

# THE COASTLAND TIMES

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## BOOKS OPEN FOR REGISTRATION FOR SCHOOL BOND ISSUE

**Those Who Do Not Register Won't Have Opportunity to Vote August 11th.**

Registration for the election to vote on a school bond issue to build a \$250,000 high school at Manteo will begin Saturday when the books open at the usual polling places at Nags Head, Manteo, Wanchese, Manns Harbor, Marshes, East Lake and Stumpy Point.

The election will be held Saturday, August 11, and calls for authority to issue \$250,000 in bonds for the purpose of erecting a building to serve the pupils of the Dare mainland, Roanoke Island, a part of Nags Head, and the high school pupils living north of Kill Devil Hills. However, this area will not share in paying the tax.

Last year the Commissioners levied a tax of 25 cents on the \$100 to buy a \$25,000 school site from the Brinkley property at Manteo for this proposed building, and for a site for a proposed school at Kill Devil Hills.

It is said the proposed bonds sought on August 11 will require a tax increase of about 20 cents to pay off principal and interest over a period of 20 years.

The books will remain open for four weeks, but registration must be done on Saturdays, July 14, 21, and 28th. The following Saturday, August 4, is challenge day, and the next succeeding Saturday, August 11, is election day.

People who do not register for this special election will not be permitted to vote on this important issue. It is not enough to already be a registered voter; every person who wishes to have a voice in the deciding of this question must go out during the next three Saturdays and put his name on the books.

Those now registered cannot vote in the August 11 election unless they register anew, during the next three weeks.

## WILSON PRESBYTERIAN MINISTER TO PREACH AT COLONY SERVICES SUN.

Rev. R. Murphy Williams, Jr., pastor of Wilson's First Presbyterian Church will be guest minister in the third of a series of Sunday worship services at Waterside Theatre on Roanoke Island Sunday morning. The Sunday services are held each Sunday morning during The Lost Colony season and in addition to guest ministers of various faiths preaching sermons the worship services feature music by The Lost Colony choir under direction of Dr. Elwood Keister with Hedley Yost at the console of the organ.

Mr. Williams is a native of Greensboro, and son of Mrs. Murphy Williams and the late Rev. Mr. Williams, who was first pastor of the Presbyterian Church of the Covenant in Greensboro and remained its pastor for 39 years. The Wilson minister is a graduate of Davidson College and the Union Theological Seminary. During World War II from 1944 he was a Navy chaplain with service on Saipan, Tinian and in the Marianas Islands. Since he was ordained in the ministry of Orange Presbyterian, Synod of N. C., in 1944, he has been pastor of Bethel Presbyterian Church, Staunton, Va., from 1948-51, after serving as FMCA secretary in Davidson College for one year. He has been assigned to his present pastorate since August 1951.

He is a member of the Board of Trustees, Peace College, Raleigh; chairman, stewardship committee of the Albemarle Presbytery; chairman, council of Albemarle Presbytery; member of council of the Synod of N. C. and member of the board of trustees Albemarle Presbytery Conference Grounds. He is married to the former Jean Batchelor and they have two sons, Robin and Sandy and one daughter, Jean.

## REPAIRS TO COURTHOUSE ROOF AFTER FLOODING

Although a large section of the Dare County courthouse roof was blown off in the northeast of three months ago, nothing was done about getting on the job to actually repair it until Thursday of this week, following the flooding of the courtroom and several offices in Tuesday's rain. Considerable damage was done to the interior as a result of failure to get the building repaired. This sort of neglect seems typical throughout the county. Those in charge of county property do not give it proper supervision and apparently never have heard the old saying, "A stitch in time saves nine."

## ENDS 44 YEARS OF PREACHING; SERVED THE OUTER BANKS

**Rev. R. N. Fitts Lived Among Us For 20 Years; Retires To Oxford.**

Known far and wide in the Coastland of North Carolina is the Rev. R. N. Fitts, Methodist minister who has retired after 44 years of preaching and will make his home in Oxford. Incidentally it is on the Oxford circuit that P. D. Midgett III has been assigned his first work in the ministry. Mr. Midgett is from Hyde County, and is of Dare County ancestry in which counties Mr. Fitts spent many years.

