

Major Spill Averted

It is welcomed news that only about 10 gallons of oil spilled into Albemarle Sound when a barge sank Monday night near Harvey Point in Perquimans County. The barge was loaded with 378,000 gallons of crude oil headed for Plymouth when it went under in about 20 feet of water.

The oil, described as molasses-thick, caused a very light slick that covered about one mile, according to a U. S. Coast Guard spokesman.

However, the slick was not in evidence from the water at noon Tuesday when reporters visited the scene via boat.

A major oil spill in the Albemarle Sound could have resulted from the sinking of the barge. It would have been a disaster, especially after the "green tide" experienced this summer in the Chowan River.

It wasn't a very pretty picture in Albemarle Sound Tuesday. One could almost visualize rock fish floating to the top.

However, a Weyerhaeuser official says the firm is confident that the threat of a major spill has been averted. And as we said, that is welcomed news.

Supporter Not Listed

It is unfortunate that the name of a leading contributor to the recently held benefit for the Edenton Aces was omitted from the news story of the event in last week's paper.

Bubba Hopkins, who was a star performer on the championship teams of Coach Bill Billings in the late '50s, was very generous in his participation in the benefit which netted about \$1,000 for a movie camera and projector.

Bubba, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hopkins, Pembroke Circle, is now a successful real estate executive in West Palm Beach, Fla.

Operation Santa Claus

At Christmas, those in Caswell Training Center, Cherry Hospital, and Alcohollic Rehabilitation Center would like to be remembered too.

Please share the spit spirit of Christmas by remembering the patients at these institutions. Take your gift, new and unwrapped, to either the Bank of North Carolina N.A., People's Bank, or the Chowan Academy. The gifts must be in by December 8. On that date they will be taken to the Albemarle Mental Health Center by the students of Chowan Academy.

Following is a list of suggested items:

Men: smoking tobacco, pipes, cigars, chewing tobacco, talc powder, shaving lotion, caps, neck ties, socks, jackets, slacks.

Women: bath powder, snuff, lipstick, compacts, necklaces, rings, hair spray, hair rollers, hair grease, hair bands, hand lotion, perfume, cotton and nylon hose, embroidery thread, dresses, coats, scuffs, pocketbooks, stamped embroidery pieces, bracelets, pins, earrings.

Both men and women: cigarettes, deodorant, instant coffee and cream, stationery and stamps, lock boxes, radios, handkerchiefs, comb and brush sets, billfolds, shampoo, pajamas, underwear, sweaters, scarves, gloves, watches.

Children: cars, trucks, balls (all kinds), building sets, stuffed toys, walkie-talkie sets, dolls (all kinds), tea sets, doll clothing, jump ropes, doll cases large appliance sets, trains, airplanes, farm animal sets, and doll carriages.

The date for delivery of the gifts, again, is December 8. The gifts will be wrapped by volunteer workers after they are delivered to the hospital. Many articles are needed throughout the year, but it is requested that all items donated for Christmas be new.

