Coastwatch

UNC SEA GRANT ▪ NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1990

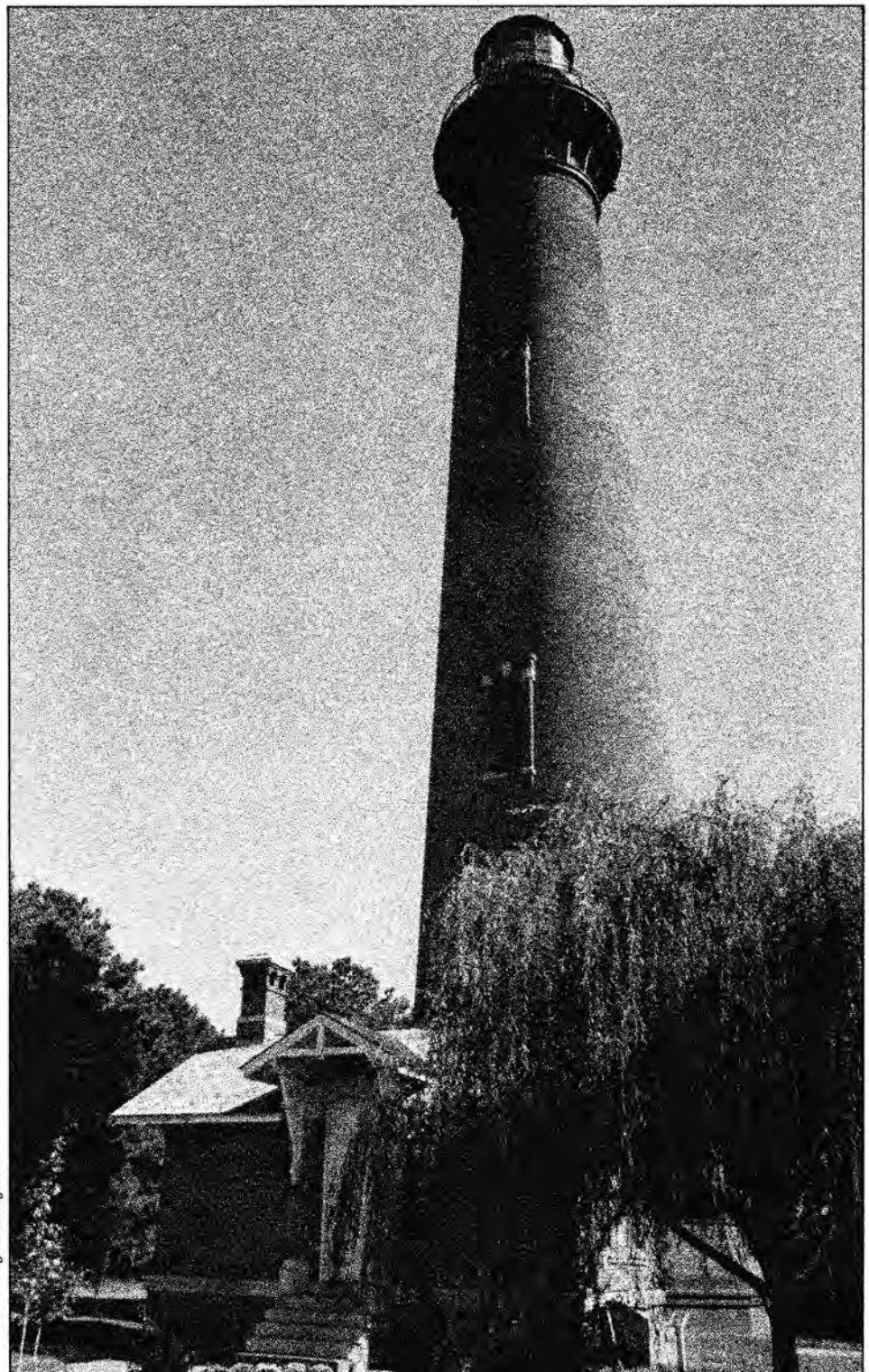

Photo by C.R. Edgerton

Currituck: On The Wings Of History

Waterlily. Corolla. Coinjock. Grandy. Held together by a saltless sound, these towns and others make up the County of Currituck. It's a county most unusual, where you can fish for freshwater bass while the ocean roars in your ears; where an old decoy sells easier than waterfront property; where a flat beach serves as the only link between beach communities.

