

Capt. John Wagner Forsakes Foreign Waters for Carolina and Snug Harbor

By Oliver H. Allen
Fishing boat captains are a dime a dozen in local waters. Core Sound, Pamlico Sound, Cape Lookout, Cape Hatteras—these waters are familiar to each captain who sets sail out of Morehead City, Beaufort or ports down east.

One captain who calls Morehead City his home port, finds local waters less familiar to him than others, though. The North Sea, the North Atlantic, the White Sea, the Grand Banks of Nova Scotia—waters such as these were once as familiar as the palm of his hand to Capt. Gustav Wagner, skipper of the converted shrimp trawler, Robert Coker, that sails under the ensign of the Institute of Fisheries Research, from the old section base site west of Morehead City.

Captain Wagner came to Morehead City Sept. 1, 1948 to take over command of the Coker. His duties are, as he puts it in deep guttural tones, indicative of native German, "to run de boat for de doctors and scientists, make all de gear dey need in dere work, make nets for, catching shrimp, make dredges for oysters, take de here, dere and everywhere—up de rivers and around de sounds, for dem to do vot dey vant to do."

Sails Northern Waters
Life has given a few tumbles to the German-born captain in his 48 years. Born in Bremerhaven, Germany in 1902, he went to sea at the tender age of 13. Since that time he has fished the North Sea, the White Sea, the North Atlantic, the Grand Banks of Nova Scotia and more recently, the waters of the Atlantic off Virginia and North Carolina. He has fished aboard sail and power vessels, was a crew member aboard an ocean liner when it was robbed of one million, 200 thousand dollars, and saw service first in the United States Navy, then the United States Army, and finally back in the Navy again.

Wagner received his share of hard knocks from the Russians, even though he was fighting in armed forces that were allies of the Reds. Two of his brothers were killed in action on the Russian front during the recent war and another is missing and presumed dead, as a prisoner of the Russians. The captain himself was wounded while serving with the Combat Engineers in Sicily in 1943.

Bremerhaven was the port where Wagner first saw the light of day in 1902. He was born of a fishing family whose livelihood had always been found in the depths of the ocean. His father had turned to building contracting after his grandfather drowned at sea, but young Wagner decided to follow the sea as his forebears had.

From Bremerhaven the 90-foot sailing vessels sailed out to See CAPT. JOHN, Page Eight

Teen-Age Club To Give Talent Show Monday

Members of the Morehead City Teen-Age club will present a Talent Show for their parents and the public next Monday night at the recreation center.

Teen-Agers will perform and the high school band and glee club will be featured on the program. Among special guests will be Mayor George W. Dill, and the following members of the recreation center board of directors: W. C. Matthews, Walter Freeman, W. C. Carlton, Clyde Jones, and A. B. Cooper. Members of the town board of commissioners have also been invited.

Following the program, Teen-Agers will be hosts to their parents and other guests. There will be dancing, ping pong, bingo, the reading room will be open as well as the snack bar.

In charge of the affair are the following committee members: Mrs. G. C. Land, Mrs. Harold Willis, Suzanne Land, Louetta Lewis, Shirley Willis, Denny Lawrence, Enid Rose, David Freshwater, Mary Laura Guthrie, Jerry Nelson, and Mickey Woolard.

Adults will be admitted for 35 cents and Teen-Agers for 25 cents.

Vehicle Registration Reported
The number of motor vehicles and trailers registered in Carteret county during the year 1949 totaled 4,593, according to a report from the North Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles.

The Crab Point Home Demonstration club will meet at 2:30 Thursday afternoon with Mrs. E. J. Dennis. Family Life leaders will meet at 2 o'clock tomorrow afternoon in the home agent's office. Mrs. Corinne Grimsley, Raleigh, will conduct the meeting.



Capt. John Wagner lends a hand with gear on the Albatross. The Albatross is the federal government's research vessel which is now doing exploratory work in North Carolina waters. —Photo by John Hemmer.

Carteret County Has Its Own Little Flowering Plantation

Two Cars, Dozen Eggs Smashed In County Wrecks

A '47 Plymouth was demolished, a '49 Chrysler damaged to the extent of \$800 and a dozen eggs smashed in three week-end accidents in the county.

