

## Rash of Weekend Fires Takes High Toll of Property

### Walls of Croatan Food Plant Near Collapse

### Red Tape Delays Deeper Channel For Morehead City

### Rivers and Harbors Congress Approves 12-Foot Taylor Creek Depth

Deepening of the channel from Beaufort Inlet to Morehead City port terminal was recommended at the National Rivers and Harbors Congress in Washington last week but completion of the project lies in the dim future, delegates to the Congress stated upon their return yesterday.

Governmental red tape is the chief cause for the delay, it was reported. The Congress has recommended deepening of the channel from 30 to 35 feet.

This project has been approved by the federal government for survey by the Army Engineers. However, money for the survey had not been appropriated and is not on the list of appropriations to be made in 1951. If and when the survey money is appropriated and the project is approved, another appropriation must be made before dredging can begin.

Date for the final work is absolutely uncertain because of these factors, it was stated.

A project which affects Carteret county and also was approved was the maintenance of Taylor's creek channel at a depth of 12 feet. This project has been approved by the United States House of Representatives and is now in Senate committee.

The Rivers and Harbors Congress also approved the maintenance of Wallace's channel at a depth of 12 feet. This channel was maintained by the engineers at Navy expense during the war because of its necessity for use by Naval vessels. It now has to be re-established as an Army Engineers regular project in order for maintenance funds to be made available.

Carteret county representatives among the 15-member North Carolina delegation, headed by Col. George Gillette, were Robert G. Lowe and Robert Hicks, both of Morehead City. Lowe was secretary of the delegation.

A hard job lies ahead in getting the recommendations made at last week's meeting approved by Congress, Lowe stated.

"We will have to arouse the entire North Carolina Congressional delegation to the needs of this area and the necessity of bringing them in with the needs and economy of our entire state," he exclaimed. "Until this is done we will have a tough time getting programs that affect the coastal area through Congress."

The Rivers and Harbors Congress is an unofficial organization which makes recommendations to the U. S. Congress of improvements it wants supported with federal funds. Projects approved at the recent meeting involve navigation, flood control, soil conservation, reclamation and water conservation improvements.

### Two Clerk Vacancies Exist At Beaufort Postoffice

The United States Civil Service commission announces open competitive examinations for the positions of substitute clerk and substitute clerk carrier to fill vacancies at the Beaufort postoffice.

Applications for this position will be accepted by the Director, Fourth U. S. Civil Service Region, Temporary Building "R," 3rd and Jefferson Drive, S. W., Washington 25, D. C., until close of business on April 4, 1950.

Competitors will be required to report for written examination, which will be held as soon as practicable after the date set for the close of receipt of applications. Full information and application blank may be obtained from Howard C. Jones, Secretary, Board of U. S. Civil Service Examiners, at the postoffice in Beaufort.

### Barbecue Friday

Morehead City firemen will sponsor a barbecue at 6:30 Friday night at the fire station. Price per plate will be \$1 with proceeds going to support charitable work of the department. Entertainment will be furnished during the meal.

### Fire Damage to the Croatan Frozen Food plant in Morehead City Friday morning was so extensive that walls to the plant will have to be torn down and a new building erected if a business locates there, R. R. Barbour, owner of the concern, stated yesterday.

Barbour said the entire interior of the building was gutted to such an extent that repairs would be impossible. One wall of the building was blown out by an ammonia explosion and remaining walls are cracked and ready to collapse, he said.

Total damage incurred in the early Friday morning fire amounted to \$140,000. The brick and concrete frozen food building was valued at \$100,000, its machinery at \$25,000 and damage to the adjoining Gulf Stream club will pass the \$10,000 mark, it was estimated.

Morehead City firemen were summoned at 4:10 a.m. Friday and found the interior of the building engulfed in flames. By the time they connected their hose, flames had eaten their way through the center roof and were spreading throughout the roof area.

Within a few minutes explosions occurred among ammonia tanks in the east end of the building, blowing out the east wall and igniting the frame wall of the adjoining Gulf Stream club, also owned by Barbour. A portion of the wall of the club was burned, most of the underpart of its roof was burned out, and parts of its interior were damaged.