The next two issues of Coastwatch *will focus on this unique coastal county. In the first issue, we'll look back at Currituck's rich heritage. In January, we'll examine the forces—natural and man-made—that are shaping the county's future.*

Looking Back at the Land

When land-buying sprees started in the late 1800s, Currituck residents often found themselves living on someone else's property. "Hunt clubs owned most of this beach for years," says Shirley Austin of Corolla. "Sometimes some of the people actually lived on hunt club property," she says. "They might own their house but not the land it sat on."

Most of the time, the hunt clubs didn't mind, she says. The homeowners were not troublesome. Some clubowners asked for token rental fees.

Austin, whose father worked for the Coast Guard, says her family owned their house just above the state line in Virginia. They paid $1 annual rent to the landowner.

The people of Currituck know what it is to go around their elbows to get to their thumbs.

They boat across the sound to avoid long drives. They use the beach as a road to reach their homes. And they wait patiently to take state ferries across the sound.

They've been doing it since their ancestors crossed the swamp and marshland on a corduroy road made of logs.

Before then, American Indians were said to have crossed the shallow sound on beds of oyster shells.

But whatever the obstacles, people managed. They farmed the land, fished the sound, hunted the abundant waterfowl and thrived as best they could in this sprawling county.

From the Virginia state line, the county stretches south in three fingers bordered by the Atlantic Ocean, the Currituck and Albemarle sounds and the North River.

Many communities can be reached only by a boat, a ferry or a very long drive.

Even by water, you have to know how to "drive" in the shallow sound. Boaters must carefully navigate the myriad shoals in Currituck Sound, which is nearly 30 miles long and 3 miles wide.

You can easily find yourself in 2 feet of water out in the middle.

The sound and its distinctive qualities set the area apart from other coastal habitats. Where else can you fish for largemouth bass and hear the roar of the ocean less than a mile away?

The sound is almost all fresh water, and hasn't been linked directly to the ocean since New Currituck Inlet shoaled in 1828. The subsequent flourishing of freshwater vegetation such as widgeongrass and wild celery became a prime attraction for waterfowl. The proliferation of ducks, geese and swans, along with an abundance of fish, sustained the residents of Currituck County.

In the late 1800s, wealthy Northerners flocked to Currituck, buying large tracts of land on the banks and islands in the marsh. There, they established opulent hunt clubs that provided work for many natives.

"These were poor people," says Warren Austin of Barco, who has been a hunting and fishing guide for 30 years. "The sportsman came down and he had money. They tipped pretty good and you had a good Christmas."

Before "market" hunting was outlawed in 1918, many Currituck residents killed waterfowl by the thousands for sale to northern markets. They packed the birds in barrels around ice-filled cylinders.

On the beaches, bankers worked for the Coast Guard, lighthouse service or lifesaving stations.

Small northern banks settlements such as Wash Woods, Seagull and Poyner Hill sprung up where coastal jobs were available. All except Corolla have virtually disappeared.

Early lifesavers on the Outer Banks received little compensation for their long hours of work. A keeper could earn an annual salary of $200, a crewman $40 a month. And some paid dearly for their work.

The entire crew of Jones Hill Station died trying to save the crew of an Italian vessel wrecked at Currituck Beach in 1876.

Other jobs arose when construction began in 1874 on the last major lighthouse on the Outer Banks. Currituck Beach Lighthouse, a red brick structure 150 feet tall, was lighted in December 1875.

"My grandfather originally came here from Hatteras in the late 1800s to this lighthouse," says Gene Austin, whose recent retirement as keeper closed the book on three generations of Austins caring for the Currituck light.

For Austin's grandfather, Riley, tending the lighthouse was a full-time job, and he lived in the keeper's house. For Gene, it was a weekly task. He checked on the

Waterlily, N.C.

Photo by C.R. Edgerton

# of Fish and Fowl

By Carla B. Burgess

lighthouse and made sure the lens was clean, the generator was running and the batteries were charged.

In the 1920s, many Currituck residents left the county. But they returned during the Depression because they could live off the land and the sound, says Norris Austin, Corolla postmaster.

