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Kill Devil Hills, N. C.
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THE COASTLAND TIMES

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MANTEO, N. C., FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1959

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NO INDICATION OF MYSTERY IN WARD CASE UNRAVELING

Grand Jury Action Taken Last
Week Offers No Further So-
lution But Plenty of Expense

Coroner James M. Vannote says he plans to hold another inquest into the death of Mrs. Grace Gas-kill Ward, 33, who was found dead on February 6th, in her home near Manteo. This action is based on a recommendation made by the Grand Jury of Dare County two weeks ago.

The puzzling circumstances sur-rounding the death of Mrs. Ward are no more mysterious than ap-pears the action of the grand jury, for there is wonder, why, if the Grand Jury, had new evidence, and having full power, didn't go ahead and order the indictment of such persons as the evidence might in-dicate.

So far as we have been able to learn, no new evidence was brought to the grand jury, and it now ap-pears that the Grand Jury was try-ing to get off a limb where so many complaints had been made to them, and passing the buck back to the coroner, and actually to the taxpayers, for this next inquest is bound to be costly.

In the first inquest, the coroner picked up six men to serve in Feb-ruary some two weeks after the death. This inquest resulted in dis-agreement, four wanting to give one verdict; two wanted another. By error last week, this newspaper stated the jury found Mrs. Ward died by suicide. It is now hoped this will stand corrected.

But the inquest in February ap-peared to be a farce. There was a half-hearted attempt,—and that is the best can be said of it, to bring out the facts. John Ward, husband of the dead woman gave a forth-right account of having left home early, leaving his wife alive. Later he was informed of her death. He said she was mortally afraid of a pistol, and that his pistol was dis-sassembled, and its parts separated in a dresser drawer.

Evidence tended to show that the pistol had been put together; that it had been fired five times, three of the bullets striking Mrs. Ward. Once in the wrist, twice in the chest, and that she died of bullets from this gun. Testimony was of-fered that one bullet was fired into a folded bedquilt, going through two thicknesses.

There were three children in the home, and with a TV set going, none of them had heard any shots.

Springing out of doubts that a person could shoot herself three times, particularly one being afraid to touch a gun, and perhaps not qualified to assemble a gun, wild rumor began to circulate. The gun had been wiped clean of fingerprints. Who would wish to wipe the gun, and why? One conjecture is that some of the relatives first arriving on the scene could have carelessly picked up the gun, then afraid that his fingerprints might show, wiped it off. Another is that some "do-gooder" took it on him-self to "take care" of somebody.

When Coroner Vannote arrived on the scene, he put the gun in a paper-bag and turned it over to the Sheriff's office or safe-keeping. Sheriff Cahoon was at Hatteras at the time, and got back next day. Meanwhile, the first thought of was to call in a State agent. Usually, an alert sheriff who knows all the people can more easily pick up the essential facts from his friends who know and trust him but who, on the other hand will clam up and tell nothing when an outside investigator comes in; and this may be the reason so

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DARE BOARDS APPROVE \$70 TEACHERS' BONUS

By joint action of the Board of Commissioners and the Board of Education of Dare County this week, the payment of an incentive bonus to all teachers who will make an effort to qualify right away for Grade A. certificates was approved and the teachers will receive a \$70 bonus this winter. The complaint has long been made that it is difficult to attract Grade A teachers to Dare County because richer rewards may be found elsewhere, and it is considered payment of a bonus might make it more interest-ing. However, there is every desire to encourage competent teachers with less than Grade A certificates to improve their grades, and the hope was expressed that the small contribution to be made at this time will assist them in pur-suing this course. The Board of Commissioners expressed the opin-ion that if teachers fail to make good in an effort for this improve-ment by another school term, there would not be an inclination to con-sider approval of further bonuses next year.

COLUMBIA GIRL WINS COLLEGE HONOR IN VIRGINIA



MISS FAY SPENCER of Columbia, (left) an outstanding student from Tyrrell County has won a fine honor at the Virginia college she is attending. She is the Standard Bearer for the junior class at Stratford Hall in Danville, and is shown with her class president, Miss Anne Fleming from Chapel Hill.

It was October Day at the Virginia preparatory school, which is a traditional fall festival celebrated with holiday by the student body and faculty.

The day's program of sports and pageantry was climaxed with the presentation of the October Queen, who was Miss Lois Scales of Augusta, Georgia. Class presidents, including Miss Fleming shown above, composed the court. They wore heavy silk Elizabethan gowns, with ruffs, in the various autumn colors.

Miss Spencer is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Spencer of Columbia, N. C.

