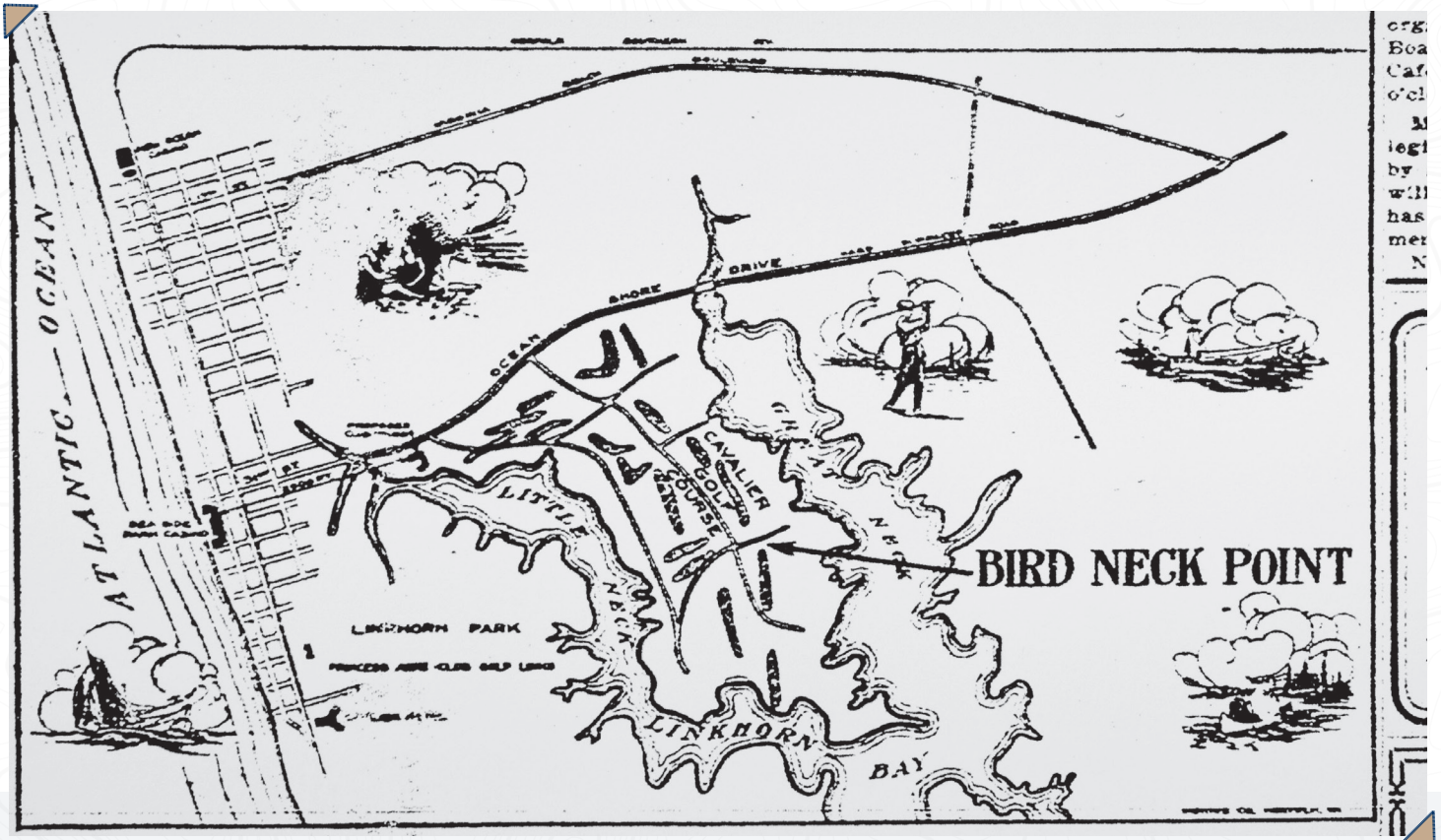


THE CAVALIER HISTORICAL COMMITTEE PRESENTS
CAVALIER CHRONICLES

ISSUE 1 - CAVALIER CHRONICLES - VIRGINIA BEACH, VA

BIRDNECK, BEFORE THE CLUB



Part of a newspaper advertisement in the *Virginian Pilot*, from June 30, 1926, Atlantic Coast Realty announcing home sales in Bird Neck Point.

