

THE COASTLAND TIMES

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

VOLUME XXII — NO. 23

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

Single Copy 7¢

DEATH OVERTAKES NORFOLK COUPLE ON WEEKEND TRIP

Man and Young Woman Asphyxiated in Nags Head Motel Rooms Sunday

An attractive 25-year old young woman and her companion, 36 year old James Douglas Wilmoth, both of Norfolk, died sometime Sunday in a beach cottage they had rented for Saturday night at lower Nags Head. Their bodies were found late Sunday afternoon by the motel operator who had wondered why their car had stayed parked at the cottage all day, when they had said they planned to leave early Sunday to drive to Hatteras.

Wilmoth and Miss Mary Ann Bennett rented a small two bedroom cottage at the Ocean Side cottage court owned by Fred Westcott of Manteo, and managed by Burt Atkins, about ten p.m. Saturday.

When Mr. Atkins on Sunday afternoon went to see why they hadn't checked out at the expiration of their time, he found Miss Bennett's body fully clothed, lying in a small hallway between the two bedrooms. Wilmoth's body, undressed for bed, was in bed, where he had apparently died.

A coroner's jury rule that death was due to asphyxiation. The rooms were considerably smoked from a gas heating stove in an outer room. Owners of the cottage say the circumstances were caused by improper use of the stove, and it was indicated that someone had used some effort to light the stove with torches made from strips of torn-up bag, such as liquor bottles come in.

In the rooms were found bottles of vodka and whiskey.

Indications showed that separate beds had been used. A surmise is that Miss Bennett had arisen, dressed, and had gone to Wilmoth's room to call him, and overpowered by fumes, or overcome at finding him dead, had fallen out in the hallway between the two rooms. Medical opinion was that he had been dead some ten hours or more, while her body was apparently dead a much shorter length of time.

The building is entered from the street into a large combination living-dining room-kitchen, equipped for housekeeping. A small hallway leads from this room to a bath, on either side of which is a bedroom. Located in the living room near the entrance to the hallway is a small space heater which uses liquefied petroleum.

When Mr. Atkins entered the cottage he found heavy deposits of soot over the place, which indicated that the appliance had done considerable smoking.

Disinterested viewers came to the conclusion that the couple, either through ignorance of operation, or while in a befuddled state, had improperly tried to operate the gas heater, perhaps having to ignite it through the air vent, which resulted only in its smoking, and finally burning up the room's supply of oxygen.

Wilmoth, was the owner of the Acme Tire Company on Princess Ann Road, Norfolk and has a brother Guy Wilmoth. His body was taken to Twiford Funeral Home in Elizabeth City for preparation for burial, then sent to Keysville, Va. In Norfolk he lived at 1224 W. Woodlawn Ave.

Miss Bennett resided at 3613 Amherst St., with her sister, Mrs. A. L. Boynton in Norfolk, was a native of that city, and for two years had been employed as a book-keeper by Green-Gifford Motor Corp. in Sewells Point Road, Norfolk. She has another sister in Florida, and three brothers in Norfolk. Her parents were dead. She was buried in Rosemont Memorial Park, Tuesday.

Wilmoth, the dead man is highly regarded by many people at Cape Hatteras where he made his home for awhile in the house he owned. He married the former Miss Rovenia Quiddle, who separated from him some three years ago, and has since remarried. They had one child, a boy. He has a brother Garland, who lives in Richmond, who is married to the daughter of Guy Quiddle of Buxton, and is a cousin of the former Rovenia Wilmoth. The home they lived in at Buxton was later sold to Willard Burrus. It was known as the John Lee Miller home.

SOCK DANCE SATURDAY

A sock dance will be held Saturday night, December 8, in the Manteo gymnasium, beginning at eight o'clock. Proceeds will go to the high school athletic association.

ESTABLISHED IN MEDICAL PRACTICE IN DURHAM



DR. RALPH E. BAUM is highly esteemed among the many young people of Dare County who have gone out from Kitty Hawk to do well in various fields of endeavor. He made exceptional grades, graduated from the Kitty Hawk High School, and entered college at Duke. A hard-worker, he won many student honors, and made Phi Beta Kappa in three years. He now is engaged in the practice of internal medicine with offices in the Trust Building in Durham, and is on the staff at Watts Hospital. He is 39 years old, the son of Jesse E. Baum and the late Mrs. Bertha May Baum of Kitty Hawk.

