

Summer Colony Being Developed On New Point Beach

Several Cottages Finished;
Others Being Constructed.
Project Covers 70 Acres.

MATHEWS — New Point Beach, on Chesapeake Bay, in Mathews County, is at last being made available to those who desire to spend their vacation time, at moderate cost, where just about all the ingredients needed to make a happy, healthful vacation for all the family are provided by Nature.

The New Point peninsula provides one of the best, longest and most picturesque beaches in this part of Virginia, (with apologies to Gwynn's Island, Haven, Bethel, Hole-in-the-Wall and other smaller beaches which everyone knows are excellent, but this story is about New Point.)

New Point Beach is safe for children of all ages yet it provides deep water for older, experienced swimmers. There is good fishing off-shore and in nearby rivers where crabs, clams and oysters await those with the energy and know-how to take them.

An old fisherman said: "When you don't find a good breeze on New Point Beach, better start saying your prayers."

After scanning Virginia coastal maps and inspecting many possibilities in search of a suitable location for a colony of summer vacationists, J. W. McKibbon, of Chesterfield County, finally found just what he was looking for in Mathews County. After several months he was able to acquire 70 acres stretching across the peninsula from the Bayshore Beach to and including Harper's Creek boat harbor, which makes in from Mobjack Bay. He named it Bavon Beach.

Part of the property was formerly known as "the firing range." During the last year of the late war, the U. S. Army leased and bought there, some property for the establishment of a range for target practice. A hard surfaced road was built from the main highway. All necessary facilities were provided, including deep wells and a fire department. With the war's end the site was abandoned.

Many Lots Taken

Mr. McKibbon's tract includes the firing range area and other property which he has purchased from local owners, including the old Constantine Grinnell place and property once owned by Dr. Nelson, former State Geologist. He has surveyed and staked off 141 residential lots and one business lot and 50 more are now being surveyed. About 49 of the lots have been sold.

On the East, the new development is bounded by Chesapeake Bay; on the South by the Brooks estate; North, by lands of Belle Thomas and the Mary E. Hudgins estate and West by the East shore of Harper's Creek.

Route 600 runs through the development.
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Summer Colony

(Cont'd. from Page 1)

opment to the Harper's Creek boat harbor. The property is divided by wide streets now being constructed and all leading to the Beach and boat harbor. They are: Webster Street, Davis Street, Bayshore Drive, Frances Ave., Harbor Ave., Sandshoal Ave. and Bavon Road.

According to a survey made by Paul Hobday and J.W. McKibbon, the land under development was formerly owned by James and Martha Fitchett, Dorothy M. Grinnell and John J.R. Butler, who bought the firing range at an Army Surplus sale.

The lots sold to property owners so far have been bought by Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Petway, (contractor) Richmond, (house completed); Mr. and Mrs. Cary Lovelace, Petersburg Pike, (house nearly finished); Mr. and Mrs. C.B. Dickerson, Texaco Distributor, Richmond, (no house); Mr. and Mrs. A.T. Savadge, Richmond (no house); Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Proffitte, Petersburg Pike Cleaners & Pressers, (house nearly finished); Mr. and Mrs. Hardy Weeks and Mr. and Mrs. Ben Weeks, South Richmond, (houses completed); Mr. and Mrs. J.M. Elmore and Mr. and Mrs. Geo. T. Elmore Jr., Richmond, (no house); W.H. Vaughan, Richmond, (house nearly finished); Mr. and Mrs. L.S. Walker, DuPont employe, Petersburg Pike, (house nearly finished); Mr. and Mrs. W.C. Nobles, Highland Springs (no house); Mr. and Mrs. C.W. Glover, Charlottesville student of University of Virginia, (no house); C.V. Hague and Geo. V. Crews, Midlothian Pike, (house nearly finished); Mr. and Mrs. R.C. Cartwright, Washington, D.C., (no house); Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Saunders, Richmond (foundation laid); Mr. and Mrs. F.D. Goddon, Richmond, J.A. Mooney, Jr., Sandston, (house started); Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Seaton, Sandston, contractor, (house nearly finished); Mr. and Mrs. Pat Onorato Seven Pines, (no house); Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Emmons, International

