

Elmer Willis Starts Sweet Potato Puree Plant, Williston

By WADE LUCAS

A small industry, a sweet potato puree plant, with "a practically unlimited potential" began operation at Williston Wednesday.

The quoted remarks were made by Dr. Hubert Harris of the Horticulture Department, Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Auburn, Ala. He said the plant is the only one of its kind in the entire Southeast.

The sweet potato puree plant went into production after months of work on the part of its owner, Elmer Willis, a man who processes clams by the millions. Mr. Willis also builds fine boats.

Dr. Harris was at Williston Wednesday for the start of the "his-owned plant and so was Dr. Ivan D. Jones of the Horticulture Department of N. C. State College, Raleigh.

The two professors were enthusiastic over the test runs made and were not at all discouraged that a motor burned out in the potato disintegration machine. It was being repaired Wednesday afternoon.

Also here for the plant start were W. D. Hall Jr., Atlanta, Ga., and Robson Dunwoody, West Chester, Pa., eastern representatives of Rietz Manufacturing Co., Santa Rosa, Cal., makers of the intricate machinery for pureeing the sweet potatoes for baby food, pies, souffles, puddings, and other dishes in which sweet potatoes can be used.

Dr. Jones and Dr. Harris, together with Mr. Willis, said Gerry Albright and Ed Huffman of the small industries section of the commerce and industry division of the Department of Conservation and Development have been "of material assistance" in helping get the puree plant into operation.

Some technical problems remain to be worked out, Dr. Jones said, but added he foresaw no real difficulty in Mr. Willis being able "to turn out a high quality sweet potato puree." Dr. Harris agreed.

The unique plant represents an investment of approximately \$25,000. Mr. Willis will work about ten people, but more will be added in anticipated expansions in the future.

Raw materials will be no problem. This is a land in which the Puerto Rico variety of sweet potato is grown in considerable abundance.

The food processing plant also is carrying out the strongly expressed hopes of Governor Hodges, William P. Saunders, director of the Department of Conservation and Development, State College officials, and others for more plants to process North Carolina-grown products.

These officials have repeatedly said too many North Carolina products are shipped outside the state to be processed and it is tragic in many instances that these same products are sent back to this state to be sold to Tar Heels.

The Willis plant will, at the start, process about 400 bushels of sweet potatoes daily.

Rites Conducted For Paul White

The funeral service for Paul J. White, 37, who died soon after midnight Tuesday was conducted at Reidsville, his hometown, yesterday.

Mr. White died of carbon monoxide poisoning. Coroner Leslie D. Springle, said he took his own life. Mr. White was found in the bread truck he drove, on N. 25th Street, Morehead City.

Morehead City police officers, Lt. Carl Bunch and Patrolman Walter Thomas went to the truck, as did Sgt. Elmer Veitch and Sgt. William L. Buckles of the Marine military police detachment.

A hose had been run from the exhaust pipe of the truck into the cab. Artificial respiration and use of the resuscitator from the Beaufort Fire Department failed to revive Mr. White. Dr. W. M. Brady was also called.

He made his home with his wife, Mrs. Frances Scott White and his three children at the M&N Apartments, Morehead City. Interment was in Greenville cemetery, Reidsville.

Coroner Springle said there would be no inquest.

Month is Ushered In by Heavy Frost

The first day of December came in with the heaviest frost of the winter, according to weather observer E. Stamey Davis. Sunday saw another frost, but since then the weather has warmed steadily, until the temperature reached 71 Tuesday and Wednesday.

Maximum and minimum temperatures and wind direction for the first five days of the month follow:

Max. Min. Wind		
Saturday	52 31	NW
Sunday	59 33	SW
Monday	61 49	SW
Tuesday	71 45	S
Wednesday	71 47	SSE



Elmer Willis, left, discusses the new plant operation with Dr. Ivan D. Jones, center, and Dr. Hubert Harris, right.

Newport's Holiday Lights Will Go on Tomorrow

Newport's Christmas lights, put up by the firemen, are scheduled to be turned on tomorrow.

At the meeting of the fire department Monday night at the town hall, plans were made for the community Christmas tree. Santa Claus will be at the tree, located by the depot, from 2 to 5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 24. He will have fruit, candy and toys for the youngsters.

Santa's visit is sponsored each year by the firemen.

