

**THE COASTLAND TIMES**

Published Continuously at Manteo, N. C., Since July 4, 1935

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

Entered as Second Class Matter at the Postoffice in Manteo, N. C. Subscription Rates: Yearly \$3.00; Six Months, \$1.75; 3 Months, \$1.00

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY BY TIMES PRINTING CO., INC. AT 505 LODGE STREET, MANTEO, NORTH CAROLINA

VICTOR MEEKINS EDITOR  
CATHERINE D. MEEKINS SECRETARY-TREASURER  
FRANCIS W. MEEKINS ADVERTISING MANAGER

VOL. XXIV MANTEO, N. C., FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 1958 NO. 7

**THE PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO KNOW**

The law gives to all citizens the right to know about their county affairs. They employ public servants to do their work and have a right to expect all such employees to render prompt and detailed information about any and all things that concern the conduct of the people's business and the management of their money.

Yet it is a most amazing circumstance in this enlightened age, to find in some counties officials who are so little informed, so unconcerned about their jobs and their duty as to think they have a right to withhold such information from the people. There are still people holding office who say the people are not capable of understanding such information when they get it.

The trouble people don't understand about their public affairs is that officials don't follow a consistent practice of keeping the public periodically informed about all that goes on. While it is their duty to do so, they refuse to do for various reasons of their own. It is time that people demand more and more a regular accounting of their affairs. When officials withhold information the people have a right to know, the situation is always well worth watching, for out of such conditions have grown many scandals among "public servants," which have brought untold hardship and suffering in many counties of this state.

**AN UNHEALTHY INTEREST IN POLITICS**

The conditions which surround financial contributions to political campaigns are not what they ought to be. Recently published figures indicate that all the money comes from only about two per cent of the voters. Of a half million dollars given during a recent campaign, and principally to the Republican party, only six families participated. In the Democratic campaign, the Reynolds family of North Carolina, and the Kennedy family of Massachusetts gave close to \$80,000.

With the affairs of this country in the hands of 800,000 (close to one million) elected office holders, it is not a healthy situation when only two per cent of the people are doing all the financing of their campaigns. It is a situation to arouse the patriotic interest of all well-informed people who at heart have the welfare of their country, and their own well-being as well.

**POST OFFICE EFFICIENCY UNDER FIRE.**

For quite a long while now, there has been mounting complaint across the nation at lack of efficiency in the post office department. That criticism is now being doubled, now that postage rates have been sharply increased. With postal workers having just been treated to a raise on top of a heavy deficit in the department, they will do well to look to their affairs, for there is such a thing as the business being re-revolutionized and put out on private bids, and then indeed would vanish many fine jobs which are spread out to benefit every community.

Typical of much of the criticism seen daily in the public press is the following comment from a recent issue of the State Magazine in Raleigh:

"It takes first-class mail around 30 hours to go from Raleigh to Southport, a distance we cover in 3 hours in a car. Nobody expects mail to travel as fast as a passenger car, but this is a ridiculous pace.

"Unfortunately, it is merely a sample. Two and three days often are required to get a letter from Raleigh to Asheville, whereas a letter to New York—twice as far—requires only overnight travel.

"It is a strange thing, but increases in postal appropriations, salaries and rates have been accompanied by a steady deterioration in service, morale and attitude toward the public. We believe every large user of mail will testify to this. It has been a long, long time since we heard anyone brag on the post office, which used to be the pride of this country.

"We hope the latest rate and salary increases will not be accompanied by further deterioration in service and disposition."

**ON SPURNING THE GIFT OF A PIANO.**

There is something in the story of the little girl in Catfish Corner, and the piano that was offered by a well-meaning neighbor to aid her in her ambition to learn music. It reminds us a great deal of the spirit that sometimes meets generous gifts to the people of the coastland.

In this case the piano had to be taken back to the donor, because no one was sufficiently interested to help take it in the house, and the parents of the little girl got into a bitter dispute as to which room should contain the piano. In the end, the needy little girl was the loser.

