

# THE COASTLAND TIMES

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## WHOPPING BASS CAUGHT IN NETS ON HATTERAS ID.

Rockfish Running Up to 70 to 80 Pounds Net Boat Crew \$1,000 in A Day

AVON—Giant strippers, the largest a 74 pounder were landed from the surf between this Outer Banks community and Buxton on Monday. They were caught in haul nets by a crew of Hatteras village commercial fishermen who call the species "rock." There was one report of an 82-pounder up the beach.

"In all, they caught 227 of the big fish and their total weight was 9,200 pounds," said Lee Robinson, a Hatteras merchant who gave a report on the catch. "The average weight per fish was more than 40 pounds each."

The crew sharing in the catch included: Bill Foster, Roy Gray, Dennis Robinson, Oliver O'Neal and Eph O'Neal. They sold their catch to Dan Oden & Sons, Hatteras fish buyers, and received 10 cents per pound for their fish or a total of almost \$1,000 for the day's work on Monday.

The catch came as a surprise to many commercial fishermen who last week were expressing the opinion that the big striped bass which have been plentiful in the surf this winter had migrated to other waters. Some commercial fishermen believe it will not be long before striped bass will be classed as game fish and not allowed to be caught in nets on a commercial scale.

Several anglers have tried to catch the big fish with rod and reel during the current winter but without success. The species just don't seem to be interested in any bait or lure cast in their direction. Next week on March 7, Hal Lyman, publisher of Salt Water Sportsman Magazine is expected at Cape Hatteras to pit his striped bass fishing skill against the species. In the meantime, local folks are saying that the 74 pounder, largest of the lot taken on Monday may be the biggest striped bass taken anywhere in recent years — even though it was taken in the net of a commercial fisherman.

## EARL BAGGS ENJOYS A RISE WITH HI-WAY DEPT.

RALEIGH—Earl H. Baggs of Ahoskie on Jan. 1, was named new Assistant Division Engineer in the First Highway Division, replacing J. J. Gilbert.

Mr. Baggs, was born in Camilla, Georgia. He attended Hillsborough High School in Tampa, Fla., was elected to membership in the National Honor Society. From 1942 to 1943 he studied engineering and surveying while at the Marine Corps School at Camp Lejeune. In following his work, the Baggs family lived for long periods on Hatteras Island and in Manteo.

Before coming to work with the Highway Commission in 1947, Baggs worked with the Florida State Road Department. During his tenure in service, he was Chief Surveyor for the 20th Marines.

Baggs began work with the North Carolina State Highway Commission in April of 1947 as an Instrument man in Division One. In August, 1947 he became Junior Resident Engineer, and in October of 1948 he was promoted to Senior Resident Engineer. Until his promotion to Assistant Division Engineer, Baggs served as Highway Engineer IV in Division One. Mr. Baggs was on the job when the Hatteras Island road was built and when Croatan Sound was bridged.

On November 15, 1936 in Tampa, Florida, Baggs married the former Sarah Kathryn McLeod. They have an 18-year old ward, James H. McLeod, they make their home at 802 W. Main Street in Ahoskie, and hold membership in the Missionary Baptist Church there, where Baggs serves as a Deacon.

## SPORTSFISHERMEN GETTING RESULTS OFF HATTERAS

HATTERAS—William Harding and party of Norfolk trolling in the Gulf Stream off Cape Hatteras on the week end boated 12 small bluefin tuna and two false albacore. They were enjoying winter fishing which has been introduced here for the first time this year. In January the first catch of tuna was made and since that time scores of the baby bluefins, oceanic bonita, blackfins and false albacore have been boated. One group raised three mako to bait but failed to land same. . . . In the meantime, channel bass are beginning to show in Hatteras waters with four being caught in nets during the past week. Favorable weather should make channel bass available to anglers during late March.

