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TAR HEEL CONGRESSMEN INSIST ON HUNDRED MILLION IN DISASTER INSURANCE

Bonner, Barden and Lennon Emphasize Difficulties Delaying Construction and Development in Coastal Areas, Pending Establishment of Policy on Government Agency Created Last Year.

Washington, D. C.—Much of the maze of uncertainty shrouding the new federal flood disaster insurance program was cleared away at a recent meeting between North Carolina members of Congress and Frank J. Meistrell, who will administer the program under the Housing and Home Finance Agency.

Interest of the Tar Heel legislators in the program was evidenced by the fact that 11 of the 12 House members attended the meeting, at which North Carolina Insurance Commissioner Charles Gold was also present. Senators Sam J. Ervin and W. Kerr Scott and Representative Carl T. Durham were tied up in committee hearings, but were represented at the flood insurance meeting by their administrative aides.

Most of the questions propounded by the Congressmen came from Reps. Herbert C. Bonner, Graham A. Barden and Alton A. Lennon, whose districts along the eastern shore have suffered repeated, severe hurricane onslaughts in recent years, causing widespread property damage as a result of accompanying high tides and torrential wind-driven rains.

In response to a question from Bonner, Meistrell assured the group that the new program will be ready to go into operation "by late spring or early summer." He said he expects to have policies ready for signature within 30 days after Congress approves funds to cover administrative costs. The agency is asking for \$100,000,000 for this purpose, Meistrell stated.

The director said the rate structure for policies has not yet been perfected, but that his office, in consultation with private insurance companies, has attempted to evaluate exposure with respect to the types of buildings as well as location. "Piers, wharves and amusement places right on the beach would carry a higher rate," he said.

Barden and Lennon urged that a "uniform rate" be adopted initially in order to get the program underway as soon as possible.

"I don't think we should wait for a perfect set-up," insisted Barden. "The insurance program should be put into operation as soon as possible."

Lennon maintained that to work out a rate pattern all over the country would "delay the program about a year." He expressed disappointment that the insurance is not available this spring. As a result of severe hurricane damage in recent years, he said, people in his district who would like to build along the coast are finding it difficult to obtain conventional insurance from private companies and "can't borrow a cent from lending agencies."

Barden expressed grave concern about the zoning provision of the Congressional act authorizing the insurance program. In order for its citizens to participate in the program, all states are required to adopt zoning regulations. Barden said the zoning responsibility should be left entirely in the hands of the state and local communities. "The Federal government should not project itself into the zoning business," the Congressman asserted. "Zoning is a problem peculiar to local communities and states and I think they should be given authority to develop their own zoning regulations."

Meistrell agreed that the entire zoning problem is one "within the knowledge of the states and their political subdivisions." "They know the problems at the state and local level," he emphasized.

He proposed to "let the states see INSURANCE, Page Five"

MRS. GAIL ROBINSON DIES IN NORFOLK; HATTERAS NATIVE

Mrs. Gail Robinson, 63, wife of J. M. Robinson, and daughter of the late Andrew P. and Sabra Stron Oden of Hatteras died Friday at her home in Norfolk. She had lived at Hatteras until 20 years ago. She is survived by her husband; four sons, Stacey, Andrew, Bertrand and Erskine; two sisters, Mrs. John O'Neal of Hatteras and Miss Ruby Oden of Norfolk and seven grandchildren. She was a member of the Hatteras Methodist Church.

MRS. VAN NESS HARWOOD AT PARTY IN HER HONOR



(Aycok Brown Photo)
MRS. VAN NESS HARWOOD of Manteo, shown seated in the Dare County Library in Manteo, on the evening of March 4 when she was honored with Open House, in recognition of her 22 years of service to the library.

JUMPING FROG JUBILEE MAY BE FEATURE OF PIRATES JAMBOREE ON DARE COAST

Nags Head.—A "Jumping Frog Jubilee" preliminary to a national event under the same name presented each year in May at Angels Camp in Calaveras County, California, is now scheduled to be an afternoon feature of the Dare Coast Pirates Jamboree here on Saturday, April 27, it was stated today by W. H. McCown, chairman of the spring vacation launchers' steering committee.

The "Jumping Frog Jubilee" will replace beach buggy races originally planned for the Dare Beaches on the second day of the Jamboree. The races were scratched from the program when arrangements could not be made for a race course on the open beaches near Oregon Inlet. Due to erosion problems along the beaches in recent years, driving autos through the roadless areas near the surf has been discouraged and even forbidden except in some instances and the possibility of injury to some racer or spectator on government lands was also said to be a factor in cancellation of the races.

