



## Spring 2012 Newsletter



This issue of our newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Ralph H. McClure, who passed away December 19, 2011.

I could tell you that Ralph McClure was a builder, but that's what he did, albeit with gusto. That's not who he was. He was a man with a heart so big it's a wonder it fit inside his skinny body. He was a family man, he was a deacon and an elder at church. He was the kind of person that if you called him in the middle of the night because you had a problem, off he'd go to help you, no matter what. He was a fisherman, he was a jokester, he was dedicated. He was a demon behind the wheel and he scared us all to death every time he stormed into McClure Realty's parking lot like it was the NASCAR racetrack. And yes, he built houses, hundreds of them, both on and off the island. He built churches, and the Museum of Coastal Carolina. He built and he built well. Ralph McClure was also instrumental in shaping the island as we know it today. He built the first two-story house on the beach. What he loved the most about making architectural plans was incorporating his clients' wishes and ideas into the final product.

When I first started working at R.H. McClure Realty, in 1999, one of the first things I learned was to always be sure to leave the porch light on when we closed the office in the evening. Ralph was at work every day between 4:30 and 5:00 in the morning, when it was still dark, and we wanted him to be safe going up the steps of the building. The building department didn't open until 8:00, but Ralph said he got more work done between five and eight in the morning, than he

did the whole rest of the day. During the day, if I had to ask him a question, I would go upstairs to find him hunched over his huge drafting table overlooking the marsh. He'd be drawing lines and designs, with no help from any computer or gizmo, and then he'd give you the design you had requested, instead of selling it like many architects do. If you called him with a problem, he didn't send one of his lackeys, he would go himself to take care of things.

Since he arrived in the office so early, he left for lunch between 10:30 and 11:00. He had to be sure to be home by eleven, so he could watch the TV program *The Price is Right*, which he never missed. After a short rest, he'd be back at the office in the afternoon. He was like the pink bunny in the commercials – non-stop. When I first met him, he was a month short of 75, already old by some standards, but he enjoyed life to the fullest. He went fishing in Alaska, and Costa Rica, and came back with crazy stories which cracked us up. Ralph McClure was a gentleman, and a gentle man. He was a soft spoken fellow, who never had an ill word to say to any one or about any one. On the same token, I've never heard an ill word said about him. He left a legacy behind in all the buildings he designed and built, but he left a more important legacy in the hearts of all who knew him.

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*The family of Ralph McClure, as well as the staff at R.H. McClure Realty, Inc. wish to thank all of you who sent cards, prayers and comforting words.*

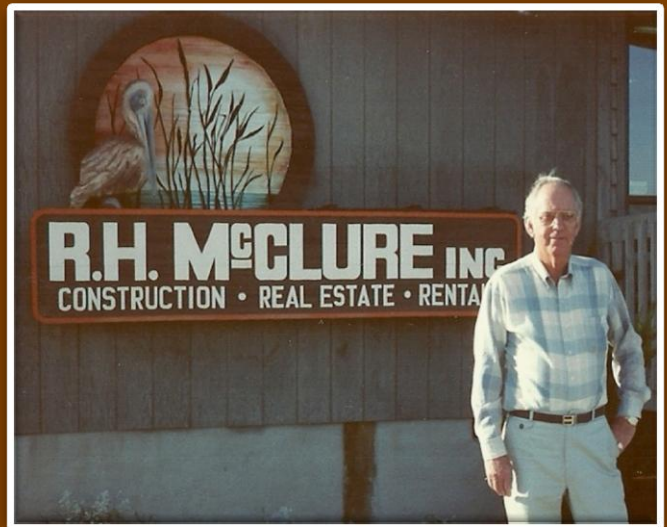
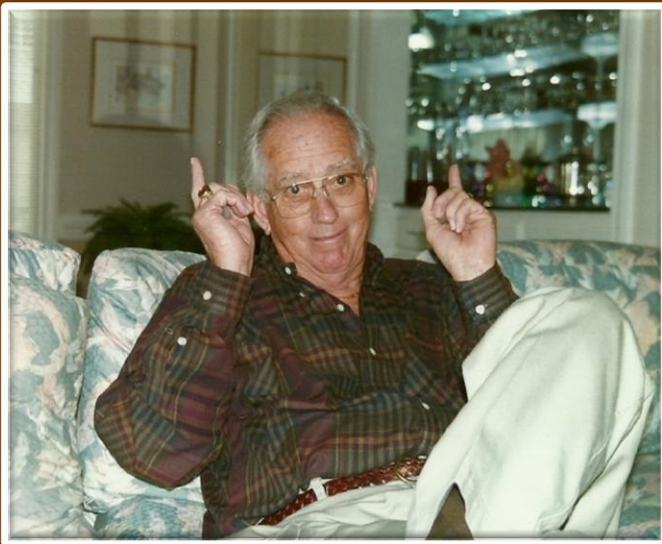
Ralph McClure playing Santa to Charlie Carcich



