

THE COASTLAND TIMES

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

VOLUME XXI — NO. 37

MANTEO, N. C., FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 1956

Single Copy 7¢

CELEBRATION AT RODANTHE THREE DAYS JUNE 15-18

Committee Meeting Saturday
Night This Week to Continue
Plans For Delayed
Event

The big program planned for Rodanthe is now set to go, on June 15, 16 and 17th, and a meeting will be held Saturday night of this week in the Rodanthe Community building at 7:30 to begin planning for the occasion, according to Woodrow Edwards, the Chairman. The entire former committee will attend.

Originally planned for August of last year to do honor to the older and young veterans of the Life Saving and Coast Guard Services, the celebration had to be postponed because of hurricanes which disrupted just about all business on the coast.

Mr. Edwards said this week that the date chosen will fit in well with various other affairs, and will not come at a time when everyone is already busy with the summer's rush of traffic. The date is selected at this time also, because schools will be out, and various students will participate. Moreover, it comes at a time when the Postmaster's Association of the State is meeting in Dare County, and its delegates may take in some of the celebration on Hatteras Island.

The program will include Life saving drills, boat races, a boxing match, dance, beauty contest, and conclude on Sunday with a religious service at Fairhaven Church.

PRESS ASSN. TO HOLD ITS SPRING MEETING IN HYDE

Meeting of Eastern N. C. Press
Assn. To Be Held May 18-19
at Mattamuskeet Lodge

The spring meeting of the Eastern North Carolina Press Association will be held May 18 and 19 at the Mattamuskeet Lodge at New Holland. It was announced last Friday after the association's board of directors accepted an invitation extended by Ashley B. Futrell, editor and publisher of the Washington Daily News. Dick O'Neal, operator of Mattamuskeet Lodge, will be official host to the newsmen, who will be from all over Eastern North Carolina.

Committees have been named by Cletus Brock of Mt. Olive, president of the association, to work up the program, which will be announced as soon as it is completed. Two big meetings are planned, with the banquet on Friday night being the big affair. Saturday morning panel discussions will be held dealing with newspaper mechanical problems and with circulation problems. A luncheon on Saturday will conclude the program.

A night fishing trip and a visit to Ocracoke is being arranged by Mr. O'Neal for the newspaper men.

CURRITUCK TO VOTE ON ABC STORES SATURDAY

Voters of Currituck County will decide the question Saturday, March 18, whether that county shall establish an ABC system of stores. Twice before this measure has been defeated in Currituck, but proponents are now more hopeful of success and plead that Currituck needs the revenue that might be derived from the stores, after having lost the income that came from the outlawed dog races.

The county has some 7,000 citizens. It has become a vast avenue of tourist traffic. It is catering to tourist business. Many people feel that Currituck should take advantage of much income they are losing to neighboring counties. On the other hand, much opposition has come from many of the ministers of the county who have had considerable to say during the past week, against establishment of the stores.

KITTY HAWK SCHOOL FOLKS PRAISE YOUNG

In a letter to Robert Young, retiring Kitty Hawk school committeeman, Principal B. P. Ward gives high praise to the untiring and inspiring efforts and achievements in behalf of the school. He says "Your achievements shall always be held as a monument to us and will serve as an inspiration for us to strive even harder to do a better job in the future." The letter is also signed by some 16 teachers, students, class officers, bus drivers and lunch room workers.

GEORGE W. HASKETT VET. NEWSMAN IN ELIZABETH CITY DIES

Perquimans County Native's Long
Career Ends After Extended
Illness

George W. Haskett, 51, died at Albemarle Hospital, Elizabeth City Saturday night after an illness of several years. Born Jan. 28th, 1905, he was a native of Perquimans County, son of the late William Manuel and Nannie Howell Haskett, and the husband of Mrs. Mattie Riggs Haskett. He is survived by a son, William F. Haskett, a daughter, Janet Faye Haskett, a brother, Charles W. Haskett, all of Elizabeth City, and two sisters, Mrs. Mary Broughton of Hertford, and Mrs. Maude Corpore of Edenton. Also by two grandchildren, Jeffrey Hunter Haskett and Martha Kelly Haskett.

