

Federal Point Historic Preservation Society

P.O. Box 623, Carolina Beach, North Carolina 28428

Newsletter

Volume 14 No. 3

March, 2007

Darlene Bright, editor

March Meeting

The Federal Point Historic Preservation Society will hold its regular monthly meeting on Monday, March 19, 2007, 7:30 PM, at the Federal Point History Center, 1121-A North Lake Park Blvd., adjacent to Carolina Beach Town Hall.

Ms. Becky Sawyer will talk on the final major Civil War military event in North Carolina. "The Battle at Bentonville," fought by many of the soldiers that defended the lower Cape Fear after the fall of and evacuation from Wilmington. March 19 – 21 marks the 142nd Anniversary of the struggle. 20,000 Confederates went up against 60,000 Union soldiers led by General William T. Sherman. The war ended within days of the Confederate loss.

Becky, who lives in the area with her husband, Randolph, and three-year-old Caroline, was Curator of Education at Bentonville nine years before transferring to Fort Fisher recently. She graduated from UNC-Wilmington and received her Masters Degree at Southeastern Missouri State University.

Members and the general public are invited to attend.

Last Month

Si Harrington, Military History Archivist with the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, presented a very thorough power point program on his extensive work to collect oral histories, documentation, and photographs of our military veterans. With more than 5,000 interviews over the past ten years, the work has just begun. If you have items to share, or are willing to conduct audio or video interviews with veterans using an easy-to-follow interview guide, please contact Si at (919) 807-7314 or E-mail: sion.harrington@ncmail.net, or staff at the Federal Point History Center.

We all applaud Si Harrington for his excellent job, he undoubtedly loves, that comes so naturally to him. Approximately 30 members and guests were present, including Chief Warrant Officer Harry Clough (Retired US Marine), a 96-year-old survivor of the World War II attack on Pearl Harbor.

Message From Your President

Judy Rhudy Thompson

Happy St. Patricks Day! I hope everyone remembers to "spring forward" early this year for Daylight Savings time!

The History Center had a great day on Saturday with 10 visitors. Many thanks to Jo Wainright for volunteering for us.

Sunday, March 4th, was "Be A Tourist in Your Own Hometown". Traffic was slow in the afternoon, but overall, we had 9 visitors to come in and everyone enjoyed looking around and reading the displays. I feel that our participation in activities like this is very important, as more and more people learn about our group and all we try to do to preserve our rich history. Thanks so much to Sylvia Snook and Ron Griffin for helping me with this event.

We have a new shipment of Ocean Plaza Commemorative T-shirts and they're going fast, so hurry by the Center and get yours! Also, we still have a few Attractions Coupon Books, so be sure to purchase one if you

haven't already. The Attactions Dining and Value Guide is a book featuring hundreds of **BUY ONE GET ONE FREE** coupons from the area's best establishments.

Please be reminded that we are sponsoring an exhibit at Kure Beach's 60th Anniversary celebration on Saturday, March 31st, beginning at 10:00 am. Please call John Gordon at 458-7880 if you can volunteer to help man our exhibit for a couple of hours.

It looks like Leslie has scheduled another great program this month. See you at the History Center on Monday night.

Cape Fear River – Bald Head Island Historic Cruise
Sunday, May 20, 2007
1 to 6 pm

The Federal Point Historic Preservation Society will hold a LOWER CAPE FEAR RIVER HISTORIC CRUISE on Sunday, May 20, from 1 to 6 pm, featuring a one-hour visit to the "Old Baldy" lighthouse and the Bald Head Island Museum.

The guided tour and entertainment, on board the *Winner Cruise Queen*, will feature historians, John Golden, portraying Blockade Runner Captain Roberts, Jack E. Fryar, Jr., author of "A Guide to Wilmington & The Lower Cape Fear," and the "Coastal Chronicles" series, and Leslie Bright, retired from the Underwater Archaeology Unit at Fort Fisher.

Over fifty historic sites from Carolina Beach Marina, through the Intracoastal Waterway, and down the Cape Fear River will be identified. Bald Head Lighthouse, completed in 1817, is the oldest lighthouse structure standing on the North Carolina coast. Refreshments will be provided on the return trip.

