

# THE COASTLAND TIMES

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

VOLUME XXII — NO. 48

MANTEO, N. C., FRIDAY, MAY 31, 1957

Single Copy 7¢

## DARE'S OUTMODED METHODS OF DRAWING JURIES JOLTED BY IRE OF JUDGE PARKER

Case in Which Jury Discarded Evidence Results in Discharge of All Jurors Except Grand Jury; New Venire Drawn Monday For Further Trials. Purge of Jury Box Ordered; Old Methods Costly to Taxpayers.

Dare County's peculiar methods of drawing juries got a solid jolt Monday when Judge Joseph Parker scorched a jury which brought in a verdict of not guilty in disregard of uncontradicted evidence. The Judge then discharged the panel and all remaining jurors save those serving on the Grand Jury, and had 40 new names drawn from the box for urgent summoning on Monday evening.

The case which started the trouble involved a charge of possession of liquor for purpose of sale in which Willis Wilson, a taxi-driver in Manteo was the defendant, and which had resulted in a mistrial last year. The defendant had not taken the stand, and had offered no evidence in contradiction of the testimony of undercover officers and others who brought about the arrest of Wilson.

Because of the lax method of drawing jurors in Dare County there has been much needless expense upon the taxpayers for several years. It is well known that no real purging of the jury lists have been made in several years. The list of taxpayers thrown in the box before names are drawn, is loaded with many people who could not be expected to serve after being summoned.

The lists are usually loaded with sick and crippled, deaf people, aged people, people removed, people in the military service, numerous people exempt by law by reason of occupation, and persons incompetent.

Term after term, a large percentage of those drawn, do not appear in court, or are excused at the outset, leaving only a bare handful of the venire remaining, when the 18 names have been taken out for Grand Jury duty.

In this week's instance, eight out of the 40 drawn, either did not come to court, or were eliminated by excuses. This loss of 20 per cent left only 32 persons to serve, and the grand jury took out 18, with a net remainder of 14 remaining. This left only two more than 12 needed in the jury box for the trial of a single case. Therefore it often takes a half day or longer to complete a single panel.

Now the average person cannot see the implications in these situations. But there are many serious results that may obtain, when there aren't enough regular jurors to fill a second box. It is then left up to the sheriff or court officer, to cast his eye about the courtroom, and then call enough persons in the box, with often an entire jury being composed of talismans.

In picking up a jury out of the courtroom, it becomes a likelihood that the first rows contain many persons who should not be on a jury, some of them can be planted there by persons in litigation before the court, and this situation seems to be borne out by the great number of mistrials, and verdicts out of keeping with the evidence. It has given rise to needless complaints and criticisms of courts, and dissatisfaction of the public.

Over a period of years, the cumulative result has been a crowded docket of untried cases, which at one time had grown so big it was imperative to establish a third term of court as a regular feature, which might run into several thousand dollars a year in needless expenses to the taxpayers.

Had the courts been able to function rapidly and efficiently by reason of adequate numbers of competent jurors, this trouble and cost might have been avoided. Time after time this newspaper has called attention to the fact that the jury box was not properly cleaned out. There may be reasons that underlie this grave situation that are not understood by the public. For one thing, there was a period of several years when certain county officials, a long-time in office, tried in every manner to defeat the popular clamor for a county audit. It was finally made, and found some of these same officials short hundreds of dollars. By seeing to it that the right jurors were chosen, and with right ones gotten on the grand jury, reports were phoned around which either omitted any reference to an audit, or spoke highly of the accurate records of all officers, even though the grand jury had no knowledge whereby

### REV. HOMER McNEELY, JR., NAGS HEAD MINISTER



STARTING ON JUNE 16 and continuing throughout the summer, Rev. Homer McNeely, Jr., will be in charge of a new Methodist church which will provide Sunday school at 10:00 o'clock and a worship service at 11:00 o'clock each Sunday morning. This new church is sponsored by the Board of Missions and Church Extension of the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church and will meet for the summer in the Nags Head roller-skating rink owned by Gaston Mann.

