



Federal Point Historic Preservation Society

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Newsletter

Volume 17 No. 7

July, 2010

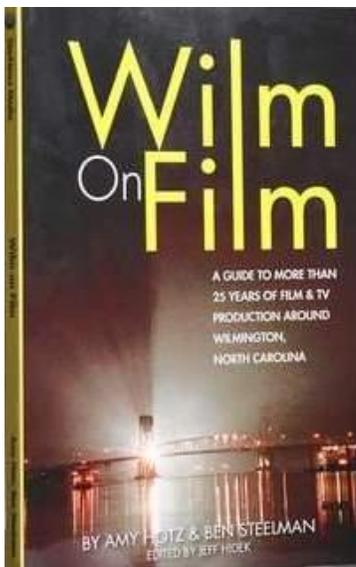
Darlene Bright, editor
Rebecca Taylor, production

July Meeting

Monday, July 19, 2010

7:30 PM

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



Our speakers this month will be Ben Steelman and Amy Hotz of the *Wilmington StarNews*, talking about their new book, *Wilm on Film*. In directory format, the book covers just about every feature film, made-for-TV movie, and TV series filmed in Wilmington and surrounding counties. The book is a celebrity watchers' dream. Longer articles focus on some of the bigger projects such as *Fire Starter*, *Blue Velvet* and, of course, *Dawson's Creek* and *One Tree Hill*. Each entry includes a plot synopsis, a list of the major actors and filmmakers involved, a guide to area locations used in filming/taping and a miscellany of fun facts.

Ben Steelman is a North Carolina native who graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and shortly afterward (December 1977) came to work at the *StarNews*, where he's worked ever since. His articles and reviews have appeared in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *N.C. Literary Review*, *N.C. Historical Review* and the *Indianapolis Star*. He lives in Wilmington with his wife, Beth, and four cats.

Amy Holz is a Wilmington native, who graduated from New Hanover High School in 1994. She graduated from UNCW in 1998 with a degree in English and a concentration in professional and creative writing. Her interest in Wilmington's film industry began when her sister, Caroline, who is 13 years older, acquired a job through a local friend as a production accountant. From middle school on, her connection to the local film industry brought her a variety of jobs, including working at a picture car company called "Central Services" which shipped vintage cars all over the country. Amy began working at the *StarNews* as a reporter in 2000. A few years later her friend, Allison Ballard, who was the film reporter, quit to go back to school. Because of Amy's background, she volunteered to take up Allison's beat and has worked as the local film industry reporter for about four years.

This program is a bit different than our usual fare but anyone interested in the film industry in our area will enjoy Ben and Amy's talk. *Wilm on Film* will be available for purchase and signing after their talk.

Last Month's Meeting

Due to the hard work of Darlene and Leslie Bright, Sylvia and Don Snook, and Demetria and Phil Sapienza, our annual potluck/picnic was a great success! Leslie manned the grill outside, and the inside tables were groaning with potato salad, beans, cakes, pies and other goodies that go with a cookout. Several men told me that there were so many deviled eggs that everyone could have ALL THEY WANTED – Thanks, Annette! Getting a head count was hard as people wandered in and out, but our best estimate is that at least 60 people were here at some point in the evening. Of course the other order of business at the June meeting was the election of officers and board members which went smoothly due to the Nominating Committee's hard work and smooth presentation.

President's Message

At the June meeting the nominating committee presented a slate of nominees and opened the floor for additional nominations. There being none, the officers and board for 2010-2011 are as follows:

Officers: 2010-2011) **Ron Griffin**, President
Annette Winner, Vice-President
Lois Taylor, Secretary
Demetria Sapienza, Treasurer