Dr. Baum, during his training, interned a year at Watts Hospital, then he took training at Lawson Veterans Hospital, Atlanta, followed by three and a half years in the Army Medical Corps during World War II from which he again entered private life holding the rank of Major. His war service carried him to England and through campaigns in North Africa and the Italian invasion. After the war, he took two and a half years more at Lawson.

Dr. Baum's maternal grandfather was the late Capt. F. Harris Midgett of Kitty Hawk. One of his uncles is Capt. Truxton Midgett. Another uncle was Capt. Tom Baum who pioneered in ferry service in Dare County, and whose activities did most to bring about today's bridges, which bring in a mighty volume of tourist business.

DROWNS IN FALL FROM CASHIE RIVER FERRY

Ervin Hooper Midgette, Elizabeth City businessman, owner of the Carolina Home Improvement Company, was drowned Tuesday afternoon in the Cashie River 11 miles east of Windsor when he reportedly fell off a ferry boat while taking pictures.

Midgette had taken the one-car ferry at San Souci. He and the ferry operator were the only persons aboard as they crossed the half-mile-wide stretch of deep water.

Midgette lost his balance and fell over backwards while sitting on the guard rail taking pictures, according to the ferry operator. The body was recovered.

Midgette was a native of Avon, Dare County, son of Peleg W. and Annie Williams Midgette; husband of Ida Catherine Nicholson; a member of the First Methodist Church and its official board. He had lived in Elizabeth City most of his life.

Surviving besides his wife are one son, Ervin Hooper Midgette, Jr.; six sisters, Mrs. Jack Gard, and Mrs. Charles Hinton, of Elizabeth City; Mrs. J. T. Gray, Durham; Mrs. J. N. Kruppa, Bethesda, Md.; Mrs. Bertie Gregory, Norfolk, Va.; and Miss Edith Midgette, of Washington, D. C.; two brothers, Raymond Midgette, Philadelphia, and Eddie Midgette, Hialeah Park, Fla.

Funeral services were conducted at the home Thursday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock by the Rev. O. Kelly Ingram, pastor of the First Methodist Church.

CONVICT ESCAPED TUESDAY; MANN'S HARBOR CAR MISSED

A convict working on the roads on Roanoke Island escaped Tuesday, and was not missed until noses were counted at the end of the day. A widespread search failed to find him. Sometime between midnight and daylight, the 1951 Chevrolet owned by Charlie Midgett of Mann's Harbor was missing from his home and had not been found up to yesterday.

The convict, whose name is not available, is thought to hide out in the woods until after dark and made his way on foot across the three-mile Croatan Sound bridge. Another convict who escaped from Currituck County was wounded by guards and recaptured. He was taken to a hospital for treatment.

DIRECTORS NAMED IN CAROLINA FOR MARCH OF DIMES

State Director Stresses Need for Millions Dollars For Fund in January Drive

Chapel Hill.—H. Rex Edison of Gastonia, N. C., Chairman of the March of Dimes drive, scheduled for January, has announced the appointment of county campaign directors for the state.

Stressing the need for a million dollar fund raising effort, Edison praised state volunteer leaders for the fine way they are preparing early for an all-out campaign.

"Despite rather widespread use of the Salk anti-polio vaccine in North Carolina this year" he said, "the job of wiping out polio is not finished. Polio is still with us to a shocking degree, and we will have more cases next year."

Volunteers named by Edison to spearhead the county drives include: Beaufort, W. M. Butler, Washington; Camden, Mrs. Mabel Seymour Games, Belcross; Currituck, E. Ray Etheridge, Shawboro; Dare, Mrs. M. H. Four Baum, Manteo; Hyde, Tommie Gaylord, Swan Quarter; Pasquotank, J. L. Lamb, Jr., Elizabeth City; Tyrrell, Mrs. Effie A. Brickhouse, Columbia; Washington, Walter T. Furlong, Plymouth.

HATTERAS MAN IN FLORIDA SIGNS UP ANOTHER TERM



Green Cove Springs, Fla. (FHT NC).—Loranzo W. Gaskins, chief boatswain's mate, USN, reenlisted for four years Nov. 2, while serving at the Naval Station in Green Cove Springs, Fla.

