

THE COASTLAND TIMES

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

VOLUME XXIII — NO. 7

MANTEO, N. C., FRIDAY, AUGUST 16, 1957

Single Copy 7¢

"SEVENTEEN" TO BE PRESENTED MONDAY NIGHT, AUGUST 19

Musical Version of Booth Tarkington's Novel Being Rehearsed By School of Fine Arts; Professional Performance Expected

Two Manteo natives, Gus Etheridge and Linda Jordan, hold leading parts in the Roanoke School of Fine Arts production "Seventeen" by Booth Tarkington which is to be presented Monday, August 19, at the Waterside Theater.

"Seventeen" is a musical comedy about a seventeen year old boy, Willie Baxter (Steve Outerbridge from Conway, N. C.), who is moonstruck from the moment he meets Lola Pratt (Ellen Walter, Raleigh, N. C.), the pretty, baby-talking schoolmate of May Parcher (Geraldine McIlroy, Winston-Salem, N. C.), who is Willie's next-door neighbor. Willie falls for her utterly and completely, even to the extent of impressing her by wearing his father's dress suit each evening when he goes to call.

None of the other boys of the town possess a dress suit so Willie has the advantage until Mr. Baxter wants to wear his dress suit. Then the fun begins.

Jane (Linda Jordan of Manteo), Willie's eight-year-old sister complicates matters considerably, and Genesis (Bobby Royal, Goldsboro, N. C.) the Baxter's man-of-all-work, tries to assist Willie whenever he can, which isn't often.

Willie, with his adolescent dreams and his inability to express them, furnishes a great deal of humor and, with it, a great deal of pathos, for in Willie's youthful search for romance both young and old will sense the deep understanding of the teenager which the author brings to the story.

The cast is completed with Gus Etheridge as Johnnie Watson, Bob Denison as Bert, Bill Walsh as Charlie, John Earle as Dave, Irving Ennis as Joe Bullitt, Bill Watson as Lester, Milton Mann as Phil, Buddy Boyce as Al, Wayne Leazer as Jim, John Moore as Ed, Irma Helen Hopkins as Mrs. Baxter, Jo Ann Sparks as Emmie, Jane Fuller as Ida, Page Williams as Lu, Pat Baum as Madge, Jo Anne Ballance as Sue, Megan Stuart as See SEVENTEEN, Page Six

CAPE HATTERAS CO-OP ANNUAL MEETING CALLED

Stockholders of Electrical System Expected to Hear Reports and Name Directors

An annual meeting of the Cape Hatteras Electric Membership Corp. which operates the electric power system on Hatteras Island has been called for Sept. 2 at 7:30 p.m. at the Cape Hatteras High School building, according to notice mailed out by Secretary George H. Meekins of Avon.

Heretofore the Co-op has not had an annual meeting in three years, due to failure of stockholders to manifest sufficient interest to obtain a quorum.

The co-op is a large business, with several hundred subscribers, served by a large plant at Buxton for which upwards of a million dollars has been furnished the people without cost to them, by the Federal Government.

It has rendered exceptional service, and the plant force is doing a good job, but there is some complaint that rates charged are too high, and that high rates retard development of the area.

On September 2, the members are expected to hear business matters discussed and to elect nine directors.

A nominating committee of the Board of Directors has already nominated nine persons to serve as directors, although others may be nominated from the floor. These following names now submitted are: Fred O'Neal, Rodanthe; Cecil Midgett, Waves; Nacie Austin, and Ronald Stowe, Hatteras; G. H. Meekins, Sumner Scarborough, M. L. Scarborough, Avon; John Wasili, Frisco; James Rollinson, Buxton. The name of President, J. S. Turner, is not named on the list.

STATE PLANS BEACONS AT ALLIGATOR FERRY SLIPS

The highway commission plans the erection of beacons for the guidance of the ferry boats crossing Alligator River. A beacon will be located on each side of the river, one at Sandy Point and one at East Lake.

Plans for the beacons may be seen at the Columbia postoffice, according to announcement made by the Engineers Corp.

The growing ferry traffic, which is now too heavy for present boats to carry at times, is demanding night trips across the river. The beacons will facilitate such trips.

