hurricane-hurt communities in this state, the Governor flew into the Manteo Airport while on his way to Elizabeth City and was received by a committee of citizens and officials who gave him some estimates of damage in the Dare County area. Officials of the county, of the towns of Manteo and Kill Devil Hills were present. Martin Kellogg, Jr., Mayor of Manteo told of the minor damage done the town utilities. Mrs. Emily Mustian, Mayor of Kill Devil Hills said an estimated \$25,000 would be needed for drainage and sanitation in her town. Commissioner Lawrence Swain, speaking for Dare County, said the need was acute at Stumpy Point and Manns Harbor for relief. He cited the need as being acute at Avon, for drainage and repairs to the dike around the village. Melvin R. Daniels spoke of the need for relief at Wanchese.

Among the officials who spoke and outlined the possible sources of aid were Judge Thomas H. Goodman, Regional Director of Civil Defense; K. C. Lattimer, Regional Red Cross Representative; A. E. Razar, Chief of Production Loan Operations of FHA. The Governor, flying in a military plane, was also accompanied by several newspapermen, including Woodrow Price and Lynn Nisbit of Raleigh, and the whole party numbered about a dozen. Some 25 people met the Governor at the Manteo Airport, including Commissioners Duvall and Swain, Mayor Kellogg, Mrs. Mustian, and the entire town Board of Kill Devil Hills, A. W. Drinkwater and Miss Dorothy Drinkwater representing the local Red Cross, Sheriff Frank Cahoon, Thos. Cheers, Wally McCown, Victor Meekins, Ben Dixon MacNeill of Buxton, Brandon Brown, Turner Twiford of East Lake, Mrs. Alice Grice, Mrs. Carrie Rhodes and Dewey Haymon of Nags Head; County Agent and Mrs. Bob Smith, Miss Sarah Haliburton of Kill Devil Hills.

## MANTEO CHILD INJURED COLLIDING WITH CAR

Jimmie Groce, six-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. James Groce of Manteo, was injured late Wednesday afternoon on the highway in front of his home, when he ran across the road and collided with a car being driven by J. B. Price of Akron, Ohio, who is visiting his daughter, Mrs. Roy Etheridge, Jr.

The little boy, who was knocked unconscious, was taken by ambulance to the Marine Hospital, Norfolk, Va. He regained consciousness rapidly and word from his parents, who accompanied him, was to the effect that hospital authorities found he had a concussion. No other injuries were immediately found. The maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Dough of Manteo, left Thursday morning to be with him.

## BOOSTERS CLUB ORGANIZED FOR MANTEO ATHLETICS

A group of interested parents and friends of Manteo High School met in the school auditorium last Thursday night for the purpose of organizing a Boosters Club. The group present elected the following officers:

President: Coy Tillet, Vice President: Robert Ballance, Treasurer: Mrs. L. D. Hassell, Secretary: R. H. Stone.

The purpose of the club is to serve as a booster primarily for high school athletics, and will hold another meeting Thursday night of this week at 8:00 in the school auditorium. The public is cordially invited as the Club will begin its membership drive.

## MANTEO PTA TO MEET

The Manteo Parent Teacher Association will hold its first meeting of the school year Tuesday night, September 27, at eight o'clock in the school auditorium. All school patrons are urged to attend.

## HURRICANE IONE, SHE CAME AND SHE WENT, BUT KINDLY LEFT DARE LITTLE DAMAGED

### The Walter Raleigh Coastland Again Is Fortunately Favored by the Fury of The Storm; With Few Exceptions, No Great Seashore Damage Results, Save for the Annoyance of Cleaning up After High Tides.

Ione came and went and Dare Coastland people after long hours of hearing many warnings were prepared for the worst. They would have been grateful to be spared their lives after days of being warned of what was ahead. Imagine the relief of the seashore interests and its inhabitants to shake themselves awake after Ione had passed to find they were almost intact. There were a few notable exceptions of people sustaining great loss, but mostly the damage was confined to yards littered by tides, and some homes hurt by rains.

As Ione lingered along far west of us on the North Carolina mainland, the people on the coast had been listening for hours to reports of damage done at Morehead City, New Bern, Washington and Belhaven. They were expecting high tides and strong winds. Those living in exposed places, and who could do so, had gotten their furniture raised from their floors. In most instances damage was confined to yards littered with trash borne about by the tide. High waters rose some four to six feet above normal. Rain as well as tide water flooded roads.

Among chief sufferers were the people of Stumpy Point on the mainland and some parts of Manns Harbor. In the former community, utes entered homes, littered yards, removed lumber piles, damaged fences and made the drinking water salt. Fresh water had to be brought in by relief forces. Some net houses went down, some nets were damaged. High tides again flooded the East Lake area. Ferry service was suspended and the boats moored in safe harbors for the day. Delay in resuming service at Manns Harbor was occasioned by damage done the ferry dock.

