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# THE COASTLAND TIMES

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## MANY PORTENTS OF GREAT YEAR ON ALL FRONTS IN THE SOUTHERN ALBEMARLE

### Observers Look Back on Many Gains in 1959 and Advise Redoubling of Effort For Agriculture and Promotion of Tourist Business; Crop Season Fine in Hyde, Coastal Season Profitable; Employment Looks Up.

This Christmas season is being marked by more serious reflection and deliberate thinking on the part of the citizens of the Southern Albemarle Counties than in many a day. There are many observers who consider great gains, on the whole, have been made in this region. Those who admit of some losses, admit compensations in other quarters have offset the damages in their own field.

It is true that many farmers find themselves no better off dollarwise this year than a year ago, in that they are not flush with cash to begin operations in 1960. It is true that the hog and poultry market is way down, and some losses have been noted. But fortunately, save for a few cases, our farmers don't have all their eggs in one basket, and many of those who have lost money on the hoof, have retrieved their losses in other ways.

Take the grain situation. Most all soybean growers, this newspaper is told, made money from a good yield. But complaints in Beaufort County concern disappointment with the yield in cash from corn acreage. On the other hand, in Hyde County, Richard Lee Gibbs of Engelhard, who operates the largest grain terminal in the area thinks the grain growers of his county have had one of their finest years in a long time.

It may be true that those farmers who fed their crops to hogs and poultry wound up with less profit than those who sold, due to the drop in hog prices. North Carolina has noted one example this fall to prove that what goes on in distant states can be hurtful to our people. For instance the extended steel strike over a period of many months, reduced consumer demand and buying power of millions of workers who were out on strike. We have an estimate by the State Department of Agriculture that farm income is 50 million dollars off this year, which is not good news.

To offset this loss, there has been tremendous increase in income from tourists, and the North Carolina coastland finds satisfaction in having enjoyed its biggest tourist season by far, with prospects in many quarters for a bigger season in 1960.

There is a hopeful portent in the benefits that will spread from several large building projects  
See S.A.A., Page Five

## HEAVY DAMAGES IN THREE CAR COLLISION MON.

In a three car collision near Manteo Monday, damages estimated at some \$3,000 were sustained. A 1955 Ford convertible driven by R. H. Gray, Jr. of Wanchese got in the left hand lane coming north into the intersection with U.S. 158 and struck a 1957 Ford driven by Mrs. Helen Britt, teacher in the Manteo school. Gray's car was damaged \$500, Mrs. Britt's a total loss, and Rudolph Peele of Manteo, driving a 1955 Chevrolet ran into Mrs. Britt's car, and his car was damaged \$500 according to estimates by Deputy Sheriff D. F. Twyne, who investigated the case. Gray was charged with driving while intoxicated and was fined \$100 in Recorder's Court Tuesday.

In other cases handled by Recorder's Court, John A. Midgett of Manteo was fined \$10 for choking and beating his wife, Sophia, and damaging fixtures in the home. Phillip M. Gamble of the Navy unit at Stumpy Point failed to appear to answer charges of carrying a knife with more than four-inch blade, and of careless and reckless driving, and forfeited a \$50 cash appearance bond.

Audrey S. O'Neal of Wanchese paid \$25 for driving without operator's permit, and Ronnie I. Morgan of Fort Story, Va., for careless and reckless driving paid \$25. Robert O. Quidley of Manteo, for following too close and improper exhaust, \$10 and costs. Richard R. Metcalf, Manteo, improper license tags, \$5. Charles A. Clark, Manteo, for allowing child under age to drive car paid \$25.

## DAVIS BOWS OUT AFTER 45 YEARS AS POSTMASTER

### Popular Wanchese Man Retires and His Assistant, Miss Rowena Midgett Takes Over

On December 1, Herbert L. Davis retired after having served as postmaster at Wanchese since July 1, 1914. Save for an interruption of two years overseas with the army in France in World War I he served his community continuously and during his sojourn in France was assigned to postoffice duty in the Army.

He was one of the few remaining postmasters in the country who were appointed under President Woodrow Wilson.

Always a popular citizen of Wanchese, the largest village in Dare County, he has operated a general store for more than 30 years, and will continue as the community merchant.