Beyond his meagre schooling in Perquimans County, George Haskett got an education in the "University of Hard Knocks," as the saying is for those who are printers and publishers of weekly newspapers. For some 35 years he followed this career, publishing The Independent and later the Independent-Star, weeklies that worked for progress, and honest See HASKETT, Page Five

KITTY HAWK CAUSE CHAMPIONED BY A FORMER ENEMY

Theo. DeFabio Does 2,000
Dreary Words Lambasting
Officials As Denying
School

Misfortune has fallen upon the good people of Kitty Hawk in their campaign for a high school. A former enemy of the public school system has girded on her armor and gone forth to do battle for the cause with a lengthy screed of some 2,000 dreary words. The woman who refused to send her children to the Kitty Hawk School five years ago, contending that she could teach them much better at home, is now all out in front. Maybe she doesn't give a darn about Kitty Hawk, but she welcomes any opportunity to vent her chagrin at the officials of Dare.

Frank De Fabio, one-time draftsman, considered by so many, at least a crank, who came down from Washington, D. C. preaching strange ideas, was prosecuted by the Dare welfare officials for refusing to send his children to school, and did several stunts in jail. The upshot of the case was that the courts took the children away from himself and his wife, and put them in a boarding home. The case cost the county a lot of money, and so did the upkeep of the children.

Mrs. Theo. De Fabio, a Washington, D. C. taxi-driver, travelled back and forth, visiting her husband who lived in an old house near Kitty Hawk, and who seemed unsuited for employment at native occupations. He preferred to teach his children at home, which was not considered economically up to standard. While in jail, De Fabio twice tried to kill himself, or at least pretended. Mrs. De Fabio was considered extremely erratic also, and somewhat of a trouble See DE FABIO, Page Five

NON-SUPPORT CASES IN DARE RECORDERS COURT

Two cases for non-support were tried in Dare Recorders Court Tuesday. W. J. Lassiter was ordered to pay \$45 per week for the support of his wife, and four children, ages 12, 9, 8 and 4. He recently worked in Manteo as a vacuum cleaner salesman, and is now employed in Portsmouth, Va., living at 525 6th St. Evidence showed that he receives a Navy pension of some \$165 per month. He claimed his wife's extravagance had got him in debt. Bond for \$500 was signed by his father, W. J. Lassiter of Conway, N. C. He was given a 12 months suspended road sentence.

Charles Henry Daniels, young Negro man was ordered to pay \$3 per week to support his 15-months-old illegitimate child. Testimony showed he had been contributing to its support, but had quit; and further showed that he was paying \$7.50 twice monthly through Hyde County Court, for the support of another illegitimate child by a Hyde County woman. He denied paternity of the child here.

Jethro Midgett Sr. of Nags Head was dismissed from the charge of permitting an under age person to drive his car. A. H. Gray Jr. of Waves was fined \$25 and costs for See COURT, Page Five

GORDON KELLOGG TO HEAD RED CROSS DRIVE IN DARE CO.

Report Shows That About \$40,000
in Hurricane Relief Funds
Came to County
1954-55.

In announcing the annual Red Cross drive for funds in Dare County, J. Gordon Kellogg of Manteo has released figures which show that citizens of the county received about \$40,000 in Red Cross funds during times of distress in the past two summers. This emphasizes the duty of Dare County people to give liberally to this fund, which means so much in time of need and brings relief which might not be received from any other sources.

Great sums of money, similar in size were received on the Outer Banks following hurricanes of 1932, 1933, 1944 and on several other occasions. The village of Avon was aided most in 1944. During many drives, Dare County people have responded liberally; at other times the response has not been so great.

In this connection, we may point out that great credit is due those public spirited workers who give so liberally of their time to a fund that will do credit to Dare County. In the various communities, there have always been good workers to whom all of us owe much for their services. This year there is a fine team of people giving time to aid this cause under the leadership of Mr. Kellogg. It is well for us to remember that in 1954 following Hurricane Hazel, \$7,000 or more came into Dare County from the Red Cross alone. In helping overcome the damages done by Connie, Diane and Ione See RED CROSS, Page Five

RESERVATIONS FOR BEACH HOTELS ARE TURNING UP FAST

Looks Like Nags Head Will Have
Usual Beach Business Beginning
Early This Year

Reservations at the beach hotels are starting off fine and indicate that the season will start off fully as good as usual, if not better and perhaps somewhat earlier this year, according to Mrs. Phoebe G. Hayman of The Arlington at Nags Head, who this week was busy attending to mail. And inquiries at The Arlington doubtless reflect the situation at the many other fine hotels on the beach from Kitty Hawk to Nags Head.

