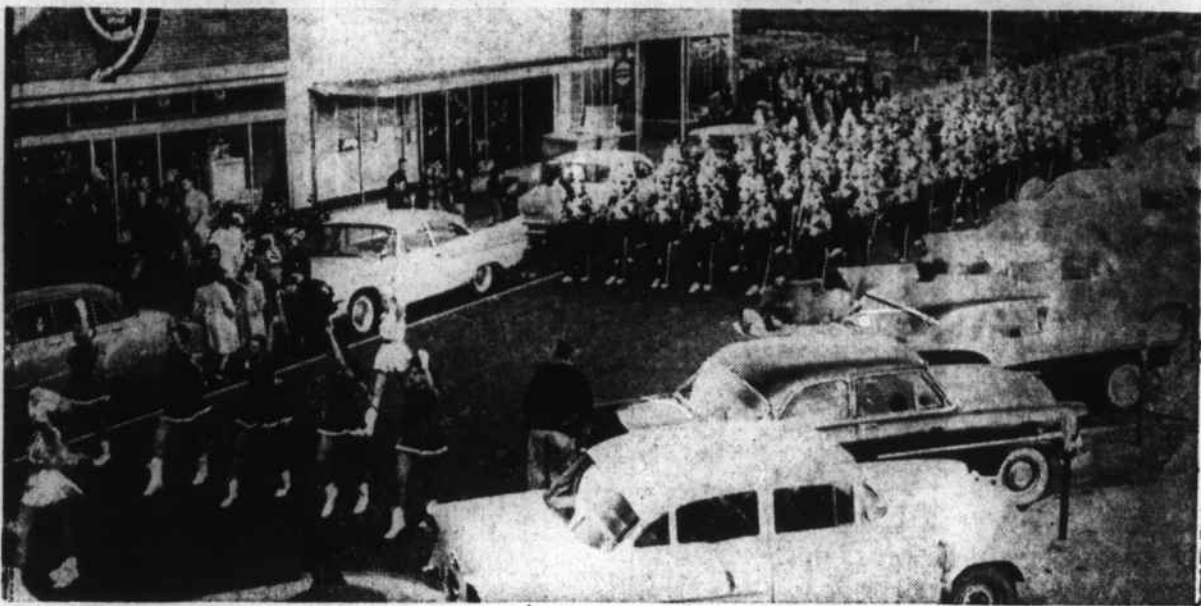


Parade Ushers in Christmas Season



Photos by Bob Seymour

The Craven County School band stepped to a lively cadence on Front Street, Beaufort, in Wednesday's Christmas parade. The band numbered more than 150 pieces and marched with precision through the crowded business district.

Fleming Tackle Shop Burns

A six thousand dollar fire destroyed the tackle shop at the Fleming fishing pier, Atlantic Beach, early yesterday morning.

Archie Fleming, owner of the pier, said that firemen woke him about 6 o'clock to tell him the shop was burning. Inside was fishing tackle, drink boxes and rest rooms.

Both the Atlantic Beach and Morehead City fire departments answered the alarm.

Bill Moore, beach police chief, said that a passing motorist probably noticed the blaze. He said that it is not known how the fire started.

Fire trucks from both departments used water from tank wagons. The pier itself and pilings under the tackle shop were saved. The fire is believed to have started about 5:30 a.m.

Mr. Fleming said that the tackle shop will be rebuilt. Construction will start after the first of the year.

Woman Found Dead in Beaufort

Annie Lee Crooms, 41, Beaufort, was found dead at about 6 o'clock yesterday morning, on the stoop by a trailer on Queen Street.

Coroner Leslie D. Springle said that death was due to overdosage in alcohol and exposure. He said there was no evidence of foul play.

The woman's body was found by Eddie (Tib) Collins, who lives near the corner of Pine and Queen Street.

The body was removed to the Barrow funeral home, Morehead City. Burial is scheduled for tomorrow. Annie Lee lived at 806 Pine St., and frequently visited one of her relatives who lived in the trailer.

Lettie's Place Burns Tuesday

Lettie's Place, formerly the Airport Grill, burned early Tuesday morning. The well-known night spot on the Morehead City-Newport highway was destroyed.

Vernon Smith, owner, had \$10,000 insurance on the building but none on the fixtures, according to his wife.

