

Explosion Kills Broad Creek Youth

Contractor Gives Report

Harold Wilton, Newport, one of the partners in the firm of Wilton and Morton, who employed the men working on the Joyce home at Broad Creek, on Wednesday gave the following report on the explosion and his investigations:

The men had been working on the new agriculture building at Smyrna School and had run out of materials. Because they couldn't continue on that job, they went to Broad Creek to work on the Joyce place, a concrete block home located on the creek across from the A. J. Dixon store.

With them at Broad Creek was Mr. Wilton's partner, Joe Morton. The workmen were cleaning up tile glue from the kitchen floor. They were using a burlap rag and gasoline, but Mr. Wilton says there was no surplus gas being used nor was there any open flame in the kitchen.

Doors, Windows Open
He also reports that two doors were open as well as four windows. In the kitchen were a gas stove and gas heater. The gas heater was disconnected, he said, but the stove was not. He believes that in moving the stove out from the wall, the men may have sprung a fitting on the copper tubing, causing a leak.

The men, he continued, were using chisels and a putty knife to work on the floor and a spark may have been created. In the kitchen was a two-gallon gasoline can with gasoline in it, but this didn't even burn in the explosion.

Gasoline Moved Out
Mr. Wilton says the can with the gasoline was moved out afterwards and put in one of the trucks.

Mr. Wilton talked with Moody Morton, father of Danny, the boy who was killed, and Mr. Morton said that the first indication he had of any trouble was a loud "whoof!" Flame suddenly was all over him. Jimmy Lewis was in the living room at the time and Danny was in the corner behind the stove.

Leo Dixon, who is in a serious condition at the Morehead City Hospital, was badly cut with glass as well as burned.

"It was all over in 5 minutes," Mr. Wilton said. A frame building probably would have been destroyed. Proof of the heat intensity are the blistered kitchen cabinets, breakfast bar, burned curtains and scorched appliances. Mr. Wilton estimates damage to the house at \$1,200 to \$1,500.

Cause Unknown
At Mr. Wilton's request, Sgt. G. D. Brown, who is in charge of a demolition squad at Cherry Point, has visited the house. Although a gas leak may have been a factor in causing the explosion, no one has been able to pin-point the cause.

Sergeant Brown ventured the opinion that Danny Morton was knocked unconscious by the concussion. The flames then partially consumed his body.

Early reports of the explosion stated that a blow torch was being used in the kitchen. Mr. Wilton said the workmen had a blow torch with them but it was outdoors on the side of the house opposite the kitchen where the explosion occurred.

Toastmasters Elect Officers

Dr. Russell Outlaw, Morehead City, was elected president of the Carteret County Toastmasters Club Wednesday night. Gerald Hill was named administrative vice-president, and Dr. T. R. Rice was named educational vice-president. Other officers are Hugh Salter, sergeant-at-arms, and Clifford Faglie, secretary-treasurer.

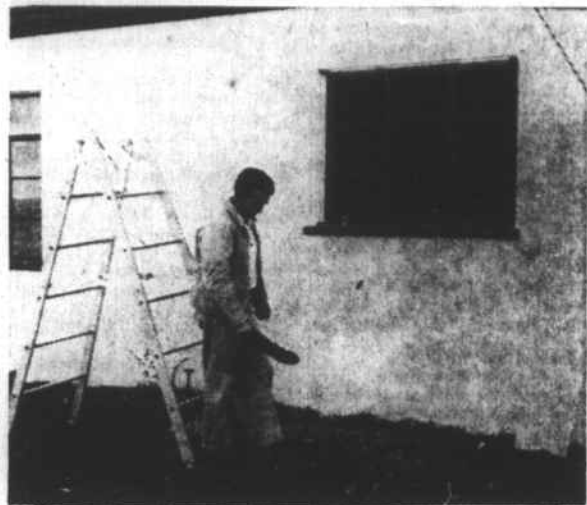
Officers were elected as part of the regular program at the Beaufort town hall.