In the Jubilee preliminaries, bull frogs will be the contestants. Two of the winning frogs would be air-expressed to Angels Camp via Washington, with the blessings of California and North Carolina congressmen, if plans are carried out. One of the problems in presenting a Jumping Frog Jubilee at Nags Head in late April is the fact that

CIVIL DEFENSE MEETING IN MANN'S HBR. MARCH 19

A civil defense meeting will be held in Manns Harbor at the school building Tuesday night, March 19, according to R. K. Gunn, Civil Defense Director. This meeting will be for the benefit of residents of Manns Harbor, Stumpy Point, East Lake, and Mashoes.

Alton Best of Stumpy Point has been named co-ordinator of the Stumpy Point area. As yet, no person has been named for this post in Manns Harbor, Mr. Gunn says.

The following information will be revealed. 1. Capabilities and technique of enemy attack. 2. County wide defense program and organization status. 3. School evacuation program and the utilization of the fishing fleet in Dare County.

One of the biggest and most successful defense meetings so far was held Monday night of last week at Wanchese, under the direction of Mack Etheridge. A matching attendance is expected at the Manns Harbor meeting, which will be open to all residents of the Dare mainland, and any visitors who wish to attend.

GEORGE HALE QUIDLEY BACK TO HIS OLD STAND

The highway came along and put him out of business but George Hale Quidley has bounced up like a rubber ball this week, and is reopening the old Roanoke Service Station in downtown Manteo, where he began his career as a filling station operator. He went down to Bridge Turn, away from everyone, and developed Midway Station, a splendid business and a reputation for giving folks a good job on their washing and greasing, and for many years had everything going his way. When they built the Croatan Sound bridge, it called for a vast improvement program on U. S. 158, U. S. 64 and U. S. 264 all of which passed by Mr. Quidley's door. But the highway improvement didn't merely pass his door, it simply squatted out, and wiped his filling station right off the road. Although several careless motorists during the years have repeatedly tried to batter down the place, George Hale always bounced up again with a rebuilt house. But this is one time it won't come back. The highway folks are going to wipe it completely off the map.

It's going to be good for George Hale's old customers to know he hasn't gone far, and only a short distance away he can be found in downtown Manteo with the same old smile, the same good work, and be dismissed at the end of service with his usual gusty old farewell "Happy Motoring." So what? Next thing we know, George will bounce up somewhere else in a big new place, for like a rubber ball, he won't stay down long.

NAGS HEAD CASINO SCHEDULES OPENING FOR SATURDAY NIGHT

One of the most popular amusement places on the Dare Beaches begins its 1957 season this week end, with the opening scheduled for Saturday night, March 16. Nags Head Casino operator G. T. Westcott announces that Bill Elliott and his orchestra will play for the season opener, beginning at 9 p.m. Saturday night dances will continue with an orchestra for each week end, Westcott announces.

The building has been renovated during the winter, completely painted inside and out. A new insulated roof has been built, making the dance hall cooler during extremely hot weather.

TURKEY DINNER SATURDAY FOR CHURCH AT HATTERAS

There will be a turkey dinner at the Community Building Saturday night, March 23 from 5 to 7:30. Everyone is urged to come and buy a dinner. Proceeds will go on the church building fund.

MANTEO TRYOUTS FOR LOST COLONY ON MARCH 21

Roles To Be Filled Include All Ages and Sizes, From Flower Girls to Husky English Soldiers

Preliminary tryouts or auditions for roles in The Lost Colony which opens on Saturday June 29 this year, will be held at Waterside Theatre next Thursday afternoon, March 21, beginning promptly at 3:15 o'clock, it was stated today by General Manager R. E. Jordan.

Burnet Hobgood, the Catawba College drama director, formerly with Paul Green's "Wilderness Road," in Berea, Ky., will be director of The Lost Colony this year. He will be here on Thursday to conduct the auditioning of Dare County residents and persons from Elizabeth City, Norfolk, Hertford or anywhere in the surrounding area for various roles in the show.

"This year we will need a new Agona, the role which the late Grace Davis has played for many seasons. We will also need two big husky actors to take the part of the principal Elizabethan soldiers. Other parts to be filled include roles requiring persons of all ages from the flower girls and Wano, (Chief Manteo's son) ages and sizes to colonist men and women, Indian braves, maidens and others," said Jordan.

The tryouts on Thursday will be of much importance to local persons who wish to be actors in The Lost Colony this year. These will be preliminary tryouts with the finals scheduled for Sunday, June 9.

