



**State of North Carolina
Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission
Newsletter**

July 2008 Issue 3

Manteo to Murphy

The greatest east-west distance in North Carolina, from Manteo to Murphy, is 543 miles. Over 45 million people visit North Carolina annually and generate more than \$16.5 billion in revenue.

There are 403 ABC stores across the State of North Carolina generating approximately 700 million sales dollars for FY 07-08. From the mountains to the coast, the ABC stores serve a very important role in control and generation of revenues for the state and local economies.

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate those retiring for a job well done and some with long serving careers. Also included are photos of recent store renovations.

**Smithfield Dispensary
Johnston County, NC
Contributed by Jack Wooten**

The Smithfield Dispensary opened July 1, 1899, in a corner store in the Fuller building at the northeast corner of Market and Third streets in Smithfield, NC, following the state of North Carolina enabling legislation that allowed the town to control liquor traffic. The Smithfield Herald on July 7, 1899, noted that "it has already shown

its effects towards preserving better order on the streets at night".

J. E. Dickens was the first manager, followed by former county poorhouse keeper George S. Wilson in 1901. Kenly, Selma, Clayton, and Pine Level also opened dispensaries during this time. It is thought that the Smithfield Dispensary closed by 1902 as prohibition forces gained further strength.

In 1908 Johnston County gained the distinction of "Banner Whiskey County" when its voters led the entire state in opposing statewide prohibition. Despite that opposition, the measure passed, keeping law enforcement officials in a constant battle with alcohol producers, bootleggers, and consumers until prohibition ended in 1933.

Franklin ABC - *New location*



Franklin ABC - New location



Ray Hemphill Craven County ABC 20 years - Retired



Out of high school, I had neither plans nor any idea of a career so I joined the Navy. After the Navy, college became more of a priority. I moved to Las Vegas

where I had relatives, a summer job, and UNLV. During all of this I thought it would be exciting and adventurous to be a policeman, so I joined the Las Vegas Police Dept. (now LV Metro PD), where I was working when I met and married Jean Hargett, a teacher at Western High School. In 1968, after seven years and one son, we moved to her home in New Bern, North Carolina.

I joined the family farm supply business for seven years and then decided to buy a locksmith business, which I ran for fifteen years. I assisted in the organization of a volunteer fire department in 1975, was a board member, past president, and am still an active member. I learned to fly and was a mission pilot for the Civil Air Patrol for 29 years. I am still active as Deputy Squadron Commander for Seniors in the local area Cadet squadron based at Cherry Point Marine Air Station, Havelock, N.C.

I have enjoyed amateur radio communication as an extra class 'ham' operator since 1985, and participate in the volunteer examiner program. Currently I am secretary and past president of the local amateur radio club.

In 1988, I was asked to apply for a job that (I freely admitted) I knew nothing about. A friend of mine said he was thinking about retiring and wondered if I would be interested in going to work for the Craven County ABC Board as the General Manager; I have a history of not turning down a chance to be in charge. I have enjoyed this position for nearly twenty years, mostly because of the many different levels of really great people that are involved in this business.

I have learned much and made many friends. I am especially appreciative of Bill Hester, Mike Herring, Guy Potts and Joe Wall, for being my mentors. Also, I learned a great deal from Bill Hines, Billy Williams, Tommy Fisher, Billy Little, and my right hand, Mrs. Donna Rouse, who has been appointed as the new General Manager, effective July 1, 2008.

My thanks and appreciation to all of you in the North Carolina Association of ABC Boards, the NC ABC Commission, those of the beverage alcohol industry, and last but not least, our people of the Craven County ABC Board -- you have 'made my day!' Ray Hemphill

Ray was with the Las Vegas Police force from 1965 to 1968 before moving to New Bern. The following is a photo of Ray with his badge and mementos.



Craven County ABC opened in 1935. Annual sales are approximately \$6.6 million.

First settled by Swiss and Germans, New Bern was named after the capital of Switzerland, Bern. Pepsi was first made in the town in the 1890's by pharmacist Caleb Bradham.

Will Watkins
Onslow County ABC
32 years - Retired



Will has worked in three different ABC boards during his ABC career which began in 1976 at the Louisburg ABC store. Louisburg was the first town in North Carolina to approve mixed beverage sales.

Will was one of the first managers to utilize new concepts such as shelf-management and point-of-sale materials in his store. His retail experience came from his earlier employment with Roses Department stores. He carried these experiences with him to New Hanover County ABC in 1997 and to Onslow County ABC in 2000.

