

County's Real Property Values Go Up 10 Per Cent

Carteret county's real property valuation was increased 10 per cent by the county board of commissioners at their March session yesterday morning.

This rise in valuation will apply to 1951 taxes. The board's action followed a request by Dr. Laurie Moore, chairman of the board of education, for \$100,000 to "put Carteret county schools in A-1 condition."

The commissioners have authorized the county attorney, Alvah Hamilton, to contact W. E. Eastering of the Local Government commission, in regard to floating a \$100,000 bond issue for improvement of school buildings. Dr. Moore said conditions must be bettered at Morehead City, Beaufort and Harkers Island.

Federal funds, he added, have been earmarked for Newport and Camp Glenn schools.

The county board just yesterday acted further to make floating of a \$30,000 bond issue possible, to complete payment on the Atlantic school. This bond issue was approved several months ago. Yesterday was set as the time for public hearing on the proposal. No one appeared to object to the floating of the bonds, neither was any objection received in writing.

By law, Carteret county is permitted to borrow money equal to the amount of two-thirds of the bonded indebtedness retired in 1950. Bonded debts paid last year amounted to \$217,000, which means approximately \$140,000 in bonds can be sold by the county in 1951. Thirty thousand dollars of that amount has been approved for schools, and additional \$100,000 would bring the total to \$130,000.

Dr. Moore stated that the county board of education would make its budget requests less year by year to help make up for the amount of interest payable on the bonds.

Unanimous Approval

The board was unanimous in its approval to increase property valuation 10 per cent, stating that improvement of the schools is a worthy cause.

Commissioners commented that in 1933 there was a 33 1/3 per cent cut in valuation which has never been restored. Upping valuations 10 per cent would restore just a partial amount of that reduction of almost 20 years ago.

\$75,000 Yield

James D. Potter, county auditor, pointed out that the 10 per cent increase would mean an increase in valuation of real property of approximately \$1,300,000 or a yield of about \$23,000 in taxes, half of which would be used to pay off the county's bonded debt. The other half, less than \$12,000, would go into the county's general fund.

Dr. K. P. B. Bonner, chairman of the board, commented that in his 40 years of experience in dealing with the public, "they are enthusiastic about any improvement as long as they don't have to pay for it."

He added, "The people can't expect this board to operate a progressive government with no money to do it with. The only thing that has saved us in recent years is the tremendous building program in the county."

Advertising Bureau Lists Six Historic Sites Here

Six locations in Carteret county are listed by the State Advertising division in a recent release on historic homes and buildings.

Listed in Beaufort are the following: the Davis House, Duncan House (late 1700's), Front street, Hammock House (date of erection unknown, although it is described in a 1719 deed and was a reference point for ships entering Beaufort Harbor), Masonic Lodge, used originally as a school, and Odd Fellows Home, Turner street, erected by masons who built Fort Macon (1828-1835), was purchased by Odd Fellows when Mariner Lodge, A.F.A.M. disbanded.

Listed under Morehead City and Atlantic Beach is Fort Macon, erected 1828-1835 and restored in 1936. Commands Beaufort inlet, was occupied by federal troops April 24, 1862.

Contract Let
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Tide Table

Tides at Beaufort Bar		
HIGH	Tuesday, March 6	LOW
7:12 a.m.		12:52 a.m.
7:27 p.m.		1:25 p.m.
Wednesday, March 7		
7:57 a.m.		1:43 a.m.
8:14 p.m.		2:07 p.m.
Thursday, March 8		
8:39 a.m.		2:30 a.m.
8:57 p.m.		2:47 p.m.
Friday, March 9		
9:19 a.m.		3:12 a.m.
9:38 p.m.		3:25 p.m.

County Board Gets Deluge of Road, Tax Problems

The county board of commissioners, in regular session yesterday morning at the court house, was deluged with tax matters and petitions for roads.