Chief Gaskins is the son of Loranzo Gaskins of Frisco, and husband of the former Miss Eula Rogers of Washington, D. C.

Before entering the service in April, 1941, he graduated from Hatteras High School in Hatteras.

MERCHANTS ARRANGE FOR SANTA CLAUS STUNT FRI.

In cooperation with George Willoughby, a man who loves his work, 24 business houses have arranged for a Santa Claus program in Manteo beside the Pioneer Theatre, and which will last for about one and a half hours.

The proceedings will begin Friday, (today) at 3:30 p.m. and all children are invited. Santa Claus will arrive on the fire truck, and there will be candy favors for all children.

This program will be a repeat performance of last year's, which made so big a hit with so many children. The list of sponsors is published elsewhere in this paper.

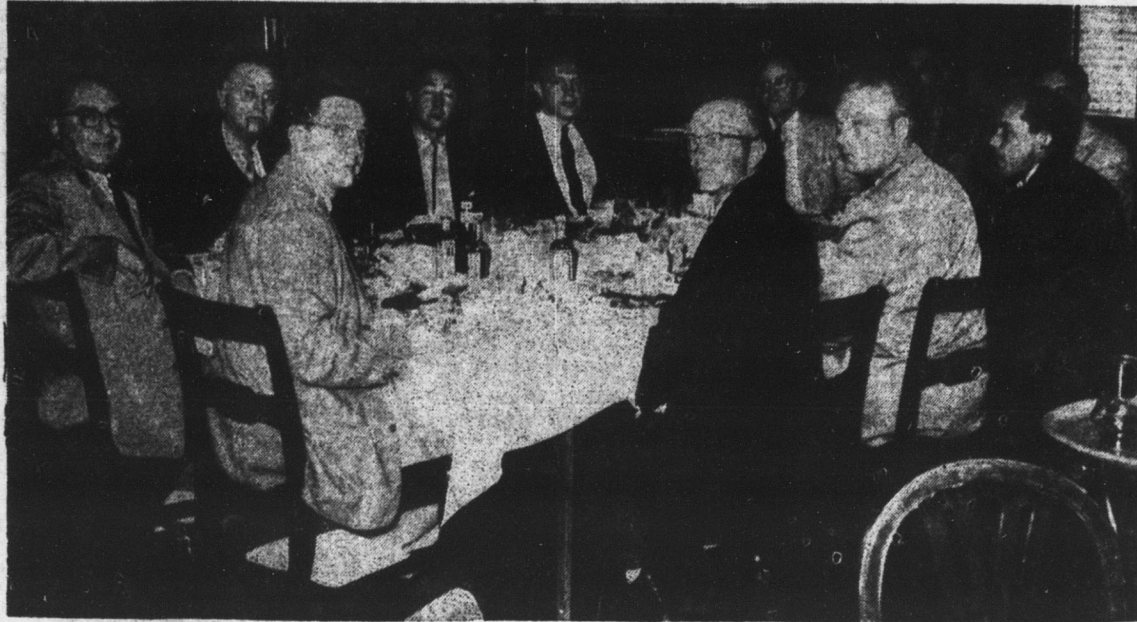
LIST TAKERS APPOINTED FOR LISTING 1957 DARE TAXES

List takers before whom property owners will go to list taxes for 1957 during January next in Dare County were appointed by the Commissioners Tuesday. They are: For Manteo and the north end of Roanoke Island, Mrs. Pearl O'Neal; For Wanchese and Nags Head, Mrs. Lucy Midgett of Wanchese. For Croatan Township, Mrs. Florence Jones of Mann's Harbor. For East Lake Township, Mrs. Nina Basnight. For Kennebec Township, Mrs. Mollie Edwards of Waves. For Hatteras Township, Mrs. Edna Gray of Buxton. For Atlantic Township, Russell Perry of Nags Head.

WINS PROMOTION

Claude Midgett of Manteo who is now serving on the USS Sea Lion has recently been promoted to Electrician's Mate 3rd class, according to a letter received by his mother, Mrs. Beatrice Midgett from the commanding officer of the ship who says "Claude is doing nicely and performs his duties in an efficient manner and is well liked on board."

