

## Tribble Urges Quick Action On Drought

United States Senator Paul Tribble has urged the Secretary of Agriculture to quickly approve a drought disaster declaration for Virginia, now that the Governor has asked for the declaration.

In a letter to Secretary Richard Lyng, Tribble said, "The drought stricken counties in Virginia are in desperate need of all available federal assistance. I would appreciate your providing assistance to Virginia's farmers as quickly as possible."

The declaration asks that 17 counties be declared disaster areas because of the prolonged drought. Without a disaster declaration from the President, through the Secretary of Agriculture, farmers in drought-stricken counties are ineligible for federal emergency loan assistance.

"Our farmers have been hard-pressed and the drought is just the latest blow. I want to make sure the federal government is in a position to respond quickly and to provide much needed relief to our farm community," Tribble said.

## Statistics Reveal Fishing Decrease

Virginia watermen harvested about 30 million pounds less during 1985 when compared to 1984. Statistics, released last week, showed a harvest of 106 million pounds of finfish and shellfish last year.

Although the figures revealed an overall decline, surf clam meats increased during the same harvesting period.

Watermen got about \$59.6 million in 1984, according to figures released by the Virginia Marine Fisheries Commission in cooperation with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission.

The statistics confirmed what the watermen had suspected—that overall, 1985 was not as good for them as 1984.

The volume and income for finfish and shellfish were down, the three agencies reported.

Totals for 1984 were about 136.6 million pounds of shellfish and finfish, valued at approximately \$59.6 million, officials said.

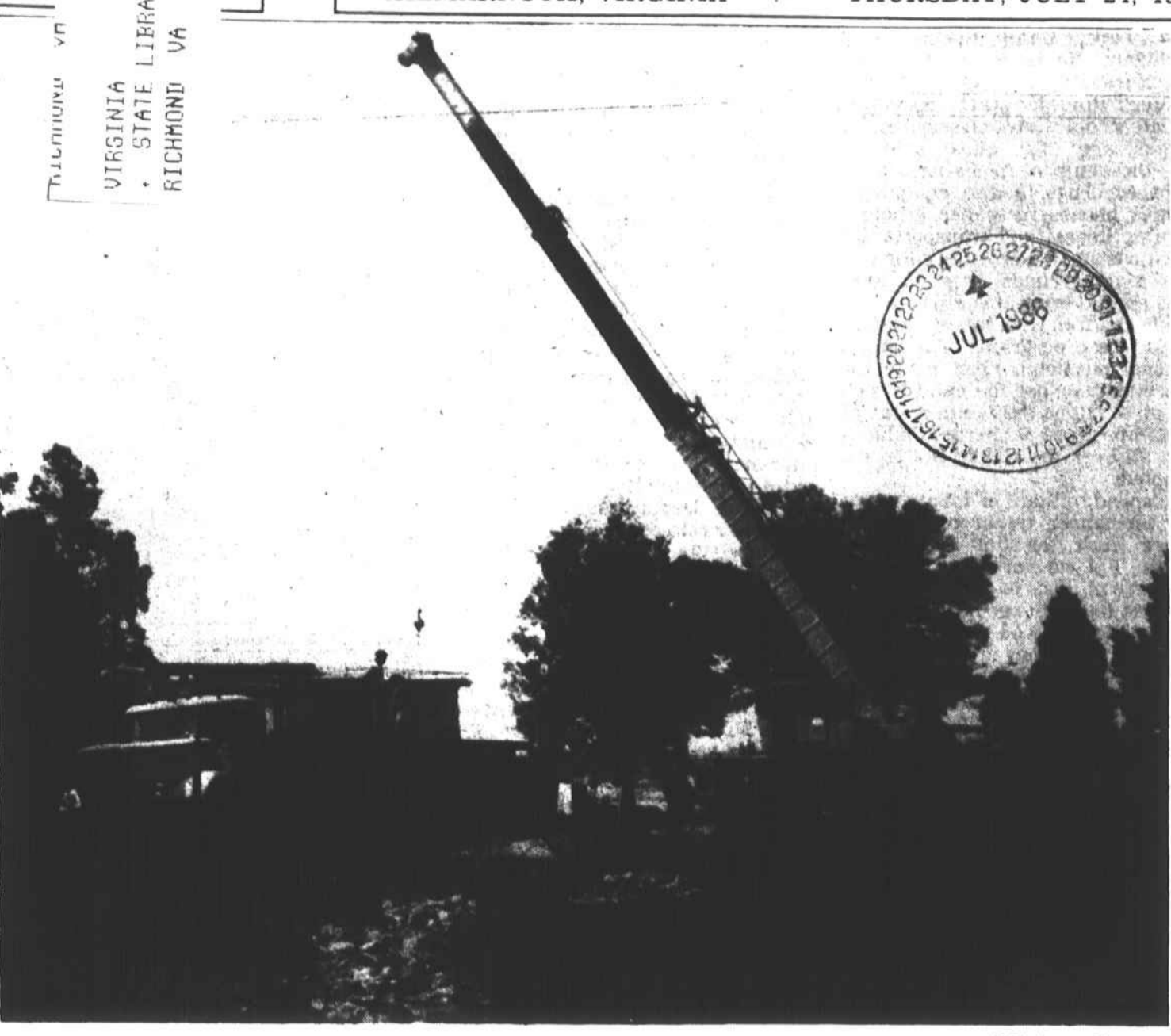
As usual the shellfish catches were more lucrative for watermen, valued at about \$40 million.

