

Large Fire Destroyed Davis Building in 1927

By F. C. SALISBURY

Answering an alarm on the morning of Dec. 21, 1927, Beaufort firemen fought for several hours a fire that destroyed the Davis building at the southwest corner of Front and Turner streets, one of the oldest store buildings in the town.

The fire started in the lower section of the building occupied as a fish house by Congleton and Mann. Other occupants of the building were Carolina Seafood Co. and an oyster house and restaurant owned by the Willis Seafood Co. Most of the contents of the building were destroyed, as well as a truck belonging to the Carolina Seafood Co.

The building was the property of the Simmons Construction Co. which purchased it some two years before the fire. At the time this company was engaged in highway construction from Beaufort to Atlantic.

There are two versions as to the construction of the building which was of solid wood material two stories and a "jump" high. Credit is given for the erection of the building to James C. and Henry Davis who built it shortly after the big storm of August 1879 that washed away the Atlantic Hotel.

The Davis brothers conducted a mercantile business in the building for a number of years.

Built on Island?

The other story about the construction of the building, states that it was built on Carrot Island opposite the town by the Federal Government during the Civil War for use as a Naval Hospital.

After the close of the war it is said to have been moved to the site it occupied at the time of the fire, either by the Davis brothers or other parties. Before the construction of the seawall, the building stood partly out over the water, permitting boats to dock at the wharf for loading and unloading supplies.

Of later years, before the property was purchased by the Simmons Construction Co. it was known as the Hancock-Huntley building. This firm conducted a general wholesale business there for several years.

In October 1925 when the Loftin Motor Co. was formed for the

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Court of Honor Date Changed

The date of the Boy Scout Court of Honor, scheduled for this coming Sunday night, has been changed to Sunday, Sept. 30, according to Rudy Alexander, district Scout executive.

The ceremony will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the First Methodist Church, Morehead City. Ethan Davis, Morehead City, district commissioner, will preside.

Host troop will be 130, Morehead City, E. G. McKinley, Scoutmaster. Mr. Alexander said he hopes all troops in the county will be represented. Boys will receive merit badges and advancement awards.

Roy Hutchins Will Command Cutter Chilula

Roy M. Hutchins, USCG, formerly attached to the Ninth Coast Guard District, Cleveland, Ohio, will be the commanding officer of the Coast Guard cutter Chilula. Morehead City has recently been designated by Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, D. C., as the permanent station of the Chilula.

The Chilula is a 205-foot auxiliary tug which was recently acquired from the Navy.

She is now being reactivated at the Coast Guard Yard, Curtis Bay, Md., and is expected to be commissioned on or about Oct. 20, 1956 when she will proceed to Morehead City.

The Chilula was first commissioned April 5, 1945 at Charleston, S. C., and served in the Asiatic Pacific War Zone in routine towing operations for the Navy. She also served on escort duty from the Marshall Islands to Japan in 1945, and was decommissioned in 1947.

The Coast Guard cutter, Agassiz, now stationed at Fort Macon, will be transferred to Cape May, N. J.

County Will Open Bids on Health Center At 2 Wednesday, Oct. 10, at Courthouse

Committee Sets Centennial Week For June 9-15

Group Names General Chairman at Meeting Monday Night

June 9-15 has been set as the week for the Morehead City Centennial. The dates were set at a meeting of the centennial steering committee Monday night.

Full moon, "necessary to the success of the water parade," the committee says, falls on Wednesday, June 12.

