

THE COASTLAND TIMES

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THE WEEKLY JOURNAL OF THE WALTER RALEIGH COASTLAND OF NORTH CAROLINA. — FOREMOST REGION OF RECREATION AND SPORT, HEALTHFUL LIVING AND HISTORICAL INTEREST ON THE ATLANTIC SEABOARD

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THE TIME TO MAKE CHANGES IS SATURDAY

Election day is just a wink or two from us. On Saturday, May 31 will be held the Democratic primary, the only place in most counties of the state where the will and wishes of the citizens can be manifested.

Our form of Government has made use of the orderly process of the ballot for the improvement of our public affairs. In this manner people may peacefully and peaceably protest against errors of government. They may express their desires for changes of public servants, or they may endorse those who please them.

It is not a place where interested parties should step over bounds and by undue activity, force or fear, intimidate voters into action that might be contrary to their innermost wishes, or against their best interests in the long run.

If any evils exist, then Saturday is the day to make effort to correct them. Unless the step is taken Saturday, opportunity will not roll around again for another two, and in some cases, four years.

If those who wish changes fail to do their duty and go to the polls and act in accordance with their vigorous expressions made before the primary, then they will have no right to grumble if changes are not made.

If abuses of government exist sufficiently for complaint, then the cause should be sufficient to drive everyone who complains, to take the little time necessary to go out and vote on Saturday.

It is not commonsense to be guided by mere expressions of sentiment and to be lulled into a false sense of security that there are enough people who will vote anyway. Voters must remember that those who ought not to be voted into office, often work harder for the job than those who are merely seeking to be of service to their fellowmen.

Sometimes, the ones we don't need, work hard, and through being well organized, and by sending for voters who are in their favor, get into office, although it is not the wish of the majority of the people.

Only by considering that each vote and every person's is absolutely necessary in order to win, can we make sure to get the relief desired.

Let every person Saturday go to the polls and by his ballot indicate that he votes as he talks. Let him cast his vote for free government, for faithful public servants, and for the proper conduct of our public affairs.

THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS OF THE PEOPLE'S MONEY STOLEN IN NORTHAMPTON, AUDIT REVEALS.

Sometimes people think we say too much on the subject of prompt and proper audits on the management of the people's money. Perhaps we grow tiresome, but we hold to the theory that no honest man can reasonably oppose an audit, unless he fears he will be found incompetent.

On Wednesday of this week, it was revealed that a belated audit in Northampton County, in this state had discovered that many thousands of dollars had been stolen from the school funds, and some 40 or more bills of indictment are to be brought against several people.

This many thousands of dollars belonged to the school children of their county. It was handled by a man who had been in office for 20 years, and who had long been considered honest. It is alleged he gave some of this money to people not connected with the schools. Perhaps he showed favors to some who could help him keep his job.

Dear friends, a prompt audit is good for the honest man. The best of men make mistakes, and if they are not soon corrected can lead to trouble and loss to the people. An audit protects him, as well as the people whose money he handles. There seems to us no sensible excuse for not having audits, particularly when the law demands them.

See what Northampton County has lost. See what could happen in any other county. Why can't we force the officials of our own county to obey the law? Why not demand of them the reason they don't have our audits up to date?

On Saturday of this week, we can vote into office officials who have promised faithfully they will have regular audits. Now is the time to get some men who will respect their duty to us the people who give them their authority!

THERE IS A TIME FOR ALL THINGS.

When Saturday's elections are over, there will continue to be great tasks for the good of the country, and which will need the cooperation of all good citizens. There are people of course, who by their acts will seem to think everything will be all right from this date on.

Such however is not the case. When such changes as are deemed necessary have been made, the interest and active cooperation of every person will continue to be essential. No person can do his best without the good will and support of the people he must serve. They must continue to advise him, to aid him, and to make known to him the needs of the people.

When election is over, all good citizens will put behind them the animosities sometimes engendered before election, and cooperate with all worthy winners as freely as they would have expected similar cooperation were the situation reversed.

