

## Milton Bland Returns Home From Desert 'Mine Mission'

By BOB SEYMOUR

The North African desert over which some of the most spectacular battles of the Second World War were fought still echoes with the sound of exploding mines. Trained crews of native laborers are exploding the mines instead of tanks, and a great number of the natives were trained by Milton Bland, 2104 Evans St., Morehead City.

Mr. Bland, who just returned to Morehead City a week ago yesterday, after a year in Libya, is a consultant engineer for oil companies interested in locating oil west of the Suez Canal. Even though major American and British oil companies have poured millions of dollars into the search, no oil has been found as yet, Mr. Bland reports.

The biggest single hazard in the search is the fact that the desert is so thoroughly "booby-trapped" with land mines laid in World War II that workers refuse to leave the roads or areas which have been checked for mines.

**Mines Not Deteriorated**  
Due to climatic conditions in the desert, the mines laid during the war were just as good today as they ever were. As an example of the vastness of the mine fields, Mr. Bland gave one instance.

When Rommel was driving across the desert toward Alexandria, Egypt, the British, under Gen. Bernard Montgomery, decided to hold a line from the Mediterranean to the Quattara Depression. The depression is some 1,000 feet below the floor of the desert, with sheer walls all around it except for a small pass. It is some 200 miles long and varies in width.

It was impossible to take an armored force through the depression and with the sea on the north, the British had a line some 35 miles long to defend. They anchored their line at El Alamein on the sea and at the depression

in the desert. Then they started laying land mines. The field extends some 200 miles, with mines laid in four to six-foot squares. Of course there are breaks in the field where the British were able to maneuver their own tanks, but no one knows where they are.

**Looking Back**  
History shows the British made a fine choice, for here they held Rommel's tanks and that was the turning point of the war in North Africa. As Rommel retreated, he used land mines to slow the progress of the British. Each time a patrol would go out to hold a position, land mines would be laid around the position—and left after the defenders had departed.

Fortunately, all mines used in North Africa were the metal or wooden variety, which can be located by use of mine detectors. The wooden ones have enough nails or metal parts to record on the detectors used today.

According to Mr. Bland, the job of clearing the mines from the desert would be nearly impossible had the plastic mines been in use during the war. Detectors do not react to plastic types of mines.

**Leaves Army**  
In February of last year Mr. Bland resigned his commission in the Army and entered the business of clearing land mines. He was a major and in charge of the mine warfare school at Fort Belvoir, Md., when he resigned.

He had served in Europe, the Philippines, Alaska, and Korea while an officer in the Army, but he says that he had only passed through North Africa.

He went to Egypt first and took his family along. He worked in the Egyptian mine fields until last winter, when he moved to Libya and sent his family to Morehead City.

Libya is divided into what amounts to two separate countries, Tripolitania and Cyrenyia. Each has its own government and laws,

even though both are under the rule of King Idris.

When the tension over the Suez Canal broke into open warfare, the Libyan government supported Americans in every way possible, according to Mr. Bland, while the oil company employees in Egypt were forced to evacuate.

Those employees, he noted, are still in hotels in Rome drawing their pay and wondering when they will go back.

Mr. Bland and his crews were able to work through most of the crisis, and he plans to return in a month or so. He says that he will leave his wife and five children at their home on Evans Street due to housing and school conditions in Libya.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Bland, the former Miss Marie Hodges Buffon, are from near Washington, N. C. In his war service and civilian travels, Mr. Bland has seen a great part of the world, but he declares that eastern North Carolina is the only place that he would ever want to call "home."

The Blands have five children: George, 9, Nancy, 6, Patricia, 5, Milton Jr., 2, and Kenneth, four months. "With a family this large," says Mr. Bland, "I would not consider taking them back with me at this time."

North Africa is an interesting and historical expanse of country, according to Mr. Bland. After driving miles and miles through the desert, cross country of course, one is likely to run into an old Roman fort, set up to protect the caravan trails, or he might come to a screeching halt to see the floor of the Quattara Depression some 1,000 feet below him.

Along the coast are remains of ancient civilizations which have survived the ravages of time and wars—and there are the hundreds of tanks abandoned after they were put out of action by the millions, and millions, and millions of mines.

