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## ARTIFICIAL RAINMAKING ON TYRRELL TIMBERLANDS HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR MONTH

### Manteo Rotarians Monday Night Hear How West Virginia Company Has Been Inducing Rainfall to Protect Its Holdings; Operation Carried on by Boston Rainmaking Company.

Rains in Tyrrell County, created by chemical stimulation sent up from the ground to the clouds, have been greatly increased during the past months, and aided in putting out the remains of a destructive forest fire. So the Rotary Club of Manteo was told Monday night this week in an address made by a Boston meteorologist.

Robert Popham, a bright young employe of Wallace-Howell Associates of Lexington, Mass., professional rain-makers, who have been employed by the West Virginia Company, delighted the members with his description of the methods employed to induce rain from cloud which otherwise might become dissipated and of no value as rain producers.

A mechanical device, operated by a battery, and producing silver dioxide fumes from a burning wick, is set up at earth level, and the particles which issue and ascend, are said to produce rain, in most instances in less than an hour. The method is credited with 20 to 40 per cent increase in precipitation.

There is another method of producing rain, Mr. Popham said, one of which is the seeding of clouds with dry ice from an airplane. All methods he described as being expensive, but he said he was convinced of the effectiveness of the rainmaking program. William Ernst, Jr., company manager, told the club he was confident of the success of Mr. Popham's work, from this company's standpoint. Mr. Popham said there are only about five rain-making companies operating in the United States.

In the setup to bring about more rain fall as needed on the West Virginia company's 300,000 acres of land in Dare, Hyde, Tyrrell and Washington counties, rain-making machines have been located at Killkenny, Belhaven, Stumpy Point, Creswell and on the Charlie Pritchett farm near Sandy Point. The last named place is in the vicinity of the destructive forest fire several weeks ago originating from a burning Navy plane which crashed in eastern Tyrrell on lands not com-

## CARS DAMAGED AS TRUCK UPSETS AND GAS CARGO SPILLS

### Manns Harbor Freight Truck Loses 3,000 Gallons Gasoline at Nags Head Monday

Bad luck came to T. O. Sutton of Manns Harbor after a long record of safe operation of a freight line between Elizabeth City and the Dare County mainland. Monday night at Nags Head, Mr. Sutton's big truck, driven by his son-in-law, Harry N. Armstrong, upset, spilling over more than 3,000 gallons of gasoline carried in three tanks and nine steel barrels. The gas was valued at more than \$700, the truck was damaged about \$300 worth, and damage was sustained by two other nearby vehicles.

Armstrong, who has been charged with careless and reckless driving, is reported to have been speeding in a 35 mile zone, and was attempting to pass a pick up truck which he had been following south. When he approached a car driven by Mrs. Eunice Burgess of Alexandria, Va., he attempted to apply brakes and pull back into line, but the truck turned over, one of the tanks struck the Dodge driven by Mrs. Burgess, and damaged it \$800 worth. Another car, parked in front of the Virginia Dare Restaurant and owned by Joseph D. Taylor of Harbinger was struck and damaged to the extent of \$100. The gas spilled on the highway and was soaked up by the sand.

## LIONS TO HEAR GUEST SPEAKER NEXT TUESDAY

Manteo Lions Club members will have the pleasure of a guest speaker next Tuesday night, August 6. A representative of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service will appear at the regular 7:15 dinner session. Topic will be "Fish and Wildlife Conservation" and will be illustrated with a film of about 30-minute length.

This is one in a series of interesting programs being arranged for the twice-monthly meetings. Visitors are invited to attend these special programs.

## TO BE THE LOST COLONY'S GUEST MINISTER SUNDAY



THE REV. GEORGE BLAKE HOLMES, rector of historic Saint Paul's Episcopal Church at Edenton, will be guest minister at the weekly religious services in the Lost Colony's Waterside Theatre at Fort Raleigh near Manteo on Sunday morning, August 4, at 11 a.m. This will be the sixth in a series of Sunday worship periods which are religious features at Fort Raleigh during The Lost Colony's season.