CHRISTIAN PEOPLE URGED TO VOTE (From the Christian Advocate)

Protestants in general are "neglecting their responsibility in and for political action, an Emory University professor charged at a meeting in Washington, D. C., March 11. "Too many of us assume that politics is a dirty business and wash our hands of it," Dr. E. Clinton Gardner declared at a National Seminar on Alcohol Problems, the Church and the Political Order, sponsored by the Board of Temperance. Protestant influence is not to be gained by "a self-righteous withdrawal from politics," he said. "What is needed is more concern and participation in political life by Christians."

If America is to be run by the people, it is the people who must think. And we do not need to put on sackcloth and ashes to think. Nor should our minds work like a sundial which records only the sunshine. Our thinking must square against some lessons of history, some of the principles of government and morals, if we would preserve the rights and dignity of men to which this nation is dedicated.—Herbert Hoover.

LETTERS to the EDITOR

GARBAGE DISPOSAL IDEAS FOR CAPE HATTERAS

To The Editor:

The people on this island have a problem concerning garbage disposal. The present method of disposal involves dumping all garbage on a privately owned tract of land in Buxton near the sound. This garbage dump is on low flat land and is a scant foot or so above sea level. Naturally, this prevents the possibility of digging any trench or pit on this land to be covered over. With the influx of people over the past few years to this island and the establishment of the U. S. Naval Facility at Buxton, the problem is fast becoming an insurmountable one. At the same time, we have another perplexing problem. There is no decent play ground or ball field on the island. I personally believe that the provision of an adequate garbage disposal site at this time is of extreme importance. In a very short time it would become an impossible situation. By applying a little foresight now, I believe we can prevent the occurrence of an unhealthy situation later.

It is my intention at the next meeting of the Dare County Board of Commissioners to propose that they contact National Park Service and investigate the acquisition of a tract of land to be used as a permanent garbage disposal site. The tentative plan I wish to propose involves the systematic digging of trenches on high ground, the fill removed by the process of digging could be transported to the area behind our school and thus provide our children with a playground and ball field we could be proud of. The procedure would not be a very expensive one. I do not maintain that this procedure is the best. I do maintain that definite action is immediately necessary and any proposal is better than none.

We have circulated petitions this morning and have them posted at the various post offices on this island. I would sincerely appreciate it if you would be kind enough

HATTERAS MAN COMPLETES C. G. BASIC TRAINING



Cape May, New Jersey—Roy L. Gray, seaman apprentice, USCGR, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy L. Gray of Hatteras, North Carolina, has completed 13 weeks of basic training at the U. S. Coast Guard Receiving Center, Cape May, New Jersey. Gray entered the Coast Guard in February.

Seaman apprentice Gray will now begin advanced small arms training and will later report to the U. S. Coast Guard Training Station, Groton, Conn., and the U. S. Coast Guard Cutter Unimak for advanced seamanship training. Upon completion of his six months active duty, he will return to his home reserve unit.

Before entering the Coast Guard, Gray attended Cape Hatteras High School.

to explain, in your paper, the reason for the petitions as I have tried to explain above.

BILL DILLON Buxton, N. C.

BUXTON PERSONALS

Miss Barbara Williams, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Urias B. Williams, of New Bern is a 1958 graduate of Wake Forest College at Winston-Salem. The Williams' are former residents of Buxton.

UNCLE SAM FROM SYCAMORE WRITES:

DEAR MISTER EDITOR:

Well, the Deep Thinkers in Washington is ranging all over the field. Looks like the legislative is monkeying with the executive and the executive with the legislative and the judicial is monkeying with both. Them fellers need to read the Constitution and set the boundary lines again. I got a hunch that this session of Congress is going to be a real hoe-down, a clambake with all the dressings.

Whenever you got a Republican fer President and a Democratic majority in both houses—or viser verser—you got a situation about like a feller living in the same house with his two ex-wives.

On top of that situation, this Congress has got New Dealism, Modern Republicanism, and Capitalism. And when they git to arguing up there in Washington, it's herd fer us folks back home to tell which is which. I ain't shore I know which is why anymore.

