

Freighter Picks Up Melvin L. West

Parents of Mel West Believe Son is OK

By BOB SEYMOUR
When Mr. and Mrs. Barry West told their son goodbye at Atlantic Beach Thursday morning they had "all the confidence in the world" that Mel would make it to Bermuda in his open motorboat.



Mr. and Mrs. Barry West
"Melvin made up his mind"

"I couldn't see the point in his going when he first mentioned it," Mr. West says, "but after we talked it over I saw he had his mind set and I knew he wouldn't give up."

Before making the trip, he took his uncle, B. L. Merrill, on a test run about 30 miles offshore. Mr. West says that he has also been offshore with his son.

Yesterday the Wests were still confident that Mel was all right. "He has been on the water all his life and he knows what to do," his father says.

A former Coast Guardsman himself, Mr. West is pleased with the way the Coast Guard and other services are looking for Mel. "If he can be found, they will find him. I don't think they will give up the search until they exhaust every possible chance of finding him," he added.

"This is the first long trip that Mel ever tried in a boat. He has had — I don't know how many — boats and always tinkered a lot with motors, but he never went more than about 60 miles offshore before. He always was adventurous, though."

"When he was younger he used to take long trips around the country. Once he makes up his mind, you can't change it," he noted.

Mr. West first came to Morehead City in 1927. He was a member of the Coast Guard unit stationed here. He married Miss Archie Mae Merrill of Newport and settled down in Morehead.

Mel graduated from Morehead City high school and served in the Army after graduation. He was injured in the service and is classified as partially disabled.

He is married to the former Esther Yeager of Morehead City. They have two sons, Morty, 9, and Barry J., 16 months, and a daughter, Melva, 2. They live at Camp Glenn.

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Carl Goerch Points to Value Of Small Native Industries

Small native industries do more good for a community than one large industry employing the same number of people, according to Carl Goerch, speaker at the Morehead City Chamber of Commerce banquet Thursday night.

Mr. Goerch, who is co-publisher of State magazine, said that the human element was the most important factor in the development of an area. "You must have an attractive tax structure, plenty of labor, a good climate and transportation but the people living in the area are the final factors," he said.

"Courtesy and friendliness are your two biggest assets. The captains of your sports fishing boats are some of the biggest boosters of Morehead City," he added.

Guests Recognized
Mr. Goerch was introduced by Dr. Ben Royal. Other guests recognized by chamber president W. B. Chalk were Olan Wright, manager of the New Bern Chamber of Commerce, and Moses Howard, chairman of the county board of commissioners.

The following organizations were

recognized: Morehead City town board, Morehead City Hospital board, Rotary Club, Jaycees, Lions Club, Emeritus Club and Elks.

Shows Letters
Mr. Chalk showed a display of over 300 requests for information received and answered by the chamber July 15-Aug. 15. He explained how each letter is answered and what information is included.

Three new directors were elected. They were J. D. Holt, Rufus Butner and J. Morton Davis. Their terms will expire in 1960.

Retiring directors are Mr. Chalk, W. C. Carlton and L. D. Gore. Other directors are J. R. Sanders, P. H. Geer Jr., Walter Morris, George Whittle, Dick Parker, Bud Dixon and Jack Lewis.

Members present were asked to fill in questionnaires to give chamber officials an idea of what projects are considered most important.

Some projects listed were construction of a four-lane highway from Cherry Point to Morehead City, construction of a convention hall-armory combination and expansion of the chamber's advertising program.

Marines to Use New Bomb Target

The new bombing target near Atlantic Point of Marsh is expected to go into use soon, according to the Cherry Point public information office.

The Fifth Naval District reports that the target consists of simulated steel ship structures with three observation towers. Cost of target construction is approximately \$173,000.

The contract was awarded July 19, 1956 and construction started soon thereafter, according to the Navy.

The target will be manned by personnel from Cherry Point. Dummy bombs will be used. The new targets are on a former bombing range and are located about five miles from the auxiliary Marine airfield at Atlantic.

Navy information on the target was supplied by Capt. Francis J. Lovelace, USN, Norfolk, Va.

Boat Repairs Made, Voyage Continues

Melvin L. West was on his way to Bermuda again yesterday after a freighter, the SS Aldebaran, picked him up at 3:20 p.m. An intensive search for West, which started yesterday morning, was called off as the daring voyager was reported by the Coast Guard, Norfolk, to be all right.

