

# Driver Killed; Stabbed Negro Dies

## Charles Donald Brooks, 18, Killed in Sunday Wreck

The funeral service for Charles Donald Brooks, 18-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Brooks, route 1 Beaufort, will be conducted at 2 o'clock tomorrow afternoon in the Christian Church, Otway.

Brooks was killed at 10:15 p.m. Sunday at the Oyster Creek bridge near Davis. Clyde Gillikin, 20, Otway, who was riding with him suffered cuts on the head and chest and an arm injury. He was taken to the Sea Level Hospital.

Brooks was driving a 1956 Ford owned by his father. The car was headed toward Beaufort on Highway 70 when it apparently went out of control, ran off the right side of the road, proceeded 400 feet to the bridge, swaying from side to side, then over to the left of the bridge. The left rear of the car struck the bridge railing.

It proceeded another 105 feet before coming to a stop, according to State Highway Patrolman J. W. Sykes. The car did not upset. The driver was thrown out 50 feet before the car veered to a halt. He hit the top of the bridge railing and landed on the highway.

He died of a broken neck and head injuries. The car was badly damaged.

Brooks is survived by his parents, who live near the East Drive-In theatre outside Beaufort; a sister, Levell, and two brothers, Sammy Kay and Danny Ray, all of the home, and his maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. N. L. Gillikin, Otway.

The Rev. Paul Parker, pastor of the Otway Christian Church, will officiate at the funeral service.

## J. P. Harris Talks to Firemen

J. P. Harris, Beaufort, a member of the Beaufort Fire Department, was the speaker at a special meeting of the Down East Fire Department Thursday night at the fire department building, Atlantic.

Mr. Harris described the type of insurance needed by the Down East Department.

Also present was Charles Harrell, chief of the Beaufort Fire Department, who presented Fire Chief Allen Jones with a gold badge. Silver badges were presented to the assistant fire chiefs.

Three committee chairmen were selected. They are Elmo Gaskill, chairman of the finance committee; Wayne Parker, chairman of the building committee, and Clayton Fulcher, chairman of the teenage committee.

Wives of department members will attend a special meeting at 7 p.m. Friday. At that time they will select a committee to operate the teen-age club and form a woman's auxiliary. All fire department committee members are requested to attend too.

William Gorges, secretary, reminds members that 1957 dues are payable now. Checks should be mailed to the Down East Fire Department, Inc., Atlantic, N. C., or dues should be given to the assistant chief in the various communities: Atlantic, Cedar Island, Davis, Sea Level and Stacy.

## Sheriff Salter Seeks Clarence Medlin For Questioning in Curve Inn Theft

An alarm has gone out in three states for Clarence Medlin, suspected of drugging Ernest Lowe, manager of the Curve Inn, Morehead City, and taking almost \$70 from the inn Wednesday afternoon.

Medlin, who was found guilty in Morehead City Recorder's Court Dec. 24 of temporary larceny of a car, was put under one year's suspended sentence at that time and paid court costs.

Sheriff Hugh Salter said that Medlin has fished out of Morehead City and has close kin in Fayetteville.

Lowe was discharged from the Cherry Point dispensary yesterday morning.

**Found on Floor**  
A former Marine, he was taken to the dispensary by the Dill ambulance Wednesday afternoon after he was found lying on the floor at the Curve Inn. Mrs. Lowe reports that he was unconscious from 2:30 p.m. Wednesday to 11:30 that night.

Deputy Sheriff Bobby Bell, who investigated, said that Lowe had apparently taken two drinks with Medlin and then passed out. Medlin disappeared and it was later discovered, Mrs. Lowe said, that \$49 kept in a cigar box inside a metal box was missing, as well as between \$17 and \$20 in bills that were in the cash register.

## Commissioner Will Not Seek Another Term

### J. Con Lanier States Intentions Saturday at Beach Board Meeting

J. Con Lanier, member of the Atlantic Beach town board and former mayor of Greenville, announced at the Saturday morning meeting of the board that he would not run for re-election in May.

