

Mrs. Marvin Willis, Smyrna, Spots Fires from Otway Tower

A theme song for her could well be "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes." Mrs. Marvin Willis of Smyrna, a pert, efficient woman who certainly doesn't look like the grandmother she is, keeps watch daily from the only Carteret county radio-equipped fire tower at Otway. And during February, March, and April smoke is sighted by her keen eyes on a many a day.



Mrs. Marvin Willis, forest fire spotter, radios County Ranger E. M. Foreman the location of a fire from which she has seen smoke rising. She locates the fire by taking an azimuth reading and using the coordination map.

Sometimes it's merely trash burning or other times it's a forest fire. But at any sign of smoke she radios the county forest ranger, E. M. Foreman, and Foreman in his truck, speeds to the spot where the smoke was reported and investigates.

During the early spring Mrs. Willis's hours are from 8:30 to sunset because fires are most likely to occur in the first few months of the year when farmers are burning off fields in preparation for planting. If the weather is extremely dry, fire tower watchers go on duty at 8:30 in the morning and stay until released, but if there have been recent rains the duty hours are reduced.

On clear days Mrs. Willis has sighted from her 120-foot tower smoke from fires 'way over in Pamlico county. Spotting fires becomes increasingly difficult as weather closes in or the atmosphere becomes hazy.

When the watcher sees smoke, she takes an azimuth reading and with the aid of a coordination map, radios Ranger Foreman the location. "A log of each radio call is kept and at the end of the month a report sent to the forestry division of the State Board of Conservation and Development under whose supervision forestry protection is carried out.

This is Mrs. Willis's second year on duty at the tower and a more enthusiastic smoke-spotter would be hard to find. Originally from New Jersey, Mrs. Willis says, "Many is the time I have helped fight forest fires at home. If you're driving along the highway and there's a forest fire, state troopers stop the car, you're handed a shovel and told to get out and go to work. The only ones who are permitted to continue on their way are doctors.

"It's completely incomprehensi-

ble to me," she continued, "how people can stand by and watch trees go up in flame. Not only the person who owns the trees benefits from them, we all do. Think what this place would be like if there were no trees.

"People drive along roads and highways and see forest fires and don't even bother to report them. It would be so easy merely to call me here at the fire tower, 2-8115, and I could have the forest ranger on the job in a few minutes," she declared.

Notifying the tower does not usually require placing a long distance call. It's on the Beaufort exchange.

There are four other towers in the same unit as Otway, one at Deppe (town near Belgrade), one at Grantsboro (this tower has a phone but no radio), one at Wilmar near Vanceboro and another at Scranton in Hyde county.

Has One Grandson

Mrs. Willis has two children, Teddy and Jackie, by a former marriage. Her son, Teddy Page was graduated from Smyrna high school and is now serving in the Navy. His son will be 2 years old this October. Jackie Page is in her third year of high school at Smyrna and Mrs. Willis also has another daughter, Judy Willis, who is 4.

At one time Mrs. Willis was a

free-lance photographer and was in the photography business with her first husband. Among some of her more memorable moments is the shooting of pictures of the Morro Castle, ship which burned and drifted ashore on the Jersey coast in 1934.

Climbing the 168 steps to the 6x6-foot room at the top of the tower is no longer a trial for Mrs. Willis. At first it was a hard job, "but I don't mind it at all any more," she reports happily.

Getting to the top on a windy day is a dangerous matter and if it's too windy, Mrs. Willis doesn't attempt it. Frequently, she says, the tower sways back and forth. Last winter she usually carried her lunch to make only one trip up and down necessary.

To while away time she crochets because she says she can do that and watch at the same time. Although there are a few other women fire-spotter manning towers throughout the country, they are somewhat unusual. The jobs are usually held down by men.

Right now Mrs. Willis says it would be fine if a relief watcher could be obtained. "There's no one to take over if I get sick, but finding someone for this kind of work isn't easy to do."

James Webb Heads Red Cross Drive In Morehead City

Goal of \$1,035 Set; Workers Meet with Field Director At Civic Center

James Webb of Morehead City has been appointed fund chairman for the 1952 Red Cross drive in Morehead City and the western part of the county. At a meeting of Red Cross workers Wednesday afternoon at the civic center Webb announced that the goal for the Morehead chapter is \$1,035.

