



Federal Point Historic Preservation Society

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

Phone: 910-458-0502 e-mail: fphps@Yahoo.com

Newsletter

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Darlene Bright, editor

History Center Hours: Tues, Fri, Sat 10-4

Rebecca Taylor, production

www.FederalPointHistory.org



October Meeting Monday, October 18, 2010 7:30 PM

The Federal Point Historic Preservation Society will hold its monthly meeting on **Monday, October 20 at 7:30 pm at the Federal Point History Center**, 1121-A North Lake Park Blvd., adjacent to Carolina Beach Town Hall.

We honor our local WWII veterans with an oral history program. Dub Heglar, Earl Page and Judge Gilbert Burnett all made the journey to the new WWII Memorial in Washington DC as part of Honor Flight, Southeastern North Carolina. They will talk about their experiences on the trip and what it meant to them. I also suspect we'll be able to get them to talk about some

of their WWII experiences as well. Don't miss this very special program.



Last Month's Meeting

Rob Evans of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and head of the North Carolina Plant Conservation Program talked to us about his work in preserving endangered plants across North Carolina. Did you know that the Venus Flytrap blooms? Its bloom is a tall stalk that sticks out above the plants around the Flytrap. That's how the poachers can find them so easily. Rob also talked about how fire was so important to

the low lying Savannah plants, both to clear out the pine straw and oak leaves to make room for the plants. The ash also seems to have been a fertilizer that kicked off a growth spurt. He also showed us other plants that are threatened across North Carolina and about the 18 preserves the State is now managing to protect a variety of special species.

President's Message

I hope everyone has made it okay through the great deluge of the last week of September. Hopefully everything will be well dried out by the time of our October meeting. The day (Sunday) before our monthly membership meeting, we will be having a joint meeting with the Historical Society of the Lower Cape Fear. Please support that as well as our Monday night meeting. There will be excellent programs both days.

As a final note, I would like to bring to your attention that one of our long-time members, Judge Jay Hockenbury, will be on your ballot on Election Day. The Judge is seeking re-election and would appreciate your support.
– Ron Griffin

Oral History by Ann Hertzner *Dub and Hazel Heglar*

Moving Houses

Dub and Hazel Heglar were married in 1942 before Dub went off to war (WWII). Dub's nickname resulted from his sister not being able to pronounce his initials - J. W. It's been Dub ever since. Dub spent almost 3 years in the Navy in World War II in the Pacific. The Heglars came to Kure Beach on vacation in 1946 after Dub came out of the service. In September '48, after meeting Walter Winner at Ft. Fisher, they stayed permanently and went into partnership with Winner doing commercial fishing, construction work, and moving houses. They bought two Army 4-wheel drive vehicles, weapons carriers from the Army, and built a trailer to move the tiny match box houses. The moving cost to a family was \$50. The barracks cost \$250, the lot \$200. Thus, for \$500 total, many early KB families started their first home.



When the Heglars moved to Kure Beach in 1948, son Harold was almost a year old. Harold went to New Hanover and is now fire chief of Kure Beach. Son Jerry, born in New Hanover County at James Walker Hospital in 1951, was in the first Hoggard graduating class. Heber Johnston was a doctor at Carolina Beach in the 50s. Dr. Sharon, a Carolina Beach doctor before moving to Wilmington, was around the yacht basin all the time. When someone got hurt around the boats, he had needles and thread in his pocket to sew them up right there.

Fort Fisher Blvd was called Second Street when the Heglars moved here in the 40s. Most buildings in the old part of Kure Beach from N Street to Hanby Beach were owned by International Nickel. It was first owned by Ethel Dow Chemical Company with a big plant over on the river shore on the back road with test stations at LaQue. Ocean water was pumped from the Atlantic Ocean to the plant for bromide. Jack Lewis worked and retired from there. Dub remembers when that area was all trees and very beautiful. The Hanby area and a lot of Wilmington Beach were owned by Lawrence Kure and Glenn Tucker.

