

## Blaze Cleans Out Nine Businesses



Photos by Bob Seymour

The front of the Potter Building falls on Front Street as the supporting beam is pulled out by a cable being reeled in by a Carolina Power and Light Co. truck. The walls, while standing, were declared a hazard to traffic. The streetlight in front of the building, only 6 feet from the fire, did not break from the heat. A plate glass window in Bell's Drug Store across the street, was cracked.



This section of the east wall of the Potter Building collapsed when a Carolina Power and Light truck began to reel in a cable attached to the wall.

### Large Part of Beaufort Business Section Hit

Nine Beaufort businesses were burned out in a devastating fire in freezing weather Thursday night and Friday morning. Although several businesses had not completed totaling their damages by yesterday, the overall loss is estimated at \$175,000.

Fire destroyed House's Drug Store at Craven and Front Street, Herring's Jewelry Store, Potter's Grocery Store, and above those stores Dr. L. W. Moore's office, Dr. M. T. Lewis's office, and the Durham Life Insurance office; across Craven Street from House's, the Service Shoe Shop, the Bargain Center and Western Union.

The fire broke out in the furnace room located at the rear of the Joe House Drug Store. J. P. George, chief engineer of the menhaden boat Elizabeth M. Froehlich, spotted the fire at 11:50 Thursday night and ran to box 17 at Front and Queen Streets to turn in the alarm.

Engineer Allen Conway was on duty at the fire station and left as soon as the alarm sounded. With the help of fishermen, Conway began pumping water through the rear window of the drug store. He used the 500-gallon reserve in his truck and pumped from the hydrant at Ann and Craven Streets until the water supply ran out.

In the meantime, engineer Elmond Rhue went to the fire station and got another pump truck, which was manned by volunteer firemen, as was the aerial ladder truck.

Fire chief Charles Harrell sent word to Morehead City, Fort Macon Coast Guard station and Cherry Point asking for help.

The alarm sounded in Morehead City at 1:30 a.m. and Chief Joe Fulcher and 10 firemen took a pump truck to Beaufort. Two Morehead City firemen heard the Beaufort alarm and were already in Beaufort when the Morehead City truck arrived.

The water supply gave out just before the Morehead City truck arrived, so the Morehead firemen drove to the Moore dock in front of the postoffice and started pumping salt water.

Beaufort firemen, who said they had the fire under control when the water gave out, also put hoses overboard and began pumping. By the time the trucks could get water back on the fire it was blazing completely out of control.

Coast Guardsmen from Fort Macon arrived about 3 a.m. with a 1,000-gallon per minute pump which they put overboard from the Sinclair dock across the street from the burning building.

With the Beaufort, Morehead City and Coast Guard firemen working and the Cherry Point fire department standing by, the blaze was brought under control about 5 a.m.

By this time the intense heat had set fire to the roof of the wooden building housing the Western Union office and the Bargain Center, a new and used clothing store. Also damaged by the fire was the Service Shoe Shop on Craven Street.

Firemen battled the flames on the wooden structure until 6:30

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### 56 Cases Heard In Recorder's Court Thursday

Number of Continued Cases Drops to 44

Habbie Russell Bound To Superior Court

Fifty-six cases were disposed of in county recorder's court Thursday. The number of continued cases has dropped to 44. A total of 115 cases were continued after the Nov. 28 session and since that time solicitor Wiley Taylor has made a special effort to keep the number of continued cases down.

Habbie Russell was bound over to superior court under a \$500 bond after the judge heard testimony by Mrs. Rebecca T. Gallego. The woman, who operates a drive-in at Bogue, testified that Russell took \$5 and a can of beef from the drive-in and forced her, at knife-point, to drive him to the liquor store in Swansboro.

Mrs. Gallego came to the clerk of court office and swore out a warrant after the incident. In the warrant, she set the date of the alleged assault and robbery at Nov. 5.

Taken from the docket was a case charging Douglas Morris, Harold Collier, Benjamin McCausley, James Collier and Bill White with breaking into and plundering beach cottages.

