

THE COASTLAND TIMES

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

VOLUME XXIV — NO. 5

MANTEO, N. C., FRIDAY, AUGUST 1, 1958

Single Copy 7¢

PAYMENTS FOR TAX APPRAISAL JOB SUSPENDED

Commissioners Stop Payments to New Jersey Firm Until Further Notice

The Dare County Commissioners this week ordered that no payments be made to the New Jersey firm on the contract for appraising the property in Dare County this year. Their action followed a request from W. H. McCown, attorney for the Dare County Taxpayer's Association which is opposing the valuation on the ground that the job is inequitable, burdensome to the people and in short, outrageous.

The order of the Board failed to get entered on the minutes, but C. S. Meekins, County Accountant, said he got instruction verbally to not pay anything further on the \$11,500 alleged to be due under contract until further notice.

Previously, the firm, by applying to the officials, had collected \$10,500 for their work, most of it without having tendered any progress reports to the Board.

When some of the results of the appraisal had been made public, popular opinion became widespread that the job was ridiculously incompetent. The principals in the firm, Associated Surveys of Passaic, N. J. did not come to Dare County to do the work, but sent various employes who made a poor impression on those who met them.

When the county board sent notices of the results of the valuations these men had arrived at, a storm of protest arose.

Largely, due to this situation, the Board which was responsible was voted out in the May primary.

The Board has discovered for itself, as indicated by its action that there is doubt that further money under the contract has been earned. It is apparent that the public doesn't think so, and opinion generally is that the entire appraisal should have been discarded.

It is also apparent that the county has been put to many thousands of dollars in needless expense, and much further expense will be required before an equitable appraisal can be arrived at.

However, this is nothing new in small counties, where county boards without asking questions, often buy anything that is offered them. No investigation was made. See **PAYMENTS**, Page Six

BEACH TRIPS AND HISTORICAL TALKS AT NATIONAL SEASHORE

In improving their service to the public the National Park Service has started conducted trips on the beaches at Coquina Beach and Cape Hatteras. Both places are part of Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

The trips at Coquina Beach start from the shade structure each day of the week at 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Local school teachers serving as park ranger naturalists conducting these trips are: Cliff Wagstaff and Grady Gaskill of Wanchese and Bill Wilkerson of Kitty Hawk. They conduct interested park visitors on a walk along the beach, during which they explain the importance of the barrier dune, talk about life in the sea and on the beach, and point out historical features. Their manner is informal, and visitors are invited to ask questions and give any additional information they may have. Changes in hours and days for these trips may be necessary from time to time.

Two conducted activities are offered at Cape Hatteras. Beach trips similar to those at Coquina Beach are conducted by a park ranger naturalist at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, Wednesday, and Thursday, and at 2:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and the starting point is the Museum of the Sea near Cape Hatteras Lighthouse. Tommy Lewis of N. C. State College, Raleigh, is in charge of these trips. At 9:30 a.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday Park Historian Norman Delaney of Duke University gathers interested visitors on the porch at the Museum of the Sea to talk with them informally about the history of the Outer Banks. All of these activities are being well attended, and it is expected even greater interest will be shown in them as they become better known to the visiting public. Local residents are invited to participate in these tours with visitors from more distant places.

Another activity receiving better attendance as it becomes better known is the 20 minute recorded program illustrated with 140 colored slides of the National Seashore which is presented daily at 10, 11, 1, 2, and 3 o'clock at the Bodie Island Visitor Center a mile See **TRIPS**, Page Six

THREE PRINCIPALS IN CELEBRATION ON ROANOKE ISLAND THURSDAY



A. W. DRINKWATER, who was honorary Chairman of the Bruce Etheridge celebration, Sheriff Frank Cahoon the Chairman and treasurer and Representative R. Bruce Etheridge. — Photo by Aycock Brown.

MAN WITH OAR AND BIRTHDAY OF COAST GUARD

Unique Observance Planned at Hatteras Inlet Ferry Next Monday

After a decade of not seeing a man with an oar in his hand nor any note taken of the traditional observance of the U. S. Coast Guard's birthday, Hatteras Island will see something of both next Monday afternoon in the ferry slip at Hatteras Inlet when competing teams from the stations that make up Cape Hatteras Group will dip their oars and flex their inherited rowing muscles.

The notion began to simmer three weeks ago when Group Commander Melvin Midgett went over to the National Park Service Museum and saw there his great-grandfather's own account of one of the great feats of oarsmanship in the long history of this island. He is a descendant of the redoubtable Capt. Benjamin Dailey who led his crew to the rescue of the Ephraim Williams—and the first Congressional Medal for Life-saving ever awarded.

