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MOREHEAD CITY AND BEAUFORT, NORTH CAROLINA

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PUBLISHED TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS

Atlantic Beach Establishes Tax System for First Time

High Average Reported As Eastern Marts Open

Carteret county farmers selling tobacco on Eastern Belt markets were receiving an average price of better than \$53 per 100 pounds yesterday as the world's largest flue-cured tobacco market opened its 1953 selling season. The opening price was well above last year's price of \$50.19.

The high opening price had been predicted by W. P. Hedrick, tobacco marketing specialist with the state Department of Agriculture. He said that the Eastern Belt crop has been favored with more rain than other sections and is superior in quality and quantity to last season. He called the outlook much better than at this same time last year. Heavy sales were expected yesterday and today.

At Kinston yesterday some top lemon lug was bringing prices of \$70 per 100 pounds or better. Unofficial figures said that the average there was better than \$53.

Eastern Belt markets which opened yesterday are Ahoskie, Clinton, Dunn, Farmville, Goldsboro, Greenville, Kinston, Roberstonville, Rocky Mount, Smithfield, Tarboro, Wallace, Washington, Wendell, Williamston, Wilson and Windsor.

During the 1952 season, the 17 markets sold 442,271,010 pounds for an average price of \$50.98. The Kinston market led the others last year in average price with an average of \$54.48. Wilson, which sold the largest amount of tobacco last year, had an average price of \$49.06.

Mr. Hedrick said that tobacco companies have been buying heavily on the Border Belt markets which opened early this month and the demand is expected to continue on the Eastern Belt. Opening sales were expected to top last year's 10,092,722 pounds.

Hot, dry weather has taken a heavy toll in the Old and Middle Belts, according to Mr. Hedrick, although recent rains have brought some relief.

R. M. Williams, Carteret county farm agent, has reported that this year's tobacco crop in the county is better than average and that most of the crop has been harvested. The local crop survived a severe hail storm which struck early in the season and some dry weather. Most of the crop had been harvested before last week's severe storm struck the county.

Beaufort Orders New Police Car

At a special meeting Friday, the Beaufort town board voted to purchase a new police car from Loftin Motor company. The company's price for a new eight-cylinder Ford sedan is \$1,085.51 including a trade-in allowance on the present police car. Loftin's was the only company to submit a price for an eight-cylinder car.

Sound Chevrolet company's price for a six-cylinder car was \$900.50, and the Loftin company asked \$1,009.35 for a six-cylinder car.

The commissioners decided that the eight-cylinder car would be more practical for police work and voted to buy the larger car. No date has been set for delivery of the car.

Electrical Repairs Close Morehead City Bridge

The Morehead City-Beaufort drawbridge was closed to water traffic Monday to allow highway department crews to make necessary repairs to the bridge. It is expected that the bridge will be re-opened Aug. 30.

New electrical equipment is being installed to allow operation of the draw from the new tender's house which has been erected on the west end of the bridge. While the electrical equipment is being installed, minor repairs are being made to the rest of the bridge, including new guard rails on the draw.

While the bridge is closed, boat traffic on the inland waterway is being detoured through Gallant's channel at the Beaufort end of the causeway.

Straits Man, 81, Struck by Car

Richard Leffers, 81, of Straits is in serious condition at the Morehead City hospital where he is being treated for injuries received when he was struck by a car Tuesday afternoon on the Harkers Island bridge.

Leffers' thigh was fractured in several places and he received lacerations of the head when he dashed in front of a car operated by Laurie Edward Guthrie, 19, of Marshallberg.

Guthrie told Highway Patrolman W. J. Smith, Jr., that he was driving across the bridge when he saw Leffers leaning over the rail on the left side of the bridge.

He said that he blew the horn to warn the man of his approach. At the sound of the horn, Leffers apparently became confused and dashed across the bridge directly in front of Guthrie's car. Guthrie said that he was unable to stop in time to avoid Leffers.

Guthrie admitted to Patrolman Smith that he was traveling at more than 20 miles per hour across the bridge. He has been charged with speeding and will be tried Tuesday in county recorder's court.