## EIGHT ACHIEVEMENTS BY LOCAL BOY IN 8 DAYS



On Jan. 25, 1959, at Fort Meyer, Virginia, Herbert M. Collins, son of Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Collins of Manteo, as a member of Coast Guard Headquarters Pistol Team, won the following awards in the Virginia State .22-caliber Pistol Match: 1st place Sharpshooter Slow Fire, 1st place Sharpshooter National Match Course and 1st place Sharpshooter Aggregate. Collins, then a Chief Boatswain's mate proceeded to Norfolk, Virginia as the sole Coast Guardsman competing in the Fifth Naval District Gallery Pistol Match. There he won 1st place in .22-caliber National Match Course, 1st place in .45-caliber Timed Fire Match, 2nd place in .22-caliber Rapid Fire and 2nd place in .45-caliber Rapid Fire.

On February 1 Collins, who is Officer-in-Charge of the Tug at the U. S. Coast Guard Yard in Curtis Bay, Maryland, was promoted to Warrant Officer (Boatswain, W-1). Captain V. E. Day, commanding officer of the Yard, administered the oath of office on February 2. He has been in the Coast Guard since February, 1939, and makes his home in Washington, D. C. He has seen duty in Alaskan and Hawaiian waters, and is the holder of the National Defense Service Medal, American Area Campaign Medal, Small Arms Medal and Coast Guard Good Conduct Medal.

He is now pending transfer to the Coast Guard cutter Tamaroa, home port of which is Staten Island, New York, which will join in March.

## FORMER MANTEO MINISTER WRITES FOR "UPPER ROOM"

Eleven million people on April 23 may read the "Upper Room," publication of the Methodist Church which will contain a meditation written by Rev. D. W. Charlton, formerly pastor of the Manteo Methodist Church and now of Enfield, N. C. The Upper Room, a devotional guide under the editorship of Dr. J. Manning Potts, who is a close relative of Mrs. Raymond Wescott of Manteo has world circulation of more than three million copies. It is published in 27 editions including 30 languages, Braille and talking book.

Mr. Charlton based his meditation on 1 Corinthians 13:11 "When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became a man, I gave up childish ways." He says in part: "When others act cruelly and selfishly against us, many of us strike back with a kind of childish spirit behind our actions. We would be happier and human relations would be better if we could grow up spiritually—be slow to wrath, and return good for evil." The meditation is concluded with a prayer and a thought for the day.

Because of the wide readership and popularity of The Upper Room, it is considered a high honor to have a meditation selected and published in the world's most widely used devotional guide. Dr. Potts, the editor, points out that each meditation appears not only in English but each of some 30 other language editions.

## AN IMPORTANT MEETING FOR OYSTERMEN MONDAY

An important meeting for oystermen is to be held Monday, March 2 at 8 p.m. in the Hyde County courthouse at Swan Quarter. This meeting will have to do with the oyster planting program now being undertaken in North Carolina waters. Supervisor Hopkins of the State Department of Conservation and Development visited Hyde and Dare on Monday of this week to discuss plans for this program.

## HEART SUNDAY IS TO BE ON MARCH 1 IN DARE COUNTY

Drive Headed By Mrs. Gordon Kellogg; Community Chairmen Appointed

Heart Sunday, March 1, will see the 1959 Heart Fund campaign get underway in Dare County. Funds raised in this drive will be used primarily for research to conquer the Number One killer in the nation, the state and the county. Statistics for 1957 show that 57.2 per cent of all deaths in Dare County—36 out of a total of 61—were from heart and blood vessel diseases.

The N. C. Heart Association and the American Heart Association at the medical research centers in North Carolina, these being at last year spent more than \$143,000 Duke, UNC and Bowman-Gray.

Mrs. Gordon Kellogg, of Manteo, is county chairman and Woody Fearing of Manteo is treasurer. Community chairmen are as follows: Manteo, Mrs. Gus Etheridge; Wanchese, Mrs. Marge Gallop and Mrs. Chesley Midgett, Sr.; Avon, Fred Gray; Rodanthe, Miss Mildred Midgett; Salvo, Mrs. Melvina Whidbee; Waves, Mrs. Mattie Midgett; Buxton, Mrs. John Williams; Frisco, Mrs. Maggie Austin; Hatteras, Mrs. Scottie Gibson; Manns Harbor, Mrs. Guy Mann; Stumpy Point, Rev. G. M. Kelley; Nags Head, south to Oregon Inlet, George Crocker; Kill Devil Hills, Kitty Hawk and north to Currituck Bridge, Mrs. Robert Young; Manteo Colored, Miss Mattie Simmons, Miss Earline Simmons, Mrs. Agatha Gray and Mrs. Quimilla Scarborough.