The Aldebaran picked West and his boat up 240 miles from Cape Lookout at a point 342 miles from Bermuda. Although the Chilula, Coast Guard cutter from Morehead City, was ordered to rendezvous with the Aldebaran, the meeting was called off when West decided to continue his trip.

The message from Norfolk Coast Guard station said that West's boat was "repaired" while with the Aldebaran, but no further details were given. West was also given additional supplies. He was directly on his plotted course when picked up.

The 28-year-old Morehead City native left Morehead City Thursday morning in a boat 15 feet 3 inches long. He expected to make the 580-mile trip in less than 50 hours, but had fuel for approximately 78 hours and was prepared to spend several days traveling on the ocean if necessary.

West, an outboard motor enthusiast, wanted to show that he could reach Bermuda in a small craft. He was backed in his venture by several county businessmen, and publicity for the expedition was being handled by Charles Markey, New Bern.

Mr. Markey flew to New York after West left Morehead City and from New York he flew to Hamilton, Bermuda, where he hoped to greet Mel on his arrival there.

Left Here Thursday
West left the Morehead City yacht basin at 3:15 a.m. Thursday, but after noticing a break in his fuel line returned to a dock at Atlantic Beach, repaired it and set off again. That was at 8:25 a.m.

At 8:30 Sunday morning 72 hours had passed and West had not arrived at Bermuda. According to Mr. Markey, Bermuda Coast Guardsmen did not expect West until late Sunday afternoon, but a search plane was scheduled to start out at noon that day.

He had still not arrived by yesterday morning, and an all-out search was begun, six planes searching the ocean from Bermuda bases, in addition to the weather ship, Rockaway, stationed at Hamilton, Bermuda.

Two flying box cars from Cherry Point joined the search yesterday. A plane was reported down yesterday but the report was not official.

A merchant ship reported to the Coast Guard that it saw a flare Sunday night in an area about 90 miles southeast of Cape Hatteras. A Coast Guard plane from Elizabeth City flew to the area but could find no sign of the lost voyager.

The Coast Guard cutter Chilula left Morehead City at 10:10 p.m. Sunday to search that vicinity but by press time had not made no report.

Warmly Clothed
West was warmly dressed in heavy clothing and he was carrying a windproof jacket and plastic coveralls. His mother even put in some extra wool socks and warned him to keep his feet dry. The exposed portions of his body were protected by zinc oxide.

Drinking water should be no problem since he carried a small still to convert sea water. His sandwiches probably didn't hold out very long, but he has an emergency fishing kit.

Included in West's equipment were a life raft, six flares and six sea markers. Bob Simpson of the Fabulous Fishermen organization, Morehead City, says that there were probably three red, one white

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Three Weekend Accidents Occur; Two Cars Upset

State Highway Patrolman W. J. Smith Jr. investigated three automobile accidents over the weekend.

At 5:45 p.m. Saturday Ronald Keith Chadwick, Harkers Island, failed to make "dead man's curve" on the Harkers Island Road in front of Yeomans' store. His car turned over.

Chadwick has been charged with reckless driving and improper registration. No one was injured in the accident.

Chadwick was headed east in a 1950 Pontiac. He ran off the right shoulder of the road, skidded and upset. Damage to the car was estimated at \$150.

At 5:15 p.m. Sunday Patrolman Smith was notified that an old model DeSoto was in the ditch, upside down, on Highway 101 west of the intersection of the Mill Creek Road. The license plates had been removed. The patrolman had the car towed in to Morehead City.

Two cars were damaged in an accident at 5:40 p.m. Sunday in front of the James Willis home, Williston. One car was the parked car owned by Willis and the other was a 1956 Ford driven by Calvin Earl Johnson, Beaufort.

According to Patrolman Smith, Johnson was headed west when he ran off on the shoulder on the wrong side of the road and hit the parked car.

Damage to Johnson's car was estimated at \$100, and damage to Willis' car, a 1957 Chevrolet, was \$350. No one was hurt.

Johnson has been charged with driving on the wrong side of the road.

How Mosquitoes Cause Losses

George H. Rowles, 1011 Bridges St., Morehead City, told THE NEWS-TIMES Friday that Morehead City wastes its money getting people down here, only to have them eaten by mosquitoes.

"Morehead City spent thousands of dollars on the Centennial and spends thousands on advertising. When the people get here, they like it, but the mosquitoes eat them and they go back home."

