

# Jury Says 'Accident Unavoidable'

## Verdict Given at Inquest On Death of Marine

A coroner's jury Monday night ruled unavoidable the accident in which Pfc. Clarence Ayres, USMC, was killed Sunday night. The inquest was conducted by Coroner Leslie Springle in the Morehead City Municipal Building.

As the result of the jury's action, Coroner Springle said he could not hold the driver of the car, Mrs. Bonner Guthrie, Morehead City, for any further action.

Private Ayres was killed instantly when struck near the Atlantic Beach bridge by the car Mrs. Guthrie was driving. A buddy with him was seriously injured.

On the witness stand at the inquest, John Ballou said he was behind Mrs. Guthrie when the accident occurred and he stopped. She got out and waited in his car until the police car arrived.

According to Ballou's testimony, Mrs. Guthrie passed him as he was going by Jimmy's Place on the beach, then she turned north on the center street which divides the two triangular lots on the beach, but he continued around by the Idle Hour Amusement Center.

He said she may have been about a half mile ahead of him when the Marines were struck. Another witness, Vernon Goodwin, presented testimony similar to Ballou's.

Patrolmen Testify  
On the witness stand State Highway Patrolman J. W. Sykes, who investigated the accident, described the position Ayres' body was in when found. The auto was about 6 feet ahead of it and the body was lying half on the highway, the head and shoulders on the shoulder of the road.

He estimated that the car rolled 153 feet after the impact. Glass was scattered on the road and the windshield wiper and the radio antenna on the Guthrie's 1955 Ford were broken off.

Patrolman Sykes, who went to the police station with Mrs. Guthrie, said he could smell alcohol on her breath. He said she told him she had had two or three drinks on the way from Raleigh to Morehead City, a trip she had made earlier that night.

State Highway Patrolman Pickard was called to the stand and he described damage to the Guthrie car in detail. He said the damage was to the right front of the car. The right head light was smashed, the hood on the right side was dented and the right windshield cracked.

Constable Takes Stand  
Constable George Smith, Atlantic Beach, was called to the stand. He said he arrived just before Highway Patrolman Sykes did and was directing traffic. He said he saw Mrs. Guthrie get out of her car and into the police car and claimed he couldn't smell alcohol on her breath.

On the stand Mrs. Guthrie told how she had come back from Raleigh that night with her husband and sister. On the road between Wilson and Greenville they stopped for something to eat and she said she also had something to drink.

When Luther Hamilton Jr., attorney for Mrs. Guthrie, asked if they were big drinks or little drinks, she replied, "Three good-sized jiggers."

She said that after she got to Morehead City and put her husband and sister out she went to the beach to cool off. She claimed that she was not going over 35 miles an hour when she hit the Marines.

She said she remembered seeing them ahead of her car on the right, then she felt a bump and didn't know what she had hit. A car coming south on the beach bridge had its lights on high beam and she said she had blinked her lights at it.

The Marine injured was Pfc. William A. Metzger who was taken to Camp Lejeune Hospital. He had a compound fracture of the right leg.

## Commission Elects President

Frank Cheek Succeeds W. B. Chalk as Head Of Recreation Group

Frank Cheek was elected president of the Morehead City Recreation Commission at a meeting Monday night at the Recreation Building. He succeeds W. B. Chalk.

The selection of a vice-president was tabled until the next meeting. Two members took their places on the commission. They are Ethan Davis and Mrs. J. W. Thompson.

John Richard Thompson, director of the Negro Recreation program, reported an average daily attendance of 65 boys and girls. The school grounds are used for outdoor activities and the lodge hall for indoor games.

Fred Lewis, director at the recreation program, gave his activities attendance report which showed a total of 28,555 for indoor activities this summer and an estimated 5,250 persons attending outdoor activities.

Mr. Lewis reported that the summer program had a better attendance than in the past, with more activities provided for the youngsters.

Among these activities were ping pong, shuffleboard, dancing, badminton, horse shoes, carpet golf, singing, tennis, basketball, baseball, softball, volleyball, cards, checkers, chinese checkers, scrabble and croquet.

The recreation program will continue until Aug. 20.

## Hellion Carries Officials

R. C. Kirchofer's yacht, Hellion IV, carried members of the Board of Conservation and Development on a trip through Carteret waters Tuesday morning. They conducted business aboard. Mr. Kirchofer is president of the Morehead City Shipbuilding Corp.

## Town's Two Guard Outfits Merge

First Lt. Merrit E. Bridgman, commanding officer of Battery C, 690th Field Artillery North Carolina National Guard, announced today that all personnel of the Beaufort National Guard unit have been transferred to Morehead City.

The merging of the two organizations brings the total strength of the Morehead City battery to five officers and 52 enlisted men.