During the business session Monday night, fire department officers were elected for the coming year. They are C. A. Gould Jr., chief; Bennie R. Garner, assistant chief; George Green, captain; Fred Kelly, lieutenant; Alex Elliot, secretary; and John Lilly, treasurer.

On their recent light bulb sale the firemen cleared \$270 and made \$55 on the Carolina Partners show sponsored Friday night.

Fire Commissioner Wilbur Garner spoke to the men, commending them on their work and community spirit.

Firemen recently completed an addition to the fire station and now all three trucks are housed in a heated building.

Jaycees Plan Yuletide Charity

To raise money for their annual Christmas charity program, Beaufort Jaycees will sponsor a bread sale and give away either a shotgun or vacuum cleaner this month.

In charge of the Christmas activity are James Steed and Thomas Eure. The bread sale has been scheduled for Wednesday night, Dec. 19. Jaycees will take loaves of bread from door to door. Persons buying the bread are asked to be as generous as possible.

Jaycees will announce later their decision on the item to be raffled off.

Tommy Potter, chairman of the Christmas dance, announces that the dance will be at 8:30 Saturday night, Dec. 15, at the Scout hut, Beaufort.

Jaycees will meet at 7 p.m. Monday at the Scout hut.

34 Cotton Farmers Are Eligible to Vote Tuesday

Thirty-four cotton farmers are eligible to vote Tuesday in the cotton quota and marketing referendum.

B. J. May, ASC manager, says that balloting will take place at his office in the postoffice building at Beaufort from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The present cotton acreage allotment for Carteret is 77 acres. Cotton farmers vote annually on quotas.

Tide Table

Tides at the Beaufort Bar		
HIGH	Friday, Dec. 7	LOW
11:17 a.m.		5:04 a.m.
11:47 p.m.		5:43 p.m.
	Saturday, Dec. 8	
11:59 a.m.		5:46 a.m.
		6:23 p.m.
	Sunday, Dec. 9	
12:33 a.m.		6:34 a.m.
12:45 p.m.		7:06 p.m.
	Monday, Dec. 10	
1:23 a.m.		7:28 a.m.
1:34 p.m.		7:53 p.m.
	Tuesday, Dec. 11	
2:14 a.m.		8:27 a.m.
2:28 p.m.		8:43 p.m.

Rector Dedicates West End Station Wednesday Night

Ceremony Follows Fish Fry; D. J. Hall Accepts Building for Town

The Rev. E. Guthrie Brown, rector of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, dedicated the West End substation, Morehead City Fire Department, following a fish fry Wednesday night.

Approximately 150 persons attended the fish fry and ate piping hot mullet and roe prepared by Morehead City's dean of cuisine, Sam Adler. Also on the menu was potato salad, slaw, cornbread, coffee and colas. Firemen estimate they made \$157.

George Stovall a member of the fire department, was master of ceremonies for the dedication.

Mr. Stovall commented that the fire station was built with funds solicited by the firemen who donated their labor to put the building up.

Congratulates Chief

He said the project showed what could be done by people working together. He congratulated Fire Chief Vernon Guthrie and termed the building one of the finest in the Carolina projects. Mr. Stovall is manager of Carolina Power and Light Co. which sponsors throughout its territory the finer Carolina contest to promote community improvement.

Chief Guthrie turned over to D. J. Hall, fire commissioner, the keys to the building. Commissioner Hall accepted the building on behalf of the town and thanked the chief and his men for their work.

Mr. Brown, in the dedication address, termed fire one of man's greatest blessings, but said that it could also be a curse. Fire, he remarked, provides man with warmth, makes it possible for him to eat palatable food, and enables him to produce products in a factory.

Although it can cause distress and unhappiness, he continued, God has given man the ability to protect himself from fire. Man, he said, has the ability to design the fire truck which is being housed at the new station. He said the ability also to make effective fire-fighting equipment, "and God has provided stout-hearted men to be our firemen."

Concludes with Prayer

He concluded his talk with a dedicatory prayer. Town officials present, in addition to Commissioner Hall, were Commissioners Ted Garner, Jasper Bell, Gibbie Sanderson, and John Lashley, town clerk. Mayor George Dill was present for a few moments but had to leave on a business call.

The new station is located on Arendell Street in the 3300 block. In addition to the new truck, the department's recently acquired tank truck is housed there. Both are painted red and white.

The interior walls of the station are painted aqua, with the living quarters finished in striated plywood. Nolan McCabe and Daniel Willis are the engineers on duty.

