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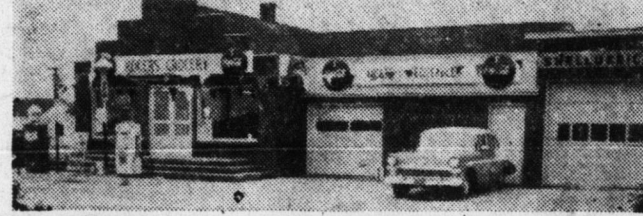
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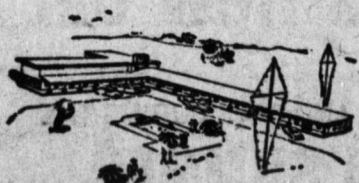
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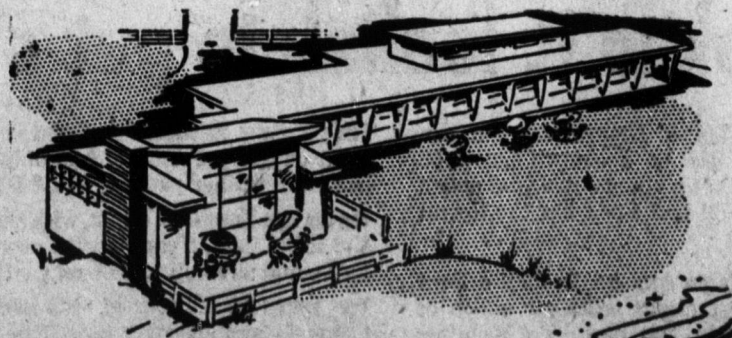
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RECORD POOR FOR SAFE BOATING IN FIFTH DISTRICT

July 4-6, the last three days of President Eisenhower's National Safe Boating Week proved to be the unsafest week end in Fifth Coast Guard District history. During that period, the District's Rescue Coordination Center handled 77 cases, a whopping increase of 24 over the previous week end record set in June, 1957, and 26 cases above the second high, June 27-29, 1958.

In analyzing the search and rescue efforts of the past week, Rear Admiral H. C. Moore, Commander of the Fifth Coast Guard District, reported that a majority of them were caused by the inexperience and imprudence of the increasingly large boating public.

The District Commander cited the following cases taken from last week end's official Coast Guard District Diary as examples: Case 42: 3:45 a.m. July 4—report received that a 14-foot boat was operating without lights in the mouth of Scott Creek in the Elizabeth River. 3:50 a.m.—Boat operating without lights located, boarded, and report of violation issued.

The danger of travelling without proper navigational lights at night is self-evident. Case 53: 4:22 p.m. July 4—Wilmington Coast Guard received report of 15-foot outboard capsized in Carolina Beach Inlet, directed 83-foot patrol boat to proceed to scene. 6:21 p.m.—Report received that the five occupants of the boat were picked up by another boat, and all were safely ashore. Boat salvaged by owner.

This would appear to be a case of over-loading, a frequent cause of disaster. Case 72: 00:53 a.m., July 5—Coast Guard Captain of Port, Baltimore, received report that a cabin cruiser had been overdue at Mill Creek since 5 p.m., the previous afternoon, dispatched two patrol boats to search for the vessel. 2 a.m.—Wife of one of party notified that boat and occupants had gone to Kent Island instead. 10:30 a.m.—Coast Guard informed of safety of the party, cancelled search.

In this instance, the Coast Guard expended fuel and manpower in a needless nine-hour search, because a fishing party delayed in notifying their families of a change in intention, and then the Coast Guard was not notified immediately when the family found out. Case 112: 9:55 p.m., July 6—Patrol boat diverted to search for cabin cruiser reported firing flares vicinity Hampton Flats. 10:45 p.m.—Located the cabin cruiser out of gas in quarantine anchorage. 11:40 p.m.—Cabin cruiser towed to and moored at Newport News small boat harbor.

Other boats at Lambert's Point, the Severn River, Baltimore Harbor, and Knitting Mill Creek also miscalculated fuel needs during the course of the week end and sought Coast Guard assistance.

Although there were no injuries or fatalities in these cases, three other cases resulted in four drownings last week end, and many others involved damage to boats. The summer was only two weeks old, and already the toll of death and destruction was mounting excessively.

CATFISH CORNER PERSONALS

Mrs. Andalusia Austin and Mrs. Hollie Hock Hopper have returned from a motor trip to Ocracoke.

Pettie Fogg Parker of Square Hill Creek spent Sunday here visiting Miss Osprella Owens.

Miss Bombay Bratten and Miss Madagascar Mann have returned from visiting friends in Cat Cove.

Tidewater Tucker and Miss Pinkie Perry have returned from a visit to Yaupon Village.

Miss Glissierine Gibbs and Miss Friskie Belle Forbes have returned from a week end at Pamlico Beach.

Miss Pearl Harbor Hooper of Wide Spot is visiting friends here.

Miss Shandy Leah Sawyer spent the week end in Gar Creek with Miss Hibernia Hill.

Miss Aurora Dawn Davis, is visiting Miss Bogota Bateman and Miss Oxalis Owens in Foggy Bottom.

Miss Mandalay Morris of Back Road is visiting Miss Horrie Mae Hopkins and Miss Tulip Toler of Vinegar Hill.

Riptide Rogers and Miss Snatchie Belle Snell are visiting Miss Wisteria Wise in Carp Creek.

Miss Ponderosa Perry has returned from visiting the former Miss Flitterbell Forbes, now Mrs. Bristolene Brinn of Gar Creek.

Miss Bushibelle Brinn of Gar Creek is visiting Miss Shallmar Shanon.

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