When the Heglars came here, they lived in Wilmington Beach for about two months; then moved to Spartanburg Avenue; and then across the street from the Lutheran Outdoor Ministry. The building just north of



it is where army buildings were moved from Battle Acre at Ft. Fisher. They lived in one of the inner's frame houses until '49 and sold the business across the street from the Lutheran Church in 1964 where the Outdoor Ministry is now, built rooms to rent and a 5-room house near the ocean. One of their 12 or 13 year old sons got caught in the ocean rip current. Dub swam out to get him. Dub had to relax till the current carried them all the way out. When the rip current turned Dub lose, he swam with an arm lock bringing the child to shore

World War II

There were two houses just alike near the northern extension fishing pier in Carolina Beach . Hurricane Hazel put one house in the marsh near the inland waterway and the other about a block away from where it was supposed to be. The owner said she'd give him one house if he'd put the other one back on the foundation where it belonged. People didn't have a lot of money, so they traded for services. His house has been moved 3 times. Dub wanted off that highway after heart surgery. They had an air conditioning window unit over on the ocean but got central air just after they moved the house off the highway about the mid 80's.

When Dub went to work, the only streets from the south of Kure Beach to the north end were E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M and N. The furthest over, 7th Street, was only one block long. It stopped the other side of the Baptist Church. The government line came through that next block, down to I Street, but was never developed as a street. And the line came where there are 3 houses on 6th Street. The government line goes way down to the only house on that side of 5th street. Then the government line cuts back into 5th Street and comes straight down here. 7th Street used to be over to 9th Street. The government line went from E to N and from Atlantic to about 7th in odd shapes. Before Dub went to work, you could go over to 9th Street. But the government took all houses built over there for a buffer zone, so most houses were moved. The land grew back into vegetation. Most of the Museum and the Air Force Base are in the buffer zone.

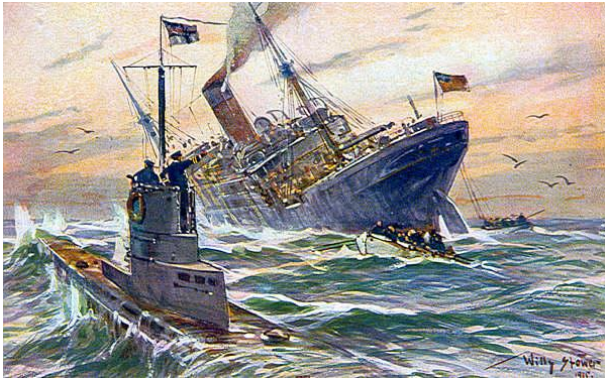
The Army during World War II had a few houses on the ocean front and a lot of cottages on that side of the road. They patrolled all around there. People who lived here could see burning ships that German submarines had torpedoed at night. The Air Force wanted to put in radar. They got a Fayetteville outfit to do the construction work. Some of the buildings are left from the Army days. The Air Force Recreation Center was part of the World War II base for advanced training for soldiers getting ready to go to the war zone. Some of the original buildings are still there.

The state owns a chunk of land - Ft. Fisher State Park , the Aquarium, and the Civil War battle historic site. Hugh Morton owned the land where the Aquarium is and gave that to the State. He owned Grandfather Mountain and he also owned the shopping center where K & W Cafeteria is located.

Sunny Point came in about 1955 and condemned and declared a no-building zone or bought all the land. All that property back of Dub's house, all the way to the river, was owned by Davis Brothers (around a hundred acres of farm land). Dub's house is only 30 feet from the buffer zone. Carolina Beach had a lot of houses in there. There is also a Baptist church; a Methodist church cemetery and the Newton family cemetery.

From John Foard of the *Blockade Runner Museum*

[We're going to take a break from Bill Reaves this month, and hear from another noted local historian] This is from a collection of articles first published in the *Beach-O-Gram*, and collected and reprinted by Sandy Jackson in 2000.



Recognition Past Due

Those who lived on the beach during World War II will well remember the noise and vibration from exploding torpedoes, the sky at sea lit by burning tankers that were unfortunate enough to be spotted by a German submarine, also oil-covered and burned seamen who were fortunate enough to make land.

Tankers and cargo vessels operated closer to the coastline than normal to avoid U-boats, but the U-boats also moved closer in to sit on the bottom and wait for a victim to come along. Forty-eight or more ships were torpedoed and sunk along our

coastline. Many of the wrecks have been accounted for and their location inside the Gulf Stream marked. Many more probably lie beyond.

Among the unsung heroes of these times were the boys and men who maintained a patrol along the coast in small boats in an endeavor to spot a submarine and report its position. Old and young pilots in the Civil Air Patrol also maintained a spotting action from small planes that actually had no business being offshore as far as some did go and in weather that normally would have kept them on the ground.