Manager Jordan left Thursday for Louisville, Ky., where auditions for The Lost Colony will be held March 16. On March 23, there will be more tryouts in Chapel Hill and on the same date, dancer tryouts in Raleigh.

CAMPAIGN TO AID CRIPPLED CHILDREN BEGINS IN DARE

The hopeless cripple who once depended upon the charity of others is rapidly disappearing from the American scene. Modern medicine with all its seeming miracles has not yet erased illness and crippling, but modern science is becoming more and more capable of making useful, happy citizens of those who are crippled.

Today, there are schools for crippled children, workshops, rehabilitation centers, and many other specialized programs to cope with the problems of the physically handicapped. Responsible in great part for the rapid advances in aid and understanding is the Dare County Society for Crippled Children and Adults, which is now conducting its annual Easter Seal campaign.

The dates for the 1957 Easter Seal Campaign are March 15 through April 21. A time for our hearts to go to our heads. By giving to Easter Seals, we can't go wrong," says the Dare Committee.

Dedicated to serving children and adults regardless of race, creed or cause of crippling, serving this board are as follows: Mrs. W. B. Fearing, Chm., Mrs. Ephey B. Priest, Treasurer, Dr. W. W. Johnston and Miss Bessie Draper. In spite of the outstanding job, the society's officers do not feel it is enough. Every dollar spent is worth many times its value to the handicapped and to the community.

The crippled child who was a charity case in years past now is able to become a self-sufficient adult who shares the tax load with his fellows.

ST. CLAIR GAIMEL, NATIVE OF COLINGTON BURIED TUES.

St. Clair Gaimel, 51, a native of Colington Island, Dare County, and a resident there until 15 years ago, died in a Norfolk hospital Sunday afternoon. He resided at 2722 Argonne Ave., Norfolk and was the husband of Mrs. Lina Capps Gaimel whom he met while she taught at Colington. He was the son of the late Decatur and Zenora Green Gaimel, and a member of the Fairmont Methodist Church. He is survived by a stepson Dennis Capps of Norfolk; three sisters, Mrs. James Beasley, Mrs. Roy Beacham and Mrs. Paul Morris of Kitty Hawk; a brother, Jasper Gaimel of Colington; two half brothers, Orlando Meekins and Carson Meekins of Kitty Hawk, and one step grand-daughter. He had been employed as a pumpman by the Craney Island Government project, Norfolk.

The funeral services were conducted Tuesday at 11 a.m. at the Derry-Twiford Funeral home in Norfolk, and burial followed in the family plot at Colington at 2 p.m.

ACTION DEFERRED BY TOWN BOARD TOWARD GRANTING A FRANCHISE TO VEPCO

Two of Three Members of Board, Backed by Prominent Merchants Want Full Information; Looking Toward Operating Town's Own Electric Light System for 225 Customers; Vepco Estimates Their Activities would Bring \$60,000 Annual Payroll to Manteo.

Some 875 power consumers on Roanoke Island are going to have to wait awhile before they begin receiving savings, if then, on a new rate offered by VEPCO which would save them a large sum each year, estimated at \$17,000 to \$24,000 annually. They will have to wait for the decision until the Manteo Town Board can satisfy itself whether it is profitable for the town to take over the electric light business to serve some 225 customers who live within the town limits.

The town board Monday afternoon, after a long session, decided to defer action on a request from Virginia Electric and Power Co. for a 30-year franchise, under which it would take over the Roanoke Utilities Company's system, and at once put in the rates now in effect at Nags Head, and elsewhere on the company's system.

The only member of the Board in favor of passing favorably on the VEPCO request on the first reading was G. T. Westcott Jr. The other two members, M. L. Daniels Jr. and Sam Midgett Jr. expressed a desire not to grant the request at this time. In this, they were backed by several responsible business men of the town who sent letters urging that the request of the power company not be granted. Letters were read from Carson W. Davis, Ralph Davis, M. L. Daniels Sr. and Archie Burris. In addition, Vernon Davis attended and expressed vigorous objection to let VEPCO come in now, and objection was expressed by Frank White, local post office employee, Wilton Jolliff, former manager of the town water and sewer system, Burwell Evans, hardware merchant, and Herbert Creef, theatre operator, all not being present.

