

THE COASTLAND TIMES

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

VOLUME XXIV — NO. 52

MANTEO, N. C., FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 1959

Single Copy 7¢

OREGON - ALLIGATOR BRIDGES AUTHORIZED

EIGHT HOURS OF DARKNESS FROM POWER FAILURE

Dare Beaches Endure Difficult Handicap Wednesday Night When Wire Falls

The Dare beach area from bridge to bridge endured a difficult eight hours, without electric service from 6 p. m. Wednesday night, and, service was not restored until shortly after midnight. It was a problem indeed. The small auxiliary plant at Kitty Hawk had insufficient capacity to serve even a small part of the area, and it was not adequate for Roanoke Island which did get service.

George A. Whitfield, company manager for VEPCO in Manteo said the failure resulted when a wire fell after a brace on a cross arm buckled on the high power line a mile and a half north of the Kitty Hawk plant in the dense woods, some two and a half miles long. A working crew of more than a dozen men was dispatched to the scene, and patrol began in the darkness to find the trouble, which was not located until almost midnight. Service was restored in a half hour once equipment was at hand. Most of the beach got service at 12:30 and the remainder 45 minutes later.

The men, moving on foot, sometimes had to cross swamps waist deep in water. Both rattlesnakes and moccasins were encountered, one man got bit on the boot by a moccasin, and in one place a huge rattler refused to move, and they had to detour around him.

BIDS UP ON DARE WATERWAYS JOB BY \$72,000.00

Firm Which Contested First Low Bid Now Low Bidder at \$540,410

The low bid on the Oregon-Inlet-Mill Landing-Manteo dredging job has jumped from \$468,420 by La-Porte Dredging Co. of Arlington, Va. offered at the opening in May. At the opening held Friday of last week, the firm which contested the bid, and made LaPorte throw up his hands — Atkinson Dredging Co. of Norfolk which then had a bid of \$545,000, lowered their price.

The Atkinson Dredging Company of Norfolk, Virginia, was apparent low bidder for dredging the channel from Manteo to Oregon Inlet at \$540,410. The job involves removal of 2,300,000 cubic yards of material to deepen the inlet from 7 to 12 feet. The new low bid up the cost by \$71,990.

Other bidders were: J. A. La-Porte, Inc., Arlington, Virginia, \$541,700; Merritt Dredging Company, Charleston, S. C., \$553,455; Hill Dredging Corporation, Atlantic City, New Jersey, \$630,400; and Western Contracting Corporation, Sioux City, Iowa, \$638,340.

At the original opening the La-Porte firm's bid was \$468,420 based on .198 cents a yard and \$15,000 getting his dredge and floating plant to the area. The job then required the removal of 2,290,000 cubic yards of material to deepen the channels from seven to 12 feet.

Other bidders at the original opening of bids were Merritt Dredging Co., Charleston, S. C., \$615,000; Atkinson Dredging Co., Norfolk, Va., \$587,410; Nello L. Teer Co., Durham, \$933,100; Hill Dredging Corp., Atlantic City, N. J., \$676,200; Western Contracting Corp., Sioux City, Iowa, \$607,040.

The work is now scheduled to begin in 30 days.

Another Norfolk firm, Norfolk Dredging Company, last week submitted the apparent low bid of \$383,500 for dredging approximately 1,500,000 cubic yards in the Cape Fear River at the Sunny Point Army Terminal. The dredging will restore channels and basin to project depth of 34 feet.

The range also included the Arundel Corporation, Baltimore, Md., \$420,500; Hill Dredging Co., Norfolk, Va., \$455,000; Merritt Dredging Co., Charleston, S. C., \$460,000; Western Contracting Corp., Sioux City, Iowa, \$468,000; Atlantic, Gulf & Pacific Co., New York, N. Y., \$521,000; and Atkinson Dredging Co., Norfolk, Va., \$545,000.

Work on both jobs is to begin within 30 days after award of contracts.

Actors of Original Lost Colony Production In 1921 To Be Featured in Dare Day Program

Roanoke Island actors who took part in the original Lost Colony production in 1921, including R. Bruce Etheridge, D. Victor Meekins, A. W. Drinkwater and many others, will be on stage at the Waterside Theatre at Fort Raleigh Saturday afternoon June 27, in a feature of the Dare County Day celebration to be held there.

