

# THE COASTLAND TIMES

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

VOLUME XXII — NO. 17

MANTEO, N. C., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1956

Single Copy 7¢

## NEW JERSEY TEAM TAKES TOP PRIZE IN FISH TOURNEY

Elizabeth City Sportsman Lands Largest Fish During Three-Day Event

By AYCOCK BROWN  
Nags Head.—An Elizabeth City angler, Harry Logan of the Pasquotank Wildlife Club landed a 39-pound channel bass, the largest taken during the past week end and the Merchantsville, N. J. Fishing Club's team with a score of 177 points won first place in team competition during the three day Nags Head Surf Fishing Tournament ending here on Sunday. It was the fifth annual event of its kind to be sponsored by Nags Head Surf Fishing Club and this year the largest crowd in the tournament's history.

Trophies and prizes were awarded at the tournament banquet in the Carolinian hotel, headquarters for the event, which was held under the sanction and auspices of the Association of Surf Anglers Clubs. The Merchantsville team, composed of H. B. Berry, captain, Jeff Paul, August Dramus, Nicholas Cimmarrelli, Charles Potter and R. Gilpin was awarded the handsome Nags Head Trophy, which must be won two years in succession by the same team for permanent ownership.

The South Jersey Anglers Club of Margate City, captained by George McGinley with Harold Chambers, George Bitterling, Warren Whitworth, Gordon Duckworth and Thomas O'Neil as members scored 102 points to win the second place trophy and the Dover Fishing Club, of Philadelphia, with 98 points won third place. This team was captained by Russ Walls and had as its members Arthur Clark, Jr., William Weisbecker, John Mukenhaupt, Richard Dressler and Elliott Goldman.

In addition to team trophy cups each individual on teams won gold, silver or bronze medals. Logan of Elizabeth City won a rod and reel outfit for catching the largest fish and prizes were awarded to Bud Lud, of the Anglers Club, Nags Head, for landing greatest number by male individuals, while two first place prizes went to Mrs. Allison Baldwin and Mrs. Lola Walls for tying for greatest number of fish by women anglers.

A special feature of the banquet program was the awarding of the Ocean City Plaque to the Tidewater Anglers Club of Norfolk, for recently winning first place in distance casting competition at the New Jersey event. The award See TOURNEY, Page Four

## MRS. ROSA BELL GRAY, NATIVE OF AVON DIES

Mrs. Rosa Bell Gray, 62, of 207 24th St., wife of Edward M. Gray, died Monday at the Virginia Beach hospital after a long illness.

A daughter of Isaac T. and Henrietta Meekins, she was a native of Avon, and had lived at Virginia Beach 33 years. She was a member of the Virginia Beach Methodist Church and of Virginia Beach Chapter 75 Order of the Eastern Star.

Besides her husband, she is survived by four sons, Edward M. Gray Jr., Maxton S. Gray, Isaac T. Gray and Lee Gray of Virginia Beach; two brothers, George H. Meekins of Avon and Tommie Meekins of Elizabeth City; a sister, Mrs. L. P. O'Neal of Avon, 10 grandchildren.

Funeral services will be conducted Thursday at 2 p. m. at the Virginia Beach Methodist Church by the Rev. C. O. Kidd, pastor. Burial was in the Eastern Shore Chapel cemetery.

## BURLINGTON ANGLER LANDS BIG FISH ON LITTLE LINE

Buxton.—J. A. Thacker fishing the surf near Cape Hatteras Lighthouse here on the week end scored what may be a sort of season's record when he reeled in a 45 pound and four ounce channel bass. This was not only one of the largest of the species taken from the fish-famous surf at Cape Hatteras this year but it was also a record in another way. Thacker was using light spinning tackle and his reel was loaded with only 15 pound test monofilament.

On the Dare coast three years ago at Kill Devil Hills, Art Clark of Fox Chase Manor, Pennsylvania had landed a 61½ pound channel bass with spinning tackle loaded with 12 pound test line. His great fish brought to the beach on such light line became a world's record that is yet unbeaten in the channel bass class. Clark was fishing on the Dare Coast again last week as a member of his Dover Fishing Club of Philadelphia in the annual Nags Head Tourney, but he landed no big fish this year.

## A MANTEO SEAMAN RETURNS FROM NORTH POLAR VOYAGE



Official U. S. Coast Guard Photograph

Vincent Kenneth Collins, 28, Boatswain's Mate second class, U. S. Coast Guard, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Collins of Manteo, has just returned from a journey of four months to the East Arctic with the Coast Guard icebreaker Eastwind.

