**NFI** President

**Relates How** 

# Shrill Steam Toot Called Workers to Canning Plant To Up Sales

# Albert Lea Liked Morehead City, **Went in Business**

ple so friendly that you just felt like packing up and moving there like packing up and moving there? Did you do it? Well, Albert Lea of Morehead City did just that

Having gone to Carteret County for the first time on a short visit, it took him just two weeks to settle his affairs in Pender County and go to Morehead City to stay. Today calls Morehead his home and, if he can arrange it, it will continue

Mr. Lea owns a wholesale fish house in the 500 block of Evans Street. He found a good friend in Capt. Tony Seamon on his initial trip here and Captain Tony was, according to Mr. Lea, helpful in getting him started in business.

For the first year, Lea's estab-lishment was located in Tony's fish house, a half block from his present location, but within a year both businesses, feeling severe growing pains, Mr. Lea moved into the place vacated by Capt. Charlie Tolson, who was retiring from the fish business.

### Several Interests

Mr. Lea's business interests in Hampstead, his birthplace, included farming, a restaurant business, and a tourist court. His father, Hamp Lea, was and is in the fish business and young Albert, perhaps, ac-quired his interest in the trade from working with his father dur-

ing his youth.

Ever mindful of new developments and new opportunities in business, Mr. Lea is an officer in the newly-formed Seashore Packing Co. He also will operate this fall during the shrimp season in McClellansville, S. C., about 20

miles north of Charleston.

He says that the only disadvantage to such an expansion is that it may become necessary for him to spend several months away from

### Three Children

A member of the First Methodist Church, Mr. Lea is married to the former Mary Yopp of Wilmington. They have three children, Carolyn, Albert Jr., and John Hampton

A veteran employee, Alton Willis, manages Lea's fish house at Harkers Island and has been with the company since its organization eight years ago.

# **Pigeons Served** As Fleet 'Radio'

"radios" of fishing fleets. The trawlers operated by large com-panies in England always took a crate of carrier pigeons to sea

When the boat was full and the vessel was ready to return home, the skipper of the boat would send the owner a message by carrier pigeon telling him what the cargo consisted of, how much there was of it and approximately when he

would get home.

This enabled the owner to dispose of his fish well in advance at fancy prices. of small schooners in

America during the middle 19th century employed the same means of communication. Their boats plied between the Eastern United States and the West Indies It was

West Indies, the skipper would send a message to the owner, tell-ing him what the cargo consisted of, the anticipated time of depar-ture and arrival, and the prevailing prices of materials in the West Indies.

when the whistle on the Taylor Brothers Canning Factory shrilled in the brisk early morning air, Carteret County folks at Wit, now known as Sea Level, knew that oysters were cooking in the huge steam box and soon there would be work aplenty for the shuckers. Founded in 1910, the factory or.

Founded in 1910, the factory op erated for 20 years, closing down in 1930. From 7 in the morning until 5:30 in the afternoon the agile fingers of the shuckers flew, making difficult the job of those who removed by wheelbarrow the empty shells.

The factory was owned and op-erated by Valentine Taylor and Maltby Taylor. Valentine was the father of Harrell Taylor who now operates a general store and whole-sale fish business near the old factory site.

Malthy is the father of the "Tay lor Brothers of Sea Level" who with their father formed the Taylor Foundation and built the Sea Level Community Hospital.

### Oyster Chief Product

Valentine was the manager of the factory, which employed from 75 to 100 workers. The chief product of the firm was canned oysters, and in the days when oysters were much more plentiful than they are today, it was not unusual for the day's output to reach 400 cases, each case consisting of 24 cans. The shuckers were able to handle 1,200 to 1,400 tubs of the shellfish daily, each tub holding five pecks.

mute testimonial to the productivity of the factory was the huge pile of oyster shells which Core Banks from Harrell Taylor's store. The pile was as much as 30 eet high in places.

