

Surfing on the **Cape Fear Coast**

By Joseph “Skipper” Funderburg

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Funderburg**

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A list of photo credits, constituting a
continuation of the copyright page,
begins on page 136.

This book is dedicated to my wife
SHARI ANN ARNOLD FUNDERBURG

Our two children:
SARAH RUTH FUNDERBURG
JOSEPH WILLIAM FUNDERBURG

who have inspired me with their
love and devotion.

It is also dedicated to my father,
WILLIAM SPURGEON “BILL” FUNDERBURG, SR.

and the memory of my mother,
ELSIE CLAIRE FERGUS FUNDERBURG,

my great aunt,
ESLIE RISLEY KEEN

and my brother,
WILLIAM SPURGEON “BUDDY” FUNDERBURG, JR.



“Why is almost every robust, healthy boy with a robust, healthy soul in him, at some time or other, crazy to go to sea?”

Herman Melville

Moby Dick, Chapter One



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PROFANO

To your author, writing about pioneer surfing history is similar to putting a puzzle together. As I am a piece in the puzzle, my work is to ponder over how all the pieces fit together, in an effort to understand and solve it. Pioneer surfing history has already been marked deeply into the soul of the first handful of surfers, through the hundreds of surfboards they have built and thousands of waves they have ridden, hunted and mined.

The seminal event that triggered your author's writing, was my brother's untimely death in 1996. The connection between that tragic loss of a loved one and dramatic impact on my family life, created the power of origination and ability to write. As well, a traumatic childhood around the sea is a gift that keeps on giving to a writer. Your author has a naturally curious nature, so I enjoy learning about the development of surfing on the Cape Fear Coast and sharing the facts with readers. There are two very specific and different readers – the learned society and scholarly historians. For the most part, I wanted the book to be interesting and informational to the learned society. As I write, a certain contentment settles over me. My writing pen is not possessed, nor do the words and phrases flow out of me like a flood. The words leak out. I decided to write a narrative of experiences that I have lived through. Like anyone else, if I had my druthers, I would take certain things out of my life, but not my surfing and waterman experiences.

My task included, intertwining the review of, official town minutes, school year books, oral histories, photographs, motion picture film, public records, maps, nautical charts, court documents and newspaper articles. The work of documenting surfing history requires both background telephone interviews and face to face conversations with all sorts of people. Many, but not all of them forthright, willing, articulate, prepared or amiable. It is a struggle for me, as an amateur historian to attempt to relay information from tacit knowledge. To pull unarticulated information out of people, then get it down as explicit written knowledge, is a tough nut to crack, to say the least. Sometimes people find it hard to separate their surfing memories, so the interrelatedness of all of it is complex. Although at times it was particularly painful, I recognized the fact that once the older surfers pass away, their memories and tacit knowledge are gone, just gone forever. I had to do it myself and I became reinvigorated by the work.

I felt part of my work would be a persuasive essay. I created a book that proves a point, which may change the readers opinion and or clarify the issues. The process of causing someone to change their mind is difficult. You have to think clearly about how you stand on the matter, plan your approach, use strong evidence, and understand the topic. Surfing heritage is important to many people. I embrace the past and look forward to the future. My work is merely one of the many initiated needs to help surfers and others understand, appreciate and benefit from the surfing communities long and interesting past. It is my mission to develop projects to recognize and increase awareness of the Cape Fear Coast pioneer surfer's contributions and identify significant activities in local surfer history.

Many of the current Cape Fear Coast surfers were born after 1950 and know little or nothing about valid local surfing history. It was a fabulous start from all the good vibrations created by the original pioneer surfers and it needs to be remembered that way. I see it as a much-needed entity in the surfing community.

It is time for that belated praise.
September 2007.







Ultimate Quiver

A quiver of surfboards is a requirement of the author, based on his love of cornucopia surf. Obligatory are his magic, good all around long boards for mid-size waves and full on guns for big wave riding.

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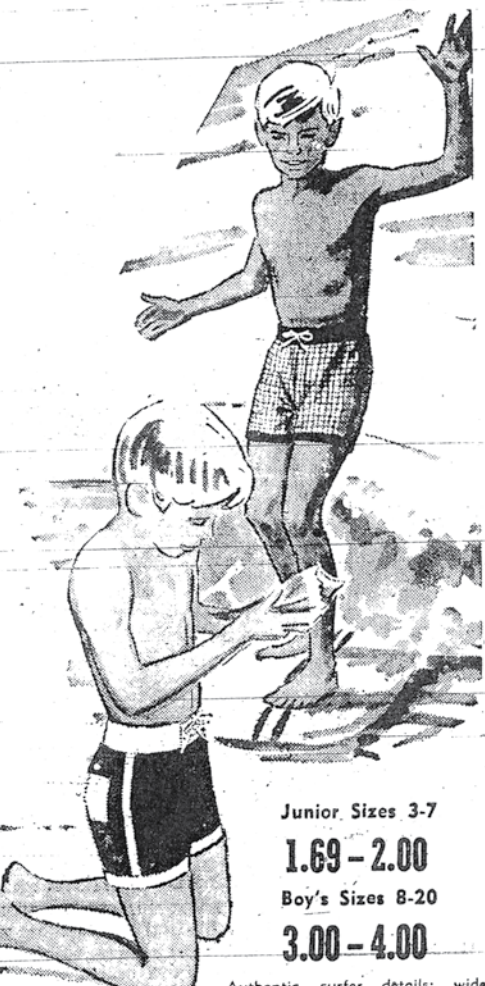
This Plan Does Work . . . Be On The Foam May 1st.

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BRUSE BROWN'S

"THE ENDLESS SUMMER"

SURFING ACTION!

Ideal for Water Sports....



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ROPE ATTACHED FOR SAFETY

1960's

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ROEBUCK AND CO.

Prices Good 3-Days Only

Gifts FOR GRADUATES
Say Congratulations in a Way They'll Remember.

Attention Hot Doggers and Beginners:

Let's Go Surfing

Built to Take the Smack of 30 ft. Waves

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Sears durable 9-ft. 4 in. surfboards. Polyurethane foam covered with fiber glass gives you a strong durable yet exceptionally lightweight board. Fiberglass skeg inset for stability. It's surfing time at Sears!



Sears Combination Water Skis **32⁹⁸**

Popular banana shape for real speed. Durable, easy-care plastic-coated top, Melamine base. Extra slalom keel. With comfortable foot pads.