In an accident Wednesday afternoon, R. G. Taylor of Durham, formerly of Sea Level, received severe head lacerations when he ran off the road at Smyrna.

Taylor told Patrolman Smith that he was on his way to the Morehead City hospital to pick up his brother who was being discharged. He said that as he came around the curve at the Smyrna Drive-In theatre on US 70 he backed out and ran off the road. He struck a tree in the yard of V. A. Chadwick.

Taylor was taken to the hospital where he was treated and released. Damage to the car was estimated at \$500.

Two Morehead City Boys Wanted in Three Counties

George Roy Jones, 17, and Jack Lawrence, 14, both of Morehead City, are being held in jail in Jacksonville where they face trial on charges growing out of a wreck Sunday night near Verona. They also face charges in Carteret and Pender counties.

Jones is charged with aiding and abetting in careless and reckless driving at 90 miles per hour, resulting in property damage and personal injury to four persons, and leaving the scene of an accident without rendering assistance.

Lawrence is charged with careless and reckless driving at 90 miles per hour, resulting in property damage and personal injuries to four persons, and driving without a license.

The boys are being held in jail in lieu of \$1,000 bond each. They will be tried Tuesday in Onslow county criminal court. They are wanted here for stealing a car from a Morehead City used car lot and in Pender county on more driving charges.

Lawrence was arrested Sunday night after a head-on collision during the course of a wild flight from highway patrolmen. He crashed into a car being driven by Mrs. Lubie Padgett of Verona. Mrs. Padgett suffered a mutilated leg in the crash, and her two sons, Lorimer and Preston, received head, neck and other injuries.

Patrolman J. L. Flowers who was pursuing the fleeing car, skidded into the wreckage and suffered minor cuts in the wreck.

Jones, who fled after the crash, was arrested Monday in Wilmington by New Hanover county officers after Sheriff Tom Marshall of Onslow county received a tip that he was hiding there.

George Canady, district supervisor. See BOYS FLEE, Page 3

After 16 years of corporate existence, the town of Atlantic Beach will send out its first tax notices to property owners within the next two weeks.

At a meeting of the town board Saturday, a motion made by L. T. White to establish ad valorem taxes at \$1.50 per \$100 of valuation was unanimously passed by the beach board.

H. F. Eure, town clerk and Morehead City accountant, reported today that tax notices will be sent out as early in September as his office can prepare the necessary forms and make up a set of tax books. The valuations on beach property will be taken from the county tax books.

The taxes will be payable Oct. 1 for the fiscal year of 1953-54. This is in effect the tax for next year, Mr. Eure said. A one per cent discount will be allowed for taxes paid in advance, and after Feb. 1, 1954, penalties will be added to all tax payments.

Every member of the town board attended the meeting at which the decision was made. The aldermen are Mr. White of Raleigh, J. Con Lanier of Greenville, H. W. Anderson of Wilson, and W. C. Whitehurst of Bethel. Alfred B. Cooper of Atlantic Beach and Morehead City is mayor of the resort community.

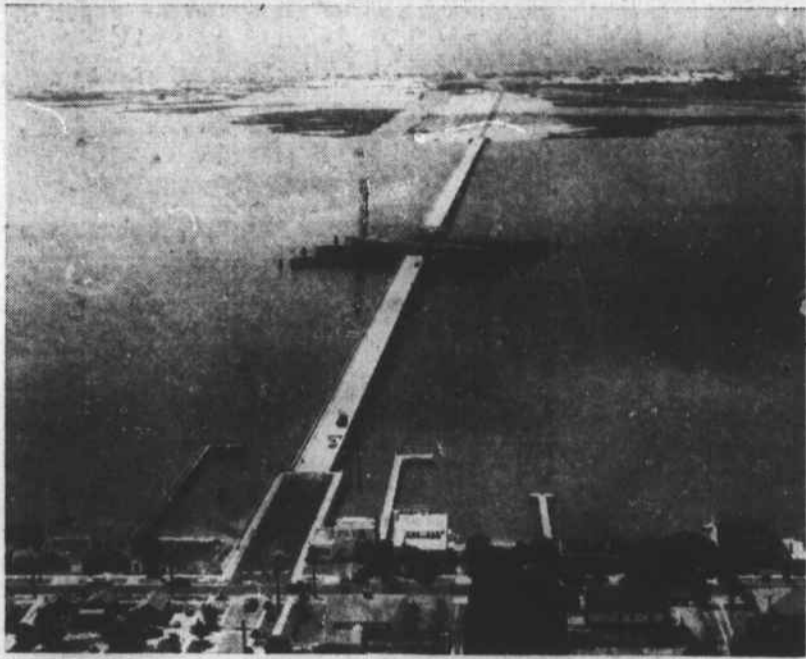
Atlantic Beach was incorporated in 1937 under a special act of the legislature which allows every property owner to vote for town officials every four years. Following the count of mailed ballots from the property owners, the governor of the state sends each elected officer a commission of appointment.