The campaign will begin March 3 and continue one week. The committee decided that a short but concentrated drive would be most effective. In view of the increased activity experienced by the home service workers in the year just past, the \$1,035 most desperately must be reached, Webb commented.

Emphasis will be placed on person to person solicitation but individuals not contacted should mail their contributions to Henry White, Red Cross chapter treasurer, or to Webb, c/o Morehead City post office. Persons contributing will be given a Red Cross membership card.

Miss Mary Carruthers, Red Cross field director for this district with headquarters at Goldsboro, explained work of the Red Cross and gave instructions on conducting the campaign at Wednesday's meeting.

Campaign workers are as follows: Mrs. Fred Lewis, Mrs. Virginia Sample, and Miss Mary Frances Pittman, all in charge of residential solicitation; Jasper Bell, chairman of the business division; J. C. Harvell, publicity; S. R. McLendon, Negro sectional chairman.

Home service chairman for the chapter is Floyd Jones.

John W. Brent Appeals Case

John William Brent, USMC, found guilty of speeding in Monday's session of recorder's court and fined \$15 and costs, took an appeal to superior court and the bond was set at \$50.

The warrant was withdrawn against Dwight McGee on the charge of giving a bad check. Since the prosecution was found "frivolous" the prosecuting witness was taxed with costs of court.

Walter Hubert Willis, charged with operating a motor vehicle in careless and reckless manner without regard to safety and rights of others, was fined \$25 and costs. R. B. Newton and Earnest Lindwood Guthrie were fined costs of court for running through a stop sign.

William Henry Ivey was found not guilty of speeding; Robert Van Nostand was fined \$25 and costs for the same offense; Charles Styron, Jr., and Harry William Chapin were fined \$15 and costs for speeding.

Harold Willis was found guilty of public drunkenness and paid costs. For public drunkenness and using profane language Francis Travis was fined \$15 and costs.

The following cases were continued: Stamey Dixon, Raymond Paul Bender, Robert Rhodes, Connie Oliver, Jr., Will Smith, William Ray Wiggins, N. L. Broughton and Alexander Black.

Two defendants were found not guilty. Their cases were reported in Tuesday's paper. Capt. William H. Ivey had been charged with speeding and James R. Willis with driving under the influence of intoxicants. Willis's residence was mistakenly given as Smyrna in Tuesday's account. His home is in Williston.

Pastor Speaks To Brotherhood

Brotherhood was the theme of a talk by Dr. John Bunn, pastor of the First Baptist church, at the meeting of the Baptist Brotherhood Wednesday night at the church.

The meeting followed a ham dinner served by women of the church. Carl Southerland asked members' support of the Baptist Training Union and the men agreed to meet with men's groups of other churches at a joint brotherhood meeting in March.

The Brotherhood will sing in the church choir Sunday night. President Warren Beck presided at the business session. J. A. Durham was a guest.

Thirty-two persons attended.

Robert Potter, Convicted Of Non-Support, Goes on Roads

New Wrinkle in Old Skin Game? 'Prisoner' in Mexico Seeks Help in Retrieving \$449,000

Morehead City, New Bern Players Win Championship

Four players from Morehead City and New Bern won the team-of-four championship game sponsored by the American Contract Bridge League Saturday and Sunday at the Chamberlain hotel, Old Point Comfort, Va.

The winners, who received silver cups and 12 master points each, were E. M. (Al) Dewey of Morehead City, Dr. Charles Duffy, Mrs. D. J. Lewis and Frank Burton, all of New Bern.

Golf Official Asks Civic Clubs To Aid Project

At a luncheon meeting of the Morehead City golf club yesterday at the Waterfront cafe, President John Morris asked representatives of civic organizations to appoint two members of their clubs to act as a membership solicitation committee with the golf group.

Those representatives have been invited to the next meeting of the golf club at 4:30 p.m. Monday at the civic center, Morehead City.

The fact was stressed yesterday that Morehead City needs a golf course because people from out of town go to other places mainly because there isn't one here, Morris urged that the membership committees proceed with the sale of stock locally. At the present time 50 members are wanted in Morehead City and there are only 25.