Mrs. Smith says that the place had closed at midnight and she and her husband had gone home after turning the heating system to low. She says she woke up about 1:30 a.m. to discover the building already beyond the point where firemen could save it.

Since all the telephones in the area were on the same line as the one burned in the grill, there was no way to contact a fire department, anyway, she pointed out.

Mrs. Smith says that she and her husband have not decided whether they will rebuild.

Merchandise is Taken From Drive-In Theatre

Cigars, candy and gum were stolen from the Ocean Park Drive-In Theatre concession stand between 12:30 and 5:30 p.m. Saturday afternoon.

Deputy Sheriff Bobby Bell said he was notified of the theft by Kemp Bonner, theatre manager. The thieves broke into the stand by prying the hasp off the door. The theft is under investigation.

Morehead City Delegation To Meet SPA Group Today

Joe Fulcher, Morehead City, Chosen Fire Chief

Joe Fulcher Jr. was elected chief of the Morehead City fire department Monday night. He succeeds Vernon Guthrie, who declined renomination.

Other new officers are Lindsey Guthrie, assistant chief; Nolan McCabe, captain; Edward McLawhorn, lieutenant; Dan Swindell, secretary, and John Baker, treasurer.

After officers are approved by the town board, they will begin their duties in January. Lindsey Guthrie succeeds Joe Fulcher; Daniel Lee Willis served as captain last year; Mr. McLawhorn succeeds Sammy Hughes; Mr. Swindell replaces John Pavone, who died in office; and John Baker succeeds Lindsey Guthrie, who was treasurer.

The department commended outgoing officers and the chief requested the men to give the new chief the support they gave him. George Stovall, acting secretary, in a brief talk, stressed the importance of cooperation in functioning of a successful fire department.

To show its appreciation to Chief Guthrie, the department voted to present him with a plaque as a memento of his leadership during 1957. During the chief's term of office the West End fire station was conceived, built and turned over to the town.

El Nelson was named chairman of a committee to obtain names of deceased fire department members. These names are to be placed on a plaque.

Lieutenant McLawhorn was named chairman of the fire station decorating committee. Mack Edwards was put in charge of packing Christmas boxes. Auditing committees were named and the department voted to pay Capt. Otis Dowdy, Charlotte, for his services at the county firemen's school.

Kenneth Putnam was voted in as a new member of the department. The meeting opened with a minute of silent prayer in memory of Mr. Pavone. The meeting closed with a prayer by the secretary, Mr. Swindell.

Officers Blow Up Still Yesterday

County and federal officers blew up a six-box still yesterday. The still was discovered Wednesday off Highway 70, near the river between Morehead City and Newport. It was on the old Farrow farm.

Deputy Sheriff Bobby Bell said that the six boxes were full of mash, but it looked old. As a matter of fact, a couple of dead rats were floating in one box.

A box of mash is 4 feet square. The officer said the operators probably had been planning on moving the still to a new location when it was discovered.

To Get Eagle Award

Leon K. Thomas Jr., Marshallberg, will become an Eagle Scout during ceremonies Sunday in the Marshallberg Baptist Church.

Dr. B. F. Royal, D. G. Bell and Dr. John Morris, Morehead City, will meet with the executive committee of the State Ports Authority at 10:30 this morning at Raleigh. The conference was requested by Morehead City citizens interested in placing "information on Morehead City port" before the SPA.



J. D. Holt ... victim of politics?

Dr. B. F. Royal Recalls '39 Bill

Dr. B. F. Royal, Morehead City, who has promoted the Morehead City port for years, said yesterday that legislation was passed in 1939 which would enable the Morehead City port to apply for designation as "free trade zone".

Members of the State Ports Authority have been invited to attend a meeting at Wilmington today relative to establishing such a zone at Wilmington.

The invitation was extended by representatives from Wilmington who attended the SPA meeting at Pinehurst Tuesday. The SPA, as a group, does not expect to attend the "free trade" meeting.

J. D. Holt, former Morehead City port manager, explains a free trade zone as a certain area within a port where commodities could be imported, processed, or manufactured and exported duty free.

Mr. Holt said that the New York port's free zone is Staten Island. That, he believes, is the only one on the east coast. There is also one at New Orleans.