For several years the beach has been divided into factions over the question of ad valorem taxes. A group headed by Mr. Cooper has contended that the future of the beach depended upon the development of services which could be paid for only with tax money. In the past all funds for summer services have come through property assessments.

Last February a motion to establish taxes by Mr. White died for lack of a second. Board members at that time who opposed the taxes were Mrs. Mamie Ruth Tinsell and E. L. Baker of Greenville, and Burke Taylor of New Bern. They

See BEACH TAX, Page 3

Bridge Dedication Is Set for Sept. 3; May Be Opened to Traffic by Sunday



This is an aerial view of the new beach bridge taken from Morehead City looking toward Atlantic Beach. The \$1,300,000 structure has long been sought by local residents as a means of improving traffic conditions during the summer tourist months. Photo by Jerry Schumacher

Cars to Use Structure Minutes After Approval

The new Atlantic Beach drawbridge may be open for Sunday traffic it was learned yesterday at a meeting in the office of Mayor Alfred B. Cooper of Atlantic Beach. At the meeting, it was decided to hold the dedication ceremony Sept. 3 no matter when the new bridge is opened to traffic.

R. Markham, district engineer for the Highway Commission, said that it is impossible to determine just when the bridge will be open for traffic but he also said that little work remains to be done.

The opening of the bridge has been delayed by the necessity for completing electrical work on the bridge. A missing part which has slowed the work is being flown to Morehead City and its arrival will make it possible to complete the work.

Mr. Markham said that as soon as the work is completed highway engineers from Raleigh will be called to inspect the work and accept the bridge on behalf of the state.

The district engineer said, "We will open that bridge within ten minutes after it is approved by engineers from Raleigh. We don't want to have any delay once the bridge is ready for use."

Members of the committee planning the dedication ceremony had hoped that the bridge would be kept closed to traffic until the day of the dedication. Mr. Markham said that the state could not possibly allow the bridge to remain closed once it is ready for use.

John Lovig, contractor who built the bridge, also explained that he has a crew here waiting to start dismantling the old bridge once the new one is ready for use. He said that keeping the crew waiting would run into a great deal of money.

Mayor Cooper said that the Atlantic Beach merchants realize the situation and are willing to cooperate with the Highway Commission and the contractor. It was

See BRIDGE OPEN, Page 3

Heavy Rainfall Tuesday Floods Beaufort Streets

Streets and yards in Beaufort were turned into small lakes Tuesday after the heavy rain which fell Monday night and Tuesday morning. Water collected in low-lying places faster than storm sewers could carry it off and soon overflowed to other sections of town.

During the early morning, almost every street in Beaufort was flooded and in some cases streets could not be used by traffic. Where water was still standing from Thursday's storm, the new flood increased the depth of the puddles to almost a foot.

As in Thursday's storm, water from Ann street flowed into the yards behind front street buildings and flooded several business establishments.

For the second time in four days, Mayor Clifford T. Lewis ordered the fire department to begin pumping operations in the 700 block of Ann street. While the firemen pumped water down Marsh street and into drains, street department crews worked to clear the clogged drain pipes leading from the flooded block to Taylor's creek.

When the pipes had been cleared in the late afternoon, the water drained off swiftly leaving the street passable for traffic. The clearing of the pipes alleviated the flood conditions in the vicinity of Broad street as the water flowed from there to Ann street and into the drain pipes.

