

Utilities Unit, First to Come, Last to Leave

Cherry Point—First to come and last to leave would best describe Marine Air Base Squadron-24's utilities section, whose members were the first personnel of Marine Aircraft Group-24 Reinforced to arrive at Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, for PhibTRAEK 1-58, and now that the training exercise is over, were the last MAG-24 unit to leave the island.

As MAG-24's advance echelon, the utilities section arrived in Puerto Rico last November and began preparing the Air Group's camp site for the main body of Second Marine Aircraft Wing personnel, who arrived early in February.

Under the direction of Capt. James C. Elder, 2nd Wing utilities officer, the section built semi-permanent camp facilities for use by Wing units during TRAEK 1-58 and future maneuvers at Roosevelt Roads.

Construction projects included a large mess hall, power, water, and sewage installations, as well as the rehabilitation of several abandoned buildings within the camp site area for use as Group Headquarters, Dispensary, Officers' Mess, and a supply warehouse.

Oysters

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In May when approximately 162,000 bushels of shells are scheduled to be planted in waters known to be favorable for the growing of quality oysters.

The oyster and shell planting program has been greatly intensified during the administration of Governor Hodges.

The first seed oysters were planted in 1949 when 10,171 bushels were placed in specially selected waters. The program was continued somewhat intermittently, with the plantings totaling more than 50,000 bushels in 1954. Last year approximately 200,000 bushels were planted.

During the 1947-57 period more than 783,000 bushels of shells were planted in some 60 different localities.

Oysters Need Shells

While seed oyster plantings supplement the efforts of Mother Nature in natural oyster production, the planting of shells is deemed highly necessary for aiding in the surviving of infant oysters, or spat as they are known, Dr. Chestnut said.

When an oyster spawns, the spats are carried passively in strong currents until they find something to which they attach themselves. Unless they attach to a shell or some other substance, the spats have little chance to survive in the face of such natural enemies as the weather, oyster borers, crabs, and other creatures that prey upon them.

These spats are usually no larger than a pinhead by the time they become attached to a shell or rock, Dr. Chestnut says. Once the young oyster becomes attached or set, it is no longer able to move and is subject to movement only by outside forces. It usually takes about two weeks for larval oysters to reach the stage where they must attach themselves to a shell, rock, wood — or perlish.

Smothering Possible

If the beds in which oysters have to make their permanent homes are soft, the oysters may smother by sinking into the bottom. In other areas, the composition of the bottom may be coarse sand which is liable to shift with changes in currents or by wave action and thus cause oysters to smother. Hence, beds are thoroughly tested before seed oysters are planted in them.

This is what happened during the hurricanes of 1954 and 1955. In many areas oyster mortality was greater than 50 per cent. In some cases, Dr. Chestnut found the mortality 100 per cent.

The state secures its seed oysters from commercial fishermen, who dredge them at river mouths and wherever else they are known to produce humps. It is highly welcome income for hundreds of fishermen who, for the most part, have experienced poor seasons due to the weather and other factors.

The fishermen in this area get 25 cents per bushel tub for catching and planting the oysters under the direction of Dr. Chestnut and C. G. Holland, state fisheries commissioner, and his aides. A bushel tub of seed oysters contains anywhere from 200 to 250 bushels.

To assure a better quality of oyster for transplanting, Commissioner Holland this year has restricted the fishermen to one bushel of seed oysters per day. This new policy has already proven to be a wise one as fishermen now find they have more time to get better grade oysters and less trash than they did when they were allowed to catch and unload as many bushels a day as they could during the planting season.

Dr. Chestnut substantiates this statement. "The seed oysters we are getting this year appear to be of much better quality than those we have been able to get in previous years," he added.

Towns Require More Water, But Supply Becomes Less

(Note: This article has been prepared by the State Board of Water Commissioners for the purpose of familiarizing the public with the results of the recent state-wide water problems inventory).

