

Burglars Set Court House on Fire Sunday Morning

Town Backs Planning Board; Meeting Scheduled for Friday

A meeting to explain the planning board's proposal on extending Beaufort's town limits will take place at 8 o'clock Friday night in the Beaufort school auditorium. The public is invited.

The Beaufort town board, in a joint meeting with the planning board Thursday night, gave the latter a vote of confidence and the green light on proceeding with their proposal.

As suggested by the planning board, the area to be annexed would include the airport, Lennoxville, Beaufort Fisheries, Morris and Smith fish factories. None of the tax revenue derived from the new area would be used to pay off Beaufort's present debts.

The area to be annexed, as described by the planning board, follows: beginning at the present town line on Front street, following Taylor's creek to Lennoxville, thence along North river and Gibbs creek to highway 70, across to the northern limits of the airport, following Newport river back to said town.

The planning board proposes that approximately one-half of the expected revenue from the annexed properties will be required to offer the new sections police and fire service, street maintenance, and other town services; and that the other half will be put into a special fund to provide permanent improvements, such as street lights, sewage, etc.

"Under this proposal," planning board members said, "we do not see any surplus revenue for the General Fund, but we do see a decisive long-range improvement for the newly-defined municipality."

The town board and planning board members stated Thursday night that this proposal is not necessarily the one which will be finally adopted. Changes may be made following the Friday meeting.

The planning board further stated that they do not recommend a referendum. The referendum, they stated, would have to be conducted by the county and the immediate possibility of expanding Beaufort would be delayed as late as 1952.

Should expansion take place now, it is believed that the census figures, not as yet made official or printed by government order, can be changed in regard to Beaufort.

Officials who will attend Friday night's meeting will be members of the planning board and town commissioners. Questions in regard to the annexation proposal will be answered by members of the planning board.

Three Cars Wreck on Bridge

Three cars were damaged in an accident at 9:20 Saturday night on the Morehead City draw bridge and James J. Patterson, 309 Front st., Beaufort, has been charged with following another car too closely.

The accident occurred just east of the draw. A 1951 Nash, driven by Ronald Byroad, 125 Front st., Beaufort, and a 1941 Ford driven by Kelly Maxton Lewis, route 1, Beaufort, had stopped because the draw was open.

A 1948 Nash, driven by Patterson, was proceeding west and not seeing the two cars ahead of him or the red bridge light, rammed into the rear of the Ford and the Ford plunged forward and struck the 1951 Nash.

Damage to the Byroad car was estimated at \$50, to the Lewis car \$300, and to the Patterson car \$300.

Patrolmen W. E. Pickard and W. J. Sykes investigated.

State Announces More County Paving Projects

The State Highway commission will begin work shortly on 6.07 miles of road improvement in Carteret county.

Included in the commission's Feb. 27 letting is a project calling for paving city streets in Beaufort, US 70 from junction with NC 101 to Merrimon road (re-surfacing) and traffic circle at Atlantic Beach.

Low bids received at the letting will be reviewed by the commission at its next regular meeting, March 1.

Defense Director Says Town Is Ready for Alert

Gene Smith, Beaufort civil defense director, stated that everything is in readiness for the air raid alert at 1:30 this afternoon in Beaufort.

This practice alert will be the first in Carteret county since the dark days of World War II.

At the schools Smith said children will cover their heads with their arms, move as close as possible to a wall and as far away from windows as possible. Shades should be drawn to offer partial protection from flying glass.

The fire department will disperse to outlying areas of the town. One truck will stay at the station. Dispersement of equipment is necessary, the defense director stated, so that a direct hit on the fire station would not destroy all fire-fighting equipment; also dispersal permits better opportunity to control fires wherever they may break out.

Pedestrians are requested to note where they would take cover in case of an actual raid. Motorists should pull to the side of the street and stop as soon as the three blasts on the siren indicate the beginning of the alert. One long blast on the siren will indicate the all-clear and normal activities may then be resumed.

The alert will last 15 minutes.

Officers Destroy 21 Cases Whiskey

M. M. Ayscue, Carteret county Beverage Control officer, and federal and Craven county officers destroyed 426 gallons of non tax-paid whiskey late Friday afternoon. The whiskey, a total of 21 cases, was found in an abandoned school house near the fire tower at North Harlowe, Craven county. No arrests have been made as yet.