If anyone wishes to make a donation direct, this can be done by mailing to treasurer Woody Fearing in Manteo.

## FERRY BOAT ASHORE RULED OUT THE GAME

Disappointment Prevailed Saturday As Students Remain Afloat Sand Bar in Oregon Inlet

Some disappointment prevailed Saturday when a group of students bound from Manteo for Cape Hatteras for a basketball game, spent several hours on the stranded ferry boat Herbert C. Bonner at Oregon Inlet. Finally, about noon the boat got free and returned to the dock on the northside, it being too late to hope to go to Buxton. Due to the low tides, the boats can now operate only on high water.

The party consisted of eighth graders and cheer leaders. A part of the group had already gone across on an earlier boat and they made the trip down the beach. This number included Mrs. Ina Long, Claudia Long, Sarah Tillet, Bonnie, Anne and LaVerne Davis; Mr. and Mrs. Linwood Mayo, Paul Mayo, Eddie Hooper, Allen Old and Bennie O'Neal.

But the larger part of the group, who were obliged to return, were Clarence Butler, Mrs. Merle Meekins, Patsy Meekins, Milly Burrus, Lovie Lee and Betty Dee Ward, Martha Bonner, Roy King, Elizabeth Earle Diane Saunders, Juanita Midgett, Susan Basnight, Mary Chrales White, Susan Washburn, Linda King, Mrs. Nancy Beals, Jan Oneto Charles Evans, Robert Midgett and Dan Leary.

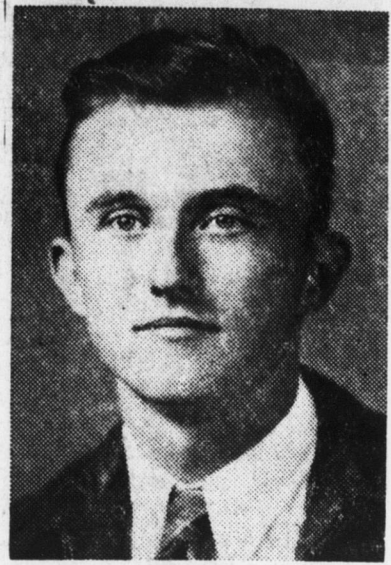
## NORFOLK SINGERS PUT ON EVENING'S ENTERTAINMENT

The William and Mary Opera Workshop, group of Norfolk, Va., appeared in concert Monday night in the Manteo high school. The program was highly enjoyable, but was attended by a pitifully small audience. Other attractions in town seemed to outweigh the artistic and cultural aspects of this fine performance. However, those who did attend gave a warm response to the singers, who expressed a desire to make a return engagement at some future date.

The evening's entertainment consisted of three arias from Verdi's "La Traviata," sung by Athena Bassil, soprano; Henry Bernick, tenor; and Robert Randolph, baritone. This was followed by two songs from a new light American opera "Pepito's Golden Flower," sung by Betty Shifferly. Two solos followed. They were "A Heart That's Free," sung by Athena Bassil and "Poor Pierrrot" by Jerome Kern, sung by Betty Shifferly. For the final group Dorothy Linzey and Robert Randolph sang "If I Loved You" from "Carousel" and the ensemble sang "You'll Never Walk Alone," also from "Carousel."

Director Harold Hawn explained the background and settings of these numbers. Accompanists were Dorothy Linzey and John Halvorsen.

## SPENCER GETS TITLE OF BEST N. C. FARM EDITOR



THOS. E. SPENCER, Engelhard man who moved up in the newspaper world after getting his start on the Hyde County Herald, and is now on the editorial staff of the Washington Daily News has recently received an unusual honor, having been named top editor of farm news in the state. He headed a list of six N. C. Farm editors receiving distinguished service awards for farm reporting in 1958 at the Farm Press, Radio and Television Institute held in Raleigh last week. Mr. Spencer's recognition is well-earned and is received with delight by his many friends in the area. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Spencer of Engelhard.

