



Federal Point Historic Preservation Society

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Newsletter

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June, 2011

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

www.FederalPointHistory.org

June Meeting

Monday, June 20, 2011

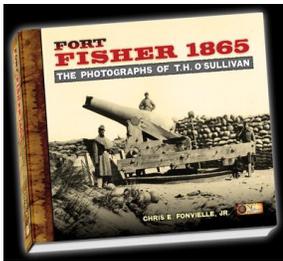
The Potluck begins at 6:30 pm!

The Federal Point Historic Preservation Society will hold its monthly meeting on **Monday, June 20, 6:30 pm at the Federal Point History Center**, 1121-A North Lake Park Blvd., adjacent to Carolina Beach Town Hall.

In lieu of our usual program, we will enjoy our annual summer potluck. Please bring a favorite dish to share with the group. If the weather behaves you might also want to bring a lawn chair. This is always a wonderful time to visit with old friends, but also a great time to introduce new people. PLEASE bring a friend or neighbor who might be interested in joining.



Last Month's Meeting



Chris Fonvielle presented a fascinating program on Civil War photographer T. H. Sullivan and the 40 photos he took of the fallen Fort Fisher in late January or early February, 1865. He showed many slides from his new book: *Fort Fisher 1865: The Photographs of T. H. Sullivan* published by Daniel Norris's Slap Dash Publishing. We have copies of the book for sale here at the History Center gift shop. It would truly make a great gift for anyone who is fascinated in the Civil War, Civil War photography, or the Battle of Fort Fisher.

President's Message

I would like to wish everyone a happy summer season. There will be lots of activities on Pleasure Island including concerts and fireworks. This month we will have our usual potluck dinner get-together. There will be no business conducted since our election of Board Members and Officers will not take place until the July meeting. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find names of persons who have been nominated for the various positions. Additional nominees will likely be announced at the July meeting and nominations can also be made from the floor.

If you have not already heard, I will be stepping down from the Presidency, but will continue my other activities for the Society. More about that in the July Newsletter.

-- Ron

Nominating Committee Report

We currently have three people who have agreed to run for Board Member; Skippy Winner, Barry Nelder, and Thomas Gray. Annette Winner (Vice President), Lois Taylor (Secretary), and Demetria Sapienza (Treasurer) have agreed to serve another year in their posts as officers. However, Ron Griffin has asked to be relieved of the office of President. The Nominating Committee is still looking for a new president.

Oral History by Ann Hertzler Ray Rothrock Part V: Lewis Store

Ray ate at home and at Andy Canouta's father's restaurant on the southeast corner where the parking lot for Jack Mackerel's is – burgers, hotdogs, ham sandwiches or dinners with vegetables and they always had delicious homemade pies and cakes. Ed and Gertie Lewis had a grocery store across the street on the southwest corner of the main intersection in Kure Beach, where the convenience store is now located. They had two gas pumps out front, regular and high test. They had a grocery store with a meat market and on the north end of the building they had a restaurant with about a dozen bar stools and 3 or 4 booths that each seated 4 to 6 customers. They opened at 5 am, cooked three meals a day and closed between 9 and 10, depending on the customers. The picture shows Mrs. Lewis and her son in front of the store with kerosene pumps in the back on the left.



Mr. and Mrs. Lewis built the little building on the north side of the store and restaurant and leased it to Mr. Bob and Mrs. Margaret Ford to operate a Bait and Tackle Shop. Today it is where the Ice Cream Store is operated.

Ray worked for Mr. and Mrs. Lewis for 50 cents an hour, but he could eat and drink all he wanted while working. Gaining weight at that young age was not a problem as Ray was only 5' 10" tall and weighed only 129 pounds when he went into the Navy at the age of 17 years and two weeks in August 1955. Ray did everything there was to do at the store and restaurant – pump gas – stock groceries – run the cash register – cut different cuts of meats – and grind up beef for hamburger meat. He learned a lot from Mr. and Mrs. Lewis and continues to talk about it today, being thankful for their training. Mr. Lewis taught him how to cut up a whole side of beef or pork, how to cook and not to hit his hot grill with a Spatula unless you wanted a swift pop behind the back of your head. Ray said, "I was a very fast learner from Mr. Lewis", I never got popped!