Chairmen Named

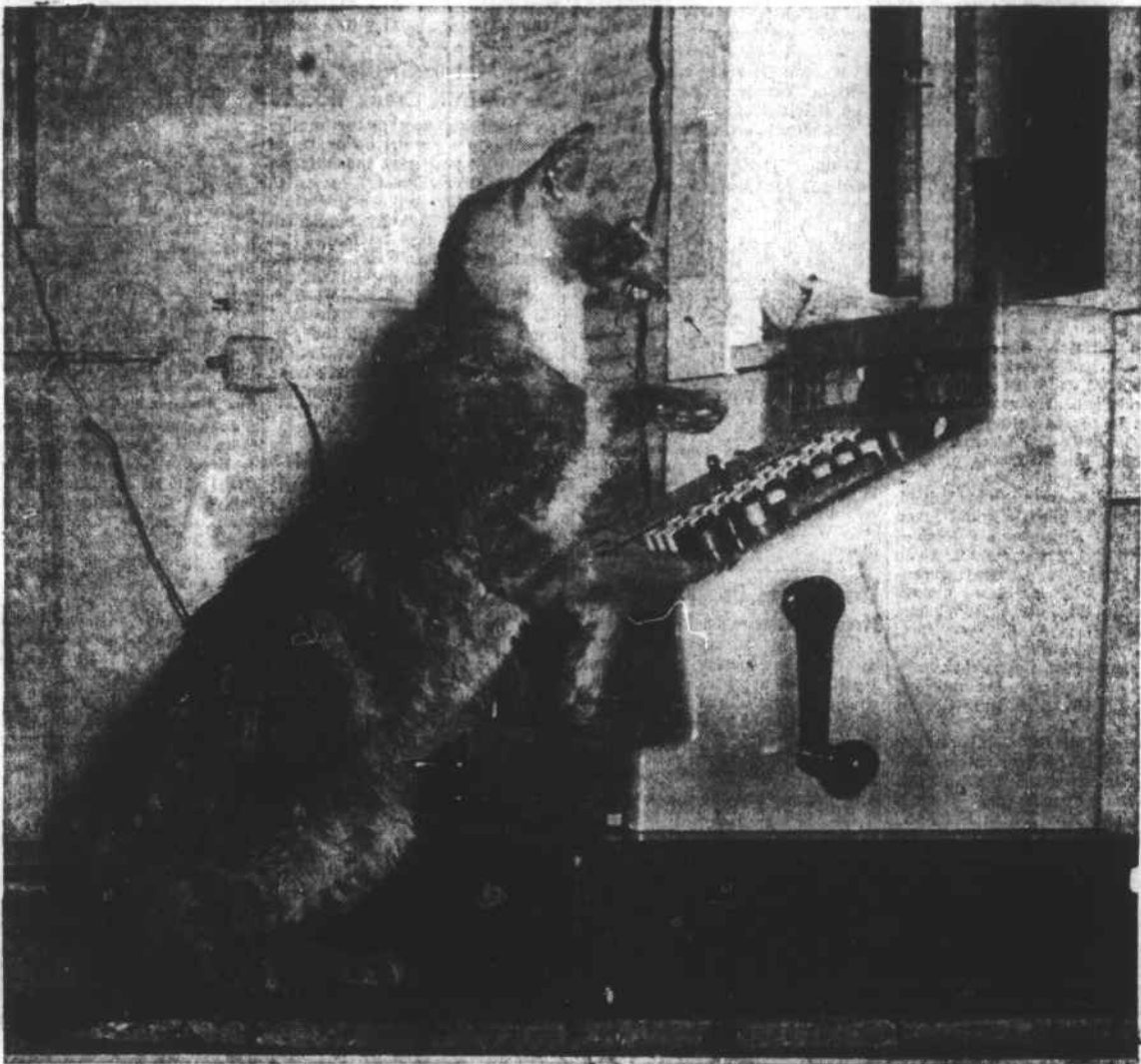
General chairmen of centennial week events were named. They are Herbert Phillips, entertainment; Warren Beck, advertising; Alfred Cooper, program; Mrs. D. G. Bell and Mrs. Truman Kemp, publicity.

John Lashley, parades and decorations; Chief Herbert Griffin, parking and traffic; T. T. (Tom) Potter, fishing and boating; Walter Morris, commercial; the Rev. A. G. Harris Jr., religious activities; and J. R. Sanders, finance.

To Meet Monday

General chairmen will meet with the steering committee at 8 p.m. Monday at the chamber of commerce office.

Attending Monday night's meeting were Charles Markey, general chairman; Grover Munden, Jasper Bell, Mr. Sanders, Bernard Leary and Joe DuBois.



