

## State, County Officers Investigate Forest Fires

E. M. Foreman, county forest ranger, says that he has asked the State Bureau of Investigation and the Carteret county sheriff's office to investigate the forest fires which ravaged the eastern part of the county during the closing days of April.

Mr. Foreman said that he believes that fires were set, and he hopes that the state and county officers will be able to find the person or persons responsible for the damage.

The forest ranger reports that a survey of the burned area has revealed that 10,099 acres were burned during the week of fires. He estimates that the destroyed timber was worth about \$150,000.

The fires began April 24 near Williston and were finally extinguished by heavy rain which fell on the night of April 30. The large fire at Williston and another at Smyrna were later joined by several smaller fires which had sprung up in Otway, Davis and Stacy. The blazes formed one large fire which, at its height, burned along a line, from Otway to Stacy a few miles north of US 70.

The fires were brought under control after about three days but they sprang up again April 29 with renewed violence. During that afternoon, a dense cloud of billowing smoke hung over the area and could be seen for several miles. The flames which lit the sky that night were plainly visible from Morehead City and Beaufort.

Firefighters were hampered in their efforts to fight the fire by the nature of the terrain over which it was burning. The pocosin soil on the edge of the open grounds would not support the weight of the heavy equipment normally used in fighting fires. The firefighting crews, aided by marines from Cherry Point, were forced to battle the fire by hand. Only the 41 inches of rain which fell on the night of April 30 put an end to the blaze.

The large fire was one of several which struck in the county during the week. During the first four days of the fire period, firefighters were battling 12 fires in different sections of the county. Those in the eastern section of the county joined to form the one large blaze, and others near Harlowe were eventually extinguished.

During the fire period, all burning permits were suspended because of the dry woods and the danger of more fires. When rain finally ended the threat, at least temporarily, the permits were restored.

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## Miss Morehead City To be Selected Tonight

Nine girls will appear on the stage of the Morehead City school auditorium tonight in quest of the Miss Morehead City beauty title and the right to represent Morehead City in the Miss North Carolina beauty pageant.

The girls who have entered the contest are Evonne Smith, Tanya Lindsey, Patricia Willis, Mary Lou Norwood, Carolyn Laine, Judy Perry, Jean Morton, Peggy Miller and Margie Guthrie. Several other girls had planned to enter the contest but were unable to do so.

The doors of the auditorium will open at 7 p.m., and the Morehead City school band will present a concert beginning at 7:30. The beauty pageant will begin at 8 p.m.

Grover Munden will serve as master of ceremonies for the beauty contest and the intermission entertainment. A panel of three impartial judges, who will select the winner, will be announced before the contest. None of the judges will be a resident of Morehead City.

The contestants will be judged solely on the basis of their appearance in evening gowns and bath-

ing suits. Most such pageants usually include a talent contest, but this has been eliminated from the Morehead City pageant.

The winner of the contest will receive the title Miss Morehead City and will also receive a \$100 wardrobe. Two runners-up will also be chosen by the judges. Miss Morehead City and her court will serve as hostesses to the contestants in the Miss North Carolina pageant which will be held July 15-17 in Morehead City.

During the intermission program, Sal Palazzo will present several vocal selections, accompanied by Mrs. Charles Hassell. The school band will present a specialty number, and Mrs. Theodore Phillips will give a program of organ music.

Tickets for reserved seats at the pageant may be obtained at the children's shop, 812 Arendell street. Tickets will also be available at the door.

The pageant is being sponsored by the Morehead City Jaycees who will also play host to the Miss North Carolina pageant. Sam Guthrie is chairman of the committee in charge of the pageant.

## Newport Commissioners Study Accounting System

Albert Gaskill, Morehead City accountant, explained his proposed accounting system for the town of Newport at Tuesday night's meeting of the board of town commissioners.

He recommended that the town adopt a simple form of double-entry bookkeeping which would allow the town clerk to keep a close check on the town's receipts and expenditures.

Mr. Gaskill offered to set up such a system at a cost of about \$100. He said that the total cost of setting up the system, including supplies, would be about \$150. He said that he would spend about two days working with the clerk and explaining the system and would also help with any problems which might arise after the system is in effect.

The commissioners agreed that a bookkeeping system is needed by the town. The only question was in regard to who should set up the system. The board voted to ask Bob Montague, Newport accountant, to present his ideas on the subject. The meeting with Mr. Montague was held last night.

The board passed an ordinance making it unlawful to obstruct a ditch in the town of Newport.

The board also voted to hire a contractor to caulk the town water tank which will not hold water. The commissioners suggested that the work be done as soon as possible.