Tide Table

Table with columns for HIGH, Friday, Dec. 6, and LOW. It lists tide times for various days of the week.

Owners of Yankee Girl Plan to Stay Here While Schooner Gets Repairs

Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Hinchman, Washington, N. J., owners of the storm-lashed schooner, Yankee Girl II, now tied up at the state port, plan to stay in Morehead City until repairs are made to the schooner.

Five other members of their party left Morehead City Tuesday for their homes in New Jersey.

The Yankee Girl was rescued by the Chilula late Saturday night about 45 miles southeast of Cape Lookout. The schooner was bound for southern waters.

Mrs. Hinchman said Tuesday that when the boat is seaworthy again, she and her husband expect to go to Florida where they will build a home.

The Hinchmans, and other members of their party, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Nord, Dr. John Powers, all of Fair Haven, N. J.; John Plenge, Belleville, N. J., and Bryce Smith, Upper Montclair, N. J., left Morehead City in the schooner Friday.

Clearance Given

The weather was fine. Mrs. Hinchman said a weather report supplied them by the Coast Guard predicted fair weather for several days.

A storm blew up, however, Friday night.

"The seas were tremendous," Mrs. Hinchman said. "Waves were 30 feet high." The wind shredded the sails and the bilge pump failed.

In a fast shuffle at Pinehurst Tuesday, the State Ports Authority 1. Fired J. D. (Jack) Holt, manager of the Morehead City port 2. Placed Morehead City's assistant port manager, Walter Friedrichs, in charge of the Morehead City port temporarily

3. Made Edward E. Lee, who was Col. R. S. Marr's assistant, acting ports director 4. Asked Colonel Marr to remain in an advisory capacity until his resignation becomes effective Dec. 31

5. Ordered transfer of the ports director's office from Wilmington to Raleigh

People Surprised When announcement of Mr. Holt's dismissal reached Morehead City Tuesday night, people, to put it mildly, were "surprised".

D. G. Bell, Carteret's legislator, said he was "very disappointed". He said that the state as a whole might view the ports authority's Tuesday action as a victory for Morehead City, in that the ports office has been moved and that Colonel Marr is no longer in office.

"But the state does not realize how important Jack Holt is to the Morehead City operation," Mr. Bell said.

Mr. Holt, who attended the SPA meeting Tuesday at Pinehurst, said his dismissal came as a "shock". He said he had no plans for the immediate future but he would hate to leave Morehead City.

John Reeves, chairman of the SPA, said that Mr. Holt's dismissal was carried out on the "advice and recommendation" of the ports officials who were ousted by Governor Hodges.

Mr. Holt has been manager of the Morehead City port since February 1952. Mr. Friedrichs came to Morehead City in 1954 and Mr. Lee joined the ports authority staff as traffic manager in 1953.

Reason Advanced The SPA claimed that Holt's dismissal was necessary to permit unbiased, objective ports operation. It has been reported that Mr. Holt and Colonel Marr did not get along. Since Colonel Marr has been dismissed, Morehead Citizens wonder how Mr. Holt's dismissal is going to make things "smoother".

They interpret Mr. Holt's dismissal as a tit-for-tat move — if Wilmington lost its colonel, somebody out of revenge was determined that Morehead City would lose its Mr. Holt.

Phillip L. Sullivan, who holds the same job in Wilmington as Mr. Holt did in Morehead City, is the only one to remain in the same spot he held before the SPA went into its checker game Tuesday.

Dr. Royal said that Morehead City is interested in learning exactly why the SPA dismissed Mr. Holt.

Mr. Bell said yesterday that Morehead City had assured the SPA last night it would cooperate with new ports officials to the

See SHUFFLE, Page 4

Beaufort Board Receives Audit Monday Night

The Beaufort town commission received copies of the results of the audit of town books by Williams and Wall, auditors, at their meeting Monday night at the town hall. The accountants checked town books through the last fiscal year, ending June 30, 1957.

At the beginning of the year, July 1, 1956, the total assets of the town amounted to \$647,044.39. At the end of the year they totaled \$591,285.27.

The drop in total assets was due to the discontinuance of hurricane funds and writing off street assessments, both in the funds receivable account.

Total liabilities at the end of the year totaled \$28,923.11. Subtracting the liabilities from the assets gave the town a net worth of \$162,362.16.