Harvester Co., Richmond, (house started); Mr. and Mrs. C.D. Munson Chester, International Harvester, (no house); Mr. and Mrs. B.G. Stiles, Jr., Richmond, General Motors, (house nearly finished); Mr. and Mrs. A.L. Woodfin Chester, (no house); D. A. Thompson and W.L. Harris, Richmond, (no house); Mrs. Louise Proffitte, Chesterfield County, (no house); Mr. and Mrs. J.G. Dance, Chesterfield, (house started); M.D. Norwood, Richmond, (no house). Some purchasers own two or more lots.

Much Activity

On week-ends the place is alive with activity. Families come ready for work and except for an occasional dip, men women and even children work like beavers, clearing and building. Most material is purchased locally. Local carpenters and other mechanics are often called upon, but most families seem bent upon doing their own work as far as possible. The houses are not "shacks" by any means. The cottages are well built and nicely furnished inside and outside and all have large screened porches. Once the cottages are finished the owners begin landscaping and already nice lawns are in the making. Most of the houses are located in groves of tall pine trees. Mr. McKibbin is undertaking to build the streets and improve the beach. The "settlers" clear and improve their own lots and the whole development is improving in appearance daily with every indication that before many months a modern village will have replaced what a few months ago was a wilderness.

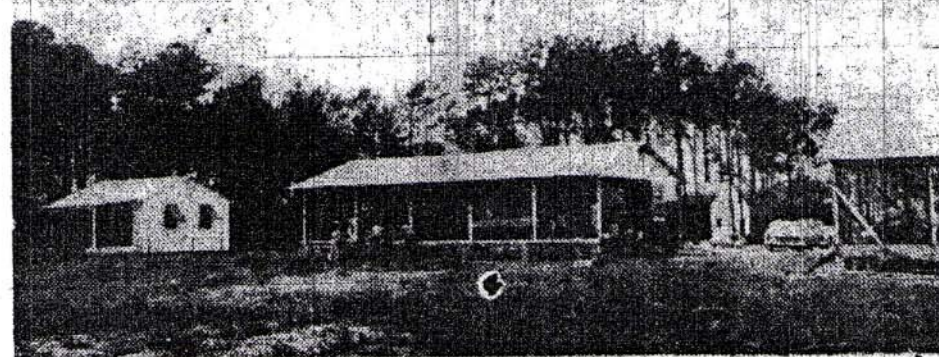
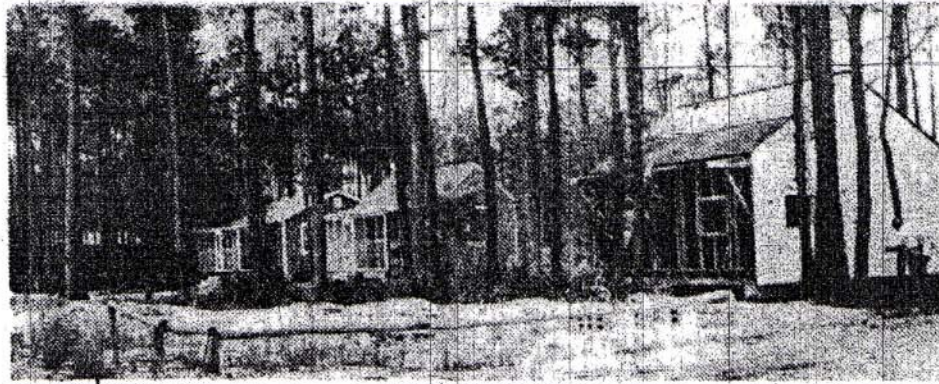
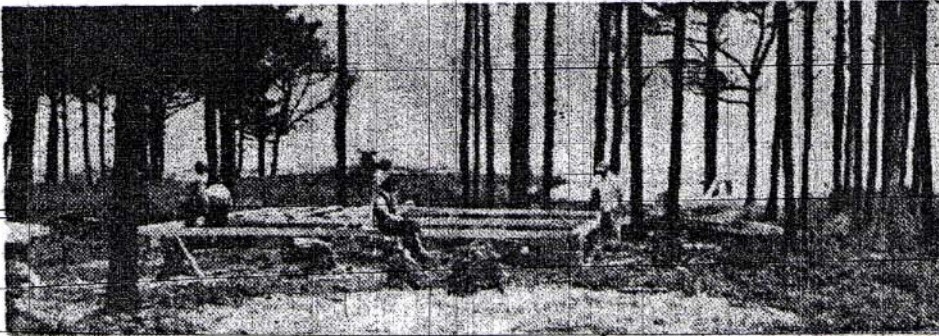
Fifteen years ago when this reporter was an assistant scout master, even a Mathews County Boy Scout had difficulty getting to the beach through the wilderness now replaced by this modern development. But once there, all agreed there wasn't a better place for a day's outing or an overnight camp.