L. C. Bercegeay, representing the veterans' housing cooperative, asked that the town place restrictive covenants on the land south of the Nine-foot road near the new housing project. He reported that the FHA will not complete loans until the restrictions are put into effect.

The board agreed to place on the property the same restrictions which apply to the land included in the housing project. The land south of the road is being held in trust by the town for the veterans.

At the request of the VA, the board passed a resolution formally accepting the streets in the housing project and promising that they will be given the same maintenance received by other town streets.

Miss Edith Lockey, town clerk, reported that the highway commission has expressed no interest in re-assuming responsibility for Main street. The street was turned back to the town when it was erroneously listed among the streets to receive Powell bill funds. The commissioners voted to refund Powell bill money received for the street if the state will take it back into the highway system.

Mayor Charles A. Gould, jr., reported that he has received the forms for the annual Powell bill report. He suggested that a new map be made of the streets which are to receive state aid. He also urged that it be done as soon as possible.

Bill Dugee, fire chief, reported that the new horn purchased for the fire alarm system is not as represented by the manufacturer. He said that the horn makes no more noise than an automobile horn and cannot be heard. He asked that the town purchase an air horn and compressor.

Present at the meeting were Mayor Gould, Miss Lockey, Chief Dugee, Police Chief E. Ormsby Mann, Commissioners S. Early Mann, Charles Hill, M. D. McCain and Edgar Hibbs, and Attorney George Ball.

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## Festivities to Mark Atlantic Beach Opening

The summer season at Atlantic Beach will be officially inaugurated tonight with the grand opening celebration. The big feature of the occasion will be a dance at the Heart of the Beach with Chuck Stevens and his orchestra providing the music. The dance will begin at 8 p.m. and will continue until midnight.

The warm weather this spring has already brought weekend crowds to the beach, and Mayor Alfred B. Cooper says that indications are that this will be one of the biggest seasons in the history of the resort.

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## County Board Names Judges For Election

The Carteret county board of elections this week named John T. Conner of 2716 Arvon street and Luther Norris of 2712 Homes drive to be judges of the Morehead City annexation election May 23.

The appointment of the judges was made public by Fred R. Seeley, chairman of the board of elections. Clyde Jones was named registrar for the election earlier.

The registration books closed last Saturday after 162 residents of the areas proposed for incorporation into the city had registered.

The Morehead City board of commissioners has proposed the annexation of the state property west of Thirty-fourth street and south of the railroad; the area west of Twenty-fifth street between the railroad and highway 70 to the west limit of the state property; and the area between Twenty-fifth and Twenty-eighth streets north of the highway to Calico creek.

If a majority of the registered voters in the area cast their ballots for annexation, these areas will be taken into the city; otherwise they will not.

A public hearing on the question was held at the city hall April 6. At that time the city officials presented their proposal to the residents of the areas and promised certain definite services for the areas in the event they are annexed.

Leading the opposition to annexation has been O. O. Fulcher. A petition asking for a referendum on the question and voicing opposition to the proposal was presented at the public hearing by Mr. Fulcher and others in the areas.

The petition was signed by 104 residents. Registration and voting in the election is restricted by state law to residents of the area who are qualified state and county voters. No absentee ballots will be accepted in the election which is being completely managed by the county board of elections.

The city has promised to give the residents and property owners of the area six kinds of service once they are incorporated. These services include water mains for fire hydrants, street lights guaranteed fire protection, police protection, street maintenance, and zoning and city planning.

In explaining the proposal Mayor George Dill has said, "Our primary purpose is to insure the orderly growth of Morehead City and only secondary is the matter of tax revenue. This property will have to be in the city several years before the gain in taxes will offset our immediate expenses in giving services to the area."

Many of the residents of the areas feel that the election will be decided by a close vote. Tomorrow is challenge day and the registration books will be at the Clyde Jones building on Arendell street for any challenges.

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## Morehead Port Enters New Era With First Tobacco Shipment

### Crowds Observe Military Parade

Several thousand residents of Morehead City saw military units from Cherry Point, Camp Lejeune, and Fort Bragg march in the annual Armed Forces Day parade Wednesday morning.

The Morehead City high school band, units of Cub, Boy and Girl Scouts also marched in the parade.

Military units were a company of the Second Engineers from Camp Lejeune, a company from the 82nd Airborne division at Fort Bragg, a group from the Navy fleet tug Atakapa, and the Second Marine Air Wing band from Cherry Point.

Following the parade, the main band played a concert in front of the city hall. Speeches were made by Chaplain W. O. Swets from Cherry Point and Mayor George W. Dill, jr.