From the mountains to the coast, North Carolina communities are being caught in a vise that appears to grow tighter with each passing day. In many instances the pressure has already increased to the point that economic expansion has been halted and future prospects have become bleak.

The problem, of course, is water. While outside forces cut sharply into previously adequate municipal water supplies, the pressure from within increases in the form of soaring industrial, domestic and recreational water needs.

In effect, municipalities are requiring more and more water while their supplies become less and less.

Matters are complicated by the fact that many towns and cities have inadequate water treatment and sewage disposal facilities. This factor not only aggravates the problem within the individual community but also brings down upon the community a heavy volume of criticism from neighboring rural interests that must contend with stream pollution.

At the same time, municipal officials protest that the farmers recently acquired devotion to large-scale irrigation seriously depletes city water supplies—particularly during the summer months when urban requirements are at a peak. Farmers counter that upstream communities use so much water during the summer that the farmer cannot find enough to meet his irrigation needs.

Both complaints are perfectly valid.

If an additional complication is needed to emphasize the seriousness of the problem, it can be obtained by glancing briefly at the legal aspects of the situation. Boiled down to its essentials, neither the municipality nor the irrigator has a legal right to remove water from a stream without returning it.

The Riparian Rights Doctrine, upon which North Carolina and most other eastern states base the settlement of water controversies, states that only those individuals owning land adjacent to a stream have a right to the use of water from the stream.

The doctrine further states that riparian owners may only use the water for "reasonable beneficial purposes" and these uses are limited by the requirement that the water be permitted to continue on its course undiminished in quantity and unimpaired in quality.

On a basis of this doctrine, municipalities, which do not qualify as riparian owners even though they border a stream, have no legal claim on the water that flows in the stream. Similarly, irrigation is not legally classified as a "beneficial use" and the acquisition of water from a stream for that purpose is therefore a direct violation of the riparian doctrine.

Just how well a municipality would fair in a legal battle for its water supply cannot be readily predicted. It is a difficult problem, however, and one that Tar Heel communities may have to face sooner than they think.

There are other water supply problems, too. In a recent state-wide water problems inventory conducted by the Board of Water Commissioners, there were eleven specific categories of problems reported by representative municipalities in 45 counties.

Among communities using streams and surface reservoirs for their supply the major problem reported dealt with inadequate sewage disposal. Twenty-eight per cent of all problems listed by these cities concerned this problem. Inadequate supplies of water accounted for 21 per cent of the problems and inadequate drainage was responsible for 18 per cent of the reports.

Another 15 per cent of the problems concerned the contamination of the water supply and the difficulty many municipalities are having in maintaining adequate treatment facilities. Fourteen per cent of all surface supply problems dealt with present or anticipated urban-rural conflicts over water rights. The remaining three per cent covered relatively unique situations pertaining to individual communities.

Among municipalities using wells as their primary water source, 59 per cent of all problems reported involved complaints that increased municipal use has been responsible for drying up private wells, springs and small streams in nearby areas. In many instances these complaints are not altogether valid, but blame has been placed on the municipalities and must be dealt with as a definite problem.

The lack of ground water information was credited with 23 per cent of the problems. Complaints reporting this problem held the lack of needed data prevented the optimum exploitation of subsurface water supplies.

Seventeen per cent of the prob-

lems involved inadequate supplies to meet increasing demands. Another 11 per cent blamed industries for depleting domestic supplies while 10 per cent of the problems concerned the pollution of domestic placed low wells by improperly shielded or constructed septic tanks. Poor quality accounted for six per cent of the complaints and the remaining four per cent are classified as miscellaneous.

At the present time these problems and possible solutions are being carefully studied by the Board of Water Commissioners and other state agencies. Results of the recent municipal and industrial water use survey play a big role in these deliberations. So are the board's detailed projection of population and water use trends through the year 1975.

As is the case with all water problems, those associated with municipalities are such that realistic solutions are very elusive. Obviously, the key to the answers lie in close urban-rural cooperation, with each faction recognizing the other's problems and needs.