*The following article was written by Ralph McClure's granddaughter, Amanda Farris.*

My grandfather loved and served the Ocean Isle Beach community. He was first invited to Ocean Isle Beach by his friend, Homer Johnson. He fell in love with the island and built his family a vacation home here in 1970. That home, which still stands on Isle Plaza, was the first two-story home on the island. In 1976 he expanded his residential contracting business from Charlotte to Ocean Isle Beach, bringing with him a vision and creativity in construction that helped shape the island into the retreat it is today, which we all love, and to which we return every time opportunity arises. He took pride in building quality homes and inevitably became close friends with the people whose homes he designed and constructed. It was those friends who encouraged him to expand his business to include real estate sales and rentals, giving birth to R.H. McClure Realty, Inc. in 1984.

Prior to coming to Ocean Isle Beach, my grandfather was a WWII veteran. He served in the 866<sup>th</sup> Engineering Battalion. He returned home and began his construction career in Mecklenburg County in 1948. He built homes and commercial buildings in the Charlotte area for forty years, before moving full time to Ocean Isle Beach in 1987. He designed and built five church sanctuaries and was the contractor for the Museum of Coastal Carolina, all pro bono. He loved and served His Lord, first at his home church, Cooks Memorial Presbyterian, and later at Shallotte Presbyterian Church, serving as a deacon and elder at both. He also helped establish a summer beach ministry through Shallotte Presbyterian Church, which runs each year from Memorial weekend to Labor Day weekend. He would flash his huge smile and say, "Hope to see you Sunday morning on the beach for church."





What's missing from this photo?



Answer at bottom of newsletter



We're happy to announce an upgrade to our travel interruption insurance. Starting this year, when our guests purchase optional travel interruption insurance, which we provide through CSA Travel Protection, they will not only be covered for cancellations and/or island evacuation.



The program has been expanded to also cover roadside assistance while traveling to and from their vacation, plus 24-hour emergency assistance services, which includes medical assistance, and replacement of medication and eyeglasses, among other services. This travel insurance is made available to our guests with every reservation. An insurance booklet is mailed out with each reservation, and after reviewing it, we hope that our guests find that having this insurance is a good way to provide peace of mind for their family vacations.



R.H. McClure Builders is a trusted Brunswick County builder for new homes, remodeling, and commercial construction. Get to know us and realize your possibilities. 910-579-2454 [www.rhmclurebuilders.com](http://www.rhmclurebuilders.com)



# Kids Corner

For our new feature, Kids Corner, we want to ask our readers to encourage their children and grandchildren to write something about their trip to the beach, or draw a picture about their favorite beach vacation activities. Get to scanning and send us a JPG image of your child's drawing or story and it might end up not just on your refrigerator, but also on our newsletter. We will feature submissions here in our newsletters and on our facebook page. Optional identifying info, such as first name, age, and hometown will be included. Send emails to [ncmcclure@atmc.net](mailto:ncmcclure@atmc.net). Below, locals James and Megan talk about Wonder Works in Myrtle Beach, SC.

Hi, I'm James. I'm going to tell you about my trip to Wonder Works. Don't worry, it'll be easy to find. Just go to Broadway [at the Beach] in Myrtle Beach and look for an upside down old fashioned building on top of a blue short building. When you get there, there are games and rides like an amusement park. Right beside that is a huge zip line that goes all the way across the lake. It's awesome! When you get inside you'd expect to see a regular building. Wrong! You see an upside down building. There are stairs above you, broken picture frames and stuff and cracked ground above you. When you pay for your tickets, they let you in and first comes the inversion tunnel. The walls are filled with neon colors and they're spinning and it looks like you're spinning around and around. When you get out of there comes the antigravity chamber and there are two bikes that fit two people and the harder you pedal, the faster it goes and it goes on and on around and around. If you pedal fast enough, it will send you all the way up so that you're upside down and come back down in a circle. Beside that is a hurricane shack. It says the first hurricane was in 18whatever and then a huge fan blows and it feels like you're in a hurricane. There are also tokens they give you so you can play arcade games. There is a virtual baseball park where it's like you're in a game, then you go to the second floor and, 'Hey Megan, I'm doing this'.

'Yeah right'.

'Ow!'

