



# Federal Point Historic Preservation Society

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## Newsletter

Volume 18 No. 7

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

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[www.FederalPointHistory.org](http://www.FederalPointHistory.org)

### July Meeting

Monday, July 18, 2011

7:30 pm



The Federal Point Historic Preservation Society will hold its monthly meeting on **Monday, July 18, 7:30 pm at the Federal Point History Center**, 1121-A North Lake Park Blvd., adjacent to Carolina Beach Town Hall.

Our speaker this month is Charyn Fink who will be speaking on *Nurses and Civil War Medicine*. While dressed in period attire, her slide show will cover period medicines, surgeries, specific doctors and nurses along with their pictures. Also included are pictures of hospitals and instruments of the period in addition to many contributions to medicine experienced during the War. We will learn how valuable women were to the War effort.

Charyn Fink is a retired school nurse from Austintown, Ohio. She holds an R.N. degree and a Masters in Health Education from Penn State University. She and her husband, Dan, have 2 adult children and 4 grandchildren. They live in Southport, N.C. Charyn is currently active in both the New Hanover County and Brunswick County Civil War Roundtables and serves as the editor of Brunswick County C.W.R.'s newsletter, "Call To Arms."

### Election of 2011-2012 Officers

Don't forget we will elect officers and board members at the July meeting. Running for the Board (2 year terms) are Leslie Bright, Skippy Winner, Thomas Gray, and Jack Travis. For officers (1 year terms) the candidates are Barry Nelder for President; Annette Winner for Vice-President; Lois Taylor for Secretary, and Demetria Sapienza for Treasurer. The future of our organization depends on our leaders commitment and vision.

### Last Month's Meeting

We had a great group for the potluck with 45 or 50 people present. Leslie and Darlene brought hamburgers and hotdogs and as usual we had plenty to go with them. The dessert table was full, as usual and the blueberry cobbler was to die for! Remember the gift shop now has cute stuffed animals: sea creatures, turtles, seahorses and hermit crabs – so when shopping for the grandkids think of us!

## President's Message

Dear Members: It has been my privilege to serve as your President during the past two years. I will continue to serve the Society in several other areas and will be able to devote more time on the 1920 Census Project begun earlier this year.

I believe the Board of Directors will be placing in nomination names to fill vacancies on the Board, and also Officer positions, at our meeting in July. Additional nominations from the floor are always in order. Please plan to attend. Following the business meeting, including the elections, we will have a program on Civil War Medicine. That should be very interesting. Hope to see you there.

Ron

## Oral History by Ann Hertzler

### Ray Rothrock Part VI: Downtown Kure Beach

There was also a Mrs. Davis' Restaurant in Kure Beach on U. S. 421, now S. Ft. Fisher Boulevard Avenue. It was across from the Lutheran Retreat. The building is no longer standing and is now an empty lot. That building was one of the old Army Barracks moved from Ft. Fisher Army Base. Her restaurant was in the front part and she lived in the back part of it. Mrs. Davis sold predominately local, fresh caught seafood and was only open for the evening meal. Her calling card was her Hush Puppies. She sold more Hush Puppies and Hush Puppy Mix than she probably did food. People would have fish fries at home and have someone go to Mrs. Davis restaurant to pick up Hush Puppies or get her Hush Puppy Mix, just add water (all the other secret ingredients were in the bag) and cook her Hush Puppies to enjoy with their fresh caught fish, oyster roast, or clam bake.

Canoutas Restaurant was at the southeast corner of the main intersection at Kure Beach. That corner is now Jack Mackerel's parking. Andy's Dad, George, ran the restaurant and his wife, Lola had a Bingo Parlor and Beachwear Shop on the other side of it, toward the oceanfront. They later opened a Pool Hall in a building just south of the restaurant and they lived upstairs. Ray and friends enjoyed playing pool, especially in the winter time when it was too cold to be outside. Ray went to school with Andy, who was a couple years older. Andy was Ray's Platoon Leader in Army ROTC in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade and Company Commander in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade at New Hanover High School.



The Kure Beach Post Office was next door to that. Just past the Post Office was Smitty's. Seems like Smitty put a little building in that was a tackle shop at one time and now is where Freddie's is located. Behind that building is where the Kure Beach Dance Hall was and everybody learned the jitter-bug and Shag while the Juke Box was blaring and blasting. Closer to the ocean was a restaurant and on the Oceanside of the crossover walkway, a large building sat on the oceanfront. The bottom floor was George Stathis Restaurant and rooms upstairs for rent. Hurricane Hazel just about took it away and it was moved over to the vacant land that is now where Kure Beach is building the oceanfront park.

