

## Colored Man Meets Death When Fire Consumes Shack

### Authorities Express Belief of Foul Play; Inquest to be Held

James Bell, 27-year-old Morehead City Negro, burned to death when his shack located at the north end of 15th street went up in flames Friday night.

There will be an inquest, but the time had not been set by press time yesterday. Authorities expressed belief that there may have been foul play.

The following will serve on the coroner's jury: Warren Beck, E. J. Hall, James Lawrence, Earl Willis, and David T. Willis, all of Morehead City.

An alarm from box 45, located at the corner of 13th and Fisher streets, was turned in at 9:15 p.m. Friday and firemen arrived on the scene to find Bell's home completely in flames with the roof caved in and most of side walls burned.

The shack, a truck body converted into a one-room home approximately six by 12 feet was made of tin siding fastened to wood framing. Most of the inflammable material was located inside the shack and the entire interior was gutted before the flames reached the outside.

### Heat Prevents Rescue

When firemen arrived they were told that someone was inside the shack but were unable to get close enough to render any assistance since there was intense heat from the fire and there was no water to put it out except what they had in a booster tank. The nearest fire hydrant was four blocks away.

Water was used to keep the flames from spreading. Finally firemen were able to get close enough to see the charred body of Bell lying in one corner of the rubble. He was burned beyond recognition.

Neighbors reported that they had attempted to rescue Bell, but without success. There was only one door to the dwelling and flames were concentrated around the door. An axe was used to chop in the opposite end of the shack but when this was done flames shot out of the opening, making it impossible to enter.

### Jury Impanelled

As soon as flames and heat had died down Coroner Pritchard Lewis is impaneling a coroner's jury which immediately began an investigation. The jury examined the body and questioned those who were present before and after the fire was discovered.

Upon investigation, it was found that Bell's body rested on bed springs in the shack but that the mattress was not on the springs but pulled off to the side on the floor.

### Neighbors Report

Neighbors reported that shortly before the fire they had heard an argument in the shack and after the visitors left, lights were extinguished. Some time later the fire was discovered. Apparently it had been caused by an oil cooking stove, located near the door, overheating or flooding, since the area near the door was where the fire began, firemen said.

Undertaker George W. Dill, Jr., viewed the body as soon as it was recovered and stated that it appeared to have been subjected to intense heat for approximately 30 minutes.

Some confusion existed as to why the fire was not reported sooner. Earl Willis, the janitor at Morehead City school reported that he saw the flames for at least 10 minutes and thought there was a brush fire burning. After 10 minutes, he said, the flames shot up high and he gathered that this was when neighbors opened the door to the dwelling.

Still later while on his way to the fire, Mr. Willis said, he passed the alarm box from which the alarm had been turned in and at that time no alarm had been sent in.

Services for Bell were conducted at 2:30 Sunday afternoon in St. Stephen's A.M.E. Zion church. He is survived by his mother, Corretta, a sister, Ann Marie, and a brother, Andy.

### Lions Club Will Send Two Bands to District Meeting

The bands from Morehead City high school and Beaufort's Queen Street school will represent Morehead City Lions at the Lions' district convention in Goldsboro Jan. 24. Lions voted to send the bands at their Thursday night meeting in the Fort Macon hotel dining room.

It was revealed at the meeting that Lions took in \$36.90 on their recent White Cane pin sale. Thirty dollars and 80 cents of this amount was sent to the North Carolina State Association for the Blind and \$6.20 was kept for local blind work.

### V. F. Salter, Broad Creek, Raises Large Collard

V. F. Salter of Broad Creek who operates fishing boats for Capt. Otis Purifoy for a living and works in his garden as a hobby has produced a big collard.

Last week he brought the collard into town to present to Purifoy. It weighed 17 and a half pounds and had a leaf spread of almost five feet.

Purifoy stated the collard was so large that it provided meals for his own family and six neighbors.