While at Onslow County, he was the first manager in the state to sell to mixed beverage permittees from all store locations with no restrictions on the day of the week the product was available to them. His operation realized a significant increase in sales due to this new procedure.

Onslow County ABC opened in 1935. Annual sales are approximately \$10 million.

Onslow County is home to Camp Lejeune, Camp Johnson, Camp Geiger, and New River Air Station.

Bobby King
Murphy ABC
32 years – Semi-retired

Bobby began his working career in 1962 in the heavy equipment business working on roads, bridges, and buildings. These duties took him into the states of Georgia, Tennessee, and South Carolina. He eventually came back to Murphy where he opened his own equipment business.

After selling his business, he began working at the ABC store in September 1980 stocking shelves on weekends. This eventually led to stocking shelves throughout the week. Jerry Hatchet was manager at the time.

Bobby became Manager of the ABC store in 1993 and retired in 2007. He is continuing on a part-time basis.



Exterior renovations are planned later in the year and Bobby will be overseeing the project.

Murphy ABC opened in December 1979. Annual sales are approximately \$3.5 million.

Murphy is home to the first Church of God of Prophecy, a church now having more than 300,000 members in 86 countries. Nearby is “Fields Of The Wood Bible Park.”

Fields Scarborough
Dare County ABC (Manteo)
30 years – and counting



My first convention was March of 1984 in Pinehurst, NC. I packed for the trip thinking that I would drive up to some motel, go inside and register, drive to the front of my room and unload. It didn't quite work out like that but the bellhop saved me from embarrassment. When I drove to the entrance, the grounds looked as though the lawn had been cut with nail clippers. As I neared the entrance to the Hotel, there were three vehicles ahead of me. They were all large, expensive sedans. I was in a small pickup. I looked at the people at the entrance way and thought they were all going to church by the way they were all

dressed. Right then, dressed in jeans and a white shirt, I thought I needed to back right out of there. Too late! A bellhop appeared. He offered to assist me with my luggage and I told him that I could do it myself. He insisted and after looking in the bed of my pickup, seeing nothing, he opened my passenger door. Oh.....did I forget to tell you how I packed? I didn't own a suitcase or a garment bag. I was twenty six. I had my suit and casual dress attire hanging between the bench seat and the back of the cab. So that nothing would get dirty, I had covered the clothing with a green trash bag. I had cut a hole in the top to expose the hanger hooks. On the passenger floor board was a brown paper grocery bag. That's right!...my suitcase. I had my underwear, socks, belts, shampoo, tooth brush, extra shoes, etc. packed in it. He loaded it onto the dolly and said would that be all? I said you can go ahead and laugh if you want. He said no sir, with a smile. I then asked if there was any way to get that in without going in front of all those people. By then there were liquor reps, brokers, and industry members shaking hands with all they knew. He said yes sir. I'll go around back and meet you at the elevator after you check in. I entered the lobby, after shaking several hands and being introduced to many new faces, and checked in. With everyone around, I was trying to slide away and get to the elevator without notice. When I got to the elevator the bellhop was there without the dolly. I looked at him and he smiled and said the dolly was outside and asked what my room number was. I told him and he said that he would wait about fifteen minutes and bring it to me. He did. And he also had it covered with a sheet or table cloth. I thanked him very much and a twenty dollar bill was the

smallest I had so I put it in his hand. He looked at it and smiled, extended his hand to shake mine. At the same time he put the twenty in my shirt pocket, said no thanks, winked and said, go buy yourself a suitcase. During the rest of the visit I saw him several different times. Each time as he passed he would say, Good morning or good afternoon Mr. Scarborough, with a nod and a smile.

I am a Manteo High School graduate; attended Wayne Community College in Goldsboro studying Fish and Wildlife; transferred to Pitt Tech (Pitt Community College) in Greenville; graduated May 1977 with a degree in Commercial Art and Graphic Design.

I began a sign business right out of college. There was very little to no business that fall and winter and I moved in with my parents. My parents told me that I needed to find another job and sent me out to apply at various places. No one was hiring. My mother said, "Did you try the liquor store?" I said, "No." She said, "Well get on over there, ya gotta do something." This was in mid November, they weren't hiring but I put in my application. At 9:00 am on April 15, 1978 my mother said I had gotten a call from the man at the Nags Head liquor store. I answered the phone and Mr. Guy Hayman, Supervisor, asked, 'Was I still interested in working with them?' The sign business had gotten pretty busy but, with my mother standing over my shoulder I said, "Yes Sir, when would you want me to start?" He replied, "Could you be here at 1:00 pm." I said, "Yes Sir" and arrived promptly early (12:45 pm). Mr. Hayman introduced me to the store manager, Mr. Lionel Shannon, and he put me to work.