The town collected \$58,693.78 or 89.56 per cent of its potential revenue during the year. Clifton E. Smith, representative of the accounting firm, said that this percentage was in line with the percentage usually collected by other towns.

The town retired twenty-seven \$1,000 bonds at a cost of \$25,785. Town manager Dan Walker pointed out that by buying the bonds before they matured, the town had saved \$1,215.

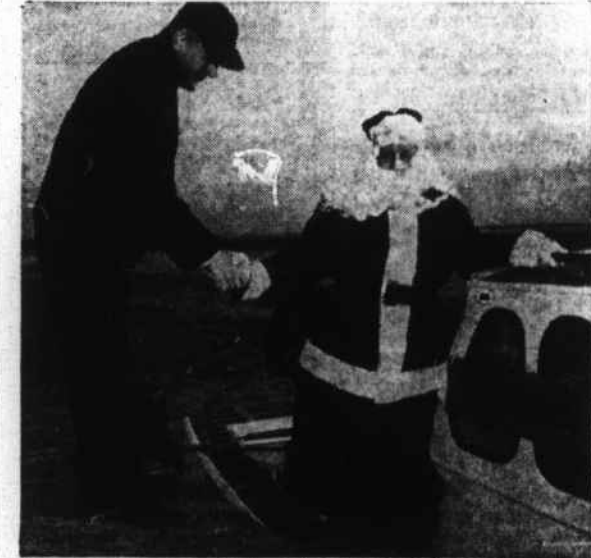
Beaufort has retired \$151,082.01 worth of bonds since July 1, 1949, when a concerted effort was begun to put the town on a businesslike basis. There are still \$361,000 worth of bonds outstanding, but Mr. Walker says they will be paid off by 1974.

Budget appropriations for the past year were \$83,044.89, while actual expenditures were \$21,041.40 more than that amount (\$104,086.29). Major items of expenditure not foreseen when the budget was drawn up were street paving and construction of the new town garage.

Cash receipts during the year came to \$108,693.84 and cash disbursements totaled \$143,855.52. The disbursements in excess of receipts totaled \$35,161.68. This was accounted for by cash on hand at the beginning of the year (\$32,912.07) and a bank overdraft of \$2,249.61.

Mr. Walker explains the overdraft as follows: "I wrote the checks knowing that money would be deposited in the bank before the checks could get back. They were written to close out accounts that should not be carried over into this year and to take advantage of discounts for early payment."

The auditors made special mention of Mr. Walker, commending him for the manner in which financial records were maintained despite the upheaval caused by instituting a new tax accounting system.



Town Commissioner William Roy Hamilton helps Santa Claus ashore. Santa arrived on the USS Mistletoe, courtesy of the U. S. Coast Guard.

Public Fails to Understand Scientist, Speaker Says

Dr. William E. Fahy of the University of North Carolina Institute of Fisheries Research spoke to the Holy Name Society of St. Egbert's Church, Morehead City, Wednesday night at the school. In his topic, What a Scientist is, Dr. Fahy discussed the significance of the launching of the satellite Sputnik, and the appraisal of America's scientific effort that this event has forced upon the American public.

The layman often confuses the identity of the scientist, engineer and technologist, Dr. Fahy said. The technologist is a specialist in the application of theoretical knowledge of industry and the industrial arts; the engineer designs, builds and uses engines and machines to convert natural products or energy into useful products for man. Most of the conveniences and glittering appliances of modern living are the immediate result of the efforts of engineers and technologists.

A scientist is devoted to the gathering of knowledge concerning phenomena, laws and their causes, and facts gained and verified through exact observation, designed experiments and correct thinking, the speaker continued.

A failure on the part of the public to realize that most new concepts, new ideas and new dreams originate with scientists doing basic research penalizes America.

"The confusion in the layman's mind concerning science and scientists is partly due to misrepresentations of science by mass communication media and partly due to scientists' failure to communicate their problems to the public," the speaker said.

Dr. Fahy emphasized the need for each citizen to learn to think correctly and independently.

Carolers Herald Morehead City Parade



Photo by Bob Seymour

A community choir under the direction of Mrs. Austin Williams, right, sang Christmas carols for a half-hour before the Morehead City Christmas parade. The choir is on the steps of the Wallace house, Eighth and Arendell Streets.