Move! Hi, I'm Megan. I'm taking over. So um...Ok, on the second floor there is a ride where you sit in this space ship and go upside down and you press all these buttons. It's really weird. And also there's where you get in an airplane and you have the steering wheel in front of you and you steer, of course. And you drive. And there is a wonder wall where you stand up against the wall and make the shape of your whole body on the wall. I don't know how to explain it, you will see it in the brochure. Hey. Hey! Move!

Hey, I'm back. She already told you about the second floor, so I'll tell you about the third floor. There are more arcade games and...

James, it's my turn! Hey, I'm going to tell you about the third floor. There is a rope challenge course. Move!

Hey, it's James. No time to talk, there is laser tag on the fourth floor. Ow! Security!

'Ahhhhhh!'

Okay, she's gone. That was my sister, by the way. There is also a bed of nails, wonder wall, and some other things you will find when you go. Have fun! I need to go before she comes back. Bye!



## Girl Scout Bridging Ceremony

On March 12, 1912, Juliette Low, referred to as Crazy Daisy for her penchant to go against tradition, called her cousin Nina Anderson and told her to come right over, that she had an idea for something new for girls in Savannah, Georgia. Low, who had no children of her own, started with eighteen girls, and the Girl Scouts of America was born. There are now over three million girl scouts between the ages of five and seventeen. Advancing from one level to another in Girl Scouts is called, "bridging", so to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, girl scout troops all over the US are having a celebration called, *Bridging the Centuries, Honoring Our Past and Building Our Future*. Locally, it was celebrated by several Brunswick County troops at the Ocean Isle Beach Park on Saturday, March 10.



## A Dog's Week at the Beach

by our attributing writer, a Labrador Retriever from Ohio named Sid.

(Oh, okay, Linda wrote it)

Last summer, my family took me along on their family vacation which they take every year to Ocean Isle Beach. This was the first time I got to go, because they found a house that allows dogs! Our week at the beach started with the longest car ride of my life! I was so happy to get out of the car when we stopped, that I ran around the car ten times! When I starting sniffing around, I caught whiffs of salt and some kind of bird I hadn't smelled before. My boy and girl were happy too. They were yelling, "beach, beach, beach", and I started barking. I love to see them so happy. My lady put my walking leash on me and we set out walking. We were on some grass, so I had the chance to relieve myself, whew! Next thing I knew we were back in the car! Oh no! We had only stopped for a few minutes, but when my man came out of the building, everybody cheered, then it was just a short ride to a house where we parked again. We all walked across the street and up some wooden steps, and that's when I saw it. It had to be the "beach" my kids had been talking about. They set off running, and I wanted to run with them, but I had on the blasted leash. The smell of salt was stronger but I couldn't find it. I did, however, find the birds. Small white birds were everywhere, on the ground, just standing around waiting for me to chase them. I pulled on the leash and that time my lady picked up the pace and I sent all the birds up in the air with a few barks. I love doing that! We kept walking on the soft, warm dirt, towards the water. I couldn't believe the water was moving! I so wanted to go swimming. So did my boy and girl, but my man and lady said we couldn't stay long. When we got back to the house where the car was parked, I was hoping we weren't going to get back in it. I didn't want to see the inside of that car for a long time! Instead, everyone unloaded their stuff out of the car upstairs into the house. When my lady let me off the leash in the kitchen, I got to work taking in all the smells of a new place. Just when I was wondering where I could lie down to rest, my man brought my crate into the kitchen from the car. So that answered that question.

Later in the evening we went back to the beach and this time we got to go in the water! It tasted awful! Definitely swimming water, not drinking water. I'm a Labrador, so I love swimming. That water was sure a challenge though, because it kept moving. We had such a great time. When we went back over the wooden steps, we stopped at a shower, and I got sprayed off. I tried to clean my little girl, licking her arm for her, but then she got rinsed off too. Back at the house, I was already resting in my crate when the kids got put to bed. Swimming sure is tiring.

The next day, everyone put on their swimming clothes and I smelled that white stuff they wipe all over themselves. The kids were hollering "beach" again over breakfast, and they were asking why I couldn't go with them. My lady said something about "six pee em". Sometimes they spell words so the kids won't understand, and I don't understand either, so I figured six pee em was some kind of code for why I couldn't go to the beach, but my lady told them, "After dinner". Before they left, they unpacked my chew bone and yellow ball from home. They were gone a long time though, and I was a little bored. At one point, my man came and took me for a walk. It was a short walk, which was okay with me because it was so hot outside.