The cooperation of the people interested in having a golf course here is being asked.

Plans call for the completion of a nine-hole course by mid-summer. When that is done, work will begin on plans to expand to an 18-hole course. There is much clear land on the Crab Point property under option and only a minimum of bulldozer work will be required, the president explained. The land is located on Newport river.

The road running through this property will soon be paved and there will be two means of reaching the golf course. Morehead residents will be able to go by way of 20th street as they usually would in order to reach Crab Point, and visitors from out of town will enter the other end of the road near the intersection of highways 70 and 24. If they follow this road they will come across the course.

The way things stand now, the shares in the golf club are \$100 but after the course is built new members will be required to pay a fee of \$50 in addition. Hotel guests will have the privilege of playing golf by paying greens fees if the hotel buys a share in the course, President Morris said. There is no limit to the number of shares a member may buy.

The main problem right now is to buy the land on which the club has a 30-day option. After the course is built, a club house and a yacht harbor will be constructed, according to long-range plans.

If 200 members are obtained right away, that will be enough to get started, but more members are wanted, President Morris emphasized. The shares bought now will increase in value later on when the road is paved, he commented. People interested are urged to drive over the area planned for the course.

Construction of Low-Rental Housing Units Starts

Construction has started on the East Carolina Regional Housing authority low-rental dwellings for white people between 22nd and 23rd streets on Bay, Morehead City.

Foundations have been laid out and installation of sewage pipes started this week. A low-rental housing unit for colored people will be started as soon as litigation proceedings are concluded. This unit will be located in the vicinity of the old colored school.

Building the homes is Coggins Construction co., Raleigh.

Robert Howard Receives Key

Carteret Scout Leaders Attend Meeting Sunday At New Bern

R. E. Howard of Morehead City was presented the commissioners' training key by Ralph H. Mozo, Scout executive, for Howard's completion of the three year training program at the commissioners' training session for Scouters of the East Carolina council held Sunday in New Bern. Scout leaders attending from this area were Alton Willis, Harkers Island; Ethan Davis, Morehead City; and Gerald Hill, Beaufort.

The meeting was a program of instruction, and the method of serving Boy Scout units by the neighboring commissioners was the keynote of the entire meeting. Paul Clayton, Cra-Jo-Pam district commissioner, presided at the meeting. Scouters taking part in the program were Howard, Morehead City, who led a discussion of troop program planning. A. J. Taylor, assistant to the national director of inter-racial scouting, discussed "Unit-Sponsor Relationship."

Rod Sener, assistant Scout executive, discussed registration, and Ralph Mozo, Scout executive, explained the duties of the neighborhood commissioner. W. C. Wall, district executive of New Bern, was in charge of arrangements. R. L. Smith of Midway Park gave a demonstration on Paul Bunyon ax-throwing and qualified the men on this program. Post 13 of New Bern aided Wall in putting on an aluminum foil cooking demonstration.

Scouts and Scout leaders worshipped in a religious circle conducted by W. C. Chadwick, council president, and R. L. Pugh gave the message of the morning.

Attending the meeting were Jack Hogarth and Jack Overman of Kingston; Wilfred Buck of Vanceboro; H. C. Edwards of Rocky Mount; H. L. Eason, Washington, representing the division there; Dr. L. A. Davies, representing the Cra-Jo-Pam division, the New Bern staff consisted of Paul Clayton, Bob Maples, and Charles Norwood. All men were recognized for attending on their training record.

Irvin Norris Coward pleaded guilty to stealing a cigarette lighter. He was given a six-month sentence which need not be served if he remains on good behavior for four years and pays \$25 and court costs.

The cases of Durant Chase and Samuel Manley Jones were dismissed. Chase was charged with abandonment and non-support and Jones with failure to yield the right-of-way.

Taft Pritchard pleaded guilty to driving drunk and paid \$100 and costs. Curtis James pleaded guilty to careless and reckless driving and paid \$10 and costs. Owen F. Kisner was found guilty of drunken driving and his penalty was \$100 and costs.

Malicious prosecution was ruled in the case of Harold Bass. Bass was charged with assaulting his wife, being drunk and disorderly, cursing and causing his wife to leave a place she had a right to be. The prosecuting witness was ordered to pay court costs.