### Police Fire Shots At Speeding Truck

A Beaufort Negro was found guilty of speeding in yesterday's session of Morehead City mayor's court after police testified that they chased him all the way thru Morehead City and to Jacksonville, firing shots into the air along the way.

The Little Symphony, featuring Bobby Morris of Atlantic, outstanding pianist, will appear Feb. 14 at Beaufort school.

Tar Heel composers as well as other American composers will have an opportunity to hear their works performed by the North Carolina Symphony orchestra in the near future, according to Benjamin Swain, symphony director.

Auditions Scheduled  
The North Carolina symphony will play these original compositions at a special audition rehearsal in May of next year. The compositions will be given a preliminary hearing by an auditions committee and those works chosen will be given a reading rehearsal next spring.

Works deemed especially worthy of performance by the committee may receive one or more performances by the North Carolina symphony, or its Little Symphony, during the following season, 1950-51, Dr. Swain announced.

Deadline April 1  
The orchestral score and parts of a composer's work must be sent to the North Carolina Symphony office in Chapel Hill not later than April 1, 1950 Swain said. He also emphasized that no works should be submitted after the deadline, ten minutes in length.

The North Carolina symphony has the fostering and development of native talent as one of its primary aims, Swain stated. Two residents of North Carolina had their works heard by symphony audiences last season. Dr. Edwin Stringham of Chapel Hill was in the audience to hear his Nocturne No. II performed. Bobby Morris of Atlantic, played his original compositions in children's concerts by the Little Symphony at New Bern and Smithfield.

The North Carolina symphony will begin its fifth annual season Jan. 30. The Little Symphony of 23 players will tour the state until April 1. The full orchestra of 65 musicians will continue the tour from April 10 until May 19.

At the regular Thursday night meeting of the Morehead City Lion's club, Miss Imilda Townsend, caseworker for the blind for Carteret County Welfare department, was principal speaker. Miss Townsend, because she was born totally blind, entered the Oklahoma State School for the Blind, where she completed high school.

From there she went to the university where she graduated with an AB degree. In order to better equip herself to help the blind, she attended the University of North Carolina School of Social Work for one year. Since that time she has been actively engaged with the State Commission for the Blind for the past five years.

Miss Townsend reviewed briefly the historical development of aid to the needy blind, emphasizing the leadership role which the Lion's International assumed in its development.

She pointed out the four major activities of the State Commission for the Blind, (1) administration of financial aid to the blind, (2) the prevention of blindness and conservation of vision, (3) vocational guidance and rehabilitation, and (4) the maintenance of workshops and the coordination of services available to the blind outside the commission.

Drawing from her individual experience over the past years, Miss Townsend pointed out many services which are given to the blind through the caseworker. These include personal adjustment services such as, teaching them to get around in familiar places without assistance, assist them in learning how to avoid particular mannerisms, assist them in acquiring an understanding and an acceptance of their blindness, and teaches

Santa Claus will be on Arendell st. in Morehead City between 3 and 4 o'clock every afternoon from now until Christmas under the sponsorship of the Lions club.

## Glenn Wade Held on Suspicion of Burglary

### Symphony Report Expected Latter Part of This Week

Mrs. Bayard Taylor, Beaufort, Urges Payment of Membership Dues

A report on the sale of symphony memberships in Carteret county will be ready the end of this week.

Mrs. Bayard Taylor, Beaufort, chairman of the membership committee, in a statement yesterday, urged all persons planning to become members of the symphony society, to pay their dues immediately.

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### Miss Imilda Townsend, Blind Caseworker, Speaks to Lions

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### Officers Raid Large Still in Craven County

Carteret county ABC Officer M. M. Ayscue and Deputy Sheriff Murray Thomas aided Craven county Sheriff Berry Saturday morning in a liquor still raid just inside Craven county in the vicinity of Harlowe. Six thousand gallons of mash were confiscated.

