

Fire Destroys Legendary Home

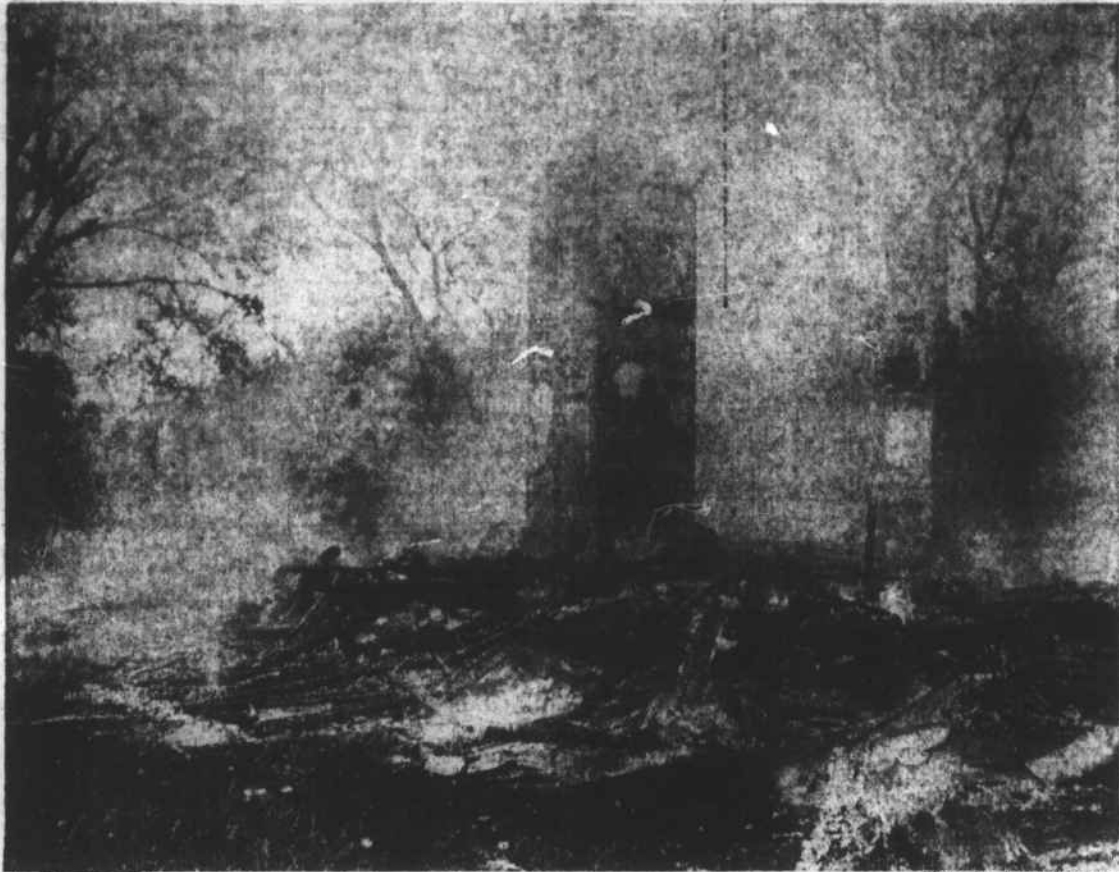


Photo by Jerry Schumacher

A blaze of unknown origin destroyed the old Oaksmith house, west of Morehead City, about 11 o'clock Monday morning. Lots of tales were told about the old house, about a tunnel leading from the south to it and of a room wherein pirate's loot was stored. But research

has failed to uncover facts which could verify these tales. The chimneys were constructed to provide fire places on both the first and second floors.

By F. C. SALISBURY

With the burning of the Oaksmith house in the Camp Glenn section Monday morning, another county landmark was destroyed. Although not as old as some buildings which have been associated with past days in the county, yet it had an interesting history that tied in with one of the most prominent men of eighty years ago, who for a few years played an important part in the political and civic life of Carteret County.

This house, on a plantation known as "Hollywood," was the home of Appleton Oaksmith, lawyer, author, publisher, adventurer, ship owner and planter. First built to house officers of the Civil War during the encampment of Federal soldiers in the county from 1862 to 1865, the building and surrounding property was purchased by Oaksmith when he came with his family to Carteret County to make his home in 1873.