Sam Alexander Walker, Jr., pleaded guilty to speeding and paid costs. Regan Judson Jones was found guilty of speeding and paid half the costs. Thomas Sanford Rose pleaded guilty to passing a school bus while it was unloading children. He was ordered to pay costs.

Costs were levied against Norma Lord, charged with driving without a license and against Leslie Andrew Mosley, charged with failing to stop at a stop sign.

Clyde Bell Bryan, charged with speeding, pleaded guilty and paid costs. Donnie Patrick Hatsell, charged with careless and reckless driving resulting in an accident, pleaded guilty and paid \$10 and costs. Robert E. Shannon for driving on the wrong side of the highway, paid \$10 and costs.

Forfeit Bond

The following, charged with violations of the motor vehicle law, forfeited bond for failure to appear: Henderson Davis, James Henry Merrell, Curley Lee Murry, Frank Merrell, Roy Chapman Caraway, Clem Manley Merrill.

Barbara June Light, Charles Patrick Light, Ellis Worthington, Richard W. Broton, and John W. Burke.

Cases against the following were continued: Ralph Willard Riggs, Reuben F. Bell, Vernon Edward Lee, John Joseph Bolduc, Lillian Lewis, Betty Ann Hardison, Clinton Frazier, Cecil Merrill.

George W. Foxworth, Theodore Smith, Gerald Kenneth Felii, Sally A. Van Schooneveld, Joseph Hershel Ferguson, Willie Henry Smith, Warren V. Rasmussen, Malcolm Simmons.

Thomas Arthur Matthews, Clifton Smith, James Judson Patterson, and Joseph Paul Zajac.

Banks, Postoffices Closed

In observance of George Washington's birthday today banks and postoffices are closed.

Thieves Steal Contractors Tools

Thieves removed a set of contractors tools owned by Phillips, Bonin and Covington, contractors, Saturday night at Macon village on route 70 near Cherry Point.

The tools, which were taken from a locked box, include a 2,500-watt gasoline power Homelite electric generator, a signal corps gasoline power electric generator, a half-inch Thor electric drill, a 7-inch electric Skil drill and two Stanley electric power saws.

The tools were being used in construction of Macon village, a new housing development for civilian workers at Cherry Point, and had been left in a locked box by workmen who had left for the day.

Deputy Sheriff Bruce Edwards at Cherry Point, is asking for leads and all sheriffs in surrounding counties have been notified of the theft.

Director Will Visit B&PW Club

Mrs. Grace Ayscue, director of district 7, North Carolina Business and Professional Women's clubs, will pay an official visit to the Carteret club at the meeting Tuesday night at the civic center, Morehead City.

Other honored guests will be Mayor George W. Dill, Morehead City, former Carteret representative in the general assembly, and A. H. James, Morehead City, chairman of the county infantile paralysis chapter.

Mrs. Ayscue will speak and Mayor Dill will talk on legislation. James will comment on the recent March of Dimes campaign sponsored by the B&PW club. Mrs. C. L. Beam, club member and March of Dimes treasurer, will give a campaign financial report.

In charge of the program is Mrs. Blanda McLohon. Miss Ruth Peeling, president, will have charge of the business session.

A barbecue supper will be served at 7 p.m.

Two Newport Men Train for Arctic

Camp Drum, N. Y.—Two Newport soldiers, Pfc. William Daugherty, route 1, and Sgt. Leland D. Simmons, are learning Arctic warfare at Exercise Snow Fall, the Army-Air Force winter maneuver at Camp Drum, N. Y.

They are members of the 188th Airborne regiment, a part of the 11th Airborne division. Their unit also took part in the much-publicized Exercise Desert Rock in Nevada October 1951, in which atom bombs were exploded.

Exercise Snow Fall has a dual purpose. The 33,000 soldiers and airmen participating not only learn how to survive and win battles in ice and snow but are testing winter equipment.

Daugherty, a wireman in Headquarters and Headquarters company, entered the Army Oct. 19, 1950 and completed parachute training in February 1951 at Fort Benning, Ga.

He attended Queen street high school, Beaufort.

Simmons, an assistant platoon sergeant in Medical company, entered the Army Feb. 3, 1949 and completed parachute training July 12, 1950 at Fort Benning, Ga.

