

Superior Court Judge Blasts Failure to List Taxes

Judge Orders Grand Jurors To Investigate 500 Cases

Judge Henry Stevens yesterday in superior court blasted the "deliberate failure of more than 500 residents of the county to list their taxes for 1953." Judge Stevens told members of the grand jury that James D. Potter, county auditor, had told him that at least that many people had failed to list taxes.

Judge Stevens told the jurors, "These are the same people who fail to list their taxes every year. They make it necessary for county officials to seek them out in order to complete the tax lists. We must put a stop to it."

The judge told the grand jury to investigate the matter and to take whatever action it sees fit. He said "You may wish to warn them that they will be indicted at the June term if they do not list their taxes, or you may wish to take some other action."

In his charge to the grand jury, Judge Stevens defined the criminal laws of the state in order to make it easier for the jurors to study the cases presented to them.

Judge Stevens said that he was particularly interested in the laws relating to the operation of motor vehicles. He said, "We must do something about these nitwits who drive with no regard for the rights of others. If the people who do the dirty work would get killed it might be one solution to the problem, but they escape while killing or maiming innocent people."

The judge said that he hoped the court would be able to do something to force compliance with the motor vehicle laws. He said that he believed that compliance with the laws would reduce accidents about 99 per cent.

Judge Stevens also told the jury and everyone present in court, "Every judge has his pet law and mine is the perjury law. I have no doubt that there are some here who have come to court with the intention of lying. I wish to warn them that I can tell when someone is lying to me. If I catch anyone lying, Lord have mercy on them because I won't."

The judge impressed the grand jurors with the importance of their duties and congratulated them upon being given an opportunity to become a part of the judicial branch of the state government.

He said that they bore a great responsibility and they should discharge their duties carefully.

He told the jurors that their first duty would be to return bills of indictment in the cases presented to them. He reminded the jury that the court would not be able to operate without those bills.

The judge then said that there were some things that the law requires grand juries to investigate. He said that they should investigate the performance of all those having custody of the funds of others. He asked the jurors to submit a list of all such persons who have not filed the reports required by law.

He told the jurors to inspect the jail to make sure that the prisoners See COURT, Page 2

Information concerning all phases of the port security identification card program can be secured at any Coast Guard lifeboat station on the Virginia and North Carolina coasts, group commanders' offices, or at Captain of the Port offices in Norfolk and Newport News, Va.; Baltimore, Md.; and Wilmington, N. C.

Admiral Wood stated that the Coast Guard is currently accepting applications for port security cards from commercial fishermen, who, in the course of their work, go in and out of bays, sounds, inlets and rivers which might stand the chance of being restricted.

The admiral cautioned that persons who may be required to possess port security cards should apply before restricted areas are established. A minimum of six weeks is required to complete investigation and issue a card.

Plans for promoting the completion of the final link in the coastal highway were discussed last night at a citizens' meeting at Ocracoke. The group is advocating the construction of a paved road on Ocracoke and ferries connecting the island with paved highways in Carteret and Dare counties.

Alvah L. Hamilton, Morehead City attorney, is chairman of the group's executive committee and Joseph A. DuBois, manager of the Morehead City chamber of commerce, is the secretary. Other members of the executive committee are Clayton Fulcher, Atlantic, R. S. Wahab, Ocracoke, and Dan Walker, manager of the Beaufort chamber of commerce.

Harold Midgett and M. L. Burrus of Hatteras attended the meeting to represent Dare county interests. The present paved highway along the outer banks terminates at Hatteras.

Mr. Wahab said that Governor Umstead will be asked to give his support to the project to eliminate the missing link in the coastal highway by creating a paved road on Ocracoke from Hatteras Inlet to the village of Ocracoke and by starting ferry service between Hatteras and the island and between Ocracoke and the Carteret county mainland.

The petitions, to be signed by residents of the coastal area, have been drawn up by the group. They emphasize the need for the highway and cite the benefits which would be derived from it.

The six-point petition follows: "That a ferry route be established as part of the state highway system between Hatteras and Ocracoke island and between Ocracoke island and the Carteret mainland terminus of U. S. highway 70."