R. R. Barbour requested that the road west of the former Morehead City airport be straightened and that the curving part formerly used, be abandoned. His request was approved.

Maintenance of 1.3 miles of road in the vicinity of Fred Bell's home in the Wildwood area was okayed, the board stating that their request for maintenance shall take effect when the county's quota for state-maintained roads increases.

Maintenance of roads in Hancock and Huntley parks was placed under the same stipulation. Similar conditions will hold true for a request for maintenance on roads in the Brooks development, Gales Creek. The roads, approximately one-half mile total length, have been built and the county has been requested to put them on the state system.

The board stated that when it is time for them to be repaired and maintained, the state will be requested to do so if the mileage is available.

Taken under consideration was a request by A. L. Pearson, Clinton, for maintenance of roads in his development at Broad Creek.

The board approved the proposal that the Harkers Island road be widened from Carl Willis's east to Shell Point, a distance of 4.6 miles. Also approved were the plans for the new bridge across Bogue Sound from Morehead City to Atlantic Beach.

In regard to tax matters, Elmer Salter, Stacy, said that his valuation has been increased \$500 unjustifiably. The same grievance was presented in the case of Bruce Willis, Atlantic. Both matters were referred to John Brooks, tax supervisor, for investigation.

The welfare board report on Elvin Salter, Sea Level, was read. Salter, who asked for adjustment of taxes, owes the county \$354.96, according to Eugene O. Moore, tax collector. The county board suggested that the welfare board investigate the Salter case.

After hearing the welfare board report, and further investigation of the tax records showing that Salter has not paid taxes since 1921, the board stated that he should be informed that the property has already passed into the hands of the county and that if he wants it restored, he should offer the county a price for it.

In regard to the revaluation of the R. R. Barbour Fisheries property, known as the Croatan Frozen Food plant, the commissioners ordered that taxes be figured for the first three months of 1950 on the regular valuation of \$22,500 and for the remaining nine months of that year, after destruction by fire, on \$5,000. The \$5,000 valuation has been set for 1951 also.

Referred to the county attorney for investigation was the case of Beaufort Cannery. Taxes owed on the cannery are \$866.37 for 1948, 1949, and 1950. The holder of the mortgage and present owner of the defunct cannery, Dr. R. A. Luongo, has been billed for the \$866.37 and Attorney Claud Wheatly told the board that he felt Dr. Luongo should not be made responsible for tax debts incurred prior to the bankruptcy proceedings.

Fire Wardens Fight Three Fires Throughout County

County fire wardens brought three fires under control during the past two weeks. Joe Taylor, Bogue, reported to the district warden, E. M. Foreman, a fire Sunday afternoon at Bogue. Foreman also stated that 500 acres of marsh grass were afire Thursday at Open Grounds, and on Feb. 24 the fire crew fought flames that burned from Russell's Creek through to North River on highway 70.

The fire tower at Otway is now equipped with radio, as well as Foreman's truck. Watcher in the fire tower is Mrs. Dorothy Willis of Smyrna. Her schedule is one hour in the morning and one hour in the tower in the afternoon and during dry seasons from 9 in the morning until one hour after sunset.

Manager Attends Meeting

Joe DuBois, manager of the Morehead City chamber of commerce, attended a meeting of the North Carolina Chamber of Commerce Executives Friday at Greenville.

Test Piling for New Bridge Driven Yesterday

The first test piling for the new bridge from Morehead City to Atlantic Beach was driven yesterday. The contract for the bridge is expected to be let within the next few days.

State Highway commission officials were in the county over the weekend in regard to the proposed bridge construction. They were T. B. Gunner and George Parker, both of Raleigh, and J. B. Broach, New Bern, who is supervisor of bridge work in eastern North Carolina.

Clerk Probates, Files Three Wills

The wills of E. L. Merrill, Beaufort BFD Sam Edwards, Newport, and John S. Lawrence, Otway, were probated and filed recently in the clerk of superior court's office, Beaufort.