Jasper Bell was awarded a certificate of merit in special training. He has completed the basic training course offered by the Toastmasters national organization.

The new officers will be installed at the next meeting, Wednesday night at the Morehead City municipal building. A special ladies night program will be conducted.

First Aid Class

Dr. Berl Lewis, Morehead City, will teach the remaining classes in the Beaufort Fire Department's first aid course. Instructor Jack Carter has been transferred by Carolina Power and Light Co. The classes will continue to be conducted each Tuesday at 7 p.m.



Alford Bell, Morehead City, who was putting glass in the windows of Mr. and Mrs. Robert P. Joyce's home, Broad Creek, ran across this shoe. It is believed to have been Danny Morton's. The stain below the window is blood.



Mrs. Sim Crocker, left, and Mrs. Johnny Snipes look at the remains of a parakeet which burned to death in the explosion at the Robert P. Joyce home, Broad Creek, Tuesday.

Woman Who Gave Child Intoxicants is Fined

Juanita Hester was found guilty Monday in Morehead City Recorder's Court of giving intoxicating beverages to a minor. Judge Herbert Phillips ordered her to pay all doctor and hospital bills for Dolly Marbury, 9, who became violently ill after drinking a beverage given her by the Hester woman. In addition to the doctor and hospital bills, she was ordered to pay the girl \$20.

Three drunken driving cases were on the docket. Larry Delmar Smith requested a jury trial and bond was set at \$150. Charles Q. Willis and George Willard Owen were found guilty and fined \$100 and costs each.

Found Guilty
Willie Lee Cannon was found guilty of racing, running a stop sign and speeding 70 miles per hour. He was fined \$75 and costs and required to surrender his license to the clerk of court for 30 days.

Marc S. Dupont was fined \$50 and costs for careless and reckless driving. John D. Perry was fined \$25 and costs for using loud, profane and vulgar language in a public place in the presence of ladies.

Hoyt Lee was fined \$10 and costs for being drunk and disorderly. He got a 30 days sentence suspended. William Guthrie was fined \$10 and costs for public drunkenness.

Fined \$15
Carl D. Fulcher was fined \$15 and costs for speeding 70 miles per hour in a 35 zone. James E. Stanton was fined \$10 for speeding and \$25 and costs for driving without a license. The \$25 fine will be returned if he presents a valid license within two weeks.

Charles D. Mayo and Harold Eugene Lafferty were found guilty of driving without licenses. Each was fined \$25 and costs, the \$25 to be returned if a valid license is presented within two weeks.

Julian Wade was tried on two

Club Members Invited To Chamber Dinner

J. A. DuBois, manager of the Morehead City Chamber of Commerce, announced yesterday that Lions, Rotarians, Jaycees, Emeritus Club and all other civic club members are invited to the chamber dinner at 6:30 Thursday, April 25, at the recreation building. Their wives are welcome too. A buffet supper will be served to 6:30 p.m. at \$1.50 per person. For further information on the banquet speaker see story on US Highway 70 Association page 6 section 2.



Sim Crocker, right, opens the door of a ruined refrigerator in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert P. Joyce, Broad Creek. Mr. Crocker represents Crocker Insurance and Realty Co. of Havelock with whom the contractors, Wilton and Morton, have insurance. Looking on are Alford Bell of Russell's Glass Shop, left, and Johnny Snipes, Havelock.

Saturday Postoffice Closing Due Unless Congress Acts

State Assessment Board Decides Pulpwood Case

The State Board of Assessment, to which the North Carolina Pulpwood Co. took its complaint on valuation of land in Carteret County, has ruled that two thousand acres of land designated as "pulpwood land" was really "cut-over" land.

The land is located in Merrimon township. The resultant reduction in valuation will mean a saving to the pulpwood company of \$275 a year in taxes.

The State Board of Assessment ruled on the case the latter part of March. It found that all other pulp company land classifications, as set up by the E. T. Wilkins firm, which revalued county property, were fair and accurate.

Cut-over land is valued at \$20 an acre as compared with \$35 an acre valuation for pulpwood.