With the new telephone arrangement, a fire call, 6-4141, will ring in both the downtown station and the substation. Other calls to the downtown station should be dialed on 6-5060 and to the West End station 6-3001.

Down East Lions to Meet At Sea Level Inn Monday

Down East Lions will meet at 7 p.m. Monday at the Sea Level Inn.

During the business session they will plan the Christmas party and charter night observance for Friday night, Dec. 21, at the inn.



C. A. Gould Jr., new fire chief

Board Authorizes Sale of School

The County Board of Education has authorized the sale of the present Harkers Island School after it is vacated and the new school occupied.

This action was taken at the board meeting Monday afternoon in the education office, courthouse annex, Beaufort.

The board met with the county commissioners and the health board to appoint a new member of the county ABC board, E. W. Downum, Beaufort.

Members were presented with complimentary tickets to Newport basketball games. H. L. Joslyn, secretary to the board, was requested to write Coach Robert King, Newport, and thank him for the tickets.

R. W. Safrit Jr., Beaufort, chairman of the board, presided. Other members present were D. Mason, Atlantic; Theodore Smith, Davis; W. B. Allen, Newport, and George R. Wallace, Morehead City.

Mr. Joslyn left Tuesday to attend the school superintendents' conference, Durham. He will return today.

Newport Boy Scouts who received merit badges at the Court of Honor at Marshallberg Sunday night were Johnny Thrower, Buddy Norris, Melvin Fleming and Everett Clark.

Clerk Reports Saving to Town On Laying of Sewers Near Bridge

Beaufort town clerk Dan Walker reported Monday night that the town had saved at least \$17,000 on installation of sewer lines in the vicinity of the new bridge.

Reporting to the town board at the city hall, Mr. Walker said that first estimates on relaying sewer lines ran between \$20,000 and \$25,000. The actual cost will probably run under \$3,000, he said.

Mr. Walker gave much of the credit to city engineer Gray Hassell, and Wardell Fillingame's street department.

Mr. Walker also read a request from R. Markham, division engineer for the highway department. The highway commission, said Mr. Markham, believes it would be to the best interest of both the city and the highway commission to dead-end Moore Street next to the new bridge project.

"Since the project is some 4 1/2 feet above the level of Moore Street," Mr. Markham wrote, "we feel that it would be a dangerous intersection." The town board expressed an opinion that they thought a satisfactory intersection could be constructed, but expressed willingness to discuss the situation with the highway commission.

Fire Commissioner Julius Duncan submitted his resignation in the form of a letter. Since Mr. Duncan did not give his reasons for the action, the board did not take the matter up, deciding to wait until the next meeting to act.

Commissioner Math Chaplain suggested that an anti scratch-off ordinance be drawn up by town attorney Gene Smith. The motion was passed, and Mr. Smith will have the ordinance prepared by the next meeting.

Mr. Walker reported that no revised plan had been received from the League of Municipalities on the traffic problem at the school. Commissioners William Roy

335-Acre Reduction Means Quarter Million Dollar Loss

The 20 per cent cut in flue-cured tobacco acreage will mean a reduction of 335 acres in this county, B. J. May, ASC manager, said yesterday.

Carteret's acreage during the past season was 1,676. The cut will reduce the acreage to 1,341 and figuring yield at a conservative 1,500 pounds an acre, Mr. May says this will mean a reduction of production by 502,500 pounds.

In dollars and cents this constitutes a reduction of \$226,125 in potential tobacco income to Carteret farmers (figuring sale of leaf at 45 cents a pound).

