

# THE COASTLAND TIMES

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

VOLUME XXII — NO. 10

MANTEO, N. C., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1956

Single Copy 7¢

## SCHOOL OFFICIALS REFUSE TO UPSET DARE'S RULING

Kitty Hawk's Effort to Block Consolidation Unsuccessful in Raleigh Again

The State Board of Education refused to intervene in a school consolidation controversy in Dare County last week on grounds it would violate the principal of the 1955 School Assignment Act.

The act gives to local boards of education the power of pupil assignment and was the 1955 General Assembly's answer to the school segregation crisis.

The board took action after hearing a delegation from Dare County protesting the consolidation of Kitty Hawk School with Manteo High School on Roanoke Island.

To overrule the Dare Board of Education would be to do "the very thing that the General Assembly has attempted to avoid in its recent legislation," board member O. L. Richardson of Monroe said.

He made the motion to postpone the matter indefinitely on grounds the board was "without jurisdiction." The Kitty Hawk school, which the delegation had hoped could remain open until a new plant is built at Manteo, opens Tuesday.

Dare Attorney Wallace H. McCown presented the Kitty Hawk delegation's arguments. The Dare Education Board ordered the merger of Kitty Hawk school's 50-odd students with those at Manteo last spring.

McCown said his group's plea was made on grounds of inadequate facilities at the Manteo school. He said Kitty Hawk people feel the students would be better off in their own three-room, three-teacher school at Kitty Hawk than they would in five rooms at Manteo with about 160 other high school students.

He said Kitty Hawk would not object to consolidation when a plant now in the planning stage is completed on Roanoke Island. McCown also said Kitty Hawk students will have to ride buses as far as 34 miles to the Manteo facilities. He said there was some question among school bus drivers about whether they could make their schedules in the "shuttle bus" operation planned as transportation for the students.

After hearing McCown, the board told the delegation it would take the matter into consideration. It put the finishing touches on the 1956-1958 budget, then returned to the Dare matter and decided against overriding the Dare education board.

Members of the Kitty Hawk delegation, in addition to McCown, were Mrs. Tom Briggs, Kitty Hawk's representative nominee on the Board of Education; Robert Young, mayor pro tem of Kitty Hawk; and Jack Twiford, Bob Best and Adolphus Hines, school committee members.

## REV. GEORGE W. GRIFFIN DIES IN WASHINGTON, D. C.

Rev. George W. Griffin, 86, a native of Roanoke Island, died Saturday in Washington, D. C. where he had lived for many years. He was a native of Roanoke Island, and the son of the late Elisha and Mary Ashby Griffin who lived about one mile north of Manteo. He is survived by a brother, William J. Griffin of Manteo, the last remaining member of a large and prominent family, and who is now 89.

For many years he traveled as a Baptist evangelist, and spent a great many years in the south, for several years being head of a Baptist assembly in Florida. A few years ago, he dreamed of establishing a Baptist assembly at his birthplace, Roanoke Island, but he had grown too old. Many years ago, when he came back to visit his relatives, his powerful sermons drew large audiences.

Mr. Griffin was buried Monday in Atlanta, Ga. where his sister, Mrs. Annie Griffin Gray, is buried. He is survived by two sons and a daughter.

## CHARLES FEARING SUSTAINS INJURIES IN CAR MISHAP

While riding his bicycle Friday of last week during a thunderstorm, Charles Fearing, nine-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Fearing of Manteo, was struck by a car driven by Lloyd Midgett of Manteo, and sustained a serious fracture of his right thigh. He is being treated in Portsmouth General Hospital, and full extent of his injuries have not been determined. Mrs. Fearing is with him in Portsmouth.

## DARE CO. SCHOOLS OPEN TUESDAY; ENROLLMENT 1,172

The seven schools in Dare County opened Tuesday, and their enrollment so far totals 1,172 students, the largest being Manteo, with 484 of which 184 are in high school. Cape Hatteras high school is next with 307 pupils, which includes 75 high school students.

Manteo High School has nine elementary, and seven high school teachers. Many parents and interested citizens attended the opening exercises, over which Robert Ballance, member of the Board of Education presided. Rev. L. A. Aitken, pastor of Manteo's Methodist Church held a short devotional. W. H. Bunch, the new principal of the school spoke briefly, greeting the students.