Commissioner Lanier, a former state senator and prosecuting attorney for Pitt County, said he is "retiring more and more every year" and would not consider holding office for another term.

"I have enjoyed serving with the board," Commissioner Lanier said, "and I believe we have accomplished a great deal for the town. The board receives nothing and Mayor Cooper is the most underpaid man working for the town."

Mayor A. B. Cooper, who presided at the meeting in the Fred Cooper cottage, termed Mr. Lanier a "most helpful member of the board" because of his experience in municipal government and his legal knowledge. Mr. Lanier is legal counsel for the Tobacco Association of the United States.

**Requests Audit**  
Mr. Lanier said that the town books should be audited before the present board's term expires. "People accuse you of stealing half the money and its unfair to the present board to leave office without ordering an independent audit," he said.

Commissioner Lanier was authorized to contact auditors and then get in touch with other board members to decide who the auditor shall be.

The board's next meeting is April 13 and the new board is sworn in the following month. Atlantic Beach property owners vote by mail. Ballots are counted at the April meeting.

**Letter to be Sent**  
At the suggestion of Commissioner Shelby Freeman, the clerk was requested to send a letter to all property owners asking them to run for town office if they wish.

In addition to candidates who may be named on the ballot, voters may vote for any beach property owner.

The clerk, H. M. Eure, was directed to submit a statement in April on extra expenses incurred in handling clerical work on the election.

## Night Fire Guts Frame House On Queen Street, Beaufort

Fire gutted a two-story frame apartment house at 309 Queen St., Beaufort, Friday night. The blaze broke out in one of the upstairs apartments, and occupants of rooms downstairs did not even know the house was on fire until firemen arrived. Leroy Sharpe and Florence Brown lived in the apartments where the fire was heaviest. It is believed that the fire started from an overheated stove.

The building was owned by Mr. Brown, janitor of the Queen Street School. Florence Brown is now living with her son in a house next door to the burned building.

**Crowd Gathers**  
Thirty volunteer firemen and an estimated crowd of 200 curious on-lookers gathered on Queen Street when the alarm went in at 6:30. Since the people living downstairs did not know the building was on fire, they did not have time to save any of their personal property before leaving the building.

It was obvious from outside, however, that the house was doomed. Flames were licking through the roof, and smoke was pouring through windows that had been shattered by the intense heat.

**Work at Close Range**  
Firemen set a ladder against an upstairs balcony over the front porch and braved the smoke and flames to battle the fire at close quarters. They had to work in shifts since they had no gas masks and there was a terrific amount of smoke pouring from the house.

Walls on both sides and the front of the building were burning, and houses on either side of the blazing structure were endangered. Firemen crawled up ladders to shoot water at the blaze through broken windows.