With all sorts of modern gadgets to facilitate rescue of distressed seamen the oar has receded into the background in these latter years but mention a rowing race and the pulse of the Islanders begins to beat a little faster and by the time of the race at 2 o'clock Monday afternoon it is not unlikely that the Island's population will be assembled. At the first announcement of the race the instant response of Eph and Cedric Midgett was "Well, we'll just shut up this store for once and go." The response is typical.

Group Commander Midgett has just recently assumed command of the group. He was born in Buxton but most of his life has been spent off the Island, largely in command of stations or Groups of stations on Long Island, and in New Jersey. Crews on short notice have begun their training, and competition for place is keen. The race will be rowed in skiffs, there be See **MIDGETT**, Page Seven

TWO NEW FERRY BOATS NOW BEING CONVERTED

National Park Service Obtains Two Vessels For Ferry Service at Cape Hatteras National Seashore

Superintendent Gibbs Cape Hatteras National Seashore, said today that two LCU vessels were received from the Navy for ferry service. These vessels will be turned over to the North Carolina Highway Commission. The Navy Department advised that these vessels were built at a cost of approximately \$350,000 each. The vessels are in excellent condition and were in service at the time of transfer. These two vessels make up a total of six that have now been turned over to the North Carolina State Highway Commission by the National Park Service for use at Oregon and Hatteras Inlets.

STATE TO BUILD A NEW BRIDGE COSTING \$159,719

A contract has been let by the State Highway Commission for a new bridge on Roanoke Sound, east of the long bridge, to cost \$159,719. The project is part of the super-highway being constructed between Whalebone and Kitty Hawk. The contractor is Kitchin Construction Co. of Kinston.

FOURTH GENERATION CAST MEMBER OF LOST COLONY IN MAKING



Two year old Hunt Thomas, shown here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Thomas and his grandmother, Mrs. Hazel Twyne, is a potential fourth generation member of The Lost Colony cast. His great-grandmother, Mrs. Dora Lee Willis was once a member of the costuming and wardrobe section of the drama; his grandmother as a cast member 17 years ago played the role of Margaret Lawrence, a colonist woman, and his mother, Marjalee Midgett Thomas, started in the drama as a flower girl and became the first native of Roanoke Island to be a member of the Lost Colony Chorus. She also doubles today, as Joyce Archard, one of the principal colonist women in the cast. Her husband, former USNR Lieutenant Harry Thomas is in charge of the lighting crew of The Lost Colony.

MANTEO FAMILY LONG IN LOST COLONY ROLES

Hunt Thomas, Two, May Be Fourth Generation Member To Join Drama's Cast

By JOHN PALMER
Could be there is a fourth generation company member in the fairly immediate offing for "The Lost Colony."

Tradition, at least, if it takes a part in the destiny of youthful Hunt Thomas, might well instill in him a love for the theatre in general, and for the dramatization of Sir Walter Raleigh's ill-fated colonization attempt in particular.

For Hunt's parents, Harry and Marjalee Thomas, have been identified, singly and jointly, with "The Lost Colony" virtually since its inception in 1937. What is more, his maternal great grandmother and his grandmother helped launch the production, following Pulitzer prizewinner Paul Green's completion of the script.

A year later, in 1938, Marjalee Midgett, now his mother and a native of Manteo, joined the cast as a flower girl.

But that first inauspicious part stirred an enduring interest, one that has brought her back to the See **THOMASES**, Page Twelve

TAX RATE STATIC SINCE 1955 AT KILL DEVIL HILLS

Town Officials Get No Pay For Service; Rate Stays at 25¢

There is one town in North Carolina where the tax rate has never increased. This is the town of Kill Devil Hills in Dare county where the tax rate set on July 25 in a special meeting of the town board remains at 25 cents on the \$100. The rate in its neighboring town of Manteo is nearly four times as great.

Mayor Thos. Cheers says one reason the rate is kept down is that the town officials receive no pay. Gratuitous services are rendered by the Mayor, the town Board, the members of the Zoning Board and of the Fire Department.

Kill Devil Hills has no bonded indebtedness and operates on the pay as you go plan. It anticipates no bonds in the foreseeable future. This despite the Governor's recent warning that North Carolinians should prepare themselves to pay more taxes next year.

Due to the recent county revaluation of property, the taxable property in the town has increased from \$3,620,493 in 1957 to \$4,825,945 in 1958. The town, under its new budget See **TAXES**, Page Six

DARE COUNTY NOT CONCERNED WITH ITS CIVIL DEFENSE

Little Interest Manifested Wednesday Night at Meeting in Courthouse

Few people attended, barely a dozen, in the Dare County courthouse Wednesday night to hear Civil Defense discussed by officials from Raleigh. Col. John A. Crawford, Chief Planning Staff Officer, N. C. Civil Defense and F. M. Culvern, Assistant, appeared in Manteo after having visited Hyde, Tyrrell, Chowan and other counties in the Northeast.