Officers discovered the 250-gallon steam still ready for use, but no operators were discovered in the vicinity. Fifteen 400-gallon boxes of mash were found on the scene and those, along with the still, were destroyed by the officers.

### County Awards Auditing Contract To Raleigh Firm

The county board of commissioners awarded the auditing contract for the fiscal year 1949-50 to Williams and Wall, Raleigh auditors, following presentation of the 1948-49 audit at their meeting yesterday morning.

L. R. Aushon, auditor, told the board that "the overall picture is very favorable" and that the county is in good condition financially.

He said that within the next four years the entire bonded debt can probably be reduced to two million dollars. Six thousand dollars more in taxes were collected in 1949 than in 1948; however, the revenue from the liquor stores was \$20,000 less due to a payment from the state being made within the current fiscal year.

E. O. Moore, tax collector, reported to the board yesterday that 60 percent of \$163,000.38 of the 1949 tax levy has been collected. Taxes collected on prior years amounted to \$11,630.03, and of this sum \$9,319.33 was for 1948. The total collected at the tax office since July 1 is \$173,630.41.

The board also authorized that a list of delinquent taxpayers be turned over to the clerk of court. After six months, if taxes are not paid, these judgments will be given to the sheriff.

Mr. Aushon complimented James D. Potter, county auditor, and remarked that the records of all offices were in good shape.

The board accepted Mr. Aushon's report and awarded Williams and Wall the auditing contract for next year, at a cost of \$1,000, providing the audit is made by the first Monday in October. Mr. Potter told the board that the first Monday in December was too late to receive a report on a fiscal year which closed June 30.

### Pastors Please Note!

To be included in the NEWS-TIMES issue immediately prior to Christmas, notices of services at all churches must be in THE NEWS-TIMES office no later than noon Saturday, Dec. 17.

These announcements, as many as possible, should also be in the issue of Dec. 16. Deadline for that edition will be Wednesday noon as usual.

### Official Says Railroad Men Were Just Looking

No special significance has been attached by H. P. Edwards, chairman of the board of directors of the Atlantic and East Carolina railroad to last week's inspection of the territory served by the A. and E. C. road by officers and directors of the Norfolk Southern.

The A. and E. C. Mr. Edwards said, has given the Norfolk Southern road considerable business and the visiting officials were merely interested in the A. and E. C. and the territory it serves.

The Norfolk Southern officials traveled by special train. In Goldsboro the train was halted long enough for the purchase of overalls, jumper and cap for Board Chairman Patrick G. McGinnis, New York City. He bought engineer's togs so he could sit at the throttle on the trip from Goldsboro to New Bern.

All Atlantic and East Carolina officials were among those on the special Norfolk Southern train. Cecil M. Self, executive vice president of the Norfolk Southern was one of those representing his line.

### Police Make Arrest Sunday Following Two Break-Ins

Glenn Wade, former Smyrna resident now reported to be living in Beaufort, is being held by Morehead City police on the charge of suspicion of first degree burglary. Wade was arrested early Sunday morning following two reported break-ins in Morehead City. A bloodhound from New Bern was used to track the alleged burglar.

In a preliminary hearing before Mayor George W. Dill, Jr., yesterday afternoon Officer Murphy Jenkins testified that at about 3 a.m. Sunday morning Wade came into the Morehead City police station and asked to use the telephone.

He used the phone and shortly after he hung up, Jenkins continued, a call came from the home of James Robinson, N. 7th st., reporting a burglary in the Robinson home. Time of the burglary was set at approximately an hour before police were notified.

Wade had left the station and Officers Jenkins and Edmond Willis departed to the Robinson home to investigate. After they had completed their investigation they returned to the station.

At approximately 4 a.m. the same morning, Jenkins testified, Wade returned to the station to make another telephone call. Police officers walked in while he was telephoning and told him to get out of the station.

He was still intoxicated, Jenkins reported, and was cautioned not to drive his automobile. Wade said he would call a taxicab and left.

