

Salvage Tug Frees Grounded Freighter Seaconnet

By Clare M. Cotton

The collier Seaconnet, hard aground off Beaufort bar from Saturday night until yesterday morning, was scheduled to sail for Europe today with its load of coal after refueling at the port terminal.

A Merritt-Chapman and Scott tug from Key West, Fla., refloated the ship using four sets of beach gear. Two large cables were attached to steam winches at each side of the bow of the Seaconnet, and then run out from the bow across the channel to three and one-half ton anchors set in shallow water.

Channel Closed

The pulling started at 4 o'clock yesterday morning, and the ship floated free at 6:30. The channel was closed to all shipping from 4 until 8 o'clock. Each set of beach gear exerted a pull of 60 tons on the grounded ship.

Arrangements for a NEWS-TIMES reporter to view much of the salvage operation from the Coast Guard buoy tender, Conifer, were made by Chief Glenn Harris at the Fort Macon Coast Guard station and Lt. A. E. Armstrong, commanding officer of the Conifer.

The Cable, a large sea-going tug, arrived early Tuesday night to begin the salvage operations. Earlier the Coast Guard buoy tender Conifer and tug Cherokee had worked to free the grounded Seaconnet.

The Seaconnet went aground at 11:45 Saturday night as her captain was trying to anchor to await a pilot the following morning. In the fog and heavy rain at that time, the ship got too close to the sand bar which juts out from Fort Macon and struck bottom as the anchor was released.

Carrying a load of coal for Italy from Newport News, Va., the Seaconnet was going to re-fuel at the Morehead City port terminal.

Coast Guardsmen pointed out that in winter weather when there are few lights on Atlantic Beach and with fog and rain it is sometimes easy to confuse the lights of Beaufort and Morehead City for the true coastline. The captain of the Seaconnet struggled several hours to free his vessel and notified the Coast Guard of his plight at 3:37 Tuesday morning. The Conifer, a buoy tender stationed at Fort Macon, got underway to aid the stricken ship at 5:25 o'clock.

Close to Channel

Once the bow of the ship had struck the sand, heavy winds and tides worked the Seaconnet hard aground. Tuesday afternoon it was estimated that the keel of the ship was lying at least three feet in sand amidships in a broad position—parallel to the beach. The ship was approximately 100 yards from the channel.

The Seaconnet has a draft of 28 feet and the water in which it was lying ranges in depth from 20 to 24 feet. The collier went aground near the spot where the Doswell Edwards, a menhaden fishing boat, sank recently.

Tide and sea action cut the sand from under the bow and stern of the Seaconnet and Coast Guard officers were fearful that with all its weight resting amidships a rough sea and high wind might break the ship apart in the middle. In 1949 a \$25 million British ship on her maiden voyage suffered such a fate when grounded off the coast of Brazil.

Soundings which were made about the ship late Tuesday revealed that the water amidships at high tide was approximately 24-25 feet in depth while the bow and stern were in water nearly 30 feet in depth. Propeller wash from the tugboat Coast Guard ships also acted to cut the sand from the bow and stern of the ship.

The last concerted effort of the Coast Guard ships to free the freighter was made Tuesday afternoon at high tide which came at 5:27 o'clock. The Cherokee, a 211-foot Coast Guard tug from Norfolk, arrived Monday to assist the Conifer. With a horsepower rating of 3,600, the Cherokee could exert a

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Husband Gets Suspended Term In Assault Case

David Vann was given a six-month suspended sentence Tuesday in county recorder's court after he was found guilty of assaulting his wife. The sentence was suspended on condition that he remain on good behavior for two years.

Walter Leo Oglesby was fined \$50 and costs for careless and reckless driving. George Joseph Roy was fined \$10 and costs for speeding and passing on a curve. Eldon Eugene McColium was fined \$10 and costs for speeding.

Berger Rudolph Elstrom was ordered to pay costs for operating a motor vehicle with expired license plates. Charles F. Peels paid costs for failing to display valid license plates. Adolphus Shelton, jr., paid half of the costs for driving with expired license plates on a trailer.

Earl Chapman was ordered to pay costs for issuing worthless checks. He was also ordered to make the checks good.

Elizabeth A. Norcum paid half of the costs for driving without a license. Ralph Smith paid costs for allowing an unlicensed person to operate a motor vehicle.

James D. Todd was fined \$10 and costs for being drunk on the highway. Leon Mann paid costs for public drunkenness.

Bonds were forfeited by Leo P. Lebold, Glenn Allen Diebert, Herbert Deas, jr., and Audrey Siler Long.