Back then they did not have frozen French fries. They peeled as many as a hundred pounds of potatoes a day, sliced 'em up, and cut them for French Fries or mashed potatoes. No hash browns, but all the regular, not quick cook, grits you wanted. Cole slaw, tater salad were all made from "scratch;" no readymade deliveries from food service trucks.

Ray went to work at 4:30 am in order to have the grits ready to open at 5 in the morning for a good breakfast crowd. Fishermen were always up before daylight going out on the boats, on the piers, or surf fishing. Back then they believed you had to get an early start to have the best catch of fish! After breakfast, they would prepare the lunch menu, two or three different meats with home cooked vegetables. Dinner was pretty much a-la-carte, mostly shrimp and other seafood. Fresh, locally caught shrimp were peeled, deveined and washed before covering them lightly with Mr. Ed's secret cornmeal and whatever else he put in it. He also had his secret Hush Puppy recipe and they would cook hundred's of them every day.

The fishermen fished everywhere back then as they do today - on the boats, off the surf and all the piers – Ft. Fisher Pier – Kure Beach Pier – Center Pier – and the two piers at Carolina Beach. They also walked or drove to the North End to fish and some would take a boat over to Masonboro Island to fish. The picture shows a tourist looking at the 40 + lb. Red Drum caught by Sleepy Ferguson on Bald Head Island. Sleepy worked for Ray's Dad in the furniture business refinishing furniture. It is hanging in front of Smitty's Restaurant in Kure Beach."



During the fall and winter, Ray's Dad would do commercial fishing, netting Popeye Mullet up and down the beach and off Bald Head Island. One time they had a very, very big catch over at Bald Head Island. They brought them back in several boat loads and filled two dump trucks full of Popeye Mullet at The Basin Marina. They took them to the market in Wilmington. Ray recalls his Dad and DP being very, very upset when they were paid 2 cents a pound for the small ones, 4 cents a pound for the medium and a big 6 cents a pound for the large ones, which were about a foot and a half long. They had that nice big catch and learned when the market is flooded, the price goes down.

There was more than one Fish Market downtown Wilmington off the foot of Market to the south. These markets would sell a lot of the local catches to locals. These markets also shipped seafood out of Wilmington via boats, trucks, and train. A lot of folks here and up state ate salted Popeye Mullet, especially for a fish and eggs breakfast. The bigger female Popeye Mullet provided a large market for fish roe that lots of folks coated with cornmeal and fried. Back then J. H. Lea and Sons had a very large fish market in Hampstead, but it was too far away to truck the catches from lower New Hanover County to be sold. J. H. Lea and Sons had lots of large trucks and provided many markets and restaurants up and down the east coast, fresh caught seafood.

We Need Your Help!

– From Darlene, History Center Director

We have been working on our budget for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. Just like most non-profit organizations, we are experiencing some financial difficulties. We are not assured the monies from the Towns of Carolina Beach and Kure Beach as they are experiencing the same. Therefore, we have had to put on hold some of the extras and projects we had hoped to fund this year. Hopefully, some of you dedicated members would be willing to help out by donating a few extra dollars when you renew your membership, or helping out with refreshments by buying drinks or water when you see they're on special. Also, we'll be asking for help in thoroughly cleaning the History Center once a month. If 12 people would sign up, that would only be once a year. Give me (Darlene) or Rebecca a call if you are willing to help in some way. Please be reminded that we always strive for the most reasonable outlay of our money. Thanks to all for your support in these difficult times.

How You Can Help:

- ✓ **Sodas and Water** for use with refreshments
- ✓ Paper products: **paper towels, napkins, toilet paper.**
- ✓ Basic **white copy paper.** Manila **envelopes** of any size
- ✓ **Postage stamps.**
- ✓ Office supplies. **Pencils, pens, labels, tape, staples.**
- ✓ **Labels.** Address and package mailing.
- ✓ **File folders.** (check about colors with us first)
- ✓ **Sheet protectors, 3 ring notebooks** (for the DIP)



Or consider "sponsoring" a month's expense.