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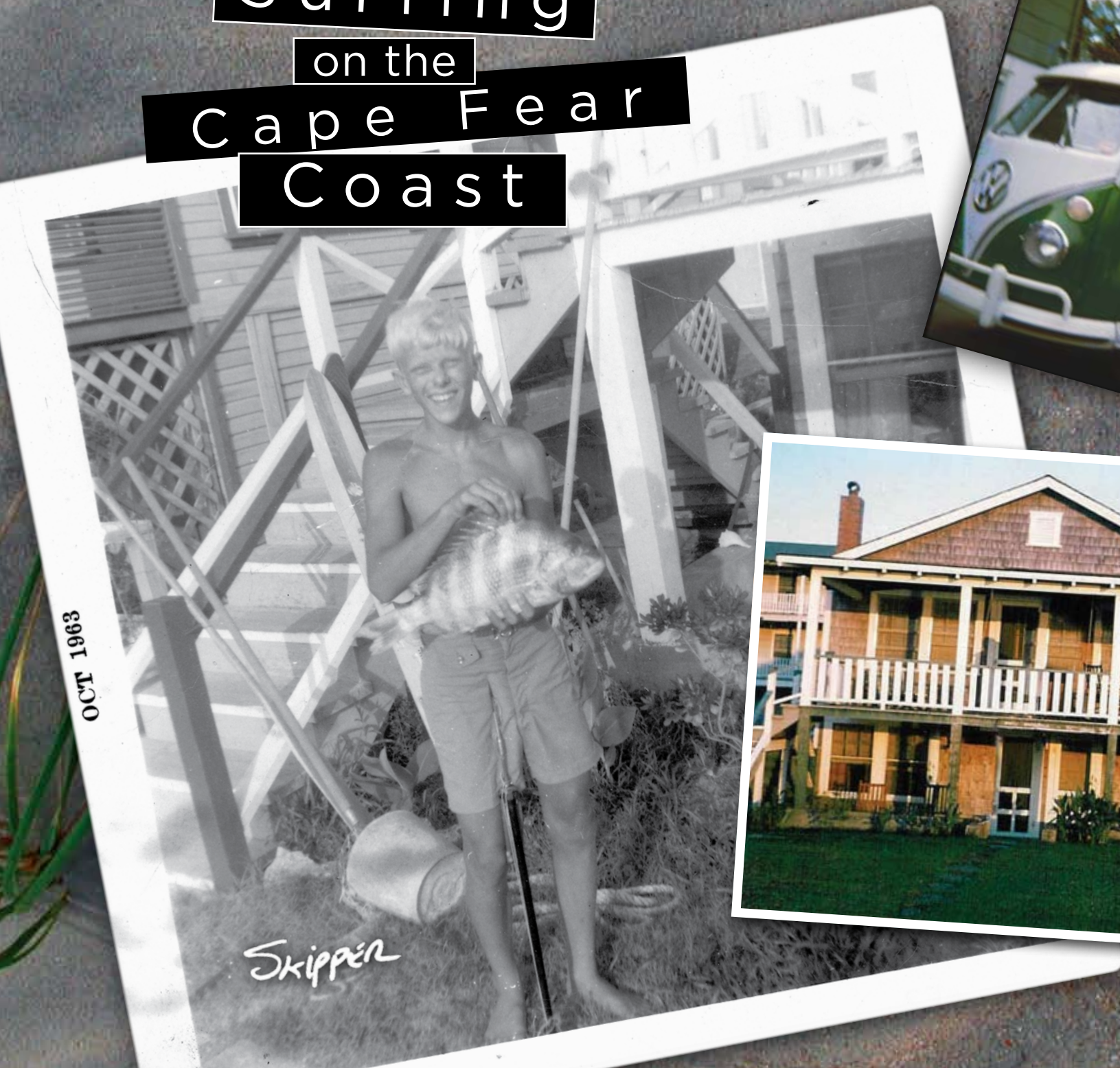
Everything for the Sportsman!



Kathryn Hoffman
A genuine Carolina Girl



Surfing
on the
Cape Fear
Coast



OCT 1963



Back
in the Day

INTRODUCTION

This is your author's first published book on Cape Fear Coast surfing history. I am not a professional journalist, historian or writer. It is a nostalgic record, illustrated as a participant with a first hand perspective. It is an educational, entertaining work published for the purpose of historic preservation. The book is not a complete history of Cape Fear Coast surfing history, but a collection of historical facts or legendary events. The majority of the book is written as a personal memoir. I have provided an insightful, accurate, credible and well organized record, based on information available at the time of publication.

The book identifies the first handful of mysterious riders of the sea, who made and composed the rightful surfing soul of the Cape Fear Coast. It is a coming of age book about regional water front cultures and the Cape Fear Coasts amateur contemporary surfers. It is about the birth of a beach phenomenon, its growth, but prior to the dramatic cultural changes of the late 1960's. The book identifies the who, what, when and where, as well as the how and why. It is a worthy work based on timeliness, proximity, consequence, human interest and usefulness.

It was on the Cape Fear Coast our jovial little group held court with many friends and admirers. We grew up at a unique time on some of the finest beaches in North Carolina. These surfers athletic, but graceful surfing abilities, hot dogging skills combined with tricks won many surfing competitions and hearts, in the early years. Some of the Cape Fear Coast's fortunate sons, daughters and favorite local surfing heroes of the era, inspired gaggles of energetic youngsters to fall in love with surfing and the waterman approach to life. We are distinguished as the first contemporary surfing pioneers on the Cape Fear Coast.

The book targets natives or long time residents of the Cape Fear Coast who are athletes, water sports enthusiasts, lifeguards, watermen and waterwomen. It specifically targets surfers born before 1950, with the exception of a few individuals and families. The book also focuses on historically and culturally significant events that occurred before 1965, with some exceptions. The limited timelines identify the true founders that popularized Cape Fear Coast contemporary surfing. It also documents their contributions to the overall character of the developments of surfing on the Cape Fear Coast. It is an effort to concentrate on doing more to

generate a connection between our local surfing heritage and our present identity of who we are today.

The Southeastern North Carolina coastline is known as the Carolina Coast or Azalea Coast. Southeastern North Carolina is also known as the Cape Fear Region, due to there proximity to the Cape Fear River and Cape Fear River Basin. According to the Cape Fear Council of Governments, the Cape Fear Region includes the counties of New Hanover, Pender, Brunswick and Columbus. It is noted, Columbus County does not border on the Atlantic Ocean and the northern end on Topsail Island is in Onslow County. The Eastern Surfing Association's Southern North Carolina District stretches from Surf City to the northern South Carolina state line. Therefore, for the purpose of this book the area of interest is defined as the Cape Fear Coast.

The following areas are identified as the locations where contemporary surfing began before 1965. The east facing surfing beaches of Onslow Bay are North Topsail Beach, Topsail Beach, Surf City, Lea Hutaff Island, Figure Eight Island, Wrightsville Beach, Masonboro Island, Carolina Beach, Wilmington Beach, Hanby Beach, Kure Beach, Fort Fisher and Baldhead

Island. The south facing beaches of Long Bay are Caswell Beach, Yaupon Beach, Long Beach, Holden Beach, Ocean Isle Beach and Sunset Beach. Today, the beaches of Long Bay are also known as the South Brunswick Islands or Brunswick County Beaches.

The Cape Fear Coast is approximately 90 miles long, from the northern South Carolina state line to the north end of Topsail Island, North Carolina. The east facing beaches of Onslow Bay are approximately 55 miles long. The south facing beaches of Long Bay are approximately 35 miles long.

The subject matter location is based on NOAA *Nautical Chart* Number 11520, Cape Hatteras, North Carolina to Charleston, South Carolina. The area of interest does not include the northern area of Onslow Bay, north of New River Inlet, North Carolina. The area of interest does not include the southern area of Long bay, south of Little River Inlet, on the North Carolina, South Carolina state line. The National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration Weather Service provides local marine weather broadcasts, including sea conditions. NOAA Weather Service defines the Cape Fear Region as New Hanover County, Pender County and Brunswick County.