Ralph Barco, 80, who lives in Grandy on the mainland, says the folks of Currituck County were resourceful when it came to making a living. Barco worked as a hunting guide, ran a lodge and sold produce to the Dare County tourist traffic. Now he deals in real estate and septic tanks.

"My father was the first in Currituck County to shed crabs," he says.

On a warm October day, Barco drives his truck through his undeveloped Sound Side Estates, stopping at the water's edge.

"That's Barco landing," he says, pointing to the place where his family's fish house once stood.

During the market hunting days, his grandfather would buy ducks and geese from hunters at the landing and then ship them north for sale. Live carp were bought and sent to New Jersey. Live crabs were placed in special trays packed with grass for shipment to New York and Baltimore.

Barco said they even loaded oyster boats with watermelons in summer.

And in freezing weather, the Barcos scraped ice from the docks and stored it in a building with sawdust to use in spring shipping.

In warm months, the water doubled as a source of recreation. Residents swam and fished throughout the county.

In Coinjock, situated on the Albemarle and Chesapeake Canal, residents saved their money all summer to see "Adams Floating Theatre" in the fall. The showboat floated through for the first time in 1917 "with flags flying and the band playing," one historical account states. It continued its visits through 1930.

In Poplar Branch, residents sought a lively evening at the floating tavern.

Currituck has grown up since the days of shell roads and buoyant entertainment.

The area is developing rapidly and changes are coming too fast for lifelong residents like Shirley Austin of Corolla.

"You'd better not leave for too long," she says. "Or you won't be able to find your way back." •

Historically, the church was the social center of rural communities. Currituck County is no exception.

"My mother was born north of Corolla, a place called Seagull," says native Shirley Austin. "They had things called box suppers at the church, where the girls all prepared a picnic in a box."

The boys would bid on the girls' boxes, and the husbands on their wives.' "The bidding got kind of heavy sometimes with the singles," she says.

A church was built at Waterlily, also called Church's Island, around the turn of the century. The chapel was to be nondenominational, but restricted to Protestants.

"They had what was called a circuit rider, which was a minister that traveled around. I remember when one of them preached there at Waterlily," Austin says, explaining people went to other churches also, depending on how they liked the preacher. "The congregation would slack off sometimes. It was an up and down kind of thing."

Taking Aim at Waterfowl

By Carla B. Burgess

Sam the swan looks secure in his place among the mallards this sunny autumn morning. He stands as stiff as a decoy, his head raised proudly as if he knows he's being watched.

In another place and time, the watcher might have been looking down the barrel of a shotgun. But today Ralph Barco, 70, is just gazing out the window of his truck, admiring the view of the pond.

"I talk to 'em all the time, tell 'em how pretty they are," says the Grandy resident. "To me, today the pleasure of looking at the birds is more than shooting them."

A lot of older generation Currituck hunters have adopted this attitude. Maybe it's age. Or perhaps it's respect for a declining resource. It's not that they've stopped hunting altogether. They've just mellowed.

Barco, like many of his fellow natives, has had an ongoing love affair with the waterfowl that flock to Currituck County. He's hunted them, guided others in the hunt and, until recently, ran a lodge in his home for visiting sportsmen.

The birds have long been a golden egg to the area, its economy and its heritage.

The waters of Currituck Sound and surrounding marshlands were once one of North America's premier wintering grounds for snow geese, canvasbacks and whistling swans. When the birds flew south, the hunters flocked behind.

Drive down almost any street or back road in Currituck County and you'll see them—duck lawn ornaments, geese whirligigs, birds painted on mailboxes. Their likenesses show up on signs for motels, realtors, restaurants and resorts.

Dig beneath this decor and you'll find the once thriving artery that kept the heart of Currituck pumping. Almost everyone there is connected to the hunt in some way.

The men—and some women—toted their shotguns to the marsh from childhood.

Continued on the next page

Ralph Barco

Photo by Carla B. Burgess

Hunting clubs were the pinnacle of exclusivity. The posh clubhouses and the prime marshland surrounding them were a literal playground for the very rich.

In the early 1900s, initiation into the Swan Island Club cost a hunter $5,000. Members couldn't sell their hunting rights. Only the existing members could choose a replacement for the one who withdrew or died.