Predominant finfish catches were bluefish, croaker, flounder, menhaden netted for crab bait, sea trout and spot, the statistics showed.

Among the leading shellfish catches were sea scallops, valued at \$13.3 million; surf clam meats, \$7.40 million; and blue hard crabs, \$7.91 million. Soft and peeler crabs were worth \$1.2 million.

The statistics show 1,111,736 bushels of seed and market oysters harvested. These were valued at \$8,382,000.

However, the number of bushels of Potomac River oysters landed in Virginia was down by almost 1,300 bushels, while the value decrease was approximately \$300,000.



T. Dickenson Photo

The Northern Neck said farewell to the end of an era last week as the pilothouse of the steamboat Potomac left the shores of the Rappahannock River on her final trip to the Mariners Museum in Newport News. The pilothouse and officers' quarters had served as a summer cottage near White Stone until recent years when it fell into disrepair. The structure, the largest known relic left from the days of steamboats, was donated to the museum by owners John Robins of Virginia Beach and A. R. Douglas, Jr. of Norfolk. The museum will restore the structure and it will be on display to thousands of visitors for many years yet to come.

## Town Council Delays Grant Decision

Kilmarnock Town Council delayed making a decision Monday night on expending \$20,000 to participate in a grant from the State Water Control Board. The grant, applied for last April by Town Manager Fred Bates, at the request of council, was approved by the board at their June 23 meeting. The approval of the grant funds has come when council is faced with a revenue short fall meaning the expenditure of \$20,000 would create a hardship on the fiscal budget at this time.

Increased expenditures of \$20,000 in additional monies needed for insurance premiums as well as other unrelated and unexpected expenses have left the budget pool empty until additional revenues arrive.

Finance Committee Chairman Ken Bransford requested council's approval to borrow \$75,000 to cover the shortfall in the budget until it would again be balanced. The motion to borrow the money was approved.

In discussing the grant, which is under the Chesapeake Bay Program Initiative and involves the State providing 55 percent of the cost, \$25,000, and the Town of Kilmarnock the re-

maining 45 percent, much of the conversation centered around how long the town could wait to commit to the project. The monies would provide for repair and replacement of equipment in the town sewer collection system.

As explained by Bates, the grant is for infiltration and inflow reduction. The town has made some improvements in the recent past but more are necessary.

When Bates asked Bransford, "Can the town afford to participate?" Bransford replied, "No." Councilman Jimmy Currie immediately responded, "Can the town afford not to participate?"

Bates stated he would check with the State Water Control Board and find out how long council could wait before committing the \$20,000 to the project. Bransford noted, "Let's let it [the time] run out. Get us into about November."

In other council activity: —Fletcher Brown and Charles Dixon appeared before council in order to elicit reconsideration of the June decision not to continue to rent the parking lot in the center of town

behind Standard Products. As council became aware that the lot will provide parking for between 15 and 20 cars, instead of the 6 or 7 they originally thought, members were motivated to change their decision. Councilman Jimmy Jones was charged with negotiating with the owner for a short term lease so that parking might be provided for stores in the more crowded center of town where parking space is at a premium.