Plans for operating effectively were discussed, and Col. Crawford outlined various divisions of duties in event of enemy attack.

Sheriff Frank Cahoon opened the meeting. County Commissioners Hallett Perry and Lawrence Swain attended.

Sometime ago the County Board paid expenses of Major J. L. Murphy to Raleigh to attend a civil defense meeting. Major Murphy returned and advised an appropriation of \$6,000 to organize Dare County. This recommendation was overlooked in making up the new budget.

Col. Crawford explains that under existing custom, the counties See **DEFENSE**, Page Six

MANY PEOPLE OF DARE COUNTY 80 YEARS OLD PLUS

Special Invitation Extended All Octogenarians on July 31

KITTY HAWK, July 30 — On Thursday this week, when state officials and friends of the Coastland assemble at Fort Raleigh to celebrate the 80th birthday of R. Bruce Etheridge, this community of Kitty Hawk expects to have more delegates of the age of 80 or over, than any other community in Dare County.

In this neighborhood are eight remarkably active people, 80 years old or over who are planning to attend this celebration honoring Dare County's representative in the Legislature, former state official, banker, and holder of many county offices.

Ceremonies attended by most of the State officials and many legislators will be held at 11 a.m. followed by a picnic dinner, with Congressman Herbert Bonner master of ceremonies, and Edwin Gill and Lindsay Warren speakers.

Arrangements have been made to take all of Kitty Hawk's octogenarians to Fort Raleigh Thursday morning. The list is headed by Capt. W. A. Perry, who is past 95, yet is an active fisherman and boatman. The others are Mrs. Mary F. Best, Mrs. Mary E. Midgett, Mrs. Hildegrade Perry, Mrs. Mary Love Perry, Geo. W. O'Neal, W. I. Dowdy and Mrs. Doll Beacham.

Nags Head has only one resident See **OLD TIMERS**, Page Twelve

STATE OFFICIALS AND FRIENDS AT HOME PAY TRIBUTE TO ETHERIDGES

Career of County's Representative Lauded by Congressman Bonner, Lindsay Warren, State Treasurer Gill and Dr. Frank Graham; Sterling Silver Service Awarded at Picnic Dinner Thursday, at 80th Birthday Observance.

ROBERT H. ATKINSON, SUPT. ROOSEVELT AND VANDERBILT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES



ROBERT H. ATKINSON, for eight years, superintendent of Fort McHenry National Monument, Baltimore, Md., has been promoted to superintendent of the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site and Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site, Hyde Park, N. Y., the National Park Service reports. He will succeed James B. Myers, whose appointment as superintendent of Gettysburg National Military Park, Pennsylvania, was announced recently.

A native of Fremont, N. C., Atkinson started working for the National Park Service in 1940 as a guard at Wright Brothers National Memorial, Kill Devil Hill. In 1941, he was appointed superintendent of the then newly designated Fort Raleigh National Historic Site, also in North Carolina. He served as principal of the Manteo High School, and later as Dare County School Superintendent. He has an A. B. degree from Guilford College. During World War II he served with the U. S. Coast Guard. His wife is the former Roxie Etheridge of Manteo.

REV. J. C. BROOKS TO PREACH MANTEO BAPTIST CHURCH

The Rev. J. C. Brooks of Hamilton, pastor of the Hamilton Baptist Church, will take the morning and evening services at the Manteo Baptist church Sunday, August 3, in the absence of the Rev. W. E. Cholerton.

UNCLE DOCK FROM DUCK WRITES: Everything Moves Toward More Burdens And Worse Problems For the Man Who Pays Off

Dear Mr. Editor:

I take my pen in hand to write you again, as the saying goes. I am disturbed mightily these days. I can't understand why it is, when people get to handling other people's business and spending other people's money, they can be so reckless as most of our office holders seem to be these days.

Maybe I am wrong in my idea that these people are what we are told, "public servants." It is more like, "we are their servants. I had thought for years that when we employ a man his first concern was to look out for our interests.

But on the other hand, something seems to set them afire the other way. We may excuse some of course on the ground that so many of our office holders never could make a living, until they managed to get on the public payroll. Some of them got there through the influence of relatives who in this manner avoided having to support them. Others got there by appealing directly to the sympathy of the people, and let me say Mr. Editor, that is nearest no excuse imaginable, electing somebody who ain't fit, to an office at the expense of the people, just because of feeling sorry for him.

As we have now seen, it is the mostly costly help in the world, when we turn over large affairs, to a man who isn't smart enough to make nearly so much on the outside as the taxpayers give him.

It goes all the way to the top. Just a day or two ago, the Governor says, look out for more taxes next year. Well that is just what we have been looking out

for every year for a long time. I can't get it out of my head that our office holders should be looking for ways to save us some money, instead of ways to put on more employes and spend more all the time.