How many times have we seen this same thing paralleled in our own coastland.

**MIDDLETOWN PERSONALS**

Mr. and Mrs. Claude D. Davis, Elaine, David and Mrs. Mattie Davis of Asheville are visiting here.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Carawan visited Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Burrus Jr. and Mr. and Mrs. Emmitt Carawan Sunday at Swan Quarter.

Mr. and Mrs. Osman Cox Jr. of New Bern and daughter, Alta Jean Cox, of Kinston, are visiting Mr. and Mrs. Osman Cox Sr. and Mr. and Mrs. Burnell Gibbs.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Thomas Carter, Vann and Sallie Marie, were the week end guests of the Carters and Spencers.

Mrs. Eugenia Marshall and Mrs. Tom Sanderson visited Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Burrus and R. E. Carter.

Mr. and Mrs. Tommie Spencer visited Mr. and Mrs. Reggie Spencer and Tommie in Norfolk recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Cox, Richard and Redin, spent the week end at Washington with Mr. and Mrs. Jessie Rawls and Jessie, Jr. They also visited Mr. and Mrs. Jack Oeborn and Mrs. Lillie Cox in Edenton Sunday.

**DOCKET**

(Continued from Page One)

each were paid by Vernon E. Davis of Moorestown, N. J.; Ralph Barriolo of Caldwell, N. J.; Charles C. Dewey, Memphis, Tenn. Fines of \$11 each and costs were paid by Harvey McClaude of Swan Quarter; John H. Bully, Warwick, Va.; and Carrow W. Jordan, Whaleyville, Va. Fines of \$17 each were paid by C. Cooker Jr., Murfreesboro, N. C.; Howard J. Cooke, Hampton, Va.; and H. M. Thrasher Jr. of South Norfolk; \$13 fines were paid by John M. C. Walsh, Norfolk; Chas. R. Hassell, Va. Beach; Thos. C. Whitaker, Waynesboro, Va.; \$12 fines were paid by Jas. B. Winstead, Norfolk; John B. Turner, Pine Island, Rue, N. Y.; Jas. L. Turner, Martinsville, Va.; Worth B. Elkins, Clarkton, N. C.; Norman June Hatcher, Elizabeth City; T. J. Howett, Suffolk; and Edwin B. Robertson, Richmond.

The Marine Corps reached a maximum strength of 75,101 during World War I. World War II peak strength, reached Aug. 31, 1945, was 485,113.

**RECALLS ANECDOTES OF NOTED CAROLINA JUDGES**

Judge Ike Meekins Ran His Court Until Water From Home Gave Out

(From the Mooresville Tribune) New Bern attorneys complained about the way Federal Judge I. M. Meekins of Elizabeth City ran his court by a water bottle. The judge didn't like the New Bern water and always brought a five-gallon demijohn of water from home. When his water gave out, he adjourned the term.

Judge Meekins always visited his brother in Washington, N. C., several days at the end of New Bern court. One term, however, had run into Thursday and it looked as if the visit was impossible. That is, to court observers. They couldn't see how a case being tried could be finished. But Attorney Will Dunn bet Lawyer R. E. Whitehurst he would be non-suited before 3 o'clock.

Whitehurst called the bet because, he said, "There is not a bit of law or evidence on which he can do it."

At 2:30 Judge Meekins interrupted the trial. "Mr. Clerk, enter a verdict of non-suit against the plaintiff. Mr. Marshall, adjourn this term of court."

Attorney Dunn explained how he came to be prophetic: "I overheard the judge ask the clerk to find out what time the last bus left for Washington so he could get there in time for supper, and the clerk told him 3 o'clock. So I knew he was going to be on that bus."

**Stories of Other Judges**  
Judge Frank Armstrong of Troy, resident judge for this district, has served notice that he wants a better atmosphere for dispensing justice.

He has ordered there shall be no reading, talking, or babies permitted in his court.

That's the word we get from press carrying some of the Judge's recent remarks.