High water at the Roanoke Sound little bridge interrupted travel for several hours until the wind subsided on Tuesday and permitted the water to go down. At this point the small place of business owned by Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Williams, known as the Anchor, and which had been undermined in the last storm, went down, and broke up. High water entered the Oasis cafe nearby, damaging motors on deep-freezers etc.

One small house at Kitty Hawk belonging to Mrs. Sam Beasley, and which was situated rather close to the ocean was undermined and tipped over on its side. Some other buildings in the area were also damaged when undermined by high seas. Heavy rains flooded long stretches of the highway and adjacent lots in the Kitty Hawk-Kill Devil Hills area.

South of Oregon Inlet, rain and tide waters flooded long stretches of the highway, lot enough to block traffic, which was resumed next day when the ferries went back in operation. Near Rodanthe, two homes and one business place suffered from tidal waters on the floors, but these places were built in low places and not high off the ground. A small section of the road was washed out near Salvo, and in some other areas small edges broken from the side of the road. Delay in traffic was occasioned by heavy sand drifts on the roads, which had to be cleaned with a scraper. The highway department was prompt on the job in all sections of Dare County, and restored traffic in shortest possible order.

Tidal waters entered several homes in Avon. The roof of a filling station at Buxton was reported blown off. The wooden approach to the old bridge over New Inlet floated away with the tide a distance of several hundred yards. Coast guardsmen were on the job, rendering assistance, and taking people from their homes, just in case, to larger buildings, among these being the Chicamacomico Coast Guard station.

No damage was reported from Ocracoke Island, other than the undermining of the old Hatteras Inlet Coast Guard station which for some years had been threatened by the sea, and sometime ago was given up for lost. The last report was that with the sand beach being swept away, the building had fallen overboard.

Fear of the hurricane had driven  
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## 250% INCREASE IN FUNDS ALLOTTED FOR WATERWAYS

### Hatteras, Fairfield, Ocracoke and Pasquotank County Share in Increased Appropriations This Year.

Wilmington. — Funds appropriated by Congress for drainage, navigation and flood control projects in Coastal North Carolina for the current fiscal year total two and a half times the sum allotted for last year, reports Colonel R. L. Hill, District Engineer of the Wilmington District, Corps of Engineers.

The Congress has allotted some \$2,514,500 for new work and maintenance for the year ending next June 30. Last year the District was given \$1,130,250. This latter sum included only one new work project—\$195,000 to aid in developing a drainage district of 12,500 areas of land at Fairfield in Hyde County. This money, however, was carried over to the current year because local interests at Fairfield could not get together on certain conditions relating to operation and maintenance of the project. Land owners have been asked to agree to an assessment of so much an acre to carry on the project. Some are willing and others are not.

The total for this year includes \$1,036,000 for maintaining navigable waters and the operating of five (5) bridges and three (3) locks. The remainder, \$1,478,500 includes \$500,000 for the beginning of deepening of Wilmington Harbor from 32 feet to 34 feet, and \$21,400 for surveying the upper reaches of the Cape Fear River.

It also includes \$120,000 for flood control work on the Pasquotank River, \$83,000 for increasing the depth of Taylors Creek at Beaufort from seven to 12 feet and widening the channel from 75 to 100 feet, \$102,000 for a breakwater and dredging at Oriental and \$105,000 for deepening and widening Bardens Inlet from five to 12 feet and 75 feet to 100 feet respectively. In addition to these, \$175,000 has been earmarked to improve Rollinson Channel at Hatteras, \$107,000 for Wallace Channel at Ocracoke Inlet and \$55,000 (maintenance), to restore the Intracoastal Waterway at Core Creek to 12 feet. The latter area is subject to severe shoaling.

Final plans are being rushed to get all of these projects underway during the current fiscal year.

Fishing interests and other users of the Intracoastal Waterway are advised that Hurricanes Connie and Diane imposed little if any damage on the route between Little River, S. C., and the Neuse River, the area in the path of the storms, the Corps of Engineers reports.

A survey party with sounding gear examined this stretch of the waterway immediately after the storms passed and reported no obstructions were found, a few aids (markers) to navigation were blown away and shoaling at only three points. Shoals leaving a scant 10 feet of depth were located near New River, the Carolina Beach Inlet and at a point where the channel emerges from Snows Cut to join the Cape Fear River. Survey people say it is normal for shoals to recur at these places and they doubt that Connie and Diane are to blame.

Three key members of the District staff have been assigned to the New England Division at Boston, Massachusetts for "Operation Noah" emergency work in connection with the flood stricken area. Lt. Col. John H. Jackson, Assistant District Engineer, George E. MeWhite, Mechanical Engineer, and Clarence W. Madison, Auditor, left last week by air for 30 to 60 days special restoration work.

## MANTEO WOMAN MAKES FIRST FLIGHT AT 78

Mrs. Colenda Barnett of Manteo, who is 78 years of age, had her first airplane ride at 6:10 last Saturday morning, and said "It was the delight of my life". Mrs. Barnett flew with her son-in-law, Shirley Stewart of Norfolk, Va., who is a pilot and whom she was visiting at the time.