

THE COASTLAND TIMES

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

VOLUME XXIV — NO. 43

MANTEO, N. C., FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 1959

Single Copy 7¢

SALINITY OF ALLIGATOR RIVER RESULTS IN HEAVY LOSS; DATA BEING PREPARED IN THE CASE

Efforts Have Been Made for More Than Ten Years to Get Federal Relief, While Destruction to Timber and Farm Land Goes On; Hearing to Be Held May 15, by Corps of Engineers; Dare and Tyrrell Preparing Case.

Another stage in the long fight for relief, while heavy damage goes on, from salinity of the Alligator River, is to be held by the Engineer Corps at Columbia Friday May 15 at 10 a.m. The Commissioners of Tyrrell County are preparing an imposing array of argument to prove the case for Federal aid to relieve the situation, and the Dare County and Hyde County boards are cooperating.

The last named counties may not be equally concerned to the extent of the physical damage that is evident in Tyrrell, but nevertheless, the loss has been heavy. Tyrrell has suffered great loss to both agriculture and timber, as well as to the fishing industry, but Dare has suffered in timber loss and fishing loss too.

Following the completion of the inland waterway in 1928, connecting the Pungo and Alligator Rivers, complaints soon arose that salt water pouring into the hitherto fresh Alligator River through the new canal was damaging crops and killing trees. For 20 years this situation continued until finally an appeal to Congress was made in April 1948 that the reports submitted be reviewed. Nothing came of those reports, and again in 1956, eight years later, in July 1957 a resolution was adopted in Congress asking for a further review. This was granted.

Now more than 30 years since the opening of this canal, we find the situation unrelieved. The Engineer Corps is preparing to consider data, and this data must cover all areas of Tyrrell County bordering on the river, between Goat Neck and Kilkenny. Likewise, it should have information on bordering areas in Hyde and Dare counties.

The evidence now of damage from salt water is completely manifest, as one may see by observing the dead trees along the river shore. It is evident to all farmers whose lands have been ruined, and See HEARING, Page Four

HOW TO SOLVE TAX CLAIMS PROBLEM TO DARE CO. BOARD

Complications in Last Year's Appraisal Methods Handicap Board in Making Adjustments

The complicated mix-up that has resulted from the tax appraisal job attempted in Dare County last year has developed into what may be the greatest problem that faces the new Dare County Board of Commissioners.

The Board discovered this week that it is virtually impossible to give relief to taxpayers who ask for reductions, even if the Board considers it is merited.

Only in cases where an error had been made in the application of the system, or by a clerk, can corrections be made.

Some property owners have come to the new Board, believing that this Board could make reductions in valuations, and most of them have been disappointed. In a few instances, definite mistakes were discovered, sometimes in the tabulation and sometimes in the mis-location of property, as between ocean front and mid beach lots. Changes could thereby be made.

Legal opinion leaves the Commissioners on loop-hole to enter it to any realignment of last year's appraisals. The law points out that when last year's tax valuation job was done, all taxpayers were notified of the figures that had been set.

A date was given each taxpayer to appear before the county Board and appeal from this listing. Many persons failed to appear, and thereby lost their right for further appeal.

Some property owners did appear, and were denied the relief they asked for, and notified that the last step left them was to appeal to the State Board of Assessment. Most of these property owners gave up, and the period expired for their right to appeal.

Some did appeal to the State Board of Assessment in Raleigh, at considerable expense, yet up to now no ruling has come from the State Board.

A Taxpayers' Association was See PROBLEM, Page Four

BASNIGHT WINS HIGHER FAA MANAGEMENT POST



ARVIN O. BASNIGHT has been appointed Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Management Services, Federal Aviation Agency. In his new job he will be the deputy to Assistant Administrator Alan L. Dean.