Judge Armstrong is one of our favorite pillars of the law. We don't always agree with some of his ideas about things, but there's no impugning his sincerity or his motives.

And so, when he says he wants peace and quietude around the halls of justice, we know he wants just that.

It is nothing new in North Carolina courts for a Judge to impose his personal opinions on the court. When Judge Romulus Saunders tried a rape case in Harnett county, he opened his charge to the jury thusly:

"Gentlemen of the jury, female virtue is as lovely in the cottage as in the hall. I tried a case of this sort in Rockingham county, and the jury convicted the defendant,—convicted the defendant, gentlemen! Now, it will be for you to say whether female virtue is as highly prized in Harnett county as it is in Rockingham county."

Governor T. W. Bickett told of the justice of the peace who lived on a farm, and his fence was right on the North and South Carolina line. One day his son and the hired man got in a fight. The old justice mounted the fence and in his duty called out, "In the name of the State of North Carolina I command the peace." The fighters didn't stop, and the hired man seemed to be getting the best of the boy. The old man jumped from the fence into the State of South Carolina and shouted, "Give him hell, Jim. I've lost my jurisdiction."

Judge David F. Caldwell once fined a defendant, who had appeared without a lawyer, the odd sum of \$10.05, saying, "He ought to have paid a lawyer \$10 to appear for him, and I should have fined him only 5¢. As he would not employ a lawyer, I was determined he should not profit by his failure to do so."

Judge Mike Justice was trying a case in which Col. Martin Kelly of Richmond county was appearing as an attorney. The colonel's first wife had died and left him 12 children and he had married a widow with six of her own. He asked that his cases be continued because the 19th child had just arrived at his house, and he wanted to go home. "Well," said Judge Justice, "I think he ought to be kept away from home!"

There was a Judge Cloud of Asheville who also gave advance notice of his holding court. He sent word to Yanceyville that he would "be there next week and am hungry for bear meat. Bear hunters of Yancey will please take notice."

And in the new Buncombe Court-house he said, "There's a cowbell over on Turkey Creek mountain in Ashe county that'll ring a durned sight louder than the new fangled one just tied up in the new court-house." The bell was changed. In Union county, however, the Monroe Enquirer had the last word about Judge W. L. Norwood who was too drunk to hold the January term of 1897. "Our people prefer the old fashioned way of opening court rather than his way of opening it with a corkscrew," said the Enquirer. In February it complimented him: "His honor, Judge Norwood, is conducting court this week in a manner entirely satisfactory to our people. He has been sober all week."

**NO FUNDS IN HYDE CASE UNTIL ADVICE IS GIVEN LEGALLY**

State Board Will Not Be Caught Issuing \$19,000 Illegally Again

RALEIGH—After having been stung to the tune of \$19,000 of state money illegally issued and disbursed on the construction of a school in Hyde County, the State Board of Education has taken a formal step to not be caught again. The board decided it would consult with the State attorney general in the future before it makes any funds available for the school.

It did so after hearing a spirited plea from Attorney John Wilkinson of Washington, N. C., asking that the "status quo" be maintained pending the outcome of litigation that grew out of the case.

Construction of the new school to replace present schools at Engelhard and Swan Quarter has been halted by a restraining order: Four school officials, including two members of the State board's staff, were ordered into court in June to show why they shouldn't be held in contempt of the order after \$19,000 was made available for the job.

Meanwhile, Earl Topping of western Hyde County last week appealed to the State Supreme Court from another order by Judge Paul allowing the Hyde Board of Education to let the contract for the job.

Topping's suit contends the contract was let illegally because the Hyde board had not obtained title to the entire 15 acres in the new school site at the intersection of Lake Road and US 264.

The board has purchased three of the 15 acres and is seeking the other 12 by condemnation.

Judge Moore halted the construction because the entire 15 acres had not been obtained.

"We're tangled up in a legal snarl," Wilkinson told the board, and school officials "might find that the contract has been let illegally."