Improvements to the officer's quarters gave the structure the appearance of a plantation home. Could the house have told its story over the past years it would have been one more of sorrow and tragedy than of happiness. Death by drowning took its toll of the family when four young daughters were lost in Bogue Sound during a sailing trip with their father on July 4, 1879.

His aged mother, a noted writer and poet, passed her last years at the home, far removed from her old associates. Lingering sickness resulted in the death of Oaksmith in 1887, followed by the mother and wife a few years later.

Up until a short time ago a daughter, Miss Geraldine Oaksmith, continued to live in the old home. From time to time during her absence, vandals broke into the house carrying away valuable furniture and keepsakes. Time and the elements had wrought its change on the old house, making it uninhabitable.

What of this man Oaksmith? He was a person of unusual character. He had led a most varied and exciting life up to the time he came to Carteret County. He was well

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'Cyclists Suffer Minor Injuries

Two Cherry Point Marines suffered minor injury at 2:20 p.m. Tuesday when the motorcycle they were riding collided with a truck on Highway 70 a mile west of Morehead City.

The Marines were Danny M. Kay and Larry P. Schorle. They were taken to Morehead City Hospital in the Dill ambulance.

According to State Highway Patrolman R. H. Brown, the motorcycle, a 1955 Harley-Davidson, was going east and hit the left rear of a 1951 Ford oil truck as it was turning into Fred Anthony's service station.

The oil truck, headed west, was being driven by Clyde D. Edwards, 1208 1/2 Shackelford St., Morehead City. Both Marines were thrown off the motorcycle. They suffered bruised right arms and hands. Damage to the truck was estimated at \$5 and damage to the motorcycle at \$100.

Charges are pending.



Photo by F. C. Salisbury

This picture shows the Oaksmith house as it appeared in 1927. In recent years the house has been in a dilapidated condition. No one was living in it at the time of the fire. Many of the relics and valuable books in it had been carried away by trespassers.

1956 Father of the Year Will Win Valuable Prizes

Streets to Get 238 Markers

Street markers for Morehead City have been ordered, Mrs. A. B. Roberts, publicity chairman of the street marker project, announced yesterday.

Mrs. Roberts said that sufficient funds were raised by five civic organizations to buy 188 markers. Fifteen markers were donated and 35 were purchased by the town, totaling the 238 markers necessary. Markers will be put in place by the town street department, according to Mrs. Roberts, who congratulated everyone who had a helping hand in making the project a success.

Street markers are a finer Carolina project. Chairman of the committee was Owens Frederick. Clubs which raised the money were the Lions, Rotary, Jaycees, Junior Woman's Club and the Woman's Club.

Tide Table

Tides at the Beaufort Bar		
HIGH		LOW
Friday, June 8		
7:26 a.m.		1:28 a.m.
7:51 p.m.		1:25 p.m.
Saturday, June 9		
8:16 a.m.		2:18 a.m.
8:42 p.m.		2:18 p.m.
Sunday, June 10		
9:08 a.m.		3:07 a.m.
9:33 p.m.		3:11 p.m.
Monday, June 11		
10:01 a.m.		3:58 a.m.
10:26 p.m.		4:07 p.m.
Tuesday, June 12		
10:56 a.m.		4:49 a.m.
11:21 p.m.		5:04 p.m.

Here's an opportunity to help your father win valuable prizes being offered by Morehead City businessmen.

Send in your entry to THE NEWS-TIMES-sponsored Father of the Year contest, and perhaps it will be your dad who wins the prizes.

To nominate a Father of the Year, all you need do is fill out the blank found in an ad in today's paper, or pick one up from one of the cooperating merchants. Then fill it out and take it to the merchant's store or send it to the newspaper office.

This is the fourth year that THE NEWS-TIMES has sponsored the event. Last year's winner was Henry Carraway of Merrimon.

Other winners have been John

Tillery, Morehead City, and Charles Garner, Newport.

Ten gifts will be presented to the lucky winner. They are a leather billfold by Early Jewelers; box of Manhattan shirts from Hill's; set of "Kar-rugs" from Hardesty Motor Co.; slacks, shirt, belt and tie from Belk's; gallon BPS paint from Lockhart Millworks.

