

SEND RENEWAL
OF SUBSCRIPTION
BEFORE EXPIRATION
DATE ON ADDRESS

THE COASTLAND TIMES

WITH WHICH IS COMBINED THE PILOT AND HERALD OF BELHAVEN AND SWAN QUARTER
PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE INTEREST OF THE WALTER RALEIGH COASTLAND OF NORTH CAROLINA

MAIL SHOULD BE
ADDRESSED TO BOX 428
MANTEO, N. C.
NOT TO INDIVIDUALS

VOL. XXV — NO. 22

MANTEO, N. C., FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1959

Single Copy 7¢

KILLED SUNDAY BY EXPLOSION OF GAS IN MANNS HARBOR

Donald Wilbert Midgett Dies Quickly During Night; Blaze Extinguished

Donald Wilbert Midgett, 30, died shortly after a gas explosion in his home at Manns Harbor Sunday morning shortly after midnight. He was burned severely about the face from the explosion. It is believed he had attempted to light a stove with the aid of oil, and that the ensuing blaze caused an explosion from a leaking gas stove in an adjoining bedroom.

Indications were that Midgett had made his way into the kitchen and jammed himself into a corner, with his face over his hands in an attempt to get away from the gas. His father-in-law, Louis Hooper, heard the explosion and rushed across the road at once, and was able to put out the fire with the aid of a garden hose. The Manteo fire department was called, but the fire was already out when it arrived. It was not known until later that Midgett was in the house.

It was not known at the time why Midgett had come home from Norfolk, where he lives with his wife in a trailer. It was thought that he had caught a ride to Dare County with a friend, and decided to spend the night in his home, which had been vacant for quite a while. Apparently, he had immediately tried to light a fire, and the resulting flame had set off gas that had been leaking a long time.

Later reports gave it his wife didn't know he had left Norfolk at all, and his car was found next day in a side road not far from the home; indications being that he had come alone to Manns Harbor.

He was a lifelong resident of Manns Harbor, he was employed by Southern Materials Co., of Norfolk as mate on a tug. He was a son of Mrs. Mary L. Midgett and the late Louis Lathan Midgett.

Besides his mother he is survived by his wife Mrs. Nina Hooper Midgett; two stepsons, Richard L. Rowe and Danney E. Rowe of Manns Harbor; two sisters, Mrs. Nellie Mae Ambrose of East Lake and Mrs. Hazel M. Crosswhite of Mt. Clemons, Mich., and two brothers, Louis Howard Midgett of Portland, Ore., and Louis Lathan Midgett of Manns Harbor; two half sisters, Mrs. Melrose Tillett of Manns Harbor and Mrs. Catherine Jordan of Sunbury.

Funeral services were held at the Mt. Carmel Methodist Church of which he was a member, Tuesday at 3 p.m. by the Rev. Charles R. Olson, pastor, with burial in the church cemetery, at Manns Harbor.

Funeral services were conducted by the pastor, Rev. C. R. Olson. Hymns sung were "Farther Along," "Last Mile of the Way," and "Safe in Arms of Jesus," with Roger Gard accompanist. The pall was of red and white carnations. Pallbearers were Harry Mann, Huff Mann, Earl Ray Mann, Rollins Tillett, Jaccie Burrus and Frank Hemilwright.

HYDE COUNTY MAN TO SEEK A SEAT IN STATE SENATE

For several months now, it has been fairly definitely established that Rep. Dick O'Neal of Hyde County will be a candidate for the State Senate from the Second District in 1960. Hyde occupies the position of being one of the "Smaller Counties," of the District that has not had a Senator in more than a quarter of a century.

It has been customary for Beaufort, and Martin, the two larger counties of the District to keep a Senator in office at all times, either from one county, or both, and usually by precedent, for two terms. In the recent session both counties had a Senator, but young Elbert Peele, Jr. of Martin was filling out the second term what would ordinarily have gone to Robert Cowan who abdicated to enter Government service in Washington.

As Mr. Peele will respect the precedent which has prevailed in the District for long years, the way is open for one of the smaller five counties of the District. All of them have had senators since Tyrrell, which last had a Senator in 1920 — Herbert L. Swain; and Hyde, which last had a Senator in 1926—Carroll Spencer.

Washington has had several Senators, and within the past 15 years, both Dare and Pamlico have held the Senatorship for two terms. By custom and right, Tyrrell or Hyde should now have an opportunity to share in this honor. See O'NEAL, Page Seven

HONORS GIVEN MRS. GARDNER IN WASHINGTON



—Washington Star Photo.