## Garment Workers Reject Union By Overwhelming 2-1 Majority

Employees of the Morehead City Garment Company

voted better than two to one yesterday morning against affiliation with the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, AFL-CIO. The actual count was 139 against and 52 in favor of the move. The majority, according to plant manager Truman Kemp, was the largest of any of the three elections conducted by the National Labor Relations Board.

Louis Wolberg, Winston-Salem, representative of the labor board, conducted the elections. He was responsible to see that fair practices were carried out by both union and management during the election. He was assisted by Miss Juanita Johnson and Mrs. Claudia Hall, who checked off each worker's name as he voted.

Four voters were challenged by the two ladies on grounds that they were no longer employed by the company. The four votes were put into a special envelope. An investigation as to their validity would have been conducted if the vote had been close.

Mrs. Lucille Witt, Wilmington, state director of the union, and Miss Rachel Barnes, Lexington, union representative, were present for the counting of votes.

Since less than 30 per cent of the workers voted in favor of the union, Mr. Wolberg was asked to comment on the ruling which states that 30 per cent of the workers in a factory must sign a petition before his board will conduct a vote.

He said that the required 30 per cent had signed the petition, even though they obviously did not vote for the union. Mrs. Witt said that she had no explanation for the small number of union votes.

When asked whether or not the union plans another effort at organizing the workers, she said that she felt that "it is up to us to make that decision." Moments later she said that the union never attempted to organize until the workers invited them in.

The law states that union organizers must wait at least a year before another attempt can be made to organize a union. Mrs. Witt and Miss Barnes came to Morehead City in March to prepare for the election.

In a prepared statement, Mr. Kemp and Mrs. Edna Jackson, president of the company, said: "The management is naturally gratified that the employees have so strongly expressed their loyalty to the company in this overwhelming vote against the union. The outcome is a very clear refutation of all the claims and assertions which the union and its organizers have been making during these many months."

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### Mother and Child



By DR. J. CARTER SWAIM  
Director, Department of the English Bible, National Council of Churches

Of events which transpired at the first Christmas Luke writes: "Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart."

What things? Among them surely was the straw in which she lay as the child was born, and the manger which served as bassinet. Did Mary feel that the animals were kinder than the people? The innkeeper had no room, but the cattle did not oust her child from their feeding-trough.

And then there were the premonitions about her boy. He was "to save his people from their sins." But was this what his people really wanted? Would they not like it better if he led a revolution and helped them throw off the Roman tyranny? How oppressive it was to know that 40 per cent of each family's income was drained away by Rome! And would people welcome God's forgiveness? "There was no

place for them in the inn." Would there be any place for Him in the world? Did the setting sun on that first Christmas day seem to cause the shadow of a cross to fall upon the manger?

Simeon, who had waited long for God's deliverance, knew that now his eyes had looked upon Messiah: "Behold this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel."

But what would it do to a mother's heart to know that her boy had caused the overthrow of many of the great ones of earth? Was this what Simeon meant when he added:

"A sword will pierce through your own soul also?"

These things Mary pondered. They shadowed but did not blot out for her the joy of Christmas. It was she who later told her Son: "When a woman is in travail she has sorrow, because her hour has come; but when she is delivered of the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a child is born into the world" (John 16:21).

## Sorghum Molasses Presses Give Way to Progress Too

By F. C. SALISBURY

Like the windmills once scattered throughout the county, but long since vanished, so have the crude presses and evaporating pans used for the making of sorghum molasses.

One of the last makers of this "sweating" in Carteret County was W. E. Baggs, who at that time lived near the settlement of Bogue, but now makes his home at Swansboro. His outfit was a familiar sight near his home in the early fall after the cane had fully ripened.

Sorghum cane plants resemble Indian corn in general appearance and habit of growth, but without ears. It is distinguished by heavy heads of small seeds which terminate the stalk.

**Stalks Stripped**  
In the making of syrup the stalks are stripped of their leaves after the seeds have ripened and the tops are cut off. The stalks are then cut close to the ground and passed through heavy rollers to extract the juice which is then boiled in shallow pans until a syrup of desired consistency is obtained.