Some 50 students in high school from Kitty Hawk were assigned to Manteo school this year, and these enrolled with exception of about 13.

Enrollment for the various schools of the county is as follows: Manteo 484; Cape Hatteras 307, Kitty Hawk 131; Wanchese 126, Manteo Negro school 71; Manns Harbor 33 and Stumpy Point 20. Fourteen high school students attend the Negro school.

Manns Harbor has two teachers, Kitty Hawk 5; Wanchese four; Stumpy Point one, the Negro school three; Cape Hatteras 12; Manteo 16.

Fourteen buses are required in the transportation of the pupils of Dare County.

## DARE RECORDERS COURT HANDLES BIG LOAD OF TRAFFIC CASES TUESDAY

Two paid \$100 fines each, and court costs charged with driving while drunk in Dare Recorders Court Tuesday. They were Ralph Decosta Shaw of Washington, D. C. and R. W. Webb of Norfolk. Fines yielded over \$700 this time, but due to decline in holiday traffic, a big drop in income is expected from now on.

The following, in addition to court costs, paid fines of \$15 each for speeding at 50 mph: Charles E. Heath of Nags Head, Alphonso J. Earley of Ahoskie; R. V. Johnson, Miami, Fla.; J. N. Owens of Harbinger, Doris J. Brown of Plymouth, George F. Newsom and Robert J. McCulloch of Elizabeth City; Curtis T. Edwards of Weeksville; T. G. Griggs, Jr., Point Harbor.

Jas. Allen Jones of Norfolk for public drunkenness paid \$25 and costs.

Elton Keene paid \$25 for reckless driving; Gilbert Lee Henley of Nags Head for speeding at 80 mph, \$50; Francis D. Spivey of Durants Neck for speeding at 60 mph, paid \$25 and costs; for speeding at 51 mph, Neil E. Foy of Duck paid \$16 and costs; W. H. Hoffer, Jr. of Elizabeth City paid \$14 for speeding at 49 mph; other speeders paid as follows: Robert E. Ashby of Portsmouth paid \$10; Eppa Joseph Gray of Franklin, Va. \$10; Harry Dean Haywood of Colington, \$12 and costs; Curtis P. Turner, Weldon, \$10; Joyce J. Gray, Buxton, \$18; W. A. Perry, Carrville, Va., \$12; Richard L. Kizer, Portsmouth, Va., \$20; Ossie O. Wade, Lynnhaven, Va., \$25; George J. Coulbourn, Suffolk, Va., \$10; Halsey W. Brown, Jr., Virginia Beach, \$50; Willie Ivey, Pt. Harbor, \$5; H. B. Jennette, Norfolk, \$20; Eula S. Sumner, Elizabeth City, \$20.

## BLUEFISHING NEVER BETTER IN DARE WATERS

Wanchese. — Captain Jesse Etheridge says bluefishing has never been better than during the first week of September this year.

"The fish ain't as large as they were back in the 1920s, but there are more of them," said Capt. Etheridge.

Back in the middle 1930's is when the big "Hatteras Blues" hit North Carolina coastal waters. In those days a five pounder was considered a small bluefish, and many scaled at 10 to 15 pounds. The fish are ranging from one to two pounds each.

Best catches of the 1956 bluefishing season have been made in Oregon and Hatteras Inlets but on Labor Day week end with sunny skies and smooth seas, the bluefishermen went into the ocean after blues.

"We made our best catches down near a wreck off Pea Island," he said. (Pea Island is six or seven miles south of Oregon Inlet.)

Capt. Etheridge's party of four, headed by W. P. Morris of Jacksonville, N. C., stopped fishing when they had landed an even 250 blues. In addition they had caught a half dozen or so Spanish mackerel and three false albacore.

## SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER RANK HIGH FOR SPORT

Biggest Autumn Tourist Business During Next Ten Weeks on Our Coast

Now that tourists do not have to worry about dirt roads made bad by rainy weather; when every part of the N. C. Coastland may be reached readily on any day by automobile,—the resorts of Hyde, Dare and Currituck are looking for the biggest autumn business during the next ten weeks, that they have known.