As the story goes, one publishing and railroad mogul made his own rules. The Lighthouse Club and its membership barred his wife, an avid hunter, from the grounds. So he bought the club property and built his own manor there.

E.C. Knight's Whalehead clubhouse, completed in 1925 at a cost of $383,000, had a copper roof, cork floors, corduroy-covered walls, Tiffany lamps, a 16-room basement, five chimneys and an elevator.

Families hunted to put food on their tables. Sons, fathers and grandfathers worked as guides. Men and women worked in lodges and hunt clubs as caretakers and cooks. Inn owners rented rooms to visiting sportsmen.

And before the sale of waterfowl was outlawed in 1918, "market" hunting kept locals busy supplying a tide of trade to the north.

In the late 1800s, a hunter might get as little as a quarter to as much as a dollar for a pair of ducks, depending on the species. A pair of geese might bring 50 cents. After the turn of the century, hunters could expect $2 to $7 a pair for birds.

Even when prices were low, hunters could at least be assured of an endless supply of game.

In addition to live and artificial decoys, hunters used corn to lure birds into shooting range. In some areas, wide-barreled "punt" guns, spewing a pound of shot at once, could bring down a raft of waterfowl. Hunters Russell and Van Buren Griggs reportedly killed a record 892 ducks in one day on Currituck Sound.

"I've heard Van Buren Griggs went out one day with a case of 500 shells and came home with more than 500 ducks," says Barco.

In daylight, hunters often hid themselves below water level in battery rigs or sink boxes. Ducks were also taken at night, herded against the shore and then immobilized by a lantern's blinding light.

At times, hunters fired their guns so frequently they had to dip the barrels in the sound to cool the metal. Otherwise the guns were too hot to handle.

Market hunting was a business, and as author Neal Conoley pointed out, these gunners were harvesting "what they considered a boundless renewable natural resource."

Currituck residents also catered to out-of-towners who came to the area to hunt for sport.

"Pampered" is the word Ralph Barco used to describe guests at his lodge, which he ran nearly 30 years. At his table, lodgers feasted on roast beef, fish, coleslaw, apples and other country delicacies. On the sound, they were accommodated in "the Barco Hilton," a box blind 16 feet long with a hinged board bunk and a commode seat on a box.

Guides would take hunters to the blinds, assemble the stand of decoys, watch for birds, tell them when to shoot, pick up the kill and ferry the hunters back to the lodge.

At Swan Island Club, guests wouldn't even dress for the hunt each morning until a guide had warmed their rooms with a fire.

A guide had a great responsibility—to look out for the safety of the hunter as well as himself. Barco still remembers the powder burn left on his hat when a hunter nearly shot his head off in a blind.

Guide William Wright says he once picked up a fellow at the crack of dawn who had already been hitting the bottle.

"He was full," says Wright, who has been a guide for 50 years. "I put him out in the blind and he slept all day."

Waterfowl hunting has changed since the days a cloud of birds on takeoff would block out the sun. Destruction of habitat and breeding grounds and other man-made problems have taken their toll on the bird populations.

People here say the decline of grasses in the sound has left the birds with too little food.

"I went out recently with a hunter," says Wright of a particularly beautiful day on the sound. "We saw two deer, two coons and a white heron. The man with me said he didn't care whether we shot a duck or not." •

Whalehead Club

Photo by C.R. Edgerton

Decoys Preserve Hunting Heritage

By C.R. Edgerton

When it comes to old-time Currituck decoys, Jarvis Snow is no quack.

He lifts a weathered duck from the shelf in his smokehouse, carefully avoiding the fragile neck.

This one is longer, more streamlined than most of the ducks and geese. Its rough finish and plain markings are a dead giveaway.

"This one was carved by Ned Burgess, probably in the late 20s," he says. "It's worth about a thousand dollars."

He rubs the duck's back and lays it in its slot on the shelf among the dozens of dusty, worn waterfowl he's collected over the years.

Some folks call Jarvis Snow a showman, like his wife Erlene, who, before her death in April, was a national champion goose caller.

Snow comes about his knowledge of decoys honestly enough. His father, Dexter Snow, was for many years superintendent of the famous Whalehead Hunting Club across Currituck Sound at Corolla. Dexter Snow's carved duck and canvas-covered geese are prized among collectors.