Mr. McNeely is a graduate of Duke University and is in his second year at Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Georgia. His home was originally in Winston-Salem. Mrs. McNeely is a junior at Emory University and the daughter of Rev. Earl Meekins, minister in the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church. Mr. McNeely will also conduct a survey to determine the need for a more permanent Methodist Church in the beach-resort area for Methodists who visit the Dare Beaches during the summer.

The North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church invites all who vacation in the Nags Head area to participate in this new church.

### COAST INVADED BY WHITE MARLIN AND OTHER BIG FISH

Good Catches Reported on Mainland, in Colington Waters and From Piers Too.

First white marlin of the 1957 season to be landed off the Dare Coast was boated Wednesday, by Ray Williams of Richmond, while skipping bait from Capt. Billy Baum's cruiser "Kay" near the western edge of the Gulf Stream off Oregon Inlet. The marlin measured seven feet, five inches from tip to tail and scaled 60 pounds. It was caught on 54 pound test Dacron, loaded on a 6/0 Penn Senator. Squid was used for bait. Prospects look good for white marlin fishing. Last year about 100 of these billfish were taken by anglers off Oregon Inlet, and several were also caught off Hatteras.

On May 25, Dr. J. C. Overbey, Norfolk dentist who has caught more blue marlin off Hatteras than any other person, boated a 381 pounder, the second taken off Hatteras this year. This, according to Capt. Ernal Foster, operator of the docks where Dr. Overbey moors his cruiser Snapper II, was the 11th blue marlin Dr. Overbey has landed since he began exploiting the Gulf Stream off Hatteras for big game fish about five years ago.

His big fish of Saturday measured 10 feet and 9 1/4 inches from tip to tail, and 53 inches around its girth. He brought the giant marlin to gaff with a 12/0 Ocean City reel loaded with 39 thread line. His skipped bait which attracted the big fish was a strip of dolphin.

It was the second blue marlin Dr. Overbey has taken since young Bernie Foster, age 16, and son of Capt. and Mrs. Hallas Foster of Hatteras, has been skipper and guide aboard the Snapper II. See FISH, Page Five

### BIDS TOTAL NEAR \$105,000 FOR DARE DRAINAGE REPAIRS

Work Involving Restoration of 45 Miles of Drainage Ditches, To Start by July 1st

Low bids were opened Tuesday totaling \$104,787 for five projects involving the restoration of a total of 45 miles of drainage ditches in Dare County, according to a report from the Corps of Engineers office in Wilmington. A spokesman for the Corps of Engineers said Wednesday that work on the projects is expected to get underway not later than July 1st; the successful bidders are expected to be notified within 15 days to proceed, after which they will have up to 15 days to get started. The work, which will be supervised by the Corps of Engineers for the Federal Civil Defense Administration, is scheduled to be completed within six months.

Bids on the projects were submitted by 20 contractors, with the lowest bids being as follows: Manteo area, L. W. Howard of Newport, \$14,094; Wanchese area, L. W. Howard of Newport, \$20,139; Waves to Hatteras, Ray Lewis of Manteo, \$20,282; Kitty Hawk area, Eastern Clearing and Grading Co. of Norfolk, \$31,870; Stumpy Point, Nags Head, and Collington, T. J. Crooks and E. W. Tate of Coinjock, \$18,400.

These are projects that were worked up a year ago to be paid for from disaster relief funds resulting from the storms of the fall of 1955.

### SIGNAL HONOR COMES TO NAGS HEAD HOTEL WOMAN

Mrs. Lucille Purser Winslow of Nags Head and Hertford was accorded a signal honor on last week end when she became the first woman president of the North Carolina Hotel Association, which met in annual session at the Carolinian. Mrs. Winslow, long noted for her success as managing director of the Carolinian, has been active in civil affairs, among many posts having been President of the Nags Head Chamber of Commerce, an active worker and officer in the Dare County Tourist Bureau, and in various travel councils and other associations concerned with tourist travel and hotel operation.