A STUMPY POINT COUPLE TAKES OFF FOR HOLIDAY

Monroe Midgett, Famous Gar-
dener and Hunter, And
Wife at Camp LeJeune

Mr. and Mrs. John Monroe Mid-gett, after 55 years of married life at Stumpy Point, took off Sunday or a long holiday at Camp Lejeune where their daughter, Shirley lives. She is the wife of Marine Major D. Russell Nixon Jr., whose father now lives at Engelhard. Major Nixon is executive officer of the 1st battalion, 10th Marines, and artillery unit of the second division.

Monroe Midgett is one of Stumpy Point's best known citizens, famed for many years as the champion gardener of Stumpy Point, and also known throughout the country as a hunter of wildfowl, bear and deer. His son Bob followed in his foot-steps, and last week, grandson Bob Jr., age 18, went alone in the woods with his gun and dog and killed a bear weighing 150 lbs.

On Saturday he went again, tak-ing his cousin, John Russell Nixon age 12, with him. Mrs. Nixon has

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TRAFFIC FINES YIELD MORE THAN \$300 TUES.

Some \$350 in all, mostly from traffic fines was the harvest in Dare Recorder's Court Tuesday. Ben H. Williams of Hatteras, im-proper registration and improper drivers permit paid \$30. W. H. Small Jr., of Norfolk, speeding, \$10. W. H. Smith of Kitty Hawk lost his drivers license and paid \$100 for driving at 95 mph. Geo. W. King of Manteo paid \$125 for hit and run and driving drunk. Ephraim Etheridge, Manteo, dis-orderly conduct \$25. Donald L. Austin of Norfolk had whiskey in his car, and on which the seal was broken, fined \$10. Gilbert S. Holder of Advance, N. C., \$5 for failing to yield right of way. B. J. Gaskins of Stumpy Point, \$10 for squirrel hunting with the wrong kind of gun.

NEW CHANNEL ROUTE TO BE DREDGED SOON AT OREGON INLET

WILMINGTON.—The Corps of Engineers advises that a new chan-nel route has been proposed to connect Oregon Inlet with Old House channel, in Pamlico Sound.

The new channel, when dredged, will replace the existing channel which follows an easterly south-easterly route from the Roanoke Sound channel to the inlet.

"In my opinion," reports Colonel R. P. Davidson, District Engineer here, "the new route will be an im-provement because the channel will be in a more sheltered location and therefore less subject to the rapid shoaling which has plagued the present location.

The existing channel, as shown on an accompanying sketch, cuts almost directly across the current and is practically impossible to keep open.

Colonel Davidson said funds to dredge the channel are not available now but "we are working toward that end with the hope that the job can be done next spring."

AYCOCK BROWN INVITED TO SPEAK IN NASSAU

Aycock Brown, manager and news director, Dare County Tour-ist Bureau, will be one of the speakers on the program of the International Game Fish Confer-ence in Nassau, Bahamas during the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute next week. His subject will be the development of blue marlin and billfishing generally during recent years in the waters of the Cape Hatteras area off the Dare Coast.

Brown will leave by plane on Sunday morning, stop overnight in Palm Beach, Fla., and fly to Nas-sau the following day.

He was invited to take part in the Game Fish Conference pro-gram by the Board of Trustees of the International Oceanographic Foundation of which C. F. Johnson is president. Johnson is also president of the Hatteras Marlin Club. Mr. Brown is a guest of the foundation.

MANTEO MASONS BUILDING NEW LODGE ROOMS

Large Building on Main Highway
of Brick, and Two Stories
Underway

Work is progressing on the new home of the Manteo Lodge on a double lot with some 300 feet front-age on Highway 264 in Manteo. The building, which is of masonry, will be brick veneered, having a lodge hall 40 by 70 feet on the second floor including dressing rooms, entry rooms, etc. The lower floor will be 81 feet in length, in-cluding an 11-foot porch, and will contain kitchen dining hall, re-ception rooms, etc.

During a period of several years the Lodge has been quietly raising funds for the job, having accumu-lated some \$10,000, of which \$4,-000 went into the building site, one of the best in town. The members expect to float a loan to get the building ready for occupancy some-time next Spring, according to R. O. Ballance, Chairman of the build-ing committee. The project is hav-ing the benefit of many donations of labor from its members.

The lodge began operation dur-ing the year 1947 with about 20 members who withdrew from Wan-chese Lodge and set up Manteo lodge under dispensation. It now has a membership of 122 and ever since its organization has met in the Manteo town hall. Its regular meeting nights are on the second and fourth Mondays.

Last week, the lodge was host to a district school of instruction for members of the Masonic district comprising the lodges of Matta-muskeet, Columbia, Engelhard, Manteo, Wanchese and Cape Hat-teras. A dinner was served in the Manteo High School cafeteria. Many attended from Hatteras Is-land and other visitors came from all lodges, numbering 40 in all.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH



MISS ISABEL RIDDICK, a junior in Manteo High School, was voted the outstanding student for the second school month. This is based on scholastic achievement and service contribution to school life in the Manteo High School.