As plans for this special program have taken shape in recent weeks considerable details have come to light on the first Lost Colony production. Old photographs showing scenes from the play have been uncovered, and will be on display. Some of the original costumes have been located and will actually be worn on stage by the same people who wore them in the first production 38 years ago.

The 1921 Lost Colony was a five reel moving picture filmed at Fort Raleigh by the Atlas Film Company of Chicago. The fee for the film company, and the cost of materials for costumes and stage props, were paid for with \$3,000 from a Legislative appropriation to the State Board of Education. Practically all of the parts were taken by Roanoke Island resi-

dents, who served without charge, and the actual shooting of the movie occupied the better part of the month of September. This silent movie was shown throughout the State, and in numerous theatres over a period of three or four years, but the negative was inadvertently destroyed at a later date.

Long before the shooting started, however, Roanoke Island people organized in an island-wide See LOST COLONY, Page Twelve

PLAYERS IN 1921 MOVIE REQUESTED TO REPORT

A call has gone out for all those people who took part in the Lost Colony historical moving picture made at Fort Raleigh in 1921, to be stage guests for a presentation program at 5 p.m. on Saturday, June 27th. An interview by LaVerne Watson, master of ceremonies, along with the presentation, will be on the stage on the Waterside Theatre.

Since the original list of players has inaccuracies, the players of 1921 are requested to be present at the theatre, and let their names be listed for presentation.

OLDEST AND NEWEST LOST COLONY PRODUCTIONS



Thirty eight years ago, in 1921, a movie was filmed of the Lost Colony story here on Roanoke Island. A scene from that production, which eventually was seen on screens by many thousands of persons, is shown with Miss Mabel Jones as Eleanor Dare, an infant, Eloise Emory as Virginia Dare and Ralph Poole, then a reporter on the old Daily Advance of Elizabeth City as Ananias Dare. On Saturday as a feature of Dare County Day prior to opening of the current Lost Colony's 19th season, each of the persons pictured, the present Mrs. Mabel Evans Jones, of Manteo, Mrs. Eloise Emory Casper of Elizabeth City, and, Virginian Pilot staff member Ralph Poole and many others who had roles in the movie production will be interviewed at Waterside Theatre starting at 5 p.m., prior to a big picnic and other attractions arranged under direction of James Rea of the Friends of The Lost Colony.



Mrs. Marjlene Midgett Thomas, only native of Roanoke Island to ever be cast in the leading role of Eleanor Dare in the Paul Green version of 'The Lost Colony', beginning its 19th season with performance number 927 Saturday, is shown with "Virginia Dare" in the impressive lullaby scene of the show. Bob McQuain of Richmond plays opposite Mrs. Thomas as John Borden. Aycok Brown Photo

LEGISLATORS HAPPY OVER DECISION FOR BRIDGES

NEVER HAS RENOUNCED POSITION IN POLITICS

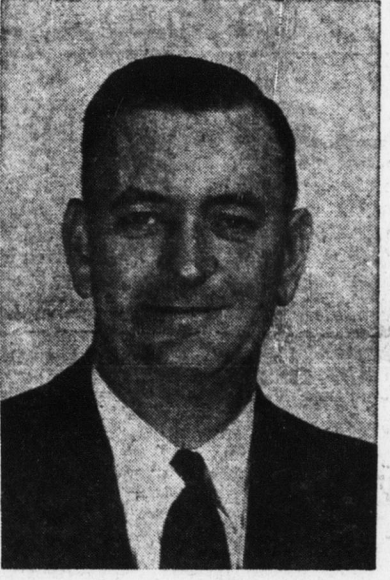


HON. R. BRUCE ETHERIDGE, Representative of Dare County said this week there must be some mistake in the news report out of Raleigh that he had declared he would not be a candidate for the Legislature any more. "I have never made any such statement to anyone, and didn't talk to the reporter who wrote the story," he said.