Boats operated from a temporary Coast Guard base at Wrightsville Sound where the Wrightsville Marina now is located. I remember a small 38-foot Mathews Sport Fisherman coming in after several days of cruising offshore during a northeaster that would have made any peacetime boat operator head for the hills. These boats were only armed with hand guns and rifles, a few of the larger ones did carry a depth charge on the stern, or maybe a bazooka stored away. Their service was voluntary under the Coast Guard Auxiliary, such was also the case of the pilots flying their small planes under the Civil Air Patrol.

These small boats with their crews of three or four, and the pilots of the small planes did an admirable job in driving submarines from our shores. Many men from the torpedoed ships owe their very lives to the courage of these volunteers who did not hesitate in fair or foul weather to go to their aid. It is time they be recognized as the men and heroes they were.



Earl Page and his father, 1940's

Old Wilmington by Candlelight Tour

The Old Wilmington by Candlelight Tour ushers in the holiday season on Saturday, December 4, from 4 -8 p.m. and Sunday, December 5, from 2-6 p.m. The festive tour, now in its 37th year, is presented by the Historical Society of the Lower Cape Fear. Tickets are \$25 per person through November 20 and then they are \$30. Tickets, which include a map of all the sites, are available at the Latimer House, 126 South Third Street, Belk at Westfield Mall, The Sterling House, Candles Etc., the Ivy Cottage, Southport Visitors' Center, Barnes & Noble Booksellers, Sophie V. West Florist, Two Sisters Bookery and House of Wine and Cheese in Leland. Old Wilmington by Candlelight Tour information can be found on the Historical Society of the Lower Cape Fear web site at www.latimerhouse.org, or for more information, phone 910 762-0492.

Society Notes

- ❖ This month we recorded 30 members and visitors at our monthly meeting. We had 49 visitors to the History Center, and gift shop sales of \$91.35.
- ❖ THANKS to our History Center Volunteers: **Lois Taylor**, who helps fold, label, stamp, and mail the Newsletters every month, and **Demetria Sapienza**, who comes every Tuesday to scan photos for the DIP. (Digital Image Project) She is also getting our subject files scanned and ready for formal archival preservation.

The History Center needs more volunteers, especially ones with clerical or basic computer skills. In the wake of our TAP (Traveling Archivist Program) Grant, we've worked to get more organized and get several different projects ready to go. If you could give us 2-3 hours a week to help with computer input and indexing, PLEASE let Rebecca know!
- ❖ *Don't Forget! The History Center is now open 10-4 on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday.* This year's board approved an additional two hours on Tuesdays so all three days are uniform.
- ❖ **Treasurer's Report** by Demetria Sapienza. First quarter income was \$5,011 which is 31% of our budgeted amount. Expenses for the quarter were \$3,175 which is 18% of the total budgeted amount. For more details and a complete budget e-mail Demetria at Demetria@slipt.net.

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

FOR SALE! We have reprinted our booklet *Monuments and Markers of Federal Point* that was compiled by Sandy Jackson and typed and edited by Darlene Bright back in 1998. Taken primarily from the Bill Reaves files with color pictures of the most important markers, this volume traces the history of the area through its memorials. The 50 page booklet is \$12.50 and available in the History Center Gift Shop.

FPHPS Upcoming Events -- Fall 2010

Sunday, October 17, 2010: Joint Program 3pm

The Historical Society of the Lower Cape Fear, headquartered at the Latimer House, is coming to Carolina Beach for a joint meeting with the Federal Point Historic Preservation Society on Sunday, October 17, 2010. It will be held Sunday afternoon at 3 PM in the Police Training Room at the Carolina Beach Municipal Building at 1121 North Lake Park Boulevard, The program will be “*A History of Carolina Beach*” presented in vintage photographs and post cards by our board member Elaine Henson. A reception will follow at the History Center located adjacent to the Municipal Building. This program is free and open to the general public. For more details call the Latimer House at 910-762-0492 or the Federal Point History Center 910-458-0502.

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, *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.

Saturday November 20, 2010: Newton Cemetery Cleanup. 9am We’ll meet behind the Methodist Cemetery off of Dow Rd. Please plan to join us for our yearly cleanup of the grounds of the historic Newton Cemetery. Bring gloves, clippers, rakes, and other yard tools you favor.

Officers

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

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Elaine Henson
Jack Travis

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**P. O. Box 623
Carolina Beach, NC 28428**