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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

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MANTEO, N. C., FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 1961

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HARBOR HEARING IS SCHEDULED AT AVON NEXT FRIDAY

Shorter and Deeper Channel Into Pamlico Sound Proposed by Engineers

The problem whether the community of Avon in Dare County is to get a deeper and straighter channel leading from Pamlico Sound into the community's fine large harbor may depend entirely on the weight of argument presented on Friday of next week at a public hearing before Col. R. P. Davidson, District Engineer.

In order that the required report may fully cover the matter, a Public Hearing will be held in the Cape Hatteras Hotel at Avon, at 10 a.m., Friday, April 21.

For your information the existing project provides for a channel from Pamlico Sound to Avon, 6 feet deep and 100 feet wide, with a basin at the shore end to the same depth, 100 feet by 300 feet. The route of the existing channel from deep water in the sound to a point near the shore zigzag through several sloughs in which natural depths are 6 feet or more, except for one troublesome shoal area where dredging is intermittently required to provide depth.

All interested parties are invited to be present or represented at the above time and place, including representatives of Federal, State, county, and municipal agencies, and those of commercial, recreational, industrial, civic, highway, and water transportation interests, and property owners concerned. They will be afforded full opportunity to express their views concerning the character and extent of the improvements desired and the need and advisability of their execution. It is understood that a new and deeper route from the basin to Pamlico Sound, in lieu of the existing project, is desired. Sponsors of the improvements are urged to present pertinent factual data bearing upon the general plans of improvement desired and to give detailed supporting data on the economic opposing interests, if any, are also urged to state the reasons for their position. Included in the factual information should be data on the type, number, origin, destination, and the light and loaded drafts of boats expected to use the improvements, if provided; the estimated benefits from increased loads of fish and shellfish, and other commerce transported over the project; and the benefits from prevention of damage to boats, from reduction in operating expenses, and from similar items. An outline showing specific data of the type desired for justification has been furnished local interests previously; additional copies may be obtained from the Wilmington District office.

Oral statements will be heard, but for accuracy of record all important facts and arguments should be submitted in writing, in sextuplicate, as the records of the hearing will be forwarded for consideration by the Secretary of the Army. Written statements may be handed in at the hearing or mailed beforehand to Col. R. P. Davidson, District Engineer.

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WALTON O'NEAL'S DEATH A LOSS TO BELHAVEN

In the death of Walton O'Neal, 81, who died Saturday at his home in Belhaven, his community suffered a great loss. Long identified with the business and civic life of the community, who stood out as a man of unselfish, sterling character.

He was born in Hyde County, for many years was a merchant in Lake Landing, and later engaged in farming near Pantego. Until his retirement a few years ago, he, for a number of years operated in the Belhaven Candy Co. He was an honorary Rotarian and past president of the Rotary Club, a Mason, and member of the Sudan Temple of the Shrine and the Eastern Star. He was a member of St. James Episcopal Church and served as senior warden for a number of years. He was twice married, first to Florence Gibbs, who preceded him in death, second to Clara Dill Gibbs. Survivors besides his wife are two sons, W. P. O'Neal former Mayor of Belhaven, and A. Eugene O'Neal of Okinawa; two daughters, Mrs. M. E. Swindell of Leakesville and Mrs. Jack Watson of Sladesville; 10 grandchildren and five great grandchildren; one brother, Lonnie O'Neal of New Holland, two sisters, Mrs. T. T. Smith of New Holland and Mrs. Metrah Swindell of Swan Quarter. Funeral services were held at the St. James Episcopal Church Monday at 3 p.m., conducted by the Rev. Angus Miller and the Rev. A. C. D. Noe. Burial was in Belhaven Community Cemetery.

Through the generosity of the Board of Commissioners of Dare County, there will be expended in the Stumpy Point community some \$9,500 without local interests having to meet the requirements of the small harbors law, by putting up some of the cost. A contract was let last week to George A. Daniels of Wanchese for \$2,895 to build a bulkhead at the mouth of the old county ditch at the east end of the community.

In order to administer the \$65,000 granted from Hurricane relief funds, the county has obligated the sum of \$6,500 to speed construction of a sandhill along the shore of a portion of the village to keep storm tides from coming in. This community was hardest hit during hurricane Donna, which accounts for its having received the greater part of the relief money granted in the area, and was awarded on the basis of representations made by the county board.