He has been succeeded by Miss Rowena Midgett who has been his clerk for many years, and has served as postoffice clerk for six years. She has been named acting postmaster and her neighbors concede her to be a popular successor.

It is doubtful that any men have given more devoted service to their postoffice work, or their duties as a merchant than "Hubby" Davis. He is a native and lifelong resident of Wanchese. He has been a friend indeed to the people of his community, and seldom if ever, has there been a complaint about the service he has rendered.

The postoffice continues to be operated in his store, and Miss Midgett is assisted by a part-time clerk, Mrs. Arnold Daniels. The community has an estimated 1,200 inhabitants who get their mail at this postoffice.

While overseas, his uncle, the late Newton Davis served as acting postmaster. Prior to 1914 the only postmaster who served the community was the late Mrs. Eugenia Daniels who took over many years ago, when the postoffice was established. Before 1886 the citizens got their mail at Manteo.

## MORE MILES OF CANALS PLANNED NEAR ENGELHARD

### Pamlico Development Co. Has High Hopes For Future of 73,400 Acres

There will be more miles of canals dug through the 73,400 acre tract of land northeast of Engelhard owned by Pamlico Development Co., and where considerable development has been done during the past two years. E. Wheeler Bryant, of this firm, who is in Engelhard this week said the company has long range reforestation plans for this large tract, and that the drainage project will permit the growth of other varieties of pines than those now prevailing.

Several miles of canals leading into Pamlico Sound, with pumping equipment to maintain proper water levels, have been completed. The stand of timber on the property is estimated at close to one hundred million log feet, and this includes pine, gum, and some exceptionally large cypress timber. Mr. Bryant said that some of this larger timber would be marketed to make the land more adaptable to the new growth.

The development project at Engelhard has contributed a great deal to the community's economy and citizens are expecting it to prove of continued value in view of the long range plans its owners are projecting.

## BELHAVEN STORES TO CLOSE DEC. 25 and 26

Jule Purvis, secretary of the Belhaven Chamber of Commerce said this week that Belhaven stores will be closed both Friday and Saturday, December 25th and 26 so that all personnel might have full enjoyment of the holiday.

## GOVERNOR HODGES WISHES MERRY CHRISTMAS VOICING BOTH THANKSGIVING AND OPTIMISM

GOVERNOR LUTHER H. HODGES in his message of Christmas greeting to the people of North Carolina voices a spirit of optimism and expressed a feeling of Thanksgiving that the people of our state are immeasurably blessed this season.

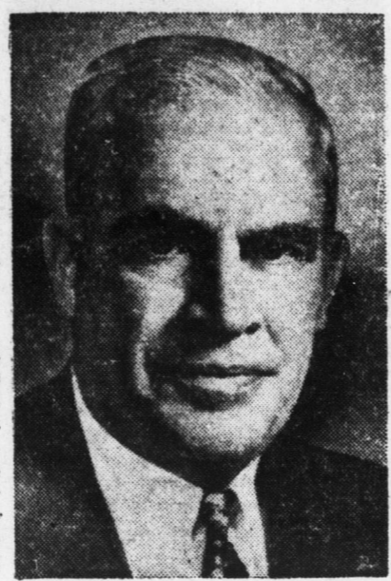
"I do not recall a time in our recent history when the wonderful spirit of the season has been more abundantly apparent in all sections of our state," he declared.

"This spirit of cooperation and fellowship and rededication to the Christian ideal of peace and good will among all people is evident in our communities and commercial establishments, where the joy of Christmas is symbolized by gaiety and color and in our churches and homes, where the true significance of the season is felt," the governor continued.

He reminded that it is the time for remembrance of the less fortunate, and to take the opportunity "to contribute something of ourselves to the spirit of the season."

Christmas is symbolic of the eternal hope for the day when "men of all nations will have learned to live together in peace and prosperity. This is the hope of mankind, and it is particularly fitting at this time that we make a special effort to acknowledge, with humility and reverence, the importance of seeking spiritual guidance in transforming this hope into reality," he said.

"Mrs. Hodges and I and our children and grandchildren would like to take this means of expressing to every person in North Carolina our sincere best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a happy, prosperous New Year," the message concluded.