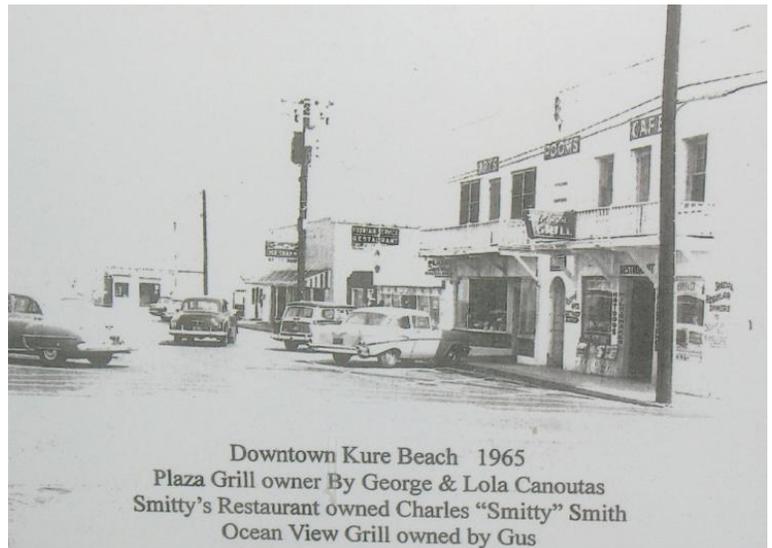
Board of Directors: **Ray Flowers** (2009-2011) **Leslie Bright** (2009-2011)
Jack Travis (2009-2011) **Pat Bolander** (2010-2012)
Elaine Henson (2010-2012) **Cheri McNeill** (2010-2011)
John Gordon (2010-2012) **Jean Stewart** (2010-2012)
Skippy Winner (2010-2011)

A HUGE thanks also to **Barry Nelder** and **Rob Reaves** who agreed to serve if elected. WE WILL GET YOU NEXT YEAR!

Ron Griffin

Oral History Committee – Ann Hertzler Andy Canoutas Part II

A kid in Kure Beach had a better life in the 40s than today. No TV, just radio. Andy was the first life guard at Kure Beach when he was 15 (1950). He was paid by businesses in the center of town, and later by the town. His guard zone was south of the pier from the first jetty to the next jetty. Jetties were built to prevent erosion but aren't allowed now. Tourists stayed in cottages. The beach got pretty crowded where Andy was because people wanted a life guard. Parents looked after the little ones. The wild ones were 8, 9, 10, or 11 year old boys. A buoy helped rescue people from rip currents; a whistle warned people who were going out too far. Some swam at Wilmington Beach and Hanby Beach.

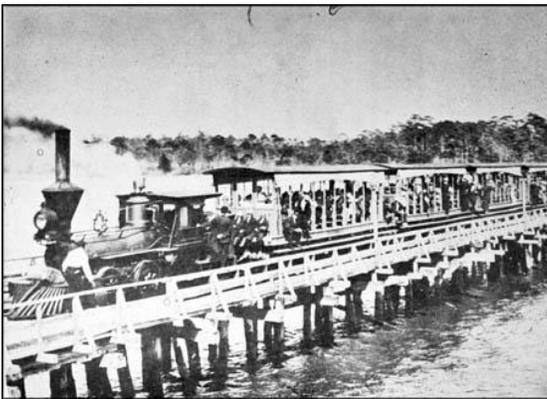


Downtown Kure Beach 1965
Plaza Grill owner By George & Lola Canoutas
Smitty's Restaurant owned Charles "Smitty" Smith
Ocean View Grill owned by Gus

Andy enjoyed fishing on the pier - Spanish Mackerel, Blues, Pompano, Spots. As he got older, he enjoyed motor boats. He fished by net or seine for shrimp in Masonboro Creek or Hewlett's Creek up next to a mud bank where shrimp like to stay. Andy did diving with air tanks and scuba gear on Civil War blockade runners bringing up artifacts - tin and lead bars with the name of the London Company. Lead was needed for sinkers. After a big 5-day nor'easter in the 50s, Andy was at Ft Fisher at the monument where the Seven Sisters shipwreck had gone down. The Modern Greece shipwreck was where the old Ft Fisher pier used to be. Divers came up with lead bars, tin bars, Enfield rifles, and crates. The Preservation Lab was started to cure these things - Johnny Muller and also Leslie Bright. Near Zeke's Island, you'll see an old rusted wreck - the USS Raleigh.

Andy worked at a service station on the NE corner of K Avenue for a while - pumped gas and changed tires and oil. Boys had pegged pants and duck tails. High school boys in the 50s were beeping around in surplus Jeeps. Everybody carried a chain in the back to pull cars out stuck in the sand for \$20. Dating was a movie at Carolina Beach or the Monkey Junction drive-in; then to Stromboli's Italian Restaurant about where Alford's Seafood is now. Wintertime you had a steady girlfriend but kinda played the field in the summer.

