

Shore First



■ In Cape Charles, Trinity Leland, pictured, opens a fashion boutique that caters to all women | Page 14

■ An remarkable Accomack estate sale with historic significance | Page 20

Shore First

The Eastern Shore of Virginia's
monthly newsmagazine

Published at the beginning
of each month
since May 2017

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From the editor

A Shore First redesign

This monthly newsmagazine will begin its seventh year in May. We are celebrating with a redesign — freshening up the layout, adding some new features, and more.

We also tightened up the name of this publication, dropping the word “Eastern.” But we have kept many of the popular components readers long have enjoyed.



Ted
Shockley

Many thanks go to Joni Hamilton, owner of Shore Marketing Services, for designing our Shore First masthead. Joni also designed the masthead of our weekly news publication, Eastern Shore Post. In both logos, you'll see the osprey. Joni is a talented graphic designer who helps our publications tremendously.

Along with the redesign, we added two fun columnists.

Laura Davis, well-known around the Shore and region as a food writer and blogger, will contribute a monthly column, recipe, and photographs of what she has been cooking. Laura lives on Chincoteague Island.

Be sure to check back each month to see what Laura is preparing for dinner.

In addition, the back-page column will include classic pieces by Candy Farlow, a longtime Eastern Shore journalist who died in 2017. Candy was one of the founding partners of the Eastern Shore Post.

Candy's writing always captured the spirit and sensibilities of our area and it will be fun reading her pieces again.

Some of the most-read parts of this publication will stay exactly the same. It is always a treat to read the monthly pieces by Eastern Shore author Curtis Badger and I thank him for his continued contributions.



PHOTO COURTESY LAURA DAVIS

Local food writer Laura Davis with a flounder.

Miles and Anne Barnes are very nice to let us publish pieces written by the Rev. Kirk Mariner, the author and historian who died in 2017.

If you like what Badger and Mariner write, be sure to visit one of our locally owned bookstores and purchase one of their many works.

Last but not least, one of my favorite parts of this publication also will continue — a reprinting of newspaper stories from 25, 50, 75, and 100 years ago. It is always fascinating to get an account of our local history from the newspaper headlines.

I would like to thank all of the wonderful readers, supporters, and advertisers of Shore First. Enjoy the spring — and enjoy this month's redesigned publication.



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March meals should include pub-style shepherd's pie

Spring has arrived here on the Eastern Shore —unofficially, of course — but there's no denial of its arrival with the bright yellow daffodils and leafy green tulip blooms bursting through their mulchy beds and out of their winter slumber.

Before long, brown salt marshes will be a vibrant green again — it is always so exciting to see that first bit peeking through at the base of the grass.



Laura Davis

To Mother Nature's credit, it's been a pretty mild winter. But who doesn't look forward to those brighter and longer days ahead of us?

Spring doesn't officially knock on our doors until March 20 — so now is the perfect opportunity to get in those “stick to your ribs” meals, before we switch to lighter fare that doesn't

heat up the house with a hot oven.

With St. Patrick's Day falling on March 17, this comforting pub-style shepherd's pie is a recipe you'll definitely want to give a try.

If you're not a fan of the traditional corned beef and cabbage, chances are you'll love this — I know that my family does.

For years I made a Guinness pot roast for St. Pat's, which is phenomenal, but is a bit too heavy with the warming weather.

I made this instead several years ago and it was such a hit it has been on the menu annually ever since. It comes together easily with minimal ingredients, effort, and time — and is completely doable after a day at work.

Brown the ground beef and veggies, make a
(Continued on page 7)



PHOTO COURTESY LAURA DAVIS

Pub-style shepherd's pie is a perfect meal for St. Patrick's Day — or anytime in March.

Laura Davis, of Chincoteague Island, is a food writer and blogger at www.tideandthyme.com. Her recipes have been featured on Huffington Post and www.craftbeer.com, among other publications. She is a frequent guest on WBOC-TV's DelmarvaLife show, where she showcases her culinary talents for viewers. Her work appears monthly in Shore First.

Davis

(Continued from page 6)

quick pan gravy with a dark stout, and top with butter-laden mashed potatoes. You can boil your potatoes while you're preparing the filling, or you can always prep everything the night before and then

just pop it in the oven when you get home. I like to bake and serve right in a cast-iron skillet, I love the rustic presentation. And one less dish in the sink is always a good thing. But, you could certainly use a baking dish if you like.

You'll need just enough time in the oven to get everything bubbly and the potatoes starting to get a golden color on top. Which, coincidentally is usu-

ally just enough time to sit down and enjoy a nip of Irish spirits, or maybe sit down with your wee little leprechauns and tell them a tall tale before dinnertime.

We may not have the rolling hills of Ireland, but I'll take the green salt marsh of the Eastern Shore anyday of the week. May the road rise up to meet you, my friends!

The recipe: Pub-style shepherd's pie

The ingredients

2 Tbsp butter
1 large onion, chopped
2 carrots, peeled and chopped
1 cup mushrooms, sliced
1 1/2 pounds ground sirloin (90/10)
Table salt and ground black pepper
1 Tbsp tomato paste
5 Tbsp flour
1/4 cup heavy cream
1 1/2 cups chicken broth
1 cup dry, dark stout (like Guinness)
2 Tbsp soy sauce
2 tsp fresh thyme leaves, chopped (or 1 tsp dried)
1 cup frozen peas

For the topping:

2 1/2 pounds russet potatoes, peeled and cut into cubes
Table salt
2 Tbsp butter, melted
1/3 cup heavy cream, warmed
Ground black pepper
1 large egg, beaten

The instructions

■ Preheat oven to 375.

■ Place potatoes in a large pan full of cold water. Place over medium-high heat, cover, and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low and cook potatoes until fork-tender – about 20 minutes. Drain, return to warm pan, and cover.

■ Melt butter in large cast iron skillet over medium-high heat. Add onion, carrots, mushrooms, and a pinch of salt. Cook, stirring frequently, until the veggies are starting to brown on the edges – about 7 minutes. Remove to small bowl and set aside.

■ Add the ground beef to to pan along with 1 tsp salt and 1/2 tsp black pepper, breaking up as you cook. Cook until completely browned on all sides. Drain as much grease from the beef as you can. Return veggies to the pan along with the beef.

■ Add the tomato paste, as well as the flour to the pan – mixing with the beef and veggies to coat completely. Cook over medium-heat for about 2 minutes to

brown the tomato paste and flour – this really helps develop flavor for the sauce.

■ Slowly pour in the beer, as well as the chicken broth. Reduce heat to low and cook until liquids thicken and start to bubble. Carefully stir in the heavy cream, soy sauce, thyme, and peas – stir to combine. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

■ To make the potato topping, warm 1/3 cup heavy cream and 2 Tbsp butter in a microwavable safe bowl for about 1 minute. Add warm mixture to the cooked potatoes, and use a potato masher to mash the potatoes until smooth. You can also use your stand mixer fitted with a paddle attachment. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

■ Spread the mashed potatoes evenly over the gravy in the cast-iron skillet. Using the tines of a fork, rough up the surface of the mashed potatoes (this helps with browning). Brush the top of the pie with a beaten egg.

■ Carefully place the skillet in the oven, and bake at 375 for about 40 minutes, until potatoes are browned and gravy is bubbly.

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Copy of Eastern Shore's oldest newspaper comes to light

For the better part of a century it lay unknown and undiscovered right under the noses of the Eastern Shore historians, stored away in Accomac in a big wooden box that looked suspiciously like a coffin. When the present Clerk's

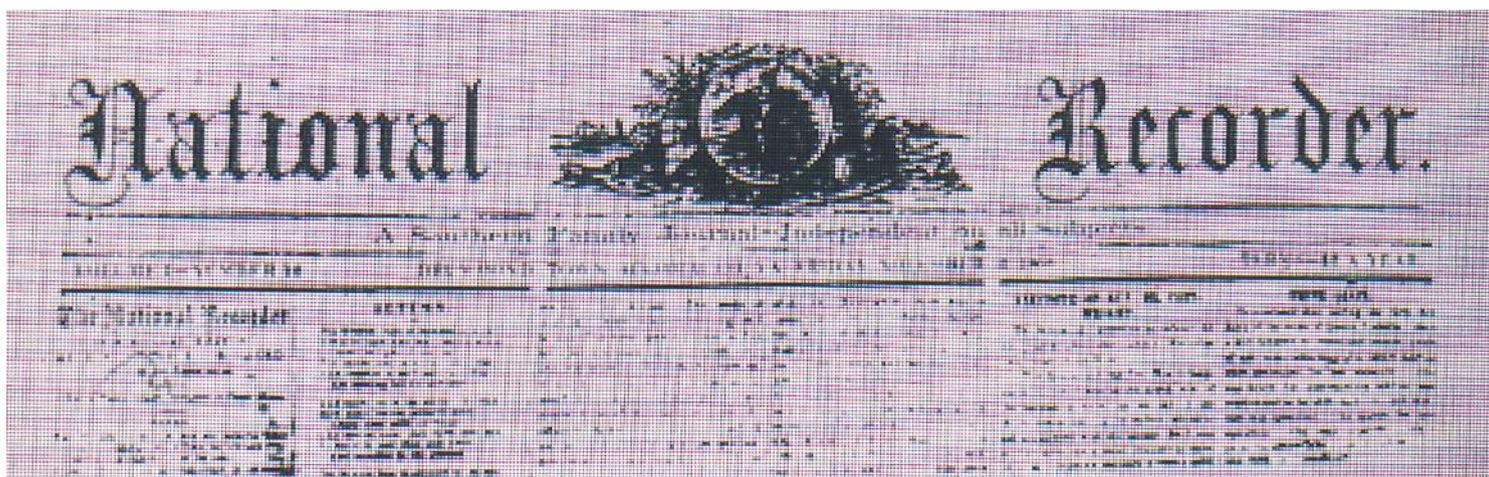
Office was built to replace an older one in 1888, a number of loose papers were gathered up, sealed tight in a box, stored away in the new attic, and promptly forgotten. The box was opened in 1948, and some of its papers read and catalogued. But