North Carolina Pulpwood Co. was the only taxpayer to contest the changes made during last year's revaluation of real property. The firm made a request for change in valuation before the Board of Equalization in March 1956, but the board found no error.

The State Board of Assessment, to which the pulpwood company appealed, heard the case Dec. 11 at Raleigh. Notification of the board's ruling was mailed last week to Moses Howard, chairman of the county board of commissioners.

County schools will close next Friday, April 19, and Monday, April 22, for Easter.

Unless Congress coughs up some emergency funds today for post-office operation, the postoffices in Beaufort, Morehead City and Newport will close tomorrow and start shorter hours next week.

Postmaster Gen. Arthur Sumnerfield has issued orders to all first, second and third class postoffices to close down Saturdays. Unless Congress acts today to give him \$47 million to operate through June 30, the order will stick.

Not only will the postoffice windows close, but Postmaster Harold Webb, Morehead City, and Postmaster J. P. Betts, Beaufort, report that there will be no city or rural deliveries on Saturday.

Mail will be put up in the boxes as usual, however, and the present mail dispatches from the postoffices maintained.

If Congress doesn't crash through with the needed money, the postoffices next week will open at 8:30 a.m. instead of 8 and close at 5 instead of 6 p.m.

The postmaster general's order affects 37,000 postoffices throughout the nation and 508,000 postal employees as well as all citizens served by the postoffice department.

High Court to Hear Water Case in May

The State Supreme Court will hear the Newport water case sometime during the first full week in May.

George W. Ball, attorney for Newport officials who seek to borrow money for a water system, received word yesterday that the court would hear arguments on the appeal sometime during the week of May 6, probably toward the end of the week.

Borrowing of \$120,000 to put in a water system at Newport is being fought by a group of citizens who have carried the case to the Supreme Court because lower courts have upheld Newport town officials.

Town Will Elect Court Officers, Hospital Trustees

In addition to the mayor and commissioners, the town of Morehead City will elect a judge of recorder's court, and two hospital trustees May 7.

Mayor George W. Dill and the present board, as well as the court officers have all filed for reelection.

Members of the board are Commissioners S. C. Holloway, Gibbie Sanderson, Ted Garner, D. J. Hall and Jasper Bell. Herbert Phillips III is recorder's court judge and John E. Lashley, clerk of court.

Hospital trustees whose terms expire this year are Mrs. E. A. Council and Mrs. J. C. Taylor.

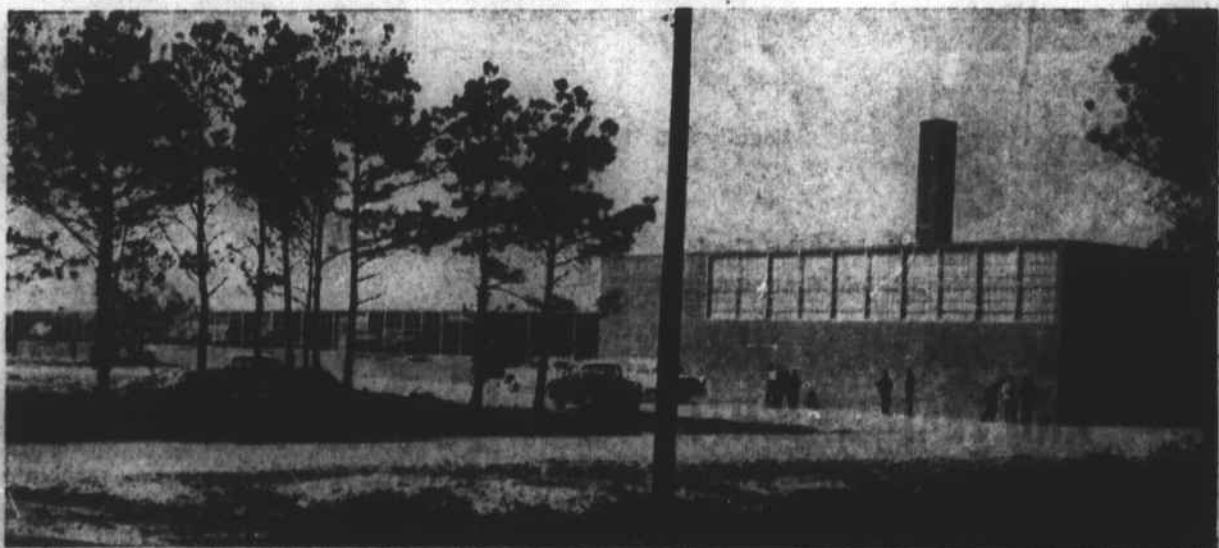
All candidates for office will be elected for a two-year term. Deadline for filing is Saturday, April 27.