From the Bill Reaves Files Celebrating the Fourth of July Through the Years

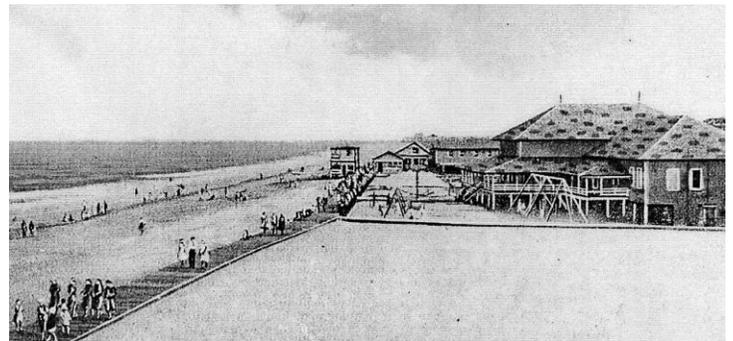


July 3, 1887: (Advertisement) SURF BATHING ON THE FOURTH OF JULY AT CAROLINA BEACH. The steamer PASSPORT will run on the following schedule: Leave Wilmington 8:00 a.m.; 11:00 a.m.; 3:00 p.m.; 6:00 p.m. Train leaves the Beach 1:00 p.m.; 7:00 p.m.; 10:00 p.m. FOURTH OF JULY. Steamer LOUISE will leave her wharf at foot of Market Street, July 4th, at 8:00 a.m. for Rocks, Smithville and the Forts. W. A. Snell, Master

July 4, 1887: Owing to the inclement weather on the 4th of July, there was not so large a crowd at the Beach as was expected, but those who went down had a good time. The Oceanic Hotel had "open house" and every excursionist paid the generous proprietor a visit. WILM.MESSENGER 7-6-1887

July 7, 1906: Justice G. W. Bornemann meted out justice with an impartial hand. The judge is a firm believer in order at our two beaches and says that whenever disturbances are raised at the resorts he intended to deal with them in the severest possible manner. Two men, Will Hudson and "Bill" Terry were before the judge charged with an affray at Carolina Beach on July 4th. The fighting began over Hudson cursing at Terry. Terry knocked down Hudson. The judge said Terry was justified in his action as he was not looking for any trouble at the time that he was cursed. Terry still had to pay the costs of court, and Hudson received a severe sentence for his conduct, the judge imposed a fine of \$10 and costs, which amounted to \$16.45. WILMINGTON DISPATCH, 7-7-1906.

July 4, 1911 Carolina Beach celebrated the Glorious Fourth in an appropriate manner. The Daughters of Liberty, an auxiliary of the Junior Order of United American Mechanics, operated an all-day excursion from Wilmington. Hundreds took advantage of the delightful trip down the river. Surf bathing was very popular. A band was on hand for the occasion and dancing was an attractive feature of the day. Including an excursion run from Town Creek, in Brunswick County, which brought about 200 people, it was estimated that there were over





1,000 pleasure seekers taking part in the day's festivities. The steamer WILMINGTON was kept busy. WILMINGTON DISPATCH, 7-5-1911.

July 4, 1920: Sheriff George C. Jackson spent the national holiday at Carolina Beach, and he commented that for the first time in many years no accidents, no disorderly conduct, or any display of effects of intoxicating liquors (a luxury of by-gone days), not even any drunkenness occurring from the consumption of the southern drink, monkey rum, was reported. The traffic on the Carolina Beach Road was the heaviest that had been on the road for a long time, and two traffic officers were on

duty on the road all day. Sheriff Jackson counted as many as 300 cars parked on the beach at one time. Between 4,000 and 5,000 people visited the beach and a safe and sane holiday was observed. WILM.DISPATCH, 7-6-1920

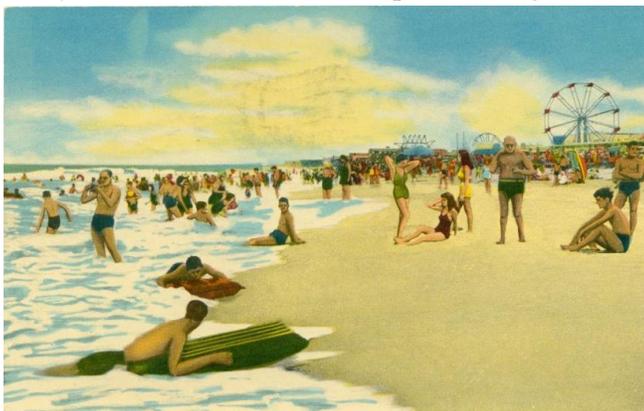
July 1, 1930: Plans for a gala 4th of July were going forward rapidly at Carolina Beach, according to T. A. Shepard, chairman of the 4th of July celebration committee. A large number of entertainment features had been arranged, including dancing from 10 a.m. until midnight, a fireworks display on the beach, boat races, swimming races, and numerous other events. The program will include a performance by Chief White Eagle, an Osage Indian, who was to do a snake dance, etc., and a boxing match between Burriss and Eddleman. WILM.NEWS, 7-1-1930; STAR, 7-2-1930.