White hot flames leaped to the sky in the early stages of the fire with fingers of smoke reaching all the way to Beaufort. Firemen stayed at the scene for over three hours, leaving a standby crew and hose at the plant all day Friday and hose was kept there until yesterday.

Beaufort firemen assisted in controlling the flames, sending one truck and a dozen firemen. This assistance was particularly appreciated, representatives of the Morehead City department stated yesterday, in view of the fact that the Morehead City department would have had no truck to stand by in case of another fire outbreak.

George Stovall, manager of Tide Water Power company, estimated that 118,000 gallons of water were used to extinguish the blaze.

### Ruins Smoke

Though the dangerous stage was passed and most of the fire extinguished after three hours, ruins smoked until late Sunday. Firemen said this was due to the burning of a creosote-treated cork subflooring. This sub-flooring was under the regular concrete flooring and could not be reached by water.

Firemen said exact cause of the fire was uncertain. It was believed to have begun in the engine room in the center of the building and spread throughout the structure before an alarm was turned in.

Both buildings and equipment in the food plant were insured. The frozen food plant originally was built in 1935 under one of the federal government's work projects. In 1938 it was taken over by a local fishermen's cooperative which owned it until 1941. In 1941 Barbour purchased it for \$25,000.

Local fishermen received over \$600,000 income from the cooperative while it was in operation. Storage facilities for over a million pounds of fish were provided by the plant.

### Drama Will Hold Spotlight In Three Towns Friday Night

### Lions Will Meet Thursday With Chamber of Commerce

Morehead City Lions will meet with the Morehead City chamber of commerce and Morehead City Rotary club Thursday night at the Blue Ribbon club for the chamber's annual banquet.

Louis K. Day, of Rocky Mount, governor of Lions district 31-C, was special guest at the Lions' Thursday night meeting in the Fort Macon hotel dining room where he gave a brief talk on how to build a better Lions club.

J. G. Bennett, chairman of the blind committee, reported that his committee had been contacted in regard to the Lions paying \$12.50 to have a blind caseworker in the county one day a month. He said no action had been taken on the request.

During the meeting vocal selections were rendered by two small boys accompanied by Mrs. John D. Willis at the piano.

### Demonstration Clubs Plan Revue, Flower Show

### County Council Meets Tuesday Afternoon in Home Agent's Office

The home demonstration club flower show and dress revue will be held June 8. Plans for the annual affair were made Tuesday afternoon by the county council of the home demonstration clubs.

Five clubs, North River, Camp Glenn, Core Creek-Harlowe, Crab Point and Russell's Creek, were represented at a meeting which was held in the home agent's office.

Named as committees were the following clubs: arrangements, Russell's Creek; registration, North River; judges and awards, Crab Point; floor arrangements and layouts, Camp Glenn; refreshments, Core Creek-Harlowe.

Three club members were appointed to do stage settings: Mrs. High Pake, Bettie; Mrs. Hamlin Salter, Crab Point; Mrs. Milton Piner, Core Creek-Harlowe. The dress revue will be held in the court house and the flower show in the home agent's office.

Plans were also made for National Home Demonstration week April 29 to May 6. The clubs in each community will request their pastors to speak on the home.

Mrs. Carrie Gillikin, home agent conducted a canning demonstration for food conservation leaders Tuesday morning in her office. The following attended: Mrs. S. D. Merrill, Mrs. Manley Erbanks, Wire Grass; Mrs. Lydia Wade, Williston; Mrs. Will Dail and Mrs. Paul Beachem, North River.

Members of Carteret county home demonstration clubs will attend the annual district federation meeting at Camp 300 Golf in Pamlico county Thursday, April 20. Counties to be represented will be Pamlico, Jones, Craven and Carteret.

### Citation Rumors Believed False

As far as THE NEWS-TIMES could ascertain yesterday afternoon, rumors that the menhaden boat Citation was lost, are without foundation.

The Citation, a Louisiana boat, fished last fall for Wallace Fisheries, and according to a spokesman at the factory yesterday, the Citation had not yet left Miami. Rumors flying about both Beaufort and Morehead City were that she went down while crossing the Gulf of Mexico.

The Citation left Morehead City Tuesday morning, bound for Louisiana, and captained by Dewey Willis of Morehead City. He had a skelton crew because the boat was not fishing. Among the crew are three men from Morehead City besides the skipper, one from Florida and one who is returning to Louisiana.