—The Bank of Lancaster and the Chesapeake National Bank were again named official depositories for town monies.

—Committee appointments for the following year were made by Mayor Edward Davis. They are: Finance Committee - Ken Bransford, Streets

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## Gifts Of \$35,000 For VIMS Research

Dr. Kenneth L. Webb, professor of Marine Science, recently announced the receipt of two gifts totaling \$35,000 to the Virginia Institute of Marine Science of the College of William and Mary for research on the effects of nutrients in the estuarine environment. The research gifts were presented by the Procter and Gamble Company and the FMC Corporation in the amounts of \$20,000 and \$15,000 respectively.

This support will supplement state and federal funding for the project and allow the research team to move ahead with this important work in an expeditious manner, according to Dr. Frank Perkins, dean/director of VIMS. Anticipated total funding for the project is over \$213,000.

"The effects of nutrients in fresh water and marine environments are well documented through research, but its effects in the estuarine environment existing between fresh water and the ocean are not well researched," Dr. Webb commented. Excessive algal growth contributes to lowered oxygen levels in deeper water through the plant's subsequent death and decomposition which requires significant amounts of oxygen from the water. If nutrients contribute to excessive algal growth in the Bay's waters they are in all probability contributing to the decline of water quality.

Spokesperson for FMC, Ms. Alyce Newberg, commented, "The research being done at VIMS will help to answer important questions raised by the guardians and managers of the Commonwealth's estuarine resources as they endeavor to develop resource management programs to preserve the vitality of the Bay and its tributaries."

Commenting on the research project for Procter and Gamble, Ms. Jacqueline Greff noted, "The Chesapeake Bay is a complex ecosystem and much research is needed to develop effective management programs. This can be accomplished through a greater knowledge of the forces and processes at work in its waters. Procter and Gamble is pleased to support the research being carried out at VIMS directed at gaining a clearer understanding of nutrient enrichment."

## Second Lankford Trial Ends In A Hung Jury

By T. Dickenson

Two trials and two hung juries later, Gary Logan Lankford awaits the decision by Commonwealth Attorney C. Jeffers Schmidt as to whether he will face yet a third trial. The decision will come Friday during term day in the Lancaster County Circuit Court.

Lankford, 30, is charged in the 10-year-old slaying of United Airlines pilot Dale Wiley Rogers, 49, and his wife Charlotte Faye Rogers, 40. The couple was killed February 27, 1976 at their home on Merry Point Road.

Lankford was arrested last year for the murders after ten years of investigation by various state and county police agents on the testimony of several fellow prisoners while he was in jail on unrelated charges. He had been a suspect throughout the years and had been interrogated "no less than five times and perhaps as many as nine times," according to his attorney Dennis W. Dohnal.

Dohnal and Murray J. Janus defended Lankford saying each time he was interviewed investigators let a little more information about the events of the murder slip. The gist of their defense was built around an interview which took place on the fifth anniversary of the murder, in 1981, while Lankford was a patient at Central State Psychiatric Hospitals' Forensic Unit in Petersburg.

Two law enforcement agents committed a "no-no," Dohnal said, when they showed the defendant photos of

the crime scene during that interview. Special Agent Bill Spence, the only living member of the interview team, said although the other officer Donald Benson, handled the interview and he, Spence, made no notes, he does not remember any photographs being shown to Lankford.

Spence said he remembered Donald Benson drawing a diagram during the interview and Lankford remained calm throughout the time they were there. He said he had not been in complete agreement with Benson to interview Lankford at Central State although he had talked with the doctor in charge and they had given permission.

Throughout all of the interviews with Lankford, Spence said, he maintained his innocence. He did offer conflicting alibis, the investigator noted, saying he had been out on the town, at home with his wife and then later at home with his niece and her friends from college.

James C. Breeden, a local attorney, testified Lankford's wife had been his secretary and had worked late, "past the midnight hour," the Friday night the Rogers were killed. He said they worked "straight through" because she was taking a new job the next week and he was leaving the next day on vacation. He remembered going out for sandwiches and bringing them back.