Kirk Mariner

not until 1985 was it opened again, as the local D.A.R. undertook the project of putting the remaining papers on microfilm. There in a collection of voting ballots from the presidential elections of 1856 and 1860 it turned up: the November 2, 1860, issue of the National Recorder, the earliest known surviving issue of the first newspaper of the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

No newspaper had ever been published on the Virginia Shore when C. R. Coard and A. S. Gootee introduced the National Recorder of August 17, 1860. A weekly paper of only four pages, it cost \$2 a year, and was printed by L. S. Prince in a frame house still standing in Accomac just south of the Debtor's Pris-



The National Recorder is the first newspaper of the Eastern Shore of Virginia. This edition is from 1860.

on. Prior to the discovery of the issue of November 2, 1860 there were only two issues of the National Recorder known to be in existence, rare enough to be housed at the Virginia Historical Society and the New York Historical Society. Both of these date from 1861, and one of them is partially reproduced in L. Floyd Nock's Drummondtown, A "One-Horse" Town.

This earliest known issue of the National Recorder was published on the Friday before the Tuesday election day of 1860, and was undoubtedly saved among the papers of the election because it lists the candidates for President and Vice President. There on page 3 are the three pairs of candidates who ran for President and Vice President: John Bell and Edward Everett on the Constitutional Union ticket, Stephen A. Douglas and Herschel V. Johnson on one Democratic ticket, and J. C. Breckinridge and Joseph

Lane on another Democratic ticket. Conspicuously absent is the Republican ticket headed by Abraham Lincoln; though it won nationally it received no votes on the Eastern Shore of Virginia because it was not on the ballot. One local man, John B. Ailworth of Accomac, is listed as the Elector for the Douglas ticket in the 7th District. An adjoining column reports a "large and enthusiastic political meeting" held in Accomac earlier in the week at which the three tickets were all defended by local speakers, Arthur Watson for Bell, O. Jennings Wise for Breckinridge, and Abel T. Johnson of Accomac for Douglas. Elsewhere in the issue an editorial urged readers to vote for Union, not Civil War, insisting that "in the event of a dissolution and civil war, no section would suffer so severely as we." The editorial is the only clue to the fact that during this particular election the nation

stood on the brink of division and war.

The four pages of the National Recorder offer only a tantalizing glimpse into life on the Eastern Shore on the eve of the Civil War, because they contain very little news. Of the six columns on the first page, only one contains local material, all of it advertisements. The remaining five columns are given over to stories, anecdotes, poems and jokes syndicated for use by papers needing material – features like "The Polish Daughter," a serialized story by J. F. Fisher, and "Anecdote of Rev. Dr. Cartwright." In all, of the 22 columns in the issue only two of them, about a third of one page, contain any real local "news," and little of that is earthshaking: the Onancock Rifles will drill on Saturday afternoon, Mrs. S. C. Jacobs of Pungoteague has a new line of fall and winter

(Continued on page 11)

The Rev. Kirk Mariner was an Eastern Shore author, historian, and United Methodist minister whose book, "Off 13: The Eastern Shore of Virginia Guidebook," is an indispensable volume for natives and visitors alike. Mariner died in 2017. His work appears in Eastern Shore First courtesy of Miona Publications.

Newspaper

(Continued from page 10)

dresses in her shop, William P. Custis has raised a 12-pound turnip, and Thomas Parramore of Locustville a 15-pound beet.

Advertisements, however, abound. Some of them are for Drummondtown locals: attorneys William Walston, Josiah Bayley, Edward Snead, and Benjamin T. Gunter, harnessmaker J. L. Fitchett. J. D. Marsters of Onancock advertises both photographs and sewing machines. The large ad for Atlantic Female College in Onancock takes up fully a third of page 2. Also to be found are ads for the Tavern House in Pungoteague, Margaret Academy (identified here, surprisingly as a military school), and Jean G. Potts, interior decorator and fresco painter (his work still adorns the interior of St. James Episcopal Church). The schedule of trains for the Peninsula Rail Road occupies a prominent position on page 3, but the railroad was hardly local, since at that time the line reached no further south than Salisbury.

Most of the ads are for merchants and establishments off the Shore, and they suggest where and how far some Shore residents were willing to go to obtain the necessities and luxuries of life. Represented are druggists and commission merchants and liquor salesmen from Richmond and Norfolk and Philadel-

phia, and grocers from New York City. By far Baltimore establishments predominate: boarding houses, grocers, merchants, manufacturers of trunks and guns and tombstones and fertilizer, sellers of tobacco and shoes and pianos and stoves.

It is, in fact, the ads that make the paper look so antique, and some of them seem not a little suspicious to modern eyes. The Persian Fever Charm peddled by John Wilcox and Co. of Richmond is labelled “the preventive and remedy for all intermittent and bilious fevers!!,” and the ad for it runs from top to bottom of the page. If one dollar per bottle seems cheap for this “blessing,” compare it to some of the other prices quoted throughout the paper: sewing machines as little as \$30, wool carpets at 45 cents per yard, room and board and laundry in Onancock for nine months, \$100. Fendt’s Bronchial Cigarettes advertised on page 4, promise “instant relief and permanent cure of the distressing complaint” of asthma. Radway’s Ready Relief pills could be taken for swelling, sore eyes, coughs, an all-around “Internal and External Remedy for the Instant Cure of Pain.” Adjacent to it is the long ad for Medical House in Baltimore, established by Dr. J. B. Smith “for the suppression of quackery” – did Smith have a concern about the readers of smalltown papers in which the quacks advertised, or was he just another quack himself?

Such was the twelfth and the earliest known sur-

living issue of the National Recorder. The newspaper had a short history, for Union troops entered the Eastern Shore in November 1861 and shortly thereafter the presses were commandeered by the army, who used the equipment to publish its own paper, The Regimental Flag, beginning on January 16, 1862. After the war, the National Recorder was never resurrected.

With the demise of its first newspaper, the Eastern Shore of Virginia went for 18 years with no paper of its own, until the Eastern Shore Herald began publication in Eastville in 1880. The Herald was followed in 1881 by the Peninsula Enterprise in Accomac. As the years passed, other newspapers were introduced in Cape Charles, Chincoteague, Cheapside, Exmore, Greenbackville, Onancock, Parksley, and Wachapreague, and since the 1880s the Virginia Eastern Shore has never been without a newspaper of its own.

Regrettably, most of these smalltown local papers have vanished from the face of the globe; of some of them not a single issue is known to exist today. A number of them, by no means all, are preserved on microfilm in the Eastern Shore Public Library in Accomac, where they constitute a treasure trove for the merely curious as well as for the serious historian. It is only by the happiest of accidents that there among them, accessible today to any who wish to see it, is the oldest known copy of the first one of them all.

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The legend of the Yahoo of Craddock Neck

On a dark night during the winter of 1778, a plantation house in the heart of Craddock Neck burned to the ground. The house was once owned by the Rev. Thomas Teakle, a noted figure during the colonial period of the Eastern Shore. Rev. Teakle was an Anglican minister who served the Shore for 40 years and was the first rector of St. George's Church in Pungoteague.



Curtis Badger

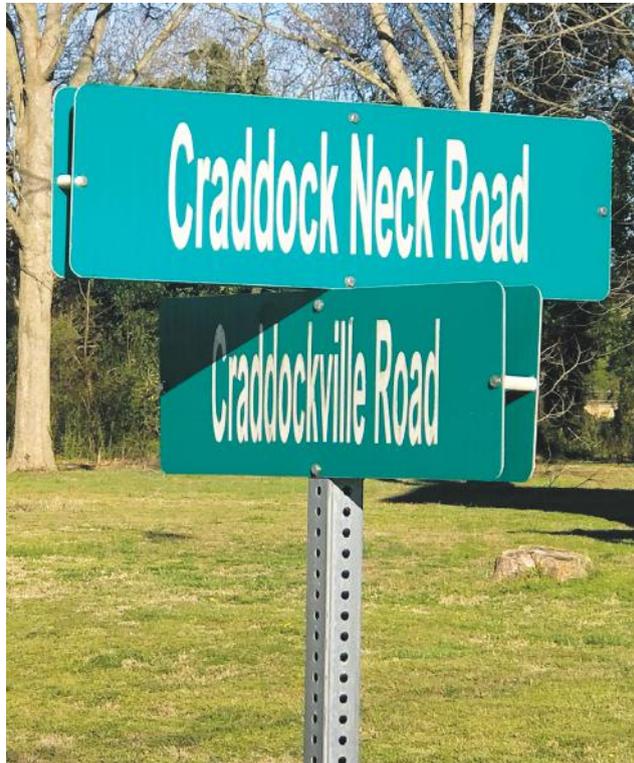
Rev. Teakle was a highly respected member of the clergy, but, unfortunately, he is remembered prominently as being accused by Col. Edmund Scarburgh of having an illicit relationship with Edmund's wife, Mary.