The men are currently serving time on the roads for a similar offense in Onslow County. When they are released, they will be sent to this county for trial and the case will be put back on the docket.

Four defendants were fined \$100 and ordered to pay court costs. They follow: Louis E. Willis and George Wells, driving drunk; Ernest S. Wiggins, careless and reckless driving; and James B. Willette, speeding and careless and reckless driving.

Three defendants were fined \$50 and ordered to pay court costs. All were convicted of speeding. They were Clyde W. Feterolf, Martin E. Kelly Jr. and Kenneth F. Madden.

Alfred T. Starks and Thurman Lee Smith paid \$25 fines and court costs for speeding.

Richard Saurbaum paid \$15 and costs for careless and reckless driving.

Those who paid \$10 and costs

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### Death Claims Julius Duncan Jr.

Julius Fletcher Duncan Jr., 44, died suddenly Friday morning at his home. Funeral services were conducted in St. Paul's Episcopal Church Saturday at 3:30 by the Rev. C. Edward Sharp, rector. Interment was in the Episcopal cemetery.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Sara Rumley Duncan; his father, Judge Julius F. Duncan; one sister, Mrs. Emily D. Wells of Rocky Mount; and one brother, David D. Duncan of Newark, N. J.

Mr. Duncan was a past chief of the Beaufort fire department and an active fireman. He was also active in the Episcopal church, having served as vestryman. Prior to an illness brought on by heart disease, he was employed at Paul Motor Co., Beaufort.

Death was attributed to a heart attack suffered at about 5 o'clock Friday morning after he returned from fighting the fire in the Beaufort business section. He was found on the front porch of his home by his wife.

### Fire Causes Damage At Atlantic Friday

Down East firemen answered a call to the old Baptist church in Atlantic Friday night where a fire started when an oil stove tipped over while the building was being decorated for a Christmas play.

Heat caused most of the damage. Windows in the building were broken and stage fixtures destroyed. The Rev. Philip Quidley, pastor, helped firemen put the blaze out.



Bread and produce counters and some canned goods were saved from Potter's Store and put on the sidewalk in front of Jim Wheatley's men's store. Jarvis Herring managed to save most of his inventory from the jewelry store but nothing was saved from House Drug Store, where the fire started. Ice coats the sidewalks and streets.

## Most Burned-Out Businesses Are Now Back in Operation

Of the nine businesses damaged in the Beaufort fire, most are now reopened.

Open now is Herring's Jewelry store in the former Stamper jewelry store location on the south side of Front Street; Potter's Grocery at 120 Turner Street in the grocery store formerly operated by F. L.

Simmons; Dr. L. W. Moore and Durham Life Insurance Co. on the second floor of the Merrill building; Western Union in a temporary office on Craven Street and Service Shoe Shop, next to Abbott Morris's on S. 8th Street, Morehead City. Dr. M. T. Lewis, whose office

was in the Potter building said that he will reopen an office in Beaufort somewhere, but by noon yesterday he didn't know where. He estimated his loss in the fire at \$8,000 to \$10,000. He was partially covered by insurance.

It is not expected that the Bargain Center, operated by Mrs. Roger Williams, Gloucester, will reopen. The place was robbed several weeks ago and now the fire has taken its toll. The Joe House drug store, which Mr. House had been interested in selling, will not reopen.

Most of the damage done to Western Union, the Bargain Center and the Service Shoe Shop, all located on the northeast corner of Craven and Front, was by water. The top part of the building burned and water poured through to the first floor. The Service Shoe Shop was operated by John H. Eaton II, Morehead City.

B. C. Vickery, manager of the Western Union office, said he hopes to be in his temporary office today. Since the fire, he has been accepting telegrams from persons wherever they may see him and phoning them or taking them to the Morehead City office for sending.

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## District Engineer Hears Detailed Reports at All-Day Davis Hearing

A hundred-page report giving an economic justification for the improvement of Core Sound channel was presented to district engineer Col. H. C. Rowland at a public hearing in the Davis community building yesterday.