Each year, there is a rapidly increasing volume of people who prefer vacations in autumn, and there are many good reasons for this choice, outside of accessibility and good roads heretofore mentioned.

The fine autumn weather is usually invigorating, and cool enough for comfortable and refreshing sleep every night. Travel is attended with less discomfort. Places of business are not so densely crowded, and personnel not overworked. Visitors may dine and be served in more leisurely comfort.

During the ten weeks from September 1, fishing is at its best, and both channel bass and striped bass offer fine sport.

One may generally expect good weather the rule, in autumn in the North Carolina coastland.

The fine crops and the autumn coloring in the woods to be viewed from our highways in autumn, give an interesting change of scene. This year the region is blessed with finest crops, in many places, that have been produced in several years.

Tourist facilities are reporting that reservations being made for accommodations this fall are the greatest yet.

## FIFTH ANNUAL NAGS HEAD SURF FISHING TOURNAMENT TO OPEN OCTOBER 19

By AYCOCK BROWN  
Nags Head.—More than \$1,000 worth of prizes including trophy cups and plaques, silver, gold and bronze medals, fishing tackle, marine clocks, barometers and other prizes will be awarded winning individuals and teams during the Fifth Annual Nags Head Surf Fishing Tournament here on Friday through Sunday, October 19-21, it was stated today by W. A. Williams, president of the sponsoring club.

The sponsoring organization is the Nags Head Surf Fishing Club and the event this year will be presented again under the auspices of the Association of Surf Anglers Clubs, an international organization. H. W. Shaner of Margate City, N. J. will return to Nags Head to direct the tournament. He is a member of his home town's casting club and also secretary-treasurer of the Association of Surf Anglers Clubs.

Sponsors of the tournament stated this week that competition this year would be limited to 25 participating clubs of five persons and one alternate.

In the past, the Nags Head Tournament has gained national attention, although most of the participating teams have come from fishing clubs in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York. Last year four of the teams taking part in the tournament were from North Carolina clubs.

Only teams affiliated with the Association of Surf Anglers Clubs are eligible to enter the tournament. Maj. J. L. Murphy, secretary-treasurer of the Tournament should be contacted by teams planning to enter the contest. His address is care: Nags Head Surf Fishing Tournery, Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina, it was stated.

## FIRE BURNS OVER LARGE AREA NEAR RODANTHE

An area of some 40 acres in size burned over near the Fairhaven Methodist Church, Rodanthe, during the week end. Origin of the fire is not known. At one time it was feared the church might be damaged. A strong wind blew flames toward the Chicamacomico motel. However on reaching the road across the beach, it soon burned out. Nearly all the population of the three villages was attracted to the fire.

## MUSIC CLUB MEETS

The Roanoke Island Music Club had its first fall meeting Tuesday night at the home of Mrs. Rennie Williamson in Manteo. Plans were made for the year's programs, and also plans for the district meeting to be held in Elizabeth City September 22.

During the social hour Mrs. Williamson served punch and salted nuts.

## BIG BOATING EVENT SCHEDULED 3 DAYS IN ELIZABETH CITY

Numerous Attractions September 29-30 Include Racing, Dancing, Drills and Music

Elizabeth City, Sept. 6.—With a full two days of boat racing and a three-day schedule of land activities, there will be something for everyone at the International Cup Regatta here September 29-30.

Eight classes of outboards are scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 29, along with two limited inboard classes and the first two heats of the powerful unlimiteds. Sunday will feature six more limited inboard classes and the three final 15-mile unlimited heats.

In addition, there will be a bathing beauty pageant Friday night, preceding the regatta week end, with a dozen of Eastern North Carolina's loveliest girls vying for Regatta Queen; a parade of high school bands, queen's floats, officials, drill teams and novelties Saturday morning; the International Cup Ball Saturday night, featuring Ted Weems and his orchestra; a two-day Art Show of water colors, oil paintings, photography and ceramics by the area's artists; a demonstration of the unbelievable Benson helicopter-boat on and over the river, and the International Cup and Roger's Memorial Trophy presentation dinner Sunday evening.