The reverend was charged with fornication, but the charges were never pro-

cessed, and he gradually regained his position of respect in the community. It turned out that Scarburgh's accusation was a ruse, part of an elaborate plot to dump his wife in favor of a younger woman named Anne Toft.

So the house that was reduced to ashes on that night in 1778 held something of an exalted position among the people who lived in the neck. It had been the home of their pastor. Shortly after the ashes cooled, neighboring craftsmen, brick masons, and farm laborers went to work, and soon a new two-story frame home with brick ends stood on the Teakle Farm. The home later became known as Curratuck, or Craddock.

To celebrate the new construction, the family who owned the home invited everyone to a housewarming party. Oysters were roasted, shanks of venison were grilled over coals, and the ale freely flowed.



The Craddockville Neck Yahoo has become part of Eastern Shore history and folklore.

All was merry until late that evening when someone heard a strange sound outside. A group quickly gathered on the lawn and listened intently. Suddenly, there was an eerie shriek and then a series of loud, animal-like calls that seemed to come from the marsh.

"Yahoo! Yahoo!"

All was quiet for a few moments, and then it happened again.

"Yahoo! Yahoo!"

Needless to say, the party was over, but at dawn the next day the men of the neck gathered at the Teakle Farm. Some were on horseback, others on

foot. Most of them were armed with either a shotgun or pistol. They spread out and spent the day searching the woods and marsh, but all they found were some mysterious marks in the mud that might have been footprints, but there was no evidence of either man or beast. They searched again a day later. No luck. They searched at night using torchlights to shine in the creature's eyes. No luck.

After a few weeks the men stopped searching and things got back to normal, although conversations around the dinner table frequently centered on the mysterious creature that became known as the "Yahoo of Craddock Neck."

Within a few months it probably would have been forgotten, but it happened again near a farm some distance from the Teakle place. Again, a search was carried out. Again, nothing was found. Encounters with the Yahoo went on sporadically for some years, usually occurring in the spring, but now and then in the fall.

The Craddock Neck Yahoo has become part of Eastern Shore history and folklore. Ralph T. Whitelaw wrote of the creature in his history "Virginia's Eastern Shore." Whitelaw speculated that the creature "could be a non-native aquatic animal that comes to the area periodically to breed or feed."

Thomas T. Upshur, a well-known Eastern Shore historian and genealogist, spoke of the Yahoo during the dedication ceremony for the new court house in Accomac in 1900.

Jennings C. Wise, in "Ye Kingdome of Accawmacke" (1911) wrote, "This bogey, whatever it may be, whether man or beast, has been sought by armed hunting parties for several centuries. By day and by torchlight, its trail of foot-tracks has been followed only to be lost as the weird cry of 'Yahoo! Yahoo!' sounds through the dismal wastes of marsh to warn the curious of the futility of their quest, and to make the blood of the half-hearted searchers run cold."

Curtis J. Badger is a Delmarva native who majored in English at Salisbury University and, with the exception of four years traveling as a U.S. Air Force photojournalist, has enjoyed a career photographing and writing about his native coast.

His books include "Salt Tide: Cycles and Currents of Life Along the Coast," "Bellevue Farm: Exploring Virginia's Coastal Countryside," and many others. He lives in Accomack County.

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Coastal Charm comes to Cape Charles

BY TED SHOCKLEY

Shore First

What once was solely an internet-based women's clothing boutique has become a storefront in vibrant downtown Cape Charles.

Coastal Charm Boutique, at 226 Mason Ave., is a family business spearheaded by Trinity Leland, a longtime area elementary teacher.

The grand opening is Saturday, March 11, and Leland; her husband, Will; and their children have been working hard to transform the space into a clothing showcase.

The Lelands have three children and their two daughters, Mary Blake and Taylor, are active and involved in the business.

The drive behind the business is Trinity Leland's own desire to help others.

"I sought to make a difference in the lives of women by helping them feel confident and appreciated," she said.

She said the physical shop and online store offer everything from junior to plus sizes.

She began the business more than two years ago as an online-only boutique, selling top brands and wide selections at affordable prices, she said.

She drew customers from all over the country and decided to make the leap to include a bricks-and-mortar location.

"With the help and encouragement from loved ones, my vision, passion, and dream became an opportunity," said Leland.

She said Coastal Charm is "very much a family affair." Mary Blake, their

(Continued on page 15)



Trinity Leland at her shop, Coastal Charm, at 226 Mason Ave., Cape Charles.

SHORE FIRST/TED SHOCKLEY

Coastal Charm

(Continued from page 14)

older daughter, works as a liaison for ordering new and current styles, filling orders, and helping with behind-the-scenes planning.

Their younger daughter, Taylor, also models the clothing, like her mother and older sister. Leland's mother also helps model clothing.

One of the heroes of the business is Leland's husband, Will, who works packing and delivering orders, assembling furniture, and doing handyman work to get the new storefront in shape for customers.

"Not only do we see our growing team as a family, but we also consider our beautiful customer base as a family," Leland said.

Leland said she wants the Cape Charles store and the online store to be a place where women of all ages can shop for clothing "that empowers their everyday lives."

"I aspire to create a personal shopping experience for each of our customers — including head-to-toe styling," she said.

"We love helping mothers, daughters, and sisters express themselves through fashion."



SHORE FIRST/TED SHOCKLEY

Coastal Charm, at 226 Mason Ave., Cape Charles, has recently opened.



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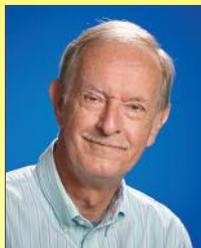
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In Eastville, town council and residents help fire company

BY TED SHOCKLEY
Shore First

When the COVID-19 pandemic ended the Eastville Volunteer Fire Company's fundraising projects, prospects looked dire for the organization, which was incorporated in 1931.

Prohibitions on gathering meant the fire company's bingo nights and other events couldn't be held.

But today, thanks to the Eastville Town Council, area residents, and the volunteers themselves, Station 17 is back on firm footing.

"We created a path to success," said Bubba Frisby, the company's president.

Like many in the company, Frisby will not take credit for any successes. He said many people helped the fire company with their hard work.

He cited an inscription on the cornerstone of the fire hall — "Of ourselves, we give," it reads. The slogan also is on the fire company's emblem.

One of the first successes was having the town of Eastville purchase the fire company's bingo hall, once a furniture store. The proceeds were used to pay off the loan on a fire truck.

"We own 100 percent of this building and everything it in," said Frisby.

Then the fire company reached an agreement with the Exmore Moose Lodge in Belle Haven, which needed to upgrade its bingo machine.

Eastville's fire company no longer needed its modern bingo machine after selling its bingo hall, so it donated the equipment to the Moose Lodge.

In return, the company can have one fundraiser bingo at the Moose Lodge every three months and host



Members of the Eastville Town Council and Eastville Volunteer Fire Company pose on Courthouse Avenue. SHORE FIRST/TED SHOCKLEY

signature events at the facility.

One of those events will be the fire company's inaugural Poker Run and Car and Tractor Show on Saturday, April 29, at the Moose Lodge.

The poker run registration begins at 10:30 a.m. and the car and tractor show runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For

more information on the event, visit the fire company's Facebook page.

The cooperation continued when the town council decided to give the fire company almost \$30,000 for air pack equipment. The company's old equipment could no longer be certified.

"They came up in a time of need," said Frisby of the town council.

"We could not afford to be in compliance and to keep our firefighters safe."

The fire company also has several new officers and a successful out-

(Continued on page 19)

Eastville

(Continued from page 18)

reach program coordinated by Lisa Brittingham. Two new members recently joined the company after participating in the outreach program.

Frisby, who is an oyster field operations manager for Cherystone Aqua Farms, decided to become a volunteer almost 25 years ago after agonizing through a long ambulance wait for his child.

When told the delayed response was because of a lack of volunteers, Frisby volunteered the next day and began training.

Buck Doughty, the company's vice president, joined after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States.

"A lot of people are hesitant (to volunteer) because they don't know if they have the time for it. You make the time you can give," he said.

"There's something nice about being part of something much bigger than you are," he said.

Today, Frisby, Doughty, new Fire Chief Jason Brittingham and many others in the town and community are part of something bigger than themselves. They found a way to put a 93-year-old fire company on solid footing for years to come.

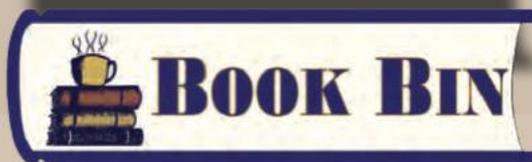


SHORE FIRST/TED SHOCKLEY

The cornerstone of the Eastville Volunteer Fire Company building shows the building's date of construction and the volunteers' slogan.

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COURTESY PHOTO

Items from the estate of U.S. Army Gen. Chester “Chet” deGavre and Teresa Cameron deGarve of Deep Creek, near Onancock.

‘A lot of it, you’re not going to see ever again’

BY TED SHOCKLEY

Shore First

There’s still time to bid online in one of the Eastern Shore’s most-talked-about estate auctions in years.

The estate of U.S. Army Gen. Chester “Chet” deGavre and Teresa Cameron deGarve of Deep Creek, near Onancock, will be sold until Wednesday, March 15.

“It’s kind of a once-in-a-lifetime auction,” said David Allen, the president and owner of A&M Auctioneers and Appraisers, a Maryland-based firm.

“A lot of it, you’re not going to see ever again,” he said.

Among the items being sold is deGavre’s gray woolen jacket he wore during his graduation from the U.S. Military Academy in 1933.