## A HAPPY CHRISTMAS WITH BLESSINGS TO ALL IS WHAT WE WOULD WISH IN THE FULLEST SENSE, TO CONVEY

There is, at this season an impelling urge upon our part to extend to all our people the best of good wishes; there is the desire to convey to all an expression of gratitude for the benefits that have been vouchsafed us; there is an overwhelming sense of futility of adequate expression at our command, and a humility of spirit that whispers the unworthiness of the feeble efforts we can produce.

Yet, we must believe that the sincerity of the spirit which prompts us is what counts most of all, and that so long as in our hearts we have the deep and abiding belief that we have made both a confession of conviction and profession of faith and love for those people who are our friends and who understand us, then we believe in the security of conscience, and the hope for understanding and cooperation to continue through the year to come.

First in the human heart is love for friends, and then the security and welfare of one's community, his state and his nation. To experience comfort in this hope and belief, one must have found it in a regeneration of faith and purpose, a continual growth of love and human sympathy. A conviction leading to a consecration of one's life and a re-dedication of spirit to be of greatest and most lasting value cannot be born of sudden impulse. It must be born of long hours of introspection or intermittent periods of meditation; it must come out of a long series of personal experiences with one's fellowmen, and the sincere understanding that there is more of good than bad in the world. There must be the all-sustaining belief that "Man with changeless nature coalescing, will undertake regeneration's work."

The attitudes and behavior of others wield tremendous weight in forming our firm beliefs in humanity. When once we have come to believe that only a positive life counts up into lasting value to the world; when we have been weighed down with burdens but to have them lifted through the mercy of Providence; when we have learned that mercy prevails to the extent of overwhelming us with the proper sense of humility and appreciation that most of us have been blessed by more of destiny's goodness than we have deserved or earned, then indeed will we approach real ability to be of service to our fellowman and help to build a better world.

The retrospection that envelops one during the Christmas season comes nearer than at any other time to overwhelming the mind with the challenge to do better. The memory of having been spared through another year, and the promise of a new one with its further challenges and opportunities ahead engenders gratitude and spurs the spirit to discharge, if possible, every obligation that nature has established. It is a great thing for one to have been stricken down and restored to service. It is great to have been prepared to do worth while things. Only through the fires of adversity come the best tempered metals.

We who have lived our lives here and who trace our ancestry back in an unbroken line for more than 200 years in this coastland enjoy a priceless heritage. Yet, having this heritage imposes upon us a greater responsibility than is upon the alien peoples who come with nothing, seek a ready-made prosperity, and remain here never having had it so good, because our generosity shares with them what the toil and sweat of our forefathers accumulated for us to enjoy.

The greater responsibility imposed on us enjoins us to save and protect for our children and grandchildren, something of value equal to that which has been our heritage. Too often we let years waste away without discharging our duty. We do not give to life even a small measure of what we take from it. We drift along, and sometimes never awaken to our duty; and sometimes when we are convicted and aroused it is so late we can do but little.

In retrospection we look back across the recent years when so many of those who held out helping hands to us, dropped quickly one by one from our midst and we have their help no longer. Without having striven to prepare others to qualify themselves and take up the load, we've found ourselves with heavier burdens as each friend passed on. In time, age delineates the worth of what we have lost, and the frightful cost of our neglect when we failed to share our time, and our lives with others and to be helpful to them.

Christmas is a wonderful time, particularly in this coastland, and it's worth most of all to those who had the good fortune to be born and reared in it. To all peoples it is a season when they find vicarious joy and experience in what from time to time have seemed the lost hopes of their

See MESSAGE, Page Four

## HEAVY FIRE LOSS IN SEAFOOD PLANT IN BELHAVEN

### Efficient Fire Department Prevents Total Loss of Building and Boats

What might have been one of the most disastrous fire losses to the Belhaven community in many respects occurred in the early morning hours Tuesday when Clyde Potter's Fish and Oyster Co. on the waterfront broke into a blaze of undetermined origin, and wound up in the loss of valuable ice machinery and storage facilities. The fire was discovered between 3:30 and 4 a.m. and the prompt and efficient work of the Belhaven Fire Department got the fire under control before the Washington department arrived on the scene.

Without this efficient work, the fire might have spread to the adjacent business district with terrific loss. Enough of the property was saved so that the business may continue its crab picking operations which gives employment to many workers as well as income to crabbers, oystermen and fishermen. The business is one of Belhaven's few big industries and its loss of operation would have been disastrous to the economy of the town at this season.