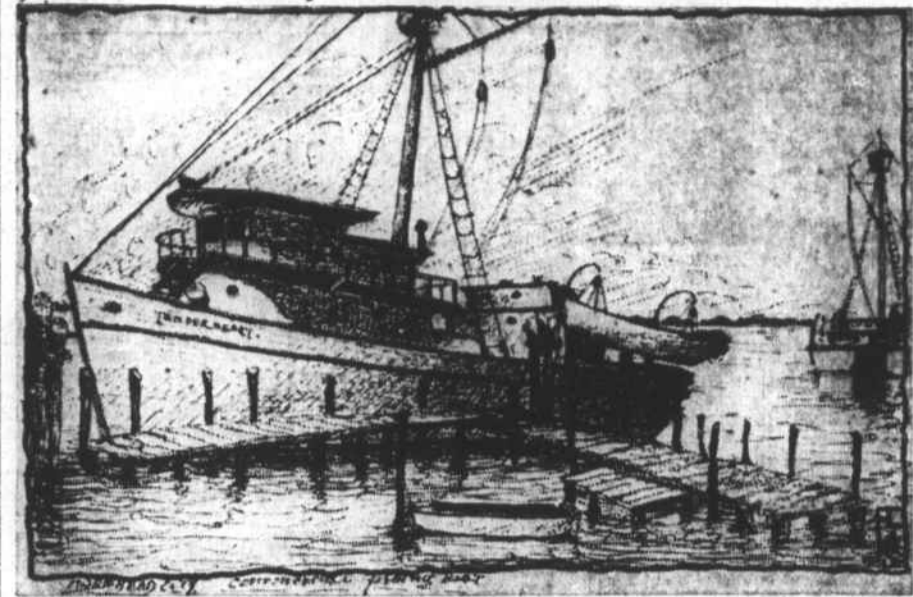
The ASC manager remarked that tobacco means a two million dollar income to this county annually on an average production of four million pounds.

Mr. May added that the soil bank payment for flue-cured tobacco acreage has been set at 18 cents a pound, but there is a clamor for higher payment. At present, Jan. 1, 1957 has been set as the date for farmers to start signing up to put their flue-cured acreage in the soil bank.

Since the 20 per cent cut, total acreage in the entire flue-cured production area is 712,600. North Carolina's acreage, since the cut, is 469,285.

The cutback has been necessary because of the tremendous supplies of flue-cured tobacco stacked in warehouses.

Merry Christmas from Mr. Lari



Alexander Scorpione Lari, former resident of Beaufort now living in New York City, has sent a hand-drawn Christmas greeting to THE NEWS-TIMES. The etching, above, shows the menhaden boat, Tenderheart, at dock. Mr. Lari, who visits here occasionally, also sent the newspaper a lovely Christmas greeting last year showing a waterfront scene he had drawn.

Nathan Minor Figures in Two Cases in Court Yesterday

Scallop Season Opens Monday

The scallop season opened Monday and according to Roy Eubanks, some of the school boys in the eastern part of the county are missing school just to go scalloping.

Mr. Eubanks said a good scalloper can make \$30 a day. Pay for shucking a gallon of scallops is a dollar and an expert shucker can open 12 gallons a day.

A person can catch as many as 25 bushels a day. The price, Mr. Eubanks says, is running from \$4 to \$4.25 a gallon. The license for taking scallops is \$2.50 plus 75 cents per foot on the boat.

Mr. Eubanks commented that the folks can't understand why the law now requires that they must have a license to catch scallops for just their own use.

Officer Reports Two Whiskey Raids

Fifty and a half gallons of bootleg whiskey were seized by Marshall Ayscue, county ABC officer, and other authorities over the weekend in Beaufort.

Found in the home of George Sparrow Friday afternoon were 38 1/2 gallons. They were hidden in the bedroom.

Located Saturday under a trapdoor in the bedroom at the home of Nathan Minor and his wife, Queen Street, were 12 gallons. The Minors and Sparrow have been charged with possession of illegal whiskey.

Accompanying Officer Ayscue on the raids were federal officers, members of the sheriff's department, and the Beaufort police department.

Nathan Minor has been fined \$50 and costs for selling bootleg whiskey in his home, 307 Queen St., Beaufort. Judge L. R. Morris set the fine in yesterday's session of county recorder's court. He warned Minor that if he were brought in again, it would mean two years on the roads.

Beaufort Police Chief Guy Springle testified that he parked across the street from Minor's home Saturday night and watched a steady stream of customers enter and leave the house. He notified county ABC officer Marshall Ayscue, and the same night Chief Springle, Officer Ayscue, and Assistant Chief of Police W. C. Garner raided the house.

They found two glasses which the defendant was using to serve drinks. After a search, they located a trap door in the floor which was concealing 24 jars of moonshine.

In a case against William Henderson, Minor and his wife appeared as state's witnesses. While they were away from home Sunday, they claim someone broke into their house and took Mrs. Minor's purse, which she said contained \$74. A next door neighbor, Annie Ruth Newkirk, testified that she saw Henderson leaving the Minor house with a black purse between 10 and 11 a.m.

Henderson and his wife testified that they spent the day in Harlowe with a group of fishermen and their girl friends. Judge Morris continued a judgment on the case, asking the sheriff to check all the testimonies in the case.