The veteran polar icebreaker slid into her berth at Castle Island, Boston, on Monday (October 15th), completing an assignment as flagship and escort through forests of icebergs for fifteen supply vessels of the Navy's Military Sea Transportation Service carrying provisions for completion of the new far northeastern Dew Line (Distant Early Warning) radar stations. This 1956 operation was one phase of the United States' sixth annual Arctic summer resupply missions in which MSTs cargo ships with the help of icebreakers carry equipment, supplies, and personnel to far flung stations and bases established in Greenland, Eastern Canada, Baffin Island, and at the top of Alaska.

Vincent is shown here steering a landing craft away from the Eastwind as she lies off the shore of Labrador.

It is singular that Collins has been on four polar voyages, two to the south pole and two to the north pole. He is expected home to visit his parents early in November.

## SAY IMPROVEMENT OCRACOKE INLET WORTH MILLIONS

Hearing Saturday at Oriental Being Led by Pamlico Fishing Interests

Oriental.—Officials of the North Carolina Fisheries Association and representatives of the inland ports of North Carolina will make their formal pleas here on Saturday morning to a review board of the Corps of Engineers of the U. S. Army for the improvement of Ocracoke Inlet, the only entry from the Atlantic Ocean in a 90-mile stretch of the Outer Banks.

The public hearing was set by the government agency after presentations had been made to it by the Fisheries Association, supported by the inland ports which are affected. Reports to the Association have indicated that the channel at the inlet has closed to a depth of seven feet in many places, making the use of the historic passage dangerous or impossible to all but the smaller fishing boats and trawlers, according to NCFCA President Garland Fulcher.

All interested parties are invited to the public hearing by the Corps of Engineers to be held in the Oriental Public School Auditorium at 10 a. m. on Saturday. The majority of those attending are expected to be the actual users of the inlet, although presentations will be made by a number of inland port groups and others.

The presentation of the NCFCA, Fulcher said, will point out that the full use of Ocracoke Inlet would mean an additional annual income of \$10,000,000 to the North Carolina's \$33,750,000 fishing fleet, and would affect the lives of more than 32,000 of its people. Under normal conditions some 300 boats would use the inlet each week, cutting 200 miles each time from their trip to the fishing grounds. Rough weather now, preventing the use of Ocracoke Inlet because of the rise and fall of the seas on the shallow bottom, Fulcher stated, causes a complete spoilage of a seafood catch when the long voyage to home port is required.

Supplemental presentations by other groups will tell the board of the Corps of Engineers of the loss to the general economy of the coastal area affected, to its shipyards and in the shipment of fuel, agricultural products, timber and lumber.

## US 264 WIDENING PROJECT SOON TO BEGIN IN EARNEST

An asphalt-mixing plant, now being built near Leechville by Nello L. Teer Co., is expected to be ready for operation about the first of November, enabling the actual widening of Highway 264 between Swan Quarter and Belhaven to begin.

A crew of 15 workers is engaged in erecting the plant, which is just off the "Gum Neck" dirt road one and three-fourths miles south of Leechville. According to W. S. Bowman, supervisor of the plant the plant will operate sixteen hours a day after it begins operation. It will have an output of between 1,200 and 2,000 tons of mixed asphalt a day.

An asphalt widening course will first be added alongside the present concrete pavement, followed by a base course over the entire surface, and later by a final top course.

Most of the preliminary work has already been done. Many houses have been moved and shoulders widened. Entire new roadbeds have been prepared for portions of the highway that are to be relocated, including by-passes at Swan Quarter and Belhaven. A number of new bridges have been built work is now in progress on a spar over the Pungo River at Leechville. At Scranton, a new by-pass and a new bridge have already been completed.

Work on widening Highway 264 from Belhaven to Yeatesville is expected to begin soon also. From Yeatesville to Bunyan, much of See ROADS, Page Four

## D. B. MIDGETT JR. RATES PROMOTION U.S.C.G.

David B. Midgett, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. David B. Midgett Sr. of Rodanthe, has been advanced in rate to Boatswain's Mate, third-class, United States Coast Guard, while serving aboard the Coast Guard Cutter Madrona (WAGL 302), Portsmouth, Va. Midgett, who entered the Coast Guard, September 30, 1953, has been stationed in Portsmouth since October 20, 1955. Prior to this he was stationed on the USCGC Sebago, Mobile, Alabama. Before entering the Coast Guard Midgett was graduated from the Cape Hatteras High School, Cape Hatteras.

## DRINKWATER STORY OUT IN CURRENT READER'S DIGEST

The \$2,500 Prize Winning Story Concerns His Views of the Wright Brothers' Work

The prize winning story told in the first person, which appears in the current issue of the Reader's Digest is by A. W. Drinkwater of Manteo, and concerns his recollections of the Wright Brothers early experiments with flying at Kill Devil Hills, in 1903.

Alpheus Drinkwater, then a telegraph operator for the Weather Bureau, was not privileged to see the first flight, but had to be up along Currituck Beach that day attending a stranded submarine.