At the reception last week in Washington, D. C. honoring Mrs. Fay Webb Gardner, widow of the late Governor O. Max Gardner, two other women who have occupied the Governor's mansion in Raleigh attended. Mrs. J. M. Broughton, left, and Mrs. Luther Hodges, wife of the present governor on the right, were honor guests. Other living women who have occupied the mansion as wives of Governors are Mrs. J. C. B. Ehringhaus, Mrs. R. Gregg Cherry, and Mrs. W. Kerr Scott. Mrs. Gardner often visits on our coast, with the Fred Morrisons at their Kill Devil Hills beach home. She is a long-time member of the Roanoke Island Historical Association, a friend and active booster of the Lost Colony.

Mrs. O. Max Gardner, of Shelby, was feted in Washington, D. C., Thursday night, November 19, an outstanding citizen, patron, and benefactor, when she was the honor guest of the North Carolina Dinner of the Woman's National Democratic Club. A citation was presented to her on behalf of the Club by Dr. Frank P. Graham, former president of the Greater University, in Washington with Mrs. Graham from his United Nations post, for the Gardner dinner.

Distinguished leaders of the See RECEPTION, Page Seven

NAMED ON WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE



MRS. MAE COHOON CARAWAN of Columbia has been honored by the N. C. 1960 White House Conference nominating Committee, on a list of some 70 nominees submitted to Governor Hodges to represent the state at the Golden Anniversary of the White House conference on children and youth. The committee said it had made every effort for a delegation representative of the broad interests of children and youths throughout the state.

The list includes leaders of both races, and from the eastern area are Senator Elbert Peel, Jr. of Williamston, Mrs. Glenn Pendleton, RFD. 1, Elizabeth City, Dr. Harold L. Trigg, former president of State Teachers College, Elizabeth City, now coordinator of Negro activities of the N. C. Prison Dept., and Ed Rankin, the governor's present private secretary.

Mrs. Carawan is chairman of the Tyrrell Co. 1960 White House Conference Committee, and Vice-President of the N. C. Council of Women's organizations.

23.9 POINT GAS REACHES DARE CO. AT KITTY HAWK

At last, the price of gas has dropped to 23.9 cents in Dare County, where gas prices have been up so long. The Outer Banks Service Station opposite the new Kitty Hawk school was featuring regular gas this week at the lower price. On the 16th, the station went under the management of two young men of the community, Lewis A. Garrett Jr., and Fred D. Scarborough. It is a new Pureoil Station, completed at the end of the summer by Emmett Winslow of Hertford, and has been operated during the interim by Pat Bayne of Nags Head, who has established a good trade. He extends his appreciation to his patrons and wishes success for the new operators.

KILKENNY YOUTH ON VISIT HOME SLAIN BY COUSIN

Playing With Pistol Ends Life of Floyd Dale Brickhouse Near Fairfield

Floyd Dale Brickhouse 16, was fatally shot Saturday afternoon while he and a cousin were frolicking with a .32 caliber pistol in Kilkenny community at the store of his uncle, Roy Brickhouse.

The dead youth was a son of Mr. and Mrs. James Brickhouse of Kilkenny, Tyrrell County, P. O. address Fairfield, Route 1. He was a sophomore at Maury High School in Norfolk, and was visiting for the week end. He grew up in Kilkenny.

The cousin with whom he was playing was Coley Roy Brickhouse, 15, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Brickhouse of Fairfield, Route 1.

His uncle took him to Columbia Hospital, but he was pronounced dead on arrival by Dr. James Howerton, who said he was shot in the right upper chest and that death apparently was instantaneous.

Accompanied by his father, the other youth, in a state of hysteria and shock, gave himself up and asked to be locked up, Sheriff Clair E. Morris said. Morris said that he released the youth pending an inquest. No charges were made at the time.

Besides his parents, surviving are two brothers, Jimmie Brickhouse of Norfolk and Frankie Brickhouse of Fairfield, Rt. 1, and his maternal grandmother, Mrs. Amanda Hudson of Fairfield.

A funeral service was held at Nazareth Christian Church at Kilkenny Monday at 2 p.m. by the Rev. Joseph A. Brickhouse, pastor. Burial was in the family cemetery nearby.

NO NINE LIVES FOR CAT WHICH TROUBLED PASTOR

When the Rev. Frank Dinwiddie of Nags Head started his motor after concluding a visit at the home of Tom Dough near Fort Raleigh Friday evening, he heard an unusual and terrific noise under the hood.

The noise instantly subsided into a slight hum, and he drove four miles to Manteo where Charlie Shannon, expert mechanic soon found the trouble.