Big Red, Capt. Otis Purifoy's cat, rings up another sale on the cash register at the fish market . . . or so it seems. The whirling numbers on the register fascinate him and he tries to catch them. Here the photographer caught him in quite a business-like position. Big Red vows for his master's products. "Hey-bow! That fish is the best!"

Gloucester Club Discusses Site For Clubhouse

Selection of property for a club house and park was discussed at the Tuesday night meeting of the Gloucester Community Club. The club met with Mr. and Mrs. Walter Stewart.

Richard Whitehurst, president, was authorized to inquire about likely sites.

The possibility of constructing a public dock at the end of the ferry dock road was also discussed. Bill Pigott was appointed chairman of a committee to design a community project for the county fair next month. It was decided that a miniature landscape of the community would be constructed.

Less trash and litter along the highway was noted. The club officials said they thought the Community Club signs were important factors in the improvement. The signs were placed along roads and have cleanliness slogans painted on them.

A nominating committee was named. Miss Josie Pigott, Mrs. Gertrude Whitehurst, and Miss Hilma Chadwick will nominate candidates for club offices for the coming year.

Elections will be conducted at the next business meeting scheduled for Oct. 9 at the home of Miss Josie Pigott.

Saturday, Sept. 30, is picnic day for the club. Each member will bring his own food and cook it at the new outdoor fireplace. The picnic is scheduled to begin at 5 o'clock.

Farm Bureau Day Set For Thursday, Sept. 27

Thursday, Sept. 27, will be Farm Bureau day in Carteret County. That is when the annual Farm Bureau membership enrollment program will go into full swing, said C. N. Stroud, chairman of the county membership committee.

A kick-off meeting for the enrollment program will be held at 7:30 Wednesday night, Sept. 26, at Capt. Bill's Restaurant. Principal speaker will be Paul Shaekleford, North Carolina field representative. All membership solicitors will attend.

Mr. Stroud said the county Farm Bureau will be aiming for a membership record. The statewide drive is called by the North Carolina Farm Bureau a campaign to reach "Big League" status in American Farm Bureau membership totals.

This would entail a membership sizable enough to rank North Carolina among the top eight states in the nation.

The county unit has set a quota of 400 as the enrollment goal, but

Chairman Stroud hopes to top that amount considerably. Last year's membership total was 320. The membership head said community captains would be depending on the Farm Bureau women to aid them towards a successful enrollment.

The following have been named membership solicitors:

Morehead City: Mr. Stroud and Robert Laughton.

Beaufort: Kearney Merrill Jr., H. W. Merrill, Brondell Gillikin, John Felton, and Rogers Murray.

Newport: Guy Prigidin, P. M. Garner, W. J. Hardesty, Gordon Becton, Y. Z. Simmons, Sammie Garner, Carl W. Garner, C. A. McCabe, Floyd Garner, Jack Garner, Pernel Hardesty, Clarence Willis, and Julian Weeks.

Gloucester: Osborne Pigott.

Stella: L. W. Pelletier, Leland Morris, John Young, and Milton Trucker.

Farm Bureau leaders met Monday night to consider a uniform policy governing organizational procedure in their localities.

The first county level report meeting has been set for Oct. 12. "We hope we will have exceeded our quota by that time," Mr. Stroud said.

Club to Observe National Week

In observance of National Business Women's Week, the Carteret Business and Professional Women's Club will present radio devotionals next week. Mrs. James Smith, first vice-president of the club, has announced.

Women's wear stores in Beaufort and Morehead City have been requested to decorate windows along the business women's theme. Posters are also being distributed.

The week will be climaxed with a tea Sunday afternoon, Sept. 30.

The club will hold its regular meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Blue Ribbon Club. A roast turkey dinner will be served.

Assisting in plans for the week is Miss Georgie Hughes, public affairs chairman. President of the club is Mrs. Roma Noe, Beaufort.