The surfboard images in the book illustrate types of surfboards used during different time periods in the Cape Fear Region and other areas. On certain occasions one may observe some of the vintage surfboards being used in the ocean. However, many of the surfboards are too valuable or rare and would never be seen in the surf. Most of the surfboards are connected to the surfing legends and heroes that rode them, thus representing a direct link within an era. In July 2007 Quicksilver Edition Hawaiian Islands Vintage Surf Auction was held in Honolulu, Hawaii. In fact, a 1963 11' Surfboards Hawaii - Buzzy Trent Model, shaped by Dick Brewer, pre auction estimate was \$12,500 to \$17,500. The surfboard sold for \$33,000.

As a lifetime surfer, I have sought out and discovered a wealth of knowledge on the subject and come up with a well balanced mix. As a surfers anthology, my "feel" breathes new life and warmth into this volume. As the spirit of surfing rolls on, I am constantly reminded of my deep affection for the marvelous sea, as majestic, as it is magnificent. It is my hope, this book will bring the reader closer to the thrill of surfing and a deeper appreciation for those blessed with a lifetime of stoke.

Before 1899 - Ancient Period

1777

Captain James Cook observes surfing in Hawaii.

1820s

In Hawaii, American Calvinist missionaries ban surfing outright, almost eradicating it.

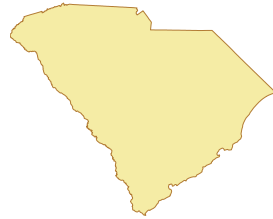


1866

Author Mark Twain surfing in Hawaii.

1868

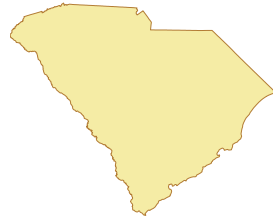
Alexander Hume Ford born in South Carolina.



1872

In travelogue, *Roughing It*, Twain describes surfing to the American public.

1898
William "Hutaff" Niestlie, cofounds Hanover Seaside Club, Carolina Beach, NC.



1899

Carolinian, Alexander Hume Ford discovers Hawaii, en route to Asia.

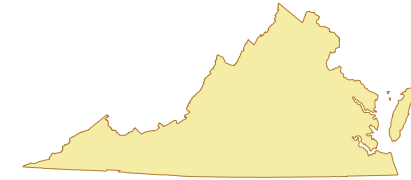
1900 to 1945 - Modern Period

1907

A.H. Ford settles in Hawaii.

1908

A.H. Ford founds The Outrigger Canoe Club in Waikiki, Hawaii. The oldest surfing organization in the world.



1912

James Jordan utilizes a surfboard in Virginia Beach.



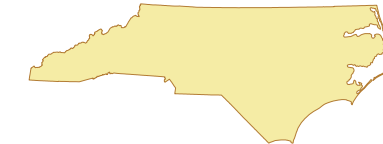
early 1920s

Lewis Phillip Hall surfs on wooden plank boards at Wrightsville Beach.



1939

Tom Blake styled hollow lifesaving surfboards used by lifeguards at Carolina Beach.



1945

A.H. Ford dies in Hawaii, buried in Georgetown, SC.

1850

1899

1900

1945



Ancient board



Solid Redwood & Wili-Wili Wood



Hollow Spruce & Mahongany

1946 to 1966 - Contemporary Period



1955
J.M. Binkley (middle) gifts a fiberglass balsa surfboard to Bill Creasy of Wrightsville Beach, NC.

1959
The movie, Gidget, shows at the Colony Theatre, in Wilmington, NC.

1959
The author's college roommate, Stanley Winbourne, surfs on Wrightsville Beach, with a fiberglass and balsa board he purchased in Virginia Beach, VA.

1960
Surfer Magazine founded.

1962
Wipeout, by the Surfaris, is released.

1962
Wrightsville Beach Surf Club founded.

1964
East Coast Surfboards founded, Carolina Beach, NC.

1965
Surfing wax becomes an available accoutrement.

1946

1966

Fiberglass over balsa with fin



Fiberglass over foam longboard



1967 to 1991 - Commercialization Period



1967
The movie, Endless Summer, shows at the Crest Theatre, at Wrightsville Beach.

1967
Eastern Surfing Association founded.

1970
Introduction of the surfboard leash.

1976
Sweetwater Surf Shop founded on Wrightsville Beach, NC.

1977
Allison Surfboards founded in Wilmington, NC.

1978
Surf City Surf Shop opens on Wrightsville Beach, NC.

1982
UNCW Surf Club officially chartered.



1982
The Cove Surf Shop opens in Carolina Beach, NC.

1983
Record Bar Pro-Am surfing competition began at Wrightsville Beach, NC..

1985
Eastern Skateboard Supply founded in Wilmington, NC.

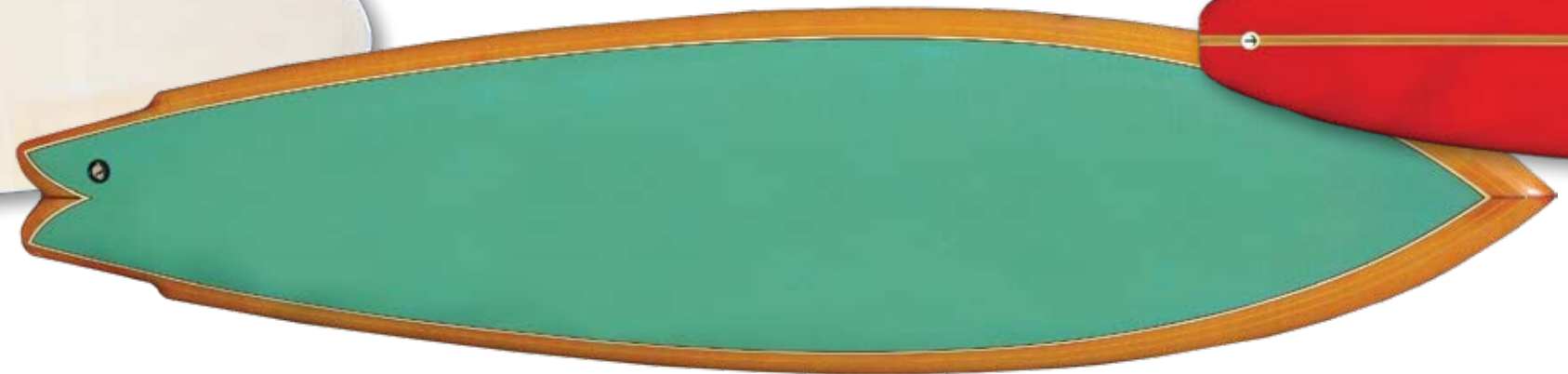
1990
Aussie Island Surf Shop opens in Wilmington, NC.