The report advocates deepening the main channel from 7 to 12 feet, improvement of existing auxiliary projects and the construction of new auxiliary projects. It was compiled, written and published by Fred A. Whitaker, executive secretary of the North Carolina Fisheries Association.

According to the report, residents along the 35-mile length of Core Sound will benefit in the

amount of \$3,804,232 annually from the completion of the project.

Much of the benefits will come from savings on repairs to fishing vessels, many of which draw more than 7 feet when loaded and run aground often in the shallow channel, the report said.

The report points out that the fish aboard these boats often deteriorate before they can be transferred to smaller boats and taken to port.

In order to keep from running aground, many of the larger vessels fish only long enough to take on a half-load before returning to port.

will be harbors of refuge. Travel to and from harbors for storm protection is an expensive item in the budget of down east fishermen.

Auxiliary projects under consideration are at Atlantic, Cedar Island, Cedar Creek, Sea Level, Nelsons Bay, Jarret Bay—Williston, Brett Bay—Stacy, Cheney Bay—Beaufort, Davis, Marshallberg and Harkers Point.

Not included in the total benefits were a possible saving of \$900,000 from hurricane damage and a benefit of at least \$60,000 from the operation of a car ferry from Ocracoke to Cedar Island.

Some of the auxiliary projects

Smoke was still pouring from the stricken building at 9 a.m. Friday. The upstairs windows here were in Dr. L. W. Moore's office. Firemen made two more trips to the fire, Friday night and Saturday, but the place was still smoking yesterday.

## Schools — Carteret's Greatest Business Asset

(Editor's Note: This is the second in a series of three articles on schools by H. L. Joslyn, county superintendent of schools.)

The commissioners of Carteret County have advertised for a bond issue to raise \$2½ million for schools. This came about as the result of studies made by the Board of Education and the Carteret County Unit of the North Carolina Citizens Committee for Better Schools, and a survey panel from the State Board of Education.

The question being asked every day is, "Are the commissioners wholeheartedly behind a bond issue?"

I am convinced the commissioners understand the pressing need of our rapidly growing high schools and want to do what they can to

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## Joe House Will Not Reopen, Collects Bills at Bell's Drug

### Nurse Requests Report From Borrowers of Items

Mrs. F. W. Heslep, who is in charge of the Registered Nurses' Club sickroom lending closet asks persons who have the items to please let her know. The record of who has what was destroyed in the fire.

Mrs. Heslep, nurse for Dr. Moore, said that six beds, pairs of crutches and wheel chairs are at various homes throughout the county.

She said she would appreciate it if persons who have them just phone and let her know, drop her a card or see her so that she can start the record again.

Joe House, whose drug store burned Thursday night, said yesterday that he has gone out of business, but he urges that everyone who owes him money to please make payment.

Mr. House's books, accounts, files and prescriptions were completely wiped out. Although he carried some insurance, it will not meet the total loss, which he estimates at \$25,000, including accounts receivable.

Persons may pay their House Drug store bills by seeing Mr. House between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. daily at Bell's Drug store or sending him checks or money orders.

"I thank people for their kindness during and since the fire," Mr. House remarked, "and for their business in past years, but I'm too old to start in again."

The druggist says that he will help out other drug stores in the pharmacy departments as they may need him.

He retrieved his safe from the debris Saturday and everything in it was safe. Unfortunately, Mr. House said, he had not put his account books in the safe when he closed the store Thursday night.

Therefore, persons who owe him money will be of utmost help if they will pay him so that he can, in turn, pay his creditors, Mr. House explains.

Narcotics, which were kept in the safe, were not damaged.

### Tide Table

Tides at the Beaufort Bar

HIGH	Tuesday, Dec. 16	LOW
12:29 a.m.		6:22 a.m.
12:40 p.m.		6:59 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 17		
1:19 a.m.		7:27 a.m.
1:29 p.m.		7:57 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 18		
2:09 a.m.		8:33 a.m.
2:19 p.m.		8:54 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 19		
3:01 a.m.		9:32 a.m.
3:12 p.m.		9:47 p.m.