And here's another thing that doesn't appeal to me. The Governor says maybe we should have twice as many senators—100, one for every county, and then turn around and give more representatives to the big counties, so about six or seven counties would be in complete control of the state. Now if there ever was a case where the poor gets taken from them "even what they have," this looks like it to me.

The heart and soul of North Carolina is its small and poor counties where people are closer together. You don't find the heart and conscience of the state in the big industrial centers with its gigantic power of capital, and its ruthless domineering by labor racketeers of all sorts. It would be a sad day indeed for North Carolina when we put our state into the complete control of such influences. Right now, a refugee driven out of Germany, enabled to make millions in North Carolina, is begging to go to Congress and brags about spending \$40,000 in the primary to buy his way in. If he admits spending \$40,000, how much you reckon he actually did spend. I don't want our state represented by no such foreigners as this guy, and no other country in the world would let men like this think about it.

Well, Mr. Editor, all the fools and rascals are not in county of See **DOCK**, Page Six

Had July 31, 1878 been as hot a day as Thursday of this week, it is doubtful that Hon. R. Bruce Etheridge would have survived to be honored on his 80th birthday as was done at Fort Raleigh with high tribute paid him by prominent state officials, and others. A program of more than an hour in the Fort Raleigh Theatre closed with the presentation of a sterling silver service to Mr. and Mrs. Etheridge, the gift of many friends in Dare County and several elsewhere.

Despite the sweltering heat a goodly number of friends from the county came, including some 17 people 80 years or older, and many friends from other counties. The meeting was opened by Sheriff Frank Cahoon, who has headed up the celebration committee and carried the event through to a successful conclusion.

Following the opening prayer by Rev. W. E. Cholerton, Manteo Baptist minister, Supt. Bob Gibbs of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore welcomed the visitors to the Fort Raleigh Historic Shrine, and read a letter from Director Conrad Wirth of the National Park Service, and from Regional Director Elbert Cox.

Sheriff Cahoon presented the following list of persons over eighty who had braved the heat to pay tribute to Mr. and Mrs. Etheridge. These included W. F. Baum, O. J. Jones, Mrs. Eliza Twyne, Mrs. Sallie Midgett, A. C. Mann, Mrs. Lillie Swindell, all of Manteo; Mrs. Sallie Anne Austin, 93, W. C. Saunders, Bart. Garrison, Brinkley Gray, all of Wanchese; M. L. Twiford of Norfolk, an East Lake native; N. F. Jennett, J. A. Gray and Martin Tolson of Buxton. Mrs. Hildegrade Perry, Capt. W. A. Perry, 97, Mrs. Mary Best, all of Kitty Hawk. Capt. Perry was accompanied by his wife who is 73.

Congressman Herbert Bonner was then recognized as Master of Ceremonies who read from many letters of regret sent by prominent people unable to attend. Hon. Lindsay Warren was then presented, and he paid high tribute to the career and the worth of Mr. and Mrs. Etheridge. He gave Mr. Etheridge great credit for the wonderful progress of Dare County through the years, and ranked along with him in worth to the county in making it better known and winning for it friends, three others, A. W. Drinkwater, the late Bradford Pearing and Victor Meekins. These four, he said, had done most for Dare.

Mr. Bonner called on Former U. S. Senator Dr. Frank P. Graham who came to the front and paid tribute to the work of Mr. Etheridge. Elsewhere is printed the poem by Dr. Graham on this occasion.

State Treasurer Edwin Gill of Raleigh made a masterful address in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Etheridge, and told of numerous instances of the worth of Mr. Etheridge to Dare County and the state during his long career as a public official.

A handsome sterling silver service was then presented to Mr. and Mrs. Etheridge. Sheriff Cahoon gave Mrs. Etheridge a spray of red roses, and after the benediction by Dr. John D. Messick, President of East Carolina College, the visitors repaired to a picnic dinner on Fort Raleigh grounds.

A partial list of prominent citizens and officials attending ceremony See **ETHERIDGE**, Page Six

CONGRESSIONAL PARTY ON RODANTHE WEEK END

Guests of Herbert C. Bonner, Congressman spending the week end at Rodanthe at Mirlo Beach Lodge, and fishing at Oregon Inlet with Charlie Perry of Kitty Hawk are Congressman Hugh Alexander of North Carolina; Congressman Thor Tollefson of Oregon; Noah Brinson, Ira Ewers and Tom Bartie of Washington, D. C. They arrived at the Manteo Airport Thursday morning.

DARE COUNTY MEN ATTEND FIREMEN'S CONVENTION

Lumberton. — Raymond Wescott from Manteo fire department and William E. Twiford from Kill Devil Hills fire department are attending the 71st annual State Firemen's convention here. More than 1,200 are expected to attend.