Florsheim shoes, Webb's; lazy susan, Smith's TV; \$10 gift certificate, Leary's; Brownie flash camera, Morehead City Drug Co.; and 25 theatre passes good for the City, Morehead and Beaufort Theatres from Morehead Theatre.

Deadline for getting the nomination blanks in is 10 a.m. Wednesday, June 13. The presentation of gifts will be made Saturday, June 16, the day preceding Father's Day, in front of the Morehead City municipal building.

Tickets Go on Sale for Fish Fry, Pony Penning Down East July Fourth

Tickets for the July Fourth fish fry at Sea Level can be obtained from members of the Sea Level Hospital Board of Trustees, Charles Caudell, hospital administrator, announced yesterday.

Many reservations for the big event have already been received from upstate, he said. Persons planning to attend are urged to get their tickets in advance so that enough food can be prepared. Proceeds will go to the Sea Level Hospital.

On the morning of July 4, beginning at 9 a.m., there will be a pony penning at Cedar Island Beach. This is the only penning in this area which can be reached by automobile. Other pennings require boat transportation to the banks. The penning is being sponsored

by the Down East Lions Club. Tickets are being sold for admission to the penning, Mr. Caudell reported.

The hospital trustees are supervising the fish fry which will take place on the hospital grounds. Tickets can also be obtained at the hospital. They are priced at \$1 and 50 cents for each of the events, the penning and the fish fry.

Two Graduate

Thomas S. Bennett and David H. Freshwater, Morehead City, received their bachelor of arts degrees Monday night as 1,700 University of North Carolina students were graduated. Diplomas were presented by Dean J. Carlyle Siterson of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Mayor Cites Need for Deep Channel to Morehead Port

Nursery to be Conducted During Recreation Program

An innovation will be started Monday with the opening of a nursery for children between the ages of 4-8 at the Morehead City Recreation building. The summer recreation program will begin Monday at 9 a.m., according to Fred Lewis, recreation director.

The nursery will be open only during the morning sessions.

The program, otherwise, will run the same as last year, with indoor and outdoor activities from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, and from 2 to 4 p.m. On Wednesday and Friday nights the recreation building will be open from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. for dances.

Among the outdoor activities available will be tennis, volleyball, basketball, horseshoes, croquet and jumping pit. Indoor activities include ping pong, shuffleboard, miniature golf, badminton and table games.

Assisting Mr. Lewis in directing the program will be Mrs. Mamie Taylor and Ralph Wade.

The program will also start Monday for the colored children at the Masonic Hall for indoor activities and at W. S. King School for outdoor games.

Firemen Elect Board Tuesday At Atlantic

A board of directors of the Down East Fire Department was elected at the department's meeting Tuesday night in the old Baptist Church, Atlantic.

The directors are Aldridge Daniels, Sea Level, president; Joseph Peppers, Stacy, first vice-president; Monroe Gaskill, Cedar Island, second vice-president; Elbert Pittman,

In case of fire in Sea Level, Stacy, Cedar Island, Davis or Atlantic, the fire department can be summoned by calling Atlantic 256 in the daytime or 262 at night.

Davis, third vice-president; Clayton Fulcher Jr., Atlantic, secretary; and William Gorges, Atlantic, treasurer.

Prior to Tuesday night, the Lions Club served as the board of directors. The department is also proceeding with plans to incorporate.

Allen Jones, Atlantic, who was appointed temporary fire chief following the death of Chief Walter Mason, was elected chief.

It was reported that the department owes \$178.46 and has no money to meet the debt. Contributions to the fire department will be accepted. They may be given or mailed to the chief or to Mr. Gorges, treasurer.

Guests at the meeting were James Kirby and Charles Gould, members of the Newport Fire Department, who invited the Down East firemen to take part in the county-wide fire school the last week of this month.

Paul Willis, 3108 Evans St., Morehead City, has been made an honorary member of the department in appreciation of the help he gave in getting the fire department started.

Thirty-five men attended the meeting. The next meeting will be at Cedar Island Tuesday, July 10. It has been postponed because the regular meeting night precedes the Fourth of July.

June Brings Wet Downpours

"June is busting out in rain" could well be the song of county residents. More than one inch has fallen since last Friday, June 1, according to E. Stamey Davis, weather observer.