I reckon a new dealer and a modern Republican is a feller that has give up all hope of becoming a capitalist. They used to say that under the New Deal, when a feller has got two cows the Government takes 'em both

and then sells him the milk. Under Capitalism, when a feller has got just one cow he steals another one from his neighbors. I reckon under modern Republicanism the Government takes both cows and then lends you the money to buy milk with.

It's all too deep fer me, Mister Editor. I'm still casting my vote to give the country back to the Indians.

I see by some of the papers where there's a rumor that Congress is going to ask for a salary hike after the fall elections. That figures. They always waits till you've scratched the ballot.

Back in the first days of our nation a Congressman got \$6 a day for his services, provided he was setting in session and doing his job. In 1816 they raised it to \$1,500 a year, but the folks hollered so loud they put it back to \$8 a day. In 1885 they got it up to \$3,000 a year, and in 1865 they hiked it to \$5,000, then in 1873 to \$7,500, and in 1924 they raised it to \$10,000. A few years ago they got it up to \$15,000. And here we go again!

I think them Indians would run the country fer us a heap cheaper.

Yours truly Uncle Sam

Advertisement for 'THE WORLD OF WOOD' featuring a fire tower and various fire prevention tips. Text includes: 'Prevent Fires', 'Don't TOSS LIGHTED CIGARETTES, MATCHES OR OTHER "HOT" MATTER FROM CARS!', 'Don't BURN BRUSH ON A DRY OR WINDY DAY!', 'ABANDON A CAMPFIRE UNLESS YOU'RE SURE IT'S COMPLETELY OUT!', 'NEARLY 2,000,000 ACRES OF SOUTHERN WOODLANDS WERE BURNED IN 1957. DO YOUR PART TO PROTECT THESE INCOME-PRODUCING FORESTS FROM THE RAVAGES OF FIRE! (TRAINED FROM U.S. FOREST SERVICE)'

MANY LETTERS POURING IN CONCERNING DARE AFFAIRS

CITIZENS AND PROPERTY OWNERS are aroused concerning the management of Dare County's affairs, the recent outrageous attempt to raise large sums of money by the taxation route. We reprint this week a few samples of hundreds of letters written.

PRaises COURAGEOUS VIEW TAKEN BY THIS NEWSPAPER

Many letters have come to us from old residents, and others unknown to us, but who love Dare County, heartily endorsing our stand for better government and fair treatment in Dare County. This is a sample of the letters to us:

Dear Editor:

Your Coastland Times has just reached me and I have read your "Masterpiece" editorial. It is one of the finest written expressions I have ever read, and I consider it a great privilege to read something of such great stature, as this surely is. If it does not draw national attention I shall miss my ability to judge quality writing. I believe what enhances it so much is the sincerity apparent. You are very convincing about your sincerity and all good sincere citizens will recognize that, I am confident. When one's convictions are of such strength that they are willing to boldly proclaim a dedication of their remaining days to their community their GOD and to posterity there is nothing more one could do to be sure, and I am sure that in the writing you have rendered a service already that will out-live either of us.

I would urge that you reprint it in your next weeks issue on the front page in bolder type, so that it might be a reminder to the good citizens as the time for voting comes near, for even though many good people would like to do the right thing at the polls, they need guidance to the last mile, and I am sure you agree with that.

It is my sincere wish and prayers that you will be spared many, many years, because one can not write like you have, except he be inspired by more than the ordinary ever-day writing. I sincerely believe God is with you, and you can be sure that He will continue to be, so long as you go after things that are wrong, with courage and fortitude born of a sincere conviction that you must fight for the right.

With sincere best wishes and prayers that you shall enjoy many, many years of useful and gratifying service to your peoples,

LOCKWOOD PERRY Miami, Fla.

SUFFOLK ATTORNEY WRITES STRONG CONDEMNATION

To the Dare County Commissioners I have received the notice showing valuation of two lots formerly valued at \$750 each, increased 180% to \$2,100.00 each, for a total of \$4,200.00.