The group while at Nags Head were guests of Ray Adams at the Whales Head Club, Corolla on Saturday, the object of a jeep junket for some 60 people who attended with their wives.

### DARE METHODIST CHARGE SCHEDULES MANY EVENTS

Vacation Bible Schools, Revivals and Homecoming To Take Place During Month of June

A vacation bible school is to be held at the Stumpy Point Methodist church beginning Monday, June 3, at 9:30 a.m. Sessions are to be held each morning during the week on Monday through Friday.

Vacation bible school is to be held at the Manns Harbor Methodist church beginning Monday afternoon, June 10, at 2 p.m.; sessions to be held each afternoon, Monday through Friday.

A vacation bible school for the East Lake Methodist church will be held Monday, June 17, at 2 p.m. Sessions are to be held each afternoon, Monday through Friday.

Revival services for Manns Harbor Methodist church are to begin Monday, June 10, at 7:45 p.m. Rev. Lancaster, Methodist minister of Goldsboro is to be the guest speaker. Services will be held Monday through Friday of the week.

Stumpy Point Methodist church will have revival services at 8 p.m., beginning Monday, June 3, with the Rev. J. M. Carroll, minister of the Columbia Methodist charge as guest speaker. Services are to be held each night, through the week including Saturday and Sunday, June 8 and 9. The public is cordially invited to attend.

The Fourth Quarterly Conference of the Methodist churches of the Dare Charge was held Thursday night, May 30, at the Manns Harbor Methodist church with the Rev. C. Freeman Heath, district superintendent, presiding.

Homecoming services are to be held at the Manns Harbor Methodist Church, Sunday, June 9, Sunday school will begin at 10 a.m., followed by a worship service after which lunch will be served on the grounds at the noon hour.

The guest speaker is to be the Rev. C. Freeman Heath, Methodist Superintendent of the Elizabeth City district. The Air Line quartet is to be present to sing and a song service will be held in the afternoon.

### DR. NILE F. HUNT ADDRESSES SENIORS OF MANTEO HIGH

Diplomas Awarded 26 Graduates In Commencement Exercises Tuesday Night

Bringing to the 1957 graduating class of Manteo High School a five-point program for future living, Dr. Nile F. Hunt, co-ordinator of teacher education for the N. C. Department of Public Instruction, held the attention of young and old alike.

Dr. Hunt outlined his suggestions to the Seniors as follows: (1), vision and purpose; (2), ability and willingness to think; (3), ability and willingness to work; (4), cultivate the art of being grunted; (5), the touch of the master's hand is important.

Elaborating on his third point, Dr. Hunt emphasized the fact that there is no future in any job—that, rather, the future lies in the person filling the job. He urged that each person make dead certain he or she is underpaid, as no one can veer advance or be promoted in his or her job when already receiving what one is worth.

In expanding his fourth point, Dr. Hunt explained that the little-used term of "grunted" means the art of being pleased with things as they come—not complacent, but accepting cheerfully the tasks set before one.

In making his final point, he emphasized that one must give his best effort to whatever is undertaken, otherwise he will never have the "touch of the master's hand"; that only through experience and hard work the master's touch is acquired.

The following 26 Seniors were awarded their high school diplomas by principal W. H. Bunch: Mabel Basnight, Linda Berry, Caleb Brickhouse, Allen Douth, Ann Dowdy, Robert Duvall, William Glynn, Barbara Haywood, Randie Houston, Mary Jolliff, Molly Knight, Sidney Mann, Mearl Meekins, Jr., Rae Meekins, Fleetwood Mitchell, Harry Niser, Martha Rogers, Byron Sawyer, Jean Sears, Roger Shannon, Violet Spruill, Coy Tillett, Jr., Jill Tillett, Merilee Tillett, Jean Toms and Brantley Twiford.

Rex G. W. Burch pronounced the invocation. The salutatory address was given by Martha Rae Rogers, the valedictory by Mabel Jean Basnight. The speaker was introduced by Mrs. Mary L. Evans, superintendent of Dare County schools. Miss Holland Westcott was accompanist, playing processional and recessional and two songs that were sung by the audience.