To his brother, D. F. Merrill, Beaufort, Merrill bequeathed all his real and personal property, because, the will read, D. F. Merrill built the home in which the deceased lived. The will was drawn in December 1946 and was witnessed by W. M. Davis and Delton Davis. D. F. Merrill is executor.

Edwards' wife, Rena Robinson Edwards, was named executrix and to her the deceased willed all his personal property. His real property was bequeathed to his daughter, Kathryn Edwards Montague. The will was drawn Sept. 27, 1948 and was witnessed by Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Millis. It was filed in the clerk's office Feb. 6, 1951.

To Arnetia Lawrence and Mary E. Lewis, John S. Lawrence willed one acre of land and the house at Otway known as Seven-Pine Ridge. Mary E. Lewis was named executrix and the will was witnessed by L. W. Hassell and D. H. Lewis. It was probated and filed Feb. 16, 1951.

Marines Fight 350-Acre Blaze at Cherry Point

Cherry Point — Marine firefighters on Wednesday fought a brush fire of undetermined origin which swept over an area of 350 acres of scrub timber. Hampered by shifting winds which spread the fire beyond control, the firefighters battled the blaze from late morning to midnight.

The fire was first discovered by the operator in the control tower of the Marine Corps Air station, who turned in an alarm at 10:55 a.m. The Air Station Fire department dispatched three high-pressure trucks to the scene. The forestry crew went into action with back tanks and shovels, while the Public Works department sent bulldozers to the area to cut fire breaks.

Despite the efforts of these Marine firemen, and a crew from the National Forestry service, it was late afternoon before the fire was enough under control to start tackling the job of extinguishing it.

Patrols Set Up

Working far into the night, men from units of the Second Marine Air Wing and Air Station firefighters, patrolled the fire breaks to see that the flames didn't jump outside the contained area, then late last night a series of backfires were kindled to burn off fuel in the path of the big blaze.

By midnight the fire was out. A small crew was left at the scene to prevent a flare-up of the embers.

Loss Small

The forestry officer for the Marine Corps Air station reported that the loss by this fire was small because of the type and condition of trees in the area that was burned over.

Some game was chased from the area by smoke and flames. Firemen reported deer and other wild life darting across the fire breaks.

Local firefighters were not so much concerned with damage done in this blaze as they were with the potential destruction that a fire of this type can cause. Had the fire occurred in an area in which there were dwellings, gasoline storage tanks, or ammunition dumps, the results might have been disastrous.

Welfare Board Hears Report On County's Grants to Needy

Members of the county welfare board were informed at the recent February meeting that Carteret county now ranks 50th in average old age assistance payments in the state and 53rd in aid to dependent children grants. Attending the meeting was Stanley Woodland, newly-appointed member to the board who replaces the chairman, C. G. Nelson.

By law Nelson had served the maximum number of terms on the board. A new chairman will be elected at the March meeting.

By tape recording, Mrs. T. T. Potter related the responsibilities of a welfare board member, prior to the review of North Carolina Public Welfare statistics.

In regard to legislation the board members agreed that state legislators must be kept informed of local needs and local interests should be brought to the attention of lawmakers in regard to all social legislation. Importance of state activity to the local program was emphasized, due to the state's

matching of funds in old age assistance and aid to dependent children.

The following services offered by the welfare department were reviewed: financial — old age assistance, aid to dependent children, aid to the blind, aid to the permanently and totally disabled, general assistance grants, hospitalization and sanatorium fees.

Child welfare — adoption, boarding home care, juvenile court, institutional care, health care, truancy, issuance of labor certificates, psychological examinations.

Special groups — blind, mentally ill, alcoholics, parolees, family counseling, sterilization cases, transients.

Miscellaneous — veteran administration, vacation rehabilitation, selective service, solicitation control (state), cooperation with agencies in Carteret county requiring social welfare information.