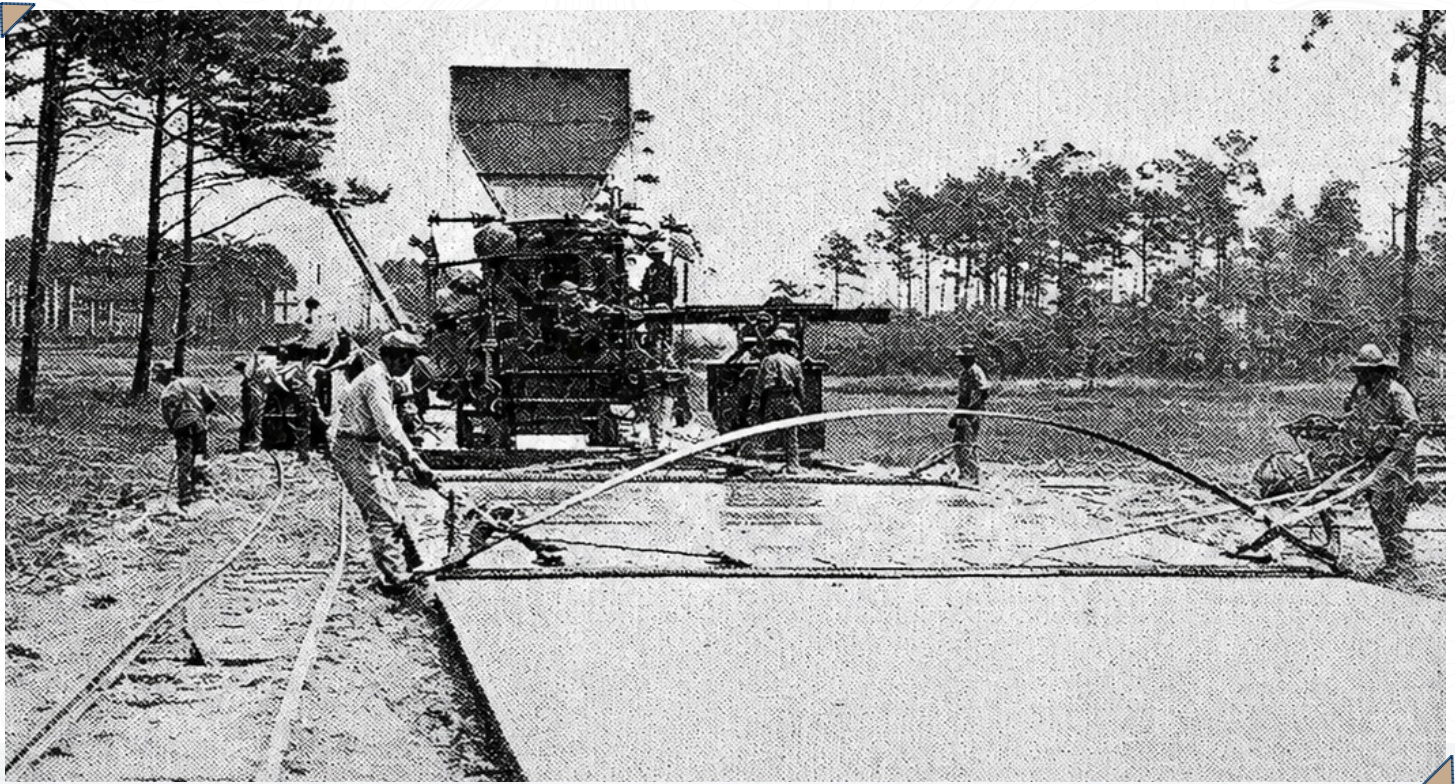
The Future Birdneck Area Before Establishment of the Club