July 7, 1933: A survey to determine the volume of traffic over the Carolina Beach highway was being made by vehicle counters stationed at the Inland Waterway Bridge. Deputy Sheriff W. J. Smith of Carolina Beach declared the data would be used to have the state highway department increase the width of the road through the use of federal funds.

A total of 7,051 automobiles passed through the bridge (one way) on the Fourth of July, while the number registered last Sunday was 5,200. Other counts were to be made.

The Fourth of July crowd at the beach was estimated at 10,000 people by Deputy Smith. The recent development of the resort town was also to be used in the argument for a wider highway. Forty-two new cottages, stores and other structures had been built this season. WILM.STAR, 7-8-1933.

July 4, 1934: It was estimated that between 12,000 and 15,000 persons visited Carolina Beach alone during the holiday, while Walter Winner of Fort Fisher Beach reported the largest crowd of bathers and fishermen at that resort in the past four years. Kure's Beach also reported a large attendance. Thousands of blacks,



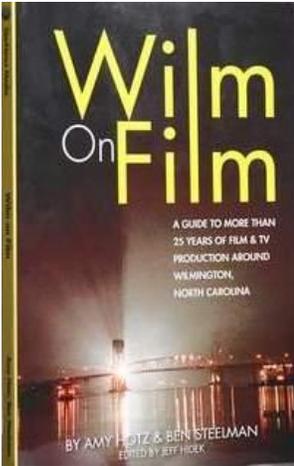
traveling by automobile, by truck and on foot visited Seabreeze Beach during the day. Dances were held at the Carolina Beach pavilion and the Greystone roof garden. Each place reported a capacity crowd. Only one fatality was reported at any of the locations. A black man, Robert Harper, was drowned at Seabreeze when he ventured out over his depth in the Inland Waterway. His body was not recovered. Jimmy Tolbert and his Royal Melodians played at the Carolina Beach Pavilion and Cliff Smith and his Orchestra furnished music at the Greystone with Miss Julia Ellington as soloist. WILM.NEWS, 7-5-1934;

BB&T

Bert Croom Investigations
 Britt's Donut Shop
 Coastal K-9 Bakery, Inc.
 Fort Fisher Restoration
 Committee
 Fairway Independent Mortgage
 Corp.
 Frank's Pizza
 Got-Em-On-Live Bait Club
 Hanover Iron Works, Inc.
 Harbor Masters Restaurant
 Historical Society of Topsail
 Island
Island Gazette
 Le SoLeil, Botique & Gallery
 Musclexorx Fitness Systems
 B. Parker Protective & Lock
 Pleasure Island Chamber of
 Commerce
 Russo's Motel
 Shuckin' Shack
 SlapDash Publishing
 The Shoppes at Squigley's
 Dr. Vincent Smith, DDS
 Taylor's Heating & Air, Inc.
 Tucker Bros. Realty Company
 Winner Fishing and Cruise Boats

**Please take time to let our
 Business Members know how
 you appreciate their support.**

**Federal Point Historic Preservation Society
Events Calendar Summer/Fall 2010**



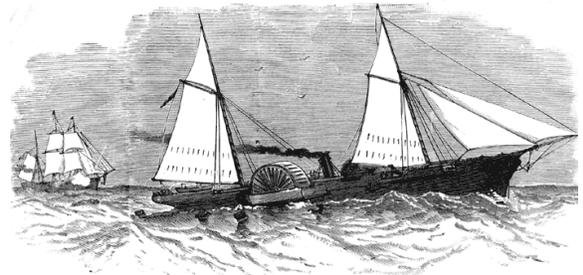
Monday, July 19, 2010 Membership Meeting. 7:30-9:00 pm

Authors **Ben Steelman** and **Amy Holt** of the Wilmington Star-News will talk about their new book *Wilm on Film*. Their book features a directory to the many feature films, made-for-TV movies, and TV series filmed in Wilmington and surrounding counties. Longer articles focus on some of the bigger projects such as *Firestarter*, *Blue Velvet* and, of course, *Dawson's Creek* and *One Tree Hill*. Ben Steelman is a North Carolina native who has worked at the StarNews for over 30 years. His articles and reviews have appeared in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *N.C. Literary Review*, *N.C. Historical Review* and the *Indianapolis Star*. Amy Holt's interest in film started when she was a teen, as her big sister Carolina worked as a production accountant on a number of local films and TV episodes. Her degree from UNC-W in writing led to a career at the Star-News.