Formerly Budget and Finance See BASNIGHT, Page Four

ARCHEOLOGICAL OBJECTS INTEREST AMBASSADOR



ON HIS VISIT to Fort Raleigh museum recently British Ambassador Sir Harold Caccia showed particular interest in objects found by the National Park Service in their archeological diggings while searching for the original location of the Governor Ralph Lane-built fort of 1585. He is shown here with Albert Q. Bell of Roanoke Gardens (left) and Robert Gibbs, superintendent, Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

The Ambassador was accompanied to the Dare Coast by his wife, Lady Caccia, their son David, and Scott Rankin, aide to the Ambassador. (Aycock Brown photo)

YOUNG PUNKS STRIP CARS; GET OFF LIGHT IN COURT

Portsmouth Youths Who Stole From Car at Kill Devil Hills Heard in Dare County Court Tuesday

Two Portsmouth, Va. youths tried in Recorders Court, and three tried in Juvenile Court in Dare County this week, for stealing parts from the car of James D. Groce at Kill Devil Hills a week ago Sunday, were allowed to pay three dollars each and the court costs, and the three elder offenders were given a 60-day road sentence. The boys got off mighty easy indeed, after having been run down by a highway patrolman and caught near the Virginia line. Larry E. Moorefield, 16 and Larry Lee Lewis 17, were tried by the Recorder. Wm. Thos. Morris, John C. Christenbury and Freddy Lee Jolly were tried by Juvenile Judge, C. S. Meekins.

In three cases, Charles E. Wroten of Wanchese drew a total of \$127.20 in fines and costs. He was charged with reckless driving, drunk and disorderly, displaying alcoholic beverages in public, assaulting a Manteo police officer, and damage to the jail. He also got a six-months suspended road sentence.

Dorian Washington, colored, got 12 months on the roads, for robbing Alfred Midgett of \$10. He got a \$25 fine and 30-day suspended road sentence for being drunk at Catherine Latham's house, and \$10 See COURT, Page Four

EXPECT TO LET BIG HARBOR JOB CONTRACT MAY 20

Nearly 3,000,000 Cubic Yards of Sand to Be Removed in About 12 Months, Near Roanoke Id.

Plans have been announced from the District Office in Wilmington by the Corps of Engineers, for dredging the harbors at Manteo and Wanchese and the channel to Oregon Inlet to a depth of 12 feet.

The job will require the removal of an estimated 2,288,000 cubic yards of material and, based on the required average rate of 200,000 cubic yards per month, the project will take about a year to complete. It will be 12 feet deep all the way from Manteo, Wanchese and to Old House channel.

Col. H. C. Rowland, Jr., District Engineer said the opening of bids is scheduled to be held May 20 and that the successful bidder will be required to start the work within 30 days after receipt of the notice to proceed.

All the requirements of local cooperation are reported as having been met, or will be met by the end of this week.

The final item is the establishment of a publicly owned space for docking at Wanchese Harbor, and a fund-raising campaign is reported by the Dare County Waterways Committee, to be in a highly satisfactory stage.

It is expected this job will cost upwards of a half million dollars. A similar or larger sum will be spent on dredging through Oregon Inlet where a cut 19 feet deep will be made, and this will insure water of 12-foot depth for a long time to come. Then will be the first time in history, vessels of such size may use a North Carolina port north of Wilmington.

PREVIEW OF LOST COLONY FOR 1959



WEARING their Elizabethan Era costumes these four actors of Paul Green's symphonic drama The Lost Colony were guests of honor at a Yaupon Tea Party presented in Raleigh recently at the Sir Walter Hotel by Senator and Mrs. Emmett Winslow. They are Oliver Link in the costume of John Borden. (Link will not return to the show this year, but will be succeeded by Robert Lee McQuain of Richmond in the role.) Ray Smith of WCUNC, Greensboro, will again be cast as Old Tom Harris; Mary Long of Rock Hill, S. C., will return to play Queen Elizabeth and at right is Manteo-born Margalene Midgett Thomas who will be cast as Eleanor Dare when the show opens on June 27 for its 19th season. She is the first native of Roanoke Island to ever reach the top in The Lost Colony as now she will play the female lead. She has been with the show since 1938 and for the past several seasons she has been a member of Lost Colony Choir. (Aycock Brown photo)

BIG SHIP FLOATED WEDNESDAY MORN. NEAR KINNAKEET

No Loss of Life, But Four Perished on The Sea Dog Wrecked Nearby

The big liberty ship Antonin Dvorak, being towed to Baltimore, which went aground near Little Kinnekeet Coast Guard station Saturday morning March 28th was pulled off the beach at 8 a.m. Wednesday by a wrecking tug which had been standing by for several days, awaiting a favorable wind and tide.