Some sections have gotten close to 2 inches in drenching downpours. On Tuesday, streets in both Beaufort and Morehead City were flooded. The Beaufort downpours came during high tide and the sewers couldn't carry the overflow off.

The wind shifted to the north-east Wednesday and before long more rain was coming down, accompanied by chill winds.

The high temperature for the week was recorded on Monday when the mercury rose to 83 degrees and the low was recorded on Sunday with a reading of 56 degrees.

The high and low temperatures, as well as the wind directions for the past week were as follows:

	Max.	Min.	Winds
Friday	82	72	SW
Saturday	82	67	SW
Sunday	80	56	NW
Monday	83	63	SE
Tuesday	75	67	SW
Wednesday	76	68	NE

Park Beach To Open Sunday

The swimming area at Fort Macon State Park will open Sunday morning, Smith Ray, park superintendent, announced this week.

In charge of the refreshment stand at the bathing area will be Mitchell Clark, Beaufort.

Bath house manager will be A. E. Mercer, Buxton, and life guards will be Harold Willis, Beaufort; Andrew Denmark, Raleigh; David Windley, Havelock, and George Thompson, Goldsboro.

The picnic shelter at the beach is open daily until 9 p.m. The fort is open to visitors from 8 to 5 and the fort fishing area is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Court to Open at 9:30 Monday at Beaufort

Judge Malcolm C. Paul, Washington, N. C., will preside at the criminal term of superior court starting Monday morning at 9:30 a.m. The session is scheduled for one week.

Judge Paul will also preside at the one-week civil term opening June 18.

Mitchell Bailed Out

Matthew Mitchell, Morehead City Negro being held for shooting Charles D. Salter, Morehead City, early Sunday morning, was released under \$500 bond from the county jail yesterday morning.

Mayor George Dill, Morehead City, told members of a House sub-committee at Washington Wednesday that commercial shipping through Morehead City port is being hampered because of inadequate channel depth.

If the sub-committee issues a favorable report on the deepening and widening of the channel, the bill authorizing expenditure of funds for dredging will go before the 85th Congress next year.

Congressman Graham A. Barden was the chief witness. A channel of 35 feet is being sought. Congressman Barden pointed out that due to the present 30-foot depth, movement of military cargoes cannot be carried out efficiently.

He also remarked that the authorized depth now is 30 feet, but in some places the channel is only 29 feet. The improvements being sought, he said, would convert the port "into a great potential for improving commercial traffic into the area . . . and would serve as a tremendous stimulant" to new industries planning to locate in eastern North Carolina.

County Farm Labor Committee Formed Here

Mayor Dill told the committee, headed by John A. Blatnik, Minnesota, that not only military cargoes but commercial shipments move under restriction because asphalt, gasoline and fuel oil tankers coming in cannot make port with full cargoes.

He pointed out that private enterprise, such as the asphalt plant and roofing company in Morehead City, depend on the port and must operate at maximum efficiency to meet competition. He commented on the important part these businesses play in the economy of the town.

Congressman Barden told the committee that Morehead City's nearness to the ocean, three and a half miles, could make it one of the most important ports on the eastern seaboard, if the channel depth and turning basin are improved.

Engineers Testify

Others who testified were an engineer with the Army Corps of Engineers who presented a large drawing of the port and channel, two colonels from the Marine Corps, an admiral of the United States Navy and Col. R. S. Marr, executive director of the State Ports Authority.

The hearing took place in the hearing room of the new House office building. The committee considering testimony was the sub-committee on Rivers and Harbors of the Committee on Public Works, before whom Mayor Dill testified in March relative to water pollution.

The mayor went to Washington Tuesday afternoon and returned Wednesday afternoon.

Swedish Biologist Visits Shellfishery Lab Here

Visiting at the shellfish laboratory, Fish and Wildlife Service, Pivers Island, is Dr. Lennart Hannerz, Gottenburg, Sweden, who will study four and a half months in this country as a World Health Organization fellow.

Dr. Hannerz, tall, blonde and handsome, looks more like a Hollywood box-office attraction than holder of a doctor's degree in biology. While in this country he will study disposal of radioactive waste material.

At the shellfishery laboratory he is being supervised in this work by Dr. T. R. Rice, head of the laboratory is Dr. W. A. Chipman.