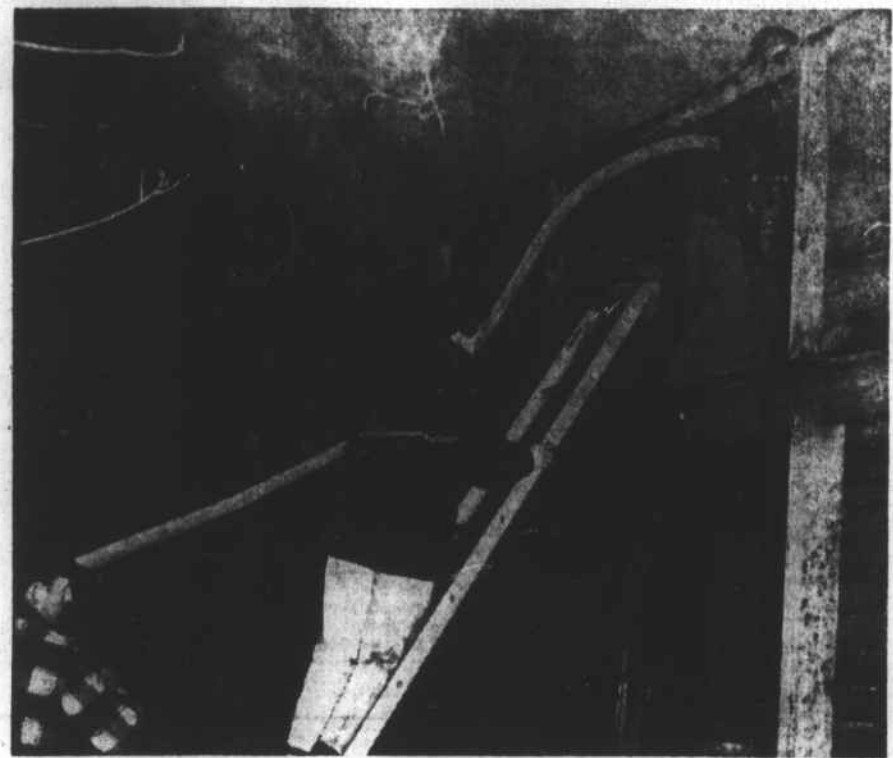
While the downstairs never actually caught fire, the top story caved through and wrecked the first floor. The thousands of gallons of water pumped on the fire were running away from the building through cracks in the walls and out of the doors. The intense heat turned a great amount of the water to steam before it even neared the blaze.

## Cars Collide at Corner Of Calico, 20th Street

Clifton W. Gurganus, a farmer from Williamston, was driving his 1956 Chevrolet south on 20th Street, Sunday afternoon when Jay Moore, a clerk at Triple-Ess Fishing Pier, turned left from Calico Drive and hit him, police report.

Moore was driving a 1953 Chevrolet. Lt. C. E. Bunch, Morehead City Police Department, investigated the accident and made no charges. He estimated damage to the new Chevrolet at \$100 and to the 1953 Chevrolet at \$200.

**Brush Burns**  
Newport firemen were called to control a brush fire near Newport Friday afternoon.



Frank Langdale, left, and assistant fire chief Hub Whitehurst, on ladder, pass more hose to Asa Buck, who is playing water on the fire at 309 Queen St., Beaufort, Friday night. The fire broke out in an upstairs apartment and gutted the house before Beaufort firemen could get it out. Firemen used equipment and pumps from two trucks in getting the blaze under control. They battled the fire for two and one half hours.

## Morehead City Board OK's Request By Taxi Operators to Raise Rates

Morehead City town fathers got a surprise at their meeting Thursday night at the municipal building. Representatives of two cab companies, instead of turning up to fuss at each other, appeared before the board together to request permission to raise rates.

They were Albert Way of the Veteran's Cab Co. and Marvin Powers of the Yellow Cab Co. The request was granted and the new rates will go into effect Friday, Feb. 1. The board requested that a map of the town zones and a card stating the rates be posted in each cab.

Rates will range from 50 cents to a dollar. The dollar rate is for runs from one end of the town to the other, east and west.

**Resolutions Approved**  
The board formally approved a resolution calling for a vote by members of the police force May 15 on whether the officers want to come under the social security program.

Also approved were recommendations submitted by J. A. DuBois, chamber manager, relative to legislation on participation of the state in federal disaster flood insurance and calling for legislation to curb hurricane damage on the outer banks.

The clerk, John Lashley, turned over to Police Commissioner Ted Garner a list of the out-of-town firms that service Morehead City by truck but do not pay for the privilege of doing business in

Morehead City. Commissioner Garner said that the list would be given to the police department for action.

Commissioner Jasper Bell, in charge of buildings and grounds, reported that the well has been put down at the new cemetery, a pump house built and the ground turned.

Commissioner Bell was authorized to decide whether the street light at Arvon and 28th Street should be moved to the pole on which the fire alarm box is located near the Fulcher Trailer Court, 28th Street. A letter from residents in the trailer court area requested a light on the alarm box pole.