At 5:00 pm everyone was leaving. Mr. Shannon said we'll see you tomorrow afternoon. I laughed and said, "Sure." Mr. Shannon being the last to go, I looked up from the register and said, "You're not really leaving me here by myself, are you?" "What if something goes wrong?" He replied, "Hell son." "If something goes wrong call me." "I'm in the book." "And I won't be to bed til' after you close." "See you tomorrow!" That was how I got my start, 30 years ago.

Two years later I was appointed assistant manager and the following year, manager (the Board created the assistant supervisor position and placed Mr. Shannon in that position). The next year Mr. Shannon retired and I was chosen to take his place. The following year, March 1, 1983 (six days before my 27th birthday), I was appointed supervisor, Mr. Hayman having retired the day before.

There were three stores (two counter and one self-serve) and no LBD when I began. The first two sales to LBD were on October 6, 1980. One licensee flew to Raleigh and the other drove. They arrived at the Nags Head store just before 5:00 pm. It was Mr. Shannon's birthday. He just looked up over his glasses and said, "Damn." He told them to get just what they needed for the night and they could come back and get more in the morning. They started to fill up cart after cart, depleting our shelves, until Mr. Shannon shouted, "There ain't that many dern drunks around here!" "Get what the hell you got and bring it on up here so we can stamp the dern bottles and get home." "It's my birthday and I got to go eat some cake!" I have added two more stores to

our system. The past two years have been busy relocating and building two new stores and remodeling another.

Dare County ABC opened in 1937. Annual sales are approximately \$12 million.

Dare County is home to two popular lighthouses: the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse and the Bodie Island Lighthouse. There is also a beacon atop the Wright Brothers Memorial.

Carteret County ABC Cape Carteret ABC Store - New



John Henry Groce
Wilkesboro ABC
42 years - Retiring



John recalls when half gallons first came out in plastic bottles. A customer had just purchased a plastic bottle and was talking to another customer in the other line about the new bottle container and banged the bottom corner on the counter. The bottle broke and, of course, the contents went everywhere.

John has worked under three managers during his ABC store career and has been manager since 2002. He was hired on a part time basis in 1966 and became a full time employee in 1967. Managers during this time were Jim Whittington, Jim McNeill and N.C. Huffman.

Mr. Ray Stroud served as the first ABC board chairman for many years. He also assisted with getting the ABC store vote in Wilkesboro, bought the land, and designed the store. He was a great inspiration to John as well as all who came in contact with him.

John has a wife, son and daughter and has been a member of the Wilkesboro Methodist Church for 55 years. He will be retiring October 1, 2008.

He would like to thank Ray, Jim, N.C, Bill, Al, Ricky and Randy for making his a blessed job.

Wilkesboro ABC opened in 1965. Annual sales are approximately \$1.4 million.

In 1988, legendary guitar player Doc Watson joined with singer Bill Young to start the MerleFest music festival in Wilkesboro. Named in honor of Doc's late son Merle Watson, MerleFest has grown into the largest folk and bluegrass music festival in the United States.

Buster Taylor
Beaufort County ABC
13 Years

Mr. George William "Buster" Taylor, Jr., passed away July 6th, 2008 after a period of declining health.



George was born on February 12, 1929 in Washington, NC. He was given the nickname "Buster" because he resembled "Buster Brown" of children's shoe fame.

He attended the local schools, playing basketball and football at Washington High School and serving as senior class president. After graduation, Buster went to UNC-Chapel Hill, where he became a die-hard Tar Heel fan.

Buster worked at Edinburg Furniture Company – Johnson Carper - Singer Furniture Company for 37 years as office manager and purchasing agent. When he retired, three full time people replaced him. He then spent 13 years as the manager of the Beaufort County ABC Stores. Buster loved Washington and Beaufort County and gave much time to the JayCees and Chamber of Commerce as a young man.

He was an associate member of the Herring Club and past president and member of the Down East Seniors Club. He was a charter member of the Monday Night Poker Club for over 40 years. He was active in the First United Methodist Church and served as secretary of the Administrative Board and church Council for 43 years.

Statesville ABC *New Store*



Warehouse Case Shelving

Siler City ABC *Renovation*