THE CRUISE OF THE SLOOP "SAFARI"

By BOB L. BASNIGHT

Cliff Chappell, my wife Shirley and I were driving at a rapid pace down that part of U.S. 17 that runs parallel to the Dismal Swamp Canal. We were trying to reach my Father's boat works, in Elizabeth City, N. C., before eight o'clock that morning. We had been a little late leaving Newport News, Va., where Cliff and I work as designers for the shipyard. The reason for pushing the old car so fast was due to a telegram I had sent to the third member of our proposed sailing trip, Shirley was not going due to a delicate condition she now found herself in. In fact, she claimed that I had chosen this time to make the Albemarle Sound crossing, instead of some other period during six years of being married to her just so she could not go. This would be the first summer since I had owned the sloop "Safari" that she had not sailed with me.

The telegram had informed Richardson Smith, known as Ritz, that if we were not at my father's boat dock by eight o'clock Friday morning, to either go back to bed or proceed without us, and I knew crossing of the Albemarle sound at its widest point between the Pasquotank River and the Alligator River, a small affair as boating goes, had grown out of all proportion to us three. We had planned and talked about it for years, ever since I had "Safari" built right after I got out of the Army in 1953. About a dozen times a year someone would say, "lets sail the sound this year." That would set off hours of talk. How would we get the boat back? Would we sail her back or get a trailer? Could we all get leave from jobs and school at the same time? Not enough crew members. To many crew members. At last things had finally become coordinated.

Upon arrival at the Basnight Boat Works, at 8:05, Ritz was waiting on the pier for us. He said he had planned to give us twenty-five more minutes, and had already rigged the boat.

"Safari" is a seventeen-foot, flat bottom, open cockpit sloop. She carries a three foot bowsprit and a twenty-four foot mast. The boat is rigged heavy. There are two rows of reef points in the main and one in the jib. The sail material is 240 drill topsail ducking, and they were made by my uncle, J. W. Alexander, who was a sailmaker years before he was forced into the tent and awning business. He made sails for working boats such as the skipjack and the skipjack, and the sails for the "Safari" were cut with the same practical lines.

Ritz, who was attending school up-state and was off for the Easter holidays, had arrived in Elizabeth City the day before. I had mailed him a list of instructions for things I wanted done to the boat before our voyage. And Ritz, who grew up on the water crewing in Moth boats as ballast and in Snipes and Hamptons as "jib man", had carried out the instructions to the letter. He had not questioned any of the items on the list, even one request that would have sent the modern-day sailor yelling to his group leader. I had failed to put the traditional coin under the mast when I stepped it in the spring, and I wanted it under there for no special reason that I could explain to anyone. Ritz had without change of expression taken down six turnbuckles, un-stepped the mast, and slipped under a dime.

Another item, a little more logical, was the stowing of juniper boards and some screws that could be used to repair any rudder damage. "Safari" carries a relatively See SAFARI, Page Six

COUNTY SPENDING FOR STUMPY PT. WATERFRONT DIKE AND BULKHEAD

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THE JOSEPH CONRAD OF THE ALLIGATOR REGION



BOB L. BASNIGHT is a product of the Alligator River Country, and he writes with the insight and entertainment of Joseph Conrad, about his voyage across Albemarle Sound from Elizabeth City to Alligator River. We are grateful to Mr. Basnight for giving our readers an opportunity to follow himself and a companion in a small sailboat "The Safari", last year. Our rivers, and boating is in his blood. His people were boatmen, his father operates a boat plant, and he is in the industry himself. By the facility with which he writes about boats and the water, we would take it he is a remarkably versatile young man in any capacity. This piece is worth clipping for a scrap book, and we believe it will fire others with the desire to follow his sailings on our sounds and rivers. He lives at 301 W. Cypress St., Elizabeth City.

ANOTHER PILOT LOST OFF STUMPY POINT FRIDAY

Another in the long list of planes lost in Pamlico Sound fell Friday. An Oceana-based Navy Jet attack plane crashed at Stumpy Point, during an operational training flight.

He was identified as Lt. (jg) G. K. Hooper, 24, attached to Attack Squadron 86. He is married and resides at 311 33rd St., Virginia Beach, with his wife. His parents are Mr. and Mrs. Thomas S. Hooper of Greenville, S. C.

No details of the crash, which occurred at 9 a.m., were released. Stumpy Point is a target used by the Navy for practice bombing. It is 92 miles south of Oceana.