A native of Norfolk, the Rev. Mr. Holmes has served the ministry in Illinois, Wisconsin and Virginia. He came to St. Paul's at Edenton from St. John's Church in Roanoke, Va.

He has announced that his sermon topic will be "Prophetically Speaking."

During World War II, he served both in the Army and Navy. His primary interests are youth welfare and child guidance and also the mental health programs.

As during each of the Sunday morning services, The Lost Colony choir, under direction of Dr. Elwood Keister with George Perry at the console of the Hammond organ, will be featured.

The Sunday services of The Lost Colony will continue throughout the summer and until Labor Day Eve on September 1. In the meantime during its 17th season, The Lost Colony is being shown nightly except Mondays in Waterside Theatre.

## COMMISSIONERS PLAN NEW TYPE OF APPRAISAL OF DARE COUNTY PROPERTY

Dare County Commissioners got a law passed this year to get around the usual quadrennial revaluation of property. In this manner, they have postponed the revaluation until next year, when the results will not be known until after the primary election.

As a possible further means of passing the buck, they have decided to spend some \$22,000 to bring in a firm of appraisal specialists and let them do the job. Bids which were opened this week revealed only two firms which were interested.

The low bid of \$22,000 was submitted by Associated Surveys of Raleigh, and the only other bid, which was for \$23,000, was submitted by Southern Appraisal Co. of Greensboro.

Commissioner Hallett Perry of Kitty Hawk was the only member of the Board who opposed the new plan. It is hard to tell what is best to do. Those who know how county business is run do not expect much good from any sort of appraisal, when Commissioners or other officials may later change the values to favor friends. There are many cases of inequality on the books, perhaps the worst yet known. Some properties are appraised at full value, some at 10 per cent, 20 per cent, 40 per cent. In some cases, property of persons some county officials dislike is taxed at double the rate of property on either side. The county has been spending \$10,000 a year to do the tax work, and plans to spend \$20,000 next year, in addition to the \$22,000 it may spend for the outside revaluation.

## ONCE OVER U. S. CAPITOL NOW FLIES AT KITTY HAWK



A BRIEF but unusual ceremony at the Croatan Hotel, Kill Devil Hills, Friday morning was opened by Hon. Lindsay C. Warren of Washington, N. C. The former First District Representative who later was U. S. Comptroller General explained that as the result of an idea of Mrs. Isabel Murphy to encourage property owners to display flags along Highway 158, thus creating an "Avenue of Flags," he had procured for his friends, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Briggs of the Croatan, one that had once flown over the U. S. Capitol building in Washington. After praising the Briggses for their successful operation of The Croatan, he introduced the Rev. R. W. Turner, of St. Andrews Episcopal Church, Nags Head, who opened the ceremonies with prayers for peace and the leaders of this nation. Capt. Van Every, U.S.N., spending a vacation at The Croatan, was then introduced and he spoke briefly on the significance of the American flag and the flags of the Free Nations of the World. Capt. Avery's young son then led the group in repeating the Allegiance to the Flag, after which Capt. Every and Mr. Briggs raised the flag on the hotel's flagpole. Shown in photo with flag is Mrs. Susie Briggs, Rev. Mr. Turner, Mrs. Murphy and Major Murphy, Mr. Briggs and Mr. Warren. A friend of the county and the hotel, Warren B. Francis, Washington, D. C. newspaperman, was instrumental in getting the flag. Flying the national ensign is not a new practice at Nags Head however, where Capt. and Mrs. C. P. Midgett have flown it at the First Colony Inn for 20 years, and the Arlington and several other hotels have displayed the flag.—Aycock Brown photo.

## CONTRACTS APPROVED FOR NEW HIGH SCHOOL PLANT AT MANTEO COSTING \$342,125.60

### Board of Education Finds It Necessary To Omit Auditorium from Contract Now, But Hopes That Surplus Will Remain After Bids Are Opened for Kitty Hawk School So That Auditorium Can Be Built.