Anyone interested in becoming a member of the National Guard can get additional information by contacting Sgt. Ben Jones at the Camp Glenn Armory or calling 6-5043.

## County Residents Hurt in Wreck In Virginia

Mrs. Francis P. Whitley, Morehead City, was critically injured and her 15-year-old son Ben was badly hurt in an automobile accident early Monday afternoon near Parkside, Va.

Mrs. Whitley has a brain concussion, four broken ribs and an injured back. Ben has a very severe cut in his leg and a slight concussion.

Also injured in the wreck were Mrs. Harry Burns, Morehead City, driver of the car; Miss Amanda Simpson, Beaufort; and Mrs. Whitley's 13-year-old daughter, Jo Ann. Mrs. Burns and Miss Simpson had slight cuts and bruises and Jo Ann has a broken little finger on her left hand.

The accident occurred when the car left the road, went over an embankment and turned over several times. The occupants were thrown out. The automobile, a 1952 Chevrolet owned by Mr. Burns, was demolished.

Mrs. Whitley and Ben were brought by ambulance from Northampton Memorial Hospital, Newsawdox, Va., to Morehead City Hospital Wednesday morning.

Time of the accident was between 2 and 2:30 Monday. The party was returning from New York where they attended a church convention.

Miss Simpson was in Northampton hospital for observation until Tuesday night.

## Luke Mason Gets Two-Year Term

Morehead City Driver Pays \$125 Fine, Costs In County Court

Luke Mason, Beaufort, was sentenced to two years on the roads when a suspended sentence of June 14 from Beaufort Recorder's Court was invoked Tuesday morning by Judge L. R. Morris in Carteret County Recorder's Court.

Mason was found to have broken the terms of his suspended sentence. He was picked up for public drunkenness July 20 by Assistant Police Chief Carlton Garner and Officer Steve Beachem of the Beaufort Police Department.

Mason stated that he didn't know he was on a suspended sentence, but said he was told by Officer Garner and he had read about it in THE NEWS-TIMES. He asked that he be allowed 24 hours to get out of town, but Judge Morris told Mason that he had invoked the sentence on himself by going out and drinking "two cans of beer" on the night in question.

Edward Harold Culpher, Morehead City, pleaded guilty to driving drunk and careless and reckless driving. He was fined \$125 and costs in lieu of three months on the roads.

According to testimony offered by Henry Smith of Crab Point, the defendant was raising Cain with his automobile Sunday morning at 12:30 a.m. when he "knocked down a post and a mailbox" in Crab Point.

Mr. Smith stated that a Bill Kelly tailed the defendant's vehicle and that the defendant was travelling better than 75 miles per hour.

Culpher said that all his trouble stemmed from his marital difficulties, and that his wife lived in the vicinity of where he was driving in a drunken condition. He said that he took to drinking when his wife left him.

Pays \$50, Costs  
Sherwood R. Hawley was fined \$50 and costs for careless and reckless driving.

Fines of \$10 and costs were levied against Jose Antonio Hernandez, speeding 70 miles per hour; Guy Lewis, public drunkenness and resisting arrest; and Roger Carroll Woodard, careless and reckless driving and speeding. See COURT, Page 7

## Life Publishes Photo by Jerry

A picture taken by Jerry Schumacher, Morehead City photographer, appears as the picture of the week in the current issue of Life magazine.

The picture shows Sid Willis, Beaufort, being bathed with a load of ammonium sulphate as a crane overhead his truck overshoot its mark at the Morehead City port.

Mr. Willis was sitting in his truck awaiting the crane's dumping of a load of ammonium sulphate from a cargo ship into his truck.

Mr. Schumacher happened to pass by at just the right moment and snapped the photograph.

## State Patrolmen Call Attention To New Laws

State highway patrolmen of this county who have recently returned from a refresher course at Chapel Hill, call motorists' attention to new motor vehicle laws passed by the recent legislature.

County patrolmen taking the course were R. H. Brown, J. W. Sykes, W. E. Pickard and W. J. Smith Jr.

Now four, instead of two classes of drivers, must have chauffeurs' licenses.

They are the following: those employed for the principle purpose of operating a motor vehicle (whether bus or truck); those who drive motor vehicles while transporting persons or property for compensation (such as taxi drivers, haulers); those who drive property-carrying motor vehicles licensed for more than 15,000 pounds (except the owner of a private carrier vehicle); and those who drive passenger-carrying motor vehicles of more than nine-passenger capacity, except the driver of a church or school bus who holds a valid operator's license.

Highway patrolmen also point out that new law requires a car to dim its lights when approaching a car from the rear. At present lights must be dimmed when approaching a vehicle. The new regulation says that when coming within 500 feet of a vehicle from behind, lights must be dimmed also.