House bill No. 410, increasing state payments for indigent hospital patients was approved. The bill See WELFARE, Page 8

County Gives Plaque In Honor of Taylor Boys

A plaque in honor of the four Taylor boys, William, Daniel, Alfred, and Leslie, natives of Sea Level, will be placed in the science room of the Atlantic Consolidated school in the near future.

The four brothers contributed \$2,250 to pay for equipping the science room.

Cost of placing the plaque, \$49.50, has been met by the county under authorization of the county board of commissioners.

Easter Seal Sale Begins in County

Mrs. Martha Loftin, Beaufort, has been appointed chairman of the 18th annual Easter Seal sale, according to an announcement received today by P. S. Randolph, executive director of the North Carolina League for Crippled Children.

Carteret county's goal in sale of Easter seals this year is \$1,000. Collected last year was \$491.25, according to Mrs. Loftin who served as chairman in the 1950 campaign.

Uses for Money

That money was used to send children of the county to orthopedic clinics in Asheville and Goldsboro, to give a teacher training in rehabilitation work, and to aid a family which had spent all available funds they had for their little boy who needed orthopedic attention.

Replacing Mrs. D. F. Merrill as the treasurer this year is Thomas C. McGinnis, superintendent of the welfare department. Others on the board of the Carteret unit, League of Crippled Children, are the Rev. W. L. Martin, Mrs. W. L. Woodard, Mrs. Lawrence Rudder, Mrs. Vera Smith, all of Beaufort; Mrs. Darden J. Eure, Hoyle Greene, Groven Munden, all of Morehead City, and members of the welfare board, Mrs. T. T. Potter, Beaufort, Mrs. Cecil Morris, Atlantic, and Stanley Woodland, Morehead City.

Letters to Go Out

Letters containing Easter seals will be mailed out next week. Recipients are asked to return contributions in the envelope enclosed with the seals. The sale will continue until Easter Sunday, March 25.

Of the funds raised in the sale, 91.7 per cent are retained in the state where they are raised. The remaining 8.3 per cent goes to the National Society for Crippled Children and Adults to finance its program of research, education and service.

Lions Vote More Funds For Visually-Handicapped

An additional \$50 to the \$107 already donated to the welfare department, was voted by Lion's club members Thursday night at Hotel Fort Macon. This sum will purchase glasses for needy adults.

Following the business session, Owens Fredericks gave an interesting talk on his life. Born in Georgia, he served 21 years in the Navy, wandering capriciously about the world.

Why did he choose Morehead City to settle down in? Well, it wasn't easy. In 1931 he was stationed in Morehead during a tour of duty. It was the "most forsaken place" he had ever seen.

Maybe it was the salt air or the sand or the local girl he married, but somehow Owens got to liking the town. Accordingly, he requested permanent stationing.

And now that Owens is firmly entrenched in Morehead City, the Navy is recalling him again in May.

Widow Takes Over Constable's Job

The widow of Constable Luther T. Hardison, Coral Gables, Fla., has taken over her husband's job. "My husband told me if anything happened, I should take his place so I could continue to care for the two small children", she said.

Hardison, who was shot Feb. 15 on a lonely road near Mobile, Ala., was the uncle of C. S. Hardison, Jr., 1511 Shepard st., Morehead City. Harris T. Mullis, 23, a prisoner he was taking back to Coral Gables, Fla., from California, was captured in New York and charged with the crime.

Constable Hardison had not handcuffed Mullis for the long ride because he believed "there's no such thing as a bad boy". Just as her husband would, the matronly new constable holds no bitterness in her soul for the youth. "He shouldn't be turned loose, though, because there is something seri-

ously wrong with his," Mrs. Hardison said.

She's not particularly happy about her appointment. She looks at it with determination as a job to be done "because that is what he wanted."

The Hardisons have four children, two grown and a boy, three and a girl, nine. Her married daughter will help her care for the smaller children while she is away from home as constable for Miami's populous District 3, which includes Coral Gables.