LOCAL MEN ATTEND ALBEMARLE-PAMLICO TRAVEL COUNCIL



Members of the Albemarle-Pamlico Travel Council met Friday afternoon, Nov. 30 with a luncheon in Elizabeth City. Reading clockwise around the table from the near end are George Attix, manager of the Elizabeth City Chamber of Commerce; Thomas H. Briggs, owner of the Croatan Hotel, Kill Devil Hills; P. D. Midgett of the Pamlico Power and Light Co., Engelhard; Julian Oneto, representing the Carolinian Hotel, Nags Head; David Dear, treasurer of the Daily Advance, secretary-treasurer of the A-P Travel Council; Ray Jones, manager, Virginia Dare Hotel; Pat Bayne, representing Jockey Ridge Restaurant, Nags Head; Walton Jenette, owner of Vicki Villa Motel, president of the A-P Travel Council; W. Howard Barnwell, Elizabeth City; Rr. Walter Spaeth, Elizabeth City; and Orville Baum, Kitty Hawk.

SAND EEL MAY BE CLUE FOR ANGLERS WHO WANT TO CATCH BIG STRIPERS

By AYCOCK BROWN

While small striped bass or rockfish which usually appear in great schools during late autumn and early winter months in Dare County waters are caught in great numbers the big "jumbo" size stripers that are known to be in the surf of the Outer Banks each year have baffled and challenged sportsfishermen.

A new clue relative to a bait that may attract the big bass was discovered down at Hatteras last week by a simple method of stomach dissection of a giant rockfish, according to Willie Newsome, owner-operator of the Sportsman's Headquarters, in the community of Hatteras.

"Commercial fishermen hauling in the surf with nets have landed some nice catches of big striped bass recently," said Newsome who added that the largest weighed more than 50 pounds each.

"At one of the local fish dealers one of the big bass was being dressed and its stomach dissected. Inside the stomach was found several partially digested sand eels which indicated that this was the food the big fish now in or near the surf are eating," Newsome continued.

Anglers who have been fortunate enough to land big striped bass in the surf of Hatteras Island have usually caught them with cut bait while they were actually casting for channel bass. During a 30-year period, however, less than 30 giant stripers have been landed in the surf with rod and reel.

Various baits and lures have been used without success during the years. That is why finding the sand eels in the stomachs of the stripers offers a new clue, according to Newsome.

"Some of the local anglers are now seeking sand eels which they plan to use as bait in their efforts to catch the big striped bass," said Newsome.

Sand eels have been used along the north Atlantic coast where these big fish have been a principal attraction in recent years. If plans materialize at Hatteras, similar baits will be used in efforts of solving the problem of catching "jumbo" stripers with rod and reel along the Outer Banks, it was stated.

NEARLY 300,000 PERSONS IN YEAR VISIT HATTERAS AREA

While only 6,424 persons visited Cape Hatteras National Seashore during the month ending November 30, a total of 293,771 persons entered the area during the first 11 months of the current year.

It seems apparent at this time that approximately 300,000 persons will have entered the Recreational Area during the 12 months of the current year ending December 31. This is an increase over last year and it illustrates the potentials of the recreational area as a tourist attraction which is destined to grow from season to season. Prior to the establishment of the National Seashore and the state's highway leading through same, only a few thousand persons each year traveled through this section of the Outer Banks between Nags Head and Ocracoke Inlet each season.

During November 12,271 persons were counted as entering the Wright Brothers National Monument area at Kill Devil Hills. This pushed the total for the first 11 months of 1956 to 292,070 and compared to 173,374 for the same period last year.

DUVALL CONTINUES HEAD OF DARE COUNTY BOARD



C. C. DUVALL of East Lake was nominated Tuesday without opposition, and will continue for his third term as chairman of the Dare County Board of Commissioners. His nomination was offered by E. P. White of Buxton, and seconded by Hallett Perry of Kitty Hawk. Newcomb Midgett of Waves was sworn in a new member, replacing J. W. Scarborough of Avon. Other member of the Board is L. L. Swain, who had been interested in becoming chairman, apparently had only one supporter.