The ship is 445 feet long and has been tied up in the Cape Fear River since the war. It cost the Government about a million dollars, and was sold by it for scrap iron for \$70,000 and was being towed to the Bethlehem Steel Co.'s scrap yards in Baltimore.

There was universal hope along the Outer Banks that the ship wouldn't get pulled off, so valuable a tourist attraction had it proved to be. Thousands flocked down the beach to see it, jamming ferry service, but also spending some money.

There was no loss of life on the Dvorak, which broke loose from the tug which was towing her. She has now resumed her journey to Baltimore.

But serious loss of life occurred in December of 1957 when the Trawler Sea Dog met disaster some three miles to the north of the spot where the big ship floated up. Four men were drowned.

The broken hulk of the Sea Dog the morning of Dec. 6, 1957, gave mute testimony to the probable tragedy of its four occupants sometime before.

It was found by Percy Williams of Avon resting with its bottom up, its superstructure, pilot house and the starboard side from amidships to stern missing and the stern broken out. Nothing remained of the 61-foot vessel's equipment except several life preservers, part of its fishing catch and the engine.

The owner, John Lawson of Hampton, said The Sea Dog left Hampton Dec. 3 headed for the See SALVAGE, Page Four

SEVEN SEEK ALDERMAN PLACES AT KD HILLS

Two Out For Mayor; Many Desire To Be Members of Town Board On Beach

The position of member of the town Board of Kill Devil Hills looks attractive to many, for with filling time to go until Saturday evening, already seven have filed for Aldermen, and three can be elected. Mayor Thomas Cheers is opposed by R. D. Cooke, a member of the town Board.

Elwood Parker, and Thos. Briggs seek re-election as Aldermen. Other candidates who have filed for Aldermen are R. A. Young, a former Mayor and Alderman, J. Leo Murphy, a former Mayor, Jack Ballance, Ira Partidge and C. A. York.

Mrs. Wade Register is a candidate for Treasurer to succeed herself and is opposed by Mrs. Edith B. Harlowe.

TRAVEL GROUP WILL ARRIVE TUESDAY ON COASTAL JOURNEY

A real pre-Jamboree event for the coast of North Carolina is the land sea cruise of Editors, writers, photographers and travel executives who are due to arrive in Dare County Tuesday morning, April 28. Their trip will begin in Raleigh, including visits to Rocky Mount, Edenton and Elizabeth City.

Tuesday morning they will arrive at the Sea Ranch at Kitty Hawk and be entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Sykes. Then they will visit the Wright Memorial; at 12:30 p.m. check in at the Beacon Motor Lodge, there enjoy a buffet lunch and tour Fort Raleigh, the Elizabethan Gardens, and Cape Hatteras Seashore area north of the inlet. They will also visit Drinkwater's Folly on Roanoke Island.

A social hour will be held at the Carolinian Hotel at Nags Head, See GROUP, Page Four



PROGRESS IS BETTER IF IT DOESN'T COME FAST

"Looks like it's going to be a mighty busy summer," said the Old Sea Captain to the Drummer on the occasion of his first trip of the month to the Cape. "I declare I never saw anything like it, with more and more people coming every year. Now it seems we get just about most of our living from people on wheels, and who we never saw before. When I was a boy we had to depend on what we could get from the water, and when he had a season of bad luck, we had to depend on each other in order to live."

"Everything is different now," said the Drummer. "Used to be we all had a lot of time to stop and visit, and at certain hours, the merchants all had a lot of time to stop and talk. Nowadays, the storekeeper has to be on his feet all the time with people coming in all day long."

"Yes," said the Old Sea Captain, "there is nothing certain in this life except change. I just read where at least half the jobs by which people now earn a living came into existence within the past 40 years. We didn't have no masts nor service stations, nor airplanes pilots, nor fishing guides, etc. In the old days anybody willing to work and having common-sense could earn a good living. Now a fellow has to have a college education before he will be considered for a job."