It was an adult cat that the fan had picked up, chewed into fragments and distributed about the motor. The first impact had thrown off the fan belt. The cat will not have nine lives. Shannon picked out the fragments of cat, readjusted the belt and no severe damage to motor was done. He said it was the first instance of his kind in a lifetime of mechanical work.

The cat had crawled up inside to enjoy the warmth of the motor while the preacher was visiting the sick.

THANKSGIVING DANCE

The Manteo High School P. T. A. is sponsoring a Thanksgiving Sock Dance at the Manteo High School Gym on Friday, November 27, from 9-12 p.m. for grades 9-12 and college students. Entertainment will be provided, and the admission is 75¢ for couples and 50¢ for stags.

FIRST FLIGHT TO BE OBSERVED BY MILITARY FLYOVER

Kill Devil Hills Celebration Plans Shaped Up For Decem- ber 17th

KILL DEVIL HILLS.—Air Force supersonic jets will salute the Wright Brothers in an exciting memorial formation flyover on December 17, during the 56th anniversary ceremonies of the first heavier than air, powered flights in 1903.

Lt. Col. Olin C. Cook, a native of Boone, N. C., who is deputy director of operations, Headquarters 354th TFW, Myrtle Beach Air Force Base, flew here on the week end to complete local arrangements for the flyover.

The Ninth Air Force has assigned Col. Cook as project officer for the aerial phase of the annual celebration commemorating the Wrights' famous first flights here.

With officials of the Kill Devil Hills Memorial Society and the National Park Service, Col. Cook visited the first flight site and outlined plans for the flyover. He stated that with FAA approval, now pending, the Air Force planned to have a formation of 12 jet fighters, two transports and one multi-engine bomber in the fly- See FLIGHT, Page Seven

THOMAS COOLEY ENTERS UNIVERSITY OF PARIS



THOS. COOLEY, who has made numerous friends in Dare County during his visits to his aunt, Mrs. Wilbur Pinner in Manns Harbor in the summers, and who is a talented musician is again pursuing his artistic career in Europe and has enrolled in the University of Paris, in France for the year. In this (city university) a famed seat of learning, a third of the students are French, a third American and a third from other countries. He will study music, language and art. Last year he was enrolled in Salzburg, Austria, at the academy of music and dramatic art (Mozartium).

He received his BM degree from Stetson University in 1957, and his masters in 1958 from Chicago College of Music of Roosevelt University. He previously held an associate of arts degree and a bachelor of music degree in piano. He has studied privately in Europe and this country with such outstanding teachers as Jose Echaniz of the Eastman School of Music and Prof. Roger Cushman of Stetson University. In Chicago, he has been a scholarship student in piano with the eminent pianist, composer, and conductor, Dr. Rudolph Ganz and with Molly Margolies.

Both here and in Europe, Cooley has been acclaimed as an outstanding musician and pianist. He plans to return to the United States in 1960. His parents were at one time residents of Manteo, while Col. Cooley was stationed here and at Fort Bragg. His parents are Col. and Mrs. Thomas R. Cooley of Deland, Fla.

FISHING PIER TO BE BUILT SOUTH OF THE WHALEBONE

A. E. Mitchell and Mrs. B. L. Mitchell, of Nags Head, have made application for permit to construct a pier in the Atlantic Ocean two miles south of the intersection of U. S. Highway Nos. 158 and 64 on the east side of Bodie Island, Dare County, North Carolina.

Plans submitted show a pier 16 feet wide and extending seaward approximately 700 feet beyond the mean high water line. Plans showing the proposed work may be seen in the Corps of Engineers office and in the post offices at Manteo and Nags Head, North Carolina.

Objections to the proposed work as outlined above will be received at Wilmington office until 14 December 1959.

CUCKOLD'S CREEK FLOOD CONTROL SURVEY NOV. 30

Project to Serve 35,000 Acres With 15 Miles of Streams and Canals in Area

Field survey work will begin about November 30 in the basins of Pantego and Cucklers Creeks near Belhaven for flood control and drainage planning purposes, Col. R. P. Davidson, District Engineer of the Corps of Engineers, announced Saturday in Wilmington.

The work, Colonel Davidson said, will continue for about six weeks and will include determinations of elevations essential to preparation of plans now in progress to control floods and to improve drainage.

The project was authorized several years ago and funds have been received to draw up a comprehensive plan. Construction funds have not been appropriated.

The area includes portions of Beaufort, Hyde and Washington counties covering about 15 miles of streams and canals, the latter constructed in past years by local people.

In acreage, the project will affect 11,800 acres of good farming land, 10,500 acres of pasture and some 12,700 acres of woodland.

