

THE SIDEWALK SKIPPER

The usual unpredictable character of Eastern Carolina's early spring weather has brought with it little that is good for dealers and fishermen of the area. With the exception of some traffic in hard crabs and con oysters and a dwindling supply of sea mullets, only token catches have been unloading on the dealers docks since the first of February. Even the trawlers, the last to feel the pinch, find the finny population offshore is declining rapidly.

Thaven Fish and Oyster company in Morehead City, managed a display of sea mullets, croakers, pan trout, butterfish, croakers, and flounders, in their retail market. Puck O'Neal, manager, is still sending his own boats out but has been depending almost entirely on the deep-sea trawlers for his supply.

Street Weathering, of Noe's Fish company, says he is selling hard crabs locally, paying four and a half cents a pound, but hasn't handled many fish recently, while Latham Willis, at the Willis Fish Market in Morehead, says things have been "pretty dull" and he expects they will continue to be until the middle of March. In the meantime his crews are working on the boats, welding paint brushes on all of them and adding a new wheel house to the A. M. Willis under the direction of her skipper, Captain Stacy Willis.

F. C. Guthrie, proprietor of the Ocean Seafood in Beaufort, looks upon this period as a slow beginning rather than the end of a season. "We're just starting in," he says and is sending the "Dixie B" out regularly on reconnaissance trips.

Drawing interested spectators is a display of marine oddities on display at Otis' market in Morehead City. Brought in by the trawler "Victory," the iced specimens include a giant red snapper, groupers, sea weeds, corals, and many organisms found in tropical waters and near the Gulf stream.

Otis' is one of the first of the local markets to have fresh shrimp. Still small in size, they are selling for 50 cents a pound, while the larger, frozen, variety retail for 70. Otis' Purifoy has the reputation of carrying a wide variety of fish and even now is displaying sea mullet, shad, flounders, hogfish, pan trout, oysters, clams, crabs, and scallops.

Captain Purifoy admits, however, that February has been "dull" and that he has been busy with remodeling the "Dolphin," which is to get a new galley, tables and chairs. He is also having the Phillip and the Shearwater put in first class shape for the opening of spring fishing season.

A. L. Chestnut, oyster specialist for the Institute of Fisheries Research in Morehead City, returned last week from a meeting in Yorktown, Va., to which he was invited by Dr. Nelson Marshall, director of the Virginia Fisheries Laboratory of that city. Also attending the meeting, which was scheduled for the purpose of drawing up a program for the investigation of oyster diseases and yield, were Jay Andrews, James Engel, Francis Beaven, and George Badger. The program agreed upon by the group is to be submitted to the governor. The investigation itself will be carried out by Dr. Marshall and the laboratory staff.

Dr. Chestnut leaves today for Chapel Hill, N. C. where he will give a series of lectures to zoology students. Mrs. Chestnut and their son, Alfred, will visit relatives in Virginia during his absence.

Carter Broad, staff member of the Institute for Fisheries Research who is working on shrimp, has just spent two weeks on the shrimp trawler Penny making observations and gathering data on offshore shrimp. The Penny is at present operating out of Southport.

A mere remnant of the record-size 1948 menhaden fleet remains in Eastern North Carolina and the few vessels left are, for the most part, only here until repairs and renovation make them ready for

the trip to other fishing grounds. The smaller menhaden boats will remain tied up until mid-April and only Beaufort Fisheries and R. W. Taylor and Company plan summer fishing.

Among the boats being readied for departure are the Sea King, whose skipper is Captain Fred Fulcher, to go to Delaware and the Kingfisher, with Captain Ashton Willis, scheduled to make the run to Florida in May. Four of Harvey Smith's boats remain at the West Beaufort plant; three new ones are as yet unnamed and the Charlie Mason has just left the ways after extensive repairs. Al Cubbage, office manager for this firm, is now in Louisiana.

At the Morehead City Yacht Basin, Captain Charlie Bennett is tooling up twelve boats for Wallace Fisheries and installing a 250 h.p. Cummins Diesel in the C. P. Dey. This is the first engine of this type to be installed in this area. Hudson American radios are being installed on all the Wallace boats.

Heating engineer Maurice B. Cook, consultant from Plainfield, N. J., will spend two weeks in Beaufort at the Sperti Foods plant, where a tunnel-dryer is being constructed to speed up the drying of agar. A trial run for the new method, a departure from conventional handling of the seaweed jelly, was postponed and is now set for March 10. Harry B. Parker, president of Sperti Foods, Inc., will come from New York to be present when the innovation is first put into use.

John Glud, of Woods Hole, oyster specialist for the Fish and Wildlife Service, looked over Carteret County's shore last week while on his way south. Accompanying him to Williston, where he talked to Dealer Elmer Willis of Williston, was A. L. Chestnut of Morehead City. From here Mr. Glud went to Bears Bluff Laboratory in Charleston to consult with Robert G. Lutz, Jr., its director. He will proceed southward to Florida on a general reconnaissance trip designed to give up preliminary data for a survey of soft and hard-shell clams.

Mr. Glud, who is chief of the government's clam investigation, was formerly connected with the state of Washington and has made two trips to Japan in connection with shellfish investigation.