The Wallace Fisheries office at Morehead City spoke with the Louisiana office just before noon and a spokesman at this end said that if the boat were lost, the Louisiana office would certainly have mentioned it.

### Drama Will Hold Spotlight In Three Towns Friday Night

Drama will hold the spotlight in Carteret county Friday night as three organizations stage productions at Newport, Morehead City, and Beaufort.

At Newport the junior class will present a three-act play, "The Light Eternal" at 8 o'clock in the school auditorium. The play is under the direction of Miss Beulah Rasberry.

The senior class of Morehead City school will present a three-act comedy, "Wedding Spells" at 8 o'clock in the Morehead City school auditorium. This play revolves about Steve Arlen who has lapses of memory and forgets who his wife is.

At 8 o'clock in Beaufort in the school auditorium Beaufort Jaycees will present their annual minstrel show which this year features an added attraction, Congo Capers.

Tickets to the minstrel are being sold by Beaufort Boy and Girl Scouts who will receive 10 percent of the money they collect in ticket sales.

### Davis Student Serves as Secretary



Hilton G. Styron, of Davis, pictured second from the right above, has been elected secretary of the Circle K club, student branch of the Kiwanis International at East Carolina Teachers college. The group was organized this year. In charge of the activities are those pictured above. From left to right they are Dr. John O. Reynolds, professor of mathematics at the college and Greenville Kiwanian, who is faculty advisor of the group; Jeff E. Warner of Thomasville, vice president; Virgil Clark of Greenville, president; Mr. Styron; and Eugene Midgette of Farfield, treasurer.

### Sheriff Jails Colored Man Charged with Rape

Mark Washington, Beaufort Negro, was jailed early yesterday morning on the charge of raping a 17-year-old Beaufort Negro girl.

Washington is charged with forcibly attacking the girl at 7:30 Sunday night in the vicinity of Temple's sawmill near the west Beaufort bridge.

Though the act took place at 7:30, it was not reported to law officers until after midnight. The girl charges that in addition to raping her, Washington assaulted her with a knife, stabbing her in the leg. She said she had four witnesses to back up her charges.

Washington was arrested by Sheriff Gehrmann Holland and Beaufort police officer Carlton Garner, at 2 a.m. yesterday morning. He admitted having sexual relations with the girl but he said the act took place with her consent, not against her will. He has been apprehended by the police before, having served several terms on the roads for various offenses, including raping a 65-year-old woman 10 or 12 years ago, Sheriff Holland stated.

Trial of the case is expected to take place this morning in county recorder's court.

### Home Arts Teacher Offers Free Sewing Instructions

Free sewing classes for adults will be taught at Beaufort high school, beginning tomorrow night. The classes will be in charge of Mrs. David Beveridge, home economics instructor.

The organizational meeting will begin tomorrow night at 7 o'clock. Time of meeting and number of classes to be held will be decided upon at that time.

All women in Carteret county are invited, Mrs. Beveridge announced.

### Clerk Administers Oath To Elections Board

The county's new elections board was sworn in Saturday morning by A. H. James, clerk of superior court, and at an organizational meeting Fred R. Seeley, Beaufort, was elected chairman and D. Ira Garner, Newport, secretary.

The other member of the board is James H. Davis of Turner St., Beaufort. The new board will serve two years.

### Judge to Speak

Judge Luther Hamilton will be the principal speaker at the meeting of the Beaufort Rotary club tonight at 6:45 in the Inlet Inn.

### B & PW to Meet Tonight

The Carteret County Business and Professional Women's club will meet at 7 o'clock tonight at the Scout building on Pollock st.

### Jury Returns Second Degree Murder Verdict

### Ralph Midgette, Ocracoke, To Serve 25-30 Years For Killing Captain

WASHINGTON, N. C. (AP)—Ralph Midgette, 43-year-old seaman of Ocracoke, was sentenced Friday to 25 to 30 years' imprisonment for slaying his captain.

The jury convicted him of second degree murder.

Midgette was charged with murdering Capt. Glenn Willis, Beaufort, at Little Washington, January 25. Captain Willis was skipper of the freight boat, Lindsay C. Warren, which ran between Ocracoke and Little Washington.

