

# THE COASTLAND TIMES

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## GOV. HODGES COUNTED ON FOR MAIN SPEAKER

General Assembly Also Invited to  
Attend Dedication of Bridge  
April 25th

Governor Luther H. Hodges of North Carolina is scheduled to top the list of speakers at the formal dedication of the William B. Umstead Bridge spanning Croatan Sound, on Thursday, April 25, it was announced this week by Southern Albemarle Association President Melvin R. Daniels.

While North Carolina's chief executive had not definitely accepted the invitation to deliver the main address, Daniels stated that he had been advised by Ed Rankin, private secretary, to place Governor Hodges' name on the program. There had been some question whether the Governor could be present as he has stated that he did not like to make out of town engagements in advance while the General Assembly was in session.

Members of the General Assembly are also being formally invited to the bridge dedication. Individual invitations to each have been forwarded. R. Bruce Etheridge, Dare County representative, who is scheduled to deliver them this week, with a tentative program of the event. The programs also include events of the Dare Coast Pirates Jamboree scheduled for the week end of April 26-28.

Formal invitations have also gone to State Highway Commission Chairman A. H. Graham and each of his commissioners, also to other State officials, and to members of Congress from North Carolina and other dignitaries.

**Big Parade**  
The program as set up now for the dedication exercises begins at Drinkwater's Folly at 11 o'clock with a colorful parade that will move across the bridge to Manns Harbor where the ceremonies include the speeches followed by the gigantic picnic dinner. A feature of the exercises will be music by colorful high school bands from Elizabeth City, Washington, Plymouth and Williamston. In the parade will be numerous floats, including one sponsored by Manteo Rotary Club in cooperation with West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company, the Manteo Lions Club, Wanehese Ruritan Club, Dare County Library and military units. Daniels stated the Coast Guard, Navy, Army and Marine Corps would each be asked to provide floats for the occasion.

"We are very anxious to have as many floats as possible, and I would appreciate it if any large firms or corporations such as Virginia Power and Electric Company, Norfolk-Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company and others would contact me relative to this," said Daniels.

With the assistance of Dick Jordan, manager of The Lost Colony, the official program of the celebration was being prepared this week and will be ready for distribution within a few days.

Adding color to the celebration will be costumed pirates, many aboard boats that will be flanking either side of the bridge. From a bevy of Southern Albemarle beauties, the name of one will be drawn and selected as queen of the dedication to ride aboard the Rotary-sponsored float. Other sponsors will be attendants to the queen.

After the program at Manns Harbor and the picnic dinner, the scene of activity will move back to Manteo where the Dare Power Boat Association will present Jamboree Eve speedboat races. Beginnings at 3 o'clock there will be two hours of racing including a 55 minute relay race, followed by an elimination race. At 4:20 there will be a Ladies Race, with wives and or friends of DPBA-members competing. At 4:40 there will be a second elimination event followed at 5 o'clock by the final heat.

On Thursday evening, as a finale of the events of the day, there will be a cove's Nags Head Casino.

## FUNERAL L. R. MANN HELD AT MANN'S HARBOR FRIDAY

Funeral services for Leonadas Rosser Mann who died Wednesday of last week were conducted Friday at 3 p.m. in the Mt. Carmel Methodist Church by the Rev. A. L. G. Stephenson, pastor. Hymns sung were "Farther Along," and "Last Mile of the Way" by the church choir, with Mrs. J. M. Creef accompanist. The pall was of red roses, white carnation and fern. Pallbearers were Huff Mann, Wallace Taylor, Thelbert Tillett, Jackie Burrus, Cleveland Gard and Larry Midgett. Burial was in the Caroon Cemetery.

The funeral was directed by Twiford's of Manteo.

## A NEW "AGONA" MUST BE SELECTED FOR THE LOST COLONY



These four Roanoke Islanders, Mrs. Charlotte Morrill, Mrs. Cora Mae Basnight, Mrs. Melva Kemp and Miss Dorothy Drinkwater, each hope they will be selected to play the role of "Agona" the Indian squaw and lover of "Old Tom Harris" in Paul Green's symphonic drama The Lost Colony when it opens for its 17th season June 29. They are shown during Lost Colony auditions at Waterside Theatre on Roanoke Island last week as they were given tryouts by the drama's new director Burnet Hobgood of Catawba College, shown at right. Since the 1956 seas on Mrs. Grace Davis who played the role with distinction for several years had died. Usually an islander is chosen for this unusual role of the actor whose only spoken word during the show is "ugh!" (Aycokk Brown Photo)

## ROTARIANS SPARK APRIL CAMPAIGN FOR CLEAN TOWN

Entire Month Set Aside in Preparation For Face Lifting For Season

In a program Monday night designed to arouse interest in the importance of urging the citizens of Manteo to clean up the town for the tourist season, Dan Morrill, Manteo photographer, led with some pertinent remarks, followed by a movie shown by Bob Smith, illustrating the work that is being done in large cities for a better town.

