

R. T. Willis Calls It a Day, Ending 60 Years in Business

By F. C. SALISBURY

Rounding out sixty years' dealing with the public in Morehead City and Carteret County, R. T. Willis Sr., on Jan. 1 brought to a close his active days in the mercantile business.



Now that he's retired, Mr. R. T. will find a lot more time to do things just like this, relaxing and reading the paper.

The name of Willis will not cease as a business firm for Mr. Willis' son, Rupert Earl, will carry on.

The story of Mr. Willis' successful career reads almost like one of the Horatio Alger stories so popular in years past.

Leaves Farm Farm life not appealing to the young man, he came into Morehead City in 1896 and hired out to Needham Willis, who at that time was conducting a general store, at a wage of \$50 a year with room and board.

The second year his salary went to \$84. By this time his employer must have seen the making of a merchant in the young man, for he raised his wages to \$108 and offered him a third interest in the business.

The years of apprenticeship under Mr. Willis had fitted the young man to feel that he could strike out for himself in the business world.

merchandising demands down through the years. Within five years from the opening of his small store, Mr. Willis had outgrown his quarters.

Believing that greater opportunities lay in the wholesale grocery business, Mr. Willis leased his store to the late Frank and John Klein.

Happy Years The years brought prosperity and happiness to him. A marriage of congeniality that governed over fifty years, only to be broken by death a few weeks ago, resulted in a family of six children who

have proved an honor and a blessing to their parents.

As a Christian character, Mr. Willis has lived up to the teachings of the church of his choice—Baptist—which he accepted as a youth. He has served on the official board of deacons of the First Baptist Church for many years.

Retiring from active commercial life does not mean that Mr. Willis will not take an interest in the religious and civic affairs of the city. He will have more time to give to his host of friends whom he has cultivated through the years.

As Mr. Willis passes the business to younger shoulders, he feels assured that the same hearty and loyal support given him by the public through the years will continue toward his son.

Initial War Game Movement Starts Tomorrow at Morehead City Port

Newport to Seek Federal Aid To Put Water Through Town

Robert L. Pugh To Speak Jan. 16 At DSA Banquet

Robert L. Pugh, superintendent of Craven County Schools, will be the speaker at the Jaycee Distinguished Service Award banquet Monday night, Jan. 16, at Fleming's Restaurant.

The banquet will begin at 7. Mr. Pugh will be introduced by H. L. Joslyn, Carteret County superintendent of schools.

Reservations Required J. C. Harvell, chairman of the banquet, said reservations must be made in advance.

The commissioner authorized the mayor to contact this firm, W. A. Freeman, to see whether plans drawn by them could still be used.

Mayor Mann said that the potential number of water customers in Newport is 221, which would yield a revenue of from \$600 to \$800 a month.

James Webb gave a report on the Jaycee Christmas Party. Fifty-five children attended. He said that each of the children received a gift, were given a luncheon, and saw movies at the City Theatre.

Hal Shapiro was appointed chairman of the industrial survey committee. Ralph Styron was a guest.

Newport town fathers gave Mayor or Leon Mann the green light Tuesday night on starting the wheels turning toward getting a government loan to install a town-wide water system.

Mayor Mann said that the federal agency, the Home Finance Corp., offers such loans, the revenue from the water system used to repay. One stipulation is that every house and business in the town put the water in.

At present, wells supply water to houses and businesses at Newport with the exception of the 10 homes which have already been connected to the water system installed as a fire department project.

Mayor Mann reminded the board that engineers were retained several years ago to design a water system for Newport with the understanding that they would be paid only if the loan were effected through the federal government.

The mayor to contact this firm, W. A. Freeman, to see whether plans drawn by them could still be used. The mayor estimates that \$60,000 would be needed to put in an entire system.

Mayor Mann said that the potential number of water customers in Newport is 221, which would yield a revenue of from \$600 to \$800 a month. Citing Swansboro as an example, he said that the average monthly water bill there is \$3.30 a month.

There were no typhoid cases in the county last year. One case of polio occurred in the county in 1955. The health department earnestly suggests that parents see that their children receive all immunization shots during the cold months rather than wait until summer.