**Hazards Mentioned**  
Attorney George McNeill mentioned two places in town where better traffic markings have been requested. One is on Highway 70 (Arendell Street) just west of 34th. The highway curves and at night strangers don't realize there is a curve, he said.

It was suggested that the state be contacted relative to putting up reflective lights or some type of warning sign. The other spot, Mr. McNeill said, was in front of the Jefferson Hotel where Arendell Street divides into two lanes.

Traffic coming from the east is not adequately warned, he said, that the highway splits.

Mayor George Dill said that the state highway commission has

See BOARD, Page 3

## Newport Officials Upheld Second Time in Lawsuit

Judge J. Paul Frizzelle upheld Thursday the demurrer filed by Newport in answer to an amended complaint by 17 Newport citizens fighting installation of a town water system.

This is the second time that a judge has held that the Newport citizens' allegations on election irregularities are no cause for action against town officials.

Judge Chester Morris ruled last month that the complaint did not constitute cause for action. He permitted the complaining citizens, however, to amend the complaint. This was done. Again the town officials of Newport, defendants in the action, demurred.

The amended complaint was heard before Judge Frizzelle in New Bern Jan. 9. Judge Frizzelle's ruling does not permit the plaintiffs, represented by C. R. Wheatley, Beaufort attorney, to file an amended complaint.

The plaintiffs, J. J. Garner and others, now have until this week-

end to appeal to the State Supreme Court or they have 30 days to enter a motion asking to file another amended complaint.

Originally 23 Newport citizens started the action to block borrowing \$120,000 for a water system, but six plaintiffs have withdrawn. They are, according to A. H. James, clerk of superior court, J. I. Mizelle, Leslie T. Mann, Claude Henderson, Leonard Carroll, J. C. Carroll and William R. Bell.

General reasons for withdrawal are that the plaintiffs aren't willing to accuse anyone of violation of election laws, nor do they want to stand in the way of town progress.

Mayor Leon Mann Jr. said that the delay in the water system work now is costing the town about \$300 a month. He said cost of materials is going up and engineers are being held up. Until recently, engineers were involved in planning only. Now they are ready to go ahead with the work.

## Rufus Fair Jr. Being Held For Morris Fulford Murder

Morris Fulford Jr., 28, Beaufort Negro, died of a stab wound in the heart Sunday morning. He was pronounced dead at the Morehead City Hospital. Being held for murder and without bond in the county jail is Rufus Fair Jr., 21, Beaufort.

The stabbing took place aboard the William T. Covington Jr., a menhaden boat, at about 7:30 a.m. Sunday in Beaufort. Fulford died instantly.

Officer Otis Willis was on duty Sunday morning and had just walked to the police station from the dock when he found Fair sitting in the patrol car.

"Carry me to jail," Fair said to the officer.

"What have you done?" the policeman asked.

"I just cut a fellow," Fair replied.

Officer Willis checked and found that Fulford had been taken to the Morehead City Hospital.

**Drinking Precedes Stabbing**  
Sheriff Hugh Salter, on further investigation, learned that Fair, Fulford, and a woman identified as Catherine Hamilton, originally from Tampa, Fla., had been in Roy Teel's house on the Lennoxville Road near Safrit Lumber Yard.

They had been drinking and finally came back into town. Fair, Fulford and the woman went aboard the Covington, and were apparently in the galley when name-calling started.

The sheriff said that the woman at one point said to Fulford, "I got two knives. You want one?"

Fair took a butcher knife, walked around the table and shoved the blade into Fulford. The blade, about 6 to 8 inches long, went into Fulford's heart, cutting a gash 1 1/4 inches wide.

He then threw the knife overboard, left the boat, and went to the police station.