Remarkably, it was found on a New Jersey beach a decade ago after Hurricane Sandy — nobody knows why.

A Pennsylvania woman tracked down deGavre’s wife and gave her the jacket. Allen said the jacket was cleaned and placed in a special showcase.

A decorated World War II officer, deGavre died in 1993 at the age of 85. His widow died last year at the

age of 108.

The estate sale includes Chester deGavre’s decoys and handmade furniture, 18th and 19th century Eastern Shore raised panel furniture, books, Persian rugs, firearms, and more.

Allen said there are two pieces of Eastern Shore raised-panel furniture from the 1760s.

“I’ve had no less than 200 phone calls about the sale from people from as far away as New York and New Hampshire,” he said.

Visit www.amauctions.com to bid.

Broadwater choral students fare well

Four Broadwater students and their director attended All-District Chorus in Virginia Beach from Feb. 9 to 11.

The All-District Chorus is an opportunity for singers from District 2 (Virginia Beach, Norfolk, and the Eastern Shore) to rehearse challenging music, sing with a much larger group, and work with a renowned choral conductor at an advanced level.

During All-District Chorus, the choirs rehearse

for three days and then feature an outstanding culminating concert.

There are three All-District Choirs – a treble choir and a mixed choir, and a middle school festival choir. Students prepare an audition piece in October, as well as doing a blind sight-reading audition.

Over 800 students audition to attend this event and only a third are selected. It truly is an honor to be appointed to attend. The Broadwater stu-

dents who attended the event are Audrey Abbott ('23) and Olivia Gaskin ('23) in the treble choir and Sylvie Hu ('23) and Emma Philpot ('24) in the mixed choir, along with their choir director Natasha Smoot.

During the All-District Chorus event, there is a time in which the attendees can try out for All-State Chorus. Emma Philpot was selected to attend the All-State Chorus taking place in Richmond this April and will represent District 2.

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Fridays at Lemon Tree are back for March

The stage is fuller every week at the Historic Palace Theatre and the energy more alive at Lemon Tree Gallery.

The very popular Fridays at Lemon Tree have resumed. On March 10, Kenny Bone and Steve Campbell of Two Bridges Duo will entertain the crowd performing Americana, new and vintage Folk, Country Folk, Pop and Easy Listening. Steve and Kenny are regulars at the Lemon Tree.

The following week on March 17 for a St. Patrick's Day party, the always popular Shoal Shakers, who made their debut during Covid at the Lemon Tree Gallery, will be performing. The free live entertainment on Fridays is from 7 – 9 p.m.

One act play festival

A One Act Play Festival is being planned for March 24, 25, 26 and will feature several directors from Hampton Roads and the Eastern Shore. Garney Johnson from Norfolk will direct Riverside Drive by Woody Allen and presented through special arrangement with Concord Theatricals. It is a comedic one act full of intrigue and lunacy.

"I selected Riverside Drive for the Arts Enter Cape Charles One Act Play Festival because I've always loved finding humor in uncomfortable situations because laughter is one of the best ways to relieve tension," commented Garney. "I also selfishly picked it because it has a role that I would love to play (Fred), and I've always wondered if I would be able to work with myself as an actor taking my own di-



COURTESY PHOTO

The Lemon Tree Gallery is opening a new exhibition on Friday evening, March 31 at 7 p.m. The featured artist is Renata Sheppard who is exploring Visual Arts and Dance with her original kinetic drawings.

rection. I'm hoping this experience will give me empathy for the many other directors who have had to put up with me as an actor." Garney has appeared on stage in Arts Enter productions such as Oliver!, Neil Simon's Rumors, Don't Dress for Dinner, and The Music Man as well the upcoming production of Mary

Poppins. Garney has performed on several stages throughout Hampton Roads over the last 15 years including Virginia Musical Theatre, Virginia Stage Company, and Virginia Opera. He served as artistic director of Generic Theater in downtown Norfolk for five years, where he directed several productions and ap-

peared in over a dozen more. Garney resides in Norfolk.

The Happy Journey from Trenton to Camden is directed by Chris Cartwright, Pastor of Shore Presbyterian Church. It is a microcosm of the mundane nature of life... and yet... that which is mundane is ex-

(Continued on page 23)

Lemon Tree

(Continued from page 22)

extremely important. “We are all given but one life to live and how we treat our precious few moments defines who we are and what kind of legacy we will leave.” said Chris. This play wrestles with the difficulty of living even after a precious life has been lost. “I chose this play because the format of a bare stage allows the actors to become the sole focal point and increases the importance of their characterization. My hope is that our cast will bring life, hope and meaning to the mundane nature of a short car trip, thereby causing our audience to relish the mundane moments of their own lives with which they have been blessed.” said Chris. Chris is pastor of Shore Presbyterian Church in Exmore but loves working on theatre projects on the side.

He got his BFA in theatre design from VCU and worked in the DC/Baltimore area for a few years doing free-lance scenic design and painting before being called into ministry. Over the years Chris has enjoyed partnering with his wife Megan, who has been a high school choir director, by designing sets for her school shows. They both have enjoyed getting involved at the Palace Theatre and were in last year’s production of Music Man with their children. The whole family is also involved in Mary Poppins opening in May of this year.

William Shakespeare’s female characters rarely get to speak their minds about their true feelings. In Bruce Kane’s The Real Problem, five of Shakespeare’s women finally get the chance to take center stage and spill some mead about how they really feel about the men Shakespeare wrote for them. Taking place in The Cauldron – a pub and coffee shop – this fast-paced comedy provides an opportunity for five amazing and diverse actresses to take on the personas of Shakespeare’s women and bring the 16th century

into the 21st. While Anne Boleyn is still outspoken, Desdemona loyal, Hecate prophetic, Juliet sweet, and Kate brazen, the ability to freely speak their minds to other women, seek advice, and provide guidance is comedically nuanced in this piece. From dramatic entrances and exits to the final monologue, audience members will be taken on a tour of what is really on the minds of some of Shakespeare’s most famous women. Newcomer Tony Korol-Evans is excited to be making her directorial debut at The Palace Theatre. Among Tony’s previous directing credits are Bright Half Life (The Strand), Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992 (Missouri State University); and Arden of Faversham, Fair Maid of the West, and numerous StreetSpeares (Maryland Renaissance Festival).

She is also the director of the Reveler’s Bower, the living history area at MDRF. Tony holds an Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Theatre & Drama from Northwestern University and a Master’s of Theatre/History/ Literature/Criticism from the University of Maryland – College Park. Tony and husband Mark combine to make A Klasse Akte, a theatre troupe for “all your vices,” creating historical and hysterical performances about eating, drinking, dressing, and gambling in the Renaissance.

Wayne Creed will be performing an original monologue Stealing Cars. The piece is adapted from the title story of his upcoming book. “I chose this work because of its character’s depth and nuance. Given the title, Is there still the possibility for love, faith, and redemption? Can a person escape their history? There is an ambiguity woven into the story that is churning within the characters—inside the criminal endeavor, family and the world they are born into. Can they truly find grace?”

Wayne Creed, director, film maker, lighting and projection designer has been a part of the Arts Enter family since the early 2000s. His love of theatre began when he was young and grew in his college years

at James Madison. On the Eastern Shore he has performed in numerous shows at the Palace, as well as the North Street Playhouse, and the Franktown Players. Though he loves performing, directing and teaching the youth on the Shore is his passion. He has written and directed shows such as Anansi the Spider, A Beggar’s Christmas, The Clam-digger’s Daughter, A Night of Gothic Horror, and Christmas in New York. Wayne has adapted Romeo and Juliet, A Midsummer’s Night Dream, and A Christmas Carol which were performed in the Palace and in Cape Charles Central Park. For the Creed’s, it is a family affair. Wayne’s children, Rachel and Joey, have grown up in the theatre, and are still active in Arts Enter productions.

Kinetic drawings

The Lemon Tree Gallery is open-

ing a new exhibition on Friday evening, March 31 at 7 p.m. The featured artist is Renata Sheppard who is exploring Visual Arts and Dance with her original kinetic drawings. The images represent geometry of the body explored through movement. Renata will be presenting a live show. The reception is free along with a cash bar. Vernon Hollo-man will provide the music.

Arts Enter is producing Mary Poppins in May. The organization is opening up the opportunity for an exclusive sponsorship for the performances. Major social media and other perks are offered in exchange of financial support.

Information and tickets for all events are available at Lemon Tree Gallery which is also the office for Arts Enter, the Historic Palace Theatre and Global Exchange Arts Roundtable (Experimental Film Virginia). Call 757 331-4327 for more information.

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Reconnecting and supporting Eastern Shore Community College

“I graduated with my Associates degree from Eastern Shore Community College in 2012, and was lucky enough to receive a full-ride through the VCCS Lifeline Scholarship to Virginia Tech,” explains Mary Blodgett in Brooklyn, New York, where she now works for PepsiCo.

“It was my Food Science degree from Virginia Tech that eventually led me to PepsiCo as a Regulatory Analyst, and I have been at the company ever since, now serving as a Program Manager and Chief of Staff. PepsiCo even financially supported me as I completed my MBA from University of Connecticut.”

With most of her family on the Shore, Mary returns regularly and recalls the importance ESCC played in her life. “I attribute much of my success in my career to ESCC for such a personalized educational experience. It served as an incredible launch pad.”

“Wanda Smith, Jerry Fluharty, and Kim Grewe stand out as professors who provided me with many hours of personalized tutoring and advice that helped shaped the kind of thinker and professional I am today.” Mary continued, “Without their close attention I could not have been as successful in the rest of my years in undergrad and graduate school.”