The body was recovered and brought to Twiford's Funeral Home in Manteo.

DRUM CAUGHT IN SURF AT CAPE HATTERAS

First channel bass of the season to be landed from the surf at Cape Hatteras was reeled in by Deputy Sheriff Raymond Basnett there early this week. The fish weighed 47 pounds according to Basnett who was in Manteo the day after catch was made.

In the meantime, surf and inlet fishing for channel bass and other varieties of game fish was reported spotty during the week, which was to be expected considering the stormy weather. All catches of channel bass to date, excepting Basnett's fish on Tuesday have been caught in Hatteras Inlet or along the surf between Hatteras and the inlet—where a total of some 20 have been taken.

WANCHESE SERVES AS A HARBOR OF REFUGE

Wanchese with its harbor deepened with funds obtained by Congressman Herbert C. Bonner has not only been an unloading and supply for the multi-million dollar trawling fleet operating of the Outer Banks during recent months, but the harbor has also been a place of refuge during storm.

On Wednesday this week with full gale warnings displayed and winds which some reported reached hurricane force in gusts, Wanchese Harbor was crowded with large and small fishing boats, which rode the storm out successfully in the protected waters of the fishing town near the south end of Roanoke Island.

BUCCANEERS OFF FOR INVASION OF PITTSBURGH, PA.

Colorful Pre-Jamboree Events Underway for Dare's Annual Festival April 28-29

Dare Coast Jamboree buccaneers who sailed into Raleigh last week leaving much publicity and good will in their wake left Wednesday for Pittsburgh, Pa., where on Thursday they were planning to invite Mayor Barr to the vacation launcher here on April 28-29, and perform other public relations activities in the city that has been made famous by their Pirates ball club.

The group of some 20 costumed buccaneers including King Blackbeard VI and Queen Ina Evans left at daybreak from Kitty Hawk with their ship on wheels, the "Sea Hag" launched last week and a convoy of station wagons, each flying the Jolly Roger of what has become one of America's most publicized vacation season starters. Julian Oneto was in command of the group and in Pittsburgh Gilbert Love, one of the best travel writing friends Dare Coast has ever had, will help line up various events.

They will be making headquarters at The Roosevelt Hotel, where one of the events will be a special party for members of the press, radio and television.

Back here in Dare other preparations are being made to present one of the most successful Pirate's Jamborees in history.

Something new this year will be the mammoth parade starting at Avalon Beach at 12 noon on April 29, following the colorful pirate See JAMBOREE, Page Seven

MANTEO HAS FINEST FURNITURE STORE IN THE WHOLE COASTLAND

The biggest mercantile news of the month in Manteo is the opening of the new showroom of the Manteo Furniture Company, owned by the Wescott Brothers. Having bought the former Ford agency building, it has been converted into a deluxe showroom, which extends their furniture display from County to Lodge Street.

Beautifully decorated, and with vinyl floors from wall to wall, this showroom equals any to be found in Norfolk, Richmond or other large cities. It is completely stocked with luxury lines of furniture, and all in all it is a credit to the community, and a tribute to the hard work of the Wescott brothers which has brought them great commercial success through the years. It is worth visiting by those to whom the beauty of a home means everything. Beyond contradiction it is the finest appearing furniture store in this whole coastland area.

Among prizes to be awarded at an open-house party sponsored by the furniture firm Saturday night will be a General Electric washing machine, Kingsdown mattress, electric iron, electric and regular blankets, rod and reel, corn popper, hassock, beverage ensemble, and automatic toaster.

Refreshments will be served from 7 p.m. until 10 p.m., when prizes are awarded.

ALEPHEUS W. DRINKWATER IS HEADED FOR TEXAS

Alpheus W. Drinkwater, 85, who had to do with dispatching messages and press about the Wright brothers' early flights at Kill Devil Hills near Kitty Hawk, left Thursday morning for San Antonio, Texas, to attend a convention of a society named Daedalus after the first man to fly, according to Greek mythology.

He will be a special guest of State Senator Emmett Winslow, Goldsboro Mayor Scott Berkley, World War I aviators and the U. S. Air Force. Accompanying Drinkwater throughout the trip as keeper of valuable and important papers and pictures he will take with him will be his grandson, Johnny Booth, of Norfolk, Va.