Mr. Morrill stressed the importance of each person protecting his investment in property in this community, by putting it in order. As we grow more dependent on tourist business, he pointed out, it grows more important that we present a good appearance, and make our town and community inviting and attractive.

The Rotarians agreed that April should be a month devoted to this worthy cause. Mayor Martin Kellogg of Manteo is issuing a proclamation this week, appealing to all citizens to make April a clean-up month, and thereby set a good example which it is hoped all our neighbors in surrounding country will emulate.

Rev. Bob Turner, newly arrived Episcopal minister, and W. Verde Watson, National Park naturalist of Rodanthe, were guests at the meeting.

## MORE ENTRIES URGED IN BEAUTY CONTEST

Pretty girls in Dare County between the ages of 16 and 21 have through Friday of this week to get their entry blanks in for the contest to select Dare County's sponsor for the William B. Umstead Memorial Bridge Dedication exercises on April 25. The county winner will be selected in a beauty contest as a part of a fashion show at the Manteo school auditorium on Friday night, April 5. Entries from twelve girls had been received through Wednesday, with others expected before the deadline. The committee again urged sponsors to get the entry blanks in for the girls they plan to sponsor.

The Manteo Rotary Club committee conducting the contest is composed of Dan Morrill, chairman; Bill Ernest and Aycokk Brown.

## RECKLESS DRIVING CHARGE

As a result of passing one car while meeting another, Donald Eugene Bruce, 18, while driving a 1951 Kaiser 4-door car, going south, is charged with careless and reckless driving, for appearance in Recorder's Court April 2, in Manteo. The car belonged to Granvil Edsel Howard of the radar station at Nags Head. He is charged with driving at 50 to 60 miles per hour.

## SPECIAL SONG SERVICE

A special song service is to be held at the Frisco Methodist Church on March 30 at 7:30 p.m., with the Bethany Methodist Youth Choir leading in the service. The public is invited to attend.

## HATTERAS METHODISTS TO WORSHIP IN NEW CHURCH

Former Pastors to Take Part in Service in Most Up to Date Church Structure on Coast.

Sunday, March 31st will mark the official opening of the new sanctuary of the Hatteras Methodist Church. The Declaration of Opening will be given by the Rev. C. Freeman Heath, district superintendent of the Elizabeth City district of which Hatteras church is a part. The Rev. Dan E. Meadows, a former pastor, will deliver the opening sermon at the morning worship service; the Rev. W. B. Gregory, a former pastor, will also participate in the program. Following the worship services a picnic lunch will be served.

A Youth Choir from the Bethany Methodist Church on the Bath Charge will be special guests on this occasion and will render special numbers during the worship service.

The Hatteras church, having a membership of 360 with 214 enrolled in the Sunday School, on this occasion mark a milestone of growth and progress. The first church on the present site was built in 1877 on land given by John W. Rollinson and wife, Achsah. This church was replaced in 1909 with a new and larger frame building; it being remodeled with classrooms added in the year 1925.

In April of 1953, under the leadership of Rev. W. B. Gregory, plans for the present sanctuary were made with the naming of a Building Fund Committee composed of the following: Mrs. Violet Austin, chairman; Mrs. Vera Robinson, treasurer; Mrs. Doris O'Neal, Mrs. Maude Austin, Mrs. Deloras Burrus, Mrs. Viola Peele, Mr. Wheeler Ballance, and Mr. Lee Robinson as members. Mrs. Margaret Quidey, Mrs. Lilly Peele, Mrs. Olivia Stowe, Mrs. Velma Sowe and Mrs. Josephine Oden are also members of the committee at the present time. By early 1955 sufficient funds were on hand to begin construction of the education unit of the present structure and in October of the same year it was completed and ready for use. Dedication services for this unit were held May 27, 1956.

On April 10, 1956 work was begun on the new sanctuary completion of which is being marked by the special services on March 31. The finishing of this unit provides the Hatteras congregation with a noteworthy brick structure, valued at approximately \$75,000, consisting of thirteen classrooms, bathrooms and the sanctuary with a seating capacity of 280 people. All former members and friends of the church are invited to be guests of the church on this occasion.

## MANN'S HBR. HOMECOMING IS PLANNED FOR JUNE 9

The Methodist church at Manns Harbor voted recently to hold a home coming service on June 9. The Rev. C. Freeman Heath, Methodist District Superintendent, of Elizabeth City is to speak at the morning worship service. A picnic lunch is to be held at the noon hour and a quarterly conference, presided over by Mr. Heath, is to be held in the afternoon.