Continued on Page 4

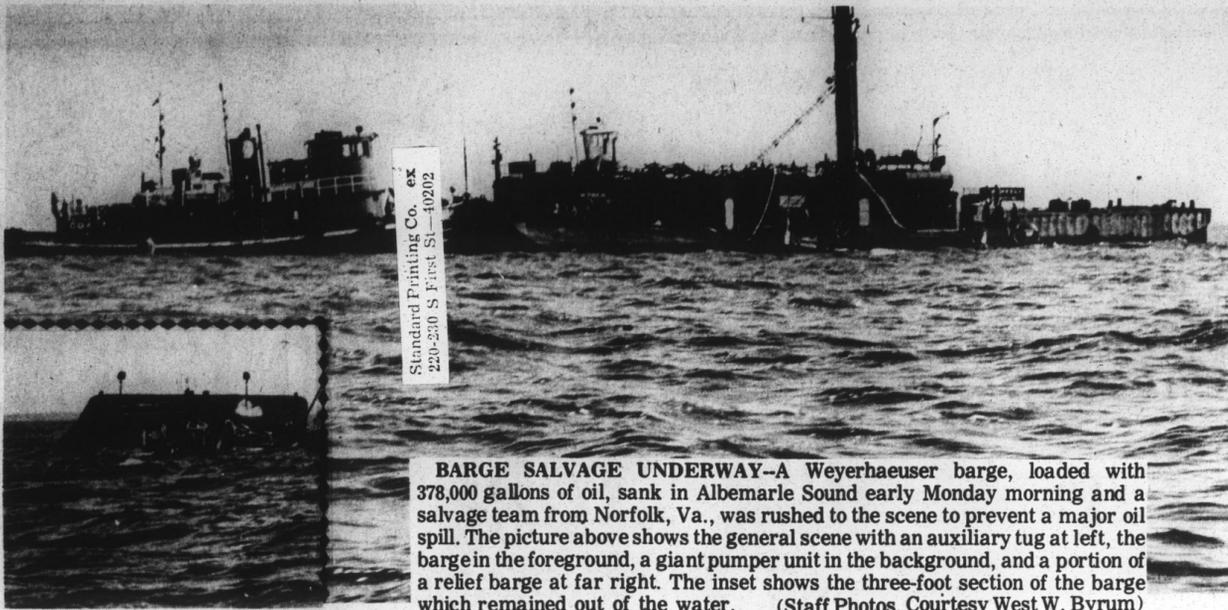
Mr. Phthisics

Haywood McKay Phthisic died at his home in Albania Acres Tuesday afternoon following an extended illness. A retired merchant, Mr. Phthisic was 66. He was in the grocery business for 35 years.

A native of Perquimans County, Mr. Phthisic was born December 16, 1905, son of the late J. Ruben and Mary Chappell Phthisic. He was married to the late Margaret Chappell Phthisic.

Surviving is a son, H. McKay Phthisic, Jr., of Edenton; and a daughter, Mrs. Delorene P. Charest of Chesapeake, Va.; three

Continued on Page 4



BARGE SALVAGE UNDERWAY—A Weyerhaeuser barge, loaded with 378,000 gallons of oil, sank in Albemarle Sound early Monday morning and a salvage team from Norfolk, Va., was rushed to the scene to prevent a major oil spill. The picture above shows the general scene with an auxiliary tug at left, the barge in the foreground, a giant pumper unit in the background, and a portion of a relief barge at far right. The inset shows the three-foot section of the barge which remained out of the water. (Staff Photos, Courtesy West W. Byrum)

Oil Spill In Sound Is Minor

The threat of a major oil spill in Albemarle Sound, seven miles east of the sound bridge, apparently has been averted. Salvage crews continued to work in frigid weather Wednesday raising the sunken vessel, loaded with 378,000 gallons of molasses-thick petroleum.

The barge sank early Monday morning and there was an immediate danger of a major spill when a sheen was discovered in about a one-mile radius. However, at noon Tuesday, there was no visible sign of oil in the brackish water as salvage crews hurried to pump water from the flooded ballast compartments in the aft section. The bow remained about three feet above water.

A spokesman for Weyerhaeuser said the company is not concerned with trapping what little oil did escape. It was believed to be less than 10 gallons and could have been an accumulation on the outside of the barge.

A salvage firm from Norfolk Shipbuilding & Drydock Corp., was working on the scene and divers reported that seams of the barge were intact and there was no seepage from eight separate cargo compartments.

D. C. Nicholson, Weyerhaeuser's environmental specialist, issued a statement in which he said the firm's major concern is to prevent any damage as a result of the oil loss.

Weyerhaeuser's operation in Plymouth, some 15 miles from the scene of the accident, uses about 210,000 gallons of fuel daily. The firm owns four barges such as the one that sank, with a capacity of more than 400,000 gallons each. They are towed by Plymouth Towing Company.

The barge, which is 195 feet long, 35 feet wide and 10 feet deep, partially sank two years ago in a collision with another.

The U. S. Coast Guard was on the scene shortly after the accident was reported. A spokesman said: "We are just very, very lucky that no appreciable amount (of oil) spilled out. That would have been a very large mess."

He added that the small amount that did spill had broken up and mixed with algae.

The type oil being transported on the barge was so thick that it must be heated before it can be loaded and offloaded.

Meeting Set

A reorganizational meeting of Albemarle Wildlife Club will be held Friday night at Edenton Tractor. An oyster roast will be spread beginning at 6 o'clock. All past members, as well as prospective members are encouraged to attend.

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Gay To Face Federal Count

Edgar David Gay, 44, 1017 North Broad Street, was arrested Tuesday morning and charged under the federal extortion statute.

Ralph J. Rampton, special agent in charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Charlotte, announced the arrest by FBI agents from Elizabeth City.

Gay is charged with attempting to extort money from Peoples Bank & Trust Company in Edenton. He appeared later in the day Tuesday before U. S. Magistrate Grafton G. Beaman at Elizabeth City.

It is anticipated that Gay will be tried in U. S. District Court in Elizabeth City during its next term.

The Edenton Police Department, Chowan County Sheriff's Department and the State Bureau of Investigation assisted in the investigation which led to Gay's arrest.

Event Sunday

Ballard's Bridge Baptist Church will have dedication and homecoming Sunday. The new renovation program, completed last summer, includes completely bricking, painting the inside and outside and adding a new front to the church.