## DARE COUNTY SCHOOLS JAN. ATTENDANCE 1,212

Over 60 Per Cent Attend Roanoke Island Schools, Including 72 Negro Students; Hatteras Attendance 331

Examination of school attendance records in Dare County for the month of January reveals 1,212 children averaged getting the benefits of education in the five schools of the county. One would think in a county with more than 6,000 inhabitants there would be more than 1,212 children in school, enjoying the advantages of an investment of three quarters of a million in buildings, and annual operating costs of some \$250 per year per pupil.

About two fifths of the pupils attend the new, modern school on Hatteras Island. The January attendance at this combined high and elementary school was 331.

The Kitty Hawk elementary school, which includes Colington Island, Kill Devil Hills area, and Duck as well as Kitty Hawk had an attendance of only 122. High school pupils from this area, about 43 in number, attend school in Manteo.

The Wanchese elementary school had an attendance of 116. High school pupils of this community also attend Manteo school. All the pupils living west of Croatan Sound, and those in the Nags Head area, also attend the Manteo schools which had a total attendance of 571. The Roanoke Union colored high school near Manteo had an attendance of 72.

## MANTEO NATIVE MODELS

Edgar Midgett, a native of Manteo, is currently posing as the standard bearer in a mural of the Battle of Gettysburg which the artist, Francis Vandever Kugler is painting in New York. The mural is one of a series Mrs. Joseph Palmer Knapp commissioned the artist to paint for the Institute of Government Building at Chapel Hill which was presented to the University of North Carolina by the Knapp Foundation.

Midgett, brother of ABC stores Supervisor Robert Midgett, is an actor in New York and his stage name is Eric Knight.

Some of the murals painted by Kugler have been completed. The first in the series portraying the arrival of Sir Walter Raleigh's explorers on Roanoke Island in the New World, was painted here several years ago. At that time Kugler transformed the tool shed of Albert Q. Bell at Roanoke Gardens into a temporary studio. Several local persons, including Quentin Bell and members of the Lost Colony cast, served as models for that first mural of the series.

## WATCH YOUR PAPER For Expiration Date Renew Promptly

Due to a shortage of office help, we have discontinued sending reminders of subscription expiration. The date is printed on your paper each week or the address on the wrapper, when mailed in wrappers. Do not blame us if you do not get the paper.

An increase in subscription price to \$3.50 per year will become effective in late spring. All persons interested in subscribing may do so now at the old price of \$3 per year, or old subscriptions may be extended now at \$3 per year; four years for \$10.

THE COASTLAND TIMES Manteo, N. C.

## WATERWAY PROJECT AT STUMPY POINT IS AN IMPORTANT ONE

Hearing Thursday, March 19th in School Auditorium Before U. S. Engineers

Pursuant to a resolution by the Committee on Public Works of the House of Representatives, United States, adopted on July 31, 1957, the District Engineer has been directed to make a survey of the above-named locality. The resolution specifies "That the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors be, and is hereby, requested to review the reports on Stumpy Point Bay, North Carolina, published in House Document No. 422, 80th Congress, and other pertinent reports, with a view to determining if it is advisable to modify the existing project in any way at this time, particularly with reference to providing a breakwater at Stumpy Point, North Carolina."

In order that the required report may fully cover the matter, a Public Hearing will be held in the School Auditorium, Stumpy Point, North Carolina, at 10 a.m., Thursday March 19, 1959, according to the U. S. Engineer office at Wilmington.

The existing project provides for a channel 7 feet deep at mean low water, 75 feet wide, and about 8,000 feet long, from the 7-foot contour in Pamlico Sound through Stumpy Point Bay to Lake Worth, with a boat basin of the same depth, 50 feet wide by 600 feet long, at the inner end.

All interested parties are invited to be present or represented at the above time and place, including representatives of Federal, state, county, and municipal agencies, and those of commercial, highway and water transportation interests, and property owners concerned. They will be afforded full opportunity to express their views concerning the character and extent of the improvement desired and the need and advisability of its execution. Sponsors of the improvement are urged to present pertinent factual material bearing on the general plan of improvement desired and to give detailed supporting data on the economic justification of the undertaking. Opposing interests, if any, are also urged to state the reason for their position. Specific data needed are the type, number, origin, destination, and the light and loaded draft of vessels expected to use the improvement, if provided, and the estimated benefits from increased catches of fish and shellfish, prevention of damage to boats, reduction of operating expenses, and similar items.

