

# THE SHIPMATE

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 3

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Thanks to Rudy and Alice Simpson for hosting the summer picnic. I was a beautiful day and they had the tables set up outside. What a beautiful place they have at Merrimac Point! We had a wonderful time and really appreciate all the hard work that goes into making it a success. If you were unable to attend we hope you will make plans to attend the next event.

The fish fry will be October 15, rain or shine, at the Lanier and Roy Cahoons' home. Roy said he is really looking forward to it. I know he and other classmates have been fishing. Frank Johnson will be cooking those delicious hushpuppies. Please bring a covered dish (vegetable or dessert) and a chair. Time is 4:00 o'clock, 409 Harper's Court, Chesapeake. If you need to call for directions their number is 757-485-3903. Hope you can be there - we look forward to seeing you.

The following weekend is the Cradock Homecoming. You can go to the Cradock web page, [www.cradock.org](http://www.cradock.org) for more information on this.

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It's getting harder and harder to get news for the Shipmate. Either you aren't doing much and just aren't too interested. We would love to hear from you. Just a note to let us know what is going on in your life - something to share with classmates. You can email me at [maerthompson@cox.net](mailto:maerthompson@cox.net), call me at 757-483-6902 or mail a note to

me at 4200 Summerset Dr., Portsmouth, VA 23703.

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Bill Brennan, Point Harbor, NC wrote "Audrey and I decided to stay in our home with our cat Lizzie and ride out Hurricane Irene. We no longer live on the island and have moved to Point Harbor which is just across the bridge from Kitty Hawk and at a point where the Currituck and Albermarle Sounds meet.

Our home is a couple of blocks off Currituck so we did not have a lot of fear from rising water finding our home. The windows in our sun room have a tendency to blow in from strong winds so we felt it was important to be here to put them back in place if they blew in. As suspected a few did blow in several times and we were able to get them back in place to avoid water damage. We have been through several storms but this was the most frustrating we have experienced. We received the wind and rain from the first storm band at about 6 p.m Friday. The wind finally settled at about 5 a.m. on Sunday morning. It was the longest storm we had experienced. We may have had some storms with stronger winds but never for such an extended time. The worst winds come on the back side of the storm out of the west and the water surge from these winds were remarkable and the real damage makers. The water from the Sound had blown to the west (there is no tide in the sounds) practically emptying

them to the far east. When the winds turned to the west, the waters returned to the east with a surge that was so great it destroyed the decks, piers, bulkheads and retaining walls along the eastern shores of the sounds and the water still stands in many of these neighborhoods with a terrible stench. I toured the Martin's Point area of Kitty Hawk and Bay Drive in Kitty Hawk and Kill Devil Hills. It was like a battle zone. I do not believe storm damage has been that great sound side in many, many years.

We were very fortunate we had no water damage but lost three beautiful trees in our front yard. We will miss them. We lost our power for 36 hours but fortunately our generator kept us going. When your water supply comes from a well and a pump, a generator is an absolute necessity. Lizzie survived but was not a happy cat for two days.

As a sideline, a group of us from our church helped a widow lady with the cleanup of her home. We found a sealed tube which had washed up in the mud in her yard from the sound. The tube contained a note from an 11 year girl dated 1986. It said the tube was being dropped in the Gulf stream 60 miles offshore. The girl was from Niles, Ohio and asked to be contacted by anyone finding the note. The tube would have had to enter the sound by way of Oregon Inlet. Our friend was going to try and contact the lady who would now be in her thirties. It was an interesting end to a nasty storm."

Dan Mallison, Ruckersville, VA sent in this humorous article about a bear that came to call. As most of you know. Norma and Dan live in a densely wooded area so you can just imagine this. He sent pictures but I am not printing these for this letter.

"About a month we were sitting in the living room with the door open, enjoying the outside view through the solid glass storm. Suddenly Norma jumped up and said she was going to get the camera as there was a bear outside. I went to the door (didn't open it though. I thought she had lost what's left of her mind, or had spots in front of her eyes, or any number of things.) Sure enough - there was an adult black bear standing about three feet from the deck peering in of course! What else is a bear to do on a summer afternoon while leisurely strolling in a new neighborhood? And there we were with only the thin (it seemed) glass of the storm door separating us from the bear.

He seemed to be a pleasant enough visitor and stood for several minutes peering at us. Was he hungry or what? He must have just come out of the woods because his face was covered with what appeared to be spider webs that wooded areas are prone to have. Norma was right! 'Twas a full grown black bear.

Norma finally got the camera ready and by this time, the visitor turned and ambled away, leaving the premises by the driveway. This alarmed us as he was surely acting as if he as only repeating what he had already done so many times before! We managed to take two pictures before he reached the road. After he started down the road I finally got enough courage to go outside to be sure he continued on down the road. He did!"

Thanks Dan, you should write a children's book with illustrations. I know it would be a sellout. Now we know what you and Norma do on a summer afternoon. I'm still smiling at your true story. Too cute!