Senior Class Night took place Monday night in the school auditorium, and on Sunday evening Rev. W. E. Cholerton delivered the baccalaureate sermon. Assisting ministers were Rev. A. L. G. Stephenson, Rev. C. L. Warren and Rev. G. W. Burch. John H. Long sang "The Lord's Prayer" as a solo. Miss Holland Westcott was accompanist.

On Wednesday evening preceding the finals Miss Westcott presented her piano pupils in recital.

### FOREIGN STUDENTS WILL SPEAK IN MANTEO SUNDAY

Three Young Ladies To Speak at Mt. Olivet Church on Religious Customs in Their Homelands

Through arrangements made by Dr. Elizabeth Welch of Salem College, Winston-Salem, three attractive foreign students will be guest speakers at the 11 o'clock service on Sunday, June 2, at Mt. Olivet Methodist Church. According to the pastor, the Rev. L. A. Aitken, the speakers will be Miss Silvia Osuna of Monterrey, Mexico, Miss Jytte Liljeborg of Copenhagen, Denmark, and Miss Christa Menzel of Hamburg, Germany. They will tell of the religious customs and influences in their home lands.

Miss Osuna is the daughter of Senor and Senora Miguel Osuna. Her father is a civil engineer and Silvia has been educated in American private schools where English is spoken. Selected by the Institute of International Education for a year's study in this country, Silvia has studied courses in elementary education. She wants to become a teacher of handicapped children in Mexico.

Miss Liljeborg is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kuno Liljeborg. She graduated from a private preparatory school in Copenhagen and was also selected by the Institute of International Education for a year's study in the United States. She hopes to enter the business world of her native land.

Miss Menzel came to the United States on a special scholarship provided by the Moravian Home Church in Winston-Salem for a Moravian student abroad. She is the daughter of a merchant and

### ROBBERY CHARGE CONSUMES 2 DAYS SUPERIOR COURT

Marvin Daniels, Taxi Driver Alleged Robbed and Beaten by D. A. Rogers Jr.

The trial of D. A. Rogers Jr. of Manteo on a charge of having assaulted and robbed Marvin Daniels, a taxi-driver in Manteo of close to \$1,000 on the night of October 20th 1956, has consumed two days of Dare County Court, and had not been concluded shortly before we went to press on Thursday afternoon.

Rogers, who assists his father in the operation of a service station, is 20 years old. Daniels alleges that Rogers followed him into the fish market in which he is interested and uses for an office, on the Manteo waterfront, and attacked him with a flashlight, beating him unconscious and taking his bill fold. Evidence brought out a court record against Rogers, in which he had been charged with various misdemeanors.

Attorney's brought out the fact that Daniels is a convicted bootlegger, and that he admitted on the stand having sold liquor, even to Rogers. He is a man of slight stature, having been crippled with rheumatism for many years, cannot walk upright and said he was no match for Rogers.

In his denial, Rogers said he was in the picture show at the time of the alleged assault; and introduced George Creef to testify to having seen him enter the show. He presented Mrs. Luccetta Willis, John E. Ferebee of Manteo as character witnesses.

Attorney's speeches took up all of Thursday morning, and Judge Parker concluded summing up the case about one p.m.

Rogers was represented by Forrest Dunstan of Elizabeth City, and Wallace McCown of Manteo. Divorce Granted

Earlier in the week a divorce was granted to Betty Ann O'Neal of Salvo from Dalton O'Neal, formerly of Rodanthe. The couple have two children in the custody of the mother.

### STRANGE CASE OF MAN IN BLACK BUICK AT BUXTON

The man in a black Buick at Buxton has been quite a mystery. Tuesday morning he drove up to H. J. Gray's store in Buxton, bought a dollar's worth of gas, and said he thought that would take him as far as St. Louis.

At 5 p.m. in the afternoon, the car was found abandoned on the highway near the C. D. Burrus garage. No one appeared in it or about it.