The Plymouth turned over at 10:30 Saturday night on highway 70 one-half mile east of the Carteret county line. The driver, Norman O'Neal Hill of Beaufort route 1, received a cut on his head, was treated at Cherry Point dispensary and discharged. Richard Gillikin, of Beaufort, who was riding with him, was uninjured.

Charges Filed
Hill is being charged with speeding and reckless driving. According to Patrolman W. J. Smith, Jr., who investigated, Hill and Gillikin were proceeding toward Cherry Point when Hill apparently lost control of the car as he started around a curve.

The Plymouth went over to the left side of the road, skidded 45 feet, shot 52 feet across the road again, skidded 45 feet on the right side of the road and upset.

A '49 Chrysler driven by Hazel McClary of Holly Ridge ended up in the pine woods at the highway 24 and 70 intersection at 10:15 Saturday night.

Miss McClary received knee and ankle injuries and she and Marine Sgt. Bernard F. Maurer of Camp Lejeune were taken to Morehead City hospital for treatment. No other passengers were in the car.

The car, damaged to the extent of about \$800, is owned by Sgt. Maurer. Miss McClary, age 19, See TWO CARS, Page Three

500-Acre Fire Causes \$1600 Loss

Five hundred acres of woodland and marsh between Brown's creek and Turnagin bay burned Thursday and Friday. The fire was put out by E. M. Foreman, Obie Turner, both of Core Creek, and four members of the International Pulp company forest crew. Mr. Foreman is the county fire warden.

Two hundred of these acres were merchantable timber and young growth estimated at \$1,600 in value. It is believed the fire was deliberately set. South River folks said oystermen from Belhaven are responsible.

Mr. Foreman said that people try to burn off that marsh every spring and he always expects fires to occur, unfortunate as they are.

The fire fighters were taken to the scene in Will Hardy's boat, South River, and they had to walk about a mile to reach the blaze.

The fire was put out about 2 o'clock Friday afternoon by the use of back pumps and swatters. The property is owned by Mason heirs and the International Pulp company.

Senate Oks Funds For Inter-Base Marine Railroad

Line to Cost Three Million Dollars; Bill Goes To House

Headed for the House is a bill authorizing the construction of a railroad, to cost \$3,000,000, running from Camp Lejeune to Cherry Point Marine Air Base.

The bill authorizes a total of \$300,000,000 in military construction projects and was approved by the Senate Thursday. Authorization of the railroad is by virtue of an amendment to the bill made by Sen. Clyde Hoey.

Funds for Housing
A big chunk of the money will go for housing. The Senate specified that the average cost of houses for service families should not exceed \$14,750, including site development. Originally, this figure was \$16,500 but the Senate cut it down.

The bill would allow housing cost limits to be doubled for construction outside of the United States and in Alaska.

Included in the Senate-approved program for this state, in addition to the railroad, are the following: \$6,666,000 for Fort Bragg family quarters and utilities.

\$5,808,000 for Marine barracks at Camp Lejeune, also \$129,000 for Camp Lejeune naval hospital family quarters.

\$1,165,500 for Cherry Point family quarters and utilities.

In addition to those sums, the bill would provide for extension of runways for jet plane operations at naval air stations in the country to include Cherry Point.

Senate Wins
By voice vote, the Senate overrode objections by Secretary of Defense Johnson and approved \$1,275,000 for construction at Hunter Field, Savannah, Ga.

Senator Russell (D-Ga.) led the move to put this item into the bill despite the fact that Johnson had informed the Senate he did not want it.

The money is authorized for building facilities, barracks, quarters, utilities, pavements and storage at Hunter Field where a heavy bombardment group is moving next summer from Chatham Field.

Chairman Tydings (D-Md.) of the Senate Armed Services Committee said Johnson had advised him he "didn't want it at this time."

Former Carteret Home Agent Takes State-wide Work

Miss Margaret E. Clark, Johnston county home demonstration agent has been appointed assistant 4-H club leader for the State College Extension service, it was announced this week by L. R. Harrell, State 4-H leader.

Miss Clark, who has been located at Smithfield since September, 1945, and is a former Carteret county home agent, will assume her new duties in March, filling a post which has been vacant for several months. She will work out of the State 4-H office in Raleigh.