1991
Jet propelled, FlowRider wave machine, popularized.

1967

1991

Fiberglass over foam shortboard



1992 to Present - Global Period



Average Number of Surfing Days in the Cape Fear Area



HISTORY BUFF

One night I went to bed and I was 18 years old. The next morning I woke up and I was 58 years old. The older I got, the better it was. The simple fact is, time goes by so much faster as we age. When one looks back at the past, things look one way. When one looks forward into the future, things look another way. It is this difference that makes it difficult to compare and criticize sometimes. As you get older, you don't look at the world the way you used to. I returned to my native roots in North Carolina, after almost 30 years of sea duty, I was bitten by the history buff bug. I am an amateur historian and vintage video film archivist. I became fascinated with the largely unexplored history of Cape Fear Coast surfing. I have chosen the topic of Cape Fear Coast surfing history because I have strong feelings about it, I know the issues and I was clear where I stood on the issues. I felt strongly that it ought to be done by a local pioneer surfer and I refused to let our history slide into obscurity. My surfing history work gives you a personal touch with that time.

I discovered many of the contributions of the founders of Cape Fear Coast surfing lacked recognition and the work path forward was painfully clear. I felt like having a Cape Fear Coast surfing portfolio without the original

surfing pioneers would have been like having a country breakfast without eggs, leaving out the main ingredient. It made me feel like I was forgotten, but not gone. To put it in sailor talk, it made me feel #**%@!!! If, I felt under appreciated or unheralded, that was my fault. It did not dampen my spirits or plague my goals. Therefore, I decided to do something about it and became committed to documenting Cape Fear Coast surfing history, as seen through a pioneer surfer's eyes. That is how it should be remembered.

Fortunately, I had my oldest pioneer surfing friends to rely on and my preservation work accelerated. I had the need to conduct the historical documentation to put a face on the very abstract ideas about what a pioneer surfer's life was like. As I discovered, the resurrection of the old surfing days often raises perplexing questions. Over the decades, the complex web of friendships, family relationships, and shared experiences are embedded in their memories. A lot of people have great ideas about what to do and what they want to see showcased, but there are so many obstacles. It is too difficult to get off the ground - bogged down. It was also a chance to meet nearly forgotten surfing friends. I feel as though the mission is too important to let go. I truly felt it was being for-



Contestants at the South Atlantic Surfing Championships, Carolina Beach, NC - 1966

Joe Funderburg, standing on right in plain dark jacket, with First place trophy. Back Row, Left to Right: Eddie Miller, Frank Weiss, Robert Penny, Donnie Lentz, Sonny Danner, Billy Hegemann, Howard Congleton, Robert Parker, Rodney Everhart, Joe Funderburg, Doug Horne, Richard Verzaal. Front Row, Left to Right: Mike Marsh, Phil Winters, Dean Monk, Bill Curry, Lucy Price, Nancy Price.

gotten and left along the wayside. Somebody had to pick it up and get it done. I hungered to get it done and I longed for it. The concepts of the mission are conservation, preservation and education. History will remember us, our intrigues, peccadilloes and luck which have steered the course of Cape Fear Coast surfing history. They deserve to be known and recognized.

The immediacy of my task has been driven by the fact that your author is facing 60 years old. I am hailing hardy, but my body is almost 60 years old. The timeliness of my task is also driven by the fact that several of my closest friends are facing imminent life threatening health issues. I am working furiously and prefer to publish what I have now, instead of leaving thousands of words as an unpublished manuscript.

Life has taught me the ordinary is precious and a normal day with the average person is a treasure. Mark Twain once said, "There was never yet, an uninteresting life." I know the tickled pink feeling I get when I see a loved one or old friend that I have not seen in a long time. It may be sweet, bitter, joyous or sad, but to your author it is a precious moment. If, I am surfing and an old friend paddles up, my stoke is doubled. If, I am at anchor and a friend drops his anchor near mine, my enjoyment is doubled. We simply surfed a different way because we were raised in the surf lifesaving movement. Once the people pass away, that is the gift we wish for - the tickled pink, giddy



feeling of being together. They are gone and we cannot catch up anymore. I miss the feeling of connection or union – history happens.

In the beginning, I found myself suspended between a neither world of what the powerful surf industry reports as valid surfing history and reports of surfing history by less luminary, merely mortal individuals like myself. I have accepted my station in life and made peace with it. I am reasonably comfortable with this life and would not change it. We were not ignored or spurred by the surfing power structure. There are two general approaches to surfing, as a vocation or as a recreation. For the most part, my approach has always been the recreational, fun side.

As the recognition for the pioneer surfers moves forward, I have not lost sight of the contributions of the professional or amateur new school surfers. I embrace the vocational approach, at least their focus on the goodness of the surfing lifestyle. The vocational approach involves gainful occupation in a highly competitive surf industry. It is wonderful people make a living off surfing, but it does change things. Their success is great for surfing. I am appreciative and stoked to see so many people making a living providing so many products and services, but it does have

a price. When money is involved, things get serious. The vocational approach is disguised as many things, but in the end, it's all about making money. There are some strong differences in the vocational or recreational groups, which only adds diversity, but that has not created fundamental differences – we all love to surf. Some surfers are simply more ambivalent about competition than others. While some will chagrin, others will delight at the loudest crowing rooster. Suffice it to say, that these are issues about which reasonable people will differ.

In the early days before 1965, surfing lacked productive enterprises collectively. The beach elders generally discouraged surfing, so we spent a lot of energy just trying to be accepted. A major change came with the formation of the Eastern Surfing Association (ESA) in 1967, organizing surfers in a brotherhood and sisterhood that would fight for maintaining and enhancing surfing rights throughout the eastern seaboard. Once the ESA was organized, the competition – commercial aspect of surfing started overtaking the lifestyle side of surfing and a line in the sand was drawn. The ESA provided a sophisticated management style and did a great job of organizing surfing in a better way.

Common to historical documentations, history is often documented by those who reside in the region their entire lives and those with the wearwithal to provide the time and availability. Much of the current surfing and waterman Cape Fear Coast history has been documented by those who have remained on the Cape Fear Coast their entire lives – the geography factor. Virtually everyone remembers notable persons, but our local surfing history is full of examples that belie that notion. I have spent almost 30 years of my adult life living away from the Cape Fear Coast. I simply furthered my development by traveling by sea. It is a common thread that some people have a well established history of moving away from their families to earn more money in a bigger coastal city, but they do not forget where they come from.

After, the 1960's, there was a lot of the world I had not seen and things I had not done before, so I went out and did them, but I always wanted to come back home. The most common theme is a longing to be, back home. There is a longing to be recognized once one gets back home, but that is a world unto itself. It is a good thing to be recognized, but it doesn't happen all the time. There is a similar life there, but it is very different. Your author's immortalized view of his youth is a common

HUTTAFFS ROOTS

It is the Cape Fear River and the Atlantic Ocean that has held us. It has been said that historians insist that writers live in the places they are going to be writing about, so that they really get to know the background before putting pen to paper. It is for that reason I include my family background in this book. My combined maternal and paternal roots are approximately 16 generations deep in the Cape Fear Coast. Life by the sea is in my genetic makeup. I have sea water in my veins.