Mr. Etheridge came home feeling good. He had high hopes for big news his week for our area. See ETHERIDGE, Page Twelve



REP. CHARLES COHOON of Tyrrell County who grew up amid a constant clamor among his home-folks for a river bridge, said Monday of this week, that he was very hopeful the Commission would now see its way clear to build the bridge. "Whether they build one bridge or two, I am still of the opinion, and I will loyally work for it, that everyone of us should unite wholeheartedly with Dare County to work for early bridging of Oregon Inlet. I have found that little cannot be done without co-operation, and whatever success we have had so far has come through See COHOON, Page Twelve



REP. DICK O'NEAL of Hyde County said he was happy about the announcement. "Anything as big as either of these bridge projects is bound to benefit all our counties," he said. "It has been a pleasure to work with our Senators and the several representatives in presenting our appeal to the highway officials and Governor Hodges. I am grateful to them all for their sympathetic cooperation. I know that Hyde County stands to gain a lot from any See O'NEAL, Page Twelve



WAYLAND SERMONS, Representative from Beaufort County said Thursday afternoon it was a great step forward for the whole part of the state. "Anything that helps our neighbor counties helps our county, and all of North Carolina," he continued. "I think this is a striking lesson of the value of teamwork, and the willingness to accept the leadership of the one man who has had most experience and who knows where he's going and how to get there, as was done See SERMONS, Page Twelve

ABC CONVENTION CLOSES IN DARE; IS CALLED BEST

Beaufort Co. Man Prest; Banquet Ends Three-Day Session at Carolinian

Having called the three day session at Nags Head the best one in their 24 years, the N. C. Alcoholic Beverage Control Association closed Friday night at the Carolinian Hotel, Nags Head, following a three-day session.

Sam Bundy, Farmville humorist was the principal speaker at the closing banquet Friday night. Appointment of new officers was announced. New President is George M. Taylor of Washington. He succeeds Curtis M. Eargle of Tryon. Wm. H. Holderness of Greensboro is Vice-President; D. Russell Clark of Tarboro, Secretary-Treasurer. Directors are C. M. Eargle, See ABC, Page Twelve

BONNER SEEKS AVON HARBOR IMPROVEMENT

Resolved by the Committee on Public Works of the House of Representatives, United States, That the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors be, and is hereby, requested to review the reports on the channel from Pamlico Sound to Avon, North Carolina, published in House Document Number 316, 76th Congress, First Session, with a view to determining the advisability of modifying the existing project in any way at this time particularly with reference to a change in alignment of the waterway and an increased depth.

The resolution was introduced in behalf of this project by Congressman Herbert C. Bonner.

SHOPLIFTERS LAND ON BEACH; COURT TRIES SPEEDERS

Heavier Docket Than Usual, of Speeders Tried by Dare Recorder This Week

The new shoplifting law passed by the legislature last month didn't come soon enough to be known in Dare County, with its minimum fine of \$100. But there is need for it here, according to a recent outbreak of shoplifting which has arisen, being brought to the Dare Coast by teen agers from Virginia. This week in Recorder's court, three girls and a boy were found guilty of stealing from Jockey Ridge Gift Shop on June 20th.

William Queensbury, male, was fined \$10 and costs; Patsy Rawles, Diane Burnett and Monile Reeder all of Newport News, Va. were fined \$15 and costs each, ordered to replace the value of the stolen property, \$32.75 and \$83.50 in all.

In another stealing case, Jerry Gresham Spain and John Fletcher Williams of Newport News had raided the summer home of Mrs. Augusta Walker to the tune of \$82. They got 60-day suspended sentences, conditioned on good behavior for two years, and were fined \$25 and costs each, total \$63.70.

John Arthur Williams of Wanchese, young Wanchese man, many times in court, up again for violation his parole from prison, asked for a jury trial, and the case was continued to the October term of Superior Court. Desmond R. Foster of Frisco was fined \$125 for reckless, careless and drunken driving. Myron L. Driskill of New- See COURT, Page Six

HIGHWAY COMMISSION GIVES NOTICE THURSDAY OF PLANS FOR LONG-NEEDED BRIDGES

Alligator River to Be Spanned in Three Years; Extension to Hatteras of U. S. 64 Expected; and Inlet Bridge to Follow Channel Deepening at Once; Grateful Telegrams Pour Into Raleigh

By VICTOR MEEKINS

Alligator River and Oregon Inlet will be bridged without tolls being imposed on the people. The State Highway Commission made its decision Thursday.

The announcement was made to The Coastland Times by Highway Chairman J. Melville Broughton Jr., by telephone from Raleigh Thursday at 11:35 A. M.

Mr. Broughton said the bridges would be free of tolls. They must be, since Senator Lindsay Warren a few weeks ago, introduced legislation repealing forever any laws which would have permitted such burden upon our eastern people.