Investigation disclosed that the car was registered in the name of Marvin Kreutzer of Owensville, Mo.

Mahoney Quidley of Buxton reported that he saw the man in the nearby woods about 5 p.m. Tuesday, spoke to him, and that he merely grunted in reply.

A search was conducted Wednesday and Thursday by Park Service and Navy personnel.

Two men from Cape Hatteras Coast Guard station joined the search. The station reported at 2 p.m. Thursday the man had not been found. At the same time, Kenneth Kreutzer, a son, appeared in Manteo, with a Navy buddy from Norfolk, named Ronald Knoll, en route to Buxton to aid in the search for his father.

He said his father and mother came from Ohio Monday for a visit to the son's family in Norfolk, and shortly after arriving, left the house with the announced intention of going to a garage to get the car brakes fixed, and that he did not return, and they did not know his whereabouts until notified by Sheriff Cahoon of Manteo, which revealed some fast and diligent work in getting information from Missouri had been done by officers. Mr. Kreutzer said his father had been suffering from a kidney ailment and other disorders, bordering on amnesia.

is preparing her career for medical missionary work with the Moravian Church.

Mr. Aitken said that in an effort to further a better understanding between the nations of the world, the members and friends of Mt. Olivet Church are invited to attend.

### SEAWELL FUNERAL SAT.

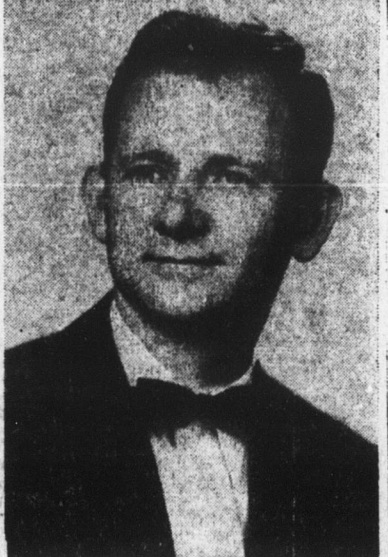
Funeral services for Martin Seawell who was killed instantly in an automobile wreck in Monterey, California, will be conducted Saturday morning, June 1, in Winston-Salem, the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd M. Seawell.

Mrs. Rennie Williamson, young Seawell's aunt, left Manteo Thursday for Norfolk, where she joined her sister-in-law, Mrs. Cecil Griffin, and others for the trip to Winston-Salem.

## LONG RANGE MASTER PLAN FOR FEDERAL HURRICANE PROJECTS IS CALLED FOR

Corps of Engineers Holds Hearing in Manteo Tuesday; Support of Governor Hodges Assured for Permanent Projects Instead of Piece-Meal Temporary Relief Measures Undertaken in the Past.

### GRADUATE OF BIBLE SCHOOL IN FLORIDA



CHARLES S. ETHERIDGE, formerly of Wanchese, will graduate Friday, May 24, from Southeastern Bible College in Lakeland, Fla. Mr. Etheridge, who is a graduate of Manteo High School, and who has served 12 years with the U. S. Coast Guard, decided to enter the ministry after leaving the Coast Guard, and has been a student in Lakeland for the last four years. He plans to continue his studies until he has received his Master's degree. He is the son of Lates Etheridge of Wanchese and Mrs. Nancy Athchins of Norfolk, Va. Among those attending his graduation will be his mother; two aunts, Mrs. Ivey Evans of Manteo and Mrs. Edward Davis of Wanchese; and his sister, Mrs. Llewellyn Daniels, Jr., of Wanchese. His wife and six children are living with him in Florida.

Information regarding effects of hurricanes on the area since the time of the first settlement of America was presented by the Dare County Storm Rehabilitation Committee, led by chairman David Stick of Kill Devil Hills. Other members of the committee who were heard were: Lawrence Swain, member of the board of commissioners, who told of the effectiveness of hurricane measures in the past; Robert Gunn, district sanitarian, who explained how the hurricanes create a menace to health in two ways—by the contamination of water supplies and by the creation of breeding grounds for mosquitoes; Mrs. Lucille Winslow, vice-chairman of the committee and president of the North Carolina Hotel Association, who reported on the effect of hurricanes upon the travel industry along the Dare beaches; R. E. Jordan, manager of The Lost Colony, who gave figures showing how hurricane scares hurt attendance to the pageant.