Lankford's niece testified she and three friends from college played cards with Lankford, his wife and a friend who stopped by until about eleven o'clock the evening of the

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## Governor Seeks U.S. Disaster Aid

Virginia Governor Gerald L. Baliles asked the federal government last week to declare several counties a natural disaster area due to the prolonged summer drought. The drought has claimed an estimated \$61.5 million worth of crops.

The entire Northern Neck has requested assistance. In Lancaster County the losses are projected at \$1.1 million while Northumberland County has a potential loss of over \$2 million.

If these areas of the state are declared drought disaster areas, the federal government will provide low-interest loans, assist in refinancing existing loans and lower-priced feed for livestock to eligible farmers.

Baliles and state agricultural officials painted a picture of disaster over almost two-thirds of the state's farmlands. Crops and pasture land are parched from the chronic lack of rain, and the officials predict "extremely low yields" in major summer crops such as corn, soybeans, tobacco and hay.

Baliles, pointing to the widespread drought and the untold suffering of the state's farmers, urged other local governing boards of supervisors to quickly pass drought disaster resolutions so the state agriculture department can confirm the need and forward the requests to him.

"It's difficult not to sense the pain felt by the farmers of Virginia," Baliles said. "Two-thirds of Virginia is suffering from extreme drought."

In his letter to U.S. Agriculture Secretary Richard E. Lyng seeking the declaration, Baliles wrote, "Our farmers need all available help from state and federal agencies. Therefore, I am requesting that you determine other actions (that the Department of Agriculture) may take to assist farmers, including livestock producers, with their hay and feed needs."

Despite the grim effects caused by the drought on most farmers, the state agriculture department said yesterday that apple and peach growers expect good harvests.



John K. O'Shaughnessy

## O'Shaughnessy Gets Promotion

Bank of Virginia has announced the promotion of John K. O'Shaughnessy to assistant vice president in Richmond.

O'Shaughnessy is assigned to the Private Banking Department where he transferred in May of 1985. He joined the bank in 1983 as a management trainee in White Stone following two and one half years' experience with the Citizens Bank and Trust Company of Maryland. In 1984, O'Shaughnessy was promoted to manager in charge of the White Stone office. He holds a B.S. degree with a major in finance from West Virginia University.

Active in the Northern Neck community, O'Shaughnessy assists with the Lancaster County Red Cross Bloodmobile and is a member of the Young Banker's Association.



Wigington Photo

The 52nd Kilmarnock Volunteer Fire Department's carnival will commence next Thursday night. All the popular booths and rides will be featured. Proceeds, as usual, will help support the firemen's efforts to fight and prevent fires in this area.

## KVFD 52nd Carnival Starts Next Week

It's carnival time again and, for the 52nd straight year, the Kilmarnock Volunteer Fire Department is prepared to give local residents nine fun filled days along the midway. Around here, this is indeed a community tradition—everyone looks forward to the KVFD Carnival.

This year's gala festivities are scheduled to begin next Thursday night. The show will then run continuously throughout August 9, except on Sunday, August 3 when all activities will be closed.

Carnival grounds, as usual, will be located off Waverly Avenue. Since the mid-1950's, this has been called home for the annual festival. Before the firemen moved their equipment to Waverly Avenue, the carnival was situated where the Safeway store now stands.

Each night the various booths and rides are expected to open around 7 p.m. and close sometime between 11 p.m. and midnight. "We never know exactly how long to stay open. That depends on the crowds," said L.P.

Schools, KVFD president. Schools and Jimmy Currie, chairman of the carnival, are expecting a big turnout this year.

Last year's events were hampered somewhat by rain, a condition that would probably be met with mixed emotion this year due to a prolonged drought causing disastrous results for area farmers. Rain caused the 1985 carnival to be extended two days.

One of the more memorable sights (Continued on page 5)



Mrs. Pat Swaffin, of Fred Swaffin Furniture Co., Inc., presents a check for \$362.00 to Gail Smith, president of the Band Booster's Club of Lancaster Schools. The check will be used to purchase two jackets and two overlays which will complete two band uniforms. At the present time they have had donations to complete five new uniforms. Anyone wishing to donate money for a uniform may contact Gail Smith at 435-3224.