Outboard racing classes scheduled are A, B, C and D Utility; and A, B, C and D Stock Hydros. Inboard competition will be for the unlimiteds, 7-litres, 266, 225, 136, 135 and 48 cubic inch hydroplanes, E Service Runabouts and the Pacific One Design class.

A personal survey of unlimited owners, made at the recent Gold Cup Race in Detroit, Mich. by a representative of the Pasquotank River Yacht Club, indicates that nine of the huge racing boats are planning to be here for the third annual running for the \$7,000 sterling silver trophy, and for the points the APBA-sanctioned event. See RACES, Page Eight

## MARLIN, SAILFISH TAKEN OFF DARE COAST AREAS

Manteo, Sept. 5.—Four blue marlin, two from the same boat, were landed by anglers aboard Oregon Inlet and Hatteras based boats during the past week end. Four sailfish were also landed in one of the better billfishing days of the 1956 season for these two species.

Louis and Leonard Williams of Monongahela, Penn., skipping bait from the cruiser Chee Chee, skippered by Capt. Willie Etheridge Jr., each landed big blues on Saturday. Leonard's fish, nine foot and eight inches from tip to tip weighed 274 pounds.

Louis' fish measured 11 foot and five inches, but the fish, during the five hour battle it took to bring it aboard, was attacked by shark which badly mutilated its right side. Of the flesh still intact on other side of the giant carcass, the total weight was 315 pounds. Marlin experts estimated the big fish would have weighed over 450 and probably 500 pounds had it not been attacked by the sharks. The William's catches were made about 30 miles southeasterly of Oregon Inlet.

The third blue marlin taken off Oregon Inlet on the week end was landed by F. T. Spruce Jr. of Lynchburg. His fish was not measured or weighed before it was taken from Oregon Inlet Fishing Center but observers who know marlin said it topped 200 pounds.

## Youngest Guide

Dr. J. C. Overbey, undefeated champion blue marlin fisherman of Cape Hatteras and Hatteras waters, landed a 348 pounder that scaled at 10 foot and 11 inches. It was 54 inches around the girth.

Dr. Overbey made his catch from his private cruiser the "Snapper II" and on Saturday, when the big fish was boated his skipper was 14-year old Bernard Foster, son of Capt. Hallas Foster and a member of the famous billfishing Foster families of Hatteras.

It was the first time that a cruiser skippered by such a young guide had ever connected with and successfully brought aboard such a large marlin.

## Four Sailfish

Three sailfish were boated by anglers aboard Omie Tillett's cruiser Jerry Jr., on Saturday when the big blue marlin were being caught by anglers aboard other boats. William Eldridge caught two and Bobby Estes one. Both anglers were from Falls Church, Va. A fourth sail was taken by an unidentified angler off Oregon Inlet.

## PROFIT SHOWN BY LOST COLONY ON ITS 1956 SEASON

In Position to Open in 1957 After Having 8,310 Gain in Paid Attendance

The Lost Colony will show a profit from its 16th season operation, as compared to an operating loss of approximately \$21,000 during 1955 when eight performances were cancelled as a result of rains or storm reports during August, it was stated here today by Dick Jordan, the show's general manager.

A total of 42,201 persons paid admission to see the 55 performances presented this season. This compared with 33,991 persons paying to see the show last year during 50 performances. Only one performance was cancelled due to rains this year and there was no repetition of the storm reports which occurred during 1955.

A breakdown of the total paid attendance this year (which does not include complimentary tickets issued to the press, radio and television outlets, or the membership passes) reflected that an average of 767 persons attended the show each night. Last year during 50 performances, the average nightly paid attendance was only 680 persons.

The Lost Colony during the 1956 season, as in previous years, was an important factor in the economy of Manteo, Roanoke Island and the Dare Coast generally. In addition to the thousands of dollars paid performers, which was spent for the most part here at home, the people who attended the show spent money with guest houses, hotel and motel operators, the restaurants, gift shops, gas stations, and just about every other business enterprise in the area.

There had been rumors during the summer that The Lost Colony may be showing for its last season this year, but the rumors were unfounded. The drama, which has lived longer than all other outdoor productions in the world, will open for its 17th season in Waterside Theatre here on June 29, 1957 with a production schedule calling for 55 performances. The 1957 season will end on September 1.