Your author is Joseph Edward "Skipper" Funderburg (1948-). The roots of the Funderburg or paternal side of my family run deep on the Cape Fear Coast. In 1898, my paternal great grandfather, Dr. William "Hutaff" Niestlie (1860-1933) was a founder of the Hanover Seaside Club on Carolina Beach. The Niestlie Family migrated to America from Switzerland and Germany in the mid 1800's. During the 1860's, Dr. William "Hutaff" Niestlie's (1860-1933) biological parents, Joseph Niestlie and Louisa Gade Niestlie, died of a fever in New York City. At approximately 6 years old, Dr. Niestlie was moved to North Carolina, adopted and raised by Henry Hutaff, Sr. (1834-1893) and his wife Elisa Gade Hutaff (1838-1924) of Wilmington. Elisa Gade Hutaff and Louisa Gade Niestlie were sisters. Dr. Niestlie was

raised with George Henry Hutaff, (1874-1957) and Tabitha Cromwell Hutaff (1877-1964). The Hutaff Family owned and operated the Coca Cola Bottling Company of Wilmington. The magnificent Memorial Clock on the north east corner of North Front Street and Walnut Street, Wilmington, in front of Cape Fear Community College was dedicated in honor of George Henry Hutaff, (1874-1957). Lea Hutaff Island, located between Figure Eight Island and Topsail Island is named after the Hutaff Family and Lea Family. The southern portion of the island is known as Hutaff Island and the northern portion of the island is known as Lea Island.

Dr. William "Hutaff" Niestlie married Katherine Baker (1859-1919). Katherine Baker Niestlie was a well respected homemaker and participated in many church activities. In 1869, the Baker (Bocher-Bacher) Family was in the second pastorate of Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 12 North 6th Street, Wilmington. By the early 1900's, Niestlie Drug Store, 415 North Seventh Street, Wilmington, was established and was the future home of the Community Hospital. Dr. Niestlie was the longtime proprietor and an advocate for public health in the community. He was a respected pharmacist and country doctor. Niestlie, Funderburg and

Nissen Families have been members of the St. Paul's Evangelical Church for more than a hundred years.

From Wilmington, it was a long, rough sandy roadway or an adventurous boat trip down the Cape Fear River to Carolina Beach in the late 1800's. In the spring of 1906 the electric trolley car line had been constructed from Wilmington to Wrightsville Beach. Months in the planning, the founders and charter members of the Hanover Seaside Club purchased property on Wrightsville Beach, just north of the Lumina Pavilion. Finally, the Hanover Seaside Club on Carolina Beach sustained severe damage due to a hurricane in fall of 1906 and was not rebuilt. The Hanover Seaside Club was rebuilt on Wrightsville Beach, because access was made easier by the new electric trolley line.

Your author is a descendant of Alice Funderburg (1908-1967) and Clyde Willis Buddy Harrelson (unknown-2005) developers of Harrelson's Marina (Oak Winds Marina), between Pages Creek and Howe Creek along Middle Sound Loop Road, Wilmington. It was built in 1940 and was the first marina in the Middle Sound Area. The Harrelson family provided marine services for many years and dredged properties on the entire 90 miles of the Cape Fear Coast. In a

1967 dispute at the marina, an angry boat captain shot a gun at Clyde Harrelson. The bullet missed Clyde, but killed my great aunt, Alice Funderburg Harrelson.

In the mid 1700's Funderburg pioneers and explorer's arrived in the coastal Carolina's, via the "Old Wagon Road." My paternal grandparents were Louise Niestlie (1895-1969) and John Braudaus Funderburg, Sr. (1901-1971). Alice Funderburg Harrelson's brother was my grandfather, John Braudaus Funderburg. My grandfather's other sister was Rose Lee Funderburg, who married John David Canady of Saint Paul's and Tarheel, NC. Their son, David Spurgeon Canady owned real estate on Topsail Island as early as the 1960's. Clyde Harrelson was developing parts of Topsail Island and sold the land to David Spurgeon Canady. We attended numerous gatherings and family reunions at the Canady's, Topsail Beach home.

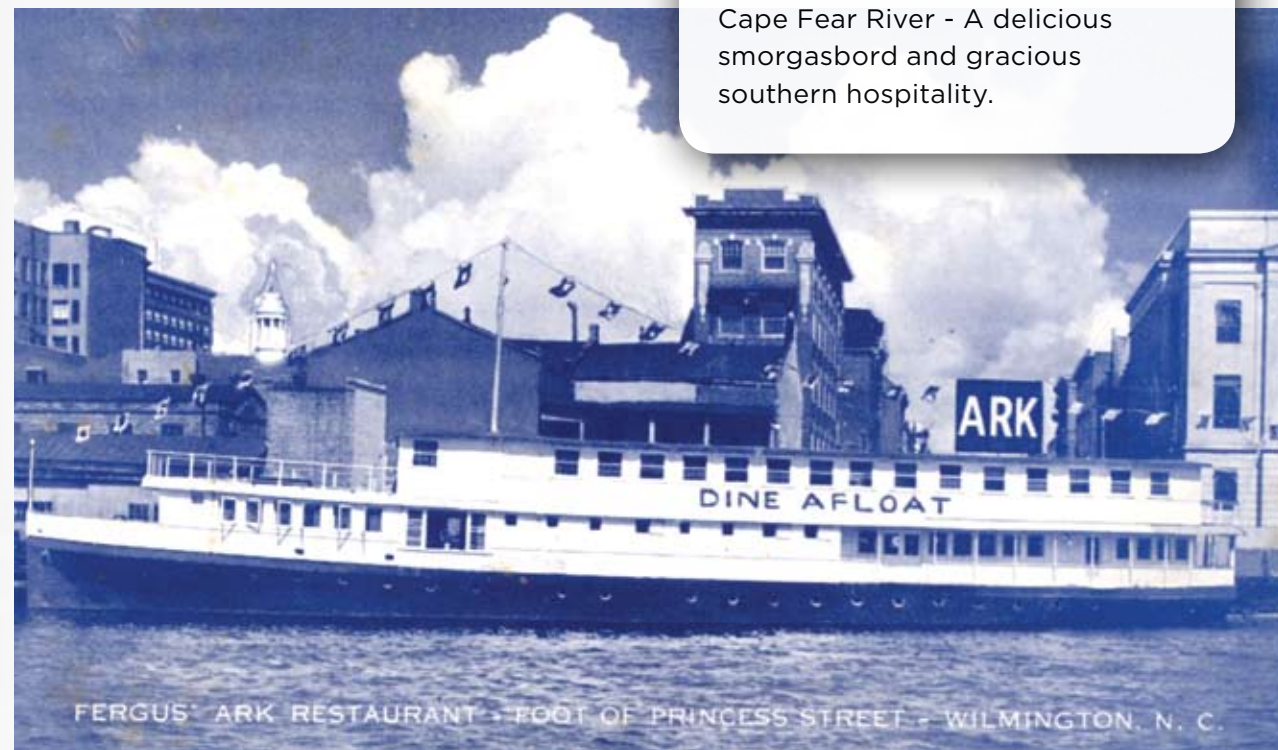
Nell Jewel Funderburg of South Carolina was John Bradus Funderburg, Sr.'s sister. Their father, Baxter Spurgeon Funderburg (1859-1934) was a Baptist Minister and circuit preacher during the horse and buggy days in South Carolina. His daughter, Nell Jewel Funderburg, was outgoing and reported to be "a shocker" for wearing a single piece bathing suit, with-

out swimming shoes, stockings or leggings to a church beach picnic. The drag of 25 pounds of sodden bathing suit material was enough to drag a woman under water and drown her. The nerve only men could swim, women were expected to wade and lollygag in the wavelets.