Due to the many changes and improvements made to The Arlington during the past year, it has been favored with greatly increased patronage, which is being helped along by its fame for good food, and its high rating with various travel agencies and bureaus which inform the travelling public where the best may be found. The Arlington now has booked a convention of North Carolina Farm Agents, which will bring to it about 180 members from various parts of the State on May 8th to 10th. On June 12 to 15th it will be the headquarters of the annual convention of the N. C. Postmasters Association which will bring to Nags Head about 300 of the State's postmasters, to stay at the various hotels of the beach.

\$50,000 LOAN APPROVED FOR BUXTON RE CO-OP

The Rural Electrification Authority in Washington has advised Congressman Herbert Bonner that a \$50,000 loan has been approved for the Cape Hatteras Electric Membership Co-op at Buxton. This amount will be re-loaned to those of the approximately 300 members who wish to purchase and install necessary electrical equipment.

MANTEO CLUB TO BE AT ROTARY DISTRICT CON.

District 278 of Rotary International, of which Manteo is a member club, will hold its annual district conference in Raleigh, March 18th and 19th. The Manteo Rotary Club will be represented by president Wallace McCown, incoming secretary Robert Gunn, and incoming director, Julian Oneto. Two candidates for running for the office of District Governor, succeeding Broadus Jones of Wake Forest. John Moore of Elizabeth City, and "Red" Bird of the Wilson club. The Manteo delegate is being sent to the conference unrepresented. A former member of the Manteo Club, Dick Bell, now a resident of Raleigh, has extended a special invitation to the Manteo delegates to attend the conference in a large group.

Yopon Factory Flourished

Dare County Had Unique Industry Operated by Mark G. Scarborough
at Frisco, Dare County, Near Cape Hatteras, 60 Years Ago.

By H. H. BRIMLEY
(Reprinted From The State)

On Hatteras Island is a manufacturing establishment that so far as I know is the only one of its kind in the country. It is owned and operated by an old colored man who, strange to say, is the only one of his kind in the neighborhood or I should say that he and his family are the only ones, as he has several children who assist the old man in his occupation. His establishment is devoted to the gathering and curing of Yopon Tea.

What is Yopon? the reader may ask and what is done with the tea? Yopon is a shrubby plant and grows abundantly on the sandhills of the ocean beaches along certain areas on the south Atlantic seaboard. It is supposed to possess certain mild medicinal qualities but besides that, it is used as a beverage by many of the older people living within its habitat, although not nearly so extensively as formerly.

The younger element find the teas and coffees of commerce much more palatable and, now that they are within the reach of pretty much everybody in price and are found on sale at even the most remote country stores, the consumption of the product of the Yopon tree has fallen to quite a low ebb compared with what it was only a very few years ago.

In this country of pure sand, rocks of any kind as a constituent of the soil are absolutely unknown, but in the neighborhood of some of the older homesteads one may notice a pile of small boulders lying out among the outbuildings. These must have been brought there with a purpose and judging from the methods now in use in the curing of Yopon tea, that seems to be the most likely reason for their being found so far away from their native home. This would further seem to point to the fact that the use and consequently the manufacture of this commodity was formerly quite widespread and such was no doubt the case. The original inhabitants of the country apparently were habitual users of the beverage and the first white settlers learnt its value from them, but how they cured it and how far they used it as a medicine and to what extent it was in general use we now have no means of telling.

A Complicated Process

The following is a brief description of the methods now pursued in the gathering and curing of the tea, the particulars being gleaned at firsthand directly from the proprietor of the factory at the establishment itself. It may be stated at the outset that the Yopon is an evergreen and that it grows in the greatest abundance on these sand beaches of the North Carolina coast, so that the only effort required in the collection of the product is the labor necessary to go out and cut what quantity is needed at one curing. It is not even essential to cut with any great degree of discrimination as the bushes are trimmed after reaching the factory, anyway, and anything not suitable can be very easily eliminated there.