LOCAL ACTORS IN MUSICAL COMEDY "SEVENTEEN"



Pictured here are two Roanoke Islanders who will appear in the largest cast of the musical comedy "Seventeen" that is scheduled to be presented by Roanoke Island School of Fine Arts at Waterside Theatre on Monday night, August 19. They are Gus Etheridge and Linda Jordan and both are also members of The Lost Colony cast this year. The tickets for the special Monday night production are now on sale. (Aycock Brown Photo)

AUGUST 18th HOLDS MUCH IMPORTANCE FOR DARE COUNTY

A Memorable Date Marking Birth of First English Child in New World

By WADE LUCAS

Manteo.—It so happens that August 18 is the anniversary of a date marking two highly historic events in the history of Roanoke Island.

It was on Aug. 18, 1587, that Virginia Dare, the first English child to be born in what is now the United States of America, and it was on Aug. 18, 1937, that President Franklin Delano Roosevelt came here to help commemorate the 350th anniversary of the birth of the ill-fated daughter of Ananias and Eleanor Dare.

This story is no rehash of the frequently told and unproven accounts of what happened to Virginia Dare, her parents, and other members of the group Sir Walter Raleigh sent out from England to found a new colony in what English Queen Elizabeth and others thought was a "New World" filled with gold and silver and other riches.

It is no story about the long-lived symphonic drama penned by Pulitzer prize winner Paul Green and called "The Lost Colony".

It is no story about "The Lost Colony", which had its premiere performance back in July, 1937, and which is now in its 17th season at the Waterside Theatre on the very site the ill-fated colonists tried to establish a colony under the flag of England, a country threatened at the time by the fearsome armada of greedy King Philip of Spain.

But it is a hitherto untold story of what fun-loving Franklin Delano Roosevelt, then President of the United States, did and said when he visited this historic island and gave to "The Lost Colony" a "shot in the arm" that has enabled Paul Green's masterpiece to become the world's longest lived symphonic drama of its kind.

The story then as it is now was that "The Lost Colony" was originally intended to be a one-season offering to be highlighted by the celebration of the 350th anniversary of the birth of the first English speaking child ever to be born in North America.

The then Governor and later Senator Clyde Roark Hoy, the then Congressman Lindsay C. Warren of the First North Carolina District, which includes Dare County and Roanoke Island, the then North Carolina Senators Josiah W. Bailey and Robert Rice Reynolds, the Roanoke Colony Memorial Association of Manteo, and others thought it would be nice to invite President Roosevelt to the anniversary of little Virginia's birth.

Lindsay Warren had long been active in trying to make Roanoke Island a mecca for history-loving tourists. And so it was that when he and others placed the invitation to see BIG DAY, Page Six

MANTEO'S YACHT BASIN PROJECT IS PROGRESSING

Large Launching Ramp Is Almost Ready For Use; Area for Docks Deepened to Five Feet

Work on the development of Manteo's yacht basin by the Manteo Waterfront Improvement Committee is continuing, and a large new boat launching ramp is expected to be ready for use within about two weeks, as soon as a concrete footing can be poured. The committee has extensive plans for the development of the waterfront lot belonging to the town and it is expected that the work will go forward at an accelerated rate in September, after Labor Day has passed and volunteer workers have more time to devote to the project.

Work on the community project began last fall with the deepening of Dough's Creek adjacent to the lot, which was the site of the old Roanoke Hotel. The spoil from the dredging was used to build up the lot. The area was dredged out to a depth of about 5 to 5 1/2 feet, which gives sufficient water to accommodate yachts up to about 60 feet in length.

The new launching ramp, which is 25 feet wide, can be used for launching all sizes of outboard motor boats. Main Street has been extended alongside Davis Store all the way up to the ramp and asphalted by the town, so that there will be no danger of cars or trucks getting stuck while launching boats.

Work is also in progress to construct additional bulkheading to prevent the washing away of the shore, and piles have been driven for this and for a portion of the docks while are to be built. Two docks are planned, with each extending out 60 feet from shore and with a 50-foot extension running parallel to the shore from the end of these. It is expected that when all these docks are completed, twelve to fifteen yachts in the neighborhood of 40 feet in length will be able to tie up there at one time. Electricity and fresh water will be readily available to visiting boats, while fuel and oil can be obtained at nearby commercial docks.

