

# Scouts, Coast Guardsmen Plant Seedlings at Cape

By WALTER PHILLIPS

THERE WAS "PLANTING A-plenty" at Cape Lookout this weekend as Coast Guardsmen from the cutter *Chilula*, based at Fort Macon, and Boy Scouts from Troop 201 in Beaufort and Troop 283 in Morehead City set out 65,000 pine seedlings.

Several different species of pine, and other trees, were planted in 25 acres of test strips to determine if perhaps some species are better suited to that environment.

The purpose of planting the seedlings is to stabilize the soil and build up the soil composition to make it fertile to grow other things. As field forester H. A. (Buck) Tate observed, "In most instances on the banks, the presence of heavy vegetation on the sound side of the banks is associated with a more stable system of dunes next to the sea. In instances where that type of vegetation existed and was destroyed by man or nature, the dunes soon eroded away."

THE SEEDLINGS, costing \$6,000, were furnished by the state and were brought primarily from the Claridge State Forest Nursery at Goldsboro. The seedlings arrived Thursday and were loaded aboard the headboat Capt. Stacy, which was donated to the cause of furthering forestry at the Cape by Oliver and Sonny Davis, owners. Also loaded aboard the Capt. Stacy was a 1,600-pound mechanical planter which was pulled by the Cape Lookout Coast Guard station's four-wheel-drive truck.

According to Mr. Tate, Coast Guard weather records show that more rainfall occurs in late December and early January than later in the year. "Normally there is an extended dry spell on the Cape from mid-January through March." With this in mind the seedlings were set out this weekend to take advantage of the rainy spell to compact the soil around newly set trees.

Five years ago 5,000 seedlings paid for by Charlie Reeves and Sam Bass of Sanford were planted by Les and Sally Moore, the only civilian residents of the Cape. Tony Seamon Jr., a strong supporter of the Boy Scouts and who holds strong love for the Cape, surmised that about 50 per cent of those five-year-old trees survived. Some of the trees are now 12 feet tall, and all of the trees are an average 10 feet high.

TWO YEARS AGO Mr. Seamon, the Moores and about 50 Boy Scouts planted 10,000 seedlings. About 90 per cent of those seedlings have survived, and the trees are an average three feet in height.

Mr. Seamon said the seedlings were "planted tight" -- about 1,000 seedlings an acre. He estimated that 55 acres were planted Sunday afternoon.

Cdr. Lyle Lemos, commanding officer of the *Chilula*, assisted in the planting as did about half of the ship's officers and two-thirds of the crew. Mr. Moore remarked that Cdr. Lemos "had plowed a furrow" over the weekend. Cdr. Lemos, behind a very grin, exclaimed he had found new muscles.

HE ADDED THAT THE Coast Guardsmen had planted 45,000 trees in the vicinity of the Cape Lookout Coast Guard station as a memorial to Chief Boatswain's Mate Jack R. Davis of Barkers Island who was killed in a jeep wreck at the Cape Aug. 11, 1968. Chief Davis, a 34-year-old Coast Guard veteran, was officer in charge of the Coast Guard station.

It was suggested by Eugene Price, editor of the *Goldsboro News-Argus*, that the Coast Guard have the state legislature formally establish Chief Davis' memorial.

In a tour of the Cape, Mr. Seamon explained that the seedlings would only grow as high as the nearest winds which blow from every direction and keep everything in motion. "We're planting American grass which was developed at NC State University, on the top of the dunes. The American grass is very durable and has several root systems although it's not as high as the sea oat grass," he said. He added that International Paper Co. has offered to donate 25,000 more slash pine seedlings to be planted at the Cape.

MR. SEAMON WAS scheduled to return to the mainland today after all the seedlings were put down. If the seedlings were not set out within two weeks they would die, he said.

The Scouts, accompanied by five adult leaders, worked on conservation, forestry and conservation project merit badges. Tom Abell, Morehead City, one of the Scout leaders, commented it was the second trip to the Cape for many of the Scouts, and he said each Scout had planted well over a 100 seedlings.

Over the weekend, Mr. Tate flew in to examine the progress that was being made. With every reasonable assurance that the project will be a success, measured by the yardstick of enthusiasm, the forester seemed quite pleased. He has reason to be.



Tony Seamon Jr. and Cdr. Lyle Lemos, commanding officer of the Coast Guard cutter *Chilula*, examine the change in soil composition made by the slash pines planted five years ago by Les Moore and his wife. The trees were planted in windbreaks three or four rows wide and at several different locations. The trees are now an average of 10 feet high.



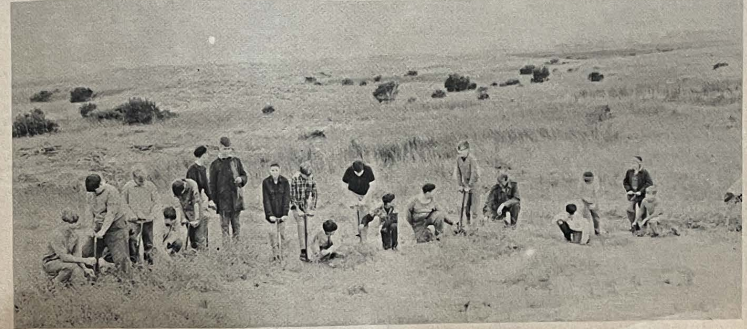
Some of the Boy Scouts who participated in the planting project over the weekend wave from the Coast Guard dock at the Cape Sunday afternoon before going home. Each Scout planted over 100 trees while working on several merit badges.



With Cdr. Lemos at the wheel of the Cape Lookout Coast Guard station's truck, Kerns and Ivey, sitting on the mechanical planter -- an old tobacco planter -- plant seedlings (see arrow).



Quiet remoteness bears witness to the constant wind and water erosion of sand dunes at the Cape, which are gradually filling up the Cape Lookout Bight. It is the hope of Mr. Seamon, Mr. Moore and friends, that by using vegetation to break up the wind currents and by strengthening the beach, wind and water erosion patterns will be changed and the remaining dunes will not be destroyed.



Boy Scouts from Troops 201 in Beaufort and 283 in Morehead City strike a pose Sunday afternoon before boarding the headboat Capt. Stacy to head for home. The Scouts planted seedlings in terrain where the mechanical planter could not be used.



Cdr. Lemos and two crewmen from the *Chilula*, Radarman Max Kerns and Quartermaster Thomas Ivey, both sitting atop the mechanical planter, examine some of the pine seedlings planted in the vicinity of the Cape Lookout lighthouse.

## GOP

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N. Henderson in the Third District race last year.

AFTER RECEIVING the gavel from Mr. Bennett Tuesday night, Mr. Matthews warned the committee that he intends to call on every member, particularly precinct chairmen, to help in strengthening the party. The committee will meet at least once every 30 to 45 days, and will begin immediately organizing a campaign to register more Republicans.

WHILE REGISTRATION will be a primary interest of his administrative, the chairman added that he also intends to institute the use of a newsletter to report the party's financial position at least quarterly, to tire party membership, and to re-activate the party's pledge card system for financial support. Another function of the executive committee will be to begin now finding as many Republican candidates as possible for the 1970 election locally of a new clerk of court, sheriff and register of deeds, and on the legislative level a congressman and

"Tommy Bennett has done an exceptional job as chairman, and I want to see the party do even better," Mr. Matthews said.