In 1956, Ray's Mother and Smitty's brother (Ronald Smith) left Smitty's and leased the building that had been moved from the oceanfront which was located between what is now Old Pier Restaurant and the ocean. They named it the R & S Restaurant (Rothrock and Smith). Ray's mother was the cook and everything she cooked was delicious. She ran it until the early '60's. It was a lot like Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Restaurant, opening at 4:30 in the morning, serving breakfast to the fishermen, specials for lunch and lots of different fresh, local caught seafood for dinner.



In the early 50's, Mr. Fisher was the Chief of Police. Ray believes they had one other police officer, civilian clothes and only called upon when needed. Mr. Christmas was the Constable and back then with not so much crime, no more police were needed. Mr. Fisher was always walking around the main street of downtown Kure Beach, between where the traffic signal is now and the fishing pier. His black, private car with a red light set up with a siren was always parked just up from Bud and Joes [picture]. There was a sign, "Reserved for Chief of Police." Ray does not remember Mr. Fisher having a radio to talk with Carolina Beach, the County nor the State. Later they did get a radio where he could talk to Carolina Beach Police and Emergency Ambulance Services.

Ray was a Kure Beach Volunteer Fireman when he was 16. On October 15, 1954, being young and perhaps foolish, when Hurricane Hazel made landfall, he and the other Volunteer Firemen watched all the piers and most oceanfront buildings destroyed or severely damaged. His family's oceanfront apartment was one of those buildings that were severely damaged. It was rebuilt and ready for the tourist in the summer of 1955. They had a few Fire Hydrants, but not nearly enough, so the small water truck would have to be filled or run lots of hoses when they had a fire. Didn't know about CPR but they did obtain a Breathing Machine.

On July 4th, 1955 Ray was a Mate on the boat Lewis Davis had bought. They headed out from The Basin Marina to bottom fish when, about 3 or 4 miles off the beach, a fisherman had an apparent heart attack. Thank goodness the ocean was flat, no wind, no waves and Lewis Davis beached the boat right next to Kure Beach Fishing Pier. They had no radio, no cell phone, no nothing. Ray was on the bow when the boat hit land, he was off and running to Canatouas' Restaurant to get Andy, the lifeguard, and the keys to the Town Hall where the Breathing Machine was kept. The Town Hall was the back of the existing ABC Store which is now the building where Bowman's Realty is. Andy came without the keys, so he rammed his fist through the glass to unlock the door and get the oxygen machine. In the meantime, the Rescue Squad from Carolina Beach came and took the man to the hospital. Thank goodness the fisherman recovered and continued to come to Kure Beach to fish, but not going out on a boat. They pushed the boat off the beach, turned it around and went deep sea fishing as planned. In the summertime the only medical was an EMS, 2 Technicians stationed right behind Britt's, and an ambulance at Carolina Beach.

Ray and five others from Kure Beach and the Monkey Junction area went to the Navy Recruiter, then located in the Wilmington Post Office, to join the Navy on August 11, 1955. They had completed all their applications and that was the day they were scheduled to be processed. Ray remembers the Navy Recruiter asking them, "What are you guys doing here today, don't you know a Hurricane is coming?" One of them answered, "that's the reason we want to get off the Island!" Ray was the youngest and said, he did not say that. All the others were older and subject to be drafted, so they were ready to go.

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  
Muscleworx 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.**

Little did Ray or the others know that the Hurricane Connie (August 12, 1955) would destroy most of the beach, Connie and Diane (August 17, 1955) took all of the oceanfront, two story, four apartment building Ray's Mom and Dad had. It also did lots of wind damage to the cottages they had. They did not rebuild the oceanfront, because insurance did not cover the damages from the ocean. They sold the property in the late 60's and that is where Admiral Quarter's smaller building now stands.

Ray remembers Kure Beach being incorporated in 1947. Mr. Lawrence Kure was the first Mayor. Ray's Dad ran for Mayor once but Ray does not recall who he ran against. Back then there may have been a big total of 175 – 185 voters.

### Society Notes

- ❖ **DONATIONS! From Darlene, History Center Director:** In last month's newsletter, I sent out a plea for help to our membership. We have not been disappointed! I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you so much to those dedicated members who have already responded. **Thomas Gray** for his generous cash donation; **Jim & Jane Dugan** and **Charles Greene** for renewing as a lifetime members; **Sylvia Snook** for taking time to thoroughly clean the Center this month; and to **Debra Whitely via. Susan Foy of Frank's Pizza** for a case of water and a whole big tub of office supplies. This is great! Our hope is that others will follow suit, and if you are in doubt as to what is needed, just call Rebecca. Of course, a little extra cash is always appreciated. **Again, thanks so much!**
- ❖ This month we recorded 51 visitors to the History Center and 45 members and visitors at our monthly meeting. The History Center took in \$49.99 in the gift shop. New in the gift shop are cute and fluffy Turtles, Seahorses and hermit crabs – YES, CUTE AND FLUFFY! Grandkids R US!