I was very excited when they got back, but they didn't want to play because they were too tired. I was a little sad, but I got excited again while they ate dinner, because I knew my trip to the beach was coming up. After dinner, they went back to the beach, and, as promised, I got to go. It was still warm but the water was so nice! I wanted to see how far out I could go, but I had to stay close to my family. Sometimes I hate leashes. At home at the dog park, they usually take the leash off of me, but they didn't at the beach, no matter how hard I pulled. When my man and I came out of the water, my boy and girl were making a big pile of dirt out of all the dirt that was everywhere. I tried to join them on the project but my big paws are clumsy, so they weren't much help. The kids both yelled at me and when I tried to lick their faces in apology, they told me to go away. So I thought I could help them by digging up more dirt for them. That's something I can do; but I got in trouble for that too. So I settled on a towel to rest and took a big drink of drinking water my lady had brought for me. That night was an early night too, since we were all tucked out.

We went to the beach to play almost every evening that week except for one time. After the family came back from wherever they were all day, I got to go outside to take care of business. Then they got dressed and gave me my dinner in the kitchen before leaving again. When they got back, I smelled chicken! I thought I was getting more dinner, since I heard someone say something about a doggie bag. (I love doggie bags!) I don't know what kind of doggie bag it was, because my man put it in the refrigerator and I didn't see it again. Apparently, not all doggie bags are for doggies! Whoever heard of such a thing?

That night my man took me to the beach but wouldn't let me go in the water. It was dark out. I mean, really dark. All the lights were far away from the water. We walked along the water for a long time. Then he said, "Let's turn around." He must have been tired; I could have kept going. On the way back, I saw another dog, smaller than me, with his person walking towards us. I barked a hello but my man told me off. I was just saying "Hi". I greeted and smelled the other dog, but our people must have been in a hurry because they wouldn't let us play.

The next day we spent another evening on the beach. We swam and the kids worked on another dirt pile project while I kept a lookout for the dog I had seen the night before and chased some more of the loud birds, as far as my leash would allow. Back at the house, my kids started talking about home. I heard them say, "Home tomorrow." Sure enough, the next day we all piled up into the car for that dreaded car ride back to our home. That night in my bed, I thought about my week at the beach. It was so much fun to go somewhere and do things I don't usually do, but it's also nice to be home. I do hope that next time my family gets a house that allows dogs again, so I can go along, because it sure is fun at the beach.



[R. H McClure Realty is proud to offer Pet Friendly Rentals!](#)

# The WINE FEST 2012

FINE WINES • LITE BITES • LIVE & SILENT AUCTIONS



APRIL 28<sup>TH</sup> 2012 6:30<sup>PM</sup> - 9:30<sup>PM</sup>

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF NATURAL SCIENCE  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

#### TICKET OUTLETS:

Brunswick Business Center: 910.575.8973  
Sunset River Marketplace: 910.575.5999  
Victoria's Ragpach, OIB: 910.579.3158  
Museum of Coastal Carolina: 910.579.1016  
Ingram Planetarium: 910.575.0033  
(PLEASE CALL OR VISIT)



TICKETS  
\$50

[www.museumplanetarium.org](http://www.museumplanetarium.org)



HELD AT:  
THE MUSEUM OF  
COASTAL CAROLINA

What was missing from that picture?



Those of you who have been coming to OIB regularly might have recognized the corner of Beach and Causeway Drive. For over 30 years this little green roof has stood at that corner, originally the site of Alice's Produce, until they moved to 6828 Beach Drive. For the last several years, just the empty stand stood there, until it was removed in February. Some thought it was an eyesore, but it was so much a part of driving to OIB, and it had been there so long, it seemed to belong.



Ocean Isle Beach Road has been closed from Beach Drive to Old Georgetown Road since February 20. As of this writing, it remains closed due to road work and installation of pipes. The project has been granted an extension until March 16. Us locals sure are hating having to detour all the way around to Seaside Road, and back over just to get to the island.

As always, if you have ideas of what you want to see in one of our newsletters, please, by all means, pass it on!

Or if you have any feedback about our newsletters, please share that too! [ncmclure@atmc.net](mailto:ncmclure@atmc.net)

We're always accepting beach photos, restaurant reviews, ideas, tips, songs, childrens' drawings, whatever.

Thanks to those who have contributed in the past!



Photo by Martha Russ

## Purchasing Coastal Real Estate FAQ

Looking for property near the ocean? With more than 300 miles of ocean shoreline, North Carolina boasts some of the most spectacular beaches in the nation. But before buying, you should be aware of other factors that accompany the pleasures of owning property at the beach. Most oceanfront real estate in North Carolina is located on one of the state's many barrier islands. These narrow strips of land between the sea and the sound are particularly vulnerable to ocean forces such as storms and beach erosion, which can pose a threat to your prospective property and undercut its value.