If it is the purpose of your Board to raise the assessment of every parcel of property in Dare County to its near market value and set the tax rate accordingly, then I could have no quarrel with your Board's action. However, I am reliably informed that while your "experts" were doubling and tripling the value of the resort property in Dare County, little change was made in the remaining townships. Of course, the effect of a resulting tax decrease, if any, will be to lower the taxes of the remainder of the county for whose residents your schools are used, (a primary cost of government), and place the burden of educating Dare children and other governmental costs, primarily upon your summer vacationists.

Having spent many summers among your people, it is hard for me to conceive of this action being the wish of the citizens of Dare County, for it is so manifestly unfair that I believe it to be fraudulent. I realize, of course, that I have no vote and at this stage my only appeal is to your sense of honor. I earnestly hope that you will not retain any of these false values, but that you will see the fairness in discarding this work, and tabling the reassessment matter, until a committee composed of your local citizens has a chance to reassess your county as a whole.

Please understand, I have no objection to paying a just share of the cost of government based upon the taxing method, when it is applied fairly to all, but I do resent and condemn the proposed action by your Board of Commissioners in using the taxing method to legally rob a portion of those who have enjoyed your physical properties as recreation. That it is legally lawful for your Board to adopt such valuations, I sincerely question,—that it is morally lawful for your Board to adopt such valuations—there can be no question in the mind of anyone who desires to base judgment on justice.

I further believe that every citizen of Dare County will agree—that fair dealing towards those who have no voice in an election must be ever paramount in the minds of the elected officials of government, if Dare County is to continue and grow, as one of our

Country's favorite vacation areas.

In conclusion, I therefore petition your Board of Commissioners—that this work of reassessment be discarded; that its cost be charged to experience; that your Board not be a party to perpetrating this fraud on your non-resident property owners; and that a committee composed of experienced residents from each of your townships be appointed to conduct such reassessment as may be deemed proper, and necessary, to properly apportion the cost of government among property owners of Dare County—both residents and non-residents.

EDWIN T. COULBOURN Attorney at Law Suffolk, Va.

STRONG LETTER WRITTEN BY HERTFORD PROPERTY OWNER

To Dare County Commissioners: What are you gentlemen trying to do to your county? I am referring to the excessive increase in appraisal on beach property for taxation purposes.

I have been going to Nags Head for the past fifty years and my late husband, T. S. White of Hertford, North Carolina built our cottage in 1912. I have always been a booster of Nags Head and have been responsible for several families building summer cottages in Dare County.

No doubt you gentlemen realize that beach property is very expensive to keep up and since you do not furnish any fire protection the insurance rates are extremely high. You have almost doubled the rates on my property based on data furnished by a man from New Jersey who shipped out before clearing up his bills.

Do you realize that the only service we receive is the very poor garbage collection during the summer months. Have you stopped to think of the thousands of dollars that come to your county through the people spending their vacations in Dare County? If you permit this high rate to remain you are going to kill the goose that laid the golden egg because families will dispose of their property and seek summer residence where their presence is appreciated rather than prosecuted.

MRS. MATTIE TOMS WHITE Hertford, N. C.

ONE ELIZABETH CITY MAN GIVES HIS VIEWS ON TAXES

Tax Supervisor, Dare County.

I was amazed to receive your postal card of May 10th, on which was shown a \$4,900.00 valuation for two lots in Hollywood Beach Subdivision, Nags Head, N. C.

Being a Realtor in Elizabeth City and having quite a bit of experience in the valuation of property, I would like to state that this is the most ridiculous I have ever seen. The very idea of having any property on the tax books at more than the selling price a couple of years ago.

These lots are on the tax books for a third more than a five room bungalow and lot in the best section of Elizabeth City. This value was established by revaluation by so-called experts, a couple of years ago, however, they did not indicate we had oil on the property.

Frankly, I intend to dispose of my property at Nags Head since it is evident that Dare County has in mind catering only to wealthy Yankees.

Evidently the very influential and better citizens of Dare County, who have given so much to make Dare County one of the best, have been put "on the shelf," when it comes to making the decisions of today.