### New in the Gift Shop!



- ❖ Our thoughts go out to the family of longtime Society member Albert Jewell who passed on July 7.
- ❖ 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). **Pat Bolander** and **Sylvia Snook** covered the History Center so Rebecca could attend her niece's wedding in Kernersville.
- ❖ **Sylvia Snook** also **DEEP** cleaned the **History Center** from the kitchen to the bathrooms and practically vacuumed life out of the carpet with our snazzy new vacuum cleaner! **Darlene and Leslie Bright** continue to spend time on all kinds of projects around the History Center.

❖ **New Members:** As Darlene said in her report we had two membership renewals that were converted to LIFETIME, A big thanks to **Jim and Jane Dugan** and **Charles Greene**. NEW members this month include **Herbert Gant and Wade Toth** of Wilmington, **Lois Wheatley** of Carolina Beach, **Patty and Ron Dombrowski** of Palenville, NY and **Scott Neal** of Hillsborough NC.

❖ **Treasurer's Report** by Demetria Sapienza. June was a slow month for gift shop sales. June 30th ended our fiscal year. Final 2010/2011 accounting will be completed by 15 July. Copies will be available upon request.

### *Federal Point Historic Preservation Society Events Calendar Summer/Fall 2011*

**Monday, July 18, 2011 Membership Meeting. 7:30-9:00 pm**

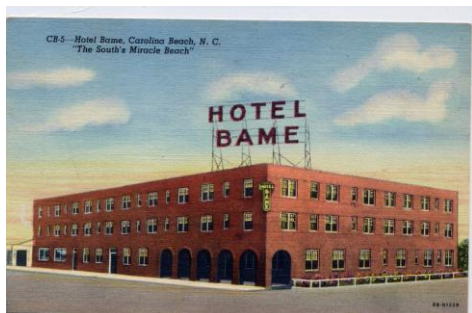
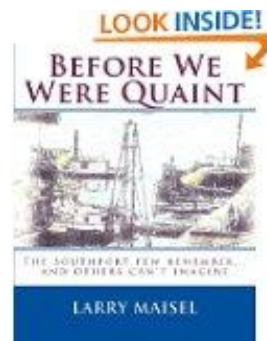
**Charyn Fink**, a retired nurse, and an avid Civil War re-enactor, will talk about nurses, doctors, and the realities of medical surgery and treatment as well as the important role women played during the Civil War – with pictures!



**Monday, August 15, 2011 Membership Meeting. 7:30-9:00 pm**

**Members of the Pleasure Island Sea Turtle Project** will discuss the physical traits, characteristics and life cycle of sea turtles, especially those that inhabit our area and the work that the Pleasure Island Sea Turtle Project does to protect them.

**Monday, September 19, 2011: Membership Meeting. 7:30-9:00 pm** **Larry Maisel** author of *Before We Were Quaint* will share stories of old Southport and of the relationship between the two banks of the Cape Fear River. A former broadcast journalist he moved to this area in 1990 and worked closely with the late Susie Carson on two of her books.



**Monday October 17, 2011: Membership Meeting. 7:30-9:00 pm.** Elaine Henson, author of *Carolina Beach, A Postcard History* will talk to us about the **Bame family** and their relationship with “The Beach” over the past 80 years; which grew to include owning several beach businesses, hotels, piers, two Carolina Beach mayors, a fire chief and span three generations.



**Monday, November 21, 2011: Membership Meeting. 7:30-9:00 pm.** **Mark Wilde-Ramsing** is back to present the news from the wrecksite of *Queen Anne's Revenge*, as well as other activities in the world of underwater archaeology including a look back 50 years to the beginnings of the Fort Fisher lab and the salvage of the blockade runner *Modern Greece*.

**Please Help:** Arcadia Publishing has awarded a book contract to Lois Wheatley, a Carolina Beach resident, to compile a collection of vintage photography representing past scenes of Seabreeze, Carolina Beach, Kure Beach and Fort Fisher. The collection will be part of the prestigious "Images of America" series, and like the other volumes in the series it will contain approximately 200 photographs with captions.

She needs your help. Please open up your photo albums and your Carolina Beach memories to her so that she can make this a truly great and meaningful publication. Lois can be contacted at (910) 465-6801 or at [lois@theloissite.com](mailto:lois@theloissite.com). She will scan your photographs and return them to you as promptly as possible.

## On Sale!

Last month we said we said we would put a book or two on sale each month. So this month we have put Daniel Norris's two coffee table books: *Carolina Beach: Images and Icons of a Bygone era* (vol. 1) and *Carolina Beach: Friends and Neighbors Remembered* (vol. 2) on sale. They normally list at \$29.95 but we have them marked at \$22.50 for July! With sales tax down to 7% it's a great time to stock up now for copies to give family and friends.



### *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 fished 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**

Ray Flowers  
 Cheri McNeill  
 Pat Bolander  
 Jean Stewart  
 John Gordon  
 Skippy Winner

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