A Beaufort county superior court jury was out three hours, 55 minutes Thursday night before returning a verdict of murder in the second degree.

Midgette testified he had argued with the captain the afternoon of the shooting. He said he went drinking that evening, and remembered nothing until he awoke in jail the following morning and was told Willis was dead. Testimony was that Willis was shot the night of January 25, and died the next day.

The defense contended that Midgette was temporarily insane when the shooting occurred. The prosecution, in closing arguments, asked for a verdict of first degree murder, carrying the death penalty.

Midgette was sentenced by Judge W. I. Halstead of Camden. The defendant's expression, when he heard the verdict, betrayed no inward emotion he might have felt.

Meanwhile, the State's chief witness in the case, John D. Banks, 24-year-old cook who claimed he was held at gunpoint while Midgette, armed with a shotgun and rifle, awaited Willis' arrival, was jailed on a forgery charge.

He is charged with forging a check for \$76 in the account of Mrs. L. C. Clark. It was endorsed "D. M. Smith."

Banks, on probation when he became involved in the Willis slaying case, was given preliminary hearing today on the forgery charge. Probable cause was found and he was bound over to the June term of superior court under bond of \$500.

### Club to Celebrate 25th Anniversary

The twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Morehead City Rotary club will be celebrated with a birthday party and dinner in May. It was decided at the Thursday night Rotary meeting in the Morehead City school.

A committee was appointed by president George W. Dill to make arrangements for the meeting. Particular emphasis was placed on inviting all former members of the Morehead City club to the birthday observance.

Stanley Woodland disclosed that a Rotary inter-city meeting would be held in New Bern Tuesday, April 11, with eight clubs present. He said this would be a fellowship gathering at night. A supper will precede the program, in which each club will participate.

Rotarians were guests of the high school home economics class at their meeting Thursday night. This Thursday night they will meet with the Morehead City Chamber of Commerce and Lions club at the chamber's annual banquet and business meeting.

### Miss Janice Murdoch Heads Athletic Association

Miss Janice Murdoch, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lee A. Murdoch of Wildwood, was chosen president of the athletic association at Flora Macdonald college in the recent spring elections at the college.

A member of the rising junior class, Miss Murdoch is a major in public school music, and her extra curricula activities have centered on athletics, especially volleyball and basketball, the two major sports at Flora Macdonald.

She is a member of two student clubs, the choral club and the international relations club. She went in January with the choral group on the eight day singing tour which was highlighted by their appearance on the program of the Burns banquet in Washington, D. C., given by the St. Andrews society of that city.

### County Fire Warden Reports Forest Blazes

E. M. Foreman, county fire warden was called to five forest fires during the weekend. One fire at Lennoxville, which burned 110 acres, is believed to have been deliberately set and then was started again after eight hours of fire fighting had it under control.

One hundred acres burned Saturday near Core creek, 30 acres the same day at Bogue in addition to the 110 acres at Lennoxville, and Mr. Foreman was called to two others, one at Atlantic Beach - Salter near late Saturday night and the other near Gale's creek Sunday afternoon.

The fire warden received word of the Bogue banks fire after he returned from the Lennoxville fire at midnight Saturday. He went to the beach and Salter Path but could not find any trace of the blaze which probably had been extinguished.

Flames broke out at 1 o'clock Saturday afternoon at Core creek on the Bell tract and International Paper company property. One hundred acres of young timber burned for five hours.

### Timber Destroyed

The Lennoxville fire was located on the Dick Chadwick property. Mr. Foreman said the flames started at 4:30 and were fought until midnight. Merchantable timber and young growth were destroyed. He stated that the fire started again Sunday and that he didn't believe it broke out of its own accord because flames leapt up uniformly all along the line where they had been stopped.

Damage to timber in all fires is estimated at \$1,000.

### Farmers Receive Census Questions

A copy of the Agricultural Census Questionnaire for 1950 is being placed in every rural mail box in the nation this month. Later a census enumerator will call for the form, check the information, and help complete it if necessary.

D. S. Weaver, assistant director of the State College Extension service, says North Carolina farm families can help save considerable time and money by having information ready when the census representative calls.