As well, the roots of the Fergus or maternal side of my family run deep on the Cape Fear Coast. Dr. James Fergus, surgeon and magistrate co-founded the Town of Brunswick on the banks of the Cape Fear River. New Hanover County and Brunswick County courts recorded real estate transactions between the Fergus Family and others, as early as 1731. The maternal side of my family continued to prosper, participating in significant events and made many outstanding achievements during the early 1700's through the late 1800's. The Fergus family grew into agriculture, then went in the fishing and fish distribution business in the late 1800's..

Your author is a relative of Captain John Hazard Hanby (1841-1910) and his son, Captain John Ranquill Hanby (1872-1948), who owned and operated the Atlantic View Hotel on Harbor Island, Wrightsville Beach around 1905. The hotel was destroyed by fire. Hanby Beach, just north of Kure Beach was named after Archibald Joseph Hanby (1868-1926), who





The Fergus Ark Restaurant

Cape Fear River - A delicious smorgasbord and gracious southern hospitality.

developed portions of Hanby Beach. Hanby Beach was easily recognized with its unusually high sand dunes. Hanby Beach was well known for the abundance of fish during the spring and fall fishing seasons. It is also likely that Hanby Beach was named after Captain John Hazard Hanby, a prominent fisherman. The elder Captain Hanby was a contemporary of Captain Hans A. Kure, Sr. (1851-1914), founder of Kure Beach. The Fergus-Risley side of the family is related to the Hanby Family.

My maternal great aunt, Eslie Risley Keen (1889-1985), was like a mother to me, during various periods of my youth. Mary Hunter

Risley Fergus (1892-1991) was my maternal grandmother. Risley's Cottages and Rooms on Harper Avenue, in Carolina Beach, owned and operated by the Risley family.

My maternal great grandfather was Daniel John Fergus (1858-1933). It is interesting, that my great great grandmothers birthplace is recorded on her death certificate, as Atlantic Ocean. My grandfather, Frank Thompson Fergus (1892-1938), Roy Clark Fergus (1885-1947) and John Vail Fergus (1887-1971) were brothers. As recorded on his death certificate, their older brother, Henry Thompson Fergus (1881-1938) drowned in the inland waterway, due to

cramps. Therefore, I am a relative of Carolina Beach Mayor Roy Clark Fergus (1885-1947). He served as Mayor from 1935 to 1943. In the fall of 1940, a terrible fire decimated much of the beach business district. Mayor Fergus responded by strengthening and enforcing building regulations and codes on Carolina Beach. A combination of Mayor Fergus' and citizens' efforts resulted in the area becoming known as, "The South's Miracle Beach." Mayor Fergus was owner of R. C. Fergus and Sons Wholesale Seafood. I am a relative of Ray Funderburk, Town Manager of Carolina Beach during the 1970's. I am a direct descendent of Estelle Eloise Sally Fergus (1896-1982) and John Vail Fergus (1887-1971), owner of the John Fergus Motel and Cottages on Carolina Beach. The beach resort had the first swimming pool on Pleasure Island and a well known gift shop. The Fergus Motel and Apartments was an institution during the 1940's through the 1960's on Carolina Beach and was located on the corners of South Lake Park Boulevard and Hamlet Street. John Vail Fergus told me on several occasions about surfing on wooden plank boards in his youth on Carolina Beach. Estelle and John Fergus's daughter is Johnnye Marie Fergus Pearce (1946-).

Your author is a direct descendent of Virginia Mae McFadyen Fergus (1920-1993) and Ivan Eldridge Fergus (1914-1998), who owned and operated the world famous floating Ark Restaurant in Wilmington, from 1951 to 1965. Two of their daughters are Dolly Ruth Fergus Bidwan and Virginia "Ginny" Fergus Mullinax. They are the first female surfers on the Cape Fear Coast. Ivan Eldridge Fergus was the son of Roy Clark Fergus. The Ark was moored on the Cape Fear River at the foot of Princess Street. Walking down the gangway and into the elegant vessel, customers were greeted by the gracious Fergus Family. The Fergus family was the personification of southern hospitality and they were renown for their delicious food. The Ark's were eventually built on land through out the Cape Fear Coast, with each building architecturally embellished with a bow, stern and smokestack. The Fergus family built and operated the Fergus Ark Restaurant at 1414 Airlie Road, Wrightsville Beach. The Fergus Family sold it to the State on North Carolina and is currently known as the Bridgetender Restaurant.

My immediate Fergus-Funderburg family owned and operated apartment rentals and boat charters on Wrightsville Beach for many years. I am a former owner and resident of 4



