

THE BEAUFORT NEWS

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THE BEAUFORT NEWS THURSDAY JULY 23 1925

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FORT MACON PARK HANDED OVER TO NORTH CAROLINA

Considerable Crowd Present at
Interesting Exercises. Gov-
ernor McLean Makes
Address

SOME REPAIRS MADE

With simple but impressive ceremonies on last Friday afternoon the 17th, old Fort Macon and some 400 acres of land were formally taken over by the State of North Carolina for use as a public park. Congressman Charles L. Abernethy made the presentation for the Federal government and Governor Angus W. McLean accepted it on behalf of the State. Mr. W. D. Harris of the State Department of Conservation and Development presided over the meeting.

After reviewing the 120th regiment at Camp Glenn, Governor McLean at about five o'clock accompanied by various military and civilian dignitaries newspaper folks and others boarded the State Fish Commission boat commanded by Captain John A. Nelson and went over to the Fort. The Fort Macon Coast Guard chaser also carried a number of people and various boats from Morehead City and Beaufort brought others making a crowd of several hundred. The Beaufort chapter of the U. D. C. attended in a body.

After making a short inspection of the old fortress the crowd assembled under the shade of several water oaks where a small stand had been constructed and the ceremonies took place. The regimental band played a selection and then Dr. George W. Law offered the invocation. Mr. Harris introduced as the first speaker Congressman Abernethy who on behalf of the Federal Government presented the property to the State. Mr. Abernethy predicted a great future for Beaufort and Morehead City and said the park should be kept for all time as a place of recreation for the people. Governor McLean was the next speaker and his remarks which were favorably received appear on another page of this newspaper. J. E. Woodland, chairman of the board of county commissioners made a short speech in which he refers to the progress the county is making and in appropriate language extended a welcome to all to the exercises. The last speaker was Mr. A. D. Ward of New Bern who read a short sketch of the three forts that have occupied this point. His address appears elsewhere in the paper. The exercises concluded with the rendition of the Star Bangled Banner by the band while the crowd stood at attention. Fort Macon is now the property of the people of North Carolina. Some repairs are being made there now on the small scale and an effort will be made to get a good sized appropriation for the park from the Legislature when it meets again.

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BETTER DOCKING FACILITIES ARE BEING UROVIDED

An improvement to the wharfage facilities of the town of Beaufort is now in progress. The old wharf at the place known as the county dock has been repaired and put in good shape and a good sized addition is being made to it. Mr. Henry W. Noe is doing the work for the town. Another wharf will also be built at the foot of Craven street and possibly elsewhere. There has been talk of building some wharves for the especial benefit of the yachts that pass through twice a year. At times when, by reason of bad weather or other causes, a large number of yachts are in the harbor they have considerable difficulty in finding places to dock.

The reason the Beaufort News is the best advertising medium to reach Carteret county folks, is because it is read regularly by a large number of the most substantial people in the county.

County Farm Agent Hugh Overstreet is on a vacation trip visiting his relatives in Mississippi.

DR. MASON MAKES ANOTHER PROTEST

Criticises Statement in News
And Pays His Respects To
Others

Editor Beaufort News:
In your issue of 9th. inst under head "State Petitions Army for Bridge" you say "Tourists finds it difficult to come to Beaufort by automobile, and impossible without a long circuitous route over a bad road." This is a most surprising statement to come from one on the Beaufort side of the "Great Divide." I cannot understand why any one interested in the historic town of Beaufort should wish to prejudice the minds of the reading public, and especially tourists, against the road to his home town. Can it be that the proprietors of the local hotels which the editor says are filled to capacity, have requested the News to do something or say something to check the on rush of visitors?

Now Mr. Editor, I do not wish to use harsh words, or be in the least discourteous. I am very sorry, however, that your strong prejudice for Bridge and Bonds, has caused you to make this very remarkable statement, which if you will take time to drive out on this old stage road, on which George Washington is said to have ridden, you will see for yourself is UNTRUE IN EVERY RESPECT.

Wherein is it difficult for tourists to get to Beaufort by automobile? Not distance, sure. The mileage from East Creek to Beaufort is nearly 23 miles; that to Morehead City is five or six miles less, and if that "Dream" Bridge were built the distance to Beaufort via Morehead City, would be only 4 miles less than by Harlowe, five to ten minutes by automobile. And the road, East Creek to Beaufort, is GOOD as you will see when you come out in your Nash or Limousine, making 40 miles an hour. If you can not come, I will refer you to the declarations of several of your correspondents on the other side, that this road is one of the best sand-clay roads in the State." But come yourself Mr. Editor and stop to see the writer who is anxious to show you the place where the stage stopped for rest and change of horses.