"This one here, the head on it was carved while my daddy was sitting in a duck blind out in the sound, waiting for something to shoot at," Snow says, pointing to a handsome, canvas-covered Canada goose still dressed in its original paint. "I know because I was sitting right next to him when he was doing it."

He shows off some of the other decoys in his collection and points to the photograph on the cover of a book. It's a stubby ruddy duck carved by Alvirah Wright decades ago.

"One like this recently sold for more than $27,000," he says. "I sold this same duck about 10 years ago for $45."

If Jarvis Snow isn't a fixture in Currituck County, his home certainly is. A visitor who hasn't been to the county in years still remembers the canary-yellow siding, the manicured lawn and the outbuildings lined up like ducklings.

On the lawn, a plank about two or three feet long and six inches wide announces the owner's passion: "Decoys."

The home is a monument to the history of Currituck's glory days, when decoys were produced by the thousands and hunters came from all over the world to bag the ducks, geese and other waterfowl that stopped there during their winter migrations.

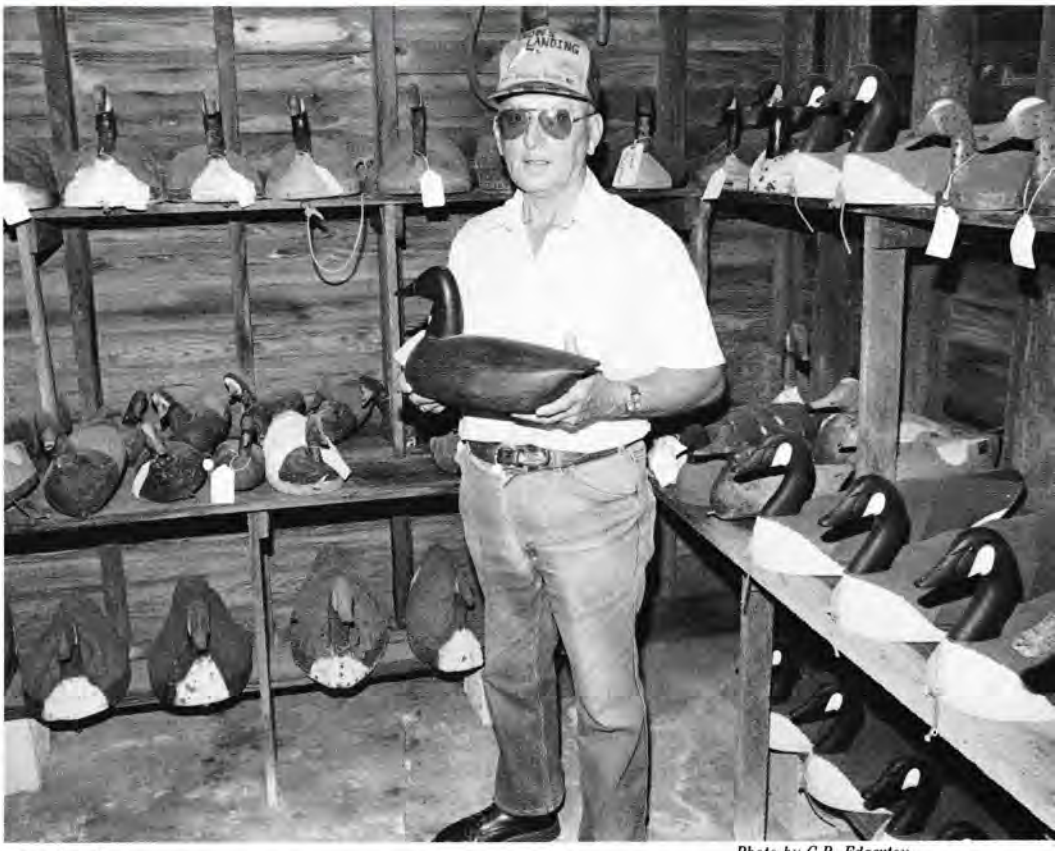

Photo by C.R. Edgerton

Jarvis Snow

In a corner of the living room, Dexter Snow's carving tools rest in their original pine toolbox. Another corner is filled with plaques, posters and ribbons attesting Erlene Snow's prowess as a goose caller.