Ample water is available to meet the needs of both—if an effective means can be found for replacing the present competition with cooperation. The responsibility for finding this means lies, not exclusively with state officials, but with every citizen as well.

Cutter Goes on Search

The Coast Guard cutter Chilula left state port, Morehead City, at 8:30 a.m. yesterday in search of a Navy F3H plane presumed to have crashed in the ocean about 90 miles south of Cape Lookout Sunday.

Pet Corner

I would like to have a terrier-type dog as a pet for a little boy. Phone 6-3936.

Persons who would like to find homes for pets or who would like to acquire pets at no cost may use the Pet Corner. This service is offered free by THE NEWS-TIMES. Phone 6-4175.

Official Reports On Grass Project

Street commissioner G. E. Sanderson reported to the Morehead City town board Thursday night that town workers have graded the land on either side of the railroad track through town.

The work started at 11th Street and will go west as far as the Camp Glenn School.

Where grass is sown, Commissioner Sanderson continued, concrete markers will be placed about 8 inches from the highway and motorists are to keep off the seeded areas.

Mr. Sanderson also mentioned that if a church happens to be on Arendell Street where the seeding has taken place that the parishioners cooperate with the town by not parking on the seeded area.

The commissioner said that grassed areas cannot be mowed, either, if trash is among the grass. Again persons are asked to refrain from throwing beer cans and other litter along the street.

The commissioner said that the state will be requested to build up the shoulders of the highway west of Camp Glenn School so that the town can attempt to improve the appearance of that section of highway.

Namesake

Oklahoma City (AP) — Daniel Drunkard was arrested for the 36th time—for drunkenness.

Conservation Reserve Deadline Draws Near

The April 15 deadline for participation in the 1958 Conservation Reserve Program is drawing near. H. D. Godfrey, administrative officer for the ASC state committee, reports that even though the sign-up has been going on for five months, farmers have only used about 22 per cent of this State's Conservation Reserve allocation.

New features in the 1958 Soil Bank Conservation Reserve offer many advantages to landowners who signed contracts under the program for 1958, Mr. Godfrey says. He says any farmer or landowner who has acreage that could be planted to shrubs or trees would be wise to check with his local ASC committee to find how these changes might affect him.

One change of interest to many landowners is more flexibility in the length of the contracts. Previously all tree and shrub plantings were under 10-year contracts only. Now, at the option of the producer, five-year, and 10-year contracts are available for shelterbelt and wildlife habitat plantings.

The 10-year requirement still applies to forest trees. Contracts provide for initial payments to help meet the expense of planting and additional yearly payments for keeping the land out of crop production.

The 1958 program also authorizes county ASC committees to grant higher non-diversion rates of payment when all the eligible land on a farm is planted to shrubs and trees, or when any of the land is planted to forest trees.

"With conservation as badly needed as it is in this state, farmers just can't afford to miss the opportunity to protect our farmland for the future and to receive payments while performing this service," Godfrey said.

Admirals Inspect O&R at Air Base

Adm. Robert Pirie, USN, and four rear admirals are inspecting the overhaul and repair department at Cherry Point Marine Air Base. The survey committee started its work yesterday and is expected to finish today.

Col. Guy Morrow commented that the inspection is routine and that a similar inspection was made two years ago.

Ill-informed persons have jumped to the conclusion that the Navy inspecting team is at Cherry Point "to close up the O&R department".

Colonel Morrow comments that "continual change in the operating forces of the armed services results in continual study of support facilities."

The O&R department is a "support facility" for Marine aircraft.

Barretts Fight With Knives Again

Ernest and Annette Barrett carved each other up with knives Sunday night, Sheriff Hugh Salter reports.

The couple lives in West Beaufort at the Fish Meal Co. Barrett is a frequent boarder at the county jail, either for drunkenness or assaulting his wife.

Annette was in the Morehead City Hospital yesterday and Barrett was in the county jail with stitches holding his lower lip together. The sheriff said both are being charged with assault.