Preliminary plans provide for cleaning out some streams and canals and widening and deepening others.

Congressman Herbert Bonner has followed through on this project for several years. It will serve a large area of the more fertile farmlands of Beaufort and Hyde Counties.

WEEK END FIRES AT MANTEO AND KILL DEVIL HILLS

Manteo Auto Shop Damaged and Beach Cottage Destroyed; aMn Killed

Three week-end fires in Dare County destroyed one cottage, killed one man, and damaged the Chevrolet body shop. As reported in another item, Donald Midgett of Manns Harbor met death Saturday night in a gas explosion in his home.

While the Manteo fire truck had gone to Manns Harbor, the Dare Beaches truck at Nags Head came to Manteo, to stand by. Shortly after midnight a fire was discovered in the new body shop of Hassell & Creff Motor Co., which resulted in some \$1,400 loss, including damages to one or two cars not covered by insurance. This fire is suspected of having come from shorted electrical equipment.

Early Monday morning a beach cottage in the Delray section of Kill Devil Hills was destroyed by fire suspected of originating in an over-heated oil burner. The house belonging to Wilson Wright was valued at \$10,000 and was a total loss. The fire was discovered by Donald Dough, an early riser at the Stop and Shop grocery. The owner had lighted the stove on Sunday to keep the premises warm for some duck hunters expected to arrive Sunday night.

FIRE UNIT ORGANIZES SETS UP OFFICERS

The Nags Head unit of the Fire Department of the Dare Beaches Sanitary District was organized Wednesday night at the Carolinian Hotel, with about 15 present. Plans were made for the erection of a building near the Sand Dollar motel to house the fire truck, which is now being kept at the nearby Radar Station.

Meetings will be held on the third Friday in each month. Richard Mann was elected President, Troy Shepherd, Vice President, and Julian Oneto, Secretary-Treasurer. The Captain of the fire company is George Buck Mann, replacing Pat Bayne who resigned because of other commitments. Lieutenants are Lionel Edwards and Carl Numemaker, and Bill Daughtry is fire chief.

Mr. Oneto says the fire equipment will effect a saving of 24 cents in the residential insurance rates, and this offsets the additional tax that is being charged, so far as tax on structures go. At an early date, an insurance appraiser is expected to meet with the Department, and determine the rate on commercial or other structures. Regular drills will begin Sunday of this week.

The group plans to erect the Nags Head building by contributions of money and labor. A building for the first unit of the District has been erected at Kitty Hawk beach and is being rented to the district.

WANCHESE MAN MAY RETURN HOME IN 1960

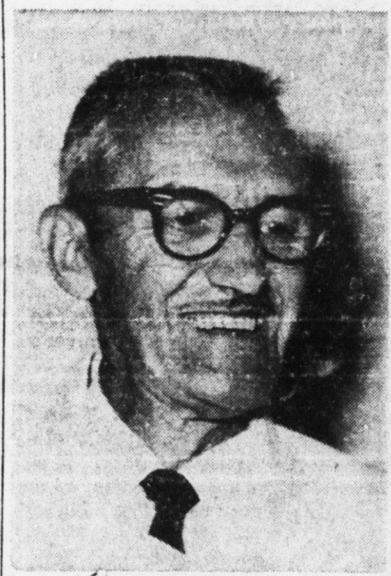


GOVERNMENT PROPERTY —That's what Capt. Otis S. Simpson, skipper of the Army Corps of Engineers' steam lighter, calls himself. The expression is a stand-on their length of service.—Staten Island Advance photo.

DRINKWATER GETS AIR TRIP TO NEW YORK CEREMONIES

A. W. Drinkwater of Manteo was a special guest on the week end of Eastern Airlines, flying to New York City to witness the dedication of a new \$20 million terminal building at Idlewild International airport, on Monday. At the age of 84, he was recognized because of his activity in connection with publicity attending the first flight by the Wrights at Kill Devil Hills a half century ago.

FINDS NASSAU WIDEAWAKE TO TOURIST PROFITS



AYCOCK BROWN, Tourist Bureau Manager for Dare County got a big kick out of his recent visit to Nassau. There he got some good pointers about how the Bahamians hold the tourist business. Monday night of this week Mr. Brown told the Manteo Rotary Club about his visit. The following are excerpts from his talk to the Rotarians:

Perhaps he did not plan it that way but Fidel Castro and his Cuban Revolution has done more for tourism in Nassau, Puerto Rico, Bermuda and other Caribbean and Bahama Island resort areas than anything that has happened in recent years.

