

CAPE LOOKOUT SPORT CENTER

Les and Sally Moore

Cape Lookout, N. C.

May 6, 1963

TO THE PEOPLE OF NORTH CAROLINA:

Being the only permanent residents on Cape Lookout and Core Banks, and having been for the past four years, we believe we have the right to let the public know a few facts.

The State of North Carolina will do the people of this state a great injustice if they turn these Outer Banks over to the Federal Government, as its possibilities are unlimited. A few years ago, who would have put any value on the swampy coast of southern Florida? The coast of Florida cannot compare with these Outer Banks, and our climate out here is very close to that in northeastern Florida.

If the state were to turn these Banks over to the Federal Government, we still do not have any assurance that the Federal Government will follow through with the program which the Outer Banks seashore Park Commission has proposed. It is the consensus of opinion of the U. S. Army Engineers, that if the restoration of the Outer Banks were an Army Engineers project, then it would be vetoed. ^{We understand} According to their records, the Banks are not as depleted as they have been in the past.

Assuming that these banks are turned over to the Government, and that they do put dredges on the inside and pump in a dune; then what?

Cape Lookout Light Station

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Judging from other pumped in land in this area, it will take approximately six months for the salt to leach out of the sand before any vegetation will grow in it, and personal experience on this Cape has taught us, that unless there is something there to hold that dune, it will gradually disappear, and in a shorter length of time than most people think. Even if there were no salt problem in this proposed dune, it would still be a very big job to hold the sand long enough to get anything growing in it. Even if we did not have a loss on this 10 million dollar dune, and additional cost to try to either replace or hold it there, we would have a loss of thousands of bushels of oysters, clams, escallops, conchs and crabs. These shellfish which they did not pump through the dredge, would probably be killed by the silt stirred up by the continual dredging. Hundreds of persons depending on these shellfish during the winter would suffer. These dredging operations may create work for some, but it will not be for the local people, as dredge boats have their own crews. The money paid for this operation would probably go right on out of the State. Another reason dredging is not practical. The salt water running out of the spoil placed on the beach, will kill the vegetation already growing on the beach.

Why are these Outer Banks here ? How has this Cape developed out in this ocean as it has ? ~~Four years~~ has taught us, and we firmly

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believe that this area from here to Hatteras, is the junction point of WIND and TIDE. Even the U. S. Government cannot fight the elements. We can work with them and gain our goal, and Mother Nature will certainly show us the right way, but she will have no regard for ten million dollars spent if it is wrong. We are not engineers, but we don't believe anyone can dispute the fact that Mother Nature IS, and that she is the BEST. Her way is to place some brush, driftwood, etc. on this beach, which collects the sand and from the VERY BOTTOM, she plants vegetation which grows up through that sand and continues to grow as the sand dune builds, thus holding what she places there. With such a good example ahead of us, why has so much money got to be spent just for study? On these Outer Banks, when we all realize that Mother Nature knew what she was doing in the beginning, and when we all start helping Her by GIVING instead of TAKING, then possibly she will relent and start helping us again.

We can try and duplicate Mother Nature's way with sand fences, vegetation and SOMEONE TO TAKE CARE OF THESE FENCES AND VEGETATION. Possibly, there will be a few places that dredges will have to be used, and all we can do is hope the dune will stay long enough to get some vegetation started, but on the major portion of these Banks, sand fences will do the job, and certainly will not cost ten million dollars.

If the STATE and the PEOPLE knuckled down and started giving

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these Banks some constructive attention, we might be surprised at just what could be accomplished. When our visitors ask if they can bring us anything, we tell them, "yes, bring us a tree." We have people as far away as Durham who are bringing us trees and shrubs.

We are not waiting for a government of any kind to help us, and we are not sitting back yelling our heads off for the government or anyone else to do the work for us. We are TRYING ourselves.

Since we have been on this Cape, we have planted over five thousand trees, over two thousand shrubs, (and most of them are growing) pounds of seeds, and transplanted beach grass and sea oats by the bushels. We love these Banks, and here at Cape Lookout we would appreciate having just a little help, but not if the government has to have our land. Even without any help, we are at least TRYING to take care of our own problems.

If we are so concerned about the mainland, then instead of so much talk, meetings, quarreling, fussing and time lost, if all this energy, money and time were put on these Banks, wonder what we ourselves could do for our own Outer Banks ? Why should we always want the federal government to do everything for us, and why not help ourselves a little ?

As federal land, these Outer Banks will have to be subsidized

As becometh your' grace Oure' Bynke with' helle to be' an' p'p'rt'ed

nor' h'ld' on' h'et'ace' s' t'rt'g' s'

wh'nt' the' h'ed'ent' G'od'ly'nt' to' do' e'le'x'p'rt'ed' for' us' and' wh'nt'

on' h'et'ace' con'g' do' for' on' o'm' on' h'et' Bynke' s' wh'nt' wh'nt' me' e't'm'e'la'

on' h'et' s' wh'nt' and' s't'm'e' h'et' on' h'et' Bynke' wh'nt' wh'nt' me'

h'et' wh'nt' h'et' h'et' h'et' h'et' h'et' h'et' h'et' h'et' h'et' h'et' h'et'

It' me' s't'e' to' con'ced'ed' s'p'nt' the' wh'nt' h'et' s't'm'e' of' to' wh'nt'

wh'nt' to' h'et' s't'e' of' on' o'm' h'et' h'et'.

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and' wh'nt'.

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land, which means years of debt for all future generations.

Our forefathers didn't take the easy way out, in order to have this country for themselves, and we are not willing to give up these Banks just because someone tries to tell us that it is the ONLY WAY. These Outer Banks are a part of OUR heritage, just as the mountains are, and they are worth fighting for. We can assure you that we are trying to do just that.

If the State would retain ownership of that portion of these Banks which they now own; after they are restored, the State could more than get back any money which it may put into the restoration by selling these Banks back to private enterprise, therefore assuring the State of a considerable increase in revenue.

The Outer Banks does need help. No one has to tell us about conditions during hurricanes or storms. For 17 years we have lived, and owned property on the beaches of Carteret County, and been through all of our storms during these years. We stood on the beach front at Atlantic Beach and watched "Hazel" wash the beach front down. We were here at Cape Lookout during "Donna" - in fact, all of our storms for the past four years we were here on this Cape. We did leave when the past hurricanes were reported, but they did not hit here. This is our HOME, SUMMER AND WINTER, also our business

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and we love it, so we believe we are qualified to give an opinion. It does need help, and the state can finance what help these Outer Banks need. With an appeal to the people, our governing body may be surprised at what help the people of this state would give them. It breaks our hearts to see so much very valuable land taken away forever, without even an effort by us here in North Carolina to try and save it first.

We appeal to both the state and its people to have the courage to face this problem and whip it. If we TRY, WE CAN DO IT

Please, DO NOT GIVE OUR OUTER BANKS AWAY.

Very sincerely,

Les & Gally Moore
Cape Lookout, N. C.

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MAY 9, 1953

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Very sincerely,

James B. Holly Moore
 State Bank, N. C.