The officers smashed the 852 half-gallon jars in front of the school house. It is estimated that the bootleg stuff brings \$17 per case. The officers' work Friday afternoon did away with an estimated \$1,207 of bootleggers' merchandise.

Officer Ayscue stated that it is believed most of Carteret county is cleaned up, but the illegal operators are now working in Craven and transporting the whiskey into Carteret county.

Bootleg activities are on the increase, the ABC officer added. "Whenever money gets tight, there's always more of it," he stated.

'Holiday' Brings Two Phone Calls

Two county residents got surprise Valentine Day telephone calls. Mr. and Mrs. Earl Norwood, 1902 Evans st., Morehead City, got a call from their son, Sgt. Earl Norwood, Japan, and Chief of Police and Mrs. L. B. Willis, Beaufort, heard from their daughter and son-in-law of Philadelphia.

The call from Japan came to the Norwood residence at 7 o'clock Wednesday morning. Both Mr. and Mrs. Norwood talked to their son who had flown out of Korea to Kyushu on a 24-hour booster leave.

Mrs. Norwood is recuperating from a major operation and her son was mainly interested in her health. He said that with the present rotation system used by the Army, he should be starting home in about a month.

He went to Korea in July. His picture appeared in a recent issue of Life magazine and in THE NEWS-TIMES several months ago. His wife, the former Rilla Hughes, lives with her parents on Fisher st., Morehead City. Sergeant Norwood has served seven years in the Navy and three in the Army.

The Willis' phone call from Mr. and Mrs. George Dubin came the night of Feb. 14.

Nephew Receives Word Of Uncle's Murder

Word was received today by C. S. Hardison, jr., 1511 Shepard st., Morehead City, that his uncle, Constable Luther Hardison of Coral Gables, Fla., was found dead in a blood-soaked blanket in a roadside ditch outside Mobile, Ala., early last Saturday morning.

He had been shot three times in the right side and once in the head.

Constable Hardison was returning by auto from Los Angeles, Calif., with Harris Mullis, jr., wanted in Florida on a burglary charge. Alabama and Florida police are searching for Mullis who is believed to have escaped in Hardison's car after the shooting.

Hardison's body is expected to reach Coral Gables today after which funeral services will be arranged.

A brother, C. S. Hardison, sr., resides at Croatan in Craven county. Both were born at Alliance, N. C.

Committee Lists Names of Saturday \$1 Collectors

Mrs. A. B. Roberts, Mrs. B. F. Royal, and Mrs. George Ball, in charge of the house-to-house lieutenants who will make \$1 collections in Saturday's Operation Piano, Morehead City, today announced the names of their lieutenants.

They are as follows: Mrs. Al Dewey, Mrs. Richard McLean, Mrs. W. J. Cherry, Mrs. Ethian Davis, Mrs. Paul Mitchell, Mrs. D. G. Bell, Mrs. W. P. Freeman.

Mrs. G. H. Jackson, Mrs. H. P. Scripture, Mrs. Jas. B. Willis, Mrs. L. J. Norris, Mrs. C. N. Bennett, Mrs. Chas. Canfield, Mrs. A. B. Cooper.

Mrs. Llewellyn Phillips, Mrs. G. W. Dill, Mrs. Bill Coddington, Mrs. Cecil Langdale, Mrs. C. C. Land, Mrs. Vernon Paul.

Mrs. W. G. Lewis, Mrs. H. M. Eure, Mrs. Crowe, Mrs. Eugene Roelofs, Mrs. Fred Lewis, Mrs. Robert Laughton.

Mrs. Dom Femia, Mrs. W. B. Chalk, Mrs. S. A. Chalk, jr., Mrs. Perry Taylor, Mrs. Richard Whitehurst, Mrs. L. D. Dill, Mrs. Truman Kemp, Mrs. Phillip Ball.

Mrs. S. W. Thompson, Mrs. A. T. Leary, Mrs. Josiah Bailey, jr., Mrs. Bruce Willis, Mrs. S. A. Horton, Mrs. David Styron, Mrs. R. W. Taylor, Mrs. W. L. Derrickson.

Mrs. H. S. Gibbs, jr., Mrs. Bruce Goodwin, Mrs. J. M. Davis, Mrs. Frank Exum, Mrs. Earle Wade, Mrs. Ralph Wade, Mrs. Marion Mills.