An increase in the number of boats visiting Manteo is expected to result from the completion of the project to deepen the channel to a minimum depth of 12 feet all the way into Manteo from Oregon Inlet. The entire project has been approved by the federal government, but Congress has not yet made the appropriation for the third and final phase of the project which would deepen the Manteo end of the channel through Shallowbag Bay into Dough's Creek.

The committee's plans also call for the provision of a clubhouse adjacent to the docks, with convenient parking spaces. Earlier, it was proposed to move the old Chadwick homestead, known for many years as the Tranquil House, across the street from its present location and convert it into a clubhouse, but it now appears that it may be more feasible to construct an entirely new building.

The front end of the lot is proposed to be landscaped and developed as a park and playground, with provisions included in the plans for construction of a swimming pool.

TO BE PREACHER AT LOST COLONY SUNDAY



THE REV. STUART F. GAST of St. Stephen and the Incarnation Episcopal Church, Washington, D. C., will be guest minister in the eighth of a series of Sunday worship periods on Sunday morning, August 18, at The Lost Colony's Waterside Theatre near Manteo.

Choral music by The Lost Colony Choir under direction of Dr. Elwood Keistef, the drama's music director, with George Perry at the organ will be a feature of the services.

The Rev. Mr. Gast is no stranger to Lost Colony Sunday services, as he has been one of the guest ministers each summer for the past several seasons.

He is a native of Lancaster, Pa., a graduate of Franklin Marshall College, General Theological Seminary, New York City. He did See SERVICES, Page Six

18 MARINES INJURED AS TRUCK UPSETS EN ROUTE TO FIRE

Accident Happens About Six O'Clock Thursday Morning; 18 Treated at Belhaven

A truck loaded with 21 Marines upset three miles east of Belhaven Thursday morning, and 18 were injured, some seriously. The injured were treated by Drs. Wright and Suther at the Pungo District Hospital at Belhaven, according to Charles L. Gwynn, hospital administrator.

The men were en route to Dare County, part of a detachment of 150 sent to aid in the forest fire fighting near Manns Harbor.

The driver was Robert Lee Blackwell, 26, of Salisbury, N. C. The brakes are said to have given trouble; the truck went in a ditch; a large water tank being towed jackknifed into the truck, causing much of the damage.

All 18 men were sent back to Camp LeJeune Thursday afternoon, four of them by ambulance. None of the injuries are considered dangerous.

A second Marine was reported injured at Englehard when another of the trucks upset Thursday morning, some 50 miles east of the first mishap. It appears that Marines were taking their orders literally, to go to the fire. They were on their way somewhere.

In addition to having hospital facilities at Belhaven, they had with them a medical unit, including three ambulances, ready to give service.

OUR CITIZENS ARE HEAVIEST LOSERS AS FOREST FIRES DEVASTATE 80,000 ACRES

Two Weeks Toll in Hyde and Dare Woodlands Means Greatest Losses in Many Years in Timber, Game and Potential Tourist Income; May Prove Serious Discouragement to Investors.

150 MARINES GET IN ACTION AGAINST DARE FOREST FIRE

National Guard Unit Also Sent From Elizabeth City to Aid Forces

An order to send 150 marines from Cherry Point base to join the battle against the big Dare County forest fire Thursday brings the number of workers to several hundred, who are now engaged in the struggle against a conflagration that has raged all this month.

A Marine Corps detail under the direction of Staff Sergeant Allison Woolsey of Cherry Point has been on the job with much equipment since early in the week.

Twenty men of the supervisory personnel of the N. C. Forestry Service were due to fly in Thursday afternoon in a B-47 transport from Asheville, landing at the Manteo Airport.

Hurt while repairing a tractor Wednesday night at Manns Harbor was Ashley Pittman, one of the mechanics with the forestry service. He was treated by Dr. Trimble Johnson of Manteo, and flown from the Manteo airport next morning, to Rocky Mount for hospital treatment, in a plane piloted by Brantley Brown.

Earlier in the week, a National Guard detail was ordered to the scene from Elizabeth City. Hundreds of men from various units in the state, include Coast Guardsmen, state forestry workers, and employees of the West Virginia Pulp & Paper Company have been almost constantly on the job.

Only one citizen living in the treated communities has volunteered to help in the battle. The lone exception at Manns Harbor being Willie Crain, a fisherman, who came out and told the fire fighters he was available to assist them in any way they wished, according to District Fire Warden, Frank Hemilwright. Several highway patrolmen have been on duty constantly to protect traffic, as well as the workers who might be endangered by traffic, and at various times, the road has been blocked to traffic.