(The foregoing rumor probably originated when word got out that The Common Glory in Williamsburg may give way to another Paul Green play next summer in connection with the Jamestown celebration. It has since been announced that The Common Glory will be presented during 1957 and that a second drama, now being prepared by Green, will also be presented in Williamsburg near restored Jamestown.)

If The Lost Colony has weather breaks during its 1957 season comparable with 1956, it is likely that next year will be one of the best seasons of its long history. This is based on the fact that by the summer of 1957 the Croatan Sound bridge will be open and traffic from the west and south can be funneled into Manteo by way of the new bridge which will replace the existing ferries.

R. E. Jordan, general manager of The Lost Colony, has been widely complimented on his energetic and economical management of the show which by reason thereof has been getting back on its feet, despite the costly set-backs of 1955 when hurricane scares ran business away from the entire area.

## SKIN DIVERS FIND SPORT WHILE GUESTS OF WAHABS ON OCRACOKE ISLAND

On August 30th Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Wahab has as their guests, Dr. W. L. Bell of Spruce Pine, N. C., Messrs. Bubba Standing and Frank de Foras of Virginia Beach, Va., Ron Beavers and Dave Burchard of Arlington, Va. Dr. Bell is a member of the Blue Ridge Skin Divers Club in Asheville, N. C., Messrs. Standing, de Foras, Beavers and Burchard are from the Virginia Beach Skin Divers Club.

A trip was made to the old dredge "Lehigh" where the divers demonstrated their skill and ability with spear guns and fins. The first man over was right back with a nine pound sheepshead. In a matter of minutes the catch was increased to ten of the finny beauties, a total weight of fifty-eight pounds.

As a sport, skin diving is becoming increasingly popular. No heavy equipment to carry or be burdened with, the easy exploration of old wrecks and the never-ending wonders of marine life to view.

A sheepshead dinner was enjoyed that night by all of the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Wahab. This included their grandson, Billy Wahab of Virginia Beach, Va., Perry Wahab, Ocracoke, and the skindiving quintette.

## SCRUTINY OF FACTS REVEALS CLUMSY EFFORT TO DISCREDIT NATIONAL PARK SERVICE WORK

A Few Persons Attempting to Undermine National Park Service Program Falsely Represent Importance of Study Made By Group of College Students During Recent Short Visit to Hatteras Island.

A clumsy effort through various means of misrepresentation to discredit the program of the National Park Service and to arouse prejudice and opposition among citizens of Hatteras Island has been underway for some weeks. The amateurish attempt, engineered by some of the same selfish group who fought the park proposals from the beginning, because of their desire to mop up on real estate, has made some headway and aroused a number of well-meaning people who had some natural fears against possible encroachment on the way of life which they have always known and would preserve.

The agitation got so heavy that on Tuesday, the County Board of Commissioners, which up to now have merited few high marks for brilliance or foresight and public spirit, summoned Allyn Hanks, Superintendent of the Cape Hatteras Seashore project, before them. They demanded to know what the policies of the National Park Service are going to be in future.

Probably no man on the Board has read the law which defines how the NPS will establish and administer the Cape Hatteras Seashore park, but Mr. Hanks told them there could be no changes from the law so far as the Park Service intended.

The falsehoods got headway, and tales began to be peddled up and down the coast that among other things the National Park Service would begin charging three dollars per car from travellers on the Oregon Inlet ferries, which are state operated and owned and under state law must operate free of toll. Many and numerous restrictions were to be put into effect at once in all villages in the area. All this was reported as having been sent out in a letter over the signature of the Director of National Parks. Inquiries were made of many, and while some said they had seen such a letter, no one could produce one, or say where one could be located.

One would think that established and prosperous business men, some of whom are college graduates, would have more incisiveness and perception than to give even minor consideration to such reports. But such is not true. It is really amazing what some people will believe, or pretend to believe, if they wish to believe.

But listen: It was told also that a letter had been seen, signed by Governor Hodges, in which the Governor had turned his back on any thought of a bridge over Oregon Inlet, and had given the order, not only for abandonment of free ferry service, but for the final abandonment of any road building on Ocracoke Island. As before, some said they had seen such a letter, but no one could produce such letter.