Mrs. O. H. Johnson, Mrs. E. G. McKinley, Mrs. H. L. Joslyn, Mrs. M. T. Mills, Miss Ann Arthur.

Mrs. J. R. Sanders, Mrs. Jimmy Wallace, Mrs. J. L. Seamon, Mrs. T. C. Oglesby, jr., Mrs. Lawrence Vickers, Mrs. Lizzie Howland, and Mrs. Robert Lowe.

All of these lieutenants will meet at 7 o'clock tonight at the civic center.

County Board Approves Resolution on Bond Issue

The county board yesterday approved the resolution calling for introduction of special legislation to permit the floating of a \$30,000 bond issue to complete payments on the Atlantic school.

A public hearing on the issuing of the bonds has been scheduled for the next regular meeting of the county commissioners, 10 o'clock Monday, March 5, at the court house.

The resolution was presented by the county attorney, Alvah Hamilton. The county board acted in compliance with a request by the county board of education.

The commissioners refused to appropriate an additional \$3,000 for an addition to the register of deeds office now in process of construction. The additional space is needed for a photostat machine, according to the architect, B. H. Stephens. The board said they had

Dr. W. L. Woodard, chairman of the Beaufort Planning board, presided at the joint session of the town board and planning board when they met at the town hall Thursday night.

Dr. Woodard presented the planning board's proposal on annexation, reporting that the planning board had been in session weekly since the matter was turned over to them about a month ago.

The planning board has obtained information and data from the state fire insurance commissioner, George Franklin, counsel for the League of Municipalities, and Tide Water Power company.

A modest estimate on tax revenue expected annually from the new areas under consideration for inclusion in the town is \$32,000. Approximately \$16,000 of this amount will be used to finance the providing of town services, such as police and fire protection, and the other half would go into a fund to be used for permanent improvements such as street lights, sewage, etc.

Based on the present cost of operating town departments, planning board estimates for enlarging these departments, are as follows: police department, additional patrolmen, uniforms, gas and oil, \$3,800; fire department, additional men, insurance and building, \$5,100; street department, additional men, truck, oil, gas, \$4,700; contingent fund \$2,500. Those estimates total \$16,100.

Two Sections

It is proposed that the fire department be divided into two sections, part of the equipment being located in the vicinity of Highland, Hancock Parks and Front and Ann streets, extended in order to offer better fire services to the new area. For that reason, "building" was included in the fire department estimate. It proposed that a building be rented temporarily.

Dr. Woodard stated that an engineer from the state fire insurance commissioner's office is expected to visit Beaufort in the near future to offer advice and confer on fire problems. The town board was told that until fire hydrants are installed, any place offering a source of water for draughting is considered adequate by the state fire insurance commission.

Water Mains

It was reported that Tide Water Power company has made a tentative survey as to what the cost would be to them to install water mains and hydrants. George Stovall, manager of the local Tide Water office, stated that the cost would be \$38,000, according to Dr. Woodard, and that installation of water mains would be made as soon as possible.

The counsel for the League of Municipalities stated that the tax revenue from the newly-annexed areas could go directly to the general fund and be budgeted accordingly by the commissioners. It would not be necessary, Franklin said, to pay \$1 of each \$2 into the debt service fund.

The commissioners remarked that they thought the area being taken in by the planning board was too large, but the planning board contended that at the rate the section is growing, unless a large area was taken in, the same procedure of annexation would have to be undertaken again in several years.

They emphasized that their project.

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To Speak Friday



Duane Strawbridge, Washington, D. C., will speak at 7:30 Friday night in the civic center to members of the Morehead City chamber of commerce.

Sex Crime Cases Continued Until April Court Term

Five Marines who pleaded guilty to charges of committing a "crime against nature," and testified freely in New Bern superior court Thursday before Judge Lee Carr, withdrew their guilty pleas Friday morning and their cases have been continued until April.

They were Allan Thayer, Robert E. Anderson, Walter Andrew Calhoun, Robert M. Elder, and John Earl Purvis.

The Marines told the court they did not know they would be prosecuted and sentenced but understood they were to be used only as witnesses in cases against Louis Shipp and Emil Pearson, civilians who are charged with the same offense.

The five Marines pleaded guilty to the charges against them in court Thursday afternoon after evidence against them was heard. The judge reserved judgment until Friday morning.