Two large trawlers tied up at the company docks were saved. There is no official estimate of the loss in money, but citizens well remember two years ago when fire struck the nearby Blue Channel crab plant and it was some months before operations were resumed. The man on the street ventures the opinion Tuesday's damage can't be replaced for \$50,000.

## OYSTER BOATS AT LONG SHOAL RIV. HEAVILY DAMAGED

### Lowest Form of Vandalism Does Estimated \$1,500 Damage to Four Craft

Four oyster boats tied up at Long Shoal River Bridge were damaged heavily by vandals sometime on the week end. The boats were left by the owners on Friday, and the damage was discovered when they returned to begin work Monday morning.

Sheriff Charlie Cahoon of Hyde County who is investigating the case estimates the damage amounts to at least \$1,500. Two of the boats were sunk by the cutting of the intake water hose, leading to pump. Distributors had been beaten off the motors of some of them and large batteries of the type which cost more than \$100 each were beaten into destruction.

The owners of three of the boats is Raymond Sawyer, and the other boat, by David LeRoy Kriak, both men of Pamlico Beach, near Belhaven. While for many years, various fishermen have been leaving their boats unprotected at this place, it was the first time these two have left their boats there. For a long time now, fishermen have been annoyed by minor damages, thefts of gas, tools, etc. when they left their boats at Long Shoal Bridge.

These boat owners know of no one who might have malice against them, but Sheriff Cahoon has some leads on who might have done the job, although proof in such cases is often hard to obtain. There is one theory that the damage was done by drunken vandals, or by persons who resented newcomers oystering in the area.

## BRAKES FAILED TO HOLD; TWO CARS WERE DAMAGED

Charles Ahman of Ocracoke drove through water on the road near Oregon Inlet ferry while northbound Sunday morning, and his brakes failed to hold when he tried to stop behind a Chevrolet convertible owned by Robert Jones of Portsmouth, Va. and damaged it about \$400 worth. Mr. Ahman's car sustained \$200 damages.

Another auto mishap occurred Monday at Stumpy Point at Lake Worth when Murray Mann 21, northbound from Engelhard driving a Ford, ran into a pickup truck which J. C. Collins of Engelhard had parked at a fish house and who began a right turn as Mann approached. This caused the Ford to strike Glen Twiford's car. Estimated damage to the truck \$1,000; Twiford's car \$200 and Mann's car \$350. Mr. and Mrs. Mann were injured slightly and were taken to a doctor for treatment.

## "DON'T CHANGE SHOWS" IS HUNTER'S ADVICE; OFFERS SECRET TO WIN SUCCESS

### The Author of "Unto These Hills" Tells What the Outdoor Shows Need and Why They Wouldn't Be Successful If Transplanted; Helpful Ideas Expressed on Eve of New Program for 1960.

## HYDE COUNTY GIRL WINS HONORS IN PHILA.



MISS MARY ELIZABETH JOLLY, native of Hyde County, after her graduation at East Hyde High School, Engelhard, in 1958, went to Philadelphia, where she is taking a two-year post-graduate course in South Philadelphia High School. After having won several awards, she was recently honored as among the few attaining the highest standards of scholarship, character, personality, leadership and service and has been elected to the Torch Chapter of the National Honor Society—"the highest honor the school confers."

Miss Jolly is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gould Jolly, at their home in Gulrock, during the holidays. She is accompanied by her father's parents, with whom she is staying while finishing her education in Philadelphia.

## EDWIN GILL MAY ENTER THE RACE FOR GOVERNOR

### State Treasurer Speaks Like A Candidate; Many Believe He's In It

For a long time many leaders in state affairs have been saying the man who will be Governor in 1961 had not been mentioned among the three lively contenders already active in the field. A statement made the other day by State Treasurer Edwin Gill that he is giving serious consideration to being a candidate, and will announce what he will do in January, has therefore created considerable interest throughout the state and has brought him many expressions of encouragement.

By reason of his long experience in law, legislative and governmental administration, Mr. Gill is considered exceptionally well qualified and a formidable contender for office. He is also believed to hold the highest confidence of the conservative people of the state who do not wish the state's economy wrecked by radical programs controlled by irrational leaders in blocs of any kind. Mr. Gill is 60 years old, and is a native of Laurinburg. He was secretary to Governor O. Max Gardner, and was later a law partner with him; he has served as U. S. Director of Internal Revenue, has been Treasurer since 1953; is ex-officio chairman of the State Banking Commission and has served on numerous other Boards and Commissions.