An outline showing specific data of the type desired for justification is below; additional copies may be obtained from the Wilmington District office.

In order to determine whether economic justification exists for possible improvements in Stumpy Point Bay, it is desired to obtain detailed data on items specified in the notice. Information on the project as a whole is desired and also for specific vessels. Accordingly, each boat operator is requested to furnish the following individual vessel data on all boats now using or desirous of using improved channels and basins at Lake Worth and at Stumpy Point. Complete applicable blanks in accordance with use of vessels. Information desired is not limited to that requested below.

**General Information**  
1. Terminal and transfer facilities.—a. Brief description of existing wharves and docks. Needs in way of harbors, ships or basins, wharf or pier areas, and available frontages of wharves, docks, or piers (whether owned by individuals, corporation, or public agency).

b. Information on boats which use ports for harbor of refuge—number which use harbor while waiting for outside weather to clear up, or prospective number if improvements are accomplished.

II. Benefits Expected from Improvement of channels and basins.  
a. Savings in operation costs due to increased depths and widths.—specify. b. Value of increased catch due to availability of more adequate channels and basins. (1) Edible fish (2) Shellfish. c. Decrease in spoilage due to more or better channels and harbors (estimated in pounds of fish or shellfish). d. Prevention of storm damage to vessels because of breakwater or access to harbor through improved channels. (This should be given for each class of vessel, including number of vessels suffering storm damage and cost of repairs.) e. Reduction in damage to bulk, rudders, and propellers, by class of vessel, due to more adequate channel. (Furnish information on number of vessels damaged, type of damage, and cost of repairs.) f. Statement concerning increased safety and convenience to navigation resulting from adequate channels and basins.

## CORONER'S HEARING ENDS IN HUNG JURY AND PUBLIC STILL UP IN THE AIR

Dare County Courthouse Filled With Interested Spectators Monday Night Curious About Circumstances of Death of Mrs. Grace Ward; Puzzle Number One: Who Wiped Finger Prints Off Gun From Which Three Shots Entered Deceased.

On this happy Island of Roanoke it is hard to believe why anyone would wish to kill himself, and it was a long awaited sensation to attend a coroner's inquest in the death of Mrs. Grace Gaskill Ward who was found dead of pistol wounds in her home on February 6th. She was the wife of John Ward of Manteo, a State employed fish and oyster inspector and the mother of three children.

When the hearing happened Monday night of this week an assembly of citizens from many sections of the county showed up long before the courthouse doors were opened to let them in. Victor Meekins came by and saw the janitor Marvin Mann, standing around and got him to open the doors to permit the people to be seated. The crowd that had gathered soon filled the courtroom, many times more people than had attended the revival at any time during the previous week at the Manteo Methodist church. Visitors had come from other parts of the county, some of them willing to stay overnight, in order to see what would happen. Nothing did happen, for the jury of six people after hearing all the witnesses couldn't agree why the woman was dead.

Coroner Jim Vannote was there, but didn't even bother to preside at the inquest and made no effort to conduct it, although he did testify and said he went to the house, carefully picked up the pistol, put it in a bag and turned it over to Mrs. Donis White, the sheriff's deputy.

Mrs. White testified that no one got at the pistol while she had it in the safe. Sheriff Frank Cahoon was at Hatteras, but got back the next day and visited the scene, expressed the opinion it was a clear case of suicide, as usual sent for the state SBI Agent Edwards to come in and take over. As a witness he frankly said he probably has called it "suicide," as he had said so much during the preceding two weeks, he didn't remember what he'd said.

Quite in contrast with the intelligent questions directed at the witnesses by the coroner's Jury was their failure to agree on what sort of verdict to render. Obviously they could decide the woman was dead since she had been embalmed and buried. She was dead either at her own hand or at the hands of some unknown person, but there was no testimony at the trial to indicate that some other person might have killed her.

Dr. W. W. Harvey, Jr. explained the nature of the wounds that caused death and he also told the jury that Mrs. Ward had denied any attempt to commit suicide about one year before due to having taken an overdose of barbiturate pills.