The highways through the area have been endangered by the fires which burn under the road beds, and undermine them as the peaty soil beneath burns up. Much of the effort of the fire fighters has been concentrated on trying to save the roads.

Best news of all was a lively shower beginning at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, and lasting in a drizzle all day.

On Thursday, as well as the day before, brisk southwest winds have sent the flames back toward See MARINES, Page Six

TWO DAY BATTLE OF FIRE THREATENING WANCHESE

The two-day battle with a fire which threatened several areas of Wanchese, including the Methodist church, appears to have been brought to a standstill. Both the Manteo and Kill Devil Hills Fire Departments went to the scene, and stayed on the job. Many men had to sacrifice their time to serve in this cause. They lost pay from their work. They got no help from Roanoke Island citizens, nor did anyone think to bring them water or food while they stuck by the job. While a threat was abroad in the land, the good folk sat on their porches and rocked.

In connection with this fire, it is reported it was caused by a fire set by a Wanchese citizen to burn off a pasture. Fire Warden Frank Hemilwright says he expects to do some prosecuting, as he has not issued a permit for burning this month, and anyone setting a fire was clearly breaking the law.

SPOTS PLENTIFUL FROM KITTY HAWK TO HATTERAS

This is the season for spots, if the angler is fishing the surf anywhere between Southern Shores at Kitty Hawk and the point of Hatteras Beach. Everywhere along the surf anglers are reporting big catches of spots. One party at Southern Shores landed more than 200 in just a few hours. Other anglers at Nags Head, Oregon Inlet and all along the 50 mile surf and beach of Hatteras have been making similar reports of good catches.

Close scrutiny of losses sustained during two weeks of raging fires on the mainland of Dare and Hyde counties brings us up against the striking knowledge that the loss which may eventually run into millions will be primarily the loss of the citizens of Dare and Hyde counties.

What is not readily apparent is that in dollars and cents, the owners of the property, West Virginia Pulp & Paper Company, may never suffer in any degree to compare with the people who are here, who will remain here, and who must make their living here.

Some of the heaviest losses are immediate ones, for the Pamlico Power & Light Co. of Engelhard whose lines deliver electricity to three Dare County villages, were damaged and subjected to costly replacement. Service to citizens was interrupted while repairs were made, and financial losses resulted from interrupted refrigeration and other inconveniences.

But the heavier losses will be more evident in months and years ahead. There will be loss of income to guides and others local businessmen in the months of this winter because there will be fewer game animals to attract sportsmen whose spending is worth while in a dull season.

There will be losses next year, when property values are reduced on the tax books, and smaller sums in taxes will be paid to the county treasury.

There was loss during the past two weeks when tourist travel along the roads in the area was interrupted and those who depend on tourist dollars lost income.

Millions in Timber Gone

It is a mighty conservative estimate to say that what might have in a few years developed into far more than a million dollars worth of merchantable timber, went up in smoke. Maybe a company of the magnitude of West Virginia can write enough of it off in tax losses to minimize this blow to almost nothing. But our citizens can't write it off their losses. The misfortune will continue a cumulative loss which year after year will take away from their resources and their opportunities for deriving income in their homeland.

This fire has been our most widely publicized one, through press, radio and television daily. With its day by day progress, the public is familiar. The public however, has not been told fully the causes that made this our worst fire. It is not generally understood why this one was so intense and lasted so long.

The greatest contributing factor has been this summer's long dry spell, the weeks and months without rain, whereby the water table has been lowered some three feet. Months of this dry weather has allowed the peaty soil to become as dry as tinder. The soil in most of this area consists of layers of logs, limbs and roots, and most of these roots being dead from other causes, the whole area beneath the soil to a depth of two or three feet is highly flammable. Once getting on fire, it burns for weeks and sometimes months, with a slow blaze far under the soil. Fires thought to have been extinguished, sometimes break out unexpectedly See FIRE, Page Six

J. H. MIDGETT, RODANTHE NATIVE, DIES IN VIRGINIA

Norfolk — Jethro Hathway Midgett, 72, died at his home, 1055 Reid Ave, Princess Anne County, Va., at 3:15 p.m. Tuesday.