Another woman will have charge of other law enforcement problems in the district. Mrs. Ruth Linda Sutton was appointed justice of the peace recently after the death of her husband.

Sutton and Hardison were good friends, so there will be little change in policy with their widows in their places. We won't have

Vote Due Today on Revising Decision on Liquor Referendum

Construction Hits Upswing

Lifting of the government freeze on building material, a ruling that was in effect until Feb. 15, has given impetus to building in Morehead City. Permits issued by A. B. Roberts, building inspector for the city during the month of February shows requests for the construction of eight new houses at an estimated cost of \$18,850 with the sum of \$5,885 covering the costs of repairing.

Permits issued for the construction of new homes were: S. H. Barrow, Avery street, between 12th and 13th, \$3,000; Ella Mae Romani, Arendell street, between 21st and 22nd, \$1,300; W. S. Allen, Avery street, between 12th and 13th, \$2,400; Lewis A. Lewis, Arendell street, between 11th and 12th, \$1,800; Carl D. Garner, Bridges street, between 21st and 22nd, \$700; W. E. Barnes, Shackleford street between 15th and 16th, \$8,500; Ruth L. Grantham, 4th street, \$650; Lindsey Guthrie, Shepard street, between 13th and 14th, \$500.

The White Ice Cream company was granted a permit for the moving and remodeling the old Boomer house moved from the corner of 7th and Arendell street to make way for the new store building now going up on that corner. The house located on Fisher street will be remodeled into an apartment at an estimated cost of \$5,000.

A permit was issued C. N. Albert for repair work on his house to cost \$495 and to the Sound Chevrolet for repairs to their garage to cost \$400. Total amounts of permits issued \$24,745. While the site for the new Belk building at the corner of 7th and Arendell streets is being cleared, a permit for the construction of this building does not appear in the February report.

HB 355 Passed

Passed by the house last week was HB 355 which would remove Newport township from jurisdiction of the Cherry Point Air Station Zoning commission. This bill will go now to the Senate.

Dill joined with Etheridge of Dare and Collier of Pamlico in introducing a bill providing for payment of North Carolina's membership fee in the Atlantic States Marine commission.

Carteret's legislator commented that the State Highway commission will level all the fire power at its command on the appropriations committee this week in an attempt to have them reject the Powell municipal street aid bill.

This bill, which passed the Senate, has passed all hurdles except the coming hearing before the appropriations committee. This will be the last opportunity the highway commission will have to defeat the proposal which they contend would divert \$5,000,000 to municipalities, which should be used for maintaining the state's primary road system.

End in Sight

Dill commented yesterday that the legislative session is reaching the point where the end is in sight, probably a month from now. The appropriations committee will accept no more amendments to the revenue act after Thursday.

Two Fire Departments Get Call to Harkers Island

Fire departments of Beaufort and Morehead City received alarms from Harkers Island early Monday morning but the small grocery-fishing supply store blaze was brought under control before help was sent out.

When Beaufort firemen were unable to make the out-of-town run, due to Beaufort's strict town-only operation, Morehead City was summoned for help. But by this time the small fire was over, and Chief Grady Bell's men never reported.

Harold Guthrie, owner of the combination grocery and fishing supply store estimated damage at \$200. Only the front of the building was scorched. Stock was unharmed. Nobody knows how the blaze started.

North River, Pelletier Clubs to Meet This Week

North River and Pelletier Home Demonstration clubs will meet next week. The demonstration at the North River meeting will be on home dry cleaning and pressing and at Pelletier on candlewick spreads.

Mrs. Ray West will be hostess to the North River club at 2 o'clock Thursday afternoon and Mrs. D. W. Truckner will be hostess to the Pelletier club at 2:30 Friday afternoon.

Mrs. Verona Langford, eastern district home agent, will meet with Mrs. Carrie Gillikin, home agent, Tuesday afternoon in Beaufort.