Received Award
A member of the extension staff since 1936, Miss Clark was one of four North Carolina home agents selected to receive the Distinguished Service Award from the National Home Demonstration Agents' association in Chicago last November.

She served as teacher of home economics in Sampson county high schools from 1929 to 1935 and as home supervisor for the Rural Settlement administration in Jones and Onslow counties from 1935 to 1936. She then joined the Extension Service as agent in Carteret county, where she was located until she transferred to Sampson county in 1941. She moved to Johnston four years later.

Conducted Projects
Miss Clark has served in many important posts in the State Home Demonstration Agents' association and is a member of several civic and professional organizations. She conducted a kitchen improvement drive in Johnston in 1946-47, mattress and blanket programs during the war, and the war emergency food conservation program.

During her service in the county, enrollment in home demonstration clubs has grown to more than 900 women, four community buildings have been constructed, and five clubs have established club rooms.

More Than 200 Fishermen Attend Friday Shrimp Hearing

Barge Leaves Channel, Crashes Into Pier

A freight barge pulled almost the same trick as the "Mighty Mo" and crashed into the pier at the section base early Saturday morning. It was over a hundred feet out of the way of Bogue Sound channel, but continued merrily on its way after causing \$2,000 damage.

It took away a channel marker that was newly placed by the government just last Tuesday, broke power lines under the pier, and also the pipe for the newly installed salt water circulating system of the Institute of Fisheries Research.

The barge was proceeding from Swansboro to Morehead City.

Chairman Reports On Year's Sales Of Savings Bonds

The annual report of U. S. savings bonds sales in North Carolina was received today by Victor H. Wickizer, Carteret county chairman, from Allison James, state director in Greensboro.

According to the report, the people of Carteret county are now holding a net backlog of U. S. savings bonds amounting to \$3,395,770.25. This figure represents total E, F and G Bonds purchased in the county since May 1941, with all cash-ins and redemptions deducted as of Dec. 31, 1949.

"This splendid reserve of liquid assets brings in to our community annually interest and accruals amounting to about 2 1/2 per cent of these holdings," said Chairman Wickizer.

Record Made
Savings bonds sales in Carteret county for the year 1949, Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, were as follows: series E, \$412,760.00; series F, \$11,155.50; series G, \$4,400.00; total 1949 sales \$428,315.50. The county chairman stated that according to the report the current value of U. S. savings bonds outstanding is greater than the amount held during the wartime peak in 1945.

He said that the people of North Carolina in the 100 counties hold a total of \$657 million in savings bonds.

On a national basis, he said, "Individuals hold more than \$48.5 billion, cash value, in savings bonds of which \$33.8 billion is in series E bonds."

Firms Cooperate
Mr. Wickizer said that other facts in the report show that 42 firms in the state in 1949 were added to the list of those operating the payroll savings plans for purchase of bonds by employees.

North Carolina women's clubs and auxiliaries have set a goal of a Bond-a-Member for each annual bond drive. The 4-H Club boys and girls of the state have inaugurated a savings bond thrift project which is being adopted nationally. North Carolina public schools are continuing to carry on successfully their thrift program through purchases of savings stamps.

The report stated that the continuing success of the savings bonds program is due mainly to the fine interest and active support of many patriotic and community spirited volunteer workers who contribute time, effort and in many cases financial support to the promotion of savings bonds sales.

Net-Maker Disagrees With Opinions of Jimmie Guthrie

Feb. 11, 1950
In a recent open letter by Jimmie Guthrie of Harkers Island, he contends that no appreciable amount of food fish is destroyed by shrimp trawlers along our coast. He rather expresses belief that small mesh silk nets are responsible for the rapid decrease.

It is obvious that Mr. Guthrie's observations have been limited to an infinitesimal degree or he would have seen, as I and thousands of others have seen, tons upon tons of immature croakers, spots, sea mullets and trout shoveled overboard, so that the surface of the ocean seemed white for miles when observed from a plane.

Has Mr. Guthrie not seen this, or has he not been anywhere to see it, or is he simply evading the shameful fact?