Weaver points out that many decisions and policies, both public and private, depend on accurate census information. Such information, he adds, is used in the apportionment of funds for education, including agricultural extension work; and in decisions as to size and location of business establishments, to mention only a few of the more important uses made of it.

Although the questionnaire is a formidable looking document, with a total of 181 separate questions, it really isn't as difficult as it looks, says Weaver. Many items will not apply to all farmers. Many others require only a "yes" or "no" answer.

Information Confidential  
Acts of Congress provide that individual information given to census enumerators must be held in confidence and cannot be used for taxation, investigation, or regulation; and that census questions must be answered truthfully.

The census, Weaver points out, is one of the oldest of American institutions. The first one was taken in 1790, and others have been taken every 10th year since then. Since 1920, an agricultural census has been taken every five years.

Personnel reporting to Edenton were not furnished housing and some were taken out of dwellings at Cherry Point when the station at Edenton was reactivated a year ago.

Upon their return to Cherry Point, these personnel will be placed on the housing list according to the control date they hold.

"In all fairness, personnel should not be penalized for having been stationed at Edenton, and this plan for the adjustment of the quarters lists is considered to be the best solution to the problem," 2nd Wing authorities stated.

Agreement for Pig Chain:  
1. The boy must feed and care for this pig as recommended by the North Carolina Extension Service through the county agent's office in Beaufort, N. C.  
2. The boy must not dispose of this pig in any way or allow the same to be moved from See LIVESTOCK, Page Three

Agreement for Calf chain:  
1. Feed and care for this heifer as near as possible according to the recommendations of the County Farm Agents.  
2. The boy must agree to carry the heifer to a purebred farm of the same breed when time is due and pay what breeding fee is charged.  
3. Return the first female offspring to the association at the age of six months, in good flesh and well cared for, and fed milk and grain up to the time it is delivered to the association. Provided, however, if the first offspring is a bull the association will assist the boy in selling the bull at six months of age and the money will be deposited with the association as partial payment for the heifer. If the second calf is a bull, the bull will be sold at six months of age and deposit the money with the association as final payment for the heifer. If the second calf is a heifer the association will accept the heifer calf and return the price of the first bull to the boy.

It is agreed that the club member may purchase the calf, that would otherwise be turned back to the association at a price agreed upon by the Foundation at the time.  
5. Keep an accurate record of pasture and feed, breeding dates, and other costs and receipts as required in the record book, and turn in a complete record book each year.  
6. Not to sell or swap, or otherwise dispose of this animal without the consent of the association or until the terms of the agreement have been met.  
7. Prepare and show the heifer in public shows at the request of the county farm agents at least once a year until the cow freshens.  
3. To return the heifer or cow back to the association if he moves out of the county, leaves the farm, or fails to take proper or ordinary care of the animal. Provided, however, some member of his immediate family may first be allowed to carry out the terms of his agreement if satisfactory arrangements can be agreed upon by the Foundation and member of his family.

Agreement for Pig Chain:  
1. The boy must feed and care for this pig as recommended by the North Carolina Extension Service through the county agent's office in Beaufort, N. C.  
2. The boy must not dispose of this pig in any way or allow the same to be moved from See LIVESTOCK, Page Three

Marine Air Group 15 Transferred from Edenton  
Marine Air Group 15 is in the process of moving from Edenton auxiliary base to Cherry Point. The group is expected to be completely moved by the latter part of April.

The influx of personnel from Edenton will cause adjustments to be made in the quarters lists it was announced by airbase authorities.

Personnel reporting to Edenton were not furnished housing and some were taken out of dwellings at Cherry Point when the station at Edenton was reactivated a year ago.

Upon their return to Cherry Point, these personnel will be placed on the housing list according to the control date they hold.

### Tide Table

Tides at Beaufort Bar		
HIGH	Tuesday, March 28	LOW
3:08 a.m.		9:39 a.m.
3:33 p.m.		9:46 p.m.
Wednesday, March 29		
4:11 a.m.		10:35 a.m.
4:33 p.m.		10:55 p.m.
Thursday, March 30		
5:09 a.m.		11:27 a.m.
5:29 p.m.		11:46 p.m.
Friday, March 31		
6:00 a.m.		12 Midnight
6:20 p.m.		12:14 p.m.