Rhea Green Carter, Pawley's Island, SC

wrote "Thank you for your work on the Shipmate. Henry and I really enjoy the news of old friends. Each issue triggers happy memories. I hope the Afton can be saved. As a kid I spent many afternoons in AC comfort there - Mom would give me a quarter, 15 cents for the movie and 10 cents for a soda at the drug store next door. What fun it was to grow up in Cradock!

This has been a crazy year for the Carters. Henry had a kidney transplant Feb 10th at Wake Forest Medical Center in Winston Salem, NC. His new kidney is beautiful but he has had some major bumps in the road. We thought we would be in W.S. for a month but it turned out to be four months. He is still very weak but it is wonderful to be back home. God has truly blessed us.

Wish we could be in town for the "get togethers". It is wonderful you have such an active group."

(This letter was sent in 6/23 so I called today and talked with Henry. He said he is doing well - just taking a lot of medicine, and Rhea is busy doing things he used to take care of such as yard work, etc.)

Sue Palmer Moury, Bradenton, FL wrote "Hope all is well with you and you are having a nice summer. It's hot here in FL and we really need rain.

Wanted to let you know my dear sister Joanne Palmer Stainback, Class of '44, died January 31, It was just the two of us and such good friend. I miss her.

We don't travel anymore now. I'm a caregiver to my husband of 55 years who has Parkinson disease. It's hard but we are going to stay in our home and feel content and comfortable and it helps him to know

where everything is. Our children have helped make it safe.

I love the Shipmate especially the pictures. Take care."

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I called Phil and Lilly Latham, St. Rose, LA Saturday. They are traveling, getting ready to go to the mountains of North GA and then Gulf Shores, AL for Thanksgiving. Their son Warren just married last month in TX. So you can see how busy they are.

Virgina Robinson Gunnin, Montgomery, AL has a new address. It's 6200 Bell Road Ct. Montgomery, AL 36117.

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Joyce Overton Jonak, who is a very strong supporter for the restoration of the Afton Theater, wants to let everyone know about the update on the project. This will be the same weekend as the "Come Home to Cradock" celebration.

You are invited to attend a MEET and GREET, Friday October 21, 2011 4:00 - 5:30 P.M.

It's a 'chance of a lifetime'!!!

We are all invited to the Commodore Threater to meet and greet our Classmates, to learn more about Cradock - where we've been and where we are going! Besides mingling with our friends, we'll see a short, hometown film and some of the videos from recent interviews with Alumni. There will also be entertainment and perhaps a small auction! We'll hear about the unbelievable progress of the Afton Theater, how it will be used for training and educational programs, as well as for entertainment. The Afton will be patterned much like the Commodore, just

on a smaller scale.

Remember our exciting Saturdays with Roy Rogers and Tom Mix? They may be back! Keep your eye on that theater on Afton Square. Our hometown is on the verge of rebirth. Let's help it!

The "Meet and Greet" event will usher in "Come Home to Cradock Day" on October 22. It's going to be fun! Free popcorn, snacks, entertainment camaraderie! Everything's free - except for a cash bar (beer and wine).

Let's get together Classmates! See you there!

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The closing of the post office will leave a big gap in the Cradock community but not an obstacle in a bright future.

Mary Annarino reported she had sent cards to the following:

Vernon England  
Donna Shockley  
Virginia Gunnin  
Pat Benefield Dawley  
Don Wimberly  
Family of Frances Watson Deeds  
Family of Betty McIntyre  
Family of LeRoy Rose

Now Mary is nursing an injured ankle/foot, wearing a special "sandal" but she said it isn't anything, just painful. She did this wrestling with a trash can.

Ruth Buck just called to let me know Ben Sitterson passed away today. Ben hasn't been well for some time. He lived in Chesterfield, VA. He is survived by his wife Lucille, son Jim Sitterson of Portsmouth, daughter Cathy Corrigan of Richmond, and

two grandchildren.

### Memorials

Betty McIntyre Currier, Class of '50. Betty died peacefully at home in St. Mary's GA on July 21, 2011 after a long struggle with cancer. She is survived by her husband Richard Andrews Currier, a daughter Catherine Leigh Currier, son Christopher Andrews and her mother Grace Norton McIntyre. She was predeceased by her sister Dorothy McIntyre Baier, Class of '49.

Frances Watson Deeds, Class of '49, 81, lived at Emily Green Shores, Portsmouth, died August 23, 2011. She was married to the late Charles R. Deeds, Sr., She was survived by five children, nine grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Joyce Spivey England, Class of '52, passed away September 6, 2011. She was a native of Portsmouth. She was predeceased by her grandson, Justin England. She was survived by her loving husband Vernon England, Jr., two sons Vernon "Rusty" England III, wife Karen, son David L. England and wife Cheryl and two granddaughters Catherine England and Heather England,

Noreen Nocher White, Class of '50, 78, passed away June 13,, 2011 in Virginia Beach.

LeRoy Rose died peacefully August 14, 2011 at age 90. He pursued a lifelong career in education, first working at CHS.

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Mark your calendar now to attend the fish fry on October 15 at 4:00 p.m. See you there! You can only blame me for any errors in this Shipmate. Take care and stay healthy. Your editor, Mae