ESCC influenced Mary outside of the classroom as well, where she cites the late Robin Rich-Coates’s leadership. “Robin helped get me involved in extra-

curricular activities through Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, and she pushed me out of my comfort zone to go on field trips and eventually serve as PTK President. This was a great growing experience that led to my participating in events both on-campus and off.”

Eastern Shore Community College alumni are consistently vocal and far-reaching with their praise for the role the college plays in successful lives and careers. In Mary’s case, she is excited to be in a position of giving back as a contributor to ESCC Foundation. “ESCC is such a critical pillar on the Eastern Shore, and I am happy I am at a point in life where I can give back. My hope is to continue to give and grow that contribution for many years to come.”

The Foundation helps Shore students like Mary succeed by working to eliminate barriers and financial hardships, as well as provide leadership opportunities through clubs and activities.

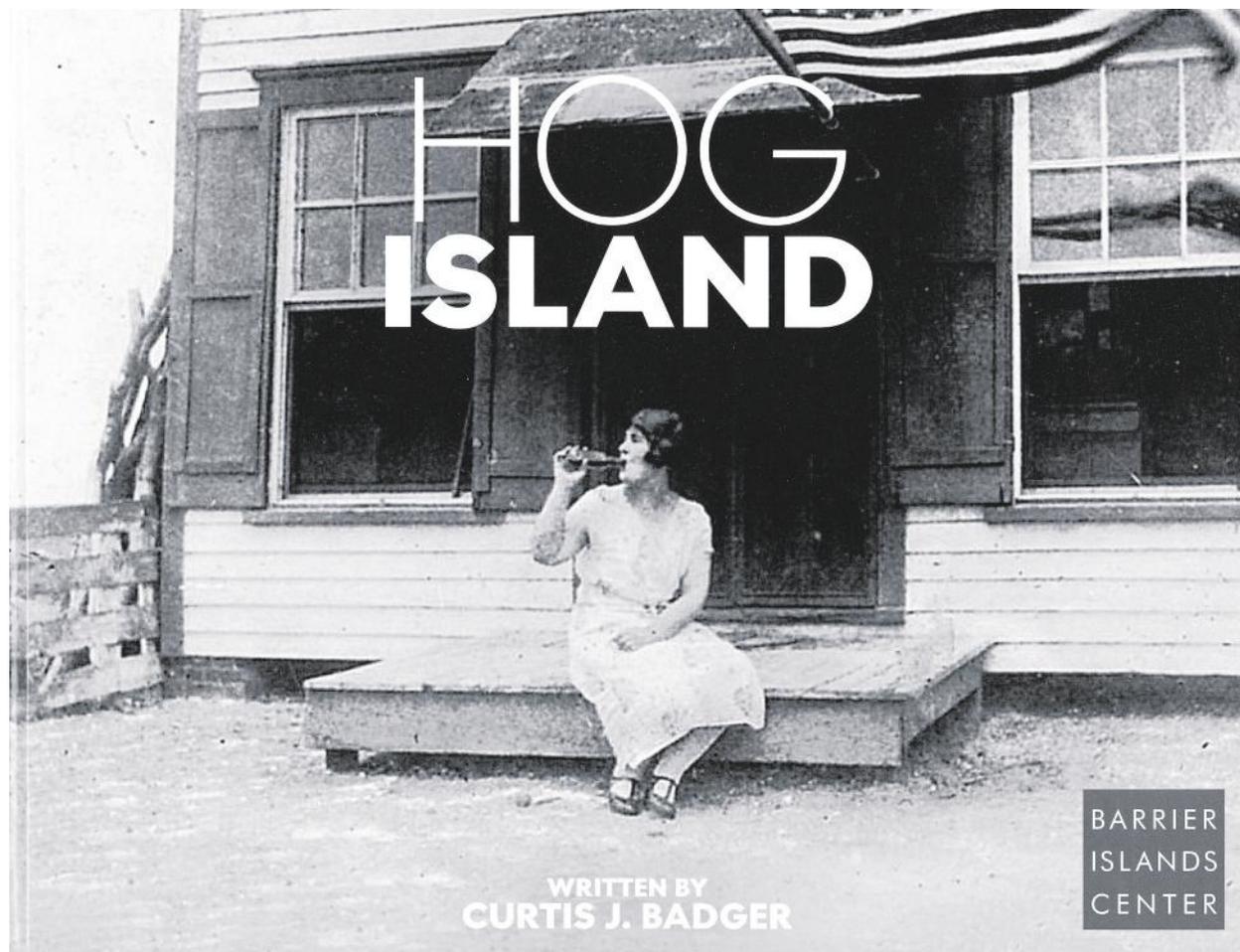
ESCC will host two events to celebrate current and former students in 2023: the Foundation’s Scholarship Luncheon on April 14th and the rebranded “ESCC Heritage and Homecoming Festival” which will debut on September 23rd.

Alumni are encouraged to follow ESCC on social media and to check the website regularly at www.es.vccs.edu for upcoming news, activities and programs geared towards former students.



Mary Blodgett

COURTESY PHOTO



“Hog Island” by Curtis Badger is available at the Barrier Islands Center and local bookstores.

COURTESY PHOTO

Hog Island book is released

The latest in the Barrier Islands Center’s series of books for young readers is hot off the press. The new book is a history of Hog Island, which had a thriving population from around the time of the American Revolution until storms and a rising sea level caused residents to evacuate in the 1930s.

The author of the book is Curtis J. Badger, who has written widely about the natural history and human history of the coast. His book *Wilderness Regained*, a history of the human presence on the islands, was published last year. He also is the author of *Nathan Cobb’s Island*, another in the series of BIC books for young readers. The books are intended for fourth to seventh grade readers.

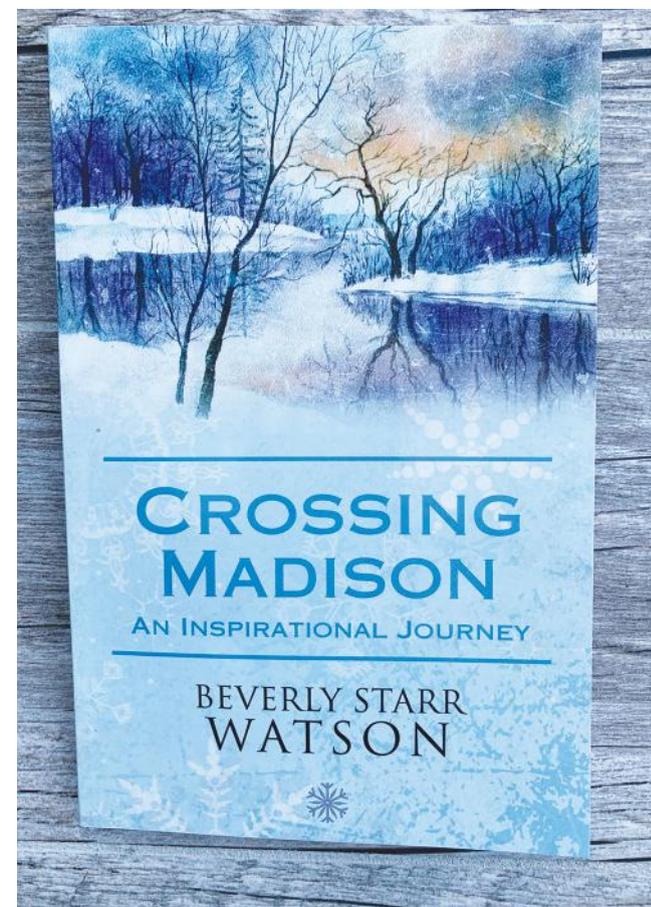
The new book on Hog chronicles the early days of life on the island, when the population stood at

100 or more residents.

Many of the photos were taken by Sereita May Phillips, who grew up on the island in the early 1900s. An album containing more than 400 of her photographs was donated to the BIC by her family in 2017.

The photos document rare scenes of domestic life on the island circa 1920. “Serita Phillips was deaf and could not speak, but her personality shines in these photos,” said Sally Dickinson, executive director of the BIC. “Through her lens she captured the joys of everyday living – the silliness, the friendships, the work and play of life on Hog Island.”

The book sells for \$20 and is available at the gift shop at the Barrier Island Center in Machipongo or from local book sellers.



COURTESY PHOTO

“Crossing Madison,” by Beverly Watson.

Watson releases brand-new book

Beverly Watson has released a new book, “Crossing Madison,” that invites the reader to share in her extraordinary adventure — one immersed in the suspense, drama, fear, humor, and faith of a life-altering circumstance.

The book is available at Eastern Shore bookstores.

Watson earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration from the College of William and Mary.

She completed a Masters in Education concentrating in Special Education from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, and holds Certification I and II in School Administration.

She is the author of the nonfiction selection, “Life’s Unforecasted Storms,” released in December, 2020.

100 years ago
March 1923

Bad roads lose conference

Chincoteague Island, March 7 — Owing to the impossibility of improving road condition in time to warrant a large attendance, the fifty-fifth session of the Wilmington Annual Conference of the M. E. Church, originally planned to meet here next April will be held at Dover, Del.

— *The Daily Times*

Seed potatoes rotting

Cape Charles — That a good many seed potatoes have rotted in the field since they were planted, due to recent heavy rains, is causing considerable unrest among the farmers of the eastern shore and it is thought that a number of fields, especially in the lowlands, will have to be planted over, according to reports of several farmers, both in Northampton and Accomack counties.

The heaviest rainfall in years came at a time when the truck farmers of the eastern shore were in the height of potato planting.