"As justification thereof, such

County officials have laid out a plan whereby all of the county's bonded indebtedness can be paid off within the next 10-15 years. This year's budget calls for a total of \$221,000 in debt service. Of this amount \$160,424.02 is scheduled to be used to retire bonds which are callable and \$12,000 will be used to pay the principal on serial bonds which are due this year. The remaining \$48,575.98 is for interest on the bonds still outstanding.

Mr. Potter reported that approximately \$102,000 had already been spent on debt service by the end of February.

Red Cross Drive Response Poor Says Chairman

Fund Workers Far Short Of \$2,700 Goal as Drive Enters Final Week

Ms. Alma Potter Howard, chairman of the Red Cross drive in Beaufort, reports that response to the chapter's appeal for funds has been poor. She says that little has been turned in as the drive moves into its second and final week.

Ms. Howard said that fund workers will step up their efforts to visit every house in Beaufort this week in an attempt to meet the chapter's goal of \$2,700.

Workers in the residential district of Beaufort are Mrs. R. N. Hudnell, Mrs. B. E. Tarkington, Mrs. Levi Beveridge, Mrs. Lance Smith, Mrs. Vance Fulford, Mrs. James H. Potter, Mrs. Hugh Salter, Mrs. Ray Hassell, Mrs. Norwood Fulcher, Mrs. Robert Stephens, Kenneth Johnson, Mrs. David Hill, Mrs. L. W. Moore, Mrs. E. A. Rush, Mrs. Albert Chappell.

Mrs. R. W. Saffir, Jr., Mrs. W. L. Rudder, Mrs. R. C. Slater, Mrs. James Wheatley, Mrs. C. D. Jones, Mrs. Grayden Paul, Mrs. C. L. Beam, Mrs. Robert Tillett, Mrs. Otis Mades, Mrs. Dan Darling, Mrs. Eric Moore, Mrs. E. H. Potter, Mrs. W. H. Potter.

Mrs. Mary B. Williams, Mrs. Walter Chipman, Mrs. Leslie Moore, Mrs. Sam Chadwick, Mrs. Gene Smith, Mrs. Wiley Taylor, Mrs. H. B. Daniels and Mrs. George Lewis.

Mrs. Charles Harris of Marshallberg is chairman of the drive in eastern part of the county, and Mrs. Rosalie Davis is in charge of the drive in the Beaufort business district. Mrs. Frank King is in charge of contributions from special groups such as town and county employees and school teachers.

Braxton Adair, chapter chairman, has stressed the importance of the Red Cross drive in Carteret county. He said that the work of the Red Cross here is most noticeable in times of disaster such as the tornado which struck Stacy last fall. He said that in disaster relief alone, the Red Cross always spends more money each year in the county than is collected in the fund drives.

Those wishing to send contributions to the drive may mail them to James Webb at the Morehead City post office. He will mail membership cards to those who contribute in this manner.

Speaks Tomorrow



Dr. John D. Messick, president of East Carolina college in Greenville, will speak tomorrow night to the Men's club of St. Paul's Episcopal church in Beaufort. He has been president of East Carolina college since 1947. Dr. Messick will speak to the club on "Religion in Public and Higher Education."

Lions Give \$100 To School Band

The Morehead City Lions club presented the Morehead City school band with a donation of \$100 at its meeting last Thursday night at the recreation center.

Attending the meeting were Paul Lyman of Raleigh, district governor; Earl Jourden of Goldsboro, deputy district governor; and Lester Gould of Jacksonville, zone chairman.

Ralph Wade, director of the band, and H. L. Joslyn, superintendent of the Carteret county schools, were visitors at the meeting.

Mr. Lyman presented \$100 to the club for the Morehead City band's winning performance at a recent district convention in Rocky Mount. Band regulations forbid its accepting any prizes.

The club gave a plaque to Mr. Wade and D. B. Webb, treasurer, gave the band a donation of \$100 from the club's treasury. During the program Mr. Lyman spoke on the principles of the Lions organization.

Dinner was served to the club by the women of the Christian church. Fred Lewis, president of the club, presided.