Emil Pearson and Ronald Mozier, both charged in the same bill with committing a crime against nature, were called for hearings Thursday by Solicitor William J. Bundy.

After several witnesses had testified, the court adjourned until Friday morning at which time the trial was to be resumed. However, in view of the new developments the judge ordered that a mistrial be declared and the case continued until April.

In the January term of court the case against Pearson ended in a mistrial after the jury was deadlocked and unable to reach a verdict.

After the pleas were withdrawn Friday morning, Judge Carr ordered the cases against the Marines continued until the next term of criminal court which is scheduled for April and warned the Marines that if they wished to contest the charges against them to consult counsel and come prepared at the next term. He told them there would be no further continuance on the grounds that they had not been warned.

The case against Shipp, a civilian, was also continued until the next term of court. Shipp's attorneys appeared Thursday afternoon asking for a continuance but it was not granted until after the five Marines withdrew their pleas.

The crime against nature charges are the result of a recent investigation conducted by state and federal bureaus of investigation officers at Cherry Point Marine air base and New Bern.

Two Cars Collide Sunday At Dirt Road Intersection

Mary Daniels Raz, Morehead City, has been charged with failure to yield right-of-way as the result of a collision at 4 o'clock Sunday afternoon on the dirt road leading from highway 70 and 24 intersection to Crab Point.

According to Highway Patrolman J. W. Sykes, Troy Hunter, Newport, driving a 1940 Pontiac was headed west at an intersection near the concrete block manufacturing concern and the woman, in a 1935 Oldsmobile, was headed north.

Neither driver stopped at the intersection and a collision resulted. Damage to both cars was estimated at \$100.

Holiday Thursday

Banks, post offices, state and federal offices will be closed Thursday, Washington's birthday.

Serious Damage Averted; Police Hold Archie Wallace

A major tragedy was averted at 4:25 Sunday morning when Mrs. Em Chapman, wife of the court house jailer, sighted flames in the court house office of the tax collector and roused her husband who called the Beaufort fire department.

Quick action by firemen prevented a blaze that in another half an hour would have been out of control, endangering the entire court house and the valuable records kept there.

Being held in the county jail in connection with the fire is Archie Wallace, Beaufort Negro. Sheriff C. G. Holland said that Wallace is charged with breaking into the court house, larceny of government property, driving without a license, and breaking into the county garage.

The fire started when Wallace failed to open the safe in the tax collector's office with an acetylene torch that authorities say was stolen from the county garage on Live Oak street.

The arrest was made by Sheriff Holland at 9:20 Sunday morning. Both town and county authorities were assisting on the case. Sheriff Holland said he did not care to know how the law put the finger on Wallace. It is believed that the imprisoned man has attempted other burglaries in Beaufort, including the attempted cracking of the safe at Barbour's Marine Supply company several months ago.

No estimate was made on the amount of damage in the tax collector's office. James D. Potter, auditor, said the damage is covered by insurance and that the insurance adjuster was expected yesterday afternoon.

No valuable records in the tax collector's office were destroyed. Some books about 14 years old were slightly damaged, but the heat was so intense that all the windows in the office were cracked, and a large amount of the paint blistered.

The person operating the torch was completely inexperienced because firemen said that the welding attachment was on the torch instead of the cutting attachment. The would-be safe-cracker started his work at the base of the safe where the two doors meet as they are closed. The safe, reported to have no cash in it, is intact.

It is believed that Mrs. Chapman saw the fire immediately after it had begun, because her husband, who is also a deputy sheriff, went to the east door of the court house which was locked, then to the front door, which was also locked, and finally to the door on the west which was standing open.

Entrance had been gained through a window on the west end (in the same manner as several months ago when the court house was broken into).

The deputy sheriff then went to the tax collector's door but could not get it open. While smoke poured from the cracks he rushed to notify the fire department. It is believed that the intruders were still in the tax collector's office when Chapman was at the door.

The office door was jimmied open and a cash drawer pried open. Taken from the cash drawer was about \$13. Police say that the burglars were interested in money.

Wallace, who is not very talkative at this point, has told questioners nothing more than the fact that there was another person with him. The prisoner has served time on the roads for previous offenses.

Firemen used water from the booster tank to put out the blaze and returned to the fire station at 6 a.m.

Last summer an attempt was made to get into the vault in the clerk of court's office. The burglars went through the window at the west end of the court house and when they found they couldn't get into the clerk's office that way, they tried to enter through windows from the outside, slitting the screen in one.