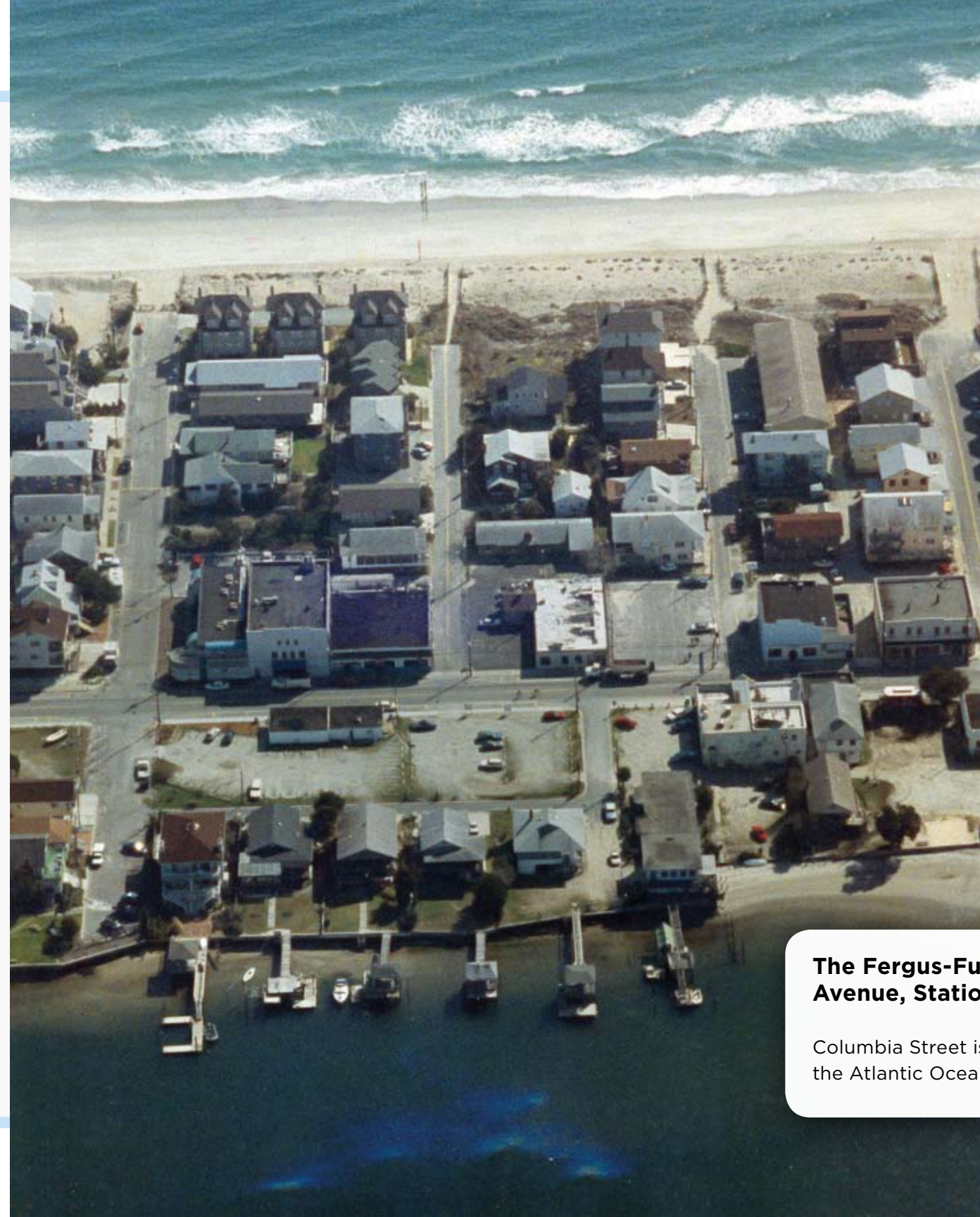


Channel Avenue, Wrightsville Beach. My mother, Eslie Claire Fergus Funderburg (1924-2005) was an aqua belle icon on Wrightsville Beach and the Cape Fear Coast for many years. By the 1940's her *modus operandi*, including our beach bivouac, was not purely recreation, it was a medically mandated practice prescribed and monitored by her physicians. Her reputable physician's made a virtue out of the therapeutic value of aquatic exercise. She was one of the first USCG licensed female boat captains in North Carolina, a regional and state tennis champion. As well, she served as the local Welcome Wagon Representative with the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce. The Funderburgs beloved vessels *Winner* and *Claire* carried 1000's of residents and visitors through the Cape Fear Coast sounds boat riding, water skiing and on to the wild islands for picnics, shelling, swimming, fishing, beach combing and surfing. For my family, prowling the seashore was doctor's orders and personal water savvy in rough or calm water was mandatory.

My father, William Spurgeon Funderburg, Sr. (1924-), was a locomotive engineer, general roundhouse supervisor and general diesel and steam supervisor at the Atlantic Seaboard Coastline Railroad, Wilmington. He provided the financial benefits that supported the family's numerous activities. My father provided an aquatic permission slip so our family could enjoy a time and place entirely removed from the messy business of survival. He is a resource-

ful environmental activist whose initiative focused on protecting water quality in the marine environment. He worked with several community groups to reduce water pollution and strengthen environmental programs. He is also an accomplished business man, he developed and dredged many locations on the Cape Fear Coast, including Parmele Isle, Wrightsville Beach. My brother was William Spurgeon "Buddy" Funderburg, Jr. (1944-1996) and participated in many of the family activities. My beloved brother served as lifeguard and mentor, as he was four years my senior. Your author was the fortunate son, that grew up as boat boy, lifeguard, water ski mate, then skipper under the tutelage of a mother's and father's guiding hand. We were taught to love and respect the river, beach and sea - with a purple passion.

The Fergus and Funderburg families have been involved in numerous different activities on the Cape Fear Coast since the 1700's: medical services, legal services, agriculture, real estate, general contracting, marine dredging and marina development, fisherman, seafood distributors, seafood restaurants, vacation rental apartments, boat charters, yachting, welcome wagon service, tourist industry, community service and much more. Your author's knowledge comes from many years of coastal heritage. Our love of the sea is passed down generation, after generation. I revere my God - fearing, seafaring ancestors.



1. Funderburg residence
2. Shuny's Arcade & Grill
3. Robert's Grocery
4. Crest Theatre
5. Columbia Street
6. Jetty
7. Wit's End Pub
8. Ocean Surf Shop
9. King Neptune Restaurant
10. Wilmington Light Infantry Club
11. Bill & Elaine Creasy's Residence

The Fergus-Funderburg residence on Channel Avenue, Station One, Wrightsville Beach.

Columbia Street is far left - A favorite surfing jetty on the Atlantic Ocean is exposed by erosion.

9'2" Hawaiian Pro Board by Donald Takayama (2000)

Triple fin design, blue.
Surf Tech II, resin colored,
beveled rail in tail, very sharp
turning, turns on a dime.



Surf Rider

Original artwork by Gary Longordo.
Wilmington, NC.



Custom Balsa & Redwood Surfboards Replica Surfboards From 1930s Wall Hangers & Surfboard Coffee Tables

As the popularity of Spencer's wooden surfboards expanded, so did his reputation as one of surfing's leading replica wooden surfboard builders.

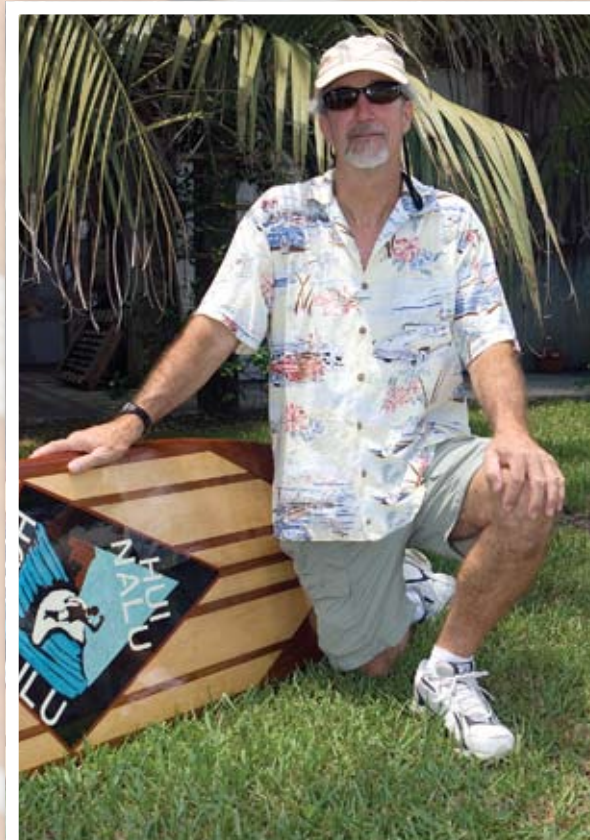
An expert wooden surfboard designer, innovator and master craftsman, Mike Spencer is a career builder and shaper.