Cases were continued against John P. Bryant, Willie Lutz, Jessie May Little, Alton Eastern Harris, Orphanus George, James Green, Paul Leroy Reed, John A. Burk, Roy Washington Avery and Thomas Gene Wilson.

Telephone Group Holds Meetings

Steps to be followed in obtaining telephone service were explained to rural residents of Carteret county at four meetings held this week.

The meetings, held at Sound View, Broad Creek, Bogue and Cedar Point, were scheduled by R. M. Williams, county farm agent, under the sponsorship of the Beaufort chamber of commerce. At Newsum, assistant county agent, and Dan Walker, manager of the Beaufort chamber of commerce, were the speakers at the meetings.

Mr. Walker and Mr. Newsome explained procedures to be followed and assisted with the organization of local committees which will handle the applications for telephone service.

At Monday night's meeting at the Sound View Baptist church, application blanks were given to Miss Minnie Elliott and Elmer Garner. Applications in the Broad Creek area may be obtained from Mrs. E. V. Jones, Royal Smith and Roger Jones. The Broad Creek meeting was also held Monday night at Mr. Jones' store.

In the Stella-Pelletier-Silverdale-Maysville area, applications may still be obtained from Lionel Pelletier, Milton Truckner, Leslie G. Dudley, Otis E. Godwin, Ephron S. Smith, N. W. Morton and J. W. Young. Two other meetings have been scheduled, one for Feb. 19 and one for Feb. 25. James Allgood, Onslow county farm agent, has scheduled a meeting for 7 p.m. Feb. 19 at the White Oak school. E. M. Foreman, county forest ranger, has scheduled a meeting for the Core Creek-Harlowe area at the Core Creek Methodist church Feb. 25.

State Asks Permission To Construct New Bridge

The Wilmington office of the Army engineers has announced that the state highway and public works commission has applied for permission to construct a drawbridge across the Trent river at New Bern.

Plans call for the new bridge to be located at the foot of East Front street. It will replace the present bridge on which US 70 crosses the river.

The new bridge will be a double opening swing drawbridge with a horizontal clearance of 78 feet for each opening. A vertical clearance of 14 feet at normal water level will be provided in the 300-foot channel.

CP&L Honors Local Manager

George B. Stovall, division manager of the Carolina Power and Light company in Morehead City, was made a member of the Pioneer club of the utility firm last night in Wilmington.

Lewis V. Sutton, president of the company, presented Mr. Stovall with an emblem for 25 years' service with that company and the



George B. Stovall

Tidewater Power company, Carolina Power and Light purchased the Tidewater firm in March of 1951. Also receiving emblems were 48 other former employees of Tidewater.

The dinner meeting was held at the Famous club in Wilmington. Mr. Stovall gave the invocation at the banquet.

Mr. Stovall grew up in Wilmington where he joined the Tidewater company in July of 1919. He came to Carteret county in 1940 as division manager and when the Carolina Power and Light company purchased the Tidewater company, Mr. Stovall says, "They got me too." He was kept at his position as division manager.

In the nearly 34 years that Mr. Stovall has been in the electric power business, he has worked in many different branches of the business. "I've done everything there is to be done in a utility company," he says. Tidewater bought the electric plants and water system in this area about 20 years ago. The division now comprises all of Carteret county and two new housing projects in Havelock.

Jaycees Plan Oyster Roast

Final plans for next week's oyster roast were made at Monday night's meeting of the Morehead City Jaycees. The oyster roast will be held at 8:30 p.m. Monday at the American Legion hut. The club will bear all expenses of the party.

Ralph Gardner reported that the local club's shrimp party will be on the agenda at the state quarterly board meeting Feb. 21-22 at Durham. The party will be used to help promote the Miss North Carolina beauty pageant to be held this year in Morehead City. Mr. Gardner reported that Otis Purifoy will donate 35 pounds of shrimp for the party.

The club voted to adopt the slogan "By the sea in '53" for the beauty pageant. Jimmy Wallace announced that the pageant committee will meet at 7:30 p.m. tonight.

A committee was appointed to conduct the local pageant and to select Morehead City's entrant in the Miss North Carolina contest. Serving on the committee are Sam Guthrie, Bill Norwood and Jerry Rowe.

Bill Smith and Sonny Geer were named to a committee to work with the bicycle club at the Morehead City school. The purpose of the club is to promote safety among bicycle riders. The Jaycees will donate Scotchlite tape to the club for marking bicycles, and Mr. Smith will give safety lectures at club meetings.