A TAXPAYER

ANOTHER ELIZ. CITY MAN SHOWS UP RIDICULOUS JOB

A letter to the Dare County board from one of the ablest and best friends of the Dare Beaches, contains the following statements: "I lodge formal protest against the valuation on barren beach and marshland in the north end of Dare County, which is used as a bombing target and gives me no income. The amount of \$23,310 for 166 acres, I consider an appraisal far-fetched and all out of reason. It is practically devoid of vegetation, is not subdivided, has no lot value, and no roads. I am at a complete loss to understand, how any fair-minded individual could arrive at any such price for this barren beachland... the acreage is bombarded nearly every day as a target for government planes, and I can see no reason why it would be so valuable. I earnestly ask that you appraise this acreage in the light of facts set forth here, and value it accordingly... the sale of the property under existing conditions is practically nil."

A TAXPAYING FRIEND Eliz. City, N. C.

FROM FAR-OFF ILLINOIS STRONG OBJECTIONS COME

To Tax Supervisor Dare County

Your post card mailed from Manteo on May 10th arrived at my home in Glencoe, Illinois, on Monday, May 12th. This card stated that a hearing was to be held at the County Court House at 10 a.m. on May 15th and 16th, which, of course, allowed very little time for preparing any complaints. This letter is being written merely to tell you that it seems to me that the Commissioners have gone somewhat overboard in raising valuations on properties as compared with previous years. It is recognized, of course, that all costs have gone up and probably will continue to go up, but an increase such as the one put through this year appears to be excessive.

On my next visit to Nags Head, I intend to check around among my friends and relatives to see if the valuations are consistent. This letter is merely to register my objections to such a high increase and to suggest that the Commissioners review again the valuations placed on the Nags Head property to see if, in their opinion, this is a fair valuation.

J. A. BRANDENBURG

LETTER FROM A PROPERTY OWNER LIVING IN VIRGINIA

To the Board: Here's how a property owner living in Virginia feels about the property assessment recently made in Dare County:

"I received your notice too late to attend the meeting, so I am expressing my concern over this increase now. I can't understand how this could be justified as we recently had an increase. This assessment is all out of reason. As you know, the season is only ten weeks, if we are lucky and don't have any hurricanes or foul weather. Last year was a good season. I had a profit of \$260 on an investment of \$10,600 by your own assessment. How do you expect for anyone to survive, or does the county want to take over? As for me, I am willing to sell at the assessed price, plus finishing the unfinished cottage.

"I can't understand such assessments anyway. The cottages beside mine, both finished much better than mine; one of mine still unfinished, yet mine was assessed more than \$1,000 above the other; and I believe your assessors must have been either drunk or blind, or both.

"I was in hopes of building up a few cottages so I could retire and make my home there, but if this is a sample of the tax system, I would appreciate a certified check for the amount of assessment on my property.

"ROY C. CHAPPELL" Martinsville, Va.

A NEW JERSEY MAN DROPS IDEA OF INVESTING HERE

To The Editor:

I have been reading with great interest the way in which the Dare County Commissioners have put over this underhanded re-assessment of properties in your county. I wish to say that I think you are doing a good job in telling the people how they have been taken over by a bunch of men from New Jersey who know nothing about Dare County. I might add taken over also by a bunch of men in Dare County.

I thought it may interest you to know that the same thing is going on in my borough or town. Only our city fathers are going to Ohio for their re-assessors. They didn't even bother to tell us what the cost will be. So you see a county in North Carolina goes to Jersey for re-assessors and a borough in Jersey goes to Ohio. I think it would have been much wiser to keep the money at home and get men who know what real estate values are. What does a bunch of men in Jersey know about real estate values in your county and what does a bunch from Ohio know about our town?

I have been interested in buying a cottage or small farm in Dare County for several years, but the revaluation of all properties discourages me.

Middlesex, N. J.

CHARLIE UPCHURCH

The Commissioners are receiving hundreds of letters such as the foregoing, attesting to the ill-will they have brought upon Dare County, and the possible driving away of business from the area.