## The Great Mystery Blows Up

Now what did happen, happened some weeks ago, when a group of students from the Graduate School of Landscape Architecture of the University of Pennsylvania, visited the Hatteras Island area, in pursuit of their further studies. Maybe they thought that by writing a thesis on the characteristics of new territory viewed during a hasty visit, they would be awarded an additional degree or two. Degrees are often beneficial to "experts" in numerous fields of endeavor, when they hang out a shingle, and seek to attract customers, clients, patients, etc.

When the boys got back to Pennsylvania, they prepared quite a long brief covering their observations. After taking as many pages to say so, as a lawyer would use in writing up a new lawsuit to break an old will, they finally summed up with some 12 or 15 recommendations for the improvement and benefit of Hatteras National Seashore, which in their opinion should be undertaken, by citizens, and local, Federal and State governments.

The Pa. College boys were so pleased with their handiwork in behalf of a country completely new to them and its people, that they sent their masterpiece to Conrad Wirth, Director of National Parks.

Mr. Wirth wrote them the usual letter of courtesy thanking them for their interest, and told them their brief would receive "due" consideration. Due consideration

means only such consideration as is merited.

The brief did have some mighty good suggestions in it, we might say in the majority they were constructive, but it did contain about four recommendations calculated to bring blood to eyes of most of us coastlanders. However, those of us who are older and more thoughtful and seasoned, don't pay much attention to a stranger who comes up and tells us how to build the boat we are working on. We may just laugh him off, or pay him no mind at all, but usually we do take notice if he tells us he or some other guy is anxious to buy our boat at twice what it is worth.

Because the brief made many references to state and local activities, Mr. Wirth forwarded same with a courteous note to Governor Hodges, as was due and proper. Mr. Wirth in no wise endorsed or approved the project, but sent it to the Governor for his observation.

## A Tempest in a "Tinkle Pot"

Now Governor Hodges had just got back from a mighty strenuous week at the Chicago convention. He was worked to death writing speeches for clubs, farm groups, family reunions, and defense of the Pearsall plan which comes up for a vote this week. He was staying awane nights over budget bureau requests to spend five dollars for each one received. Doubtless the Governor wore his usual beautiful smile, and perhaps fumed inwardly at being distracted during hot weather by something that, had he taken time to read it, he might have filed carefully in his waste basket.

But the Governor is too polite for that, and no doubt he wrote a polite letter, thanking the donor, the sender and several other people, and then he passes the buck. See PARK, Page Five

## COAST GUARD TELEPHONES GREAT HELP ON OCRACOKE

The U. S. Coast Guard, Fifth District, has done a very commendable act in establishing four telephones on their Ocracoke Island line, so that motor travelers in distress can contact the local Ocracoke unit for assistance. These four 'phones, according to a recent announcement by Benjamin L. O'Neal, commanding officer of the Ocracoke Station, are located at the first bridge north of Ocracoke Village, at the coral familiarly known as the "cowpen", at Styron's Hill, and at the end of the Island near where the Hatteras Inlet ferry lands. Until the new paved road is completed down Ocracoke Island there is always the possibility of cars getting stuck in the deep sand, especially at incoming tide, but with these telephones available to the public, the Coast Guard can be quickly called to help. The 'phone at the "cowpen" had been only installed two days when two Ocracoke residents of the fair sex found it extremely useful when their jeep stuck in deep sand on the beach ridge. Walking from the beach about three-fourths of a mile to the little red 'phone box on the telephone pole, they quickly got through a distress message and were pulled out by the Coast Guard truck in time to continue their trip northward to Hatteras Inlet before time for the noon ferry to arrive. Ocracoke Civic Club will include in its tourist publicity this information about the service rendered by the Coast Guard in this respect.

## COUNTY TO AID IN POWER LINE TO MASHOES CREEK

The Dare County Commissioners voted Tuesday to donate \$250 to the cause of clearing out the right of way for an electric light line from Manns Harbor, five miles long, to serve the six families located at Mashoes Creek. John W. Midgett of Mashoes, who has been leading the fight for a power line to Mashoes, appeared before the county board.

Beside its routine business, the board gave consideration to a request for continued maintenance of the old dirt road to Duck on the North Banks, as some citizens feared it might be abandoned in favor of the newer hard-surface road.