Carteret County's Financial Position Has Improved Greatly

Carteret county's financial state has improved tremendously since 1937 when the county's bonded indebtedness of \$4,457,791.57 including defaulted interest was refinanced for \$3,611,527.93.

On January 1, 1953, James D. Potter, county auditor, reported that the county's bonded indebtedness had been reduced to \$1,972,067.81. This figure includes \$214,000 in school bonds which have been issued since the war.

The county first went into default in 1928 when the last Republican board in the history of the county refused to pay interest on the county's bonds. At the time of the refinancing, the county pledged all its uncollected taxes prior to 1937 to the payment of the interest which was owed.

In the last year, this interest has been paid and more than \$500,000 in coupons were returned to the county. Dr. K. P. B. Bonner, chairman of the county commissioners, said at that time that the "county is entering a new era of financial stability."

In 1937 the county's total property valuation was \$9,312,740 with a rate of \$1.50 per \$100 of valuation. In 1936 the county records show that only 39 per cent of all the taxes owed the county by residents were collected. Since that time the valuation has increased to \$20 million and collections have been running at better than 95 per cent.

County officials have laid out a plan whereby all of the county's bonded indebtedness can be paid off within the next 10-15 years. This year's budget calls for a total of \$221,000 in debt service. Of this amount \$160,424.02 is scheduled to be used to retire bonds which are callable and \$12,000 will be used to pay the principal on serial bonds which are due this year. The remaining \$48,575.98 is for interest on the bonds still outstanding.

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Tide Table

Tides at Beaufort Bar

HIGH	LOW
Tuesday, March 10	
3:08 a.m.	9:43 a.m.
3:32 p.m.	9:53 p.m.
Wednesday, March 11	
4:16 a.m.	10:47 a.m.
4:41 p.m.	11:02 p.m.
Thursday, March 12	
5:19 a.m.	11:43 a.m.
5:42 p.m.	11:43 a.m.
Friday, March 13	
6:17 a.m.	12:02 a.m.
6:39 p.m.	12:35 p.m.

Postal Receipts Are Increased By Navy Ships

Morehead City Office Now Does Five Times Its 1940 Business

Navy ships docking at the Morehead City port terminal during Caribbean maneuvers have boosted the receipts of the Morehead City post office, Harold Webb, postmaster, reported this week.

"When the ships are in the port," he said, "we're a small scale New York fleet post office."

The Navy is using the Morehead City office as a dispatching and pick up point for mail to and from ships in the amphibious force of the Atlantic fleet.

During January, 1953, stamp sales and other cash receipts at the post office totalled \$6,572.04 as compared with \$5,352.52 in January, 1952. Included in both total figures is \$370.25 for box rents.

The February total this year amounted to \$4,851.47.

Each year postal receipts at the office have increased, Mr. Webb said. The total 1952 business amounted to \$71,171.30 as compared to the 1951 total of \$61,307.17. The Navy mail has also been increasing steadily, he reported.

When the present Post Office building was first opened in 1940, the first year's receipts amounted to approximately \$14,000. Each year since that date the total has increased with the 12 year increase amounting to 500 percent, Mr. Webb continued.

During the first year of the office in the building, two regular clerks, one substitute clerk, a regular carrier and a substitute carrier and the postmaster carried on the work of the office. At the present time the post office has in addition to Mr. Webb one assistant postmaster, three regular clerks, two substitute clerks, two regular carriers, one auxiliary carrier, a substitute carrier and a rural route carrier.

Mr. Lyman presented \$100 to the club for the Morehead City band's winning performance at a recent district convention in Rocky Mount. Band regulations forbid its accepting any prizes.

Eastern Star Elects Officers

Officers for the year were elected Thursday night at the regular meeting of the Morehead City chapter Order of the Eastern Star.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Norwood were elected worthy matron and worthy patron, and Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Phillips were elected associate patron and associate matron.

The officers elected were Mrs. Madge Jones, secretary; Mrs. Doris Sawyer, treasurer; Mrs. Ida Reynolds, conductress; and Mrs. Gladys Nelson, associate conductress.

