



Federal Point Historic Preservation Society

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Newsletter

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Darlene Bright, editor
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March Meeting

Monday, March 15 - 7:30 pm

The Federal Point Historic Preservation Society will hold its monthly meeting on **Monday, March 15 at 7:30 pm at the Federal Point History Center**, 1121-A North Lake Park Blvd., adjacent to Carolina Beach Town Hall.

It's the return of the Kure Family Legacy for this month's program. This time we will view a segment of the DVD, produced in the late 1990's, that features the building of the pier and the beginnings of the town of Kure Beach. We hope to have a number of family members present again to add commentary and answer questions.

Last Month's Meeting

We had a GREAT program in March! It was presented by Bill Jayne of the Veterans Administration, National Cemetery section. He gave us a great history of the Wilmington National Cemetery as well as how the National Cemetery system grew from the Civil War to the present. Especially interesting was the story of his current work, planning the expansion of existing cemeteries and finding locations for new ones.

Cape Fear History Bowl

We came in second, sort of. The "Whigs of Moores Creek Bridge" team answered one more question right than the other four teams. In addition to our team the field included the Lower Cape Fear Sons of the American Revolution, the Friends of Old Wilmington, and the Friends of the New Hanover County Public Library. Every team had at least one "ringer" and we all suspect that they will try to find some harder questions next year. We did have a great cheering section, second only to those there for the Moore's Creek guys but we were surely the *Best Dressed* as the only team with matching sweatshirts.

Walking Tour with Dr. Chris Fonvielle

Thursday, March 25, 3:00-5:00pm

Again this year our esteemed Society member and UNC-W History professor, Chris Fonvielle, will lead a fascinating walk through the remnants of General Robert Hoke's Sugarloaf-line-of-defence. These embankments and earthworks, which kept the Union army from taking Wilmington for over 30 days, is still largely intact and can be seen if you know where to look. Dr. Fonvielle's walk will take the group through these lines and discuss Hoke's defense of the east bank of the Cape Fear River.



This walking program will leave from the Federal Point History Center parking lot (just south of the Carolina Beach Town Hall) at 3:00pm. Due to the overwhelming popularity of this program we will be taking reservations (by phone or in person) this year. To reserve your spot call the History Center at 458-0502 and leave a message. We will call you back to confirm your reservation. A donation of \$5.00 is appreciated.

President's Message

We all had a fun time at the History Bowl and it was great to see our members turn out to support our team. Believe it or not it's time to begin the nominating and election process for officers and board members for the 2010-2011 year. Please think long and hard about volunteering to take a leadership role in our organization. If you'd like to make a lasting contribution just let me know at one of the meetings or e-mail me at rongriffin@aol.com.

-- Ron

Oral History Committee – Ann Hertzner
From the interview with Isabell Foushe January 12, 2007

PART II Lewis Grocery, Banking in Wilmington, and the Boardwalk at CB

Before World War II ended when Isabell Lewis was 13 or 14, the family moved to Kure Beach. Her parents, Ed and Gertie Lewis, opened the Lewis Grocery or Kure Beach Grocery at the stop light at the southwest corner of K Ave at 421 Hwy – an old frame building that has since been torn down and rebuilt in brick. The Lewis Grocery had 2 gas pumps out front and also had a kerosene pump at the end of the building sold for cook stoves in cottages. It had an apartment at the end of the grocery store and a little store room. The Citco Station is now there.

A service station was catty corner from the Lewis store; *Canoutas Café* where the vacant lot is now. Gus from Burlington tried to sell them the *Big Daddies land* for \$10,000. He might as well have said 10 million because Isabell said they didn't have two nickels to rub together. Mr. Flowers opened a grocery store on K Avenue. When they moved to Kure Beach, the town was not incorporated yet. The governor appointed Ed Lewis to the first town council.

Because meat was rationed during the war, dad would get a cow or a bull off the island, have it butchered in Lumberton, and bring it back to the store to sell the meat. Isabell stood on a stool by the scales and told how many ration stamps were needed. People were more interested in how many rationing stamps it took than how much money it cost. They wanted some beef. When doors opened at 7 o'clock, a line would be waiting. One day while selling meat, Isabell found out that it was the pet "Booie". She just had to walk out.

Her folks built and ran a fish market at the Lewis grocery. Bob Ford (Margaret's husband) worked at the store some and later rented it. If local fish wasn't available locally, they'd get it from Failes wholesale fish house in Wilmington.

During the depression we didn't have enough money to go to a bank. Mother would say "We're banking and getting change in the Wilmington bank." Back then Monkey Junction was a big intersection with a grocery - service store combination and monkeys out back in cages. About 1950 the Bank of Carolina Beach opened.