Ray Goodmon of Williamston, a Vepco vice-president was present and told the Board it would be an advantage to pass the motion on the first reading in the interest of time, although this did not obligate the Board to pass it on the second reading, which must be at least 30 days later. He said in order to take over the system, he must also have the approval of the State Utilities Commissioners of North Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia, in which the company operates. He said when the Company took over, the present company rates would go into effect. Some of the local business men made comparisons, finding they would save from 25 to 30 per cent monthly. Residential rates were found to be about the same, except for the smallest consumers who'd saved more. Some estimates are that savings to Roanoke Island and Manteo consumers would average \$2,000 a month.

Mr. Goodmon told the Board, if his company takes over the Roanoke Utilities, it was the purpose to make Manteo the depot to serve its customers and service its lines between Corolla and Oregon Inlet, in lower Currituck, Kitty Hawk and Colington. He said, beside taking over three people now employed by the local utilities, seven others would be employed locally, making ten in all, some of whom would be expert technicians, etc., who would be sent here to make their home. He also said his company's payroll to these employees engaged here in looking after the Dare-Currituck section of VEPCO's system would total an annual payroll of \$60,000, which might prove an important item in the economy of the community from the standpoint of owning or renting homes, trading with local stores, paying taxes and participating in various community, civic, and church activities.

He also said, in order to assure full voltage to all consumers, his company proposed to immediately correct any deficiencies in the present system by adequate temporary installations while a more complete system is being rebuilt to take care of the possibility of the growth of Roanoke Island. It appeared from estimates, the total cost of improving the system up to VEPCO standards during the next two years, would cost upwards of \$200,000, which was considered an important item, taking into account the amount of labor to be employed in this undertaking, and what they might do toward boosting business in local stores.

MANTEO ROTARY IS ASKED TO AID THE BRIDGE CELEBRATION

President of SAA Seeks Support in Fund Raising Campaign Big Event on April 25.

A rousing appeal for the support and backing of the Manteo Rotary Club for the forthcoming celebration dedicating the Croatan Sound bridge was made Monday night before the Manteo Rotary Club by guest speaker, Melvin R. Daniels, President of the Southern Albemarle Association which is spearheading the campaign for the big event on April 25th at Manns Harbor.

Mr. Daniels recounted some of the history of the movement for the new \$3,000,000 bridge in which the Association played an active part during the 21 years of its history. The Association now comprises Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Martin, Tyrrell and Washington Counties. He paid tribute to the late Governor William Umstead, who made the bridge possible by special appropriations.

The need for an adequate fund to properly conduct this celebration, which will entertain some 1,500 specially invited guests, including all Highway Officials, was pointed out by Mr. Daniels, as offering a challenge and opportunity to the people of the area to do a lot of good will work get fine advertising for our coastland. Appeals have gone forth to the businessmen of this area for contributions to the cause.

Mr. Daniels asked the cooperation of the Rotary in connection with Dare County's nominees for the beauty contest on April 25th, when from the six entrants from the counties, the "Queen of the Southern Albemarle" will be chosen. The club promised to aid, and to continue with this plan met Monday night with a special committee headed by Bob Smith. Each of the counties will select an entrant for this contest.

INCOME COMPARISON OUT OF ELECTRIC PROFITS MADE BY INAPPROPRIATE YARDSTICK

In relying upon figures from other towns, as a basis for estimating probable profits from a proposed electric light system to serve the town of Manteo, the larger town of Belhaven, which buys current from VEPCO and distributes it to consumers, has been used as a yardstick. Until three years ago, Belhaven generated current with a costly diesel motor plant, with four motors which cost several hundred thousand dollars. The town found it profitable to sell the motors at junk prices, bringing less than ten per cent of original cost. By buying current from VEPCO, it was able to reduce its rather high rate considerably. But the people are now clamoring for lower rates, after learning of the rates paid by customers of VEPCO.

While it may be difficult to determine the actual profits that come to the town for electricity, Belhaven did get one benefit out of selling its motors, some of which have not yet been removed. The money received for motors, and not profits, enabled the town to rebuild and improve its lines. Previously, improvements had been effected in its street lighting which comes from the current bought of Vepco at wholesale.

Here is a comparison of commercial rates of Vepco, Belhaven, and those now in effect on Roanoke Island, based on a consumption of 400 kw hours.

Roanoke Island	Belhaven	Vepco
22.60	18.50	16.40
Residential, 100 kw Hours		
5.50	6.30	4.10

By this table, it is seen, that if profits would be made, the rate must go up to the Belhaven rate, which is now a subject of complaint, and is higher than either Roanoke or Vepco. But it must be remembered that Belhaven is no yardstick at all by which Manteo's prospects can be measured. Belhaven is a town of 2,500 people while Manteo has less than 500 in its corporate limits. Belhaven has See ELECTRICITY, Page Five