The big steam box in the factory held three cars of oysters, each car having a capacity of 15 tubs. Clayton Salter, an employee of the starting work many mornings at 4 when he was charged with firng the boilers and getting up steam for the day's operations. For a day's labor, beginning at 4 a.m. and ending at perhaps 6 p.m., he was paid \$4 daily, a much higher than the average worker re

The shuckers were paid 10 cents for every seven-pound cup which they filled, such a cup holding about a gallon of oysters. A good shucker could often fill 10 cups per day if the oysters were fair

After the oysters were and shucked, they were rewashed and salt brine added. Then they process done first by hand and later by machine. After canning, they were cooked under pressure.

There was no difficulty in get ting oysters for the operation. In they came—from Pamlico Sound, Neuse, Portsmouth, Drum the Neuse, Portsmouth, Drum Shoal. The boats which dredged for them were sailing vessels, known as sharpies. Each boat used two dredges, one on each side. At first wound by hand, the dredges were later pulled by gasoline winders.

## Clam Juice Canned

An off-season operation for the company was the canning of clams and clam juice during the summer when oysters were out of season The legend on old can labels sti in the possession of Harrell Tay-lor, last survivor of the line of Valentine Taylor, reads as follows: "Pure Clam Juice ... little neck hard clam juice ... makes a very nice soup, is good for Dyspepsia, Billiousness, and is an excellent appetizer. Guaranteed under the Food and Drugs Act, June 30,

A galvanized trough, running under the steam chest, caught the juice from the clams as they popped open, and conveyed the liquid off to be canned.

When the plant ceased opera-tions about 1930, portions of the

PURE GLAM JUIGE

U. S. SERIAL No. 20227.

PACHED BY TAYLOR BROS.



This picture, taken quite a few years ago, shows a small building in left background, which was the packing room of the factory. Just to the right was the steam box. The long pier extending to the factory was removed when the basin was dredged to 6 feet about 11



Harrell Taylor, whose father Valentine, was part owner of the factory holds two relics. In his right hand is the steam whistle slightly rusty but still tootable. His left hand rests on a 7-pound re which held a gallon of oysters.

# time. The huge shell pile remained a long time and was partly removed by the WPA during the Belhaven Figures early 1930's.

In cooperation with the state Department of Conservation and Development, the federal agency bought 114,000 bushels of the shells and placed them back on oyster bottoms for the "spats," or ing oysters, to grow on.

Today, only a small pile of shells the once-busy factory where juicy Heel oysters and vitalizing

# In USA in 1904

country in 1904 by the newly-or-ganized Bay State Fishing Co. of Boston, Mass. The practice was copied from England and the first boat in this country was the steampropelled Spray which was built after the pattern of the English

# In Oyster History

producing town in the Crisfield, Maryland, the largest

stretched for one mile along the Belhaven waterfront. When all the boats were in, people could almost walk across half-mile-wide Pantego

The Booth plant production was large enough for the Norfolk and Southern Railroad to run a spur track into the plant to take away the oysters. About 600 peo-

imore and some from New Jersey

or to transact legal business. Ac-

# Francis W. Taylor Says **Better Handling Makes** Fish Food Attractive

New and better ways of handling fish and shellfish are making these products more attractive as con-venience foods to the American eople, Francis William Taylor, of election as president of the National Fisheries Institute at New

Orleans recently. "The housewife can look to fish products as a convenience food, just as she does with other new food products," Mr. Taylor Research has played an important part in improving the handling, processing and distributing of our products, and the work of developing still better methods is going forward rapidly.

The phenomenal acceptance of fish sticks is but one example of

As another example of this trend, Mr. Taylor pointed out, his own firm, the Warren Fish Co., of Pensacola, is now working on a new process of using salt ice to refrigerate fish at the point of eatch. This process consists of prefish in ice made of per cent salt water.

Mr. Taylor pointed to the con-tinuing increased consumption of fish and shellfish products in the United States as an indication of the growing acceptance of these products for everyday use in the American home. Americans con-sumed an additional third of a pound of fish in 1954 over 1953, said, bringing the average to 11.1 pounds per capita.