Regarding his retirement his home paper, the Oxford Ledger, carried a lengthy article last week, parts of which we reprint here:

The Rev. R. N. Fitts, who retired June 28 from active ministry on the Oxford Methodist Circuit, lived for 20 years on or near the Outer Banks of the North Carolina coast, where the fishing is good, but fishing is not for him. And now, after 44 years as a pastor, he rather expects to remain occupied with the Lord's work in evangelistic fields.

"I've often wondered if that was the reason I was kept there so long," he said. The Rev. Mr. Fitts, who was retired two years ago, but retained on active service, explained that he always felt he was too busy to fish or hunt. A look at his record support that feeling.

During the first of his two assignments at Shallotte, he was asked to take on the extra duty of teaching school. The year before he went there, the boys were so meek the teacher quit, leaving the community without a school. On his way to the first day of teaching, a committeeman stopped and asked what was under his arm. "It was a Bible."

"This is my persuader," he replied.

"Preacher, you better get an arm full of switches," the committeeman said.

But the persuader worked. When school closed for the summer, some of the students cried because they were sorry the term was over. While he taught school at Shallotte, his fourth assignment, he preached in seven churches.

Shallotte holds memories for his eldest living daughter who was born there, and during his second assignment there 16 years later. She graduated from the high school. Students he had taught 16 years before, then prominent in business, medicine and other fields, came back and thanked him for his influence on their lives.

Born in Warren County The Rev. Mr. Fitts was born in Warren County on October 27, 1881, one of a family of nine children. He actually began his ministry at the age of 30, having worked as a machinist before going to college. It was not that he disliked being a machinist, he said, but that he felt the pressure of the call to the ministry.

Changing his course in life, he entered Trinity Park Preparatory School in Durham. From there he went to Trinity College, graduating in 1912. Four years of correspondence study through Emory University, Ga., earned him his theological degree. He preached regularly while pursuing this degree, having begun preaching in his senior year at Trinity.

Twenty Coastal Years The 20 years spent on and near the coastal regions of the state, the Rev. Mr. Fitts termed "very pleasant" and called the people in those areas "most hospitable."

On Hatteras Island, the people to this day still observe Old Christmas early in January, retaining pure old English customs, manner of speech and thought. They are hard-working and serious minded people, he said. Roadways built recently to join the outer banks to the mainland, have opened up avenues to tourists and the inhabitants, and are fostering a changing of their ideas and brogue.

A chronological listing of his different charges includes Swan Quarter in Hyde County, Hallsboro, Scotts Hill, Shallotte, Vanceboro, Dare Circuit, Kinnakeet, Ocracoke, back to Shallotte, Robbinsville, Stonewall, Seven Springs, Marshallberg and Oxford, all in Eastern North Carolina.

Mr. Fitts has been in Oxford for four years, and was at the other places from one to five years each.

Home Acquired in City The house at 207 Grove Street now belongs to the Fittses. He bought it and has added a room. Mr. Fitts said he and his wife like Oxford as well as any place they have lived, and that here they are close to relatives.

See PREACHER, Page Eight

## HATTERAS BOY WINS RECOGNITION IN NEW YORK



Ronald R. Stowe, Jr., of Hatteras, receiving a special trophy awarded by the N. Y. Institute for the Education of the Blind, in New York City, for "the most valuable wrestler of the year". Ronald captained the school's wrestling team which won all its meets during the season. Ronald also received a medal at the commencement exercises from the Jewish War Veterans of N. Y. for his "kindness, leadership, and democratic spirit". He expects to spend another year at the Institute to complete his college entrance requirements and then go on to obtain a B. S. degree in recreation and physical education, with the ultimate objective of working with handicapped children.

## FINE ARTS SCHOOLS GET UNDERWAY IN DARE CO.

Art Schools and Lost Colony Drama Adds Culture Aspects to Coastland

By AYCOCK BROWN

Additional cultural aspects, including Roanoke Island School of Fine Arts and a school of water-color painting began this week on Roanoke Island, where Paul Green's symphonic drama The Lost Colony operates. The Outer Banks Gallery and Studio is open at Kill Devil Hills.

"The school of fine arts is under the same sponsorship as The Lost Colony. Dr. Elizabeth Welch, of Salem College, Winston-Salem, is the supervising director," said Lost Colony Manager Dick Jordan.