It is quite probable that in former times, most of the more well-to-do families prepared the leaves themselves, or at least had it done on the premises, as heaps of round stones, similar to those now used in the sweating process, may still be found around many an old homestead in the section where the plant grows. There were also men in every community who carried on the preparation of the leaves as a regular business but, until I came across such a factory still in working order and turning out the product regularly, I was under the impression that the business was as extinct as the Dodo.

On Hatteras Banks, several miles west of the Cape and right alongside the high road between Frisco and Buxton, I came across old man Scarborough's Yopon tea factory and from the manufacturer himself secured the details of the process as well as permission to photograph the plant.

The Yopon, Yapon or Yaupon is an evergreen shrub of the genus Ilex (Ilex volinctoria), sometimes almost reaching the dignity of a shrubby tree and along on the sandhills of the ocean's border for the whole length of the coast line of the south Atlantic States it grows in thickets more or less dense and plentiful, it being one of the most characteristic tree growths of the region. As before stated its original uses seem to have been largely medicinal, its action being both purgative and emetic. Now, however, perhaps from the fact that as a beverage it is used in a weaker infusion

COMMISSIONERS OF DARE PLANNING TO BUILD COURTHOUSE

Jail and Office Project Voted
Down By People To Be
Constructed Anyway.

The Dare County Commissioners have kept it quiet, but they are now getting ready to build an addition to the courthouse with 4,200 square feet, which is more floor space than that of the present building. It will be two stories high and will house offices and jail. The present jail will be thrown away.

The proposal was voted down last July by the people of Dare County who expressed their disapproval by a vote of two to one, after about \$3,000 had been spent in asking the opinion of the voters. The voters disapproved the idea, they opposed more taxes, but the Board went ahead anyway and levied the taxes, and people are already paying taxes on the project.

It was proposed to issue \$35,000 in bonds to add to \$50,000 remaining on hand from a gift to Dare County. Included in the proposal was a plan for a jail at Buxton. Both proposals were heavily disapproved by the voters.

Later the commissioners decided they would go ahead with the plan anyway, but afterwards, they said they thought the people would change their minds, and they would vote for it favorably, so it was announced that a second election would be held.

It became apparent however, that the people would not change their minds so the Board came out with a statement that they had abandoned the idea in the interest of a school bond election proposed for a new high school at Manteo. At that time it was rumored that many citizens of Kitty Hawk would vote against the courthouse proposal more solidly than before.

But it now appears that the Board never gave up their idea of wasting this money, and they have quietly been making their plans to go ahead anyway. During these past several months, the notes of the minutes of the Board have shown no reference to the project. Apparently, it was put in later, after newspapermen had read the minutes before they were finally completed.

This kind of scheme required some conniving on the part of the Board and their assistants, as they kept it from the public until it appeared that no one would oppose them in the primary.

Bids are to be received on this job until April 24th at which time they will be opened. Separate bids will be received for the general contract, the electrical contract, the plumbing contract, the heating contract and the jail equipment contract. Plans for the job are in the office of the Register of Deeds.

Questioned about any action of the Commissioners toward building the courthouse annex at this time, County Commissioner Lawrence Swain of Manteo said yesterday it was news to him, and he did not understand who had given the go ahead signal with the plans, as it had not come before the Board meetings he had attended. He said that sometime back the Board signified their desire for the building annex which could be paid for by the \$50,000 cash already in the hands of the county.

DARE BOARD DISCUSSES MOSQUITOES THURSDAY

The problem of mosquitoes was a subject of discussion at a special meeting of the Dare Board of Commissioners Thursday. This meeting was attended by representatives of the National Park Service, the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company, Dr. W. W. Johnston, District Health Officer, and Fred Day, for the Civil Defense. The pests have already begun to rise, and Wednesday's warm weather gave them high encouragement. Tom Sutton of Manns Harbor, who attended the meeting said that while some of the citizens were trying to hang curtains at the school house at Manns Harbor Wednesday night, mosquitoes got so bad it was necessary to close doors and windows.