Extracting the juice kept one man busy feeding the stalks into the press, as well as keeping the horse or mule in motion, for power for the press was one horse or mule, hitched to a long tongue extending from the head of the press. When power lagged and the urging of the press operator failed, a long whip came into use. Long after the pressing was over a well-worn circular path remained.

Modern age had not reached the construction of the cane press. Presses were mostly home-made, or two upright rollers, geared to-

gether with heavy tension springs, to which the ~~same~~ tongue was fastened. The operator sat low enough for the tongue to clear his head, feeding the stalks between the rollers. A large pan below the rollers caught the juice along with more or less pieces of stalk.

**Women's Work**  
Boiling down the juice was left mostly to the women folks. A large shallow pan 4x6 feet was set over a brick furnace. The pan was fitted with several partitions with small outlets. The juice was poured into one end of the pan and as it cooked it worked its way to the other end, where it came out as molasses.

This process required about an hour and a half for converting each tray of juice into pale brown sorghum. One or two persons worked continuously over the pan, skimming off all extraneous matter which arose to the surface.

The Civil War caused a scarcity of sugar in the United States and sorghum syrup came into widespread use as a substitute. Sorghum-making in Carteret County has joined the long list of household chores which were once as widely-practiced as can-opening is today.

A whole generation is on the way who will never "sop" a biscuit, hot out of the oven, in a plate of 'lasses and butter.

## Glee Clubs Give Yule Program

The junior and senior Glee Clubs of Newport High School presented a program of Christmas music in the high school auditorium Sunday. Two hundred fifty people attended.

Features of the program were solos by Miss Jo Ann Wade and the novelty number, Hardrock, Coco and Joe by the boys' chorus.

The numbers were Silent Night, Winds Through the Olive Trees, Angel Choirs on High Do Sing, First Christmas Morn by the junior chorus with Jenny Lynn Garner, accompanist.

Christmas Bells, Shepherds, Hark! the Glad Sound, Sleep My Jesu, Sleep, O Holy Night with Miss Wade as soloist.

Come to the Stable, Jesu Bambino, White Christmas with Peggy Jo Wallace as soloist, and 'Twas the Night Before Christmas. Gaynelle Gray was accompanist for the glee club.

The program ended with the audience singing Silent Night. Mrs. Ruby Woodruff was choral director.

Sgt. Joe Smith decorated the Christmas tree in the lobby of the Morehead City Municipal Building.

### Coming!

Don't miss the coming issues of THE NEWS-TIMES!

**The Christmas Issue, Dec. 25**  
—This issue will carry personal greetings from Carteret's businessmen directly to you. There will be Christmas features on the editorial page and throughout the paper that the whole family will love.

**Friday, Dec. 28** — Roger W. Babson's Outlook for 1957, the most accurate business forecast in the nation, will be published.

**Tuesday, Jan. 1** — The year's events, 1956, pass in review under the eyes of Carteret's historian, F. C. Salisbury. This year-end interesting chronology will be accompanied by pictures.

All this, plus the regular, popular features.

## Jaycees Begin Yule Program

The Morehead City Jaycees will distribute gifts of toys and food to families in Morehead City tomorrow afternoon and night. Wednesday night they wrapped up over 175 toys which they collected at the cartoon carnival at the City Theatre Saturday morning.

They plan to hear a speaker representing the national eye bank at one of the January meetings. The Jaycees are investigating the possibilities of maintaining an eye bank for this area.

The Christmas lighting program was discussed at the Jaycees weekly meeting at Hotel Fort Mac Monday night. President Herbert Phillips says that is almost certain that the project will go in the red this year. So far about \$1,600 has been raised, with a minimum expense of \$2,700 expected.

He urged customers to ask for their give-away tickets and attend the final drawing at 2 p.m. Monday, in front of the Municipal Building. Cash prizes of \$100, \$50, \$25, \$15, and \$10 will be given to holders of the lucky tickets.