When James H. Easley past president, Virginia State Chamber of Commerce, several years ago, was a member of a Chesapeake Bay fishing party which caught no fish, he and this scribe enjoyed a swim and a two-mile hike around New Point Beach. Mr. Easley was so charmed that he vowed to interest some of his friends in the development of a summer colony there. "I have never seen a better beach than this," he said. "This peninsula with the Chesapeake on one side and the Mobjack on the other, the sand dunes and live oaks, is ideal for a colony of summer vacationists." He remained interested for years, but unable to acquire the property he finally gave up the idea.

Local citizens have been enjoying the beach for many years. None ever had the vision or initiative to undertake the development, which long ago might have produced much profit for a community whose vacation facilities are among its best profit producing possibilities.

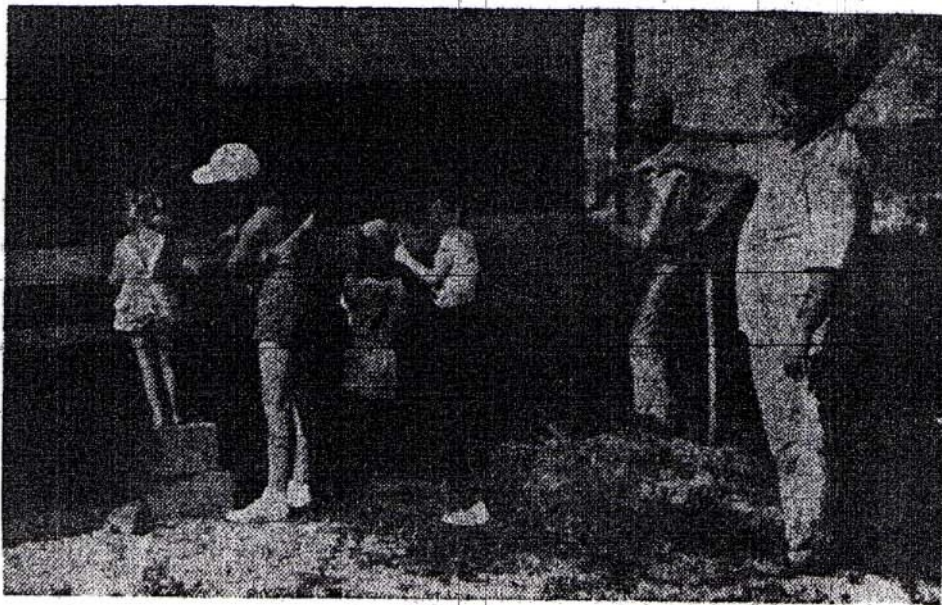
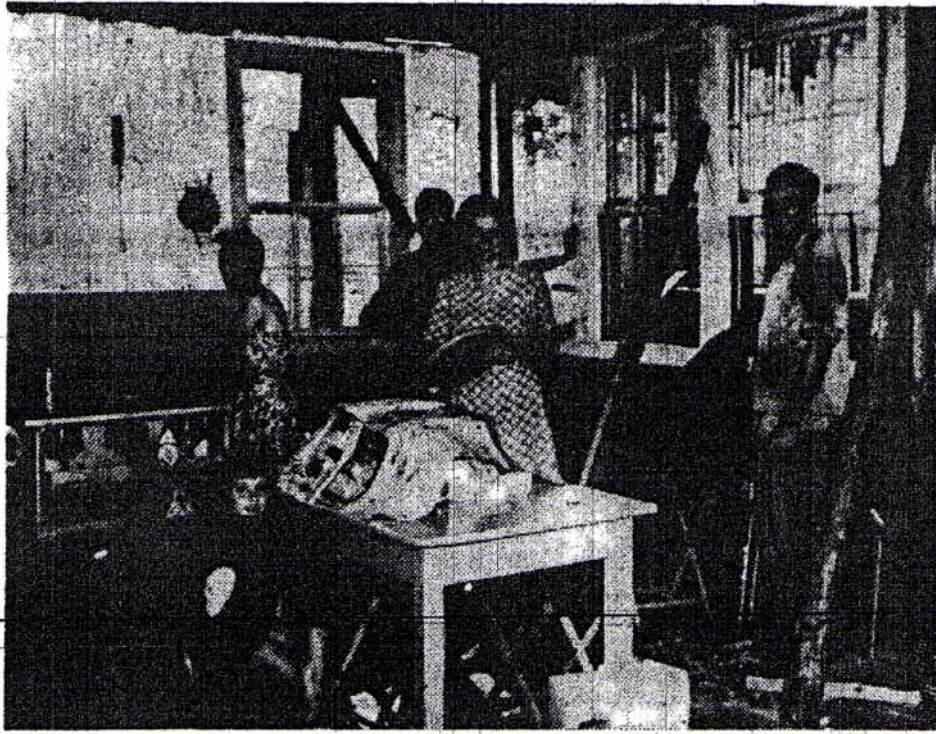
The Bayon Beach development covers only a small part of the New Point Beach peninsula. Still greater development is possible.