Health Office Reports Typhoid Case at Atlantic

John Nelson Jr. Taken To Hospital; Polio Patient Improves

Communicable diseases have been plaguing the county. In addition to the polio case reported earlier this week, the health department announces that John Nelson Jr., 36, Atlantic, has been stricken with typhoid fever.

Mr. Nelson was admitted to the Sea Level Hospital Tuesday afternoon and his illness was diagnosed as typhoid Wednesday. Mrs. Leota Hammer, public health nurse, said no quarantine is necessary at the home when the patient is hospitalized.

A case of rabbit fever and a case of encephalitis also occurred recently but both patients have recovered.

Six-year-old Ronnie Eubanks, Beaufort RFD, who is suffering from polio, has passed the acute stage, according to authorities at Central Convalescent Hospital, Greensboro, where he is hospitalized.

His father, Ivey Eubanks, said yesterday that Ronnie has slight paralysis. He can't use his right arm. His throat had been paralyzed but Wednesday he was able to swallow liquids.

The board approved using \$200 of town funds to finance part of payment of an alternator for one of the fire trucks until Civil Defense reimburses the town under a matching fund program. Half of the cost of the alternator is being paid by the Newport Rural Fire Association.

Last Night Was 'Old Christmas' at Rodanthe

News in Nutshell

INTERNATIONAL NOW INDIA is giving United States textile manufacturers the jitters. The American Cotton Manufacturers Institute says that India is producing fabrics at even lower cost than Japan.

FRANCE'S ONLY HOPE for some type of government lies in a compromise between the two political enemies, Mendes France and Premier Faure. Communists now have 147 seats in the new assembly, 52 more than they won in the 1951 election.

NATIONAL PRESIDENT EISENHOWER'S state of the union message was read to Congress yesterday. The President commented on the country's prosperity and said that the administration is directly attacking the farm problem so that farmers may join in the prosperity which they have helped create.

THE NAVY is continuing to test cold vaccines. Two hundred recruits at Great Lakes Naval Training Center have received shots of a new vaccine which may help put dat code in da head on da shelf.

STATE AT GOLDSBORO Seymour Johnson field will be reactivated this July with 3,300 personnel. Contracts will be let soon on 1,500 homes which will house men and their families. The field will be used by a fighter bomber wing of the Tactical Air Command.

THE CONSERVATION and Development Board convened yesterday at Raleigh.

Bids Opened Yesterday On Transit Shed Jobs

Bids were opened at the Morehead City state port office yesterday afternoon on the electrical installation and sprinkler system for the new transit shed.

Contracts will be awarded in about 30 days. Five bids were received on the electrical job and two on the sprinkler system. The low electrical bid was \$15,440 by Turner Electric Co., Inc., LaGrange, and the low sprinkler bid was \$20,829 by the Globe Automatic Sprinkler Co., Charlotte.

Tomorrow is Blue Crutch Day Here

Tomorrow is Blue Crutch Day in the March of Dimes campaign. Miss Alida Willis, campaign director, says blue crutch pins will be sold on the streets of Beaufort, Morehead City and Newport by members of the Legion posts in those towns.

Any amount given for the pins will be accepted. The crutch is being used as a symbol showing that the March of Dimes helps polio patients to walk again.

Legion Opens New Building

Between 50 and 75 people attended the open house Wednesday night at the newly-erected American Legion Building, Beaufort.

The building is equipped with a kitchen and is available for rent by the public. It will also be used in conjunction with the fair sponsored annually by the Legion post.

Rural Fire Association Members Fail to Pay Dues

Most of the members of the Beaufort Rural Fire Association are backsliders.

According to Leslie D. Springle, president of the association, less than half of the 200 members paid their \$5 dues for 1955, and 1956 dues are now payable.

The Beaufort Rural Fire Association was organized two years ago and owns a tank truck which is housed at the Beaufort Fire Station. President Springle says that the few members who have paid their dues have maintained the equipment.