Coming before the Board Tuesday was Guy Quiddle, accompanied by John E. Midgett and Willie Williams of Buxton, who sought relief in the matter of a road to their property which they reported had been shut off due to the Park Service activity in their locality. The board offered to assist them in any way possible.

All voted for Mr. Duvall, save Lawrence Swain who abstained from voting. Mr. Duvall then welcomed all members of the board, old and new and expressed the wish that all might work together in harmony for the best interests of the people of Dare County. Newcomb Midgett said he was happy to be a member, and that he was there to serve the people. Hallett Perry of Kitty Hawk said he expected to do in future as he had done during the past four years he served on the board, 1948 to 1952.

The Board moved to ask the State Highway System to put part of the old Duck highway back on the county system.

Martin Kellogg, Jr. was again appointed county attorney, and prosecuting attorney, and C. S. Meekins was named county accountant.

SIX PERSONS WHOSE TOTAL AGES EXCEED 500 YEARS

In the community of Kitty Hawk, famed for good health and longevity, there are six people whose combined ages total 507 years. The group is led by Capt. W. A. Perry who recently chalked up 95 years. Mrs. Hildegard Perry at 83 is a very active woman for her age, getting about the community a great deal, and capable of driving in her own car when she wishes. Mrs. Mary Midgett, her sister, widow of the late Capt. Harris Midgett is 86 years old. Mrs. Doll Beacham, 82, is the widow of the late Decatur Beacham. W. I. Dowdy, who lives near Capt. Perry is 81 years old, and Mrs. Mary F. Best, in October was honored by her family and friends on her 80th birthday.

Capt. Bill Perry is still healthy and active, sometimes going out in his boat to set and fish nets.

GOVERNORS HAVE SUCCESSFUL HUNT AT MATTAMUSKEET

Georgia and North Carolina Governors Hunt Together Monday and Tuesday

Successful hunting was experienced by North Carolina's Governor Luther Hodges and Georgia's Governor Marvin Griffin at Lake Mattamuskeet Monday and Tuesday. The two governors are reported to have had plenty of shots and to have gotten their limits of wildfowl.

The governors and their party arrived at New Holland late Sunday afternoon. Monday morning, the governors shot from Earl Sanderson's blind and quickly got their limits of geese. They then went into Liston Harris Jr.'s blind and succeeded in getting their limit of ducks.

Tuesday, with only a few hours to shoot before Governor Griffin had to fly back to Georgia, they shot from a private pond adjacent to the lake. Although it was "bluebird" weather and fewer birds than usual were flying, they succeeded in getting their limits of geese. After lunch at Mattamuskeet Lodge, the party left to return home well-supplied with game.

Other members of the party were E. A. Clement, William Saunders, and Harold Minges of Raleigh; H. Y. Alexander, R. R. Stubbs, and H. G. Booth of Charlotte; Harold Makepeace of Sanford, Edwin Pate of Laurinburg, John King of Atlanta, Ga., and R. L. Phillips of Jackson, Miss. John Larkin of Trenton also came to New Holland with the party but had to return home Sunday night because of a court commitment for Monday.

JARVIS COOPER COTTAGE AT KITTY HAWK BURNS FRIDAY

Second fire of the season at Kitty Hawk and not far from the late lamented Surf Club, the Jarvis Cooper cottage, owned by the Elizabeth City man, burned to the ground. Origin of the fire was undetermined. Lewis Tate discovered the fire while looking through his window and called the Kill Devil Hills Fire Department to the scene, which protected neighboring property, although the Cooper cottage was beyond aid by the time they were called. It is said that two other fires have occurred at this cottage during the past two years.

OES CHRISTMAS PARTY

Members of the Roanoke Island Chapter OES are planning to attend the annual Christmas party with their families are asked to immediately notify Mrs. H. O. Bridges, so that word can be passed along to Santa Claus, who will be present with gifts for the children. The party is to be held Thursday night, Dec. 13, at 8:30.

ATTEND ANNUAL MEETING OF R. I. HISTORICAL ASS'N.

Attending the annual luncheon meeting of the Roanoke Island Historical Association held Thursday in the Manteo room of the Sir Walter Hotel in Raleigh were Aycock Brown, R. B. Etheridge, R. E. Jordan, C. S. Meekins, M. R. Daniels and Martin Kellogg, Jr., of Manteo; Miles Clark of Elizabeth City; and L. P. Davis of Winton.