After Thursday's storm, firemen did not begin pumping until Saturday morning and the street was not dry until the middle of Sunday morning.

Mayor Lewis told residents of the flooded block Tuesday that he believes that the work done on the sewers will eliminate for some time the flooding which has plagued them for several years. The state highway department announced last week that it will send engineers to Beaufort in the near future to see what can be done about enlarging the drains to handle the water.

Other parts of Beaufort did not fare so well after the storm, particularly those sections with dirt streets. Water collected on Pollock street between Broad and Cedar and was still several inches deep yesterday. Water also collected on Cedar street, and several other dirt streets were turned into mud holes by the heavy rain. Almost every dirt street is in need of extensive repairs since the storm.

As in Thursday's storm, water collected in several yards in the section between Broad and Cedar streets, and many houses were completely surrounded by water. Much of this water was still standing yesterday.

The cemetery between Ann and Broad streets was also flooded as a result of the rain, particularly the section immediately behind the town hall. In some parts of the cemetery, water was a foot or more deep.

While flooding was less extensive in Morehead City than in Beaufort, water collected in several places particularly on the unpaved section of Fisher street and on the east end of Arendell street. As in Beaufort, many yards were flooded by the water on Fisher street. The water on Arendell street at times made automobile travel difficult in the area.

PMA Releases ACP Program

B. J. May, manager of the county PMA office, says that the 1954 Agricultural Conservation program has been announced by the Production Marketing Administration.

The PMA has announced that the program authorizes \$185 million dollars which will be allocated among the states in accordance with a formula similar to that used in previous years. North Carolina's share will be \$4,599,000. Mr. May has not yet been notified how much will be allocated to Carteret county.

Mr. May says that in line with congressional thinking the national program will encourage but will not be limited to permanent and semi-permanent practices.

The establishment of legume and grass vegetative cover will be an important part of the 1954 program. The program provides for federal cost-sharing on seed, lime and commercial fertilizer.

The program also provides for initial improvement of existing grassland including the necessary minerals. It also provides for annual soil and water conservation practices.

Counties may also develop needed practices even if they are not included in the national program. Special practices may be added if necessary because of unforeseen conditions arising during the year.

The program will be carried out by state PMA committees and local farmer-committees with technical assistance from the Soil Conservation service and the Forest service.

Catholic Church Plans for School

St. Egbert's Catholic church, Morehead City, will open a campaign for funds to build a school Saturday night, Sept. 5, the Rev. Gabriel Stephens, pastor of the church, announced today.

Leaders of the drive have chosen the church's annual festival to begin the promotion of the campaign. An ice cream social from 7 until 10 on the church grounds at the corner of 17th and Evans street will be a part of the entertainment.

The objective of the festival is to interest the citizens and businessmen of Carteret county in the promotion of a proposed school building fund, it was announced.

The erection of this school, in Carteret county, would greatly ease the congested conditions in local schools and provide an excellent education for all children enrolled without increasing the school tax burden" one layman of the church said in describing the project.

Tickets, supplied by Freeman Brothers, are available at the Morehead City drug store and the Joe House drug store in Beaufort. Members of the Holy Name society and the Women's Auxiliary of the church, which are sponsoring the program, also have tickets for sale.

Entertainment plans at the festival call for a band concert, vocal solos by local singers, and will feature the "Harmanics" of Cherry Point. This is a rising group of professional musicians now in the Marine Corps who recently won a spot on an Arthur Godfrey Talent Scout show for the near future.

Hugh Rice, president of the Holy Name society, announced that refreshments will consist of ice cream, home baked cake, and soft drinks. Tickets are 25 cents.

Carteret Greek Families Unaffected by Disasters

No relatives of Greeks living in Carteret county were among the thousands injured or killed in recent earthquakes which shattered several islands in the Ionian Sea, it was learned this week.

Nick Galantis said that the islands were on the western side of Greece and most of the local Greeks were from Eastern Greece. News and reports on the island catastrophes have come to Carteret county not only from state newspapers but also from Greek language papers printed in this country.

Mr. Galantis said the Greek papers had run many pictures of the islands along with reports on the quakes.