Nevertheless, the police officer said, shortly afterward police saw him get into his car which was parked at the corner nearest the police station, and drive off.

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### Board Appoints Tax Listers

Tax listers for Carteret county for the 1950 tax levy were appointed yesterday morning by county commissioners. Only two localities are without listers at present. These are Marshallburg and Davis-Stacy. Listers there will be named in the near future.

Others are as follows: White Oak—Sam B. Meadows, Newport—Prentiss Garner, Morehead City—Charles V. Webb—F. R. Seeley, Harlowe—J. Raymond Ball, Merrimon—Peter Carraway, Harkers Island—Charles Hancock, Straits—Gerald Whitehurst, Atlantic-Sea Level—Walter Smith, Cedar Island—Dora Day, and Smyrna-Williston—George W. Davis.

### Revaluation Okayed

The board approved the revaluation of the Mrs. L. B. Willis property in Straits township. Upon recommendation of John Brooks, of the county auditor's office, the valuation has been reduced from \$2,250 to \$1,857.

The county board stood by its guns and stated that owner of Atlantic Beach property, A. B. Cooper, on which taxes are owed, should pay the full amount of tax. The board was presented by an alternate tax-paying proposition through Mr. Cooper's attorney several months ago, and this was rejected.

The board stated that when the \$330 taxes owed were paid, Mr. Cooper would receive a receipt, as customary.

Three hundred dollars was accepted by Charles Willis, Morehead City, for lots 3 and 13 in square 31, county-owned property, subject to payment of the taxes on this property owed to the town of Morehead City.

### Board Takes No Action on Dock Controversy

The county board of commissioners maintained yesterday morning, in session at the courthouse, that they did not have a permit to Earl T. Willis, 1306 2nd Street ext., Beaufort, to build a dock at the foot of Sea View street, just west of the housing development on Taylor's creek.

The dock has been built and objection has been raised by Charles O. Styron who claims that its presence reduced the value of his property. Mr. Styron's position was similar one from Henry McGehee, asking that the dock be removed, was presented to the board by Commissioner Hugh Salter.

The commissioners followed in their minutes of the Sept. 22, 1949 meeting in which they were in record as having no jurisdiction in the matter, but said if the dock were built, it should be kept in good repair.

The county board's attention was called to a letter from J. J. Hewitt of the war department engineer office, in Wilmington, in which Mr. Hewitt, writing to Julius P. Duncan, attorney, said that an engineer's permit had been given to Willis.

Mr. Hewitt said, "by letter dated 14 September 1949, Mr. Willis advised this office that the Carteret county commissioners had given him permission to build dock at foot of Sea View street . . . the dock to be for 'community use'."

Government Assents  
Mr. Hewitt added that the permit from the engineer's office merely expresses the assent of the federal government. He informed Attorney Duncan that notices to the effect that the dock would be built were sent to all interested parties and that within the specified ten-day no objections had been filed.

He said any controversy over the matter should be settled by the parties involved or the local courts. The county board considered the matter but took no action.

### Farmers Will Go To Polls Thursday

Farmers in Carteret county will go to the polls for a double purpose Thursday, PMA officer B. J. May declared today to elect PMA community committees and to vote on 1950 cotton quotas.

Community committees will be elected in all the agricultural communities of the United States Thursday, May stated, and on the same date delegates to county conventions, to be held Friday, will be chosen.

Also, cotton farmers will determine in a referendum whether cotton quotas will be in effect on the 1950 cotton crop.

Any farmer who is an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper, is eligible to vote in the community elections. North Carolina's community property law also makes farmers wives eligible to vote and May urged each farmer to take his wife to the polls with him.

Polling places will open at 8 a.m. and close at 6 p.m. They will be located at Pelletier's store, Stella; Unitarian church, Pelletier; Joe Taylor's store, Boggs; town hall, Newport; Lee, Morehead's store, Wildwood; C. G. Gaskin's store, Beaufort; Lionel Garner's, Harlowe; and Cleve Galkin's store, Bettie.