Special features of the day's celebration were a landing of a marine helicopter in front of the city hall on Eighth street and the Atakapa at the port terminal docks. Other military exhibits were also on display at the city hall.

The Atakapa will remain at the port terminal until Monday. Visitors may look through the ship Saturday and Sunday afternoons from 1 until 5. The fleet tug is 205 feet long and is driven by diesel-electric power developing 3,000 horsepower. It is now engaged primarily in towing surface gunnery targets out of Norfolk for gunnery exercises.

The Atakapa's primary function is towing, but it is equipped to perform salvage work. Equipment such as deep-sea diving gear and beach gear is carried to facilitate salvage work.

Commissioned December 8, 1944, the Atakapa spent most of the war taking tows on the west coast. Inactivated in 1947, at Orange, Texas, it remained in the reserve fleet until August 9, 1951. It has a crew of 89 men and three officers.

Leaders of the celebration expressed disappointment that the closing of the Newport river bridge to automobile traffic reduced the number of people who could come to the parade. The bridge was closed to traffic from 9 until the early afternoon.

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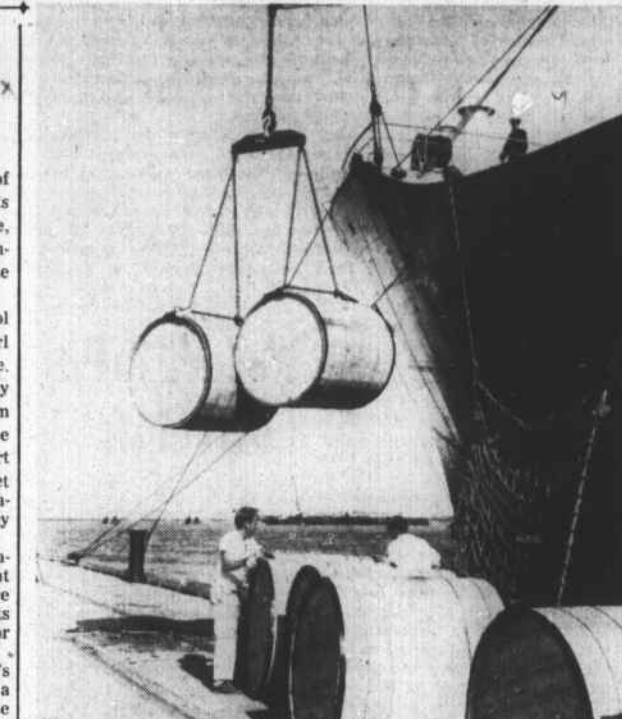
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Two hogsheads of tobacco swing up from the port terminal docks to the hold of the Ludolf Oldendorff. Local stevedores maneuver two other hogsheads into position for the crane. The Oldendorff sailed yesterday with the first export cargo in the history of the state port terminal here.

Photo by Jerry Schumacher

## Ronald Mason Elected President of Jaycees

### PMA to Begin Tobacco Survey

Measurement of tobacco acreage in the county will begin Wednesday, according to B. J. May, production marketing administrator for the county. The measurement is intended to insure that tobacco farmers comply with acreage allotments set by the PMA.

Those who have agreed to assist with the measurement will be trained at a school to be conducted at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday in the education room of the county health department in the court house annex, Beaufort.

Mr. May says that indications are that additional help will be needed for the program and has asked any college or high school students seeking summer employment to contact him at the PMA office.

Community committeemen and others trained to determine acreage, will be responsible for field inspection and measurement on farms in the sections assigned to them. Their work will be spot checked by county committeemen.

Producers requesting re-measurement of tobacco acreage must deposit with the county PMA committee the estimated cost of re-measuring the acreage. The cost will be 60 cents per acre with a minimum of \$5 per unit. A unit is that acreage within the county in which one person has the entire interest or in which two persons share the interest.

Policies on visiting a farm to determine the disposition of excess tobacco have been set by the state committee. The producer will pay the entire estimated cost of the visit to check the disposition of the acreage. The charges will be set by the county committee.

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## Ship Is Delayed By Unexpected Tobacco Shortage

The sailing of the Morehead City port terminal's first export cargo was delayed until yesterday by an unexpected shortage of tobacco.

J. D. Holt, manager of the port, reported that the expert techniques of the Stevenson and Young stevedoring supervisors made possible the loading of more hogsheads of tobacco on the Ludolf Oldendorff than had been anticipated.

"We expected to have tobacco left over in the warehouse, but on Tuesday it became apparent that we did not have enough stored in the warehouse to fill the ship," he commented.

An additional 150 hogsheads were brought to the port Wednesday and at the end of the loading there was still room for approximately 120 more hogsheads aboard the freighter. A total of 2