The education of young people to like fish and eat it frequently has been one of the outstanding aspects of fish consumption in reyears, Mr. Taylor said, attributing much credit for this to the use of fish products in the school

# **William Way Continues Firm** Started by Father

Co., a wholesale and retail fish house on Front Street, Beaufort, to the annals of the county. Now owned and operated by William Way, the company was founded by his father, Brady C. Way, born in

Marshailberg in 1877. The elder Way, who had op-erated fish houses in Morehead City, Norfolk, and Elizabeth City, returned to Beaufort and re-estab ished the firm of Way Brothers, which he and his brother B. P. Way had earlier set up in More-head City.

William is the only son of three

who has remained in the family business which he took over when his father died in 1935. The other brothers are Dr. John Way, Beaufort, and Dr. Sam Way,

There are also two sisters, Mrs. Varena Way Glenn, a teacher in Morehead City, and Mrs. Elinore Way Moore of Wilson. Their mother, the former Miss Minnie Gillikin of Marshallberg, lives in Beaufort.

Mr. Way owns the 43-foot shrimp trawl Johnnie and Elinore, skipper ed by Charlie Owens of Beaufort. Hurricane Hazel cost him his 44 foot buy boat, the Varena Callo

Mr. Way is a veteran of almo four years' service with the Navy during World War II. Discharged with the rate of first class boatwith the rate of first class boat-swain's mate, he saw action in the State Passed Law Pacific aboard an LST in the invasions of Mindinao and Borneo.

He is also president and manager of the Beaufort Ice Co.

46 Years Ago.

cording to the early reports the way was hazardous and dangerous.

The General Assembly in 1745

Convention held in that city at that annexed Mattamuskeet and the time. Representatives from all lake by that name to Hyde County. over the state attended.

# Regulation of Fishing Here Began in Late 18th Century

(SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-TIMES) Assistant to the Director partment of Conservation and Development

Volume I of "The Public Acts of the General Assembly of North Carolina," there is recorded an act to provide for the laying off of rivers for the protection of fish, the furtherance of navigation and in order to give the adjoining property owners the full bene-fit of their riparian rights.

This act appears to have been passed at New Bern on Oct. 22, 1784, and is one of the earliest, of North Carolina. It placed the authority in the hands commissioners to divide the streams, determine where dams, bridges and ferries should be esin such a manner that the one-fourth comprising the channel ment of Agriculture. would be left open and threefourths would go to the property

owners on either side. blocked the stream with any illeincumbrances could be hailed into court and required to pay pounds (in that day about \$24) for every 24 hours that they kept the stream blocked. One half of the penalty would be given to the person reporting the violation and the other half would go to the county.

### Penalty Was Severe

Apparently even in that early day the citizens thought highly of the right to use the rivers for purposes of navigation and for the day was, to say the least, a severe penalty; much more severe, com-paratively speaking, than the penalties now provided for violation nmercial fishing laws and regulations.

North Carolina General Assembly and controlling the streams. Many of these have long since been outmoded and done away wtih, and a

all phases of fishing and applicable | harmful to the man who

to all commercial fishing areas.

People thought something of pure water and an abundance of fish in those days. In his "History of the Dividing Line" between liam Byrd of Virginia spoke of the fine pure water which he found at the early spring season when the reckfish were spawning. This of work on the part of the oyster-

was about 1735. In 1823 the first real supervision and perhaps the first, commercial over water resources, including anchoring of nets by buoys on an fishing law adopted by the State fish, was undertaken when the of overnight basis adjacent to chanfice of the State Geologist was created. In 1877 the Board of Ageries of the State. In 1887 the oftablished and to lay off the river fice of Shellfish Commissioner was problem has arisen and had to be set up as a branch of the Depart

The Shellfish Commission was replaced in 1895 by a Chief Inspecourths would go to the property tor of Shellfish. In 1901 an Oyser where so neither side.

Those who violated the law and Those who violated the law and in 1919 the Fisheries Commission is to conserve, preserve and promote the fishing industry so that the stream with any illegal nets, hedges, dams or other came into being. In 1927 this group Division of Commercial Fisheries.