More than 200 North Carolina fishermen crowded the hearing room of the commercial fisheries building at Camp Glenn Friday morning to present their views on shrimp regulations to the commercial fisheries committee of the Board of Conservation and Development.

The commercial fisheries committee will report on the hearing Friday at Wilmington and the state board will act on their recommendations.

No Change Advocated

The first spokesman for the fishermen was David Beveridge of Beaufort who requested that the shrimp regulations remain exactly as they are. James Styron of Sea Level voiced his approval which was echoed by many fishermen in the room.

W. H. Lupton of Lowlands was then recognized and he asked that the size of the shrimp trawl used in Pamlico Sound be limited. The heavy trawls, he said, are destroying oyster beds. He asked for elimination of the balloon net and then added that he was also representing the delegation from Hatteras (about 10 men) who want all trawling stopped within three miles of the beach.

Herbert Austin of Hatteras voiced his approval of Lupton's plea but groans and remarks of dissatisfaction came from the audience.

Objection Voiced

A. T. Foster, 75 years old, of Swansboro, who works an outside trawl, told the committee, "If you make a three-mile limit, you may as well come and take our rigs away." Someone in the room added, "and build a poor house."

Mr. Styron of Sea Level was then granted the floor and told the committee, "If you close inside waters, you'll kill the shrimp industry - - - and more than a

See FISHERMEN, Page Three

Accidents Result In \$690 Damage; Man Injured

Two accidents in the county Friday caused a total of \$690 damage to motor vehicles and one passenger sustained a fractured hip. Injured is Frank Bryant, colored man, who was involved in an accident near Newport Friday afternoon. The other accident occurred shortly after noon at North Harlowe.

Eugene S. Graham, colored, was driving a '47 Chevrolet which overturned two miles east of Newport. Bryant was one of four passengers riding with him. He was taken to the Morehead City hospital where he is reported to be improving.

According to Patrolman W. E. Pickard who investigated, the road was wet, the car skidded and the driver lost control. Damage to the Chevrolet is estimated at \$300.

A '48 Chevrolet truck and a '48 Hudson were involved in the Harlowe accident. No one was injured. The truck, owned by L. H. Conner of North Harlowe was driven by Paul A. Jarman, jr., of North Harlowe. The Hudson was being driven by Lt. Vance L. Yount, jr., of Beaufort.

Patrolman H. G. Woolard, who investigated, reported that the truck turned left into a private road when the Hudson tried to pass. Both were proceeding east on highway 101.

In the resulting collision the truck was damaged to the extent of \$40 and the Hudson \$350.

Robert Morris to Appear As Piano Soloist Tonight

Research Vessel Sails Tomorrow

Bottom Explorations Continue; Color Charts for Fishermen Proposed

The Albatross, government research vessel working along the North Carolina coast, is expected to sail from Morehead tomorrow, starting on its fourth cruise. The next time it leaves port, Feb. 24, it will head for its home port, Woods Hole, Mass.

The Albatross came into port last night, several days ahead of schedule.

On the coming cruise it will trawl in waters from Lookout to Hatteras without rollers. On its recent trip the 20-100 fathom waters off New River inlet south to the Frying Pan lightship have been covered using nets without rollers.

Nets Tear Three Times

In all of its trawling, since arrival here the latter part of January, the net has been torn only three times, W. A. Ellison, jr., director of the Institute of Fisheries Research, has announced.

When the work is completed, it is proposed that color charts be made which will indicate to fishermen which is safe trawling territory and which grounds are dangerous.

This chart will include the work done by the Penny which covered the waters from inshore to 19 fathoms from Tubb's inlet north to Cape Lookout, and also scattered courses north of Lookout and north of Hatteras at Wimble shoals.

Color Key

On the proposed charts, blue color will indicate clear water, yellow will indicate trawling waters, and red will show dangerous areas.

Mr. Ellison stated that it is hoped arrangements can be made to have Dean Bumpas, oceanographer with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, come here for one month this summer to supervise sound hydrographic work.

He will establish stations, Mr. Ellison said, which will throw the most light on the effect of outpouring of sounds on ocean currents.