Morehead Rotarians Hear Talk on Highway Safety

C. N. Gillette, affiliated with the State Truckers association, Charlotte, spoke to Morehead City Rotarians Thursday night on highway safety and described the training given to truck drivers in efforts to keep highways safe. In charge of the program was the Rev. L. A. Tilley.

J. R. Morrill reported on the Operations Piano meeting at the civic center Tuesday night. He and Grover Munden represented the Rotary club.

George McNeill, vice-president, presided in the absence of President James Mason. Joe DuBois, manager of the chamber of commerce, was a guest.

Dill to Introduce Several Bills

Legislator Works on Soft Crab Regulation; Predicts April as Legislature End

George Dill, Carteret county assemblyman, said the bill exempting Newport township from the Cherry Point Air Station Zoning ordinance, would definitely hit the house hopper last night.

The bill was drawn last week and approved by the county board which requested that the bill be introduced.

The legislator will also introduce within the next several days a bill that would make the term of the county tax collector run four years, concurrent with the terms of the county commissioners.

Under the present law, Eugene Moore, tax collector, would come up for re-appointment in April. His last appointment was in April 1949.

Fishery Laws

Dill said he spent considerable time during the past week looking up laws on soft crab operations and conferring with George Ross, head of the Board of Conservation and Development, on soft crab regulations.

The legislator said that Ross has agreed to write the commercial fisheries committee asking that their regulation prohibiting taking of soft crabs in trawls be repealed. Even though this regulation may be among some of those that will be repealed in the sweeping move to get rid of obsolete fishing laws, Dill said it took some explaining to get action taken before the soft crab seasons opens which could probably be the first part of March.

Assemblyman Dill said that he is also interested in the oyster tax

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Three Vehicles Crash Saturday In Dense Fog

Twenty-one hundred dollars damage to three vehicles was caused in a smash-up at 7 o'clock Saturday night during a dense fog. The accident occurred on highway 101 four miles west of Beaufort.

Involved were a pulpwood truck driven by Lester Wallace Dickerson, route 1, Beaufort; a 1949 Oldsmobile driven by Harvey Berry, a Negro of Port Monmouth, N. J., and a 1948 Hudson driven by Homer L. Newby of Havelock.

Berry and a passenger in his car, Ruthy Hill, received severe lacerations. Dickerson has been charged with drunken driving.

According to Patrolman J. W. Sykes, who investigated, the truck was headed west on 101 and was weaving from side to side. The Oldsmobile, proceeding east, attempted to avoid the truck, but could not, and the two vehicles met head on.

Because of the fog, the Hudson came upon the wreck and plowed into the rear of the Oldsmobile. Damage to the truck, a 1946 Chevrolet, was estimated at \$600, to Berry's car, \$1,000, and to the Hudson \$500.

Lions to Hear Talk By Ed McLohorn

Lion Ed McLohorn will speak at Thursday night's meeting of the Lions club at the Hotel Fort Macon. McLohorn will tell of his work as a soft drink salesman in this area.

At last week's meeting Oscar Allred gave a brief biography of his life. He was born near Reidsville, N. C., Oct. 29, 1905, spent most of his life at High Point, two and a half years in Jacksonville, N. C., and slipped into Morehead City when nobody was "looking", he declared.

There was an extensive discussion on the club's attendance problem and during the business session a letter from Beaufort school was read. The school expressed its thanks for the Lions \$25 contribution for children's lunches.

Visitors were Ronald Harp, a former Morehead City Lion, who has returned to Cherry Point as a Marine from his recent residence at Tampa, Fla., and Sam Powell, a Lion of Garner, N. C.

The club congratulated Robert Rice on his fourth wedding anniversary.

Tide Table

Tides at Beaufort Bar

HIGH	Tuesday, Feb. 20	LOW
7:15 a.m.	12:54 a.m.	
7:31 p.m.	1:35 p.m.	
Wednesday, Feb. 21		
7:54 a.m.	1:36 a.m.	
8:09 p.m.	2:10 p.m.	
Thursday, Feb. 22		
8:32 a.m.	2:17 a.m.	
8:47 p.m.	2:45 p.m.	
Friday, Feb. 23		
9:11 a.m.	2:58 a.m.	
9:27 p.m.	3:20 p.m.	