— *The Daily Times*

Northampton residence burns

Cape Charles, Va., March 30 — As a result of a defective flue in the attic of the handsome home of William M. Upshur, at Cheriton, about three miles north of here, the building, together with furniture and the family clothing, was destroyed just before noon yesterday, resulting in a loss estimated to exceed \$20,000, part of which was covered by insurance.

When the fire was discovered the entire attic and roof was in flames. Being fanned by a strong north-east wind, and without firefighting devices except a bucket brigade, there was no hopes of saving the home or anything from the second floor.

Mr. Upshur has been for a number of years one of Northampton County's leading merchants, being the senior member of the firm of Upshur & Hallett, at Cheriton.

— *The Daily Times*

Onancock votes bonds for roads

Onancock, Va., March 10 — No longer will this town wallow in the mud and slime of winter when it wishes to reach the railroad station

at Tasley. At least it will have a concrete road leading from railroad down to Onancock wharf, for at a special election held at the Mayor's office February 27, it was decided by a vote of 122, against 2, that the town should issue bonds to the sum of \$10,000, for the purpose of carrying the extending road from the town limits through to the wharf.

— *The Daily Times*

75 years ago
March 1948

Pocomoke City is test center for new potato developments

Pocomoke City, Md., March 30 — Seventeen varieties of potatoes and 12 new seedlings being developed by plant breeders will be tested here this year under direction of the University of Maryland.

Included are a high-yielding potato strain, one believed resistant to blight, and a third which withstands rot.

The new varieties and seedlings have been developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

— *The Daily Times*

Eight in Pocomoke seek election

Pocomoke City, March 27 — Mayoralty and councilmanic candidates are carrying on a fervent campaign here with the city election less than two weeks hence.

Four are running for mayor. A like number seeks one council seat. One is a woman, the first of her sex to aspire to a municipal office in the memory of local politicians.

Mrs. Myrtle A. Polk, a housewife, is claiming a growing list of supporters in her campaign for election to the council.

Involved in the four-way test for mayor are T. Bryce Venable, a jeweler; Marion W. Landing, a merchant; Fire Chief Fred U. Henderson who is now council president; and William B. Duncan, a retired businessman.

Mayor Clayton F. Lambertson, an electrical contractor, isn't asking election. But he is seeking a place on the council.

In the race with Mayor Lambertson and Mrs. Polk are Daniel W. Shaw, Jr., a railroad employee, and Everett B. James, a businessman.

Holdover council members are Grady E. Powell and Norris M. Young.

Miss Mildred Schoolfield, city clerk, said the polls

April 6 will be in the old firehouse building on Willow St. They will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Approximately 900 persons are eligible to cast ballots.

— *The Daily Times*

Three years given for robbery

Chincoteague waterman is sentenced here

A Chincoteague, Va., waterman, Arthur David Hopkins, 31, was sentenced to three years in the Maryland House of Correction yesterday in Wicomico County Circuit Court by Judge Levin Claude Bailey for robbery of L. T. Britt, Norfolk, Va., truck driver.

Hopkins denied robbing Britt of \$40 on December 29 after Britt had brought him from Virginia to Salisbury as a favor. Britt and Hopkins met in a Virginia restaurant the night the robbery occurred here.

State Police Trooper James Monaghan arrested Hopkins in an East Main St. night club about two hours after Britt reported the robbery.

The officer testified that Hopkins, when confronted by Britt, pleaded, "If you turn me loose I'll give the money back." Hopkins said he couldn't recall making the statement.

A petit jury took about half an hour to return a verdict after hearing the case.

— *The Daily Times*

Wessels new forest warden in Accomack

Wilson H. Wessels, of Parksley, has been named chief warden of the Virginia Forest Service for the Accomack County area. He succeeds W. E. Smith, who recently resigned.

Wessels, whose appointment became effective March 11, will work under supervision of J. M. Moore, Jr. chief forester on the Eastern Shore. His duties will include both Accomack and Northampton counties.

T. S. Turner, district forester, spent the past week on the Eastern Shore on a timber management and fire prevention program. He held conferences with J. M. Moore, Jr., and W. A. Carpenter, chief forest fire warden of Northampton County.

During his stay on the Eastern Shore two warrants were issued against sawmill operators on charges of violating forest fire laws of Virginia—for not cleaning properly around mill sites and burning

(Continued on page 27)

(Continued from page 26)

slab piles. These cases will come in the trial court in Accomack County next Monday morning.

— *The Virginian-Pilot*

50 years ago
March 1973

Work scheduled on Ames Bridge

Onancock — Work on the new Ames Bridge between Mount Prospect and downtown Onancock will begin within the next 10 months, according to the Virginia Department of Highways.

J. H. Brookshire, resident highway engineer, said final engineering drawings on the more modern and stronger bridge are being completed in Richmond.

The new structure, to be built of concrete and capable of handling any load legal in Virginia, will replace an existing wooden structure. The old Ames Bridge has been in place several decades and is becoming a maintenance problem because of its wooden construction, engineers say.

Present plans still call for keeping the Bagwell Bridge, about one-quarter mile to the west of the Ames Bridge. The Bagwell Bridge is also of wood and has a load capacity of only five tons, Brookshire said. The bridge will be re-built but there are no plans to upgrade its load limit.

Earlier the town and highway department had decided to abandon the Bagwell Bridge and with the new Ames Bridge, leave one approach across Onancock Creek to Mt. Prospect. This plan met with objection from some residents who wanted to keep the Bagwell Bridge.

The Ames Bridge enters downtown Onancock in the center of its business district and is the most heavily used of the two bridges, highway department studies have shown. Ames Street on the Onancock side of the bridge will be widened to furnish a better approach to the new Ames Bridge according to A. B. Hartman, Onancock mayor.

The Bagwell Bridge runs from the extreme west end of Mt. Prospect to Market St. at Onancock Wharf. There are no plans to rebuild the road leading to it.

— *The Daily Times*

Big addition being made to center

Onley — A \$1 million addition is being made to the half-million-dollar shopping center in this Accomack community.

An Accomack County developer, Richard Hall, announced Tuesday that Roses Department Store, Peoples Drug Store, a hardware store, a children's shop and an electronics shop will be added to the Four Corner Plaza Shopping Center on U. S. 13 here.

Hall said the additions would triple the size of the center, the only one on the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

Work on all of the new stores will begin within 30 days, Hall said Tuesday.

Parking space at the shopping center will be doubled and a second entrance will open onto U. S. 13. A supermarket, the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company's main office, a State Alcoholic Beverage Control store and several other businesses make up the present shopping center, which is less than three years old.

Mayor A. T. Lowe said Tuesday, "This is the greatest thing that ever happened to the Eastern Shore."

Hall said the Roses store will contain 45,000 square feet of floor space, two and one half times larger than the largest structure already at the shopping center. Peoples Drug Store will have 15,000 square feet, he said.

Although Hall said leases have been signed for the new stores and construction contracts have also been signed there is as yet no estimated completion date for the new addition.

— *Richmond Times-Dispatch*

Two brothers die in house fire on Shore

Cape Charles, Va. — Two young brothers lost their lives in a fire that destroyed their home here.

Pronounced dead at the scene were Kenneth, 7, and Burt Townsend, 5.

Cape Charles firemen said one of the boys was found in an upstairs bedroom, the other near a downstairs door.

The fatal fire was in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Townsend on Jefferson Ave.

Firemen said the two-story frame dwelling was engulfed in flames when firemen arrived about 2 a.m. Friday.

Mr. Townsend told firemen he, his wife and three other children crawled across a roof at the back of the house and jumped to the ground.

It was not until they had reached the ground that they realized the two boys were missing, Mr. Townsend said.

An adjacent house, owned by Ollie Joynes, was also heavily damaged, but firemen were able to prevent it from being destroyed.

Fire at the Townsend home rekindled and fire-

men were called back to extinguish flareups several times between 5 a.m. and noon.

Cape Charles fireman Frank Fitzhugh said it was first believed that an exploding furnace had started the fire, but the furnace was later found intact and the fire's origin is now unknown.

There were no injuries reported to firemen.

The victims were removed to Gray's Funeral Home in Cape Charles, where funeral arrangements are pending.

— *The Daily Times*

Relaxation of dog law asked in Accomack

Accomack — An appeal by an Eastern Shore minister may win some revision of Accomack County's dog ordinance which holds an owner responsible if his dog is found running free at certain times.

The Rev. J. H. Kidd of Atlantic had called the present law a punishment to the dog owner and asked it be amended, yet still allow for the elimination of wild dogs.

Harry Tull, chairman of the Accomack County board of supervisors, has told Mr. Kidd he felt the problem is something "we can possibly work out with our dog warden."

Kidd had asked that the "dog warden announce when he is coming into a community." Kidd said in this way dog owners could keep their pets up, and the warden could proceed to pick up all others, including unlicensed and wild dogs.

Kidd had complained that picking up dogs unannounced and at random would "punish the dog lover who takes care of his dog."

Kidd pointed out that the object of the ordinance was to prevent wild dogs from killing fowl. He said many dog owners, though they allow their pets to run free at times, assure they don't kill fowl.

He said a dog warden had years ago threatened an elderly woman in his community with confiscating her dog. Kidd said the woman kept the dog in the house most of the time and allowed it to run free for short periods of exercise.

C. M. Williams, Jr., Accomack County administrator, told Kidd the purpose of a 1972 ordinance holding the owner responsible under a misdemeanor charge was because the dog warden couldn't always catch the dog.