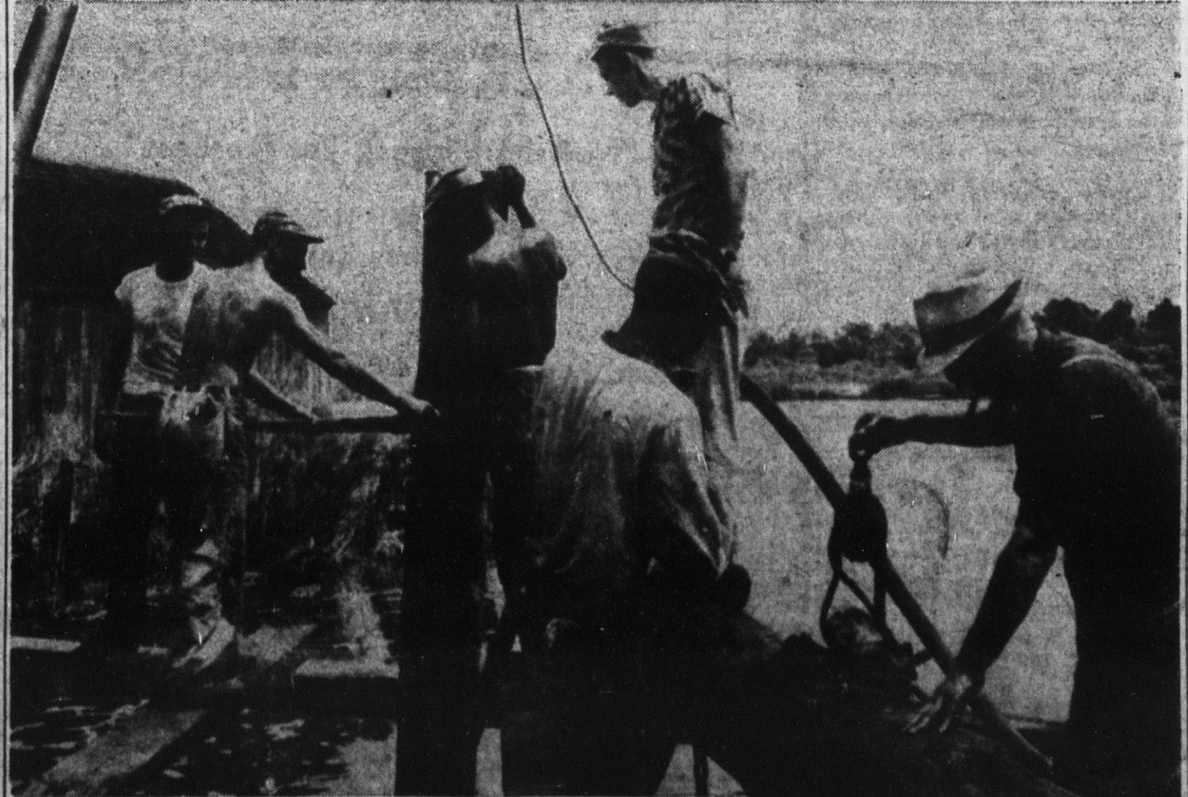
A native of Rodanthe, he had lived in Norfolk area one year. He was one of many who bear a similar name.

He was a member of Powells Point Baptist Church, N. C. He was a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Ryan Midgett.

He is survived by his wife, Annie Lowton Midgett of Princess Anne County; two daughters, Mrs. Gertrude M. Smith and Mrs. Nancy M. Williams, both of Norfolk; two sons, Ira Peterson Midgett of Baltimore, Md., and Jethro H. Midgett Jr. of Norfolk; two brothers, Marshall and Marion Midgett, both of Miami, Fla.; 12 grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

The body was taken to Powells Point Baptist Church for services at 2 p.m. Thursday by the Rev. H. Edgar Harden, pastor. Burial was in the church cemetery.

MANTEO WATERFRONT AREA BEING IMPROVED AS COMMUNITY PROJECT



WORKMEN ARE SHOWN AS piles were being driven recently under the supervision of John Ferebee (at right) for a new bulkhead at the town's waterfront lot which the Manteo Waterfront Improvement Committee is developing into a yacht basin and waterfront park. A new boat launching ramp at the site is almost ready for use, and the committee expects shortly to begin construction of docks, material for which is already on hand. (Island Studio photo)