Contractors are expected to begin work shortly on the construction of a completely new Manteo High School, for which the school district in August 1956 voted a \$250,000 bond issue and which will serve high school pupils from all of Dare County except Hatteras Island. Awarding of contracts for the new school plant, to cost \$342,125.60, was approved Thursday afternoon of last week by the county board of education after consideration of the bids submitted and the funds available.

Since low bids and architects fees on the complete school plant as advertised totaled \$388,485.86, the board exercised an option omitting the auditorium included in the plans in order to bring the cost down to within the amount of funds presently available. The board took action, however, which may make it possible to have the auditorium built at the same time as the rest of the school by means of a transfer of funds.

Mrs. Helen Briggs, board member from Kitty Hawk, offered a motion which was passed, by the board providing that after bids have been opened on the Kitty Hawk School project, funds available beyond those required to build and equip the Kitty Hawk School shall be used toward the completion and equipping of Manteo High School. The school board plans to open bids within the next 90 days for the eight-classroom elementary school project at Kitty Hawk; funds available for that project are \$200,000 from the sale of district bonds, plus \$75,296.13 of state funds earmarked by the county board for the Kitty Hawk project. The architects have estimated that the Kitty Hawk project should not cost more than \$210,000.

The board voted, upon motion by R. O. Ballance, to accept the low bids with the alternate for the omission of the auditorium and with the right of reinstating the auditorium within 90 days. All the contractors have agreed to permit the inclusion of the auditorium in the project within this period for the amount of their original bids.

The low bids as accepted with the auditorium excluded were: general contract, Kellogg-Cuthrell, Inc. of Manteo, \$237,250; heating, Howell Plumbing and Heating Co. of New Bern, \$32,302; plumbing, Cauty and Pitt Plumbing Co. of Kinston, \$29,030; and electrical, Talley Electric Co., Inc. of Greensboro, \$24,178. The fee of the architects, Burrett H. Stephens and See SCHOOL, Page Four

## PATROLMAN'S WORK PLEASES THE PEOPLE HATTERAS ISLAND

### Hope Expressed For Additional Drivers License Examiner Service

During recent weeks, a noticeable improvement in behavior of drivers on Hatteras Island's long, rough, narrow and dangerous highway has been noticed, all of which is pleasing to the people and giving them a more comfortable feeling. This is what several of the citizens have told this newspaper. The improvement is attributed to the activity of Patrolman Brown who has recently been located at Buxton, added to the good work that has been done by Patrolman Fields of Manteo.

Activity of Patrolman Brown in taking to court a number of the island's reckless drivers, and several rattle-brained racers has had a good effect, they say. A number of dangerous cars and some incompetent drivers have been kept off the roads. Heretofore little attention has been paid to the formality of taking out a driver's license, so long as one remained on Ocracoke or Hatteras Islands. This formality was neglected a long time, due to the hardship and inconvenience entailed in traveling to the office of the Drivers License examiner's office.

In order to get a license at the nearest place, one must take an examination in Manteo, which may See BEHAVIOR, Page Four

## DARE SCHOOLS TO OPEN TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

Students Must Be Assigned In Order To Enroll On Opening Date, Says Superintendent Evans

Mrs. Dennis E. Evans, Superintendent of Dare County Schools, has made the following announcements regarding opening date of schools:

1. All schools in the county will open on Tuesday, September 3, at 9 a.m.

2. Only those students who have been assigned to particular schools may be enrolled on the opening date. Parents of all children who did not attend a school in Dare County during the 1956-57 term or who have not been sent a notice of assignment, should contact the superintendent immediately so that assignment may be made prior to the opening of school.

3. All children entering the public schools for the first time must be six years of age on or before October 15. The Attorney General has ruled that a child born on October 16 would become six years of age on October 15; therefore, a child whose sixth birthday falls on October 16 will be entitled to enrollment. No student whose sixth birthday falls after October 16 is entitled to enrollment for the 1957-1958 school term.