But the primary objects are the decoys. Jarvis Snow buys them, sells them, trades them and talks about them.

An oak pie safe is filled with decoys, all factory-made in Virginia.

"Some people might not think these ducks are worth much on the market," he says. "But they're worth a lot to me."

He picks one up and turns it over. The bottom is branded with the name E.C. Knight.

"That was the man who built the Whalehead Club," Snow says. "I keep these decoys because they remind me of the days I was a guide there with my daddy. They're priceless to me."

Snow recalls watching his father make decoys by the hundreds for his stand on Currituck Sound. Most of the solid wood ducks and geese were made of juniper, another name for white cedar. This species is resistant to water damage and unsavory to insects that damage other woods.

The wooden decoys produced in eastern North Carolina are distinctive for their crude form, inexpensive construction and simple colorings. These primitive qualities make them collectible as folk art.

Old-time Currituck carvers whittled the bodies and heads of their decoys from separate pieces of wood and connected the two with nails or with mortise joints. Weights were attached to the bottoms for stability and then a coat of paint was applied. Some carvers painted more detail than others. Most decoys were used for work, so they were plainly adorned.

The canvas-covered geese, made exclusively by decoy-makers in North Carolina and southeastern Virginia, were built of pillow-tick canvas stretched over a frame of juniper and stiff wire. Heads were carved separately and were attached by screws or nails.

Because they were constructed of inexpensive materials by craftsmen who could make them quickly and cheaply, working decoys were often mishandled in the field. With constant use, their heads would

Continued on the next page

Photo by C.R. Edgerton

ultimately break off.

"That's why it's not unusual to see a decoy with a head made by one person and body made by another," Snow says. Only the shrewdest collectors can name both carvers by looking at the decoy.

Snow remembers that his father would carry as many as 400 decoys on a single hunting trip. Boxer Jack Dempsey was among the celebrities guided by the Snows, as were a host of generals, admirals and politicians.

The waters of Currituck Sound are shallow, but the lure of its old-time decoys still runs deep in the hearts of those who want to see these relics of the past preserved.

"They're pretty much a part of our heritage here," says Currituck native Sharon Meade, a member of the Currituck County Wildlife Guild. "People depended on these decoys for their livelihoods. But they never would have guessed that the things they made for fifty cents apiece would be worth so much today."

Meade takes a duck from the shelves of the old Snowden General Store in Currituck. She points out its weaknesses, its strengths, its primitive artistry. Some of the ducks are hers, others belong to Guild members. One day, she says, all of them will be on permanent display in the much-talked-about Currituck Wildlife Museum.

"Decoys have come a long way in the last few years," she says. "It was nothing, when I was a child, to see old folks chunking them into the woodstove. I cringe when I think about it now."

The cringing is justified, she says, when you consider that brand new carved and painted decoys can bring as much as $90. The older ones then, are worth several times that.

"And a lot of our stuff, our decoys, are being bought up and are leaving this area," says Wilson Snowden, a former county commissioner who chairs the Currituck Wildlife Museum's Board of Directors. "We're trying to preserve and save our heritage, and it's getting expensive to do that."

Snowden says many of the Currituck decoys that end up in private collections are purchased from dealers who operate in areas far from the freshwater shores of Currituck.

"They're buying North Carolina stuff from other states and bringing it back here. We want to make sure the decoys stay here where they were made in the first place."

To meet that goal, Snowden's group recently purchased the decoy collection of William Neal Conoley Jr., executive director of the North Carolina Aquarium Society. The collection, which is documented in Conoley's book, *Waterfowl Heritage, North Carolina Decoys and Gunning Lore,* is valued at about half a million dollars, Snowden says.

"It's worth that much not only because the decoys are valuable," Snowden says. "But because he's taken the time to document all his decoys. That makes a difference."

Another big difference in Conoley's collection is its variety. Nearly all the major North Carolina carvers—and some whose names are lost to history—are represented.

But half a million dollars?

"Like Sharon said, it's part of our heritage," Snowden says. "The people here in Currituck County lived off the land. They farmed, fished and timbered. The decoys are a symbol of all that.

"Besides, it's something not a lot of other areas have. The canvas decoys are a good example of this. They were made for a purpose, and each one is unique. Each one is a piece of folk art."