Destined to become the land of the most beautiful sunsets in Virginia Beach, the area long before golf, roads, or country club life took shape already carried a distinct identity shaped by geography and earlier ownership. The Birdneck area was defined by an undulating shoreline, marshes, and natural land framed by multiple inlets. At its apex, this beautiful area featured two bodies of water: Linkhorn Bay and Little Neck Creek.

Among the earliest family names tied to Birdneck was the Ackiss family. The Ackiss family were white slave owners. After emancipation, one of the Ackiss slaves who had worked the land for the white Ackiss family, Smallwood Ackiss (named after his owner), helped establish local occupation and ownership. In the nineteenth-century history of the area, land was transferred from the Smallwood Ackiss family to Richard Teller Crane II. Smallwood Ackiss died in 1889 when a tree fell on him. While the full documentary bridge between the Ackiss holdings and the later Crane landholdings remains incomplete, the repeated appearance of the name “Birdneck” makes clear that the site’s history began long before organized Club development.

The name variations found in surviving records, Bird Neck, Birdneck, and Bird Neck Point, suggest a place whose spelling shifted more than its destiny. Across maps, advertisements, and local reporting, the same geography remains recognizable, even as the official title of the area changes slightly from source to source.

The physical character of the land also shaped how it would later be developed. Taking advantage of the open shoreline, marsh edges, and broad stretches of unworked ground, Birdneck Point would eventually become part of both the real estate and Club identity. The natural qualities of the area invited development because of its unique landscape and setting.



From the Virginian Pilot - 1926-08-08: *“Photograph shows workmen pouring the last unit of concrete for the Ocean Shores Boulevard (later renamed Laskin Road) on Wednesday. The roadway will be open for traffic shortly, thereby greatly facilitating the handling of the growing streams of automobiles and other vehicles in the Virginia Beach-Cape Henry-Lynnhaven Inlet section.”*

The environment that would eventually support fairways, boating, stables, trap shooting, and leisure was already recognizable as a distinctive part of the larger Virginia Beach landscape.

What survives from this earliest geographical history, bounded by beautiful inlets and stunning sunsets, is far from the full story of the Cavalier Golf and Yacht Club itself, but it reveals a place where families, members, and geography formed the groundwork upon which later development would take hold and thrive. The beginnings of a Virginia Beach destination were already in place and would soon be developed into a playground for the guests of the Cavalier Hotel.

Next Chapter: The Cavalier Hotel Brings Its Guests To Birdneck Area for Leisure and Relaxation...

Concrete Pouring On Cardinal Road To Begin Tomorrow

Pouring of concrete for the hard surfacing of the Cardinal road, the main highway through Bird Neck Point, will commence tomorrow, according to H. M. White, president of the Atlantic Coast Line Realty Company, which is developing the property. The road, costing about \$25,000, will be a little over a mile long and connect with the Ocean Shore boulevard.

It will not add to traffic facilities inasmuch as it is a dead end road, but will afford access to the property. The contract was let to Tunstall & Jackson, of Norfolk, and will be completed about October 15, according to Mr. White.

From the Virginian Pilot - 1926-08-29

Let's Be Cavalier!

We are actively gathering stories, photographs, artifacts, as well as personal reflections that contribute not only to the milestones, but also to the memories. We are looking to document and to forever preserve the everyday moments, the friendships, the traditions, and the triumphs that have defined our shared experience.

Whether you have been part of the journey for decades or just for a season, your perspective and contribution help to complete the picture. We invite all members, families, friends, and neighbors of the Club to contribute and help us piece together the full tapestry of our history.

Visit our website to learn more: WWW.CAVALIER1928.COM

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