Tide Table

Tides at the Beaufort Bar

HIGH	Friday, April 12	LOW
6:22 a.m.		12:17 a.m.
6:48 p.m.		12:36 p.m.
Saturday, April 13		
7:13 a.m.		1:09 a.m.
7:36 p.m.		1:26 p.m.
Sunday, April 14		
8:02 a.m.		2:00 a.m.
8:23 p.m.		2:13 p.m.
Monday, April 15		
8:50 a.m.		2:48 a.m.
9:10 p.m.		2:59 p.m.
Tuesday, April 16		
9:40 a.m.		3:35 a.m.
10:00 p.m.		3:43 p.m.

County's Newest School



Carteret's newest school on Harkers Island was occupied for the first time last Friday. The building cost \$135,000 and houses grades 1 through 8. No one appeared at the courthouse Saturday noon to bid on the old school house. Thus the highest bid, submitted after a previous sale, is \$6,000 offered by John L. Cameron, Raleigh, in the interest of a group of Raleigh sportsmen. If the \$6,000 bid is not raised Monday, H. L. Joslyn, county superintendent of schools, has been authorized to close the deal with the Raleigh group.

Danny Morton Rites Held; Leo Dixon Severely Burned

Danny Morton, 18, of Broad Creek was killed instantly in an explosion in the kitchen at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert P. Joyce, Broad Creek, Tuesday afternoon. Leo Dixon, also of Broad Creek, was critically burned. He is in the Morehead City Hospital and is not expected to live.

Jimmy Lewis, Broad Creek, is being treated in the hospital, but his condition is reported as good. Moody Morton, father of the dead man, was treated for burns around the hands and discharged. Vernon Morton, brother of the dead man, was not injured. The funeral service for Danny Morton was held Wednesday afternoon.

The five men were at work in the Joyce home. Gasoline was being used to clean rubber tile glue from cement floors in the house when the explosion occurred. The tile on the floors had begun to buckle, and Wilton and Morton Contractors, Newport, had contracted to lay new tile.

Sturdy Construction
The house was virtually fire-proof. It was of cement block construction with cement floors and steel window sashes. A fireproof fibre board covered the wooden lathes in the ceiling.

The explosion smoked the walls and peeled the ceiling material from the lathes which were scorched by the intense heat. Most of the appliances in the kitchen were ruined. A telephone and television set, usually considered to be delicate instruments, were still in working order, though both were in the kitchen.

Dog Survives
A dog, Smoky, was in another part of the house and was not injured. A parakeet, which was in a cage in the kitchen was burned so quickly that its ashes still maintained the shape of a bird.

Mrs. Joyce said that she and her husband were at work at Cherry Point when a neighbor called and told them of the explosion. They came home and found their kitchen demolished.

The house was covered by insurance but the furniture and appliances were not. A refrigerator, stove and several smaller appliances were put out of order. An electric clock stopped at 12:37 p.m.

The house was completed last November, and Mr. and Mrs. Joyce moved in the same month. They had built the house as a summer home and liked it so well that they moved from New Bern permanently.

The funeral service for the youth who was killed in the freak explosion, was conducted at 2:30 Wednesday afternoon in the Broad Creek Methodist Church. The Rev. Claude Barrett, pastor, officiated. Burial was in Broad Creek cemetery.