Port Calendar

Kase Sevanon — Docked at state port Sunday, unloaded petroleum products for Standard Oil and sailed yesterday.
Flagella — Due today at the Truthell docks, state port, with a cargo of asphalt.
Klonsky — Due Sunday to load tobacco for Europe.
USS Rushmore* — Docked at state port Saturday, sailed Sunday.
USS Fort Maudan* — In and out of state port Saturday.
USS Thuban, USS Ogleshorpe, USS Vermillion, USS Kaskin* — docked at state port yesterday and are due to sail today.
*All Navy ships brought Marines back from maneuvers.

National Guardsman Admitted to Hospital

Pvt. Anthony Carroll Styron, Atlantic, was taken to the Morehead City Hospital at 10:45 Sunday morning after he had a minor nervous collapse at the Camp Glenn Armory during National Guard drill.

Sgt. Dennis Goodwin, unit administrative officer, said that Styron became hysterical while arranging clothes and equipment in his wall locker.

He was taken to the Morehead City Hospital where he was kept overnight. He was discharged Monday morning.

HR 11094 Will be Topic Of Meeting at New Bern

Persons interested in the House bill, which would put a large part of military aircraft overhaul in the hands of private firms, will meet at noon Thursday at the Hotel Governor Tryon, New Bern.

Those from this area who would like to go to the meeting are invited to call the Beaufort Chamber of Commerce, 2-8241. The bill, HR 11094, if passed, would reduce the number of civilians employed at the aircraft overhaul and repair department, Cherry Point.

School Lunch Menus Listed

Morehead City
Today: Southern fried chicken, pimento cheese sandwich, rice and gravy, garden peas, pepper corn, hot biscuits, butter, cookies and milk.

Tomorrow: Vienna sausage, macaroni and cheese, pear salad, carrot strips, cherry cobbler, bread, butter and milk.

Thursday: Baked ham, cheese strips, potato salad, string beans, hot biscuits and butter, banana pudding and milk.

Friday: Shepherd pie, apple, carrot, cabbage and raisin salad, succotash, prune spice cake, bread, butter, milk.

Smryna School
Today: Spaghetti and meat, sliced cheese, green beans, cake with icing, milk, bread.

Tomorrow: Hot dogs, lima beans, cole slaw, coconut cookies, hot biscuits, milk.

Thursday: Vienna sausage, macaroni and cheese, pear salad, chocolate cake, bread, milk.

Friday: Baked ham, potato puff, steamed cabbage, grape fruit, bread, milk.

Meetings Announced For Faith FWB Church

The Young People's Auxiliary of Faith Free Will Baptist Church, Morehead City, will meet at 7:30 tonight at the church. The Master's Men will meet at the church at 7:30 p.m. Friday. The Women's Auxiliary meets the first Monday of each month at the church.

Worship Services Sunday are at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., and League Sunday evening at 6:30 at the church.

To Install New Engine

A new 67E GM diesel engine is being put in the Institute of Fisheries Research vessel, the Machapunga. Low bidder on the job was Machine and Supply Co., Beaufort.

its

Easter

and you look your lovely best

Supple in fabric and silhouette... vibrant in color... altogether new and exciting... that's fashion for Easter, 1958.

Whether you choose a dress with a coordinated coat, a bloused suit, a tapered coat... or any or all of Easter's enchanting fashions, you're sure of looking your lovely best, for these are clothes definitely designed to compliment you! And dramatic accessories, hats, shoes enhance the look. Choose now!

Leather-trimmed handbags, new styles	\$2.99
Patent pumps, newly tapered toes	\$3.99
Colorful costume jewelry, low priced items	\$1.99
Longer-length, graceful gloves of nylon	\$1.79
Hats	\$1.99 to \$3.99
Printed silk dress	\$19.99
Bar-buck suit of wool, set back collar	\$29.99
Wigwag oval table cloth, 54" x 70" (12' x 14')	\$12.99