## JAMBOREE BEARDED MEN TO HIT TRAIL ACROSS CAROLINA

Citizens Inland to Get a Glimpse of Participants in Pirate Festival Set for April 25-28

By AYCOCK BROWN  
Dare Coast Pirate Jamboree buccaneers are scheduled to hit the trail for Raleigh and points west on Friday, March 29, and they will be dressed in their colorful costumes and loaded with silver dollars. It is the first of two Jamboree caravans planned prior to April 26-28 when the third annual vacation launching event is presented as an all-county celebration.

Julian Oneto is charge of the Pirate Caravan stated today that at least three cars, appropriately decorated, with pirates and their ladies in costume would make the Friday trip via U.S. 264 with stops at all communities along the way such as Belhaven, Wilson, Greenville and return Saturday from Raleigh via Rocky Mount, Tarboro, Williamston and other towns. On Friday, April 5, a second caravan goes to Richmond via Suffolk, and Petersburg returning by way of Jamestown, Williamsburg, Newport News and Norfolk.

On Saturday night, April 6, a pre-Jamboree costume dance will be presented on Hatteras Island. Live music, the name of orchestra to be announced, will make the music for the dance which will be held at the schoolhouse.

On Friday April 12, a Teen-Age Prince and Princess Costume dance, especially for students of Dare schools, will be presented at Dare County Shrine Club. All persons attending are expected to wear pirate costumes and judges will select a prince and princess, who with other costumed teenagers will be expected to take part in all day-time activities of the Jamboree and also the Bridge celebration on Jamboree eve. Mrs. Balfour Baum, Manteo chairman of the dance stated that the young people of the community are showing much enthusiasm in the coming event.

A high spot of the pre-Jamboree events will be the Jolly Roger Ball at Nags Head Casino on Saturday night, April 13, an event at which the 1957 pirate king and queen to succeed Sue McCown and John Donoho of 1956, will be selected. This colorful ball, with all persons in costume and with bearded pirates and their costumed pirate ladies, will dance to the tunes of live music by a good orchestra. Previously on a program of pre-Jamboree activities this event had

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## FASHIONS! FUN! FANFARE!

One of the outstanding events scheduled for Manteo in the next few weeks is the Pre-Easter Fashion Show to be held in the Manteo school auditorium on April 5.

Plans are to show what the well-dressed people will be wearing in the way of fashions, at the beach, on the street, church, and for more formal occasions. On show will be the spring and summer fashions for 1957. Some of the models of these clothes will be: Patsy and Rusty Midgett, Bebe and Di Burrus, Janice Scarborough, Mrs. Roy Wescott, Mrs. Willis Wise and Lane, Diana Tillett, Danny Moulson, Raymond and Stuart Wescott. Clothes to be modeled will come from C. W. Davis', Swindell's and Fearing's Inc.

Millie Brown will entertain intermittently with her versatile ability at the piano.

Beautiful girls from all communities of Dare County will compete for the "Queen for a Day" title and reign during the Bridge Dedication ceremonies and parade. Sponsors from Hyde, Tyrell, Martin, Washington and Beaufort Counties are also expected for the bridge celebration.

One of the features of the show will be the modeling of Easter bonnets by the most select group of models in this area. They are: Miss Ramona Wescott, Miss Alice Ayers, Miss Sally Shaw, Miss Willimina Hoffer of Hertford, and Miss Patricia Overton.

Another highlight of the evening will be the debut of the "Barnacle Billies." A recently organized group of local people who refuse to give their names. However, it is guaranteed that you will rock 'n roll, swing and sway, and pat your feet, once this string-band gets into action.

Curtains will open promptly at 8 o'clock on Friday night, April 5. Admission will be 25¢ and 50¢.

This event is sponsored by the Adult Fellowship Class of Mt. Olivet Methodist Church. Proceeds from the show will be used toward the purchase of chimes to be installed on the organ and amplified from the church tower. You'll come.

## VOTERS TO DECIDE MAY 7TH IF MANTEO SHALL GO INTO ELECTRIC POWER BUSINESS

Tentative Cost Suggested as \$40,000 Necessary If New System is Erected; Two Aldermen Pursue Search For Information About Possible Profits; Roanoke Utilities Asked to Give Information.

## A GREAT THRONG TURNED OUT TO HONOR HIS MEMORY



—Morrill photo

ROBERT H. O'NEAL, 71, one of Manteo's most beloved men, died at 5:15 a.m. Friday morning, after a short illness. Most of his life had been spent in Hyde County, but he removed to Manteo from his home in Fairfield about 25 years ago, and with his faithful team-mate, Mary, established their home and have led a successful and happy life. It is doubtful that any citizens have been held in higher esteem in this community. On Sunday, when the last rites were held at the Manteo Methodist Church by Rev. Louis Aitken, the building was packed, and numerous friends came from the old home to pay honor to his memory. Many attended from Norfolk, Ocracoke Island, and other distant places.