Along with this article in the Digest is a copy of the historic photograph shot by the late John T. Daniels, of Manteo, showing the first airplane in flight.

Mr. Daniels, along with the late W. S. Dough and Adam D. Etheridge, crew members at Kill Devil Hills Stations were all eyewitnesses of the first flight. They as good neighbors had been helping the Wright Brothers without pay, during their efforts for almost a year at Kill Devil Hills.

Mr. Drinkwater in those days got about \$700 a year, which was a good salary on this coast. Now 81, in retirement, he is busy in the insurance and real estate business. He is sought out by many tourists each year, and as a result of the article in the Reader's Digest, with its enormous circulation, will have many more callers.

## WALLACE McCOWN HEAD OF SCOUT FINANCE DRIVE

The Boy Scout finance drive kicked off this week in Dare County under the leadership of Wallace H. McCown of Nags Head, who has been appointed by Sen. N. Elton Aydtlett, drive chairman of the Albemarle District.

The drive is part of the statewide, coordinated Boy Scout finance campaign under the leadership of the governors of North Carolina and Virginia. Although the Albemarle District is part of a national Boy Scout organization, the goal of \$7,500 will all be spent in the district on developing a program for the state's 1,300 Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Explorers.

## OLD LIFESAVING BOAT CAR NOW ADVERTISES ONE OF OLDEST ROANOKE ISLAND HOUSES



Everything about this Roanoke Island house is old, and the structure itself is often called the oldest house on Roanoke Island. A. W. Drinkwater of Manteo purchased the old house, known to have been built before 1848 and moved it to its present site where he filled it with antiques and named the place "Drinkwater's Folly." For a sign he used an antiquated "life car" of the old U. S. Life Saving Service, once used in transferring injured mariners from ships through the breakers to safety. For an enclosure around the yard he bought a second hand rail fence from Mashoes Creek. The house he keeps open, mostly as a tourist attraction and thousands of persons visit the place to enjoy Drinkwater's hospitality and his thrilling tales of by-gone days each year. (Aycock Brown Photo)

## NEW PASTOR CHOSEN BY MANTEO BAPTIST CHURCH



REV. WILFRED E. CHOLEITON, who has been chosen for pastor of the Manteo Baptist Church comes to Manteo with enthusiasm for the job, from New Hope Baptist Church at Wilson, N. C., which he has served for the past five years. Mr. Choleiton is a native of Blackpool, Lancashire, England, and was educated at McMaster University, Toronto. His wife, Virginia, is a native of Owassa, Michigan. The couple has two children, a daughter Margaret, who is a student in Campbell College, and a son, Robert, who is in 11th See BAPTISTS, Page Four

## J. W. DAVIS CHOSEN TO HEAD WANCHESE RURITANS

Kitty Hawk Pastor Speaker at Ladies Night Meeting Friday October 19

James W. Davis of Wanchese was chosen by the nominating committee Friday night for president of the Ruritan Club for the year beginning January 1 next. The Friday night meeting was Ladies night, attended by some 60 people, and described as one of the best events held by the Club. The guest speaker was Rev. W. H. Montgomery, pastor of the Kitty Hawk Methodist Church, who delivered an inspiring message on the worth of Ruritan in community endeavor.

Mr. Davis is a former president of the club, one of its charter members, and a past district President of Ruritan. He will succeed V. G. Williams.

Gilbert Tillett has been named Vice-President, and Jimmy Williams was re-nominated for Secretary-Treasurer.

## FOUR DAYS SUPERIOR COURT WINDS TO CLOSE IN DARE AS MANY CASES GET OFF BOOKS

Several Criminal Cases Dropped. Four Prison Sentences Imposed, Woods Burning Case Removed to Currituck County, Three Divorces Granted, And Grand Jury Makes Report.

### JOINS COAST GUARD



Cape May, N. J.—Fireman Apprentice Warren D. Gray, 18, son of Mrs. Jarvis Gray, Avon, reported to Coast Guard District five with headquarters in Norfolk last week after having completed the twelve week recruit training course at the USCG Receiving Center at Cape May, N. J.

## OCEAN ROAD LINK PROMISES MUCH FOR OCRACOKE

Seashore Highway Association Officials Meet at Ocracoke Saturday Night

Ocracoke, Oct. 22.—Here to attend the meeting of the All-Seashore Highway Association on Saturday night were Joe DuBois, Secretary, of Morehead City; Mrs. Alice Strickland, acting vice-president, of the Wilmington district; Glenn Tucker of Carolina Beach, past-president and director from the third district; J. Boyd Jones, business manager of Carolina Beach; Mrs. Bessie Howard, of Ocracoke, director from the third district, and Wayland Sermons, of Washington, N. C., who represented his sister Mrs. Lucille Purser of Nags Head, vice-president from the first district.