"Mansfield Park," he continued, "is one of the most beautiful developments around here. People see it and are delighted with it, but they're here just five minutes after they get out of the car. The mosquitoes get on them, they jump back in their car and go on back home."

Mr. Rowles' comments were among several received at the newspaper office last week by people who were distressed about the reappearance of millions of mosquitoes.

Opinions Vary on Mel West Voyage

People's opinions vary on whether Melvin West, of Morehead City, should have attempted a trip to Bermuda in a small outboard motor boat.

Some think he was out of his mind, others give him credit for "attempting the impossible." Their opinions follow:

Mrs. Lawrence B. Ambrose, 2011 Bridges St., Morehead City — "I think it was quite foolish to take off like that in a little outboard motorboat, especially when he has a family. I hope of finding him looks slim—I do hope they find him, though."

A. B. Cooper, Atlantic Beach — "I'm quite disappointed. We're all worried. I think Mel's just had motor trouble though. I think he's a seaman and I know he had taken all precautions. I think he is still alive and out there, just hoping someone will see him."

Charles B. Noe, 122 Ann St., Beaufort — "I think the boy showed a lot of courage. He was trying to prove that small boats are capable of taking long voyages over open

water. I think he was publicizing this coast, showing how close it is to Bermuda. If he had succeeded, it would have shown that people could go from here to Bermuda in small boats."

"I hope he's there by now. I didn't think he could make it in 42 hours, or average 15 miles an hour, considering the drift of the tide, wind and waves. I think 8 to 10 miles an hour would have been a good average."

Sonny Ballou, 609 Evans St., Morehead City — "I think that when he's found, he'll be found alive. It was probably foolish for him to try what he did," Mr. Ballou runs a restaurant on the waterfront. He added, "Everybody who comes in here is talking about Mel's trip."

Miss Mamie Godwin, 1006 Bridges St., Morehead City — "I'm no authority on things like Mel West's trip, but I think it was a foolhardy thing to do. Having lived and grown up here, and watched these waters, I don't see how he has a chance."

Stacey Chadwick, Glendale Park, Beaufort — "I hope they find him. I think he had a good chance of making it if the weather was pretty. But he's so long past due now that it looks very much as though he's gone."

James Gillikin, Harkers Island — "I think he should have seen a psychiatrist. There's a lot of water out there to drink. I don't have much hope for him at this point."

Mr. Gillikin, a boat builder who is an experienced boat handler, said "I certainly wouldn't want to take that trip in a 15-foot outboard motor boat."

Mrs. Asa Buck Jr., 305 Marsh St., Beaufort — "I don't think they'll ever find him. I believe that with his responsibilities, a wife and family, his trip was very foolish."

Charles S. Walters, Atlantic Beach — "I think he's just lost out there somewhere. He shouldn't have attempted the trip in the first place. I have a boat that size and I wouldn't go over the bar in it. I was in the Navy and I know what that ocean is!"

Historians Start Fourth Year; Officers Elected

The quarterly meeting of the Carteret County Historical Society Saturday afternoon in the Episcopal Parish House at Beaufort, launched the fourth year of the society.

The nominating committee, selecting officers for the coming year, named F. C. Salisbury, president; Mrs. T. T. Potter, secretary; Mrs. Luther Hamilton Sr., treasurer. They were elected. In the absence of Mr. Salisbury due to illness, the retiring president, Thomas Respass, presided.

A most interesting paper prepared by Mrs. Earl Davis, covering the history of Harkers Island, was read by Mrs. Nat Smith in the absence of Mrs. Davis.

In a comprehensive summary of the island's history, Mrs. Davis dealt with the early Indian life, the various ownerships and the growth of the community, which today offers its people the best in religious, educational and civic life.

Cemetery records of the county now being compiled were presented by Mrs. Essie Smith of Bogue, covering several old plots in that section. Records of the Pelletier cemetery at Mitchell Village and the Pigott cemetery on Crab Point were given by F. C. Salisbury.

During the three years the society has been functioning, much interest has been manifested by its members in searching out and presenting county history. Such material on file in the archives of the society will form a nucleus for the publishing of a county history in the near future.

Scouts Offer Training Course at Camp Lejeune

There will be a junior leaders training course for Boy Scouts Saturday at Camp Knox Trailer Recreation Center, Camp Lejeune.

Scout executive Rudolph Alexander says that all Boy Scout leaders from the county will be welcome.

A \$2 fee covers cost of a fried chicken supper, a handbook, graduation certificate, junior leaders' training patch and a drink to go with lunch. Each boy is advised to bring his own lunch.