Mr. O'Neal's wife is his only surviving close relative. She is the former Mary Burrus, and a product of Dare County. The couple have long been affectionately known as "Uncle Bob" and "Aunt Mary." His parents were the late Stanley and Mattie Jones O'Neal.

There are many fine things that can be said about Bob O'Neal and his good wife Mary. When the depression struck the agriculture of Hyde County where they had long enjoyed a thriving business, and their losses were heavy, they never whimpered or asked for aid. They came to Manteo and buckled down to the hard work of running a dairy farm for someone else. Mrs. O'Neal with others got established in the operation of a tea room down town, and as the first tourists began to move in, her venture met with fine success. The business grew until the press of so much hard work forced her to give it up. Later, with his brother-in-law, the late Roscoe Burrus, Mr. O'Neal established the town's first super-market which is the remarkably successful grocery business now operated by Archie Burrus.

Mr. and Mrs. O'Neal have continued to operate their tourist home in Manteo, "the Wigwam," through the years. It has had great success, and is popular with all tourists, year after year, old guests return.

It was a great tribute to a good man when so many of his old neighbors came to pay the last respects Sunday. It was a great tribute that the church was packed in the community which became his adopted home. Bob O'Neal was a good man, a fine citizen, a splendid neighbor. He was all these and the better able to be these because with the aid of a good wife who complemented his life, he was happy and loved his fellowman. They were the perfect working pair. They spared no time nor energy in discharging their obligations and in carrying their full responsibilities together in this life. They made better by their presence and their efforts, each community in

See UNCLE BOB, Page Four

**SOCK DANCE SATURDAY**  
A Sock dance will be held Saturday night, March 30, in the Manteo gymnasium, beginning at 8:00 o'clock. Proceeds will go to the high school athletic association.

The citizens of Manteo will have the opportunity on May 7th at the town election, which also passes on candidates for Mayor and Aldermen, to decide if the town shall put up the money to go into the electric power and light business to serve the 225 customers now served by the Roanoke Utilities.

On Tuesday of this week, information of action taken at a called meeting of the Manteo town board was given out that the Board would pass this decision on to the people. Meanwhile, a survey is being completed by O. J. McColl, an engineer with the contracting firm of Mechanical Engineering Co. of Norfolk to determine the cost of installing the system, and the possible profits it might yield the town.

On the basis of the incomplete survey, it is tentatively stated that a new system of poles and wires could be installed for about \$40,000. The town board this week sent a letter to the Roanoke Utilities Company, requesting the board be furnished among other information, a breakdown of revenue this company receives each month from each of its customers in Manteo. This request is being first referred to its attorney and auditor by the company before a reply is given.

Two aldermen, M. L. Daniels, Jr. and S. E. Midgett took the initiative some weeks ago, and deferring action on a request from the Virginia Electric & Power Co. which is willing to take over and buy the Roanoke Utilities holdings on Roanoke Island, provided they can get a usual 30-year franchise, and get the approval of the Federal Power Commission, and the State Utilities Commissions of North Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia, in which states this company operates.

The North Carolina Commission, having been requested for a ruling on this proposition has given notice that it expects to hold a hearing in the courthouse in Manteo, at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, April 12th whereby the consumers of electricity on Roanoke Island may have an opportunity to express their wishes in regard to the proposed transfer of property. On the entire island, some 875 customers are served by Roanoke Utilities, and of these, 225 or about one-fourth, are situated in the corporate limits of the town.

It is the one fourth of the Roanoke Utilities customers, which Mr. Daniels and Mr. Midgett believe pay for from 30 to 40 per cent of the current sold on the entire system. On the assumption that the consumers in Manteo pay 30 per cent of the money received by the local utility, the annual gross sales would be about \$25,000 a year.

To stack up against the \$40,000 investment required to serve these customers, would be the cost of operation, depreciation, repairs cost of electricity if purchased of VEPCO at wholesale rates now prevailing, retirement of bonds and interest.

One citizen calls attention of this newspaper to the probability that the consumers would not be willing for even the town to charge rates which are now in effect, but would clamor for the lower rate which is being expected soon. It is estimated that the proposed cut in rates, would reduce the above estimated \$25,000 to only \$20,000 annual return.

Figures furnished this newspaper indicate that the town of Manteo under normal conditions and at present costs, would have to derive its profit after deducting fixed annual estimated expenses as follows:

Cost of electricity	\$10,000
Interest on bonds at 5%	2,000
Retirement of bonds	2,000
Depreciation	2,000
Total	\$16,000

If this were all the expense, then there would be a profit of \$9,000 if current is sold at present high rates, and \$4,000 if sold at the rates now promised under other operation.

We began to check on these estimates, and we find one glaring omission. Nothing has been put in for the labor involved in servicing this operation. If one man is used, as has been suggested, he would cost not less than \$4,000 a year. See ELECTRICITY, Page Four