### County Commissioners Pass Two Road Resolutions

The county board for the fourth time passed a resolution yesterday authorizing placement of the Inlet Island road on the county highway system.

The request was presented by Dan Walker, Beaufort, on behalf of persons living on the island. Another road resolution was also passed, requesting the state to improve a loop road in the Stacy's community. The road, which leads southeastwardly from John Styron's corner on highway 70 and then rejoins the hard surface, services 26 families.

The petition was presented by Brady Mason.

### 250 Attend Farm Bureau Meeting Thursday

Dr. J. H. Hilton Tells Of  
State's Tremendous  
Farm Potentiality

The more than 250 farmers and their wives who attended the annual meeting of the Farm Bureau of North Carolina at the Morehead City Hotel last night, Dr. James H. Hilton, president of the North Carolina Farm Bureau, said that the state's farm potentiality is tremendous.

Dr. Hilton, dean of State College of Agriculture and director of North Carolina Agriculture Extension, said that the state's farm potentiality is tremendous.

Other highlights of the meeting, besides Dr. Hilton's farm analysis, were the unanimous reelection of officers and directors, the election of Roy Garner as delegate to the National Farm Bureau convention, and the award of prizes and certificates to the 26 farm families who completed their home books in the Better Farming for Better Living contest.

Variety Possible  
Dr. Hilton said that North Carolina soil can grow a greater variety of crops than that of any other state but that only 17 per cent of its acreage is devoted to livestock and that of the 83 per cent devoted to crop raising, 71 percent was utilized exclusively for tobacco, peanuts and cotton.

With the exception of Texas, fewer people inhabit the rural areas of North Carolina than of any other state, thus, Dr. Hilton pointed out, more proportionate acreage is available in this state for production.

While fact and figures dominated his talk, the speaker's theme was a plea to North Carolina farmers to engage in dairying, diversify their crops and market them with the efficiency of the California growers.

Officers Re-Elected  
Officers re-elected are: Raymond Bell, president; Robert Loughton, vice-president; Mrs. Marie Campen, secretary-treasurer; Oscar Salter, chairman of membership drive; B. M. Williams, adviser.

Directors: H. T. Carraway, fruits and vegetables; D. W. Truckner, tobacco; T. C. Oglesby, hogs; Gordon Loughton, poultry; Roy T. Garner, dairy; Noel Campen, general crops; L. W. Pelletier, forestry; Floyd Garner, soil conservation; Gidon Lewis, sweet potatoes; Rogers Murray, colored director.

By George left Saturday morning to attend the national convention at Chicago and will return Thursday.

Paul Eaton, agricultural agent employed by Tide Water Power company, presented certificates of appreciation to the 26 farm families who completed books in the Better Farming for Better Living program recently concluded by the Farm Bureau. Special prizes were awarded the top eight of this group as follows:

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Pate, Bettie, \$75 donated by Tide Water Power company; Mr. and Mrs. Princes Gaudin, Beaufort, \$10, donated by Tide Water Power company; Mr. and Mrs. Alton DeBerry, Newport, \$5 donated by the First Citizens Bank and Trust company; of Beaufort; Mr. and Mrs. Y. Z. Simmons, Newport, \$5 donated by the First Citizens Bank and Trust company.

See 250 ATTEND, Page 7

### Tide Table

Tides at Beaufort Bar		
HIGH		LOW
Tuesday, Dec. 13		
1:46 a.m.		3:04 a.m.
2:07 p.m.		8:34 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 14		
2:51 a.m.		9:14 a.m.
3:15 p.m.		9:30 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 15		
3:58 a.m.		10:21 a.m.
4:16 p.m.		10:27 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 16		
4:55 a.m.		11:23 a.m.
5:16 p.m.		11:22 p.m.