Wilkinson, who represents Engelhard school patrons, said the merger "leaves unsolved some very considerable problems." He said plans for the \$175,000 plant do not include funds for an assembly room or gymnasium and additional funds presumably would have to be raised locally.

"It's a hard fact of life," said Wilkinson, that Hyde people aren't of a mind to raise funds for the school.

Wilkinson said the "crowning thing" in the whole case was using \$40,000 requested for the Negro school at Engelhard for the consolidated white school.

"Thurgood Marshall himself couldn't have set up a better situation," Wilkinson said. He said this action "opens the door" for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to make an integration move in Hyde. Marshall is chief counsel for the NAACP.

Wilkinson said Hyde County is "too big geographically" for the consolidated school and it is "an escapable conclusion" that school bus operations to and from the school will work a hardship on some students.

He said every school in Hyde County "needs some money spent on it."

**FURTHER HEARING ON SCHOOL LAND IN HYDE AUG. 22**

Attorneys for Manns To Be Heard By Hyde Board of Education

A hearing has been scheduled in Swan Quarter as a result of a court ruling last week by Judge Malcolm Paul, so that attorneys for Carroll and Eugene Mann may present arguments against the condemnation of a tract of land for school purposes at the price set by a board of appraisers recently appointed.

LeRoy Scott of Washington who is attorney for the Manns appealed to Judge Paul, alleging that the Hyde County group had refused to give him a hearing to present arguments in behalf of his clients, and they went ahead the next day and made their report.

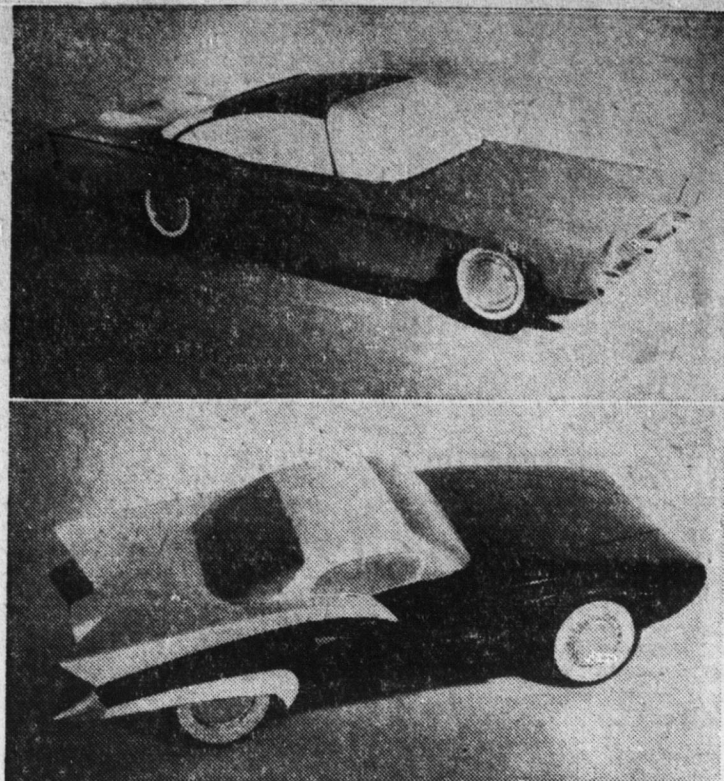
Judge Paul heard the case Friday of last week and ruled they were in error.

The hearing at Swan Quarter whereby Mr. Scott is to present his argument is to be held Friday, August 22.

Mr. Scott has been active in representing several interests in the much famed Hyde County school controversy which began out of the vigorous action taken by two members of the Board of Education to abolish the Engelhard school, whose patrons claim it to be the largest in the county. Patrons of the school have spent many thousands of dollars in an attempt to save their school, and a large amount of taxpayers money has been spent, the total of which has not been made public. The Engelhard patrons pay their share of this tax money too.