4. Parents of all first graders should be sure that all required immunizations and vaccinations have been completed.

## WORK BEGINS ON RELOCATING 158 ON DARE BEACHES

Work began Monday on the project to relocate Highway US 158 on Dare County's beaches, according to the State Highway Commission engineer's office at Manteo. The 15.3 mile long project extends from a point 1.4 miles east of Currituck Sound Bridge down through Kitty Hawk, Kill Devil Hills and Nags Head to Whalebone, the new route lying generally several hundred feet west of the present US 158.

F. D. Cline Paving Company of Raleigh holds the \$888,777.77 contract for the grading and paving, and Crouch Brothers of Mooresville has the \$62,650 contract for the moving of buildings.

The new route is needed to relieve congestion on the beach during the summer tourist season.

## DRINKWATER FETED WITH LAWN PARTY

Celebrating his 83rd birthday, Manteo's Alpheus W. Drinkwater was guest of honor Wednesday afternoon, July 31, at a lawn party at his summer home "Drinkwater's Folly," near Fort Raleigh. Hosting for the occasion were his daughters, Miss Dorothy Drinkwater and Mrs. John Booth, and Mr. Booth. Mr. Booth served punch and the daughters saw to it that everyone was supplied with generous supplies of hors d'oeuvres.

An old ship's bell was rung 83 times in his honor, and a huge surprise birthday gift was carried to him. When the package was untied out jumped Dianne Rousseau, this summer's "Eleanor Dare" in "The Lost Colony."

More than a hundred friends gathered to help Mr. Drinkwater celebrate. Many came from nearby and others from neighboring towns and cities and many members of the Lost Colony cast were there. It is an annual event to which all his friends look forward.

## MACNEILL HAS OPERATION AT KEOUGHTAN HOSPITAL

Ben Dixon MacNeill of Buxton, the well-known newspaperman and avid writer about the Outer Banks, is in Keoughtan hospital at Hampton, Va., where he has undergone an operation and expects to be there for several weeks. Prior to this last visit two weeks ago, he had spent several days at the hospital, and returned to Buxton for a brief respite.

## HIGH COST OF COUNTY GOVT. INCREASED AGAIN FOR DARE CO. PEOPLE

### Well Above Quarter Million Mark, Commissioners Set Up \$266,410.17 Budget for Current Year, a Jump of \$25,437.17 Above Last Year; No Tax Levied For School Bonds To Be Issued This Year.

## TO SPEAK AT DANIELS REUNION AUGUST 19th



JONATHAN DANIELS, editor of the Raleigh News and Observer, is to be the main speaker when the annual Daniels family reunion is held at Wanchese on August 19. Mr. Daniels, son of the late Josephus Daniels, in addition to having served as an author and editor, held several government positions during World War II, including assistant director of civil defense, administrative assistant to the President, and press secretary to the President.

This year's reunion will be the 16th held by the Daniels clan. An See DANIELS, Page Four

## DISTRICT MASONIC MEETING MONDAY CAPE HATTERAS

### Much Activity on Outer Banks Among Masons and the Eastern Star

For the first time in their new lodge hall, Masons of Cape Hatteras Lodge No. 698 will be host to the members of lodges in the 53rd Masonic District, on Monday, August 5th. Grand Master Charles A. Harris of Roxboro, will be the principal guest at this district meeting, and other officials are expected to attend, including D.D.G.M. R. O. Ballance of Manteo.

The district includes Columbia, Manteo, Wanchese, Engelhard, Fairfield, and Swan Quarter. A. H. Gray, Jr. of Waves is Master of Cape Hatteras Lodge which is about three years old.

The Lodge will convene at 3:30 P.M., and 6:30 P.M. a supper will be given at the Cape Hatteras High School.

A large attendance is expected from Wanchese, and Manteo Lodges.

Ample accommodations will be provided at various places for those who remain overnight. For those who feel obliged to return, it is stated they can leave their cars on the north side of Oregon Inlet and go over on the 2 p.m. ferry where transportation will be provided to Buxton. By returning to the inlet at 10 p.m. they will be brought back to their cars, in a small boat.