Officers appointed were Mrs. Kate Getsinger, marshal; Mrs. Novella Dunn, chaplain; Mrs. Lillie Edwards, organist; Mrs. Hazel Chadwick, Ada; Mrs. Mary Whittle, Ruth; Mrs. Sybil Nichols, Esther; Mrs. Mary Lear, Martha; Mrs. Velma Gates, Electa; Mrs. Thelma Danielson, warden; and Julius Nelson, sentinel.

The newly-elected officers will be installed Friday night, March 27. After the business session, refreshments were served with Mrs. Mildred Ross, Mrs. Dorothy Mitchell and Mrs. Georgie Fulcher as hostesses.

Freighter Discharges Cargo



Two stevedores at the Morehead City port terminal swing a clamshell of potash into position for a fork-lift truck during the unloading of the S.S. Carl Fisser last week at the port terminal. The Carl Fisser was the first commercial freighter to dock at the port since it was opened last summer. The potash was shipped by rail to the Standard Fertilizer company in Williamston.

Photo by Jerry Schumacher

Multi-Million Dollar Fire Hits Wilmington Waterfront

A wind-whipped multi-million dollar fire ravaged the Wilmington waterfront yesterday with firemen still trying to stop its advance at 3 o'clock nearly six hours after it started in a warehouse of the Wilmington Terminal company.

The fire started shortly before 9 a.m. and in the next six hours wiped out the warehouses of the Wilmington Terminal company and two warehouses belonging to the Seaboard Airline railroad but leased to the Heide company.

Products which were burned in the storage buildings included Chilean nitrates, tobacco, cotton, and sugar. According to estimates more than \$1 million in sugar was destroyed in the Wilmington Terminal warehouse.

The State Ports Authority building was not in the line of fire according to reports.

During the early afternoon yesterday, firemen were laboring to save a warehouse filled with explosive nitrates. The Wilmington business district was in the path of the fire but did not appear to be in danger.

Five firemen were seriously injured in fighting the fire and several other fire fighters received minor injuries. The six fire companies and one fireboat of the Wilmington fire department plus aid from Camp Lejeune, Wrightsville Beach, Wrightsboro, Southport, Carolina Beach and Winter Park battled the blaze.

In the early hours of the fire, a 16-mile-an-hour wind whipped the fire through warehouses. Late yesterday there were indications that the wind might rise to 25 miles per hour.

Everyone was evacuated from the Cape Fear waterfront area involved. Clouds of heavy black smoke covered all of the Wilmington area.

Four Men Hurt Saturday Night In Three Automobile Accidents

Four men were injured Saturday night in three automobile accidents in Carteret county. They were treated at the Morehead City hospital.

Harry Fulcher of Sea Level and Norfolk and Hollister Lassiter of Norfolk were injured when the car in which they were riding missed a curve on the Gloucester road. Kenneth E. Criss of Camp Lejeune was injured in a similar accident on the Harkers Island road, and Roscoe Harris of Newport was hurt when his car went off the road on NC 24.

Fulcher received a lacerated face and back injuries and Lassiter received head and chest injuries. Fulcher told Highway Patrolmen W. J. Smith that he was traveling south on the Gloucester road when the car failed to negotiate a curve and overturned.

Criss received minor bruises when the car he was driving missed the curve in front of Yeoman's Store on the Harkers Island road. Two passengers in the car were uninjured.

Criss told Patrolman Smith that he was traveling at about 35 miles per hour at the time of the accident. He said that the car's steering wheel locked and he could not make the curve. Patrolman Smith said that the car skidded 210 feet before coming to a stop.

Criss has been charged with careless and reckless driving and will be tried next week in county recorder's court.

Harris received cuts on the head and a lacerated right leg when his car went off the road and turned over three times. He told Patrolman J. W. Sykes that he did not know how the accident happened. He said that he was traveling at about 55 miles per hour when the car suddenly went off the road.

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Work Begins On Post Office

J. P. Betts, Beaufort postmaster, has announced that work has begun on the renovation of the post office building. Some minor repairs are also being made on the structure.

Mr. Betts said that new tile flooring is being laid in the offices of the county farm agent, collector of customs, railway mail clerk, production marketing administrator and soil conservation agent. He said that repairs are also being made on the plaster of the main work room in the post office.