"I regard the governorship as the highest office within the gift of our people," Mr. Gill said in a statement last week. "It is more than a political prize; it offers, in my thinking, a maximum opportunity for public service."

Gill has been regarded as a possible candidate for many months. Others who are considered as possible entrants into the gubernatorial sweepstakes include: former State Sen. Terry Sanford of Fayetteville; House Speaker Addison Hewlett of Wilmington; Democratic National Committeeman John D. Larkins, Jr. of Trenton; former Asst. Atty. Gen. I. Beverly Lake of Raleigh and State Sen. O. Arthur Kirkman of Greensboro.

Asked if the statement means that he's closer to running than previously, Gill said "that is correct."

"I have not put on any active See GILL, Page Eight

What is not good for the "Lost Colony" is good for "Horn in the West, and the idea of switching the shows from west to east and vice-versa does not strike a responsive chord in the mind of Kermit Hunter, the brilliant author of "Unto these Hills" which is shown each year at Cherokee, "Horn in the West" is the show produced at Boone, N. C., which was also written by Mr. Hunter.

In a letter discouraging this idea, which has sprung up from several sources throughout the state, Mr. Hunter goes into detail, and in this letter may also be found the secret by which to create success for either show. Mr. Hunter has given this newspaper permission to publish his letter.

The fine things said in this letter come at a good time, on the eve of a general meeting of the Board of Directors of the Lost Colony, which has just been announced by Mrs. O. Max Gardner, the newly elected chairman of the Roanoke Island Historical Association. Mrs. Gardner has called the meeting in Manteo on Thursday, January 7th to discuss plans for the 1960 show. She has lost no time in getting ready for this meeting, and while at her home in Shelby, has collected advice and developed ideas to present here two weeks hence.

The following remarks come from Mr. Hunter, and are well worth careful study in Dare County, where there is no favor given the idea of changing shows: He says:

"Our problem is not to change the entertainment at Manteo and Boone, but to get new tourists, isn't it? How can anything (other than motels and eating places) ever prosper if the very same people keep coming every year? These shows are based on the assumption that we have a changing clientele. Of course, I've heard those rosy statements about Mr. and Mrs. So-and-So who have seen Horn in the West every year since it opened, or the family that goes See LOST COLONY, Page Five

## BELHAVEN HOLDS USUAL SUCCESSFUL SEASON PROGRAM

### School Band and Floats Make Good Show Sponsored by C of C

The annual Christmas program sponsored by the Belhaven Community Chamber of Commerce was held Dec. 16, when Santa Claus toured the town escorted by the Belhaven Community Band. Santa rode in an elaborate sleigh prepared by Ed Harris, Mrs. Rad Jones, and Mrs. W. E. Bateman, Jr., assisted by Doyle Nixon, Mr. and Mrs. Mack Harris, Muri Cook, Buck Ralph, and Curly Blackwell.

That night at 7:00 Mrs. Bateman's "Living Pictures" again delighted the spectators in front of the old school building. The costumes and background setting were even more beautiful than usual this year and drew much favorable comment. The unveiling of the pictures was accompanied by carols sung by the John A. Wilkinson High School under the direction of Mrs. Noel Faye Cayton. The Rev. Lester Bisette was the narrator.

Characters in the pictures were Mrs. Russell Johnston, as Mary; Leon Smith, as Joseph; Delma Tolan, innkeeper; Clifton Jones, Milton Gunn, and Marion Dilday, shepherds; Billy Jones, Little Shepherd; Otis Johnston, Bill Johnston, and Ernest Jefferson, wise men; Mrs. Annette Noble Edmondson, angel; Libby Fussell and Ann Boger, curtain angels. Mrs. Bateman was assisted in arranging the scenes by Mrs. Rad Jones.

Still on display at the school grounds are a permanent Nativity Scene painted by Topper Bateman and a Christmas panorama by Mrs. Catharine Wilkinson. Mrs. Wilkinson has once again created a delightful show of seasonal figures by her usual procedure of making "something out of nothing." She begins work on her creations each year immediately after Christmas and the entire town looks forward to seeing the display go up.