New Point (Bavon Beach) Development



Top picture shows the foundation of another new cottage. Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Dance, of Richmond are the builders. Mr. Dance and sons are working while Mrs. Dance and a neighbor, Mrs. Lovelace, look on. Next picture shows the corner of Bayshore Drive and Evelyn Ave., looking down Bayshore Drive. Left to right; completed cottages of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Weeks, of South Richmond and Mr. and Mrs. Hardy Weeks, of Petersburg Pike, and the partially completed cottage of Mr. and Mrs. Cary Lovelace, Petersburg Pike. Next View from the beach, showing, left to right, completed cottage of Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Petway, McGuire Park, Richmond, finished in five days; nearly completed cottage of Mr. and Mrs. John E. Seaton, Sandston, and partially completed cottage of Mr. and Mrs. Lucius S. Walker, Petersburg Pike. House at rear is that of Mr. and Mrs. Lovelace. Lower picture shows Mr. and Mrs. Petway, seated at the snack bar in their completed cottage facing the beach. They were just going fishing when they stopped to pose for a Gazette-Journal protographer.

Week-End Activities at Bayon Beach





In the Gazette-Journal picture at top everybody seems to be working "but father," J. E. Seaton, building contractor, of Sandston, who is directing Mrs. Seaton, their two children, John McKibbon, Jr., and Mr. St. Clair, a neighbor, how to put on sheathing. Center: Mrs. Seaton finally gets "father" in a jam. He has to help hang a curtain while the small fry raid the lunch basket. Below: we find Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Profitte, their son and daughter-in-law and little Miss Profitte just as you might expect to find any of the residents of Bayon Beach, any week-end — everybody working. The men have saws and hammers in hand. The ladies are preparing lunch. Little Miss Profitte, water wings in hand, has just returned from the beach. At Bayon Beach, they build their own, and like it. The work is done week-ends. They work a while and frolic a while and everybody is happy.