Henderson, who was picked up by deputy sheriff Bruce Edwards Wednesday night, is being held in the county jail without bond.

Woodmen Elect New Officers

Elections were conducted at the Woodmen of the World Camp, Morehead City, Monday night.

The following officers were elected: Robert A. Andrews, post consul commander; Gerald V. Phillips, consul commander; James W. Bell, advisor lieutenant; Lenis O. Brinson Sr., banker; James Pittman III, escort; Jesse Kirkman, watchman; Otis Kittrell, sentry; E. B. Thompson, Earl Sells, and Earl Whitley, camp auditors; Dr. S. W. Hatcher, camp physician; and R. L. Turnage, financial secretary.

Camp 188 will observe its 50th anniversary the 20th of this month. All members and their wives are invited to attend an oyster roast that night at the Woodmen Hall, beginning at 7. Members of 25 or more years will be presented lapel pins.

Firemen Identified

The "unidentified fireman" in the picture of the Jones house fire in Tuesday's paper was Assistant Chief Bennie R. Garner, Newport. Assistant Chief Garner also reports that Cherry Point firemen assisted on the call to the Durwood Sanderson home near Newport last week.

Wins Promotion



Lester W. Willis, USCG, formerly of Morehead City has been promoted to the rank of lieutenant. This rating followed successful completion by Lieutenant Willis of tests in seamanship, navigation, electronics, electricity and steam engineering.

The lieutenant is commanding officer of the Agassiz, Coast Guard cutter which recently left this area for a new station at Cape May, N. J. Lieutenant Willis and his family are living at 304 Arctic Ave., North Cape May, N. J.

Boats Make Good Hauls This Week

Menhaden boats made tremendous catches of fish Wednesday. Almost every boat came in with the sideboards up.

So many fish were caught that factories couldn't unload the boats fast enough. Five boats were still waiting yesterday morning to be unloaded at Beaufort Fisheries and four boats were still waiting to get into the Fish Meal plant.

It was doubtful if all would be unloaded in time to get out yesterday to get more fish. Some of the boats that did not have capacity loads Wednesday night went out again Thursday morning, without unloading, to fill up their holds.

This week has been the first with ideal fishing weather.

Lawyers to Provide Aid To Certified Welfare Cases

In cooperation with the County Welfare Department the County Bar Association has offered legal aid to persons in need of a lawyer's advice but unable to afford it.

Miss Georgie Hughes, superintendent of the County Welfare Department, said that frequently there are situations where a husband deserts his wife and children. A lawyer's services are necessary but the deserted wife is unable to afford it.

Drag-Racers Give Notice of Appeal Monday Morning

Abron George Ballou and Norma Dene Harper, found guilty of drag racing on Arendell Street, posted \$100 bonds in Morehead City recorder's court Monday and appealed to superior court.

Ballou was fined \$25 and costs since it was his third conviction of motor vehicle violations. It was Miss Harper's first offense. She was fined \$15 and costs.

Charlie Wickizer was found guilty of public drunkenness and sentenced to 30 days in jail. It was also found that he had violated the terms of another 30-day sentence, so he will serve both sentences at the same time.

Three drivers were fined \$100 and costs for drunken driving. They were James Redmond Tate, James Taylor, and James Roger Cummings. Cummings paid an additional \$25 on a no-license conviction.

Adelino Pereira, who turned from Arendell Street to 32nd Street while going above the speed limit and spun his car around, was fined \$50 for speeding and careless and reckless driving. He also surrendered his license for three months.

John Parker Bryant paid \$25 and costs for assaulting his wife. The state did not try B. A. Jones on assaulting his wife due to lack of evidence, but he was fined costs for another count, public drunkenness.

George Carlis Williams Jr. was not tried on a disturbing the peace

See COURT, Page 2

Clerk of Court Gives Finance Report to Board

Court receipts for the month of November were reported by A. H. James, clerk of Superior Court, to the county board at its meeting Monday at the courthouse, Beaufort.

The total was \$1,882.57. Received from Morehead City Recorder's Court was \$1,284. Superior Court \$415.25, County Recorder's court \$2,108.18 and probate and clerk's fees amounted to \$75.14.

Mr. James estimated that the Frank Boyette trial during the November term cost the county approximately \$2,000, and the entire term cost between \$3,000 and \$4,000.

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