There are also new regulations on lighting equipment for trucks, trailers and similar hauling vehicles. Further information on the laws may be had by calling at the State Highway Patrol office in the municipal building, Morehead City.

## Two Different Views Given on Scrap Fish

There are several opinions on whether small food fish killed in trawls cause the supply of food fish to dwindle. Two sides of the controversy are presented below.

Many scientists doubt that shrimping and long hauling operations cause a depletion in the food fish supply.

Some scientists say that the sea is like a garden and has to be "weeded out." In other words, taking out some of the small fish allows those remaining to grow larger.

Others point out that the life in the sea is constantly being replenished with nutrients pouring in from the rivers of the land and the amount of fish in the sea cannot be seriously affected by what some term "over-fishing."

Wayne Heydecker, secretary-treasurer of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission comments on the matter as follows:

"It has . . . been popular to blame pollution, or the draggers, or the seiners, as the causes of depletion, but we are gradually learning that nature does not maintain a constant supply. On the contrary, fish populations fluctuate widely, even in the absence of fishing pressure, and sometimes small changes in the temperature or salinity of waters result in a practical disappearance of fish which formerly frequented such waters. In some recorded cases temperature changes have resulted in the death of thousands and even millions of fish . . . like the tile fish, which are extremely sensitive to such temperature differences."

"In 1951, for example, there was quite an outcry about the alleged damage to migratory finfish resulting from shrimp trawling in Pamlico Sound. The Chesapeake Bay section consisting of Virginia and Maryland with North Carolina representatives participating, appointed a committee consisting of the administrators of the three states to study this problem.

"To assist them there was appointed a committee of scientists from the fishery laboratories of the three states and South Carolina and of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This committee of scientists after a field trip and study of past records reported on Nov. 1, 1951, that there was no evidence that shrimp trawling in Pamlico Sound was affecting the croaker fisheries of Maryland and Virginia.

"Although shrimp trawling catches often contain large quantities of small fish, some of which are young food fish, there is no evidence that this destruction is affecting the commercial supply. The

fishermen would have been considerably more in a year or two. "Pamlico Sound is the backbone of the coast," Mr. Waters declared. He claims that it is the source of most of North Carolina's edible fish. Mr. Waters remarked that the sound has only a wind tide, not being affected by the flow of the ocean tides.

He said all the other shrimpers were throwing overboard dead undersized fish and subsequent drags would bring up the fish that had previously been thrown over by other boats. "Because the tide doesn't carry the fish out, they just stay on the bottom and shrimp can't thrive where the bottom's polluted," Mr. Waters declared.

He said that after the trawl was hauled in and the tail bag dumped, the boat had to head into the wind while the net take was culled because the stench of the fish being thrown overboard was so terrific.

"It used to be that anybody could go out here anywhere and catch a mess of fish any time they wanted to," said Mr. Waters, "but

J. V. Waters, Morehead City, who was working the shrimper Mary B in Pamlico Sound in 1948, claims that the destruction of small food fish is tremendous. He says that the only way to stop the destruction is to prohibit shrimping in North Carolina inland waters "like they do in South Carolina." Especially does he say that shrimping should be prohibited in Pamlico Sound.

Mr. Waters, who no longer shrimps, said that on one day in 1948 the Mary B made eight drags, each drag an hour long. With each drag they got two bushels of trash fish and the average ran about four times more trash than shrimp.

He says that in sight of his trawler that day in Pamlico Sound were 180 other boats. If each got 16 bushels of trash fish that day, that was a total of 2,880 bushels.

Figuring this at 40 pounds a bushel, Mr. Waters continues, the total trash fish taken that day would be 115,200 pounds. Multiply that by 30 days and the total number of pounds of small fish destroyed in one month would be 3,456,000 pounds.

"I can vouch for and prove all this," Mr. Waters declared. He emphasized that his figures were conservative. His boat was pulling a 50-foot trawl and many others 50-110-foot trawls. He said if the trash fish had been allowed to grow, the food fish available to the fishermen would have been considerably more in a year or two.

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## Fire Damages Motel Office

One hundred dollars damage was caused by a fire at the Frontier Village Motel, Atlantic Beach, at 2 a.m. Wednesday. Fire broke out in the roof of the office.

Shelby Freeman, owner and manager, said the blaze probably started from wiring. Flames were discovered by Police Chief Murphy Jenkins and Officer Griffin of the beach police force as they were going off duty.

The officers roused Mr. and Mrs. Freeman and helped them get the fire under control. Firemen finished the job.

"If the officers hadn't discovered the flames, this whole place probably would have burned," Mr. Freeman said.

## Harkers Island Girl Hit by Lightning Monday

Joan Gaskill, 17-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Gaskill, Harkers Island, was discharged from the Morehead City Hospital Wednesday where she had been treated for burns caused by a lightning flash.