Officer's Grave Marked

The Ann Street Cemetery Association has placed a marker in the Ann Street Cemetery, Beaufort, where a British officer is allegedly buried in upright position. The grave is near the rear of Purvis Chapel. The marker reads, "This stone marks the grave of unknown British Officer who died in Beaufort and requested that his body be buried standing up in full dress uniform. Resting 'neath a foreign ground, here stands a sailor of Mad George's crew, name unknown and all alone, standing in the Rebel's Ground."—Brantley.

A. C. Blankenship Heads Jaycees

Danforth Hill resigned as president of the Beaufort Jaycees Monday night at their weekly meeting at the Scout Hut. Vice-president A. C. Blankenship was promoted to the presidency and will complete the term.

Mr. Hill is returning to active duty with the Army Sept. 29. He is a reserve first lieutenant. After a 14-week course at Fort Knox, Ky., he will report to the Fourth Armored Division at Fort Hood, Tex.

The chairmen of the football game and concession stand committees were not present to make their reports, but Mr. Hill said that the attendance at the Beaufort-Camp Lejeune game was below the hopes of the Jaycees.

Billy Downum was appointed a one-man committee to study an "eye bank" project the Jaycees have been asked to undertake. He will advise the group as to the actual operation of such a plan.

Cherry Point Pilot Killed

Capt. LeRoy L. Hovde, 27, was killed Tuesday at Cherry Point when his Marine Corps jet crashed during simulated carrier landing practice.

A squadron pilot and training officer with Marine Fighter Squadron 122, Hovde was scheduled to board the USS Forrestal with the squadron next month.

Survivors include his widow, the former Marjorie A. Havenick of Everett, Wash., who now lives at Havenlock; their daughters, Jill, 3, and Kim, 1; and his father, Lloyd J. Hovde of Route 4, Mount Vernon, Wash.

James R. Sanders Named As County Key Banker

James R. Sanders, cashier of the First-Citizens Bank and Trust Company, has been appointed as "County Key Banker" in Carteret County for the next 12 months by the North Carolina Bankers Association.

Mr. Sanders will help coordinate banker-farmer activities to work for a better balance between agriculture and other segments of the state's economy, said NCBA president Louis D. Brooks.

County Rural Population Grows, Crop Acreage Off

While the number of people living on farm tracts in Carteret County was increasing during 1955, the number of acres of crops harvested dropped, according to the 1956 farm census. The rural population of the county increased from 3,050 to 3,420 during the year, but the total acres harvested dropped from 12,805 to 12,169.

Corn accounted for 28 per cent of all harvest crops, with soybeans and tobacco second and third. Truck crops made the only gain in acreage among the top four during the year.

Corn dropped from 3,527 acres in 1954 to 3,451 acres in 1955. Soybeans went from 2,072 acres to 1,896, and tobacco acreage fell from 1,809 to 1,757. Truck crops increased from 1,506 to 1,629 acres.

The total number of livestock in the county also decreased during the year. Sows and gilts for breeding numbered 552 at the first of the year but only 498 at the end. Cows and heifers over two years old kept mainly for beef showed the least percentage of loss. Jan. 1, there were 1,175, and Dec. 31, there were 1,130. Dairy cattle showed a loss of 72 head, from 598 to 526.

Hens and pullets of laying age dipped some 3,000 in number. There were 19,211 at the beginning of the year, but only 16,489 Dec. 31.

The N. C. and U. S. Departments of Agriculture, Crop Reporting Service, which released the above figures drew its information from farmers who reported to their farm census supervisors and township listers during January 1956.

Chamber Presents First Radio Forum

The proposed bridge from Lennoxville Point to Straits was the subject for discussion on the Beaufort Chamber of Commerce radio program Wednesday night. The program was the first of a series of radio forums on problems important to Beaufort residents.

In the discussion, J. P. Betts, Beaufort postmaster, represented Beaufort citizens, and Glenn H. Adair, Gerald Hill, and Holden Ballou represented the Chamber of Commerce.

Miss Pat Springle, chamber secretary, announced that the next radio forum would be held in about a month.

Mayor Clarifies Status Of Lot Near Hospital

Mayor George Dill, Morehead City, said this week that the town does not own the property next to the Morehead City Hospital on which a trailer is now located.