The club turned down a proposal that the Jaycees sponsor a junior softball league among the churches. The club felt that the members would be unable to work with the teams during the day and the cost of lighting would make night games impossible.

Boy Tender Conifer Sails To Supply Lightships

The Coast Guard buoy tender Conifer left Wednesday for Diamond Shoals Lightship off Cape Hatteras and Frying Pan Lightship off Southport.

On Feb. 25 the tender is scheduled to go to Baltimore, Md., where it will be put in drydock.

Merchant Pays \$100 Fine For Selling Fireworks

A Morehead City merchant was given a suspended sentence and was fined \$100 Monday in Morehead City recorder's court for selling fireworks.

James Piner was given a 90-day suspended sentence for possessing fireworks, offering them for sale and selling them. The sentence was suspended on condition that he remain on good behavior for 12 months and pay a fine of \$100 and costs. Judge George H. McNeil ordered that the fireworks be destroyed.

Linwood Edward Jones was given a 90-day suspended sentence for careless and reckless driving, driving with an improper license and operating an improperly registered motor vehicle.

The sentence was suspended on condition that he pay a fine of \$110 and costs.

Clyde Merrill was given 30-day suspended sentences on each of two charges of public drunkenness. The sentences are to be served consecutively.

The first sentence was suspended on condition that he pay a fine of \$25 and costs and remain on good behavior for six months. The second was suspended on condition that he pay court costs and remain on good behavior for six months. The costs are to be consolidated in both cases.

Walter Merrill was given a 30-day suspended sentence for operating a motor vehicle with expired license plates. The state declined to prosecute him on a charge of driving without a license.

The sentence was suspended on condition that the defendant refrain from driving for 90 days unless a reexamination shows that he is mentally and physically fit to drive.

Judge McNeil ordered him to deposit his license with the clerk of court until the examination is completed. Mr. Merrill served notice of an appeal to the superior court and was released on \$50 bond.

Mrs. Nina Murray was given a six-month suspended sentence for using loud and profane language, disturbing the peace and assault with a deadly weapon. The sentence was suspended on condition that she remain on good behavior for 12 months and pay a fine of \$25 and costs.

Miss Lillian Pittman was given a

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Harbor Leap Proves Fatal

Young Navy Man Drowns In Attempt to Recover Billfold Lost Overboard

A leap into the waters of the harbor Tuesday afternoon proved fatal to an 18-year-old Massachusetts seaman attached to an LST tied up at the port terminal.

The sailor, Deponce Oliveira of Fall River, Mass., was drowned when he jumped from the ship in an effort to recover his billfold which he had dropped overboard.

Witnesses aboard the LST 722 said that Seaman Oliveira dropped the billfold over the side and immediately jumped after it. He went down before help could reach him.

The drowning occurred at 3 p.m. and the Fort Macon Coast Guard station was notified at 4:45. A boat from the station arrived on the scene at 5:05 and began dragging operations.

After working 25 minutes, the boat crew recovered both the body and the billfold on the third drag. An ambulance removed the body to the Naval hospital at Camp Lejeune.

Coroner Leslie D. Springle, who was summoned by the Coast Guard, pronounced the drowning an accidental death.

Coroner Springle praised the Coast Guardsmen for their prompt action in recovering the body. The coroner said, "If those boys hadn't been alert, they never would have recovered the body the way that tide was running. It's a miracle that they were able to get the body in so short a time."

Those who took part in the dragging operation were Calvin Mason SN, Richard Johnson BM3, Percy Davis ET3, and Robert Davis AT2.

Town Proclaims Day of Prayer

Mayor L. W. Hassell of Beaufort has proclaimed Friday, Feb. 20, as World Day of Prayer in Beaufort and has urged all citizens of Beaufort and surrounding communities to join in the observance.

Mayor Hassell's proclamation follows: Whereas the general department, United Church Women of the National Council of Churches has designated Friday, Feb. 20 as World Day of Prayer, and

Whereas the Carteret county ministers' association and other groups are cooperating, and

Whereas World Day of Prayer has been designated on an international, interdenominational, interracial basis to join the peoples of the world together in the furtherance of belief in the theme for that day—Christ Our Hope;

Now, therefore, I, L. W. Hassell, mayor of the town of Beaufort, North Carolina, do proclaim Friday, Feb. 20, 1953, as World Day of Prayer in the town of Beaufort and call upon the people of Beaufort and surrounding communities to observe this day by according to this as a personal invitation to attend some portion of this observance from 7 o'clock in the morning to 9 o'clock in the evening with guided worship during the noon hour, at 12:30 and at 7:30 p.m.