- ✓ **Copier.** \$60.00 a month
- ✓ **Phone.** \$32.00 a month
- ✓ **Electric.** \$60.00 a month (average, varies by month)

Or consider giving us:

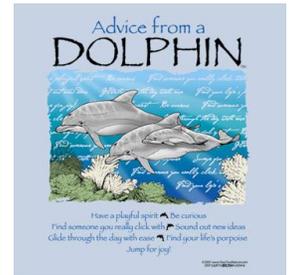
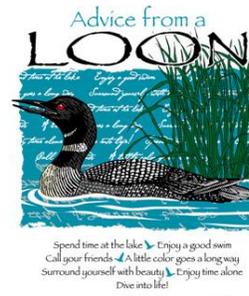
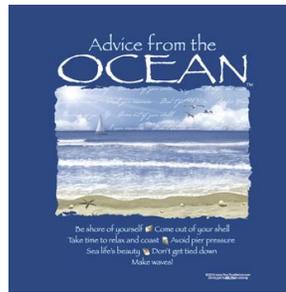
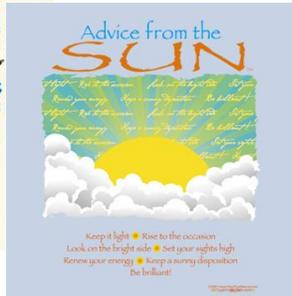
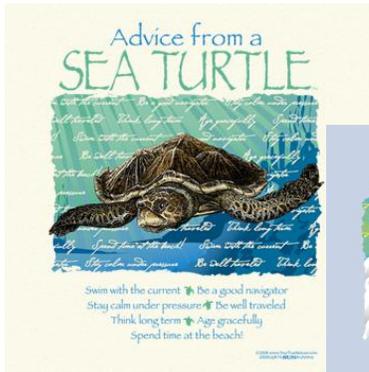
- ✓ A one year membership to **North Carolina Museum Council.** \$50.00 a year.
- ✓ A one year subscription to **The Island Gazette** \$27.00 to clip for our History Center Files.
- ✓ One year membership to the **North Carolina Federation of Historical Societies.** \$25.00 a year.
- ✓ Yahoo for our **website:** \$200.00 a year.

Beach Portraits Photography
 Bert Croom Investigations
 Britt's Donut Shop
 Coastal K-9 Bakery, Inc.
 First Bank
 First Citizens Bank
 Friends of Fort Fisher
 Frank's Pizza
 Got-Em-On-Live Bait Club
 Hanover Iron Works, Inc.
 Harbor Masters Restaurant
 Historical Society of Topsail
 Island
 Hoplite Pub & Beer Garden
Island Gazette
 Kure Beach Fishing Pier
 Monarch Mortgage
 Musclevorx Fitness Systems
 B. Parker Protective & Lock
 Pleasure Island Chamber of
 Commerce
 Russo's Motel
 Shuckin' Shack
 SlapDash Publishing
 The Shoppes at Squigley's
 Taylor's Heating & Air, Inc.
 Tucker Bros. Realty
 Company
 Winner Fishing and Cruise
 Boats
 Winner Marine
 Construction and Salvage,
 LLC
**Please take time to let
 our Business Members
 know how much you
 appreciate their
 support.**

Society Notes

- ❖ This month we recorded 56 visitors to the History Center and 60 members and visitors at our monthly meeting. The History Center took in \$340.84 in the gift shop! In July we'll begin featuring a few different books at 20% off.
 - ❖ Thanks to our History Center Volunteers; **Lois Taylor**, for helping with the Newsletter mailing and **Demetria Sapienza** who comes every Tuesday to scan photos for the DIP. (Digital Image Project). **Elaine Henson** covered the History Center so Rebecca and Lois could deliver the new brochure from Fort Fisher to Wrightsville Beach. **Darlene and Leslie Bright** continue to spend time on all kinds of projects around the History Center.
- New Members:** Two new couples this month: **Marci and David Brown** of Kernersville and **Robert and Glenda Shelley** of Wilmington.
- ❖ **Treasurer's Report** by Demetria Sapienza. The 2011/2012 budget has been approved by the Board. There were some fairly deep cuts for next year due to the uncertainty of funds from the Towns. On the other hand we had a great month in the Gift Shop! The accounting for fiscal 2010/2011 will be available for anyone to look at by July 15.

New in the Gift Shop! T-shirts in Large and Extra Large



Beach Portraits Photography

Business member John Gregory has come up with a great way for members to preserve their family history AND benefit our Society. For a \$75 donation to our Society you will receive a Gift Certificate for one Family Portrait Session AND a finished 10 by 13 Portrait. This is an exceptionally generous offer and is worth \$185 retail.

Officers

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

Directors

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

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