Tickets are \$30 and may be purchased at the Federal Point History Center, adjacent to Carolina Beach Town Hall, on Fridays and Saturdays, 10 – 4 pm, or by calling 458-8684, 458-0502. Please leave a message.

Beach Memories
By Ruby Klutz Splawn-Beavers

My earliest recollection of coming to Carolina Beach from Rowan County where I was born is forever fixed in my mind. I don't recall the date of the trip because I was very young. (I was born in April 1925.) When we got to the Lumberton/Pembroke area, the Lumber River had overflowed. My dad, Arthur Klutz, got out of the truck and walked ahead to look out the road. My older brother drove until we passed over the flood. To me as a little child, it was very frightening. When we arrived at Wilmington, we crossed the Cape Fear River on a ferry that landed at the foot of Market Street.

We moved to Carolina Beach in 1930. There were not many jobs during that depression, and my dad fished for a living. I loved going fishing with him at night to catch flounder. I, of course, always went to sleep in the bow of the little boat, but my dad didn't seem to mind. He used a net much of his day fishing and I have helped pull the net in and helped pick the fish up off the beach. It was exciting to see the things that came in the net. We had no truck at the time, so Dad had to remove the back seat out of an old car and haul the fish to Hampstead where there was a fish market.

There were not many children of school age south of the turn bridge over Snow's Cut. At first a Mr. Davis drove the school bus and later, his sons took turns driving. We of elementary grades through sixth grade went to a three-room schoolhouse in Myrtle Grove. After sixth, we went to Winter Park School for seventh and eighth grades. New Hanover High School was the only high school in the county at that time.

I remember the huge pavilion that stood in the middle of the boardwalk. It had a bathhouse underneath and a playground in front – not far from the ocean – where I fell from a swing and broke my arm when I was six. The pavilion served as a dance hall on Saturday night and church on Sunday. I remember being in a Christmas pageant and singing "Away in a Manger" solo. Later, my grandfather helped build the first church on Carolina Beach that I recall. It was interdenominational and is still open and active at 4th and Cape Fear Boulevard. The name was Community Church but has changed now to Hope Memorial. The Catholics held Mass early and the Protestants came in later to hold their services. Before that church was built, my

grandmother would walk with us kids to a Methodist church that was located near the Cape Fear River. The graveyard is still there and my great grandparents, my parents, brothers and a baby of mine are all buried there. In the summertime, a Mrs. Ogburn held Sunday School in her house at the corner of Cape Fear Boulevard and Lake Park Boulevard. The house is still there. It is the Cottage Restaurant now.

My great grandparents lived on Cape Fear Boulevard. I remember cutting tender grass from a ditch in front of their house to feed her rabbits that she raised for food. They operated a boarding house and I helped iron linens for my Great Grandma Ludwig. We had been at Carolina Beach for a little while when my maternal grandparents moved there, too. They were the W. H. Earnhardts. The Earnhardts built a two story house at the corner of Cape Fear Boulevard and 3rd Street. They also operated a boarding house and I loved to help Grandma Earnhardt wash dishes (but I hated the chore at home). My grandfather owned several cottages in a strip between Cape Fear Boulevard and Hamlet Avenue. We moved into one of the cottages on Hamlet. The Ludwigs and Earnhardts lived adjacent to each other, for my grandmother was one of the Ludwig's daughters. They had six daughters, Mrs. Mandy Bame, Mrs. Mattie Fisher, Mrs. Edith Schley, Mrs. Beulah Davis, Mrs. Amy Foster and my grandmother, Lizzie Earnhardt.

I remember the Greystone Inn that was beside a canal that ran through the middle of the town from what is now the yacht basin to the lake. It (probably the canal) has since been covered over. The Greystone Inn had a dance hall on the roof and often had live bands. I used to watch the ladies in their long evening gowns go with their escorts to the dances. I could hear the music and I dreamed of being grownup and dressing real fine and going to dance the night away.