It was Mr. Scott who appealed from a former ruling of Judge Paul dismissing an action brought

**STATE BOYS WIN AWARDS**



**NORTH CAROLINA WINNERS** in the 1958 Fisher Body Craftsman's Guild model car competition designed and built these miniature dream cars. They won \$150 in cash for their efforts. Upper car was built by Jerry M. Cebe, Durham. Lower car was created by William C. Wisely, Goldsboro.

by Earl Topping to restrain the letting of any contract for the building of a central school until the full amount of land needed had been acquired by the county.

After contract had been let, and a restraining order issued by Judge Clifton Moore against paying out any money on such contract; and following the obtaining of some \$19,000 by Supt. Tommy Gaylord, in violation of this order, Mr. Scott reinstated his suit, and got it before the Supreme Court. The money has been paid out, however.

Meantime, work is stopped on the building, apparently for a long time, for in the ordinary course of events the case may not be expected to get before the court until late in October or later.

It was Mr. Scott's representation that had the Board of Education been businesslike, open and aboveboard all the way along, the entire controversy might have been settled. It is the widely expressed belief, that had the board begun its program in a businesslike way some two years ago; had it taken the people in their confidence, and not have kept any of it in the dark, the controversy so costly to everyone, wouldn't have come up.

**SHRIMP FISHING HASN'T SHOWN ANY PROFIT YET**

Belhaven.—These are tense days for men who make their living at shrimping. A slight increase in the run of shrimp in the last few days has brought hope to the shrimpers; but now they can only wait to see if it is a false hope. Some individual boat owners have already given up in this area and left for more southern ports; but C. R. Potter, owner of the Belhaven Fish and Oyster Company has kept his fleet boats at home in hope of an improvement in the situation. If the weather continues as calm as it has been in the early part of the week, little hope is seen right away, as shrimp are taken in rougher waters.

The general theory among experienced shrimpers is that the extremely cold weather of last winter killed the first run of shrimp. Heretofore however the latest date on which the shrimp started running was July 27th. There is a theory that the illusive little creatures really come from the ocean into inland streams. If they start running soon that theory will be proved. Shrimpers who depend for a living upon the



**WANTS TO KNOW WHY TAXES AREN'T COLLECTED**

To the Editor: What in Heaven's name is wrong in Dare County? What ails its people? I notice that something like 700 names are advertised for non-payment of the 1957 taxes. Don't you have anyone in Dare County who will collect the taxes?

I have been told that some of the county officers don't pay their taxes, and some of those even who set themselves up as qualified to value other people's property and say how much all of us should pay are themselves advertised for their taxes. In this list I notice numerous other people drawing salaries from Dare County. Why don't your officials take their taxes out of their salaries? How can you continue to give taxes I pay, to people who won't pay their own taxes?

Going further into the list, will be found the names of many men drawing salaries from the Government, all coming from taxes of course. Isn't there any shame in the people of Dare County? Do you pay people to just sit around in the courthouse, draw their pay without doing anything for it? How about all these big, prominent people who permit themselves to be advertised for not paying? Let's hope something will be done soon about a situation that keeps on milking so many people who are willing to pay, and allows anybody who doesn't want to, to keep his taxes in his pocket.

Leave my name out if you publish this, for fear they will raise my taxes again.

DISSATISFIED  
Nags Head, N. C.  
August 13, 1958.

whims of the creatures are not much interested in theory—what they want to see is shrimp and to date the largest hauls have been one or two hundred pounds.

The scarcity of shrimp in season is a serious threat to the economy of this section and could mean a lean winter for many individuals as well as for the seafood dealers.



**Loaded for trouble?**

To the youngsters, a drive with the gang is great fun. But driving is serious business, too. Last year, nearly 40,000 people died in traffic accidents —many of them killed by drivers whose minds weren't wholly on their job. So stay alert every minute when you drive. Keep driving fun—and safe!

**Help stop senseless killing on our highways. Drive safely yourself. Insist on strict law enforcement for your own protection. Work actively with others to support your local Safety Council. Remember—where traffic laws are strictly enforced, deaths go down.**



Published in an effort to save lives, in cooperation with The National Safety Council and The Advertising Council, by