Beaufort Church to Host Free Will Baptist Meeting

The 62nd annual session of the North Carolina Free Will Baptists will be held in the First Free Will Baptist Church, Beaufort, tomorrow and Thursday.

Conference sessions will begin at 10 a.m. tomorrow with devotional services. Presiding throughout the conference will be the Rev. D. W. Hardy, Kinston, moderator. The Rev. J. W. Alford, Morehead City, is clerk.

Ministers, delegates and visitors from the 82 churches in the conference are expected.

Dredge Loses Suction Head

Emergency dredging operations to remove shoals in the Beaufort bar came to an unexpected halt Saturday when the starboard suction head on the Army Engineers dredge Gerig tore loose.

The suction head fits on a pipe line from the dredge and picks up sand from the bottom. When the head came off it also pulled its supporting boom overboard. The boom was recovered immediately, but the suction head was still unrecovered yesterday afternoon.

Dredge captain Jarvis Midgett reported the accident to the Fort Macon Coast Guard station and Coast Guardsmen helped drag for the suction head. SK/2 Edward Privott, EN/1 Taft Pilcher and SN Aulcie Farmer worked on the job Saturday.

Yesterday two Army Engineer boats and the Coast Guard buoy tender Conifer were dragging for the lost equipment.

Mrs. D. G. Bell's Condition Improves

Mrs. D. G. Bell, 705 Bridges St., Morehead City, was reported to be getting along well yesterday in the Morehead City Hospital. Dr. W. M. Brady, her physician, said, however, that Mrs. Bell should not have visitors at present.

"Miss Madie" as she is familiarly known, was taken ill Saturday night and was in a coma when she was taken to the Morehead City Hospital by ambulance Sunday morning.

Dr. Brady said that her illness could not be diagnosed as a typical stroke. She may have suffered a cerebral spasm or had a reaction to a certain type of medication she had been using.

Mrs. Bell is the mother of Carteret's representative to the legislature, D. G. Bell.



Rufus Butner, left, and J. D. Holt, right, were two of the three new directors elected at the chamber of commerce meeting Thursday night. J. Morton Davis, the third new director, was not present. Second from left is the speaker, Carl Goerch, and next to him is W. B. Chalk, president of the chamber.

Debra Comes Home



Debra Margo Garner, 3, above, of Morehead City returned from Baltimore last week after undergoing heart surgery Sept. 6. Doctors at Johns Hopkins Hospital used a mechanical heart to keep her alive while they operated.

Before going to the hospital, Debra was unable to run and play and was taking five different kinds of medicine. Today she can run as fast and play as hard as any normal 3-year-old.

Her mother, Mrs. Caroline Garner, says that Debra weighs 40 pounds now, more than she has ever weighed.

Atlantic Water Hearing Set

H. S. Gibbs Jr., chairman of the county water committee, announces that the water hearing at Atlantic has been scheduled for 7:30 Friday night at the Atlantic School.

Two meetings were held last week, at Smyrna School Thursday and at the Merrimon Community building Friday. Eleven attended the Smyrna meeting and 10 the Merrimon meeting. R. M. Williams, committee member, showed a film on water usage at each session.

The hearings are being held throughout the county to learn what water problems face the people. A report on the findings will be made to the state board of water commissioners.

Mr. Gibbs said that the major problem thus far seems to be that roads and highways are built without sufficient consideration to drainage, thus complicating drainage problems.

The hearing at Newport is tentatively scheduled for next Monday night. The date for the hearing in Beaufort has not been set.

Tide Table

Table with 3 columns: Day, Time, Tide. Includes entries for Tuesday, Oct. 22, Wednesday, Oct. 23, Thursday, Oct. 24, and Friday, Oct. 25.

Board to Consider Bid For Newport Town Lot

Royal D. Garner's bid for the town lot at Newport will be confirmed or denied by the Newport town board at its meeting Nov. 5.

The lot was put up at auction Thursday, Oct. 10. Mr. Garner's bid of \$750 was the only one submitted. The lot is located next to Mr. Garner's grocery and was bought several years ago by the town. It was anticipated then that it would be used as a site for a new town hall.

Auctioning of the lot was conducted by George W. Ball, town attorney.

Highway Meeting

County commissioners will meet at 2:30 this afternoon in the second district highway office, New Bern, to learn of the state's policy on secondary roads. Harold Makepeace, director of the department of secondary roads, will preside.