### COMPLAINTS OF P. M. STRAINS AT GNATS; SWALLOWS CAMELS

Public Rans and Disgust Expressed at Efforts to Oust Manteo Mail Clerk

By VICTOR MEEKINS

A most amazing example of the extent to which a person will go to discredit a fellowman, and railroad him out of his job is revealed this week in the latest of a series of charges brought against Ben Shannon by acting postmaster Ray W. Jones of Manteo.

There is much public resentment and disgust at the action of Jones in straining at gnats and swallowing camels, to raise a rukus about a lot of trivialities too simple to be considered by intelligent men.

Mr. Jones holds an interim appointment, obtained following the retirement of postmaster Charlie Evans, who actually was railroaded into retirement by a nuisance of trumped up charges. To his great dismay and disappointment, Mr. Jones failed to get on the list of three highest candidates when examinations were held. Imagine the disappointment among the Republican leaders when three Democrats stood highest on the list: Clerk Ben Shannon, Ralph Swain, and Lawrence Swain in order named. The acting postmaster didn't make the grade.

Now what appears the only hope of getting Mr. Jones in the list of candidates would be to eliminate Clerk Shannon. It never occurred to the advisers of Mr. Jones, that the sort of campaign planned against Mr. Shannon would boomerang and create for Mr. Jones more ill will than good. Mr. Jones, who couldn't do much at first for lack of experience in the office, depended largely on an advisor or two, noted for their two-faced natures; people who live at the expense of the people, but are interested often in serving themselves.

Mr. Jones is a fine young man, and had been doing fine, but when he took off into political fields he got led astray by poor strategy. In the midst of the early stages of the campaign for postmaster, he had the hard luck to get picked up and charged with violation of Federal game laws. He had depended on his father-in-law Melvin Daniels for legal advice, and in fact Mr. Daniels did go to Elizabeth City with him to appear

See COMPLAINTS, Page Four

See HEARING, Page Five

### COASTLAND MOURNS DEATH OF MRS. BERNIE GRIGGS

Mrs. Bernie Hampton Griggs, 72, wife of Russell A. Griggs and daughter of the late Nathaniel Franklin Pierce and Mrs. Sarah Virginia Walker Hampton, a native of Currituck County and a resident of Kill Devil Hills for the past 24 years, died at the Albemarle Hospital of Elizabeth City, Sunday at 4:35 p.m. She was a member of St. Andrews by the Sea Episcopal Church, Nags Head. Mrs. Griggs owned and operated the Croatan Hotel at Kill Devil Hills until about two years ago and prior to that the Griggs Hunting Lodge, Waterlily. Surviving besides her husband is one foster daughter, Miss Jeanette Gray of Kill Devil Hills. Funeral services were held at St. Andrews by the Sea Episcopal Church, Nags Head, Tuesday at 2:30 p.m., conducted by the Rev. R. W. Turner, pastor, assisted by former pastor, Rev. A. C. D. Noel of Rest Haven near Bath. Burial was at Church's Island. Pallbearers were W. E. Griffin, Norman Ballance, R. P. Midgett, Joseph Alexander Ross, Thomas Briggs, and Judge Chester Morris.

### GOVERNOR ALLOTS \$47,000 MORE FOR OCRACOE ROAD

Governor Luther Hodges announced in Raleigh that he had "good news" for isolated Ocracoke Island. He has allocated an additional \$47,000 in highway funds for road work on the island.

The Governor also said the Interior Department has notified him that it has located metal strips used for emergency landing fields in sufficient quantities to lay a temporary road on Ocracoke from a ferry landing on the north end of the island to the point where a paved road across the island will terminate.