Miss Gaskill was in her home near an electric switch box about 7 p.m. Monday when lightning evidently struck a short-wave radio antenna fastened to a tree outside the house. The lightning entered the house and caused Miss Gaskill's injury.

She was admitted to the Morehead City Hospital Monday night at 7:45.

## Welcoming Miss North Carolina



Miss North Carolina, Faye Arnold, receives the key to Morehead City from Mayor George Dill Sunday afternoon at the Beaufort-Morehead City Airport. With him are, left to right, Mayor C. T. Lewis of Beaufort, Barbara Piner (Miss Beaufort), Mary Ellen Chasteen (Miss Down East), and Carolyn Guthrie (Miss Morehead City). Standing in the background are Capt. E. D. Clements of Piedmont Airlines, who piloted the plane, and the flight attendant, R. E. Fuquay.

## In the Spotlight

# Prominent Newport Businessman Sponsors Charity Turkey Shoot

By HAL SHAPIRO

Now an established custom at Newport is the Christmas turkey shoot sponsored by Curtis T. Cannon.

Mr. Cannon, one of the county's better "mule tradin'" businessmen, started the turkey shoot five years ago when he was presented with a 45-pound bird. (He had loaned the owner of the fowl \$25).

The money he received from those engaging in the shoot was sent to needy families in the county. The first year \$45 was sent out.

Last year a total of \$335 was realized and as Mr. Cannon worded it, "I was able to send out 33 checks last year at Christmas time, and I know that the people who received the checks were truly grateful. I have received many wonderful letters. They should have been sent to those who engaged in the shoot and made the money possible."

Those who contest in the annual event, which takes place in Newport the Saturday before Christmas Day, come from all parts of Eastern Carolina. Many women take part.

Paper targets are set up and the fellow coming nearest the bull's eye wins a turkey. He pays, of course, for the privilege of taking a crack at the target and proving his ability as a marksman.

Lives at Homeplace  
Mr. Cannon, a native of Carteret County, still lives on the same property on which he was born at a fork on the Nine-Foot Road near Newport. He recently built a new home there.

Recalling his childhood and school days, he remembers that teachers of that day received the grand sum of \$20 a month. The number of school days depended on how prompt the citizens were in paying their taxes.

Mr. Cannon worked on his father's farm 'til he was 18. He



Curt Cannon . . . merchant and country squire

usually attended school two or three months a year, depending upon the tax collection.

His first job netted him 5 cents a day when he went out into the tobacco fields. The workers at his father's farm in that day received 50 to 60 cents a day if they were men and 35 to 40 cents a day if they were women.

His father's farm had 250 acres, 70 to 80 of which were cleared. The land cost his dad a total of \$250 and was bought following the war between the states.

Today the estate, left by Thomas T. Cannon to his children (he died when Curt was 17) has increased many times in value.

Mr. Cannon's farm today is 200 acres, with 85 cleared. He raises tobacco, corn, peanuts and a few sweet potatoes.

After Curt's father died, he stayed on the farm until he was 19 and then went to work with the Blade Lumber Co., becoming the manager of the firm in three years.

While engaged in this work for the lumber company he still helped out at the farm. Following that work, he went

with the Canfield Lumber Co. in Onslow County for 18 months, and then decided it was time to work for himself, rather than the other fellow.

Returned to Farm  
He returned to the farm, and decided 18 years ago to go into the mule and fertilizer business. He built the business into a good one. See SPOTLIGHT, Page 6

## Tide Table

Tides at the Beaufort Bar		
HIGH	Friday, July 29	LOW
4:01 a.m.		10:18 a.m.
4:34 p.m.		11:06 p.m.
Saturday, July 30		
5:02 a.m.		11:07 a.m.
5:28 p.m.		11:54 p.m.
Sunday, July 31		
5:58 a.m.		11:55 a.m.
6:15 p.m.		
Monday, Aug. 1		
6:44 a.m.		12 40 a.m.
6:57 p.m.		12:41 p.m.
Tuesday, Aug. 2		
7:26 a.m.		1:24 a.m.
7:35 p.m.		1:26 p.m.

## County Court Set for Thursday

Beginning Thursday, Aug. 4, Carteret County Recorder's Court will be in session Thursday instead of Tuesday. The session will begin at 10 a.m.

A. H. James, clerk of court, said the change has been made so that state highway patrolmen can appear as witnesses. Since patrolmen work all weekend, Mondays and Tuesdays are their holidays. Some are on duty each of those days and some are not. Those who are not are deprived of their day off if they have to appear in court.

Since they don't always appear, a backlog of continued cases is being built up, Mr. James said.

It was decided that Thursday would be a better day for all court officers and highway patrolmen, thus the change was announced by Judge Lambert Morris in court Tuesday.