The postmaster said that the entire building will also be waterproofed on the outside, and a new flagpole will complete the work. The work began last week and will be completed in a short time.

Beaufort Band Sponsors Dance

The Beaufort school band will sponsor another dance Friday night to raise money for the band's trip to Wilmington March 23 to take part in the parade which will open the 1953 Azalea Festival.

C. F. Jones, bandmaster, announced that the dance will be held at the scout building at 7 o'clock. The first dance was held last Friday night following the school's stunt night.

The money raised at the dances will be used to charter a bus for the band's trip to Wilmington. According to present plans, the band will leave Beaufort at 7 o'clock in the morning and return in the afternoon.

Mr. Jones revealed that a picnic lunch in Wilmington may be planned and also a sight-seeing tour of that city during the first day of the annual Azalea festival.

4-H Clubs Study Corn Production

Al Newsome, assistant county agent, has announced that the county's 4-H clubs will study better methods of corn production at their meetings this week. Mr. Newsome said that he will show slides at the meetings and will describe the practices recommended by the state college extension service to increase corn production.

The Smyrna club met yesterday morning. Camp Glenn will meet at 9 a.m. today, Beaufort at 11:45 a.m. and Morehead City at 1:30 p.m. today. Newport will meet at 1:50 p.m. tomorrow, Atlantic at 9:30 a.m. Thursday and Harkers Island at 10:30 a.m. Friday.

The county 4-H club council will meet at 10 a.m. Saturday in the home demonstration office at the courthouse annex, Beaufort. The council, composed of the officers of all clubs in the county will set up a program for better club meetings and to provide a stronger organization in the county.

In observance of 4-H club week which began Saturday and will continue through Sunday, all members of the clubs have been asked to wear their uniforms to school this week.

House Fisheries Committee Took No Action at Hearing

No action was taken by the House of Representatives Fisheries committee after a public hearing last Thursday on a proposed license and tax bill for commercial fisheries.

At the hearing representatives of the North Carolina Fisheries association and other commercial fisheries groups opposed the multiple-tax character of the bill and certain unit taxes.

Chairman Russell Swindell named a sub-committee to study the proposed bill and the objections of the fisheries men and report back to the entire committee Thursday, March 19. The sub-committee will work with the commercial fisheries division of the Department of Conservation and Development and commercial fisheries representatives to work out a suitable tax bill.

Members of the fisheries association pointed out to the committee that their principal intent was to eliminate the unnecessary confusions of the proposed measure, not to reduce the amount of revenue now going to the commercial fisheries division.

In proposing that unit or tag taxes be abolished, the fisheries association representatives suggested that the revenue loss be made up with a higher dealer's license. Under the proposed legislation given units of oysters, scallops, clams, soft crabs, hard crabs, shrimp and food fish would be taxed.

The task of the fish dealers would be simplified and the state agency's collections would be easier if the unit taxes were eliminated and the dealer's license fee increased, the fisheries men argued. Strong objections were also voiced to the proposed tax on catfish and eel traps.

The fisheries association also asked that the law be drawn so that all vessels engaged in trawling would pay a license fee to replace the proposed tax on trawls and nets. The fisheries men proposed a tax of 50 cents per foot for all boats under 26 feet and 75 cents per foot for all boats over 26 feet.

After paying such a fee the vessel could be used for trawling or dredging.

In order to encourage out-of-state menhaden fishing boats to come to North Carolina waters, the association is asking that the legislation be written so that such boats could pay a proportionate share of the annual state tax on fishing boats. At the present time such a boat must buy a license for an entire year. It was the feeling of many members of the association that that was unfair since the menhaden boats are only a few months each year.

Prior to the hearing, the North Carolina Fisheries association held two study meetings in Washington to draw up its proposals and study the measure prepared by the commercial fisheries division. Meeting with the association were members of the Albemarle Fisheries association which is not a part of the larger association.

Attending the meeting from this area were Clayton Fulcher, jr., and W. H. Potter. It was reported that the House sub-committee will call the fisheries association representatives to appear before it before making its report to the full committee.