SBI Agent Edwards in his testimony discounted the suicide theory. Much stress was laid on the fact that no fingerprints remained on the long-barreled target pistol of 22 calibre. Mrs. Ward had been shot in the wrist, and twice in the heart, and additional bullets had been found in the bedding in the room.

Solicitor Walter Cahoon came down to the hearing but did not conduct the investigation as was expected would be done. With his ability as an attorney he might have made a clearer case, but like the coroner, he sat across the room, apparently not desiring to be connected with the case. Sheriff Frank Cahoon asked a few questions of the witnesses and the jury members had to ask the rest to clear up the things they wanted to know, but at that they were not sufficiently satisfied to agree on a verdict. One member of this jury stated that two people wished to return a verdict of suicide, while four others would not agree to a "suicide" verdict.

As the situation now stands, unfounded rumors carry a lot of weight, which perhaps do a grave injustice to various innocent persons. The bungling, delay and lack of management of the case from start to finish may create difficulties through many years to come.

Puzzle number one is who wiped the finger prints off the gun. Was it someone who was afraid it would reveal guilt, or was it some do-gooder who perhaps hoped to save someone?

## HATTERAS HARBOR HEARING PLANNED DETAILS OUTLINED

A public hearing on the improvement of waterways at Hatteras is scheduled to be held there March 12 at 10 a.m., the Corps of Engineers District Engineers' District Office announced Friday in Wilmington. The hearing will be conducted by Col. H. C. Rowland, Jr., District Engineer, in the Hatteras Community Building.

A notice published the same day points out that information is requested as to whether or not the channel from Pamlico Sound and the basin at Hatteras, both six feet deep, should be deepened to 10 feet or 12 feet, the latter to conform with the Inland Waterway depth of 12 feet.

The notice also asks for testimony on the need for deeper water in the five-foot channel from Hatteras to Hatteras Inlet.

Interested persons and firms are asked to appear and provide information on:

- Savings in operating costs due to increased project depths.
- Value of increased catch due to availability of more adequate channels and basins and increase of the number of boats that may use the improved waterways.
- Decrease in spoilage due to more or better channels and harbors (estimated in pounds of fish or shellfish).
- Prevention of storm damage to vessels because of access to harbors through new or improved channels (this should be given for each class of vessel, including number of vessels suffering storm damage and cost of repairs).
- Reduction in damage to hulls, rudders, and propellers, by class of vessel, due to more adequate channel (furnish information on number of vessels damaged, type of damage, and cost of repairs).
- Statement concerning increased safety and convenience to navigation, including possible saving of lives, resulting from adequate channels and basins.

## METHODIST LAYMEN'S RALLY PLANNED FOR HERTFORD

Dr. James W. Sells, Executive Secretary, Southeastern Jurisdictional, Atlanta, Ga. will be the featured speaker at the annual Elizabeth City District Laymen's Rally, March 6, in the Perquimans County High School. This year's rally will begin with supper, to be served in the school cafeteria from 5 until 7 p.m. The platform hour will follow at 7:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

Fred W. Ritter of Ahoskie, district lay leader, is in charge of arrangements for the rally planned for all laymen and their pastors in the Elizabeth City District to encourage the work of the men in the local churches. Serving with Ritter as associate lay leaders are Curtis V. Powell, Corapeake; C. S. Meekins, Manteo; A. M. Snarrows, Belhaven; Gerald D. James, Edenton; J. H. Singleton, Washington.

Bishop Paul N. Garber, resident bishop of the Richmond area will be present and conduct the consecration service of the lay sneak-a-participating in the "No Silent Pulpit" program.

J. Nelson Gibson of Gibson, conference lay leader, will present the speakers of the evening.

Rev. C. Freeman Heath, district superintendent, reports there are 37 churches and 86 churches within the boundaries of the district and each church is planning to send a good representative.

Rev. James A. Auman is pastor of the host church and D. Talmage Rose, Jr., lay leader.

## CURRITUCK BRIDGE SPAN TO COST \$343,492.95

Low bidder this week for the new draw-span on the Currituck Sound Bridge, which span is actually situated in Dare County is the McMeekin Construction Co. of Cheraw, S. C. The sum bid was \$343,492.95. The new span will be wider than the present span built 30 years ago. Since then the bridge has been completely rebuilt on a wider basis.