"He needed some other recourse...and this was to summons the dog owner," Williams said.

Kidd called the misdemeanor charge, "a great deal of expense to the courts and a bit unfair."

— *The Daily Times*

(Continued on page 28)

Teacher's death may be due to drowning

Pocomoke City — Authorities believe there's a possibility a 44-year-old Pocomoke City school teacher — and the mother of two — may have drowned in a water-filled ditch near her home.

But they were awaiting the outcome of an autopsy today to determine the exact cause of the death of Mrs. Betty Lou Lowe, who was found Thursday. She had been missing since Monday.

The body of Mrs. Lowe was found face down in a drainage ditch containing from eight to ten inches of water, police said. The ditch was approximately five feet wide and five feet deep and about 1,000 feet from Payne Rd., near her home.

Mrs. Lowe was reported missing Monday evening when her husband found her car in a ditch beside Brantley Rd., about a mile from her home. Police began an intensive search of the area Monday night with a helicopter and spotlights. Search efforts continued Tuesday, but were hampered Wednesday by bad weather, police said.

The search was resumed by State Police Thursday using dogs and a helicopter. Pocomoke City Police joined them. At approximately 11:30 a.m. the body was spotted from the helicopter by First Lt. Edwin D. McGee, Salisbury barracks commander, and helicopter personnel.

An examination by Dr. J. S. Santiano, deputy medical examiner for Worcester County, did not reveal any signs of foul play, police said. The body was taken to the state morgue in Baltimore for an autopsy by the state medical examiner's office.

Police assume Mrs. Lowe may have been dazed after her car ran off the road and was attempting to reach her home when she stumbled into the ditch, according to TFC R. B. Tunney.

After the body was found, the case was turned over to Sgt. R. W. Burkhardt of the criminal investigating division.

Mrs. Lowe was a teacher in the Pocomoke Middle School and had a son, 13, and a daughter, 11. Her husband, Carroll, is a Pocomoke City taxicab driver.

— *The Daily Times*

Elmore seeks house seat in Virginia

Painter — D. Page Elmore, Accomack County treasurer and a Painter businessman, is seeking the Accomack and Northampton County seat in the Virginia House of Delegates.

Mr. Elmore said he is running as a Democrat and will enter his name in the June 12 Democratic

primary.

The seat has been held since 1964 by George N. McMath of Onley. Until this month, Mr. McMath was a Democrat, but at the end of the present General Assembly session, he announced his switch to the Republican Party.

In his announcement, Mr. Elmore backed the death penalty for certain crimes, supported the neighborhood school system and opposed forced busing, and called for reform of the welfare system which he termed "a mess."

In addition, he said he was going to seek a "first class public educational system" and seek removal of an existing state sales tax from food, drugs and funerals.

He has been active in work with the local Cancer Society and is a member of the Jaycees, Rotary, Elks and Moose.

Mr. Elmore is in his second term as treasurer of Accomack County.

He gave two reasons for announcing as a Democrat. They included: Preservation of the two-party system and giving the people of the Eastern Shore "a choice"; and his belief that the Democratic Party can accommodate "many different points of view."

— *The Daily Times*

Fire wrecks Revell Building in Exmore

Exmore— An eight-alarm fire that was discovered just before 6 a.m. Saturday destroyed the Revell Building, one of the largest in Exmore's business district.

Firemen said the blaze was discovered by one of the occupants of two apartments on the second floor.

Exmore firemen found the building ablaze when they arrived and called for help from companies from Cape Charles, Eastville, Nassawadox, Wachapreague, Painter, Melfa, and Onancock.

All of the occupants of the two-story cinder block and brick structure escaped unharmed, but the building, located directly between several other large buildings in downtown Exmore, was a total loss. The fire was still burning in some places at 1:30 p.m. Saturday.

There was no estimate of loss involved. Firemen said they had not determined how the fire started. Exmore fire units stayed on the scene through Saturday afternoon.

Smoke from the fire was visible from 15 miles away. There were no injuries to firemen. The first floor of the building was occupied by the Ross and Hoffman New and Used Furniture store. On the

second floor, there were four apartments, two of which were occupied, and two vacant.

— *The Daily Times*

Hog Island tract sold; uses curbed

Arlington — The Nature Conservancy has eliminated what it considered a potential threat to the ecology of Hog Island in the Atlantic Ocean by buying a Richmond developer's holdings there.

Oceanside Campsite's sale of 1,135 acres swelled the nonprofit conservation group's acquisitions on the 3,655-acre barrier island in Northampton County to 3,614 acres.

This sale, an Oceanside Campsite spokesman said Tuesday, does not affect a trailer park that the firm is developing on Upshur's Neck in adjoining Accomack County.

Conservancy officials became alarmed last fall by advertising that they said indicated that lot owners in the Eastern Shore park would be able to use Hog Island as well.

The national organization, which acquires land for preservation purposes, has also obtained the title to Smith, Myrtle, Shipshoal, Godwin and Mink islands in the offshore Virginia barrier chain.

It also recently acquired 50,000 acres in the Virginia section of the Great Dismal Swamp as a gift from Union Camp Corp. The conservancy plans to deed the gift to the Department of the Interior over a number of years.

— *Richmond Times-Dispatch*

Solution seen to junk car problem

Eastville — A possible solution to Northampton County's junk car problem is in the making and Silver Beach residents are pushing an effort to raise funds to save their beach.

These were the two subjects prominent at a meeting of the Northampton County Board of Supervisors this week.

Actually, a two-pronged effort is under way to save the beach front property and a public road at Silver Beach in Northampton County just west of Exmore.

A citizen's group of which Burleigh Killmon of Exmore is treasurer, said residents of Silver Beach have started to accumulate money toward a beach saving effort.

Killmon told the supervisors the beach was eroding rapidly and a public road running parallel to it,
(Continued on page 29)

Shore First | Yesteryears

(Continued from page 28)

hard hit by tides in past years was now on the verge of being lost.

In a second part of the effort to save the beach, the supervisors are planning a meeting with the Corps of Engineers. The board hopes to discuss possible methods and costs of an all-out effort to preserve the beach front.

The Board of Supervisors has been told by John Selby of the Eastern Shore Soil Conservation Service, that groins extending into the water the length of the beach would be the best way to build back the beach.

Selby has estimated the cost of groins along part of the beach area at \$37,000.

Part of the public road parallel to the beach began to wash away in a storm that broke across the beach several months ago.

In another hearing, the board of supervisors accepted a request by Mrs. E. Polk Kellam, an active Eastern Shore conservationist, that a new attack be made on junk cars in the county. For 12 years Mrs. Kellam has been pushing an effort to rid the county of junk cars, particularly along major roads.

She told the supervisors that arrangements had been made to have the U.S. Army move junk cars

to a central site in the county. There they would be crushed by a Cordova, Md., firm and hauled north to Maryland for recycling.

Mrs. Kellam suggested the county provide its sanitary landfill area as a crushing site for the cars. It was pointed out the recycling firm would not be able to handle gas tanks or tires, and these would have to be disposed of in some other manner.

The supervisors plan to work with E. B. Savage, Northampton County Civil Defense Coordinator, in an effort to provide an area where the cars might be crushed and hauled away.

— *The Daily Times*

Population in Accomac drops

Accomac — The population of Accomack and Northampton counties is still dropping and this downward trend, in effect since 1930, could continue for the next 30 years.

This is the consensus of a report by the Virginia Division of State Planning and Community Affairs in Richmond.

But the downward trend of population here, though it is predicted to continue well into the early part of the year 2000, will not be as sharp as the

drop between 1930 and 1970.

During these 40 years, the Eastern Shore is estimated to have lost nearly 15,000 residents, from a high of nearly 55,000 to the present estimated 42,000. Predictions are that by 2010, the two county population will have dropped to about the 40,000 level.

While the Department's statistics show 7 per cent of the population of Accomack and Northampton did not live here five years ago, the out-migration of permanent residents is estimated at over 1,000 persons yearly.

The Eastern Shore Planning District Commission, disturbed by the statistics of population loss, has called for economic development programs to reverse the trend.

A spokesman for Planning District 22 said, "The staff of the Planning Commission feels that with proper and determined economic development programs and efforts the downward trend could be halted in about ten years time!"

Unless this is done, it was pointed out that the upward trend in population probably would not show until after the year 2010.

The Planning District staff said it felt potentials

(Continued on page 30)

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in economic development and tourist attractions could have a decidedly opposite effect on the population. It said the statistics showing the downward trend were based on “very general considerations” without taking into account development potential here.

— *The Daily Times*

25 years ago
March 1998

‘Whoa,’ town says
on span designs

Chincoteague tells the state to back up

Given three choices for new bridges to the scenic Eastern Shore town, Chincoteague picked a fourth.

The Commonwealth Transportation Board was ready to settle on a design for the bridges when the town asked the state this month to go back, if not to square one, at least about 15 months, and look at another option to replace the deteriorating structures carrying state Route 175 into town.

Yesterday the Transportation Board heard the voice of Chincoteague residents and asked the Virginia Department of Transportation to study two almost-new alternatives for the bridges and hold another public hearing on the options.

Chincoteague’s Town Council said March 2 that the Transportation Department’s preferred design raised questions for the community and that the department hadn’t demonstrated that the design would best handle the growth in traffic the tourist spot expects by 2010.

“If they’re asking for [reconsideration], I don’t see why we don’t give it to them,” said Board Member Ulysses X. White of Manassas. “They’re the ones who’re going to suffer from the delay.”

“The town’s asking us to go back where we were in 1996,” state Transportation Commissioner David R. Gehr said. “We’re taking one step forward and

two steps back.”