The program will begin at the 11 A.M. worship hour with the pastor and congregation participating in the dedication service. After the morning service, dinner will be enjoyed by all on the church grounds.

Former members and their families and the community are invited to attend this homecoming and dedication. A Harvest offering will be received and a goal of \$6,000 has been set.

Helms To Talk Here



Sen.-elect Jesse Helms

Court To Open Term Monday

The next term of superior court will open next Monday at the Chowan County Courthouse with 38 cases calendared. Judge Marvin K. Blount of Greenville will preside.

Mrs. Lena M. Leary, clerk of court, stated that the session will probably continue through the week.

Among the cases to be heard will be murder charges against John Dorsey White and Walter Jernigan. The men are each charged with first degree murder stemming from shooting incidents which occurred in the latter part of the summer.

As well, Leonard Duff, Jr. will face a charge of rape. The case was continued from the previous session of Superior Court.

Other cases will include 21 charges of drunk driving, five charges of speeding, and other routine charges.

Chemical Firm Is Shut Down

TUNIS—Officials at the Farmers Chemical Association's plant here Monday again emphasized the fact that although the plant has shut down its manufacturing operations in order to comply with a recent court order, no lay off of personnel has been made.

A FCAI spokesman earlier said that the firm hoped to resume operations prior to mid-December provided that the water pollution control equipment meets state specifications by that time.

William Knight, chief of the Air Quality Division of the State Office of Water and Air Resources, told a reporter Monday that FCAI officials had submitted a time schedule for air pollution abatement on November 11.

Knight said provisions of the original court order calling for the plant to remain closed until its pollution problems have been worked out may cause them (FCAI officials) to want to amend the schedule they submitted on the 11th for earlier compliance.

"We have written FCAI asking if they wished to have the plan considered for approval by the Water and Air Resources office as submitted or with amendments calling for earlier compliance," Knight said. "We have had no reply to that letter," he added.

Harold Maune, works manager for the Tunis plant, said he had not seen a letter suggesting the plant may want to amend the schedule. "In fact," Maune said, "all that is being handled through the Chattanooga office."

Maune said that all personnel are still working and that those involved in the manufacturing phases of the plant's operation are now working on plant maintenance and general clean-up.

Pledger Wins

A 19-year-old North Carolina youth, who became such an electrical whiz in 4-H that he was hired as an electrician's apprentice, has been awarded a \$700 scholarship as one of six national winners in the 4-H electric program.

Ronald Pledger of Columbia received his award at the National

Continued on Page 4

Shoreline Studied By USDA; Erosion Is Noted

A team of USDA Soil Conservation Service specialist are studying the shore erosion problem on the rivers and sounds in Eastern North Carolina. Tuesday the team visited the Albemarle Area. Selected sites were observed in Chowan, Perquimans, Tyrrell, Washington and Bertie counties.

The objective of this study is to

determine the extent of the problem and to correlate the effects of such factors as soil types, prevailing winds, etc. Once this basic information is obtained SCS will be in a position to formulate standards for measures that can be recommended to land users to cope with the problem, according to Robert G. Jessup, SCS state conservation engineer in Raleigh.

The team is using 1938 aerial photographs and comparing these with 1970 photographs to determine the annual rate of erosion in terms of acres lost and feet of shoreline. For example on the Leigh Farm in Perquimans County 36 acres of land has been lost in the above period, or a loss of 200 feet of prime water-front land. Soil types are being studied to determine if some soils eroded more easily than others.

The specialist are also studying the effectiveness of existing shore erosion control measures such as bulkheads, jetties, and vegetation.

James H. Canterbury, area conservationist at Edenton, said shore erosion is probably the largest source of soil erosion in the Albemarle Area. "It is also destroying some of our most valuable land. No doubt with increased pressures on our water-fronts for homes and recreation areas, the shore erosion problem is going to become even more acute."

Participating in the study were Chester Ballard, deputy state conservationist; John Hungerford, state resource conservationist; Robert Jessup, state conservation engineer; John Rice, assistant state engineer; Harry Gibson, area engineer and local Soil Conservation Service technicians.



STUDY UNDERWAY—Stanton Harrell, left, technician with the USDA Soil Conservation Service here, discusses shore erosion with two team members who are studying the problem in Eastern North Carolina.



YULETIDE DECORATIONS GOING UP—The Electric and Water Department began the task of putting up the Christmas decorations, Tuesday, beginning with the strings of colored bulbs which can now be seen stretching through the downtown section of Broad Street. Of course, the job was not made any easier by the strong gusts of wind that whistled off of the water. The decorations will be lit next Thursday night, the day of the Christmas parade.