GOOD CATCHES MADE BY FISHERMEN ON MAINLAND

Excellent sport fishing has been reported at Manns Harbor despite the windy weather which kept boats from going on the lake. W. S. White reports that J. A. Holmes of Erwin, in two days fishing, took 13 bass and 25 crappie from the ditches along the road. Some of the bass weighed as much as seven pounds.

ANCIENT SWORD AND SCABBARD FOUND ON BEACH NEAR COROLLA

An ancient sword and scabbard believed to date back to the War of 1812, and possibly to the period of discovery of the New World by the English in Lost Colony days was found on Currituck Outer Banks this week by a member of aircraft target crew of Navy Duck. Two or three other objects, so encrusted with coral-like shell and marine growth, they could not be identified were found in the same locality.

The tip of the scabbard of the sword of gold or brass was not covered with marine growth and what may be an identifying part of the find was a sea serpent or dragon-like carving around the tip of the scabbard. The handle of the sword was also covered with shell-like growth but its shape, somewhat cup-like insofar as the hand guard was concerned, was similar to 17th century styled swords pictured in various encyclopedias.

H. A. Sargent, chief petty officer in charge of the target crew detachment, stated that the sword was found by Ernest Roberson AA, of Moores Have, Florida, one of his crew. "We will be reluctant to give the exact location along the beach where Roberson and our crew members found these relics," said Chief Sargent.

He indicated that during liberty periods crew members planned to continue searching the area for additional objects. Since the sword was not definitely identified, the Dare County Tourist Bureau manager who made pictures of the finds, suggested that the objects be sent to Smithsonian Institution in Washington for identification.

In the same general area of Currituck Outer Banks during recent years bits of chinaware and fragments of metal were identified by Smithsonian as dating back to 16th-17th Century periods. Some historians contend that the "Trinity Harbor" of the days of 16th Century discoveries on what is today the northern coast of Dare, was located at Caffey's Inlet (where Navy Duck is located to See SWORD, Page Five

ENGELHARD NEGRO MAN DIES AFTER BEING HIT BY CAR

Tom Johnson Walked into Path of
Car Near Engelhard Wed-
nesday Evening of
Last Week

Tom Johnson, middle-aged Negro man of Engelhard, was fatally injured on Wednesday evening, March 7, at about 7:30, when he apparently walked into the path of a car on Highway 264 near the intersection of Highway 264 with the Swamp Road just east of Engelhard. Mr. Johnson died while still in an ambulance just after reaching a hospital in Washington.

The car which struck Mr. Johnson was driven by Carson Meekins of Stumpy Point, who was headed out of Engelhard toward Stumpy Point when the accident occurred. Damages to Mr. Meekins' car consisted chiefly of a broken windshield.

Two men walking ahead of Mr. Johnson told patrolman W. E. Williams that the victim was not drinking and that they could not explain what caused him to walk See DEATH, Page Five

REPUBLICANS OF DARE ELECT PARTY OFFICIALS

L. V. Gaskill of Wanchese was re-elected Chairman of the Republican party in Dare County at a meeting held in Manteo Thursday night. He was also named a delegate to the Congressional convention in Washington March 9, and a delegate to the State Convention in Durham on the 10th where he was elected a member of the State Executive Committee.

At the meeting in Manteo, the following Executive Committee was appointed. Mr. Gaskill, Chairman; Mrs. George Payne of Stumpy Point, Vice-chairman; LeRoy Midgett of Wanchese, Secretary; Blucher Scarborough, Avon; W. R. Toler, Kitty Hawk; W. C. Gaskill, Manteo; W. C. Gaskill was named an alternate to the Congressional convention.

CAPT. HOOPER ON JOB

Many friends of Capt. Leslie Hooper, young Captain of the Oregon Inlet ferry will be glad to know that he has been re-hired and is back on the job, operating the Lindsay Warren and other ferry boats across Oregon Inlet. Capt. Hooper was let off following an accident to Mrs. Linville Meekins of Avon when she slipped through an open man-hole in the boat's rest room. General opinion was that Capt. Hooper was dealt with too summarily at the time of his dismissal.