The estimated costs of the bridge work has almost doubled since 1995.

Route 175 is the sole connection between Chincoteague Island, one of the barrier islands on the Eastern Shore’s northern edge, and the rest of Accomack County.

People have been using the Black Narrows and Chincoteague Channel bridges since about 1939, the Virginia Department of Transportation said.

— *Richmond Times-Dispatch*

Cherrix to death

Accomac — Brian Lee Cherrix, a former Chincoteague mosquito control worker, was sentenced to death Wednesday for the 1994 rape and murder of island pizzeria employee Tessa VanHart.

In affirming the jury recommendation that Cherrix die, Accomack County Circuit Court Judge Glen A. Tyler said he would “leave it to others to debate the constitutionality” of Virginia’s death penalty statute.

“It does exist in this state,” said Tyler, “and we have followed the process.”

Tyler set a June 15 execution date for Cherrix, but an appeal to the State Supreme Court is automatic in capital murder cases. It could be months, if not years, before Cherrix exhausts his appeals in state and federal courts.

Dressed in a white jail jumpsuit, Cherrix bowed his head and rubbed tears from his eyes when the sentence was pronounced.

He would be only the second person from the Eastern Shore since the 1974 Supreme Court decision revising death-penalty standards.

Odell Mason, who went on a killing and maiming spree on the Shore in the 1970s, was executed more than 10 years ago.

After the sentencing, VanHart’s husband, Walter, said he was “very satisfied” with the sentence.

VanHart’s mother, Ida Bell Ward, said she was “tickled” with the decision. “I think he got what he deserves,” she said.

The close-knit coastal community of Chincoteague was rocked by the VanHart slaying. At the

time of the Jan. 27, 1994, murder, the tourists were gone and Chincoteague was down to its 3,500 permanent residents.

The probabilities narrowed the killer to a neighbor, someone people might know and meet regularly on the streets that crossed the island, famous for its annual penning and auction of wild ponies.

VanHart, an attractive 23-year-old mother of two small children, was last seen alive making a delivery from the Famous Pizza and Sub Shop on Beach Road to a cluster of mostly empty vacation houses on Piney Island Road.

When she did not return from the run, it sparked a search late into the night. Shortly after midnight, her car was found parked behind an empty house on McGee Lane.

VanHart’s body was found in the back seat of her car. She had been sexually assaulted and shot twice in the back of the head. She still had \$22.16 from that night’s deliveries.

A 12-person jury concluded on Feb. 11 that Cherrix posed a “continued threat to society” and sentenced him to die.

Cherrix also was convicted of use of a firearm in a murder, forcible sodomy, use of a firearm in a sodomy and possession of a firearm after being convicted of a felony.

Defense attorney Charles Burke of Virginia Beach urged Tyler not to sentence Cherrix to death, saying, “We’re going to kill somebody to teach somebody not to kill somebody.”

Accomack Commonwealth’s Attorney Gary Agar said the death penalty “is miniscule when compared to the suffering of Tessa VanHart and the suffering of the family.”

Agar said VanHart’s daughter, Cora, now 9 years old, wrote in a presentence report “when my Mommie died, I felt very, very sad because she was a good Mommie... She was the most important person in the world. Why did that person have to hurt her?”

In a victim-impact statement to the court, Angie Toff, VanHart’s sister-in-law, said she keeps a portrait of Walter and Tessa VanHart and their two children on a stand in her house, and that every time Cora VanHart walks by it “she touches her Mommie.”

— *The Daily Times*

Practicing the call for wild turkey season

On Saturday I will arise well before dawn. I will garb myself with special clothing. I will travel to my secret place in the woods and I will settle myself down among low branches for the long wait.

As dawn approaches, a strange quiet will envelop the forest. Not even a breeze will stir the dried leaves left from last year's growth.

But then, as if some alarm clock heard only by nature sounds, the woods will gradually come to life and I, too, will venture to make a noise.

I can only hope the noise I make, whether it be generated by a slate, box or diaphragm call, will be lifelike enough to impress that most elusive of all game birds — a wild turkey gobbler.

I have had success calling in the past. Using a box call I have been able to convince gobblers that there is a willing hen waiting for his romantic attentions.

However, I have never actually bagged a wild turkey. (Hubby excluded.)

Each time I've had one within my sights, some almost indiscernible movement or sound has spooked him and I've either not gotten a shot, or I have shot only to have nothing to show for it but some pock-marked bark.

This year, I have vowed, things are going to be different.

This year I am more prepared than ever.

This year I will outwit this fowl with the keenest hearing and eyesight of all.



Candy Farlow

This year I will call for my gobblers with a mouth call, a diaphragm which will allow me to make the clucks, yelps and purrs of a turkey hen while holding my Mossburg shotgun at the ready.

For a couple of weeks now, I've been practicing with the mouth call, a habit which they are not particular-

ly fond of at the office and one which even Hubby, an expert turkey hunter is beginning to tire of.

A believer in the slate call, he is highly critical of my new technique (however, I have seen him strutting to my sounds!).

Be that as it may, each hunter has to develop his or her own style — and

this year, my new style is going to help meet my goal.

That goal is to hear that gobbler answer my call believing that I really am a sexy hen.

To hear the flutter of his wings as he leaves his lofty perch with the breaking sun.

To see his bobbing head turn as red, white and blue as Old Glory above a mature beard as his expectations mount.

To finally see his beautiful tail feathers fan out behind him as his wings sweep the ground.

And — of course — to at last take my first gobbler in a clean, quick kill.

This is the year.

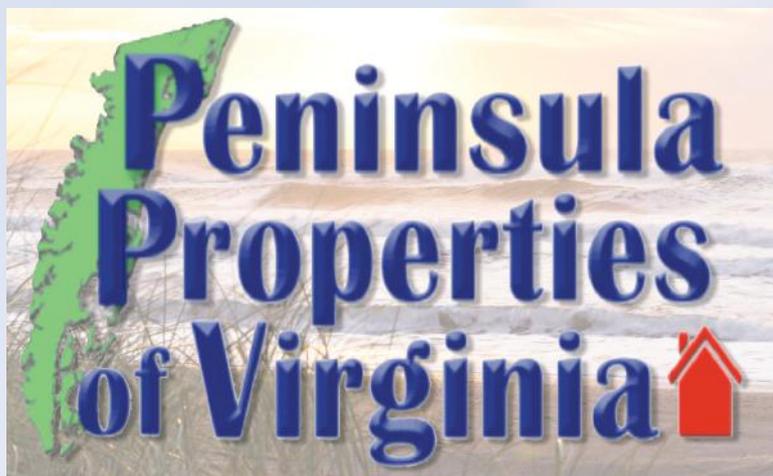
I can feel it in my bones.

But if something should go wrong — if the gobblers answer but don't come — or come but don't answer — or do both — or do neither — I know I will still enjoy the hunt.

For as Charles Elliott, a writer for *Outdoor Life*, once wrote, "Any old turkey hunter I know gets almost as much satisfaction out of being outwitted by a smart or lucky bird as he does in bringing home the drumsticks. If he didn't, he'd put up his gun and never go again."

Same goes for us hens.

Candy Farlow, a founder of the *Eastern Shore Post* weekly newspaper and a longtime journalist on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, died in 2017. Among other endeavors she worked for a time as a telephone lineman, reporter, columnist, radio DJ, and as community relations director for Shore Memorial Hospital. Her former columns will be printed monthly in *Eastern Shore First*.

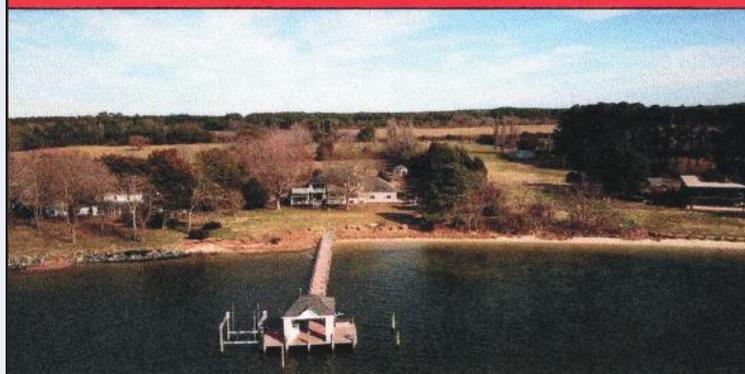


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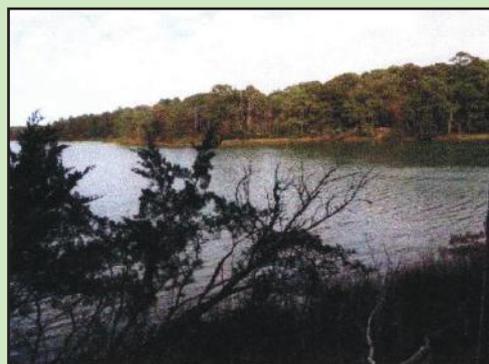
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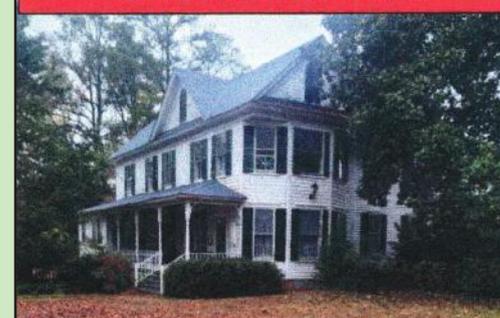
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