The Pivers Island laboratory is his first stop. He arrived in New York City May 12, spent a while at Washington, D. C., and will leave here at the end of next week.

Then he will spend a month at Oak Ridge, Tenn. From there he will visit the biological station at A&M College, Texas, Scripps Oceanographic Institute, La Jolla, Cal., and the fisheries laboratory at the University of Washington, Seattle. He will also make numerous side trips to round out his educational itinerary in the United States.

Dr. Hannerz, who is employed by the Swedish government as a member of its fisheries board, did his undergraduate and graduate work at the University of Uppsala. He is married and has two daughters.

One of the things that has impressed him most during his few days in this country is the "friend-



Dr. Lennart Hannerz . . . starts study tour

ly informality of the people." Otherwise he says he believes America would be a wonderful place to live in.

The biologist speaks English very well, having studied it in "middle school" and high school. After leaving the United States this fall, he will study two weeks in England before returning to Sweden.

Highway Patrol Stations Roger Salter in Onslow

Roger Salter, Sea Level, a member of the State Highway Patrol, has been stationed at Swansboro. He will patrol Onslow County. He worked this week with Carteret patrolmen.

Mr. Salter is married and has a nine-month-old son, Roger Jr. His parents are Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Salter, Sea Level.

County Farm Labor Committee Formed Here

Frank Nance, Farm Labor Supervisor, Reports On Harvest Progress

A County Farm Labor Committee consisting of R. M. Williams, county agent; Odell Merrill, county commissioner; the Rev. W. T. Robertson, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Beaufort, and David Jones, soil conservationist, has been formed, Frank Nance, farm placement supervisor, announces.

The committee will act as an arbitration board for the laborers and farmers in the event that their problems cannot be handled by the farm placement bureau.

Problems may involve the amount of pay the workers are to receive or housing.

Mr. Nance also reports that mattresses are available to farmers who hire migrant laborers. They are \$1.90 each, plus a small transportation cost.

He said this is a special offer open only to the labor camps. The mattresses are surplus government property.

Mr. Nance announced that 95 per cent of the county cabbage crop has been harvested, 85 per cent of the bean crop, 85 per cent of the tomato plants for shipment, and 10 per cent of the potato crop.

At present there are 700 laborers at work in the county on migrant farms. Six hundred are migrants and the others are from different parts of North Carolina. In addition there are 600 local workers harvesting crops.

In about three weeks, Mr. Nance said, there will be about 500 laborers left in the county, of whom 400 will be migrants.

After the potato crop is in, he said that only 150 will remain here to work on tomatoes, tobacco and peppers.

Mr. Nance stated that he hopes to have a health and life insurance policy available for the migrant workers on a quarterly basis, starting next year.

His office, located in a trailer near G. T. Spivey's grocery across from the Beaufort School, is also assisting farmers in finding tenants for year-around work.

All of the farmers who have vehicles which seat more than seven persons are required to register those vehicles, Mr. Nance reports. Blanks for this purpose are available at his office.

Motel Robber To Serve Year

Marine Cpl. Anthony R. McLane, who robbed H. P. Spears, proprietor of the Liberty Motel, several miles west of the Cherry Point Marine Air Station on Highway 70, April 19, was sentenced to 12 months in state prison by Judge Malcolm C. Paul in Craven County Superior Court Tuesday.

Mr. Spears, from whom \$28 was stolen, is former manager of the Hotel Fort Macon, Morehead City. Suffering from heart disease, he was hospitalized immediately after the robbery.

McLane was given a five-to-seven year suspended sentence for armed robbery in addition to the active sentence. In suspending the longer sentence, Judge Paul ordered the defendant placed on five years' probation at the conclusion of the prison term.

The 22-year-old defendant pled guilty to armed robbery, drunken, careless and reckless driving, speeding and leaving the scene of an accident.

Robert G. Winberry Slightly Injured Friday

Robert G. Winberry, 14, suffered cuts and bruises at 1:20 p.m. Friday when the car in which he was riding upset on Highway 24 three miles east of Swansboro.

Driving the car, a 1951 Mercury, was Clyde W. Fetterhoff, route 1 Newport. The car was proceeding west on Highway 24 when it skid and turned over.

State Highway Patrolman W. E. Pickard investigated.