Surviving besides his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Moody Morton, and the brother, Vernon, are a sister, Connie Diane, two other brothers, Eddie and Milan, all of the home and the maternal grandmother, Mrs. Rilla Dixon, Broad Creek.

Witness Asks Further Report

H. G. McGee, Gloucester, who was the prosecuting witness in a case in superior court last week, has requested that testimony reported by A. H. James, clerk of superior court, be reported.

Mr. James was called to the witness stand in a case that was the outgrowth of a controversy between McGee and his 22-year-old son.

Mr. James testified that McGee was not under the influence of whiskey when McGee came to the James home the night of Sept. 9, 1956. He testified that McGee was not drunk and if he had been drinking, he didn't notice it.

Mr. James also told the judge that he didn't know how long it had been since the time of the argument between McGee and his son and the time the elder McGee appeared at his house to swear out a warrant against the boy. The case ended in a mistrial.

Port Calendar

Marine Dow-Chem	Due at state port tomorrow for a cargo of glycol for the Dow plant at Freeport, Tex.
Pioneer Wave	Due at state port Wednesday for a cargo of fish oil for Rotterdam.
Erlangen	Due at state port Tuesday, April 23, for a cargo of tobacco for Hamburg and fish oil for Holland.
Dredge Gerig	Now doing maintenance dredging on the channel to the state port. The dredge will be here until the end of the month.

C&D Board Will Convene Here This Summer

Fisheries Problem Aired; C&D Investigates Bear Island Proposal

Even though a new bill allows the Board of Conservation and Development to hold its July meeting at any town on the coast, the board, meeting at Kinston this week, decided to return to familiar summer haunts, Morehead City.

The meeting will be held in July at the commercial fisheries building. J. A. DuBois, manager of the Morehead City Chamber of Commerce, appeared before the board and extended the invitation in person. And Mayor George Dill sent a telegram to Leo Harvey, Kinston, a member of the board, reaffirming Morehead City's interest in playing host in July.

Several other invitations from coastal cities were also received. The board heard a delegation from the North Carolina Fisheries Association and took action to establish a state park on Bear Island, three miles south of Swansboro.

Problem Presented
Garland Fulcher of Oriental, president of the North Carolina Fisheries Association, and a delegation representing that group asked the board's commercial fisheries committee to enforce regulations designed to prohibit out-of-state fishermen from fishing in state territorial waters unless they have North Carolina licenses to do so.

The matter was precipitated as result, Mr. Fulcher and others said, when at least 23 Virginia commercial fishing boats appeared in state waters off Hatteras and made a huge haul of trout and croakers last month as they headed toward Virginia waters.

Cecil Morris of Atlantic, commit-

Engineers Report On Sea Level

The Corps of Army Engineers has announced that since property owners along the waterfront at Sea Level have agreed to plans for dredging the harbor, there will be no further study necessary.

Brig. Gen. Henry J. Hoeffler, USA, division engineer, says however that anyone having any comment to make on the work should place it before the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors, Washington, D. C., no later than May 9.

A Senate resolution of April 1950 authorized "further study" of the Sea Level harbor project. General Hoeffler explains, however, that according to a letter and petition from Sea Level residents, local cooperation has been assured and the project is "acceptable as authorized".

Clouds, Rain Give Way to Clear Skies

Monday's overcast skies and brief showers of rain gave way Tuesday to the clear skies. The temperatures, even on Monday, have been quite warm during the day, and cool during the evenings and nights.

Violent weekend winds, which damaged fragile spring blooms and whipped up shingles on many roofs, had subsided by the middle of the week.

Maximum and minimum temperatures and wind direction for the week follow:

	Max.	Min.	Wind
Sunday	74	52	SW
Monday	72	61	SW
Tuesday	68	47	NW
Wednesday	68	41	SW

Two Woodrow Wilsons
The Woodrow Wilson of Beaufort, who has been booked on a charge of assaulting a 12-year-old girl, is not the Woodrow Wilson who is an employee at the Colonial Store, Morehead City.