Classes in adult and children's chorus, dance, beginner's dance for children, stage craft and playwriting, lighting and play production, costume execution, voice and diction, will be offered students. The staff of instructors include: Dr. Elwood Keister, Val McCarter, Charles McCraw, Lois Garren and assistants, Karen Wenworth, William I. Long, James Byrd, Irene Rains and Dr. Welch. The purpose of the school which opened July 11, See SCHOOLS, Page Eight

## MANY 4-H GROUPS OF N. C. TO VISIT LOST COLONY

Almost 1,500 boys and girls of 4-H clubs in more than 30 North Carolina counties will see performances of Paul Green's symphonic drama The Lost Colony during the current summer.

They are members of the Roanoke Island 4-H Summer Encampment located in the former U. S. Navy barracks at Manteo Airport, during the summer season offers weekly courses to groups from 32 counties. The encampment is under the supervision of the N. C. State College Extension Division, who with Dare County Farm Agent, R. S. Smith, has charge of local arrangements.

Many other Dare Coast attractions will be seen by 4-H members while on our coast; Fort Raleigh National Historic Site, Wright Brothers National Monument; trips to the ocean beach for swimming in the surf, daily instruction in swimming under life guard protection at their Croatan Sound encampment; and a cruise across Croatan Sound to Manns Harbor and return aboard one of the toll-free state operated ferries serving the waterlink of U. S. See 4-H-ERS, Page Eight

## A BAPTIST CHURCH TO BE ORGANIZED AT NAGS HEAD SUNDAY

**Pasquotank Laymen to Meet at Mission, July 15th at 10:30 For Purpose**

A new Baptist church will be organized at Nags Head Sunday, July 15, by the congregation of the Nags Head Baptist mission. The service of organization will be supervised by an advisory council consisting of ministers and laymen from Blackwell Memorial and Berea Baptist churches, Elizabeth City, and from the sponsoring church, the Roanoke Island Baptist Church of Manteo. Also on the council will be the Rev. G. M. Singletary, missionary of the Chowan Baptist Association.

The advisory council will convene at the Nags Head mission building at 10:30 o'clock Sunday morning, elect its own officers, and then proceed to examine the circumstances justifying the formation of a Baptist church. The council will then advise the congregation of the Roanoke Island Baptist church and its pastor, the Rev. Frank B. Dinwiddie, of its findings, and if the findings are favorable, the organization service will proceed at 11 o'clock.

After an opening devotional service at 11 o'clock, a letter will be read from the Roanoke Island Church dismissing from its membership those who propose to organize the new church. Following this a resolution will be read comprising the charter of faith and practice to which the new church will subscribe, and including the church covenant and the Southern Baptist Declaration of its Articles of Faith. This resolution will then be voted on by the proposed members of the new church, and if ratified, will be publicly signed, at which time the new church will be considered as officially in existence as a self-governing missionary Baptist church for the first time. The first official act of the new church will then follow, which will be the election of a pastor and such other officers as they deem essential at that time.

The Baptist council, which was called at the request of those wishing to form the church, will then extend to the members of the new church the right hand of fellowship—See CHURCH, Page Eight

## BLUES OFF OREGON INLET

Although they are not being caught close inshore, numbers of big blues of the 10-pound class have been caught near the Gulf Stream off the Dare Coast during the past week. Biggest catch by a single party were brought in Sunday by Roper C. Whitehurst, Dick Garner and H. W. Anderson of Portsmouth, Va. Each caught a giant blue, the fishing ranging from nine to 12 pounds. while they trolled from Capt. Omie Tillett's cruiser Jerry Jr.