Survey Started R. M. Williams, county farm agent, accompanied soil conservation personnel on their preliminary survey of the Newport River yesterday.

Police Check On Two wrecks

Morehead City police investigated two accidents late Wednesday.

Delmar P. Harvey, Morehead, Pa., was charged with having insufficient brakes causing an accident after the car he was driving, a 1950 Oldsmobile, rammed into the rear of a 1955 Ford operated by Richard M. McClain.

A minor accident causing \$25 damage occurred at 10:50 p.m. Wednesday when a 1949 Chrysler driven by Gloria Adams Mann, Newport, collided with a 1954 Oldsmobile driven by James E. Daugherty, Springfield, Ohio, at 21st and Arendell Streets.

The building was damaged. No damage was done to Mr. Daugherty's car and no charges were filed.

"We members who have paid our dues cannot maintain this fine piece of equipment to save the homes and out buildings of members who don't pay," he continued. Unless a rural fire association member has paid his dues to date, he is not eligible for assistance, should fire break out on his out-of-town property.

Dues may be paid to John Miller, treasurer of the association, or Mrs. W. J. Ipeck, secretary, both of Beaufort.

Anyone who would like to become a member of the Rural Fire Association should contact Mr. Springle, 24144.

Frank Gay Transferred Frank Gay, Boy Scout field representative for this area, has been transferred to another district.

Going Out of Business

Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Blair Will Dispose of Dairy Herd at Sale

Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Blair are selling their herd of Holstein cattle. The Blairs, who operate Bay-side Farms, Crab Point, and have taken numerous blue ribbons on their pure-bred dairy cattle, are going out of the dairy business.

The herd, in its entirety, will be disposed of Friday, Jan. 20, in the State Fairgrounds arena, Raleigh. The sale starts at 10:30 a.m. and is being conducted by the North Carolina Holstein-Friesian Association.

The original herd of 15 cows, acquired by the Blairs in December 1950, was hand-picked by the late Dr. R. H. Ruffner of State College, Raleigh, who introduced the first Holsteins to North Carolina.

The herd now numbers 102. The bull, Charlie (Wisconsin Aristocrat Ideal), Burk-bred, and 38 of his daughters are going on the block. His daughters were bred to Pabst Raven Rambler who has a record of seven excellent ancestors in his three-generation pedigree, Mr. Blair said.

The herd is classified, on regular HIR and DHIA testing, is Bangs certified, TB accredited and calf-hood vaccinated. Production records may be examined at the farm, but animals can be purchased only at the sale.

Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Blair and their former herd manager, Reuben Willing, right, look at some of their prize cattle. The herd of 102 head will be sold at 10:30 Friday, Jan. 20, at Raleigh.



The annual pilgrimage to Caribbean Isles by the United States Navy and Marine Corps gets underway tomorrow with two LST's and the LSD Casagrande docking at Morehead City port to take on men and supplies.

The war games will center on the island of Vieques. Departure of the main body of Camp Lejeune Marines will take place next week. Navy craft will leave from Norfolk and Onslow Beach, as well as Morehead City.

Lockwood Phillips, Beaufort, publisher of THE NEWS-TIMES, will be a guest of the Navy during the maneuvers. He will leave Morehead City Jan. 11 and return to Norfolk Jan. 25.

The exercise is named Lantraex 1-56, which means the first Atlantic fleet training exercise of 1956. It will be under the command of Brig. Gen. Wallace M. Greene Jr.

32 Ships to Take Part Thirty-two ships of the Atlantic Fleet amphibious force will take part, including the battleship USS Wisconsin, the aircraft carrier Siboney, the submarine sea Lion and seven destroyers.

General Greene's headquarters commandant, James B. Jacobson, is in charge of the advance party which will establish a campsite, pitch tents, prepare mess halls and install communications for thousands of Marines at Vieques.

Coordination of air and ground units in amphibious operations will be stressed in the games.

Air, Sea Support As ground units train ashore, Marine planes and Navy ships will concentrate on support techniques.

In mid-February, an air-naval gunfire exercise involving Navy ships and Marine planes will be staged. Following that in early March bombing Marine air-ground and Navy forces will assault the Island of Vieques in an amphibious operation that will climax Lantraex 1-56.