"That's because life has become too complicated," said the Drummer. "Only a man who knows

HATTERAS OFFERS BIG FREE SALT-WATER-FISH FRY FRIDAY TO OPEN PIRATES JAMBOREE

Saturday, Pirates Will Battle on Kitty Hawk Bay; Nags Head and Other Beaches Will Echo Day and Night with Music and Dancing; Races on Sunday by Fast Boats in Manteo Bay, As Tourist Season is Officially Opened on Outer Banks.

BISHOP TO VISIT CHURCH AT NAGS HEAD THIS WEEK



The Rt. Rev. Thomas H. Wright, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina, will make an annual visitation to St. Andrew's congregation on Saturday and Sunday, April 25th and 26th.

Bishop Wright expects to celebrate the Holy Communion with the local congregation at eight o'clock on the morning of the 26th and will visit the Church School at ten o'clock.

Following the Service of Morning Prayer beginning at eleven o'clock, the bishop will administer the ancient Christian Rite of Confirmation or Laying on of Hands to those who desire to renew the solemn promise and vow made at Baptism and follow Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

Bishop Wright will also be the preacher at the morning service. The congregation and their minister extend, as always, a cordial welcome to the entire community of the County to attend the services of Christian worship.

On leaving Dare County Sunday afternoon, Bishop Wright plans to visit the congregation of Calvary Church in Swan Quarter and other congregations in Hyde County.

HATTERAS—The stage is all set in Hatteras village for the opening of the three day Pirates Jamboree on the Dare Beaches this week end, beginning Friday, April 24.

Opening day of the vacation launching event will see all events held in the immediate environs of Hatteras village. On Saturday, the second phase of the Jamboree will be held on the Dare Beaches of Kill Devil Hills, Kitty Hawk and Nags Head and the final and third day will be presented in Manteo on Roanoke Island Sunday afternoon.

William Gibson, head of arrangements for the Hatteras Island fiesta said the biggest event planned for Hatteras would be the big free fish fry.

There will also be several exhibitions and competitions during the day, ending with a Buccaneer Ball on Friday evening at The Community Building where music by a local combo known as The Tune Twisters will be featured and where also awards for competitive events will be made.

The events of the Day on Hatteras will be presided over by Pirate King Julian Oneto and Pirate Queen Winona Gray, who will be accompanied by their courtiers, those four men and four women who were runnerup in the Coronation Ball last week.

A sports fishing contest, including angling from both the surf or from boats, will be the opening attraction of the day. This will be followed at 11 o'clock by a Coast Guard Life Saving Drill, and costume contests. The fish fry will be held at noon.

During the afternoon there will be other competitive events for costumed pirates; and at 3 o'clock numerous beach buggies will race See JAMBOREE, Page Four

DIAL PHONES FOR HATTERAS ISLAND IN TWO MONTHS

Installation of Exchange for Avon, Buxton, Hatteras Underway

Dial telephone service is expected to be completed for the villages of Buxton, Avon, and Hatteras within two months, and all calls by subscribers between villages will be made without a toll charge. W. W. Ghase, General Manager of the Norfolk and Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Co. said this week.

Completion of the installation of some 150 phones in this area extending 18 miles on the lower end of Hatteras Island is anticipated with much eagerness by business men who expect it to provide one of the island's greatest commercial shots in the arm.

Two long distance lines to Manteo, and two to Elizabeth City will be provided, Mr. Ghase said.

The mechanism for the system will be housed in a brick building built two years ago at Buxton. The system will be amplified and expanded as the traffic develops.

The company operates exchanges at Manteo, Coitjock, Kill Devil Hills, Moyock, Great Bridge, Edenton, etc. When the service was established on Roanoke Island and the Dare Beaches some 25 years ago, it proved to be a tremendous factor in developing these resort areas. Four years ago, dial service was established on the beaches, with an exchange at Kill Devil Hills. The Manteo exchange is manually operated. There will be no operators at Buxton.

STUMPY POINT MAN SLAYS ALLIGATOR IN CANAL TUES.

Glenn Twiford of Stumpy Point, is reported to have slain an alligator in the roadside canal, on U. S. 264 within a mile of his community Tuesday. Having discovered two of them he went for his gun, but found only one on his return. Probably a mating pair, is the surmise. Alligators have been seen from time immemorial along the Alligator River, but not usually near the Pamlico Sound. Canals having been built through the area during the past few years has made it easy for the reptiles to cross the vast swamp.