Mr. Broughton was happy at being able to make such announcement direct to the people most concerned in this area, and agreed that the steady opposition of this newspaper to toll bridges had not been ill-advised in the long run.

His devotion to the area matches that of his illustrious father, the late Governor, who had hoped to build the bridges during his administration, 1941-45. He had been successful in removing toll from all ferries.

The decision of the Commission was made, Mr. Broughton said, after its members had gained all available information about the need for the bridges, and the advantages to be derived from casting aside the costly luxury of operating ferry service indefinitely. The Commission he said, was greatly helped toward its decision by the masterful, unified presentation of the case for bridges by a solid delegation of legislators from the Second Senatorial district headed by Senator Warren, which twice appeared before the Commission and once before the Governor.

Mr. Broughton gave much credit to the splendid encouragement rendered the cause by Governor Luther Hodges, who was equally impressed by the case presented by Mr. Warren, and the legislators and who had given the Commission his approval.

United with Mr. Warren in this cause were R. Bruce Etheridge of Dare, Dick O'Neal of Hyde, Charles Cohoon of Tyrrell, Wayland Sermons of Beaufort, Frank Everett of Martin, Dr. J. M. Phelps of Washington, Ned Delamar of Pamlico, and Senator Elbert Peel of Williamston.

Hon. R. Bruce Etheridge of Dare came home on the week end looking rested, refreshed and relaxed; vigorous and hopeful, and years younger. He said on Wednesday of this week that he hoped the commission would announce its willingness to build two bridges. He said that from Dare County's standpoint, while he preferred building Oregon Inlet bridge first, he knew that it would be folly to start disension over which bridge to build first, for he was firmly convinced that nothing worth while could be accomplished without working as a team, and believed only through unity this week's important announcement could be brought about.

Mr. Warren is a happy man, and sustained in his oft-repeated belief in team work as the surest means of getting worth while things accomplished. Each person, who has expressed his opinion, says Mr. Warren's judgement, planning and leadership, is responsible for the success of the effort to convince the commission of the value of building these bridges.

UNIQUE MARLIN TOURNAMENT AT HATTERAS MONDAY

A group of anglers from the Richmond area are challenging the world to a new kind of blue marlin fishing contest, and it will begin Monday at Hatteras, with the party making headquarters at Atlantic View Hotel.

The Virginia Independent Marlin Association is putting up a \$100 jackpot which is open to all anglers in the marlin centers of America, and any fish, properly weighed and certified, regardless of where caught, may be entered.

Gerald Lavenstien of Petersburg, a great fisherman and friend of the Dare Coast is the instigator of this unique contest. Chairman of the group is Ross Walker. Lavenstien, at Hatteras during the recent international contest was disappointed when he could not get a boat because of heavy bookings, so he said "Let's have a tournament of our own."

Mrs. Walker, caught the first blue marlin landed off Hatteras, a few years ago. It weighed 415 pounds. The party consist of about ten men. Virginians, it is reported, have been responsible for the majority of blue marlin catches in the Hatteras area for the past four years, and they want more recognition for it.

The contest in the Gulf Stream off Hatteras will last through Wednesday.

News of Magnitude
The announcement by Mr. Broughton out of Raleigh Thursday morning is the biggest piece of news for the Walter Raleigh Coastland, and particularly for Dare County, since Lindsay Warren, a freshman Congressman got the bill through Congress to create the memorial to the Wright Brothers, back in 1927.

It will develop our planning and thinking and the ambitions of all the people of the coastland as nothing else might do, because of the economic advantages to be expected.

New impetus will be given the steady boom that is now underway on the coast, and the step-up may be expected to improve living standards by providing new increased employment and greater business activity.

There will be an upsurge in travel volume to and through the area, with consequent expansion of facilities for accommodations of tourists.

The construction of the Alligator River Bridge will turn loose several hundreds of thousands of dollars in the immediate area to the advantage of the Dare mainland, East Lake and Tyrrell County in particular. The cost is expected to be about four and a half to five millions. Labor will benefit greatly, and distressed fishermen may find more gainful employment close at home.

It will take about two years to build the bridge, and while it may not be in service before the expiration of Governor Hodges' term, it will stand out as a monument to his administration, and See BRIDGES, Page Twelve