Monday, August 16, 2010 Membership Meeting. 7:30-9:00 pm

Meeting. 7:30-9:00 pm

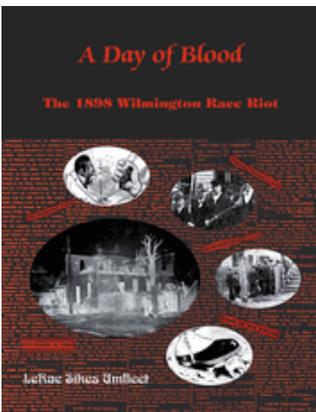
Historians **Mary and Wayne Strickland** of the North Carolina Maritime Museum at Southport will talk on *The Virginus Affair*. The *Venus* was built in Scotland in 1864 and was designed specifically to serve as a blockade runner for the Confederate cause. Captured by Union forces on her very first trip through the blockade, she sat idle until John T. Patterson acquired her and renamed her the *Virginus*. Mary and Wayne will present "the rest of the story."



Monday, September 20, 2010: Membership Meeting. 7:30-9:00 pm.

The Venus Flytrap is one of the most curious plants in the world. Did you know it only grows within a radius of 60 miles from Wilmington NC? Rob Evans of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and head of the North Carolina Plant Conservation Program will talk about ongoing efforts to protect our imperiled native species, including placing the Venus Flytrap on an official "vulnerable" category.

Monday October 18, 2010: Membership Meeting. 7:30-9:00 pm. Honor Flight 2010. We honor our local WWII veterans with an oral history program. Several Federal Point residents who visited the new WWII Memorial in Washington, DC will talk about their experiences on the trip and what it meant to them. I suspect we'll be able to get them to talk about some of their WWII experiences as well.



Monday, November 15, 2010: Membership Meeting. 7:30-9:00 pm.

LeRae Umfleet, author of the newest book on the 1898 race riots, *A Day of Blood*, will speak about her experiences working with the *1898 Wilmington Race Riot Commission* and on the conclusions the Commission reached. Beverly Tetterton of the New Hanover County Public Library says *A Day of Blood* is the best work yet on the event. There will be copies available for autographing.

ALL PROGRAMS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC. They are held at the Federal Point History Center, 1121-A North Lake Park Blvd. (Just south of the Carolina Beach Town Hall.) Or visit the History Center, open Tuesdays from 12-4, Fridays 10-4 and Saturdays 10-4. For more information call: 910-458-0502.

Society Notes

- The Society congratulates our President, **Ron Griffin** for receiving the Kure Beach Lifetime Spirit Award in March. Beyond all the work he does as our President, he is the webmaster for Kure Lutheran Church, teaches Line Dancing several times a week, and helps out a handicapped neighbor three days a week.
- Congratulations also go to **Debbie Price** who received a Spirit Award for her work on the Kure Beach Street Fair and her work with the Katie B. Hines Senior Center.
- The Society extends its sympathy to the Tregembo family on the death of George Tregembo, who with his wife June, founded the Tote-Em-In Zoo in 1952. Many children will always have fond memories of their visits to the Park.
- This month we recorded 60+ members and visitors at our potluck/picnic. Things seem to be looking up for tourist traffic as the summer progresses. We had 46 visitors, almost all of them here on vacation, to the History Center, and our gift shop sales, of \$232.93 were more than double what we collected in June 2009.
- As always, thanks to our June volunteers: **Lois Taylor, Demetria Sapienza, Juanita Winner, Jeanne Gordon,** and **Sylvia Snook** who are always ready and willing to help keep the History Center open and do all the chores and activities that Rebecca has lined up for them. *Visit us on Tuesdays 12-4, Fridays 10-4 and Saturdays 10-4.*



PLEASE NOTE: Rebecca is off on a research and writing trip for most of July. We've got a great roster of volunteers scheduled who should be able to help you, find what you need, or refer you to someone who can help. Please be patient if some bits of her work get put off until early August. If you have any interest in following along with her trip, check out the blog at www.greenfieldsnc.net

Officers

President – Ron Griffin
Vice-President – Annette Winner
Secretary – Lois Taylor
Demetria Sapienza -- Treasurer

Directors

Leslie Bright	Ray Flowers	Jean Stewart
Elaine Henson	Cheri McNeill	John Gordon
Jack Travis	Pat Bolander	Skippy Winner

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