If the duties of some are such as to make this impossible, I urge them to pause in their work for one minute at noon to ask that God give that hope that is in Christ Jesus light to guide us and love to unite us. I further urge every church or business having bells, chimes or whistles to sound them once or twice at 12 noon for the observance of that minute of prayer.

Witness my hand and seal of the town of Beaufort this 9th day of February, 1953.

L. W. Hassell, Mayor

Work to Start On Golf Course

The board of directors of the Morehead City Country club at a meeting Monday night voted to authorize the beginning of construction on the golf course.

Work on the course will begin Monday under the supervision of C. C. McCuiston, manager of the Fort Bragg golf course. Mr. McCuiston will arrive in Morehead City tomorrow to complete plans for the work.

Grading work on the course will be done by the Barrus Construction company, and T. A. Loving company will construct the irrigation system. The work is expected to be completed in about two weeks.

Dr. John Morris, president of the club, said that the members hope that the course will be ready by the middle of July. He said that a full time greenskeeper will be employed as soon as the grading and laying out of the course is finished.

Dr. Morris said that the public is invited to drive out and observe the activities while the course is under construction. The course is located on the road between Crab Point and the junction of US 70 and NC 24 and may be reached from either direction. Dr. Morris said that the road to the course will be paved in the near future.

Only nine holes will be constructed at this time although plans call for an 18-hole course.

The directors also voted at Monday's meeting to increase the cost of membership in the club. Beginning March 1, the cost will be increased by 50 per cent.

Police Investigate Beaufort Break

Beaufort, county and state authorities are still investigating Friday night's break at Holden's restaurant in Beaufort.

The officers are waiting for a report on fingerprints believed to have been left by the thief or thieves who took \$107 from a cigar box in the restaurant.

The robbery was discovered Saturday morning by Holden Ballou, owner of the restaurant. Mr. Ballou discovered that the money was gone and called Chief Carlton Garner of the Beaufort police department.

Police discovered that the thief had entered the building through a window which opens on to an alley between the restaurant and the home of Mrs. Ruby Becton. The thief had cut a screen on the window, unhooked it and then opened the window.

Police believe that the robbery occurred about midnight. Mrs. Becton told them that she was awakened by the sound of the slamming screen at that time.

The sheriff's department and George Canady of the state bureau of investigation are assisting Beaufort police with the investigation.

Daniels to Leave Fort Macon

Coast Guard headquarters in Norfolk, Va., this week released information concerning personnel changes at the Fort Macon Coast Guard station and the buoy tender Conifer.

Chief Boatswain R. B. Newell was given orders to assume command of the Fort Macon station on March 25. Chief Boatswain H. R. Daniels, present commander of the station, will be reassigned later. He is now in the hospital in Norfolk.

At the present time Chief Newell is commander of the Coast Guard base at Portsmouth, Va.

In another change Lt. (jg) Ludwick K. Rubinsky, now with the Port Security unit in New York City, has been given orders to report to the Conifer as executive officer on Feb. 20. Orders reassigning Lt. (jg) Herbert Clark, present executive officer of the Conifer, have not been issued.

Peris Authority Chairman Announces Resignation

A. G. Myers of Gastonia, chairman of the state ports authority, announced Tuesday that he had submitted his resignation to Gov. William B. Umstead.

Mr. Myers said that he believed he had served long enough and that it was time to give someone else a chance at the post.

Former Gov. Gregg Cherry appointed Mr. Myers to the authority eight years ago and former Gov. W. Kerr Scott reappointed him four years ago. He has been chairman for four years.

Mr. Myers has also retired as president of Textiles, Inc., and the Citizen's National Bank of Gastonia.

March of Dimes Drive Raises \$6,162.57 Here

With complete returns still not in, the 1953 March of Dimes drive for Carteret county has reached a total of \$6,162.57. The goal for the drive, sponsored by the Business and Professional Women's club, was \$5,000.

The county schools contributed \$2,758.40. The highest contribution came from the Beaufort school which collected \$711.23. The Morehead City school was close behind with \$707.26 and the Camp Glenn school was third with \$338.95.

Other schools and their contributions are Smyrna, \$295; Newport, \$238.17; Atlantic, \$178.33; Harkers Island, \$144.27; Queen Street, \$133.31; W. S. King, \$80; Salter Path, \$22; Merrimon, \$3.78 and North River, \$6.09.