My dad took us often to Fort Fisher where we played among the trees on a great mound that has since washed away. There was a snack store beyond that mound near the ocean. It was run by a man named Walter Winner. The Winner name is, and has been, prominent in Carolina Beach as long as I can recall. I remember seeing Mr. and Mrs. Winner at their place of business on the boardwalk. They were the parents of Carl Winner. Carl's son has the Winner Queen and other boats nowadays. I liked going to Fort Fisher. We found many cannonballs and other artifacts that we did not cherish because we were young. My dad would buy me a coconut cookie and an Orange Crush in the dark bottle. I can almost taste it right now.

There were rides – ferris wheel, merry-go-round, tilt-a-wheel, etc. – that came to the beach each summer and left after Labor Day. I don't know where they went. Mr. Mansfield had some of those rides. Perhaps they went to fairs, etc. My oldest brother, Earl, worked for a man named Sam Wright in a shooting gallery at the beach, and after the summer was over they traveled all around to fairs and such. He did that for one or two years.

After the fire, they used to have street dances with live bands and everyone turned out for that. During the 30s, the beach, Bames Hotel and cottages all were filled during the summer. Every 4th of July was the epitome of business, for the textile companies gave holidays or vacations at that time. Sleeping space was scarce. I remember my mom renting our beds for those few days, and we slept on the floor. We didn't mind, and it meant a little income for my family.

Society Notes

- **Membership Information:** Welcome to new member, **Pleasure Island Chamber of Commerce.** **Renewal Notices** are being sent on the anniversary of your joining the Society. We appreciate your prompt payment, saving the Society the expense of additional postage to send out a reminder. As dues invoices are mailed, we will be requesting an update of your personal information (address, phone, email address, etc). When you receive your next invoice, please take the time to verify your data and return the information form with your check.

- **Newsletters:** If you wish to **receive** your FPHPS newsletter electronically, please send an email request to fpfps@yahoo.com. To ensure that your message is not overlooked, please put the word **“NEWSLETTER”** in the subject line. **Thanks, Jeannie Gordon, Membership and Treasurer.**

● **Oral Histories:** Because Kure Beach will be celebrating its 60th Anniversary this year, we are concentrating on folks who have a knowledge of early Kure Beach. If you were around during the 40s, 50s 60s or 70s, we really would like to talk with you. Call Ann Hertzler, 458-4703 or Jeannie Gordon, 458-7880.

Support our Business Members!

- A & G Barbeque and Chicken
- Austin & Son Garage, Inc.
- BB&T
- Bank of America
- Britt's Donut Shop
- Coastal K-9 Bakery, Inc.
- Fort Fisher Restoration Committee
- Friends of Brunswick Town
- Got-Em-On-Live Bait Club
- Hanover Iron Works, Inc.
- Historical Society of Topsail Island
- Laney Real Estate Company
- Pleasure Island Chamber of Commerce
- Dr. Vincent Smith, DDS
- Snow's Cut Monthly Magazine*
- Taylor's Heating & Air, Inc.
- Tucker Bros. Realty Company

● **History Center News!** The History Center is now open on Fridays and Saturdays, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm, or other times by appointment. Thanks so much to our volunteers: Jeannie Gordon, Leslie & Darlene Bright, Ron Griffin, Sylvia Snook, Jo Wainright, Pat Bolander, and Judy Thompson, who welcomed 59 visitors.

Thanks so much to Ms. Ruby Klutz Beavers of Wilmington, who donated a Participation Pendant that she received when she attended the 52nd Annual NC Firemen's Convention in 1939 at the old Pavilion at Carolina Beach. Also, a Postal Savings Plan Booklet for U. S. Defense Bonds, dated 1941.

If you have some time that you can spare on any Friday or Saturday, please call 458-0502 – leave a message. We desperately need you.

● It is not too late to buy your **2007 Attractions Dining and Value Guide**. We still have some for sale, along with new Ocean Plaza T-shirts, Society sweatshirts, tote bags, and a good selection of books. Stop in on Fridays and/or Saturdays, or at the next meeting, and check out our Gift Shop.

Officers

- President – Judy Thompson
- Vice-President - John Gordon
- Secretary – Ann Hertzler
- Treasurer - Jeannie Gordon

Directors

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| Pat Bolander | James Dugan | Ray Flowers |
| Donna Godkey | John Gordon | Richard Graham |
| Ron Griffin | Jay Hockenbury | Sylvia Snook |

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