In recent years the program in lina. the Division of Commercial Fish-eries has been to do away with as not infallible but they are all hon many regulations as possible so as est and sincere in the task which to make the occupation more feasthey are trying to do. They never ible for a greater number of persons. The realization has come that the only regulations which should be adopted are those which appear to be constructive in nature and promote the cause of conservation and greater development of the fisheries industry.

Because of the varied interests

of those who follow fishing, speaking generally, as a vocation and also because of the physical aspects Since the passage of this first of the North Carolina coast, it is law thousands of laws and regula-tions have been adopted by the not sometimes affect certain groups adversely while they benefit others. and the various commissions this is the great difficulty in the charged with regulating fishing passage and enforcement of the regulations and laws, and only through the wholehearted coopera-tion of the fishermen themselves great number of them were local can the program intended for their acts passed at the instigation of isoown good be carried out successfully.

In many cases these local fishing laws and regulations have proved throughout the years to be detri-

Sea shells, one-time homes

150 years. He's shown in the ac

Used as Slave Horn

This shell belonged to Mr. Elli-

son's great grandfather who lived on the Roanoke River in Martin

companying picture blowing it.

after the finfish. Further that, there are six clearly defined fishing areas in North Carolina and the problems and the seas differ so that the general regula Virginia and North Carolina Wil- tions and laws must be interpreted

with these factors in mind.

Sometimes it may appear that in the upper Roanoke River when the regulations are harmful and the reached the vicinity of Weldon, the enforcement too strict but it and also told of the great schools can readily be seen that there is of rockfish which he saw at that justification for a law protecting point. Apparently he got to the oyster beds from other types of point. Apparently he got to the oyster beds from other types of area with his party of engineers dredging, because the beds might

men destroyed. It is also clear that while the anchoring of nets by buoys on an nels or in shallow water where small vessels may go is a menace the riculture was set up and was given to navigation, it may be some ben-dams, general supervision over the fishefit to the particular fishermen who follow this custom. Yet this There are many other handled. typical cases.

### Committee's Purpose

servation and Development as the to the people who follow the sea, and a more important factor in the economic life of North Caro

The men on this committee are make decisions without adequate public hearings where any vita interests are involved and they seek always to decide Issues in favor of the greatest number to be benefited. Sometimes the commercial fishermen have protested as in the recent General Assembly, that they do not have adequate representation on the Board of Conservation and Development.

As a matter of fact it has as the chairman of the Commercial Fisheries Committee a man who is himself a fisherman of experien and who comes from a family which followed the same vocation.

The economic specialist engaged to promote the fishing industry has had almost a quarter of a cen tury experience in this business on the Atlantic coast. In the administrative office of

and Development at Raleigh, there mercial fisherman. It would be Man Finds Varied Uses sentation on the Board of Cor vation and Development for if this were done the board would number more than one hundred per

For Shells, Even as Horn ons.

There is no industry that is more adequately represented on the Board or in the Department than (Editor's Note: The following story is reprinted from THE NEWS-TIMES commercial fishing the commercial fishing industry. Big Industry

In closing, it is of interest to point out the value of the various types of fishing to the fishermen themselves. At the present time creatures of the sea, have been put more than three thousand men are engaged in commercial fishing to varied uses by man. Today they engaged in commercial fishing alone, as indicated by the licenses lady, such as earrings, pins, and bracelets; they have been fashionissued, and there are a great many ed into lamps, pin cushions, and other individuals engaged in pro-are continually used as ash trays. Fishermen since the long ago have found that certain types of conch ducts of the sea. The greatest in-come is derived from the taking of menhaden for animal feed and shells make good horns.

W. A. Ellison Jr., marketing specialist with the State Board of Consuch purposes, while the finfish comes second in value. servation and Development, has in his possession such a shell which has been in his family well over

Next comes shrimping, which has advanced remarkably in recent years, and the oyster takes fourth place, crabbers are in fifth place, clams in sixth, and scallops last.