R. Stanley Wahab of Ocracoke, president of the association, presided over the meeting, which was held at Silver Lake Inn. In addition to the officers and directors present, several local members of the association attended. Joe DuBois presented a survey of the achievements of the association to date, namely improvement of mosquito control, the initiation of legislation to maintain local waterways, various items of publicity, and the support of a first link in the All-Seashore Highway on Ocracoke Island. Others who addressed the meeting on a variety of subjects were Glenn Tucker, Mrs. Alice Strickland, Mrs. Bessie Howard, David F. O'Neal, Owen Gaskill, and A. C. Stewart. Mr. Stewart, sports editor of the Wil- See OCRACOKE, Page Four

## CIVIL DEFENSE REGISTERING BEGINS AT 8 P.M. FRIDAY

Robert K. Gunn, director, and Fred Trew, assistant director, of the Dare County Civil Defense Agency, along with Goodrich Williams, Dare County Civil Defense Radio Officer, thank and commend the numerous applicants wishing to enroll in the amateur radio training course to be offered shortly.

This course, when completed, will qualify students first with a novice license, and when a 14 word per minute proficiency is reached, a general license may be obtained. This course is open to men and women of all ages, and also to high school students having an interest in radio and diligent hard work for a reasonable length of time.

All personnel attending and completing this school, will be utilized for radio operators during civil defense alerts, intelligence monitoring, natural disasters or civil defense military emergency conditions.

Registration will begin promptly at 8:00 p. m. on Friday, October 26, at the home of Goodrich Williams near Manteo.

The annual fall term of Superior Court in Dare County, which was presided over by Judge Walter Bone of Nashville, wound to a close Thursday afternoon after four days work. Several cases were thrown out of court, four prison sentences were imposed, and three divorces granted. The Grand Jury made a report which indicated the school buildings of the county are in a deplorable condition.

Two men charged with damages to nets of Alton Best at Stumpy Point, were found guilty and sentenced to nine months on the roads, but they appealed to the Supreme Court. Thurston Gray, and Buren Twiford are the defendants. Last year, both these men had been arraigned for malicious burning of the woodlands of the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company, and while the case against defendant Twiford had been not pressed, the jury hung as to Gray, and a mistrial was declared. At this time, the court removed the case to Currituck County where it will come up for trial at the next term of court.

A 12-months road sentence was imposed on Harry B. Zachrisson of Arlington, Va., a teen-age youth who entered the home of Judge Edward L. Oast at Nags Head last summer, and said he had come to hold up the occupants. The court appeared anxious to help the boy, but his cocky and belligerent manner this week proved somewhat discouraging. He was stopping at Nags Head with his parents, in a rented cottage last summer, at the time the offense was committed.

The court directed a verdict of not guilty in the case charging Mrs. Alice Williams of Wanchese with allowing an unlicensed minor to drive her automobile. A nol pros was ordered in the case of Louis L. Midgett of Manns Harbor who was charged with careless and reckless driving. Rufus Balfour Wescott pleaded guilty of a reckless driving charge and was fined \$125 and costs.

John Herbert Bowser, Negro, and Norman Ward, white, each were charged with failure to support illegitimate children. Each claimed to not be the father in these respective cases. The court ordered a continuance until blood tests might be made to determine parentage.

Paul Davenport and Joseph White, negroes, were tried for breaking in the Dare County Ice & Storage Company plant and stealing the cash register. Davenport got one year in prison, plus the term he is now serving, recently imposed in recorder's court. White got an 18-months suspended sentence, and was put on probation for three years.

George R. Fearing of Kitty Hawk, who had been fined \$300 in Recorder's Court for selling beer without license and otherwise violating the beer laws, had appealed to Superior Court. After the jury had been out for some hours, he pleaded guilty to two of the counts, and got off with two \$25 fines and costs.

A nol pros was ordered in the case of Luther B. Outlaw who was charged with using improper license plates.

Claude Maynard, the convict who See COURT, Page Four

## WILLIAM W. BASNIGHT DIES IN ELIZABETH CITY TUESDAY

William W. Basnight, 63, died unexpectedly Tuesday at 12:15 p. m. at the residence on 1400 Highland Ave. He was born at Kitty Hawk but had lived in Elizabeth City for several years.

He was the son of Louise Payne and William W. Basnight. He was a veteran of World War I, having served in the U. S. Army, and served with the Coast Guard in World War II. He was a member of Kitty Hawk M. E. Church.

Surviving are one brother, Truiston Basnight, of Virginia Beach, Va.; four sisters, Mrs. Caroline Caine, Manns Harbor, Mrs. Annie Creekmore, South Mills, Mrs. Daisy Hewitt, and Mrs. David McGowan, both of Elizabeth City.

Funeral services were conducted Thursday at 3 p. m. in New Hollywood Cemetery at the grave side by the Rev. L. Sigebel Miller, pastor of the International Pentecostal Church.