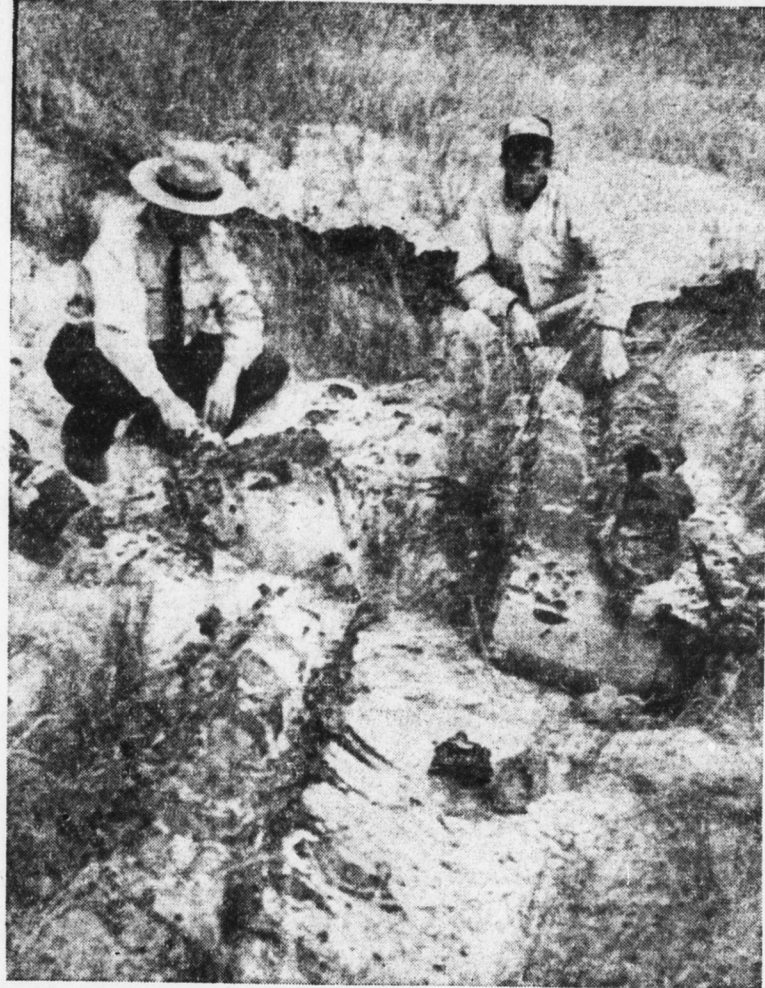
REV. BURROUGHS TO SPEAK TO MANTEO ROTARIANS

Rev. Joseph Burroughs, rector of St. Andrews-by-the-Sea Episcopal Church, Nags Head, will be guest speaker Monday night at the meeting of the Manteo Rotary Club. Mr. Burroughs, who is president of Friends of the Dare County Library, will speak in behalf of the library, as a feature of National Library Week.

WEEK END WEATHER

Temperatures will average near normal with highest near 66 and lowest 53. Scattered showers indicated Saturday, otherwise dry weather Friday and Sunday.

NATIONAL SEASHORE WORKMEN UNCOVER MYSTERY SHIP



PARK SUPERINTENDENT ROBERT F. GIBBS and a construction employee of Cape Hatteras National Seashore are shown at the site of a "mystery ship" that was discovered near Buxton recently. The corroded motors have been tentatively identified as possibly being part of a World War I destroyer or maybe a rum runner of the roaring twenties of the prohibition era. Anyway, it's a mystery and will be uncovered eventually as a tourist attraction. (Aycock Brown photo)

DARE COUNTY WOMAN IS AN "ENUMERATOR OF THE YEAR"

A Dare County resident, Mrs. Virginia L. Davis, of Wanchese, is one of four women from different parts of the United States to be chosen an Enumerator of the Year (1960) and to spend a week (April 3-7) at Census Bureau headquarters, Washington, D. C., as a reward.

Mrs. Davis was chosen for her work in the Census Current Business Survey held monthly in selected areas throughout the country by the Census Bureau, U. S. Department of Commerce, to gather facts on the Nation's business activity. Mrs. Davis worked under the direction of the Charlotte Field Office of the Census Bureau.

The four enumerators were brought to the Census Bureau for the dual purpose of enabling them to view what is done with the material they gather—and to make recommendations on how to improve the system—and of permitting Census officials to question the enumerators and to obtain, first hand, opinions on how the Census current programs work in the field.