He attended Newport high school.

Grayden Paul, Beaufort, Sees Meteorite

Grayden Paul of Beaufort was one of several Carteret countians who happened to see the meteorite which flashed through North Carolina skies shortly before noon Monday.

Paul was in the yard of Sunshine Court on Front street extended when he said he happened to look northeast and was practically blinded, he related, from the bright light.

He said it seemed as though the light was only about 15 miles away but actually it was plainly visible in parts of Virginia and at Charleston, S. C.

Paul said he thought at first it was a flare from an airplane. Marines at Bogue field also reported they saw the meteorite. Others who happened to glimpse it believed a plane exploded in mid-air.

J. P. Molen of the U. S. Weather bureau at Greensboro said that a meteorite had exploded 100 miles or more north-northeast of Greensboro at a height of 40,000 to 80,000 feet.

Toastmasters Will Observe Birthday

Toastmasters Club No. 935, Cherry Point, will celebrate its first birthday with a party at the non-commissioned officers club Wednesday night, March 26. Members' wives and friends and guests of honor will attend. New officers will be installed.

Three men were named to the nominating committee at the recent meeting and election will take place at the first meeting in March. Officers serve six-month terms.

Serving as toastmaster at the recent session was Lt. Ben Anello, club president who received his commission Feb. 9. Chairman was M/Sgt. R. T. Larson, table topic chairman was M/Sgt. O. E. Geissberger, and general critic was M/Sgt. Jack Woods. The table topic was on proverbs and what they mean.

Speakers were M/Sgt. M. R. Turvey, M/Sgt. W. W. Rose, M/Sgt. H. L. Genco, T/Sgt. J. B. Moore, M/Sgt. S. R. Clapsdahl, and R. W. Davis, HMC. Topics included How to Sell Insurance, Personnel Machine Accounting System, Murder Stalks the Highways, Special Services Funds, History of Firearms, and Semantics.

Individual critics were T/Sgt. Pat. Brady, M/Sgt. P. M. Manning, M/Sgt. A. A. Aalto, and M/Sgt. H. R. Henn.

County Bond Sales Total \$45,066.25

Sales of series E, F and G savings bonds in Carteret county for the month of January totaled \$45,066.25, of this amount \$43,826.25 was in series E bonds, \$740 was in F bonds, and \$500 in series G bonds. The sales announcement was made today by the county savings bonds chairman, Victor H. Wickizer, based on the monthly sales report from Allison James, state director of U. S. savings bonds in Greensboro.

The total figures for North Carolina's 100 counties were as follows: series E bonds \$4,187,648.00; series F \$92,389.00; series G \$520,700.00; totaling \$4,800,737.00. The county chairman said that series E bond sales for January exceeded January sales of last year by \$57,305 in North Carolina. The E bond continues to be a popular investment, he said.

Wickizer remarked that during a nation-wide school savings drive from Nov. 15 through Jan. 31, North Carolina almost doubled its assigned quota of 75 new school savings program installations. The latest count shows that 145 additional North Carolina schools have tied in with the defense effort and are teaching thrift and saving, and students are permitted to actually practice thrift and saving through the purchase of U. S. defense stamps at the schools. This brings the total installations in North Carolina to 497.

In many schools the Parent-Teacher association, the American Legion auxiliary, and other similar organizations sponsor and encourage the school savings program. Dr. Clyde A. Erwin, superintendent of public instruction for North Carolina, is a member of the National School Savings advisory committee. Mrs. J. S. Blair, of Wallace, is volunteer state chairman of the School Savings Advisory committee for North Carolina.

Tide Table

Tides at Beaufort Bar		
HIGH		LOW
Friday, Feb. 22		
5:23 a.m.		11:54 a.m.
5:46 p.m.		
Saturday, Feb. 23		
6:23 a.m.		12:03 a.m.
6:44 p.m.		12:48 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 24		
7:17 a.m.		1:02 a.m.
7:37 p.m.		1:38 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 25		
8:07 a.m.		1:56 a.m.
8:27 p.m.		2:25 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 26		
8:54 a.m.		2:47 a.m.
9:15 p.m.		3:10 p.m.