## State Revokes Two Drivers' Licenses

Drunken driving convictions in county recorder's court resulted in the revocation of the driver's licenses of Lawrence Ward Simpson, Beaufort, and Fred Smith, Newport. The revocation notice was released by the state highway safety division for the first week of December.

William David Carden, Newport, was convicted for speeding over 75 miles per hour, and his license was suspended.

## Judge Issues Order to Find Four Missing Defendants

Four defendants failed to appear in Morehead City recorder's court Monday, and capias were issued for their arrest. The four who didn't show up were Louis Marshall, no driver's license; John Lee Bownon, driving on the wrong side of the road and no driver's license; Robert Hughes Collins, no driver's license; and Alton Edward Lloyd, speeding.

James Kenneth Leister, who was charged with speeding and careless and reckless driving, pled innocent to the careless and reckless charge, later amended to taking an improper left turn. He was fined \$10 for each offense and taxed court costs.

Percy Allen Green paid \$15 and costs for speeding. Four defendants were fined \$10 and costs, all for offenses involving speeding. They were Robert S. Springer, Edna G. Stuckey, James Waldo Gillikin, who also had no tail lights, and Jimmie Dale Willis, who had an improper muffler. Willis's fine will be remitted if he has a good muffler installed within one week.

**Costs Paid**  
The following paid costs: Harry Blackwell and James H. Curry, public drunkenness; James Wannormaker, speeding; Annie Mae Hinson, assault; and Irene Andres, who paid costs of an October judgment.

Mrs. Sam Funderburk, after swearing out a warrant against her husband, refused to testify that he assaulted her. The court ordered her to pay court costs after deciding that the prosecution was frivolous and malicious.

John Lawless paid half costs for drunk and disorderly conduct. Joe Waters was found not guilty of breaking and entering the house of Annie Mae Hinson, 1304 Fisher St.

**Case Dropped**  
Beatrice Mitchell and Charles Dunn were not tried on a charge of cohabitation due to lack of evidence.

Continued cases were John Richard Taylor, Harry Lee Norman, Ed Kelley, Julian Wade, David Edward White, Raymond G. Chugg, James Coyle, Robert Lee Turner, and Raymond Earl Whitney.

## Beaufort Colonial Store To Be Open Wednesday

The Beaufort Colonial Store will be open all day Wednesday, Dec. 26.

Both the Morehead City and Beaufort Colonial Stores will be closed on Christmas Day and the Morehead City store will be closed also on the following day, Dec. 26.

Both stores will be open tonight and tomorrow night until 8:30 p.m.

## Tide Table

Tides at the Beaufort Bar

HIGH	Friday, Dec. 21	LOW
10:52 a.m.	4:32 a.m.	
11:19 p.m.	5:13 p.m.	
HIGH	Saturday, Dec. 22	LOW
11:46 a.m.	5:31 a.m.	
	6:06 p.m.	
HIGH	Sunday, Dec. 23	LOW
12:19 a.m.	6:32 a.m.	
12:43 p.m.	7:01 p.m.	
HIGH	Monday, Dec. 24	LOW
1:20 a.m.	7:38 a.m.	
1:42 p.m.	7:58 p.m.	
HIGH	Tuesday, Dec. 25	LOW
2:26 a.m.	8:46 a.m.	
2:44 p.m.	8:58 p.m.	

## Tyndall Piner Hits Car Parked On Highway 17

Mrs. Tyndall Piner, Otway, was seriously injured when her husband hit a car parked on Highway 17, about five miles north of Bridgeton early Tuesday morning. She was thrown against the windshield, receiving cuts and bruises. Her right arm was broken.

Mr. and Mrs. Piner were returning to Morehead City after taking their daughter, Wilma, to Suffolk, Va., where she works as a registered nurse. Mr. Piner said that it was foggy, and he did not see the parked car until he was about to hit it.

The front end of his 1955 Ford was seriously damaged, and he estimated that the amount of damage would run about \$1,000. He broke the steering wheel from its column when he hit it with his chest.

Mr. Piner said that the parked car belonged to John Cotton, a Marine stationed at Cherry Point. Cotton said that his fuel pump had quit, and that he hadn't thought to push the car off the road.