"And the whole folk art thing is what's made them more valuable," says Conoley. "Folk art can be defined as something that is made for a utilitarian purpose, but also exhibits a particular style and grace, a special skill and workmanship not found in other ordinary objects."

Conoley says the top six Tar Heel decoy carvers—Alvirah Wright, Ned Burgess, John Williams, Mitchell Fulcher and Lem and Lee Dudley—all exhibited that style that makes their decoys works of art.

"Before they died, these men may have made only 20 decoys or they may have made 200," Conoley says. "But each one they carved shows that style and grace that can only come from that individual. That's what makes North Carolina decoys different from any others in the country." ●

Sharon Meade

Photo by C.R. Edgerton

The Back Page

"The Back Page" is an update on Sea Grant activities—on research, marine education and advisory services. It's also a good place to find out about meetings, workshops and new publications. For more information on any of the projects described, contact the Sea Grant offices in Raleigh (919/737-2454). For copies of publications, write UNC Sea Grant, Box 8605, NCSU, Raleigh, N.C. 27695-8605.

Don't worry about wading through the malls of madness this holiday season.

From Sea Grant's mail-order bookstore, you can shop in the comfort of your own armchair.

Try browsing in the serenity of the nature aisle. *A Guide to Ocean Dune Plants Common to North Carolina* (206 pp.; $4.50) describes and illustrates the herbs, vines, grasses, shrubs and trees found on and near the dunes of the Tar Heel state. For the collectors on your gift list, consider *Sea Shells Common to North Carolina* (38 pp.; $2). Gardeners might enjoy a copy of *Seacoast Plants of the Carolinas for Conservation and Beautification* (206 pp.; $4.50). This handbook details the use of plants for landscaping and stabilizing coastal soils.

Sea Grant's education section offers some playful selections for kids. *Coastal Capers: A Marine Education Primer* (80 pp.; $3.50) introduces and explains the marine environment to primary grade children. It's filled with lively illustrations and activities. *Ripples: A Big Sweep Elementary Activity Guide* (40 pp.; Free, $1 postage) contains activities on litter in our coastal and inland waterways and is tailored for the 9- to 11-year-old. It contains games and puzzles.

Browse through the cooking section. Seafood education specialist Joyce Taylor's *No-Salt Seafood* (36 pp.; $3.50) is a hot item on our culinary shelves. It features a host of wholesome mouth-watering ways to cook fish and shellfish seasoned with herbs and spices. It's perfect for preparing festive, yet healthy, holiday meals.

Another favorite, *Recipes With A New Catch* (40 pp.; $2) is filled with delicious recipes for cooking 16 species of non-traditional fish—shark, triggerfish, bluefish, amberjack and more.

For those friends handy with tools, consider a gift from our "how-to" section. *A Guide to Recreational Shrimping* (34 pp.; $4) provides detailed instructions for rigging small boats to catch shrimp. *How to Build a Crab Pot* (14 pp.; $1.50) is a handy step-by-step guide for putting together a sturdy crab catcher. *A Guide to Soft Shell Crabbing* (32 pp.; $3) instructs laymen on how to shed and harvest blue crabs.

This is only a fraction of the literature available through Sea Grant's mail-order bookshop. To find out about other publications, call the Sea Grant office at 919/737-2454.

To order, send a check or money order for the amount specified. The address is UNC Sea Grant, Box 8605, NCSU, Raleigh, N.C. 27695-8605.

Season's Greetings!

A coastal landmark at Lake Mattamuskeet is getting some much-needed help.

A private organization, Friends of Mattamuskeet Lodge, has been formed to raise money for the restoration of the 77-year-old pumping station and hunting lodge on the lake's eastern shore. A photo of the building was featured in the June-July issue of *Coastwatch*.

Don Temple, manager of the Lake Mattamuskeet Wildlife Refuge, says about $100,000 will be needed to get the old building suitable for occupation. Another $1.5 million will be needed for complete restoration, he says.

The building, known primarily for its lighthouse-like observation tower, was built in 1913 as a pumping station for a company that wanted to drain the lake and use its bottom as farmland.