STATE WATERWAYS COMMISSION GOAL OF ALL-SEASHORE

Group to Meet With Governor Hodges to Press For Legislation on Dec. 18th

Headway is gaining for a movement backed by the All-Seashore Highway Association, asking for legislation to create a State Waterways Commission with functions similar to those of the State Highway Commission. A delegation from the All-Seashore Highway Association, of which Stanley Wahab of Ocracoke is president, and from the Southeastern North Carolina Beach Association will meet with Governor Hodges in Raleigh at 11 a.m. Tuesday, December 19th, to press for legislation in behalf of the movement aforesaid.

Waterways in coastal North Carolina are a vital part of our transportation system," Mr. Wahab says. "Lacking proper planning, construction and maintenance in the past, our waterways are now inadequate for the successful operation of our growing commercial fishing industry, and for the recreational needs of our resort areas."

"We feel that a State commission is absolutely necessary to coordinate all waterways projects, to plan for future expansion, to maintain the smaller channels, and to keep pushing the various projects in the order of their importance."

JURY LIST OF JANUARY TERM DARE SUP. COURT

The following names were selected for jury duty at the term of Dare County Superior Court which convenes in Manteo January 14th, 1956.

From Manteo: Archie Burrus, Mrs. Ruth Scoggins, Elmer V. Midgett, George M. Powell, Carol O. Swain, and Luther W. Hooper, formerly of Salvo, but now living on the Airport highway.

Wanchese: Chesley Midgett, Sr., Ward Daniels.

Kill Devil Hills: Ira Partridge, Frank Dean, Lasell Midgett, W. E. Twiford. Kitty Hawk: Ernest Haywood, Sam D. Tate, Jasper R. Gaimel, Elmo Whitson, Vance S. Dowdy, T. J. Harris, Lewis Scarborough.

Manns Harbor: J. H. Bratten, Alton Gard. East Lake: W. T. Twiford. Stumpy Point: Alton Best. Wanchese: Julian D. Brothers, Sr. Hatteras: Donald S. Oden, Loranzo Gaskins, Willie P. Willis, Leland D. Austin, Edison W. Meekins.

Buxton: Mrs. Blanche Midgett. Avon: C. T. Williams, Jr. Rodanthe: Mrs. Sudie Payne. Frisco: H. L. Tandy, Leonard Rollinson. Nags Head: Charlie Martin Johnson. Waves: Nelson H. Midgett.

MANN'S HARBOR NATIVE DIES IN JACKSONVILLE

Mrs. Irene Mann Hayman, wife of Will G. Hayman, native of Wanchese, died of a heart attack December 1 in Jacksonville, Fla., where the family has resided for several years. Mrs. Hayman was a native of Mann's Harbor, and lived there until the time of her marriage. She was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Adam Clark Mann who now live in Manteo. She was the mother of five children, grandmother of six, and she is survived by three sisters, Mrs. Neva Midgett of Manteo, Mrs. Elliott Ward of Elizabeth City and Mrs. R. S. Collins of Norfolk, and by a brother, Max Elbert Mann of Georgia. Funeral and burial took place at Jacksonville, Monday.

OES BAZAAR FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, DEC. 7 AND 8

Members of the Roanoke Island Chapter OES are reminded to immediately send in their items for the bazaar to be held Friday and Saturday, December 7 and 8, in the show room of the Dare County Ice and Storage Company in Manteo. These things may be sent to Mrs. Edward Westcott, Mrs. Dot Garrison, Mrs. A. L. Mann, Jr., or Mrs. Jack Wilson; or they may be left at the ice plant. The hours will be from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. both days, and the public is invited to attend.

RECORDERS COURT GETS TWO \$25 FINES ONLY THIS WEEK

There's a lot of difference in the money taken in by Dare Recorder's Court these days as compared with the summer months, when a \$700 day in fines was the rule rather than the exception. This week there were two \$25 fines, resulting from submissions. Willie D. Credle, colored, paid \$25 for driving without an operator's license. Gerald Odell Tillett, white, of Kitty Hawk paid \$25 for public drunkenness on the highway.