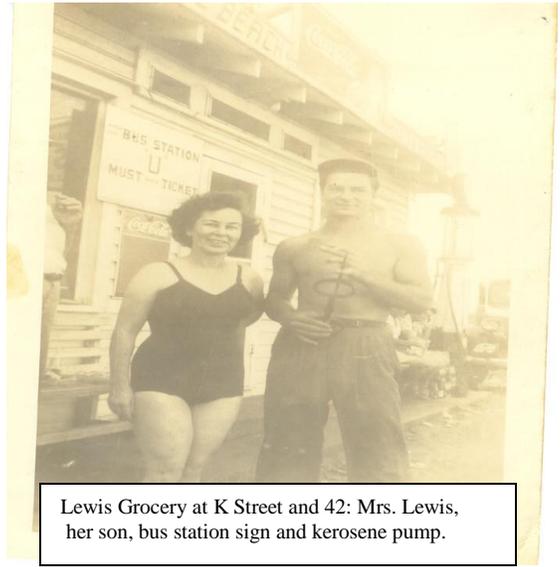
Going to the Carolina Beach boardwalk once a week was a special treat. Everyone would sit on the plank boardwalk (now cement) on the ocean side and watch the parade of tourists. We couldn't wander away. We played around on the board walk and went on the rides. Most of the games came in at the end or after the war- penny pitch tosses, target shooting with rifles, or ball games to knock the milk bottles over - lots of tourist traps.

Many soldiers were down at Fort Fisher. Target planes would fly over. The machine gun embankments were out at the edge of the water. They would have the big guns out there, too. During anti-air craft training the pilings were shot out from under the Ft. Fisher Pier and finally went in the water. Isabell remembers going out at night on the beach and watching fires out on the ocean where the ships had been torpedoed. One German sub shot the land one time just above Kure Beach. During that time, we could not have lights shining at night. Dark blinds were needed.

Fort Fisher brought soldiers in by the 1000s for anti-air craft training. Convoys of big trucks would rumble by for 3 or 4 hours at a time. My folks' property joined the base property. The MPs went up and down the road that divided the two properties. We could hear the men and the bugle playing taps every afternoon and we knew they were taking the flag down. We got to know a lot of them.

Isabell and her husband built the **Center Pier** two blocks this side of Wilmington Beach near the big high rise. They opened the pier the first of July; Hurricane Hazel came along October 15, 1954 and took it out. During the eye of Hurricane, her husband came back with a box of fish hooks in one hand and a piece of a reel in the other. It took the pier and the tackle shop down and moved the septic tanks out on the sand.

Isabell was out of high school 12 years before her three boys got up in school. Then she went to Wilmington College for two years and to East Carolina to finish a bachelors and a master's degree. She then taught English at UNCW.



Lewis Grocery at K Street and 42: Mrs. Lewis, her son, bus station sign and kerosene pump.

**From the Bill Reaves files
The legacy of H.A. and Ellen Kure**

From before the turn of the twentieth century, it was clear that the Kure Family was to be instrumental in the development of the southern beaches of New Hanover County. Below are notices from Wilmington newspapers.

April 28, 1900 Captain Harper, the genial master of the steamer WILMINGTON and proprietor of the Oceanic Hotel at Carolina Beach, said that he had furnished the 20-odd rooms in the Oceanic Hotel and would have them to let this summer. The rooms would be in charge of Mr. Joe Yopp. **It had been decided not to have boarding accommodations in the hotel building, and dining arrangements could be made with Mr. H. A. Kure and Dr. J.D. Webster in their well arranged boarding houses nearby.** The bath houses were to be in charge of Mr. Vrans Swann, as usual. The saloon and cafe were to be conducted by Mr. W. V. Hardin, of Wilmington. WILM.STAR, 4-29-1900.

May 6, 1900 **Mr. H. A. Kure was thoroughly overhauling and putting in first class the Carolina Beach Hotel.** The rooms in the hotel were to be well furnished and were to be rented by the day, week, or month. There were several first class dining halls accessible to the hotel. WILM.MESSENGER, 5-5-1900.

May 7, 1900 **Mr. H.A. Kure went to Carolina Beach with about 25 men to begin to set things to rights for the coming season.** He reported that he would have about fifty rooms at his disposal and he was going to change the name of his place from the Kure House to the Carolina Beach Hotel. He also had purchased the cottage of Mr. W.L. Smith, next door to his own place, and he was to build a dining room 46 x 18 feet there. The hotel was to open on May 25th. WILM.DISPATCH, 5-5-1900.; 5-24-1900.

December 18, 1904 **Mr. Hans A. Kure, proprietor of the amusement pavilion at Carolina Beach,** purchased the riding gallery or "hobby horses" that had been operating at 6th and Campbell Streets in Wilmington. He planned to take the outfit down to the beach next summer for the entertainment of seaside visitors. WILMINGTON STAR, 12-18-1904.

June 3, 1907 A license was granted to **H. A. Kure, of Carolina Beach, to run a saloon** in connection with his establishment. WILMINGTON DISPATCH, 6-4-1907.