And wherein is the route so CIRCUITOUS? The State engineer in laying out this part of State highway No. 10, left the old road in places, cutting through woods and fields, regardless of any land owner's convenience or wishes, for the purpose of making the road more nearly straight and direct. Is it a fact that this very expensive survey, has resulted in making the road "long and circuitous" instead of shorter, and more direct? No, there is nothing so far as road is concerned, to cause any tourist to hesitate to go to Beaufort. If the hotels are full to capacity, the citizens of Beaufort should let loose some of their surplus money, and build a nice, large, modern hotel, to give ample room and necessary attractions for visitors; and let them know that the road to the historic town is GOOD, and at least one mile shorter than when the stage ran daily over it.

True, this part of the State highway has not yet been hard surfaced. The Highway Commission have spent in grading and for bridges on this road (Harlowe to Beaufort), over \$111,000. We have confidently waited for them to complete this road, because of their double, yea, thrifible obligation to do so. Now it seems that our enemies of the other side have prevailed with the Highway Commission to abandon this road, and apply the funds properly belonging to the road to building a very unnecessary and expensive bridge over Newport river, connecting two small towns, having but little business relations, and less love and affection for each other. Think of putting one, or may be two, million dollars of the peoples' money into such a project, whose chief use would be for joy riders, mostly nights and Sundays. Such senseless waste of public funds should not be endorsed by our great Governor, whose very wise policy is for economy in public

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NOW INSPECTING SOUND FISHERIES

U. S. Experts Are Getting In-
formation About Fish In
Core And Pamlico Sounds

(By Bureau of Fisheries)
One of the most important and largest of fishery investigations ever conducted on the Atlantic sea-board is now being undertaken by the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries, in cooperation with the N. C. Fish Commission in the waters of Pamlico and Core Sounds.

It is an extensive scientific study of the summer fisheries of these sounds, with special stress laid on the action of the two chief types of gear—pound nets and long haul seines—upon the fish stock.

Pamlico Sound, the second largest Sound on the Atlantic coast in conjunction with Core Sound supports a summer fishery consisting approximately of 4 million pounds of trout; 2 million pounds of croakers; 1-2 million pounds of spots and 200 thousand pounds of butterfish (1923 U. S. B. Statistics). While all but trout have increased rapidly until recently, these fisheries are now and they are now believed to be declining.

The main purpose of this investigation is to determine the causes of this decline and to find remedial measures for building up the fine fish stock which these waters once held. Much valuable information will be obtained as a basis for intelligent fisheries conservation.

The work was begun about the middle of June and will not end until the close of the fishing season in November. The field work is being conducted by Mr. John C. Pearson under the general supervision of Mr. Elmer Higgins, both experts of the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

The problem is to determine the course of the fishery at different localities during the season and the relative importance of each kind of fish according to locality and type of fishing gear used; to discover the relative percentage of immature and mature fish in the catch at various times and localities according to the type of gear used; and to learn the relative destructiveness of different types of gear in different places and at different times during the fishing season.

By an examination of the size and age of the catch according to time and locality with measurements from sample lots of fish and the collection and study of scales to determine age of fish, much valuable information will be obtained toward solving a hard problem. Around 3,000 fish are being measured each week with the expectation of having at the close of the work the measurement of over 75,000 fish with a collection of scales covering around 15,000 individuals. About ten fishing centers around Core and Pamlico Sounds are being covered each week, entailing a cruising distance of nearly 150 miles a week.

The N. C. Fish Commissioner through Commissioner John Nelson has put at the disposal of the Bureau for this work the State patrol boat "Neuse" under Capt. J. R. Morris. Regular trips to the fishing grounds are made each week on this boat and the 75,000 fish will be measured and otherwise examined. Beside obtaining the information mentioned above, physical conditions such as temperature, salinity of the water; details of construction and use of gear as well as the fishermen's experiences on the catch, movements of schools and weather and local conditions affecting the catch are also being recorded.

Although the investigation is technical in aspect, Mr. Pearson desires the cooperation of the fishermen for he realizes the value of the practical side and knows that every fisherman can contribute in solving the great problem in conserving for man and his children the fish resources of this great State of North Carolina.

Carteret county is growing and improving and the Beaufort News is trying to do the same thing.

WHEATLY TO RUSH ROAD WORK IN DISTRICT

New Bern, July 19—A report says Claude Wheatly, new road commissioner for this district, just back from a tour of the district will direct his efforts toward rushing all highway construction projects in his domain.