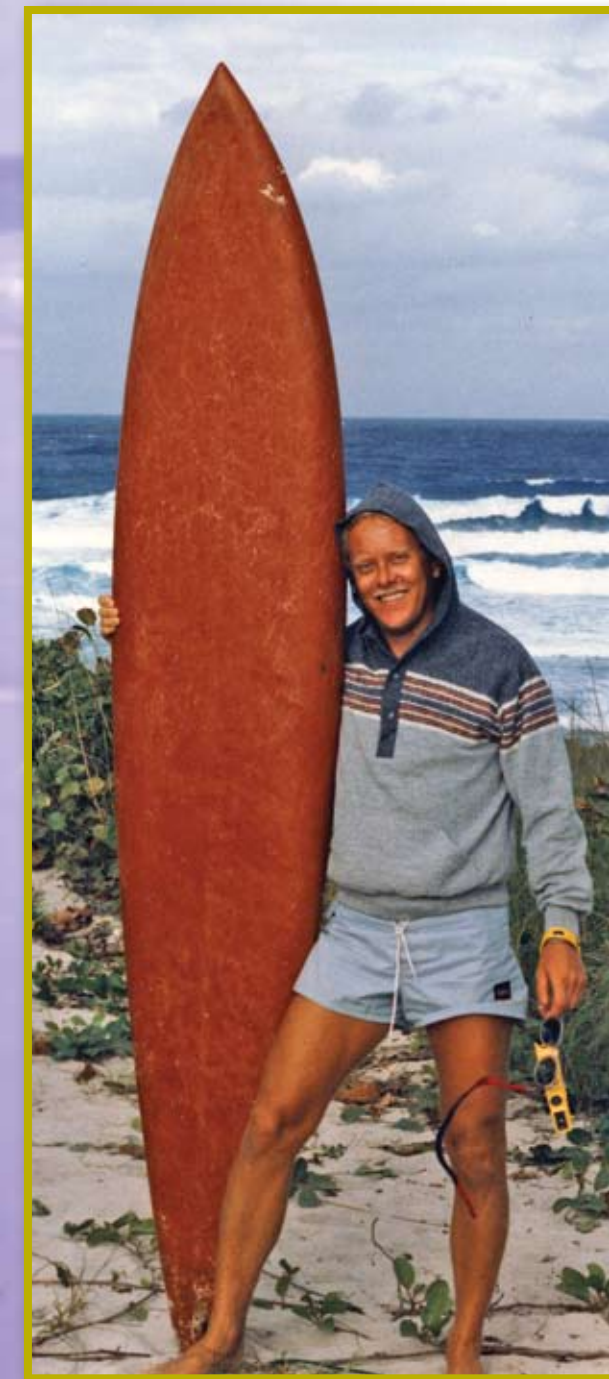
Serving the Cape Fear Coast and Hilo, Hawaii.

Spencer Surfboards

Owner Mike Spencer
Since 1965

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About the Author

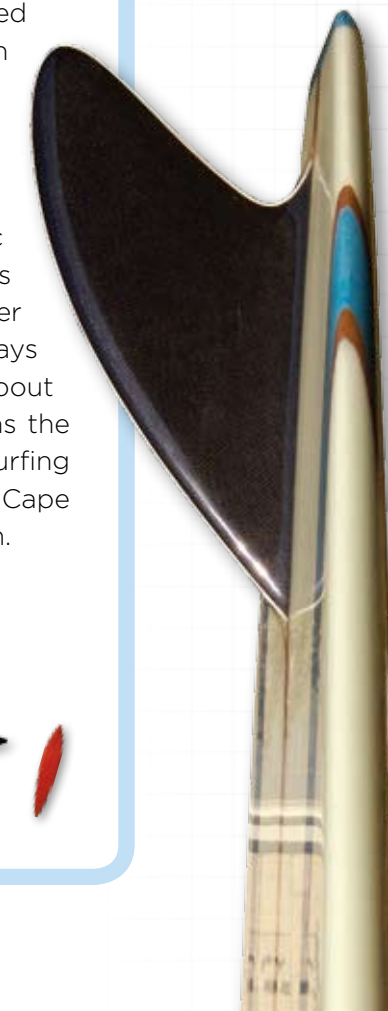
Joseph "Skipper" Funderburg

Your author is a renown Cape Fear Coast pioneer surfer and waterman. He is known for his humor, perseverance and unsinkable nature. He grew up on the Cape Fear Coast, started his apprenticeship in surfing in the mid 1950s, played around with balsa surfboards in the late 1950s and then helped popularize stand up surfing by the early 1960s. He has worked as a horse stable owner and construction manager, but beginning in 1968 and for more than a third of a century, his work life was spent as a professional ship or yacht captain. He has lived a waterman's life and ridden waves all over the Atlantic Ocean, Pacific Ocean and elsewhere. As a well-seasoned traveler and a master mariner, the treasures he liberated always included good surf. He has been writing about surfing for over forty years and serves as the native Cape Fear Coast's preeminent surfing historian. He currently resides on the Cape Fear Coast with his wife and two children.

Skipper 

10'4" Hobie Surfboards Dick Brewer model (2002)

Ultimate shape for big wave boarding. One of the most in-demand big wave boards.





Acknowledgements

Your author sincerely thanks and gratefully acknowledges the help, advice and encouragement of the following:

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The Future...

I have done my best to get a number of people interested in this endeavor. This is a call to everyone out there interested in contributing to my future books. I would hope you contact me and contribute to the body of the work. I am constantly on the hunt for photos, articles, artifacts and video film that can be scanned or photographed and presented in a pleasing way so that others can enjoy them. You may be surprised at things other people find interesting. I will keep you posted on the website with news and information on the development of subsequent books. Please, contact me if you have something you would like to contribute to a future book.
info@carolinabeach.net



Skipper & Shari Funderburg

Surfing on the Cape Fear Coast

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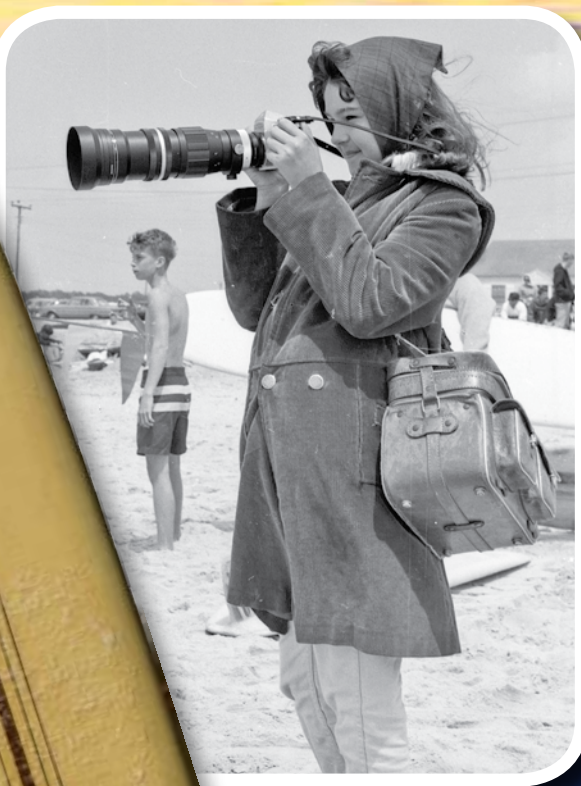
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Sarah and Joey Funderburg
Author's children, July 2007