## RE-UNION FOR 40-YEAR OLD MANTEO CLASS SCHEDULED AUGUST 10



The 12 living members of the 13 who constituted the remainder of the class which graduated from Manteo High School in 1916, are planning to celebrate their 40th anniversary with a re-union and dinner on Friday evening, August 10th at the home of Mrs. Lena Pearsall in Manteo. Of this class, there were two male graduates, both of whom went on through college, as did most of the girls. Only member of this class to die is Randall B. Etheridge, late Chief of the Division of Markets in Raleigh. Reading from left to right, back row, they are Mrs. Edna Evans Bell, Miss Callie Jones, Mrs. Cass B. Daniels of Norfolk, Randall B. Etheridge, Mrs. Gladys W. Lennon, Miss Holland Wescott, Mrs. Naomi D. Wescott, Edward N. Meekins of Raleigh, Mrs. Annie Griffin McCoy of Norfolk, and E. W. Joyner, who was principal of the High School. Front row: Mrs. Hattie Forbes Minton of Virginia Beach, Mrs. Louise Miller Meekins, Miss Effie Wescott of Hamlet, and Mrs. Madge Daniels Barber of Philadelphia. Of this lot, three never married, one is widowed, and one is dead. All have done well in life.

This was the first class to graduate after a high school was established in Manteo, the first in the county. About ten other members of the class dropped out during the term and didn't graduate, including the editor of this paper. Some of those went away to college and others to work at various jobs. Back in those days the girls swept the rooms, and the boys kept the fires, usually cutting the wood and toting it in the house, and nobody thought they had a tough lot. They had to be in school on time, the teachers got about \$50 to \$80 a month, and every living person in this class knows the pupils got more out of a year's schooling than one gets these days, despite all the facilities, the advances, and the equipment available to them in a nine-months term.

## DR. MESSICK TO SPEAK AT COLLEGE NIGHT OF LOST COLONY JULY 20

Dr. J. D. Messick, president of East Carolina College, Greenville, will be the speaker at a special East Carolina College Lost Colony night in Waterside Theatre on Friday evening, July 20, it was announced today by James W. Butler, Alumni Secretary and Sports News Director of the college.

This will be the first special college night for The Lost Colony in several years and every effort will be made through promotional sources at Manteo and Greenville to have a large number of East Carolina students and alumni attend the special performance.

Dr. Messick will speak briefly prior to the performance and special music will be provided by the Lost Colony Chorus under the direction of East Carolina College Music Director Elwood Keister. Dr. Messick will be introduced by Mr. Butler who will also introduce Dr. Leo W. Jenkins, ECC vice president and others in the Messick party.

The Lost Colony this year has in its cast several who are students at East Carolina College or alumni of that institution.

Mr. Butler stated that additional details of the East Carolina special night at The Lost Colony will be announced prior to July 20. "In the meantime," he said, "we are urging all students and alumni of East Carolina College to be present for the special performance honoring their alma mater of July 20."

## DARE COMMISSIONERS BUY COUNTY'S JAIL CELLS

Triple Pay for Board Members Also Example of Waste of Public Money

One of the reasons Dare County finances are always running behind, out of the reckless waste of the officials was shown last week when the Commissioners paid a junk dealer for the steel jail cells from the demolished Dare County jail. Although the county owned the cells and abandoned them, they paid \$300 for them to send to Cape Hatteras. They were not good enough to keep, but good enough to buy to give the Outer Banks.

Another example of waste is the custom, God knows why, of paying the Board members from Hatteras Island, three days' pay for one day's work. Instead of collecting \$8 like other members, they collect \$24, in addition to their mileage. This is proof that the county Board never wishes to save, never wished to entertain a new idea, but still conducts the county business as in the sailboat days, when it took a county commissioner a day to get to the county seat, and a day to return home. Although the road has been completed to Hatteras Island for five years, the custom is kept up, although only one day's time is used. In four years it has cost the county thousands of dollars.

Another big item of waste is maintaining several small precincts in Dare County whose voters could all be taken to nearby polling places by the simple expedient, if desired, of providing one or more automobile trips. But these tiny precincts are maintained at considerable cost, although a bare dozen votes may be cast, and not a single new voter registered during the four weeks the books are open.