Mr. Wheatly is quoted as saying that the brick road in Craven county which is part of Highway No. 10—that is the New Bern-Jasper link—will be given a coat of asphalt, this to extend two feet on either side of the present 8-foot pavement.

This improvement is expected to put the road in more serviceable condition, and make it conform more nearly to the standard hard surface highway.

The highway department has during the past week applied a coating of surfacing material to the Neuse river highway bridge, and it is understood other coats will be applied from time to time, producing finally a smooth, wear-resisting surface that will make traffic more comfortable, and at the same time extend the life of the bridge.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HOLDS MONTHLY MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the directors of the Chamber of Commerce took place Tuesday evening in the office of Dr. C. S. Maxwell. A good attendance was present. About an hour's time was consumed in hearing Mr. Lenox of Georgia discuss a system of sweet potato curing which he installs. A good many questions were asked the speaker and much interest manifested in the subject.

The advertising committee reported that a sign directing travelers to Beaufort had been erected at Bell's Corner on the Beaufort-New Bern road. At a recent meeting the board of town commissioners passed a motion authorizing a large sign made for the Havelock corner and so there will be two Beaufort signs on the road. Secretary Betts reported that he had a considerable demand for printed matter relative to Beaufort and that something of the sort was needed. The advertising committee was instructed to get up a folder. The matter of having some wharves built for yachts was discussed and a few other subjects were touched on after which the board adjourned.

FISH SCRAP FACTORY DESTROYED BY FIRE

One of the most disastrous fires that has taken place in Carteret county in a long time, occurred at an early hour last Saturday morning when the plant of the Taylor's Creek Fish Scrap and Oil Company was burned. The fire occurred while a sharp electrical rain squall was in progress. It is supposed that lightning struck one of the buildings and set fire to it. All of the buildings except a bunkhouse were destroyed and the machinery was so badly damaged that very little of it can be used again. About 8000 gallons of oil and perhaps 150 tons of scrap were saved. There was no insurance on the plant and the loss is estimated to be from twenty to twenty five thousand dollars.

The owners of the Taylor's Creek plant have not decided as yet what they will do about rebuilding the plant. Their boats were not hurt by the fire and will continue to fish. Arrangements have been made to start up the former Chadwick plant, now owned by the Atlantic Fisheries Company, and this factory will take care of any fish caught by the Taylor's Creek boats. Both of these plants are situated a few miles east of Beaufort and are owned mainly by Beaufort people.

WELL KNOWN BUSINESS CHANGES HANDS

The long and well established dry goods and millinery business of Mrs. C. A. Moore has been sold to Misses May Belle and Georgie Neal who will continue it in its present location in the second story of the Clawson building. The business will be conducted under the name of Neal's Millinery and Novelty Shoppe. The new owners will open up the business Saturday morning.

ARMY MEN HOLD BRIDGE HEARING

Will Move Morehead City
Draw. Several Weeks Be-
fore Matter Is Set-
tled

Another forward step in the fight, which has been proceeding for a long time to build a bridge between Beaufort and Morehead City, was taken Tuesday afternoon of this week. This was at the hearing before engineers representing the U. S. War Department which department has control of all navigable streams in the United States. A right considerable crowd from the two towns and the county were present. Several engineers representing the State Highway Commission were also on hand watching the proceedings with evident interest.

Major Oscar O. Koentz of Wilmington called the meeting to order and with military precision stated its object. He said the War Department had no interest in the bridge matter except as to its possible effect on navigation and he did not care to have it discussed except from that point of view. This eliminated any possible controversy between road and bridge advocates.

Major Koentz asked some representative of the State Highway Commission to explain what sort of a structure they proposed to build and in response thereto State Bridge Engineer W. L. Craven took the floor and gave the necessary information. A large blue print showing the position of the draws and other details was exhibited. All persons interested were invited to examine the plans and express their views which a number of them did. Mr. Craven said it was proposed to build a causeway and bridge 20 feet wide. Concrete piling will be used and two draws, one 50 and the other 60 feet wide will be necessary. The landing will be at the foot of Ann street on the Beaufort side. After some discussion it was decided that the Morehead City draw should be moved 900 feet to the eastward and Major Koentz stated to a News man that new plans would be prepared with this change. The plans and the report of the engineers will be forwarded to Washington in a few weeks and it is generally thought that the necessary permission will be given to go ahead with the work. A representative of the State Highway Commission told the News man that he thought the contract would be let at the September letting. Representatives of the Commission present were District Commissioner C. R. Wheatly, Bridge Engineer W. L. Craven, Assistant Bridge Engineer W. S. Winslow, Construction Engineer R. E. Snowden, District Engineer and Assistant Construction Engineer W. D. Somervell. The War Department was represented by Major Koentz, Assistant District Engineer H. T. Patterson of New Bern and Robert C. Merritt of Wilmington.