As part of the week-long program of work and play—their visit was scheduled to coincide with the famed Cherry Blossom Festival—the women were given gold medals by A. Ross Eckler, Acting Director of the Census. The medals are inscribed with the names of the enumerators and the programs on which each worked.

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30 ON HATTERAS ISLAND ORGANIZE LIONS CLUB

Curtis Gray President; Charter Night Saturday; 200 Visitors Expected

Some 30 young men of Hatteras Island have organized a Lions Club, with Curtis Gray of Buxton acting President, and Charter night banquet is planned Saturday night, April 15 at the High School. Some 200 out-of-town invited guests are expected.

The Lions Clubs are affiliated with a national group, and engage in civic and community activities. Other Lions' Clubs of the area are in Swan Quarter, Belhaven, and Manteo.

HATTERAS GROUP WINS FIGHT FOR BETTER FERRIES

New Schedules to Begin April 24th; Ferry Crewmen to Wear Uniforms

A long-standing demand of the citizens of Hatteras Island for better ferry service across Oregon Inlet, and for putting employees operating the boats in uniform, came to a successful conclusion this week as the result of citizens having recently organized some 300 strong, and going as far as Raleigh to see the Governor, with their appeal for relief from conditions which offer a great economic threat.

The ferry division now plans to operate the boats from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. Crew members and pilots will be required to wear uniforms, there by presenting a better appearance to tourists. Woodrow Edwards of Waves, a retired officer in Charge of Oregon Inlet Coast Guard Station has been employed as one of the pilots.

The united effort of the citizens, led by Mr. Edwards, resulted in forming the Hatteras Island Betterment Association. The group carried their appeal for improved service to the State Highway Commission, and failing to get the relief demanded carried their appeal to Governor Terry Sanford, who promised to aid as far as he could. For his efforts in behalf of his neighbors, Mr. Edwards was rewarded by employment on the boats, due to his knowledge of the waters and of the area and the people.

The Highway Commission plans to let a contract this month to open the old channel, whereby the short run of 20 minutes may be established. This channel having filled up last year, makes it necessary to take the long way across. As a result traffic is tied up for hours, and not adequately handled.

DEDICATION THURSDAY OF PLAQUE IN THE ELIZABETHAN GARDENS

On April 20th, at 2:30 p.m., a large bronze plaque on the front wall of the Elizabethan Garden on Roanoke Island near Manteo, will be dedicated. Mrs. J. B. A. Daughtridge of Rocky Mount, President of the Garden Club of North Carolina, Inc., will preside. Mrs. Inglis Fletcher will give the dedicatory address. The honored guests will be the four women who have been chairman of the Elizabethan Garden Committee since the decision to build this Garden in 1951—Mrs. J. M. Tyler, Kinston; Mrs. Glenn Long, Newton; Mrs. Roy Home-wood, Chapel Hill and Mrs. Corbett Howard, Goldsboro. The money to pay for this plaque has been raised as a tribute to these women.

The inscription on the plaque, written by Mrs. Fletcher, is as follows:

"Down the centuries English women have built gardens to the Glory of God, the beauty of the countryside and the comfort of their souls.

The women of the Garden Club of North Carolina, Inc., have planted this Garden in memory of the valiant men and women who founded the first English Colony in America.

From this hallowed ground they walked away through the dark forest and into history."

"1585-1951"
The Garden is now in full bloom and for the next several weeks will be especially beautiful with dogwoods, azaleas, camellias and other spring flowers. The Knot Garden is exquisite with gay pansies and edgings of hellei holly. The Mount, See GARDENS, Page Seven

JAYCEE PLANNING MEET AT COURTHOUSE FRIDAY NIGHT SET FOR 8 O'CLOCK

The possibility of organizing a Junior Chamber of Commerce in Manteo will be discussed at an open meeting scheduled for 8 p.m. tonight (Friday) at the courthouse in Manteo.

On hand will be Ralph Basnight of the Plymouth Jaycees, and Bob Brown of Ahoskie, North Carolina vice-president of the organization. A film will be shown and explanation of Jaycee functions will be made.

Last preliminary meeting held last week, Charles Hines was appointed temporary chairman and Carl Hayes, temporary secretary and membership chairman.

The Junior Chamber of Commerce is a civic service organization whose membership is open to young men between the ages of 21 and 35. Purpose of the organization is the improvement of the communities in which units are located and personal development of its members; both objectives being accomplished through a wide variety of project activities.