Isabel, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Riddick of Manteo, North Carolina, has always been an honor student and is a member of the High School Beta Club. For this school year she plays the piano for the student body to march in and out of the auditorium for assembly programs and is one of the Junior editors for the 1960 Sandfiddler. Doing part-time work in the field of ceramics in one of Isabel's outside interests.

CANCER MEET FRIDAY

There will be a meeting of the Board of Directors and officers of the Hyde County Unit of the Can-cer Society Friday night, Novem-ber 6, at 7:30 o'clock in the Ag-riculture building at Swan Quar-ter. Mrs. Bert Tyson, District Field Consultant will be present to help with any problems that may arise. A hundred percent at-tendance is desired if possible.

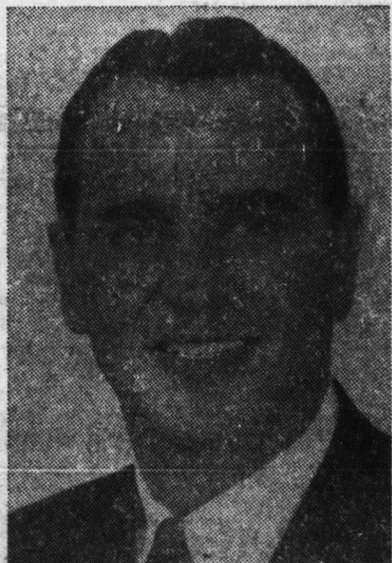
THREE OF NEW SOUTHERN ALBEMARLE COUNTY VICE-PRESIDENTS



W. I. COCHRAN
Swan Quarter



WOODROW EDWARDS
Waves, N. C.



W. CHARLES COHOON
Columbia, N. C.

HERE ARE three of the six County Vice-Presidents of the Southern Albemarle Association of Columbia. Mr. Cochran, representing Hyde is a member of the county Board of Education, and former Clerk Superior Court. Mr. Edwards, representing Dare lives on Hatteras Island, and is a member of the County Board of Commissioners. Mr. Cohoon, the Vice-President for Tyrrell is also his county's representative in the General Assembly. Pictures are not available of other officers, but reference to them is made elsewhere in this newspaper.

FISHING TOURNEY ENDS AT HATTERAS AS A BIG SUCCESS

Many Anglers Win Coveted Hon-
ors in Three Day Event
Held Last Week

Individual competition between 107 anglers Saturday afternoon and a banquet featuring speech by Wal-ter Wilkins, Norfolk, vice president Hatteras Marlin Club followed by awarding of trophies and prizes Saturday night marked finale of second annual Hatteras Island Surf Fishing Tournament sponsored by Cape Hatteras Anglers Club.

It was the second surf tourna-ment for the Dare Coast during October, events which attracted teams from 46 clubs in several At-lantic coast states and hundreds of individual anglers. The first was held at Nags Head during mid-October and was sponsored by the Nags Head Surf Fishing Club.

Mrs. Albin Raety, Norfolk, was top angler in the individual and her three pound 21 inch speckled trout was adjudged largest fish in in-dividual tournament for which she won a prize with the same fish for being largest trout taken and largest fish taken by woman won two additional prizes of surf tackle.

Mrs. Wanda Brinkman, Bethesda, Md., was awarded prizes for the largest blue fish one that measured 18 inches and also for woman catching greatest number of fish, a total of eight. Her prizes were also tackle.

Largest flounder prize went to Highway Patrolman D. E. Skyles, Buxton, an 18 inch specimen; An

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FISHING VESSEL ASHORE OFF OCRACOCK ISLAND

OCRACOCK.—A 105-foot men-haden fishing boat was aground on a shoal five miles north of Ocrac-ock Inlet Wednesday night with 20 fishermen aboard.

A Coast Guard boat and two other fishing craft, attempting to pull the vessel off the shoal, said it was in no danger and was not damaged.

The trawler Ensign, out of Beau-fort, ran aground about 1 p. m. Wednesday. It is some 75 yards from shore, on the Atlantic Ocean side of the inlet.

Several attempts by the 83-foot Coast Guard boat No. 83493 to free the vessel during the day, failed.

There were no injuries reported among the fishermen on board, Capt. William Marbley is skipper of the grounded vessel.

MORE THAN 300 ATTEND HOMECOMING AT DUCK

The first Homecoming ever to be held at Duck Methodist Church was Sunday Nov. 1. This Home-coming was successful, more than 300 people attended. More than 75 percent of the people in attendance were formerly resi-dents of Duck. The Duck Metho-dist Church is raising money for a church bell and steeple. Pennel A. Tillett states he will help raise the necessary money just as soon as he can get the necessary mon-ey for completion of the Educa-tional Building, Kitty Hawk Methodist Churches and he feels confident with much effort he will be able to pay off all in-debtedness on the Educational Building by the last of March 1960.

