

Frank Emerson Statement

Back in the mid 60s one of the most popular places to surf was on North Beach at a place we called "The Well". Sometime later we were informed by local fishermen that during big nor'easter's there were some sizable waves at the "Inside Jettys" on the Vilano side. This spot was about 200 yards to the west of the beaches and in the inlet. During nor Easter's these waves were protected from the wind and the current. We surfed there for years. During the winter of 67/68 the storms cut into the inlet and at Porpoise Point where it meets the Intracoastal Waterway a new surf spot was born. The waves came in the inlet and when they met the Intracoastal currents they would turn and appear to be coming from the Bridge of Lions/The Exchange bank. The wind was blowing north east and the waves were coming from the south west. Perfect off shore conditions. I remember John Bromerski and Dennis "Bidly" Hunter riding waves 100 yards or more up the Intracoastal Waterway headed towards the old Vilano Bridge. The storms and currents removed a lot of sand but they could not remove this mud bank. It was so slippery just standing on it you would lose your footing. The best you could hope for was to only have mud on the bottoms of your feet. Once outside you would spend five minutes cleaning this mud off. If not you could not stand on your board, too slippery. We would get our laughs by watching newbies walk into the water and fall flat on their butt. This surf spot only lasted two or three months and things changed. I can remember driving on the old Vilano Bridge headed to Porpoise Point and seeing surfers riding waves north up the Intracoastal Waterway. This situation may never happen again. Glad I and others experienced it.