Clam yield in North Carolina is said to have held fairly steady while in the North production has dropped sharply. Twelve species are to be found in this area, some of which are being taken now and are selling for 35 to 40 cents a tub.

The "Bernice Grey," a 40-foot Care-Sound-type trawler owned by Sterling Dixon of Stacy, is now equipped with a 3-cylinder G. M. motor and a Michigan wheel installed recently by the Machine and Supply company of Beaufort. Designed for coastwise commercial fishing, the "Bernice Grey" will take her place in the local fleet in March.

Irishmen Still Seek Homes In United States

DUBLIN, Eire—(AP)—Irishmen are leaving for the United States by the thousands.

In one recent week nearly 700 of them caught America-bound boats at Cobb and the United States consulate in Dublin reported it has a waiting list of "several thousand" applicants.

Last year 6,872 cut their ties with Erin's green isle for a new transatlantic home. The number of Irish migrants to the United States has increased swiftly since the end of the war.

In 1945, 546 of them went west. Migration climbed to 1838 in 1946 and 5,562 in 1947. Last year's migration list reminded Irishmen of the high tide of migration to the United States in the late 1920's.

Sweet Potatoes Prove Excellent Source Of Income

College Station—Sweet potatoes could prove to be an excellent source of additional income on many North Carolina farms this year, believes H. M. Covington, horticulture specialist for the State College Extension Service.

Covington recommends, however, that farmers consider market outlets before planting them.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has requested farmers to increase their 1949 production of sweet potatoes by 12 per cent. Even if such an increase is planted, production would still be about 10 per cent under the 1937-46 annual average.

Covington says many farmers have the impression that sweet potatoes cannot be cured and stored successfully in a tobacco barn. A tightly constructed barn, he asserts is hard to beat for this purpose. All that is needed to convert a barn is to reinforce the bottom tier-pole and place a pole-roof of two-inch boards on top of it.

An average height 16 x 16 foot barn will hold approximately 750 bushels of potatoes, the specialist points out.

Covington says there are several excellent sweet potato growers in Pitt County. Last year, with unfavorable weather, J. J. Edwards of near Ayden produced 331-bushels of No. 1's and 20 bushels of No. 2's per acre. Selling for \$3 and \$1.69 per bushel respectively, they brought Edwards a gross return of \$1023 per acre.

Large yields are nothing new to Edwards. Two years ago he averaged 404 bushels of U. S. No. 1's per acre. He also grows certified sweet potato seed.

Agencies Receive Permits To Solicit

During the month of February licenses were granted by the State Board of Public Welfare to eight organizations to conduct fund raising campaigns through public solicitations for the support of their programs. It was announced yesterday by Dr. Ellen Winston, Commissioner.

Seven of these organizations were re-licensed in accordance with provisions of the state solicitation law. They are the Boys' Club of America, the Brevard Girl Scout Council, Hebron Colony of Mercy, the National Recreation Association, the North Carolina Division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, Tuscarora Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and World Student Service Fund.

The Carolina Conference Association of the Seventh-day Adventist, which has state headquarters in Charlotte, is receiving its license for the first time to solicit funds for medical, welfare, and educational projects.

The total sum which these eight organizations will seek from the public in North Carolina is \$133,922.

It was also announced that during the month of February the State Board of Public Welfare officially notified the president of the Girls Vacation Fund at 853 Broadway, New York City, and the treasurer and director of the China's Children Fund of Richmond, Virginia, that since these respective organizations have not qualified for a license to solicit funds in North Carolina because of failure to file information in conformity with provisions of the state solicitation law, their solicitations made by letter appeal are in violation of this statute.

In The Good Old Days

THIRTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

Congressman John Faison notified the Beaufort News, now the Carteret County News-Times, that the bids for dredging Taylor's Creek would be let within the next few weeks.

W. P. Smith headed the reorganized Chamber of Commerce, and J. F. Duncan was named to the committee to plan the organization.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

A shooting affray took place in the Norfolk Southern passenger station resulting in the death of one man and possible fatal wounding of another.

Mrs. Annie Gaskill announced through an ad in the newspaper that she was running for Register of Deeds on the Republican ticket.

TEN YEARS AGO

Murals for the lobby of the new post office building were to be painted by Simka Simkhovitch.

Atlantic boys and Smyrna girls won the Carteret County basketball tournament.

Heavy rains the past week damaged the county potato crop.

FIVE YEARS AGO

Junior Red Cross members of Beaufort graded school were giving a tableau. Among students taking part were Mary Lou Mason, Rosemary Beasant, Bruce Edwards, Sarah Mason, Joyce Biggs and Margaret Ann Windley.

Beaufort boy scouts enjoyed a father-son dinner in the Sunday school rooms of Ann St. Methodist church.

don't DO that!



MISPLACED GLAMOR... Don't try to fascinate your boss by over-exposure of your charms. He won't appreciate it as much as you may think.



March 1—Mr. and Mrs. Vance Chadwick and son, Vernon, accompanied by Mrs. Kate O'Brien, have returned to their homes in Washington, D. C.

Mrs. Gerald Whitehurst, Strat, spent the day with Mrs. Henry Chadwick.

Check these WEEKEND VALUES

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