"Most of us around here are originally from near Turkey or Asia," he said.

The local Greeks are, however, acquainted with the islands and had some theories on the causes of the high death tolls. The Ionian Islands are said to be the home of the great Odysseus of Homeric fame. Mr. Galantis commented, "According to Greek mythology they are supposed to sink into the sea someday," he continued. "This was probably the cause for some of the panic which the earthquake started. They thought the islands were sinking."

Andrew Davis, a restaurant op-

erator here who worked in the construction business for a time in his native land, said that the style of construction frequently used in Greek villages might have been a partial cause for the high death toll. "They don't use cement or concrete, but a kind of clay," he said. "When the ground shakes, it all comes loose and the building comes down."

The islands affected were a part of a chain known as the Seven Islands. The principal damage was done to Ithaca, Zakynthos, Cephalonnia, and Argostolion. U. S. ships were among the many vessels rushed to the scene to offer assistance and aid.

Monday, Tuesday Rains Continue Storm Pace

Rainfall during the period from late Monday night through the middle of Tuesday morning amounted to 4.61 inches, according to the records of E. Stamey Davis, county weather observer.

Temperatures, which had been in the upper 80's over the weekend dropped to the upper 70's after the storm. The highest temperature reported since the rain was 80 on Wednesday.

Beaufort Phones Knocked Out By Rain Tuesday

Carolina Telephone and Telegraph company was forced to resume its battle with water on Tuesday this week when downpours caused a trunk cable in Beaufort to get wet cutting off phone service for the town.

L. A. Daniels, local manager of the company, wearily hoped for "some good weather" after the second major breakdown of telephone service in the county in less than a week.

Some telephones were restored yesterday on lines scattered throughout Beaufort. Mr. Daniels said that the splicing operations necessary to get all the phones back in service should be completed sometime today.

Similar difficulties with an underground cable in Morehead City during the storm last Thursday were not repaired until Monday afternoon.

The rains Tuesday backed water into the Beaufort office of the company wetting a 1,200-pair cable which runs approximately 75 feet from the office to a manhole in the street at which point the cable is split up carrying lines for the phones and party-lines in Beaufort.

Mr. Daniels explained that this huge cable had to be replaced necessitating an extremely complicated splicing operation at both ends of the cable. Each pair of wires in a cable represents a private phone or a party-line. The cable which had to be replaced in Morehead City following the storm was a 400-pair cable.

The cables are put underground because there is less trouble with underground cables than overhead cables normally. "But when there is trouble, it is very hard to repair," Mr. Daniels commented.

The company established four emergency pay phones in Beaufort and four local phones in the office for use by Beaufort residents.

A messenger service was set up in Beaufort to handle incoming emergency calls. The service was maintained on a 24-hour basis. When calls came in to the Beaufort office, the persons being called were notified by taxi that a call had been made. They then went to the office and called the person who originally made the call. Telephone company officials said that the two girls and one man handling the service were provided by Dan Walker, Beaufort town clerk.

Telephone service to Atlantic and Marshallberg was restored by stringing temporary lines which bypassed the Beaufort office. Service to the eastern end of the county was resumed early Tuesday afternoon.

The 1,200-pair cable got wet in the storm last week but the company workers were able to dry it out and restore the service at that time. The cable which was replaced in Morehead City was much longer than the 75-foot cable in Beaufort.

Five cable-splicing crews were sent in from other offices to assist with the work in Beaufort. The crews worked around the clock to repair the cable and restore service as soon as possible.

After two weeks of nearly continual rains, Mr. Daniels said that the telephone workers were hoping for a "spell of hot, dry weather."

Registration Day Planned At Morehead City School

G. T. Windell, principal of the Morehead City school, says that an act of the 1953 general assembly has made several children, previously ineligible to begin school this year, eligible.

Under the old law, a child had to be six years old by Oct. 1 in order to start school. Now a child must be six by Oct. 15 in order to be eligible.

In order to register those children who are now eligible Mr. Windell has planned a registration period for Tuesday morning at the school. Parents who wish to register their children for school may bring them to the school between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. Tuesday.

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