Maneuvers to the Caribbean take place every January and February. The last ships on the departure movement from Morehead City will leave here next Friday, Jan. 13.

An invitation to make the cruise was extended THE NEWS-TIMES publisher by Maj. Gen. Verne J. McCaul, USMC, Cherry Point. As a guest of the Navy, Mr. Phillips also cruised in the submarine Ajax from Norfolk to Key West in February 1952 and several times has been a guest of the Navy on flag ships during maneuvers off Onslow Beach.

The publisher also took a trip aboard the USCG Cutter Bramble on a working cruise through the Caribbean Islands in January and February 1953.

Building Takes Slump During Last Quarter '55

Number of New Houses Built in Morehead City Almost Double

New construction work in Morehead City took a decided slump during the last three months of 1955. Permits, issued by A. B. Roberts, building inspector, covered the building of one small house by Mat Bell at a cost of \$1,500, garages by Horace Johnson, \$450 and Bruce L. Goodwin, \$400.

Thomas Hester made an addition to his home at a cost of \$550. Total for the three months was \$2,905.

Morehead City's building activities for the year 1955 met the average of \$450,320 for the past seven years, with a total showing of \$450,555.

Almost double the number of new houses were built the past year than in 1954, 35 against 19, totaling in cost, \$275,970 as against the sum of \$151,350 for 1954.

Of the 35 new homes, 17 were built or are under construction by the Goodwin Development Corp. in the Crab Point sub-division of the city. Cost of this group of new homes is listed at \$114,000.

Nine new houses were constructed costing over \$10,000 or more: G. E. Sanderson, \$19,900; George Bain, \$16,700; J. G. Bennett, \$10,000; Virginia Daughton, \$15,790; J. H. Royal, \$9,200; Walter Morris, \$17,000; George Eastman, \$14,000; Roy S. Streb, \$18,000.

Houses costing less than \$10,000: J. P. Cary, \$8,000; Huntley-Prest, two at \$9,990 each; Paul R. Taylor, \$8,000; and six houses ranging in cost from \$400 to \$1,500.

Listed under commercial structures, both new and remodeled, the totals reached only \$152,300 against \$222,660 for 1954. The Morehead City Motel Corp. heads the list at \$75,000, with the Christian Star Church next at \$20,000.

The Piggly-Wiggly Market cost is listed at \$19,000. The Water-front Cafe made additions costing \$9,900 and the Willis Inn spent \$9,600 to repair fire damage.

Permits covering smaller buildings or alterations were issued to the White Ice Cream Co., \$3,200; Sanitary Fish Market, \$1,000; Blomberg store, \$1,500; Longley Supply Co., \$1,500; Morehead City Shipbuilding company, \$7,500.

Dr. S. W. Hatcher, office addition, \$1,000; Sunshine Laundry, \$950; Tackle Shop, \$450; J. M. Davis, \$750; R. H. Hill, \$950.

Garages totaled \$1185. Repairs to homes caused by storm and fire, along with minor additions and alterations, \$19,155.

Aide Will Be Here Tuesday

The representative from the State Civil Defense office who will help fill out applications for surplus government property will be in the courtroom of the courthouse, Beaufort, Tuesday.

The United States government is offering to farmers and small businessmen equipment at 10 per cent of cost. The representative who will be here has been identified by the State Civil Defense office as a Mr. Robertson, from the State Department of Purchase and Contract.

Gov. Luther Hodges said the state will absorb a 5 per cent administrative cost which is customarily added to the purchase price of 10 per cent to the amount the federal government paid for the surplus equipment.

Only farmers and business firms who actually suffered direct damage from last fall's hurricanes are eligible for the program.

Governor Hodges emphasized that federal regulations prohibit the acquisition of surplus property for resale. It must be used for rehabilitation and for business and farming operations within the storm-hit area.

Civil Defense representatives will visit all eastern counties hit by storms last fall. They will carry catalogs of available surplus property and will help eligible persons fill out application blanks.