It is the aim of the Commercial Fisheries Division to do every-thing possible to increase the value of this industry to the men who take their living from the sea.

## **Early Trawl Caused** Concern in England

The first recorded charge against trawling was 1376 when a com-plaint was entered in the English Houses of Parliament against the use of a "wondrous and destructive net."

The complaint stated that this instrument "destroyed the flowers of the sea, spat of oysters, and mussels, and other fish, and that it caught and killed little fish upon which the great fish feed."

A commission was appointed to investigate this destructive instruactually a beam trawl, not as large as the try-net used on board to-day's shrimp trawlers for sampling the water for the presence of

This was nearly 600 years ago!

## Male Seahorse Takes Care of Egg Hatching

It is the male sea horse which actually gives birth to the young. When the eggs, which are developed in the female, are ready for fertilization, she transfers them to

# **Trawling Started**

Trawling was started in this

States and the West Indies. It was customary to send pigeons home after the departure of the vessel to keep the owner informed as to its whereabouts.

Plant Closes

Plant Closes The decreasing number of oysters, the coming of the depression, and the growing competition of the Gulf Coast packing plants finally closed the doors of the Taylor Brothers Factory.

One. Prior to the construction and use of the Spray, fishing out of the long line seines, and pounds. In a few years, trawling had taken over and today all shrimp and bottom dwelling fish, except and bottom dwelling fish, except halibut, are taken by trawls.

Belhaven, North Carolina, at one time was the second largest oysterbeing out-ranked only by oyster-producing town which ever existed.

Five large steam and raw plants reek, stepping from boat to boat.

away the oysters. About suo peo-ple were employed in shucking and miscellaneous lasor. Only local help was hired. All the management for these plants came from the north, some from Connecticut, some from Bal-

FIRST QUALITY

Little Neck Bard Clam Juice Makes a very nice Seep, is rood for Dyspepsia, Bilicustices and is an ep-cellant apperture.

The first North Carolina Fish

This is a reproduction of the actual label put around clam juice cans leaving the Taylor Caraing Co. It was of bright colors — red, blue, green, grange, yel-"Otherwise, it shall not be lawful to export any fish from this state; low and only the basket holding the clams was brown. The boat pictured on the label was the type of craft made early in this century to dredge for shellfish.

"Otherwise, it shall not be lawful to export any fish from this state; any

W. A. Ellison Jr.

**On Fish Packing** 

The state specified how fish should be packed back in 1784. An act passed by the North Carolina

Hatorask Inlet

An inlet about where Oregon Instead on the sound comes out over the lip of the shell. The rope in Mr. Ellison's slave horn is about two and very early maps of the state of North Carolina, then known as Virginia. On the same maps, there is an un-named inlet which appears north of Ocracoke Island about where the present Hatteras Inlet is.

County. There it was used as 'slave horn." When the bell was rung at the house to call the slaves, it could not be heard in the fields

it could not be heard in the fields farthest away. So the overseer in the "middle field," who had the shell slung over his shoulder by means of a rope, would blow it to call the slaves "over yonder."

Since those days, the shell has been handed down in the family, used as a door stop and, in general, knocked around, but it's intact, except for one small hole and chipped General Assembly in 1784 reads, General Assembly in 1784 reads, who can be a coor stop and, in general, when can be authority aforesaid, That all fish hereafter to be exported from this state shall be packed in good and sufficient barrels, and shall be inspection. The coordinate of the coordinate of

Dogs Harkened to It

spected by the inspector of the county where the same may be saved at the time of shipping the In Mr. Ellison's possum hunting days he used the horn to call his dogs. Today he can blow a healthy blast on the thing that would star-tle a bridge tender a half mile away into opening the draw in jig

way into opening the draw in high time.

Mr. Ellison believes that the shell, common in Florida and the Bahamas, was probably picked up by his great great grandfather's schooner which would sail to the Caribbean to bring back sugar and broadcloth from the West Indies.

To make a horn out of this "pink.

To make a horn out of this "pink conch," the spire, or end of it is knocked off. That hole then be-