For those who wish to spend the night at Buxton, reservations are being made by the following committee: S. H. Midgett, Hatteras; W. W. Edwards, Waves; and W. L. Scarborough of Buxton. Cecil Gibbs of Mirlo Lodge, Rodanthe, says he can take care of Masons who wish to stay in that area, and will provide early breakfast.

## Eastern Star Meeting Thursday night of last week, the See MASONS, Page Eight

## MORE BIDS TO OPEN FOR OREGON INLET DREDGING

Another step in the dredging at Oregon Inlet will be taken on August 8th when bids will be opened at Wilmington on a project 12 feet deep, 100 feet wide, and 6,600 feet long, much over a mile long. This project reaches toward the inlet from the junction of Old House Channel and the Manteo Channel. This is considered a small job. It was originally part of the project for a 400-ft. wide and 14-foot deep job across the inlet bar, but had to be separated for lack of available equipment.

With their customary method of doing business, the Dare County Commissioners passed the buck recently in setting up the budget for the current year, and did not levy the taxes necessary for payment on the school bonds to be issued this year for buildings at Manteo and Kitty Hawk.

But the budget set up is the highest in the county's history, having been increased by \$25,437.17 above last year's budget, and is well above the quarter million dollar mark. The Board plans to spend a total of \$266,410.17 to run the county, much more than is spent in many other progressive counties, with larger populations and greater valuations of property. The figures set up, do not include the \$22,000 to be spent on bringing in a firm of tax experts next year to set valuations on the property in the county.

In spite of an increase of about a half million dollars in property in Dare County during the past year, the Board has increased the tax rate to \$1.05, which is a 15 per cent increase during the past six years.

The Board will spend about one-sixth of the budget for schools. Almost as much is being spent for welfare as for schools. Schools, \$46,000; welfare \$43,837.

Some of the big jumps in expenses show the sheriff's budget increased by \$2,050 or \$7,000 more than the cost in Chowan County, with double Dare's population. Instead of \$800 to run the jail, it will cost \$3050, or an increase of \$2,250. The register of deeds office was decreased by \$135.

Operating the Welfare Department was increased \$1,560 to \$18,950. Veterans Service office \$350 to \$3,409. Increase in Tax Supervisors office was \$9,820. Special improvements to courthouse last year were \$8,875, this year \$9,225, increase \$1,050.

The school budget was increased only \$6,000.

## STRUCTURAL FLAWS DELAY OPERATION OF NEW FERRIES

### Bad Luck Attends Effort to Improve Service Across Alligator River

Bad luck has attended the State's efforts to improve the ferry service across Alligator River. The first two of the new \$147,000 boats cannot be operated, and this week one of them went back to the builder, Barbour Boat Works in New Bern. If it can be made to work all right, the second will be sent down within about two weeks.

Attempt was made to operate one of the boats Sunday, and trips across the river were made in 24 minutes and 26 minutes. Of course the propeller was being revolved at a speed of only 1400 while the motors are new, but usual speed later should be about 1,800 rpm.

One trouble of the boats is their propellers are not completely submerged. But the worst feature is the difficulty of steering the boats with the hydraulic equipment installed. It is believed to be too light and larger units may be tried out. Apparently, some miscalculations were made by the designer, Harry W. Keeling of Norfolk.

The boats are double-enders equipped with two 240 h. p. G. M. diesel motors, but only one of the motors operates at a time, one being located in each end of the boat, so it is not necessary to turn the boats around in order for cars to drive on and drive off.

The first great miscalculation occurred when the boats were planned, in that they were designed to operate at Oregon Inlet. The boats draw more than four feet of water, and with only 240 hp operating at the time, as compared with the three 165 h.p. motors operating in each of the old type boats now used at the inlet, it was soon apparent that this offered a risky situation. But worst of all, the depth of the boats would not permit their operation across the shallow shoals at Oregon Inlet.

All of which adds up to this fact, that the state's efforts to provide adequate ferry service is proving to See FERRIES, Page Eight