The highest individual collection in any of the schools was \$51.70 collected by Douglas Wise, a second grade pupil at Camp Glenn school. The highest class collection, \$64.67, was made by Mrs. Leland Swain's fourth grade at Camp Glenn.

The highest class contribution at the Morehead City school was \$51.78 collected by Mrs. G. T. Windell's second grade. Breakdowns for the other schools in the county are not available.

Mrs. Florence Beam, treasurer of the drive, has released a list of contributors whose donations have not previously been acknowledged.

Contributors from Beaufort were the Beaufort chapter of the Eastern Star, Mrs. Margaret Myers, David Modlin, the Friendship club, Mrs. Addie Maxwell, Beaufort theatre, Mrs. Braxton Adair, Mrs. Lucy Whitehurst, J. F. Duncan, the Beaufort Tri-Hi-Y, MYF of the Ann Street Methodist church, Miss Theresa Hill, Miss Lucille Rice.

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Drive Chairman Thanks Public

Mrs. Roma Noe, chairman of the March of Dimes drive for the B&PW club, has issued a statement thanking all those who assisted in the recently-completed drive.

Mrs. Noe's statement follows: We, the Business and Professional Women's club of Carteret county, wish to express our appreciation to each and every one who helped make the March of Dimes drive successful.

First, THE NEWS-TIMES and radio station WMBL for the wonderful publicity.

The mayors and town commissioners of Beaufort and Morehead City for permitting dimes to be collected in the parking meters and the Herald Printing company for the tags which were placed on the meters.

The principals and teachers of all the schools; the Beaufort, Morehead City and Newport theatres; the Morehead City police department and all others participating in the Mothers March on Pello.

The Blue Ribbon club, the Marine orchestra and Freeman and Nelson for their contributions to the March of Dimes dance.

The sponsors who relinquished their time for the radio program, Mades Print shop, Alex Lewis, T. T. Potter Sinclair service station and Ottis' Fish Market.

We also wish to thank those who participated in the program, Mayor L. W. Hassell, Mayor George W. Dill, Rep. Earle Mobley, the junior choir of the Ann Street Methodist church, Dan Walker, Ivey Scott, Miss Betty Lou Merrill, Mrs. Ralph Wade, Miss Kathleen Wade, Sal Palazzo, Al Dewey, Capt. Joe Rose, Tye Frost and the Melody Boys, Bruce Goodwin and Mrs. Virginia Hassell.

Mrs. Thomas Noe and the sixth grade boys in Beaufort and the Boy Scouts in Morehead City for assisting in the block of dimes and Dan Wade for his contribution to the block of dimes.

Jerry Schumacher for pictures of Carteret county's poster boy and Mrs. Frank L. Nance for making the posters. The Sanitary Fish Market restaurant for money received from the sale of coffee. The highway patrol for making the road block possible and Miss Patsy Sadler, Miss Bobbie Dennis, Miss Novella Reid and Miss Corinne Bell Webb for assisting in the road block.

All merchants for displaying the posters and iron lungs. Sheriff C. G. Holland, M. M. Ayscue and Hugh Salter for distributing the iron lungs throughout the county. The chairmen in each community in the county.

Again, we thank each of you who assisted in the drive and all who contributed to this worthy cause. We are happy to announce that we surpassed our quota of \$5,000 by \$1,162.57.

State Seeks Bids on Paving

The state highway commission has asked for bids on six paving projects in Carteret county. Bids will be opened Feb. 24 and will be reviewed at a meeting Feb. 27.

The six projects in the county total 8.35 miles of paving on county roads. Major projects will be a road from Arendell street near the Morehead City limits north to US 70 and a county road from a paved street in Newport north, north-west and south to US 70 and northeast to a dead end. The Morehead City project is part of the relocation of US 70.

Other projects are a county road from US 70 north to Wildwood, traffic circles on the north side of US 70 east of the Beaufort town limits, county roads on Lennoxville and one street in Marshallberg.

The projects in Carteret county are among 21 projects which will provide 149.79 miles of road and bridge improvements in 21 counties.

Tide Table

Tides at Beaufort Bar

HIGH	LOW
Friday, Feb. 13	
7:30 a.m.	1:12 a.m.
7:51 p.m.	1:51 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 14	
8:19 a.m.	2:06 a.m.
8:41 p.m.	2:38 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 15	
9:08 a.m.	2:58 a.m.
9:31 p.m.	3:24 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 16	
9:56 a.m.	3:50 a.m.
10:21 p.m.	4:11 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 17	
10:44 a.m.	4:42 a.m.
11:13 p.m.	4:57 p.m.