**Chief Reports**  
Chief of Police Guy Springle, Beaufort, said that Clemon James was an eye-witness to the stabbing.

Others listed as witnesses in the case are Ira T. Robinson and Will Owens of Fernandina, Fla., William Earl Fulford, brother of the dead man, and Lee Tooley, Beaufort.

The Covington, fished by Standard Products, was tied up at the Texaco dock.

Beaufort officers say Fulford and Fair frequently tangled. They were picked up Nov. 9 at Pine and Queen Streets for fighting.

Assisting in the investigation, in addition to the officers mentioned, were Deputy Sheriffs Marshall Ayscue and Bruce Edwards.

**Saw Two Men**  
Assistant Chief of Police Carlton Garner, Beaufort, said that he saw Fair and Fulford in the Chicken Shack on Queen Street at about 10 o'clock Saturday night. At that time Fair was arguing with Fulford.

When the officer entered, Fair said, "Well, it's time to move, Lightning's come in." Lightning is a nickname for Officer Garner. The officer said the two then left the place.

Funeral services for Fulford were not arranged by press time yesterday. He is survived by his mother, Mrs. Annie Fulford Johnson, 316 Marsh St., a brother, William Earl Fulford, and three sisters, Mrs. Alice Bell and Miss Mildred Fulford, both of Atlantic City, N. J., and Mrs. Mozell Savoy, Washington, D. C.

Fulford's father was drowned when the menhaden boat Parkins sank in 1942.

**Group Discusses Outdoor Drama**  
Fifteen persons met in Beaufort Saturday night to explore possibilities of staging an outdoor historical drama in or near Beaufort.

Meeting with the group at the J. P. Harris office, Craven Street, was Thomas Patterson of the department of drama, University of North Carolina.

Mrs. C. R. Hassell was elected acting chairman and Mrs. J. P. Harris, acting secretary. Mrs. Hassell said that another meeting will be called soon to determine whether the project should be carried out and an organization formed.

Attending were Mr. and Mrs. Patterson, Chapel Hill, Jim Wheatley, Mayor Clifford Lewis, Dan Walker, J. P. Harris, Gray Hassell, Norwood Young, Miss Amy Muse, Dr. W. L. Woodard, Glenn Adair, Mrs. G. W. Duncan, Mrs. Hassell, Miss Ruth Peeling and Mrs. Charles Noe.

**Police Hold Plymouth Taylor**  
Plymouth H. Taylor, 29, Gales Creek, has been arrested at Marathon, Fla., and is being held in connection with the murder of Opal Dixie Niece, 34, Yellow Springs, Ohio.

Taylor, who has a record of violations in this county about a yard long, was shrimping in Florida and was arrested on the docks at Marathon.

He and the murder victim, police say, checked into a motel at Marathon Sunday night, registering as man and wife. The beaten, nude body of the woman was found in the motel room Tuesday by a maid.

Police said that Opal Niece had been arrested Jan. 2 on a public drunkenness charge and was released Jan. 12.

Taylor said he picked her up Sunday as she was hitchhiking near the seven-mile bridge on the overseas highway.

**Club Undergoes Repairs**  
The Blue Ribbon Club, seriously damaged by fire Sunday, Jan. 13, is undergoing complete repair. Owner of the building is Howard Case, Huntington, W. Va.

**Five Carteret Men Will Enter Army Tomorrow**  
Five Carteret men will leave tomorrow for induction in the Army at Raleigh, announces Mrs. Ruby Holland, clerk of the draft board. They are Rodney Nelson, Atlantic; Louis Fisher, Merrimon; William Parmley, Newport; Ralph Wilson and Nathaniel Reese, both of Morehead City.



Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Lowe, theft victims.

Mrs. Lowe visited her husband at Cherry Point and he told her that the last thing he remembers is that he was sitting by the heater Wednesday afternoon and that he had started to the phone to call his wife. From then on he remembers nothing.

Mrs. Lowe was at her home, 2301 Fisher St., Wednesday afternoon.

See ROBBERY, Page 3