SAA BEGINS 25TH YEAR WITH WOMAN PRESIDENT; APPROVES WARREN'S NAME FOR BRIDGE

Mrs. Scott Topping of Pantego Becomes First
Woman President of Six-County Organi-
zation; All New Officers Named; New Goals
To Be Sought by Association Which Cele-
brated Bridges and Voted to Honor Warren.

The six-county Southern Albe-marle Association in Annual Ses-sion Wednesday at Columbia closed its meeting with the elec-tion of a woman for President for the first time. Mrs. Scott (Mi-riam) Topping of Pantego, to guide the organization through its 25th year.

Shortly before, the Association had unanimously endorsed a reso-lution offered by Rep. Charles riam) Topping of Pantego will Cohoon of Tyrrell County calling on the State Highway Commission to name the proposed Alligator River Bridge for State Senator Lindsay Warren. Earlier in the day, Chairman J. M. Broughton, Jr. of the State Highway Com-mission had assured the group that the wishes of the Associa-tion, as expressed in a resolution previously adopted by the County Board of Tyrrell, would be carried out. The Highway Commis-sion will affix a bronze tablet bearing Mr. Warren's name and participate in a celebration when the bridge is completed.

The association elected all new officers, save the treasurer, M. A. Matthews of Columbia who has served continuously for many

years in this capacity, and who was reelected.

Mrs. John Winfield of Yeates-ville will serve as Secretary. The following vice presidents for the counties were elected: Beaufort: Sam T. Moore; Dare: Woodrow W. Edwards; Hyde: Wm. I. Cochran; Martin: Robert Cowan; Tyrrell: W. Charles Cohoon; and Washington: James H. Ward. The election of Mr. Edwards of Waves as vice-president is the first time Hatteras Island has been recog-nized by election of an officer.

In accordance with the trend of several speakers, the Associa-tion's policy during the coming year will be to devote more ef-fort to internal improvement of the area, including home and highway beautification, encour-agement of industry, etc. Mrs. Topping said she would appoint the usual committees at an early date and would call meetings to get the year's work underway be-fore 1960.

Heading one of the important committees will be Dr. W. T. Ralph of Belhaven former presi-dent, and retiring Beaufort Vice-President of the Association who has been a consistent Association worker from its earliest years.

Other retiring Vice-Presidents are M. L. Daniels, Jr. of Dare; Earl Topping of Hyde, Ben D. Courtney of Martin; Harry Swain of Tyrrell; W. M. Darden of Washington; and Mrs. Borden McClees of Columbia is retiring Secretary.

At the morning session the ad-dress of Welcome was by Rep. Charles Cohoon; the invocation by Rev. H. W. Pearce, and responses were made by the several Vice-Presidents, or their proxies. Presi-dent W. J. White presented sev-eral distinguished guests, includ-ing Senator Warren, and Rep. Herbert Bonner. Melvin Daniels responded for Dare County, and Ray Goodmon for Martin County.

Assurance of Bridges.

Mr. Broughton, the Highway Chairman, brought a pleasant message, bearing with it evidence of research, whereby he quoted the words of his father, the late Governor, who had attended sev-eral such meetings, and had pre-dicted the advancement for this region which is now coming to fruition. Mr. Broughton paid trib-ute to the work of the Association and other leaders through the years. He repeated that the High-way Commission now has plans for the Alligator River bridge, and expects to let the contract for it in January 1960.

The Oregon Inlet bridge was positively assured again by Mr. Broughton, who stated that it is the plans of the commission to let a contract for this bridge in the latter part of 1960. The only qualifying inference concerning either bridge was to call atten-tion to the steel strike in progress and mention it could cause delays since bridges require a lot of steel.

The Association expressed its approval of a resolution presented by Atty. Vance Norman of Plymouth for a highway connec-tion with Bertie County, across lower Roanoke River at Plymouth. "The state's largest industry east of Raleigh," he said, "is at Ply-mouth." This bridge would permit easy access to huge timber sources across Roanoke River from the pulpwood mill; it would be of much commercial advantage to the town in opening to it the Bertie County territory, and offer a short route for motorists coming down U. S. 17 and U. S. 13.

A thoughtful suggestion came from David Stiek of Kitty Hawk, and was offered the Association that it back a program to unite the counties into an effective mosquito control unit, if it hopes to make the most of the important tourist busi-ness that should gain new head-way from the new bridges. This proposal was received with much interest.

The two hundred visiting dele-gates from the six counties were fed on barbecued pork and chick-en in the school cafeteria by the Tyrrell County Commissioners, and maintained the county's reputa-tion for lavish hospitality, which again won appreciation and many compliments. A visitor to the meeting was Rep. Addison Hew-lett of New Hanover County who is seeking nomination for Govern-ment.

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