On the bayside of the patio of Nassau's swank British Colonial Hotel I learned these facts:

"We are having the best tourist business in the history of Nassau. Our hotels are filled with tourist and convention groups. They are coming in by cruise ship and planes from everywhere and especially from the United States in sectors where Cuba was a primary target for tourists before Castro, said Don McCarthy, public relations spokesman for the Nassau Development Board.

"We've been thinking about erecting a monument to the guy, said Gilberto V. Pesquera, American-educated sports news director of the University of Puerto Rico. In San Juan the Sheraton and other groups in the business are See BROWN, Page Seven

BROWN OFF TO MEXICO PROMOTING BIG FISHING

Aycock Brown Dare County Tourist Bureau Manager leaves Saturday morning for a visit to Mexico. He will travel by plane from Norfolk to Miami and thence to Mexico City.

From Mexico City he will go to Acapulco on the west coast to observe the sportsfishing tournament which will be underway there. Several of the teams participating in the tournament are expected to take part in the Hatteras Blue Marlin Tournament scheduled for June 1960. Brown will return late next week. He hopes to arouse more interest in getting more big game fishermen to visit the Dare Coast.

ATTENTION GIVEN WANCHESE NATIVE ON NEW YORK JOB

Capt. Otis Simpson Covers 11,000 Miles A Year on Har- bor Assignment

(By RAYMOND A. WITTEK
In the Staten Island Advance)
They may soon erase Capt. Otis S. Simpson's name from the "property list."

And what's a "property list?" Listen to Simpson:

"When they check through the list and don't find your name, they simply add it. In other words, you're no longer a government employe, you're government property."

Capt. Simpson, who resides at 330 Rose Ave., New Dorp, (on Staten Island) related the standing service joke about employe longevity aboard the Army Corps of Engineers' steam lighter Gorham. He's skipper of the stubby little ship, the jack-of-all-trades of the New York District.

He is the son of the late Charlie Simpson of Wanchese, and he married the former Zella Daily of Buxton. A brother, Jasper Simpson lives in Manteo.

The 54-year-old captain, who'll celebrate his birthday next month, long has been on the property list. As he recalled without any effort, he has been with the corps "thirty-three years, six months and three days."

Sounds like a man with an eye on the calendar?

"Just a good memory," he says. But in the same breath he'll admit that "very probably" he will retire next year, regretfully ending a career with the corps that goes back to 1927.

Simpson spoke of his approaching retirement with a certain amount of apprehension and mixed feelings.

On one hand, he admitted he would miss the service with its security, diversity of jobs, camaraderie and old friendships which survived the years.

On the other hand, he looked forward to the change. Not one to sit idle, his eyes brightened as he contemplated the horizon. Skipping a yacht . . . entering private business—not just vague ideas, but sound job offers.

"In any event," he said, "I'll follow the water."

Simpson has been "following the water" ever since he was 17 and still in high school at Wanchese on Roanoke Island. As far back as he can remember the men on his paternal side had been seafarers. His father was a fisherman and boatman, and he spent summers with him.

Otis S. Simpson left home in 1923 and joined the Engineers Corps in Norfolk, as a motorboat operator. However, this lasted only six or seven months, and he joined the Coast Guard for a year.

On leaving the service, he returned to North Carolina where he worked as a commercial fisherman and later as a ferryboat operator.

On Aug. 15, 1927, Simpson rejoined the corps—this time to stay. He served aboard a dredge in the Gulf of Mexico and later in Norfolk, but the job kept him away for long periods from his family.

Then in 1936 an opportunity to live a normal family life presented itself in New York, and Simpson moved here with his wife, Zella, and their three children, settling on Staten Island.

Simpson served on various ships, getting his first command in 1939. Today he holds a master's ticket for unlimited tonnage and pilot licenses for most of the major ports between Mexico and Canada.

He was given command of the 270-ton Gorham in 1945, and as he says, "You name it; we do it." The 115-foot lighter is one of the corps' small fleet of ships that drafts an unrelenting war against driftwood and refuse found floating—and sometimes sunken—in the harbor.

It differs from other ships in the fleet in that it also delivers general supplies to dredges and is used to grade newly dredged areas. It also does considerable towing and hoisting with its 45-foot-long, 12-ton derrick.

Unlike the larger Drift Master, which was designed especially for drift collecting, the Gorham uses an auxiliary vessel. This collector is a small, catamaran-type float that scoops up refuse in a mesh steel net.

When the net is filled with about 12 tons of refuse, it is dropped on the deck of the Gorham and another net is lowered. Later the Gorham steams to a concrete barge anchored off Robins Reef where the nets are unloaded and the refuse burned.

Simpson estimated that the Gorham See SIMPSON, Page Seven