The following are basic questions you should ask as a potential purchaser of coastal real estate. Whether you are considering an undeveloped lot or an existing building, there are critical issues you should examine before committing to purchase. For a full brochure of sales listings for Ocean Isle Beach, call one of our sales agents at 800-332-5476.

### Q: What unusual hazards can affect real estate along ocean shorelines?

A: The greatest difference between real estate adjacent to the ocean or an inlet and inland real estate is the hazard of shoreline erosion. For inland real estate, property lines are generally unchanging. However, property on the oceanfront or adjacent to an inlet has a moving property line along the shore that is determined largely by the forces of nature. This moving boundary, called the "mean high water line," can change from day to day.

### Q: What causes shoreline erosion?

A: Shoreline erosion is caused by a variety of factors. Along the oceanfront, hurricanes, northeasters and other storms cause seasonal fluctuations of the beach.

As a general rule, North Carolina's beaches erode more in the stormy fall and winter months than in the calm summer months. It is not unusual for the mean high water line more landward temporarily by 75 to 100 feet during the stormy season. Of course, when a barrier island is hit directly by a hurricane, beachfront erosion can be even more dramatic. Inlets are also affected by seasonal storms and can change configuration rapidly and severely as tremendous amounts of water and sand flow through them. In severe storms, it is even possible for new inlets to form and existing inlets to close. Erosion associated with storms is often severe because large quantities of sand can be moved quickly offshore from the beach and dunes. This type of erosion is usually called "short-term" because the shoreline can return to its original profile as conditions calm.

### Q: Can I get insurance for damage resulting from erosion and flooding?

A: Maybe. You may be able to purchase a flood insurance policy which is usually separate from a standard homeowner's policy. The National Flood Insurance Program was established by Congress to make flood insurance available nationwide to eligible properties. Policies issued under the National Flood Insurance Program include conditions and costs dictated by federal requirements. The federal government in turn guarantees to pitch in if losses occur - thus encouraging private companies to write affordable policies for areas that might normally be considered too risky. Large discounts on premiums are often available for buildings constructed above minimum standards. For example, discounts are available for buildings elevated on pilings higher than required to avoid storm-surge flooding.

If the property is not eligible for the National Flood Insurance Program, the owner may be able to procure flood insurance coverage from a private insurer. However, private insurers regularly reassess whether or not to offer coverage, and it may not always be available.

For more answers to frequently asked questions pertaining to buying beach real estate, please [click here](#).

[Click here to visit R.H. McClure Realty Inc.'s Real Estate Sales Website.](#)

### RH McClure Real Estate Sales

Below is a current list of properties that are available through R.H. McClure Realty, Inc. We would like very much to represent you in your quest for properties on or around Ocean Isle Beach. Our sales staff will assist you with any listed property in this area. Please check with us often, as prices and listings change frequently. Call

**Bob Kennette**

910-540-5940

**B. Wayne Melton**

910-233-6606

**John Hightower**

910-520-0533

Or visit our website at [www.rhmclclurealty.com](http://www.rhmclclurealty.com) to view all listings in Brunswick County

### Beach Homes

Oceanfront-124 East 1 <sup>st</sup> St 4 br, 4 bath	<b>SOLD</b>	\$ 1,435,000
Oceanfront-269 West 1 <sup>st</sup> St -5 br, 3 bath	<b>SOLD</b>	\$ 749,000
Soundfront-155 Marsh Lagoon- 5 br, 5.5 bath	<b>SOLD</b>	\$ 895,000
Natural canal – 79 Wilmington, 6 br, 2 bath		\$ 445,000
Island Park Cottages-3 Myrtle Ct, 4 br, 2 bath	<b>SOLD</b>	\$ 359,900
Soundfront-125 SSD – 5 br, 5.5 bath		\$ 749,000

### Beach Lots

Soundfront Lot-192 West 4 <sup>th</sup> St	\$ 479,000
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### Beach Condos

Windjammer Unit 1-J – 2 br, 2 bath, oceanfront	\$ 299,900
Windjammer Unit 1-I – 2 br, 2 bath, oceanfront	\$ 295,000

### Mainland Lots

Brookhaven Subd – Lot 10, 5 minutes from Wilmington	\$325,000
Bricklanding Golf Course Frontage - 1633 Carriage Pl	\$ 99,000
Bricklanding Golf Course Frontage - 1625 Carriage Pl	\$ 99,000
Crown Stream – 1602 Crownstream Drive	<b>SOLD</b> \$ 35,000

### Mainland Homes

Crown Stream – 1600 Crownstream Dr.- 3 bedroom 2 bath - <b>SOLD</b>	\$175,000
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