The property is owned by Alfred Pittman, he said, who permitted the town to use it as a parking lot. Mr. Pittman and his wife are now living in a trailer on the lot.

Chemists to Hear William Bridgers

William A. Bridgers, of Kinston and Morehead City, will be the speaker when the eastern North Carolina section of the American Chemical Society meets tomorrow at the Fish and Wildlife laboratory, Pivers Island.

Mr. Bridgers, a chemist at DuPont, will speak on special problems encountered in soil testing.



William A. Bridgers ... with DuPont

88 Rocket Rocks Man to Hospital

Guy Van Avery, Route 101, Beaufort, rocketed his Olds west on Arendell St., Morehead City, about 4 o'clock yesterday morning.

At press time last night he was in Morehead City Hospital still unconscious. It was quite a rocketing ride Avery took down Arendell St. as Patrolman Murphy Jenkins can testify. He saw it all.

At 33rd St. Avery veered off the road, bounced against a big gas sign at J & L Texaco station then tore back across Arendell into the railroad track ditch and followed that in a wild series of jounces until he got opposite the old Section Base.

There he practically flew across the railroad tracks, up through the ditch on the other side and plowed into the steel fence. The blow knocked him out of the car.

When Patrolman Jenkins got to him Avery was unconscious. He was removed to the hospital.

Police charges against him are drunk driving and careless and reckless driving.

Tide Table

Tides at the Beaufort Bar			
HIGH	Friday, Sept. 21	LOW	
8:42 a.m.		2:27 a.m.	
8:56 p.m.		2:57 p.m.	
	Saturday, Sept. 22		
9:18 a.m.		3:01 a.m.	
9:33 p.m.		3:36 p.m.	
	Sunday, Sept. 23		
9:57 a.m.		3:36 a.m.	
10:13 p.m.		4:18 p.m.	
	Monday, Sept. 24		
10:41 a.m.		4:16 a.m.	
10:57 p.m.		5:04 p.m.	

Bids on the county health center will be opened at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 10, in the court room of the courthouse. The county board of commissioners will review the bids and have the right to reject any or all of them, according to Moses Howard, chairman.

The health center, to cost approximately \$33,000, will be built with county, state and federal funds. It will be located at the southeast corner of the intersection of Turner and Cedar Streets, Beaufort.

Interior floor space will cover approximately 2,000 square feet. The main entrance will be at the west end of the building on Cedar Street. (Cedar Street will be the new Highway 70 through town after the bridge is built).

A 13 by 25-foot assembly room will be at the west end of the building on Turner Street.

On the south side, facing the present courthouse annex where health offices are now located, will be an office for the clerk, office for the health officer, treatment rooms and laboratory.

Across a 5-foot corridor on the north side will be the sanitarium's office, nurse's room, X-ray room, dark room, storage room and lavatories.

Three contracts will be let — general, plumbing and heating and electrical.

The architect is William Moore Weber, Raleigh.

Full details on submitting bids for the health center appear in the legal section of today's paper.

The health center represents the second major building project undertaken by the county in a year. The new jail is now under construction on the east side of the courthouse square.

Vice-President Conducts JC Session Monday

Jaycee vice-president Bob Davis presided at Monday night's meeting of the Morehead City Jaycees at the Hotel Fort Macon. Mr. Davis conducted the meeting as a part of the Jaycee leadership training program.

President Herbert Phillips reports that work on the field would be completed next Wednesday afternoon.

Several new projects were discussed at the meeting, and reports from standing committees heard.

Among the new projects are the Voice of Democracy speaking program supervised by Tommy Cordova; Fire Prevention Week under Ralph Syron; and National Bible Week, Paul Cordova and Bill Singleton.

Bob McLean was named chairman of the Get-Out-the-Vote committee. The committee will operate on a non-partisan basis and emphasize the fact that every vote is a vote for democracy, Mr. Phillips said.

Reports were heard from the football committee. The crowd at last Friday night's game between Morehead City and Swansboro was estimated at 1,300.

The advance ticket sales committee gave a preliminary report and said that about \$900 had been collected so far and that more was expected.