Legionnaires Hear Talk by C. L. Beam

Veterans' benefits are greatly endangered by some of the recommendations to Congress made by the Hoover commission, county veterans' service officer C. L. Beam told Morehead City American Legionnaires at their meeting Friday night in the Legion hut.

Mr. Beam explained that if the recommendations of the Hoover commission concerning the Veterans Administration are carried out the Veterans Administration would be split into five branches, thus making it more difficult for veterans to get service from the government.

The speaker asked each member of the Legion to acquaint himself with the Hoover report and also to write his representatives in Congress asking them to become fully familiar with all the recommendations of measures carrying out the recommendations, before voting on them.

County agent R. M. Williams and assistant county agent A. W. Stinson explained 4-H work and a proposed calf-pig chain for county 4-H clubs. The men voted to endorse any action taken by the county agent's office in regard to a pig chain which has been offered to 4-H members by Sears Roebuck company.

H. S. Gibbs, jr., chairman of the Legion ticket committee for the play, "It's a Date," disclosed that a profit of \$95.20 had been realized from the production.

Receipts Total \$616.33

Beaufort's parking meter receipts for the month of January amounted to \$616.33.

Robert Morris, young pianist of Atlantic, will appear as soloist when the North Carolina Little Symphony under the direction of Benjamin Swalin plays at Beaufort tonight at 8:30.

Mr. Morris will be featured in Mozart's Allegro movement of the Concerto in D minor for piano and orchestra. The concert will be given in Beaufort high school auditorium.

Mr. Morris was named one of the winners of the annual auditions contest held by the Symphony society in Raleigh last fall. His appearance as a soloist at an evening concert is a unique event. It is notable since Mr. Morris has played with the Little Symphony as a child soloist at afternoon concerts in past seasons. His Beaufort concert marks his first season as an adult soloist with the North Carolina symphony.

First Appearance in 1946

Seventeen-year-old Robert first appeared with the State symphony in the spring of 1946, after being chosen a winner of the annual Symphony auditions for children that year. Last season Robert appeared with the orchestra in New Bern and Smithfield to play some of his original compositions at the children's concerts.

Robert has studied with Mrs. Charles L. Abernathy, jr., of New Bern, as well as with Austin Conradi of the Peabody conservatory and Alfred Newstead. He studied at the Julliard School of Music in the summer of 1948. In the competition of the National Federation of Music Clubs, Robert has received a superior rating for his work for many consecutive years.

Interested in Composing

Robert is interested in music not only as a pianist but also as a composer. He hopes eventually to make composition his life work. Right now Robert lists his occupation as "high school." He will be graduated from Atlantic high school this spring.

In high school he has been a class officer and manager of the basketball team. In his spare time he collects recordings and the literature of Charles Ives. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Morris of Atlantic.

Warm Weather Brings Freaks

Warm weather has produced freak crops of young tobacco plants on several farms in the county, County Agent R. M. Williams disclosed yesterday.

He said it is extremely unusual for even one tobacco seed to take root of its own accord and produce a plant, mainly because cold weather ordinarily kills the seed before it has a chance to germinate.

Nevertheless, this week at least half a dozen farmers reported that new tobacco plants had appeared on their farms, plants that had not been set out but had grown from seed of last year's crop.

Some of the new plants measured as high as six or seven inches and had leaves extending as far out as eight or ten inches. One farmer reported that an entire field had sprouted in new plants. He said he had enough of them to set out a crop of at least 100 acres.

The most unusual instance was reported by Cecil Oglesby of Crab Point. He did not plant a tobacco crop at all last year yet this week found new plants coming up in fields where a crop had been planted two years ago. Evidently the seed had remained in the ground for a year and a half before germinating.

None of the farmers intend to use the new plants to begin their 1950 tobacco crop, Williams explained. Instead, they will use plants which have been set out in beds and nurtured with fertilizer to produce a better leaf.

Old Pictures Wanted

Persons having photographs of state landmarks which were taken in the early 1900s are invited to submit them to Carl Goerch for publication in The State. The pictures should be mailed to Robert G. Lowe, manager, Morehead City chamber of commerce. They will be returned.

Heads Duke Drive

Skinner A. Chalk, Morehead City, has been named chairman of Duke University's third annual fund drive in this area. Goal for the drive is \$150,000.