"WEST BEAUFORT SPECIAL" BRINGS MANY VISITORS

Bus parties that come down to look over the West Beaufort development are getting to be a weekly performance. In fact they are almost up to Florida real estate folks who carry people in cars all the way from North Carolina to Miami, Palm Beach and other places free of charge.

Week before last a bus load of prospectors came down from the central part of the State and last Friday evening the "West Beaufort Special" drew up in front Auditor and, in addition, it is said, of the Davis House with a party from High Point and Greensboro. Mr. W. B. Guerrant was in charge of sightseers who were W. H. Apple, Paul Hedgepeth, Fred Arey, Fred Prost, of Greensboro and J. J. Hamilton, W. H. Sloan, L. C. Furgerson, A. W. Proffety, E. P. Jacobs of High Point and W. H. Parrish, C. O. Hall, F. G. Harris, W. H. Beik, of Raleigh. Another bus party is expected down the last of this week.

Judge D. H. Bland, Mrs. Bland and children of Goldsboro are recent arrivals at the Davis House.

MORRISON SAYS NOT TO BLAME FOR BIG DEFICIT

Former Governor Thinks Sys-
tem of Accounting Is Unfair
To Him

STATE PRISON BADLY BEHIND

(By M. L. SHIPMAN)
Raleigh, N. C., July 20—The ice fight with an average temperature of 90 to 95 degrees, the Wyatt murder case, the financial situation at the State's Prison, former Governor Morrison's "deficit" statement and the sale of Meredith College which is to be converted into a hotel were some of the topics that absorbed interest during the week in the capital city of the State.

The fight against the ice companies here, charged with exacting excessive prices for this necessity, was taken into court twice. The first time resulted in a "no true bill," the second being the reverse which portends a hard fought legal battle in superior court later in the year after the need for "ice-coolers" has passed for a season. The bill of indictment charges Powell & Powell Inc., the Johnson Coal and Ice Company, the Raleigh Ice & Storage Company and the Wyatt-Burruss Company with forming a combine in restraint of trade. The minimum penalty under the State Anti-Trust Law is \$1,000 for each offense. Patrons of these concerns complain that last summer when competition existed ice was available at 40 cents a hundred whereas it is now selling at 80 cents the hundred as a result of the merger effective the past few months.

Former Governor Morrison took his first open crack at the McLean administration in a lengthy statement issued to the press from Charlotte on Sunday. Mr. Morrison objects to the more than nine million deficit reported during the week by Governor McLean and travels over the same ground he did last year in trying to explain it away. He contends that the system of financing used by the present administration caused a great portion of the deficit and that when every item of revenue is considered it should be reduced several millions. It is the same old argument involving chiefly the difference between the "accrual" and "cash" basis of financing. Mr. Morrison being for the former and Governor McLean for the latter. Neither the Governor nor many other folks appear to be even slightly disturbed over the predicament in which the former Governor finds himself. It seems that silence would have been "the better part of valor."

Meredith, the State Baptist College for women, has been sold for a total of \$271,400, and the central building will be converted into a large hotel. The college is moving into its new building on the Durham road two miles west of Raleigh where a wonderful plant is being erected.

Governor McLean spent a major portion of the week away from the city. On Tuesday he was at Fort Bragg where Governor's Day was celebrated; Friday he went to Camp Glenn to review the militia and later accepted Fort Macon as a State park from the Federal Government. The Governor is much in demand out in the State and is usually "Charley-on-the-spot."

The deficit at the State Prison, announced some months ago as approximately \$300,000, has soared to the level of \$563,913.14 according Friday evening the "West Beaufort Special" drew up in front Auditor and, in addition, it is said, there was a total of \$112,530.29 which the Prison spent on permanent improvements and provided for sightseers who were W. H. Apple, Paul Hedgepeth, Fred Arey, Fred Prost, of Greensboro and J. J. Hamilton, W. H. Sloan, L. C. Furgerson, A. W. Proffety, E. P. Jacobs of High Point and W. H. Parrish, C. O. Hall, F. G. Harris, W. H. Beik, of Raleigh. Another bus party is expected down the last of this week.

Dr. J. Y. Joyner resigns as a director of the Tri-State Tobacco Growers Association, stating that his action was prompted by the desire to serve the tobacco growers without there being any question that he was influenced by ulterior motives in giving aid to them. He will continue his efforts without compensation, devoting as much time as

(Continued on page four)