August 24, 1907 **Mr. Hans A. Kure, proprietor of the amusement pavilion at Carolina Beach,** was offering cash prizes of \$10 each in a bowling tournament and in a trap shoot on the traps at the beach, running for 10 days and beginning today. Parties could go down any day of the ten and take a trial for either or both of the prizes. WILMINGTON STAR, 8-24-1907.

September 6, 1907 The fishing off Carolina Beach was reported to be exceptionally fine. **Mr. Hans A. Kure and a party of ten persons went out in a steam yawl, about 2 ½ miles off shore,** and caught 300 of as fine sheephead, pig fish, trout and other varieties as were ever seen at the beach. They expected to return soon while the run was so good. WILMINGTON STAR, 9-7-1907.

December 8, 1910. **A fire, of incendiary origin,** shortly before day, destroyed the hotel and pavilions belonging to Captain John W. Harper, and **the bath houses and "Smith" cottage, belonging to Mr. Hans A. Kure, at Carolina Beach, the whole entailing a loss of upwards of \$15,000.** During the winter the beach is uninhabited and as there had been no fire on the premises for several days, perhaps, Capt. Harper is certain that the buildings had been set on fire.

April 11, 1916 Work on improving the Carolina Beach pier had started by the Diamond Steamboat & Wrecking Company and was to be ready for the summer months. It was being greatly strengthened by additional timbers and new piling. **Mr. W.L.Kure had been awarded the contract to complete the fishing pier at Carolina which was only partly finished.** WILM.DISPATCH, 4-11-1916.

<p>BB&T Bame Ace Hardware Bert Croom Investigations Britt's Donut Shop Coastal K-9 Bakery, Inc. Courtyard by Marriott Fort Fisher Restoration Committee Frank's Pizza Friends of Brunswick Town Got-Em-On-Live Bait Club Hanover Iron Works, Inc. Harbor Masters Restaurant Historical Society of Topsail Island <i>Island Gazette</i> Le SoLeil,Botique & Gallery Muscleworx Fitness Systems B. Parker Protective & Lock Pleasure Island Chamber of Commerce Russo's Motel The Shoppes at Squigley's Dr. Vincent Smith, DDS <i>Snow's Cut Monthly Magazine</i> Taylor's Heating & Air, Inc. Tucker Bros. Realty Company</p> <p>Please take time to let our Business Members know how you appreciate their support.</p>
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Society Notes

● **History Center News: Darlene Bright, Director.** Please be reminded that the History Center is open on Tuesdays from noon to 4pm and Friday and Saturday's from 10am – 4pm. If you are out and about take time to stop by and visit with Rebecca. Be sure to find out what's new and where we are on our ongoing projects.

Speaking of *new*, have you seen the new exhibit on the Got-em-on live Bait Club? Their history is very interesting and their members work hard to make a difference in the Federal Point community; having fun while they're at it! We really appreciate their donating the money to build the two new exhibit cases and also their additional donation of \$300 this year.

Thanks, too, to Leslie Bright, for building the new cases. While we're giving thanks I can't stress enough how much we appreciate all Rebecca Does for our Society. Also the dedicated volunteers who are always ready to help out when we call on them. In February our History Center volunteers were **Lois Taylor, Demetria Sabienza, Sylvia Snook, Jeannie Gordon, Ron Griffin, Elaine Henson and Pat Bolander** who did everything from fold and label the newsletter mailing, clean, vacuum, and empty trash as well as answer the questions of our visitors. Special thanks too, to Demetria who has been organizing and binding past year's Newsletters which will be available for purchase soon.

Remember! If you have special occasions such as birthdays or anniversaries be sure to shop first at our Gift Shop. We have a very good selection of books, DVDs, games, puzzles and shirts. **We've just received a shipment of new t-shirts, both the FPHPS ones and the "Birthplace of the Shag"ones with Ocean Plaza on the front. The new shirts are \$14.00 apiece and come in several new colors.**

A Note to Board Members: We will be having a Board Meeting on Monday April 5. If you have any items for the agenda please let Rebecca know at FPHPS@yahoo.com by April 1.

With the passing of long time member J. Ryder Lewis, our hearts and thoughts go out to Mary Ann and the whole Lewis family. An early and dedicated member, Ryder joined the Federal Point Historic Preservation Society in 1995 less than a year after it was formed. He contributed his time and knowledge to a number of projects and is most fondly remembered for the annual Membership picnics he hosted at his beautiful St. Joseph St. property. The Society and the whole community feel a great loss, at his passing.

Officers

President – Ron Griffin
Vice-President – Annette Winner
Secretary – Lois Taylor
Treasurer - Jeannie Gordon

Directors

Leslie Bright, Chair	James Dugan	Ray Flowers
Elaine Henson	Daniel Norris	Cheri McNeill
Jack Travis	Pat Bolander	Sylvia Snook

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