These and numerous other items, such as keeping people on the county payroll who render only a token amount of service, at salaries ranging from \$100 a month up, run the cost of Government too high, and keep the tax rate high. Many thousands of dollars might be saved by cutting off only waste. Salaries of County officers See BOARD, Page Eight

## CAPT. VICTOR L. BALLANCE DIES AT HATTERAS SUNDAY

Victor Lester Ballance 70, died at his home at Hatteras Sunday night at 11:10 in less than three hours after being taken ill. Capt. Ballance is well remembered in coastal sounds and rivers, having long operated craft between Hatteras, and Elizabeth City, Washington and other points. He was a lifelong resident of Hatteras, the son of the late Bascom B. and Dorcas Ballance, and the husband of Mrs. Rachel Ballance. He is also survived by two daughters, Mrs. Marvin Robinson of Virginia Beach and Mrs. Eulus Miller of Buxton; a son, Lester Ballance, USN, now in Cuba; two sisters, Mrs. Nelson Stowie of Hatteras and Mrs. Willie H. Austin of Oriental, a brother, Cecil Ballance of Hatteras, and by six grandchildren.

He was a member of the Methodist Church.

## DREDGING WATERS IN HYDE AND DARE PROJECTS UNDERWAY

Operation This Month Near Wanchese; Stumpy Point and Engelhard Next.

Several waterway improvement projects under the Corps of Engineers are underway in Dare and Hyde Counties, and currently, this month, the channel job between Oregon Inlet and Wanchese is underway, with dredge now moving from the inlet toward Mill Landing. From there it will go to Stumpy Point.

Next the work will continue at Far Creek, Engelhard, which is to be deepened to seven feet, 75 feet wide for a distance of two miles.

The Stumpy Point project will be a similar channel cut a distance of one and a half miles. The three projects are a combined letting, costing about \$90,000.

Steve Wall, public relations officer for the Corps of Engineers of Wilmington, who was visiting the projects in this territory this week, said another project, whose contractor is now tied up elsewhere, would begin shortly at Hatteras. A \$90,000 breakwater is now under construction at this harbor. The dredging job will open the channel in from Pamlico Sound a distance of two miles in Rollinson channel, and deepening a spur toward the inlet, to a depth of six feet, and 100 feet wide. The harbor job calls for improvement of a basin 100 by 400 feet and six feet deep. This job costing \$40,000 will be done in late August.

The project between Oregon Inlet and Wanchese, calls for cutting through three shoals near the inlet, and digging a side-channel into Mill Landing, with a basin 200 feet square, and all of it six feet deep. A \$60,000 job has recently been completed at Ocracoke, including improvement to Wallace Channel, Wainwright Channel and Silverlake Harbor.

The achievement of so many vital waterways projects in this area is the result of a lot of hard work on the part of a few local people and organizations in each community, but little could have been accomplished without the work of Herbert C. Bonner, the First District Congressman, a man with much influence in Washington, who has continually fought for these projects.

Despite the extremely long time required to work up waterways projects, and the many discouragements that follow any effort to impress the Congress with the need for them, he has never given up, sometimes when local impatience on the other hand would tempt many people at home to abandon worthy causes.

## HAYMAN REUNION SUNDAY AT MANNS HARBOR CHURCH

One of the most interesting and enjoyable of local celebrations is scheduled to begin Sunday morning, July 15th at Bethany Methodist Church, Manns Harbor when the annual reunion of the Hayman Clan of Eastern North Carolina convenes. Ira Spencer Jr. of Manns Harbor is now president of the clan, a place held for many years by Rev. L. D. Hayman of Southport, who is a beloved son of Dare County. Ten o'clock is starting time.

The program usually includes a short business session and an hour of fellowship and picnic dinner on the grounds. Previously, Mr. Hayman has preached at least one sermon at a nearby church, because of popular demand on the part of old friends.

## OCRACOKE MAN FINISHES TRANSPORTATION SCHOOL

Fort Eustis, Va.—Army Cpl. Edgar M. Ballance, son of Mr. and Mrs. Eliza Ballance, Ocracoke Island, recently was graduated from the Transportation School's instructional methods course at Fort Eustis, Va.

Corporal Ballance entered the Army in September 1950 and completed basic training at Camp Pickett, Va. His wife, Maude, lives in Warwick, Va.

## SIR STANLEY SPURLING MAY VISIT LOST COLONY

If present plans now carry, Sir Stanley Spurling, member of the British Parliament from Bermuda, will be a special guest at The Lost Colony now in its 16th season at Waterside Theatre at Manteo.

Sir Stanley on his North Carolina visit will be the guest of Governor Hodges. Governor Hodges was his guest in Bermuda last year when the State's chief executive made a cruise to that British Island.