He was given a ticket for several offenses, according to Mr. Piner. Major offense, of course, was parking on the highway. The highway patrolman who investigated the accident said that Cotton's lights were not on at the time of the accident, according to Mr. Piner.

Mrs. Piner was treated at a New Bern hospital and came home Wednesday afternoon.

## Farm Workers Elect Officers

The Agriculture Workers Council elected new officers and discussed the goals for 1957 at their meeting Monday night in the farm agent's office, Beaufort.

Mrs. David Beveridge replaces Mrs. D. Cordova as chairman of the council. Other officers are David Jones, vice-chairman and program chairman; Harry Venters, secretary-reporter; and C. S. Long, Mrs. D. Cordova, and Mrs. Floy Garner, members of the program committee.

John Bryan, district ASC fust from Greenville, was a guest at the meeting. Others present were County Agent R. M. Williams and ASC Manager B. J. May.

The members of the council were asked to submit suggested goals for 1957 to Mr. Jones. He will compile the suggestions and offer them at the next meeting.

## Santa to Visit Newport From 2 to 5 Monday

Santa Claus, in a brand new suit, will visit Newport from 2 to 5 p.m. Monday, the day before Christmas.

He will be at the Christmas tree at the railroad station and will have candy, fruit and nuts for all good little boys and girls.

His appearance is sponsored every year by the Newport Fire Department.

## Representatives of Nine Counties Attend Meeting

Representatives from nine eastern North Carolina counties attended an organizational meeting of the East Central North Carolina Development Organization at the Hotel Kinston Monday night.

They were guests of the Commercial National Bank, Kinston, which is sponsoring organization of the group. Representatives from Carteret County included Jack Lewis, manager of the Commercial National Bank, Morehead City; Norwood Young, Beaufort; Joe DuBois, manager of the Morehead City Chamber of Commerce; and Joe Mason, manager of the Sea Level Chamber of Commerce.

**Named to Committee**  
Mr. Mason and Mr. DuBois were appointed to a committee to complete plans of organization. There will be no capital, no stock, and no membership dues, according to Mr. DuBois.

The model for the new corporation is the Northwest North Carolina Development Association, which was sponsored by Wachovia National Bank, Winston-Salem.

Archie K. Davis, chairman of the Wachovia board, was the speaker.

## Governor Refers Waterways Query To Study Group

Gov. Luther Hodges was host to a joint committee seeking laws to authorize a State Waterways Commission Tuesday morning in Raleigh. The committee was composed of representatives from the All-Seashore Highway Association and the Southeastern North Carolina Beach Association.

After hearing the committee, Governor Hodges referred them to his governmental reorganization committee. The reorganization committee will determine whether or not a waterways commission is justified in the state set-up.

The date for the hearing by the reorganization committee has not been set.

Luther Hamilton, Morehead City, was spokesman for the highway association, and State Senator J. V. Whitfield, Burgaw, spoke for the SENCBA.

Other delegates from this area representing the highway group were Stanley Wahab, Geraoake, Joe DuBois, Morehead City, and Garland Fulcher, Oriental.

The committee told the governor that there must be planning, on a state-wide basis, for waterways and state funds for purchasing equipment to dredge smaller channels and waterways.

The equipment would serve three purposes, the committee pointed out. In addition to maintaining waterways, the equipment could be used to build dunes on the outer banks and fill in marshes to combat the mosquito menace.

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## Coroner Finds No Foul Play

Coroner Leslie Springle says that there will be no inquest into the drowning of Wilson Batts, 26, who was found floating in Bogue Sound near the Atlantic Beach bridge Tuesday afternoon. Mr. Springle said that he found no evidence of foul play.

Fort Macon Coast Guardsmen BMC Dalton Burrus, EN-1 Earl Sells, and EN-2 Earl Taylor were given credit for bringing the body, after it was spotted by an Atlantic Beach bridge tender.

Batts had been missing from the Sea Raider since Saturday, Dec. 8. The Sea Raider's crew was paid off by Wallace Fisheries that night, and he had not been seen since.

The body was badly decomposed when it was pulled from the water. Sheriff Hugh Satter and BMC James Gaskill assisted the coroner in the investigation.