In the 1930s, after the company failed, the lake bed was sold to the federal government and the pumping station was converted into a hunting lodge. When hunting declined in the 1970s, the lodge was closed and hasn't been occupied since.

For information about the restoration project, contact Temple at Lake Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge, Route 1, Swan Quarter, N.C. 27885, or call 919/926-4021.

Who knows where North Carolina's coastal waterbirds go when they get the nesting urge?

James Parnell and Mark Shields do.

The two Wilmington ornithologists recently completed a 20-year study of the traditional nesting sites of herons, gulls, terns and other colonial waterbirds in North Carolina.

The result of that study is a new Sea Grant publication, *Management of North Carolina's Colonial Waterbirds.* The book, designed as a companion volume to Parnell's two-volume *Atlas of North Carolina Colonial Waterbirds,* lists every nesting site found from Currituck to Shallotte. Also listed are geographical features of the sites and a history of its use as a nesting habitat. A series of maps pinpoints exact nesting locations.

The book is expected to become a standard tool for use by scientists and others charged with managing waterbird habitats.

For a copy of the book, send $5 to Sea Grant. Ask for publication number UNC-SG-90-03.

North Carolina's coastal counties are bursting at the seams.

People from all over America are pouring into our seaside cities and towns. In fact, four of the state's five fastest growing counties are on the coast.

But with the people come problems.

How can public officials best manage a growing population's use of the public waterways?

There are some answers.

Many of them can be found in a new publication sponsored by the Albemarle-Pamlico Estuarine Study, *A Pilot Study for Managing Multiple Use In The State's Public Trust Waters.* Walter F. Clark, Sea Grant's coastal law specialist, is the proj-

ect's principal investigator.

Clark and a team of demographic consultants focused their study on Carteret County, whose waters are some of the most used in the state.

The new publication highlights their conclusions and suggests new policies that will assist city and county planners and managers in developing local ordinances governing the use of public trust waters.

The policies, if adopted, would affect fishermen, marina operators, developers and recreational users of the waterways. The outcome, Clark says, would be better managed and more environmentally sound waters.

Copies of the report will be sent to planners and managers in all North Carolina coastal counties and will be available for public inspection at the Albemarle-Pamlico Estuarine Study office in the Cooper Building on McDowell Street in Raleigh. The telephone number is 919/733-0314.

What happens when you combine coastal North Carolina and good homestyle cooking?

You get a copy of *Coastal Carolina Cooking*.

Written by *Coastwatch* editor Kathy Hart and former staff writer Nancy Davis, this cookbook offers more than 150 recipes for the kind of coastal fare folks dish up in their homes in Maple, Hatteras, Gloucester, Sneads Ferry and Winnabow.

Published by the University of North Carolina Press, the cookbook includes time-honored recipes from 34 coastal cooks.

In Edenton, Frances Inglis shares her recipe for plum pudding from the pages of a nineteenth-century family cookbook.

Flonnie Hood of Burgaw provides a family corn bread recipe that will set your mouth watering and your stomach rumbling.

And for seafood cooked the coastal way, try Mitchell Morris' oyster fritters, Bill Pigott's conch chowder and Glennie Willis' deviled crab casserole.

But the cooks provide more than just recipes. They recount the heritage of the coast through stories, anecdotes, helpful tips and historical fact. Vignettes on each cook lend a historical perspective to this book, and the old-time recipes will be treasured for years to come.

Receiving a copy of *Coastal Carolina Cooking* is like getting a taste of home. Give it as a gift this holiday season or add it to your own cookbook collection.

For a copy, call the UNC Press toll-free number 1/800/848-6224. The cost is $9.95 plus sales tax (if you are a North Carolina resident), shipping and handling. They do accept VISA and MasterCard. Be sure to provide your street address for UPS delivery.

Or check with your local bookstore.

***Coastwatch* is a free newsletter. If you'd like to be added to the mailing list, fill out this form and send it to Sea Grant, Box 8605, NCSU, Raleigh, N.C. 27695-8605.**

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To help us specialize our services, please answer these questions.

I am in the following line of work:

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☐ Seafood processing/marketing
☐ State government
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☐ Other_____

Coastal property owner: ☐ yes ☐ no Boat owner ☐ yes ☐ no

$_____ contribution to defray printing costs for *Coastwatch*

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