

Harkers Island Boat Races Draw Record Fourth Crowd

→ **Thirty-five hundred persons** saw two official races and a couple unofficial ones Tuesday afternoon at Harkers Island. The races drew the largest crowd ever seen on the island.

Winners of the races were George Britt, Morehead City, and Edward Hyde Willis, Harkers Island. Willis received \$50 and Britt \$35.

Coming in second to Britt in the outboard race was Louis C. Willis, Harkers Island, who won \$20. Willis, the judges said, had the faster boat, but was disqualified on two counts. He jumped the starting line and missed one of the buoys on the course. He turned to round the buoy but when he saw his competitor closing in on him, turned his boat and gunned her toward the finish line.

In the race among inboards, won by Edward Hyde Willis, Gene Willis, Harkers Island, came in second and Bill Guthrie, Harkers Island, third. Gene Willis won second money of \$35. Also in the race was Fred Sutton, Kinston, in his sleek Sk-17, the Lorelei, but it wasn't his day.

His boat broke down on the first lap of the two-mile course. But he reportedly said later that he "didn't have anything to run with those boats." His was a four-carburetor job with a 300 hp Chrysler engine.

The course was laid out at Shell Point at the east end of the island. Judges were Gray Hassell, Beaufort; Edgar Hibbs, Newport; Jack Davis, Harkers Island; and Miss Ruth Peeling, Morehead City. Walter Phillips, Beaufort, was starter.

Edwin Paylor, commodore of the Harkers Island Motorboat club, said races are being planned for Labor Day.

He added that the course will be shortened for the Labor Day races to enable spectators ashore to see more. The commodore also apologized for the fact that the public address system, borrowed for the occasion, did not work.

The starter and two judges were aboard the Captain Vick, party-boat operated by Capt. Clark Davis. Other judges were in outboards at either end of the course to check on whether the racers rounded all the buoys.

Some, when they saw they were losing, had a tendency to shorten the course by running where they wanted to! But that meant disqualification.

Starters in the inboard race were waved off with the red flag once because of the ragged start. The second start wasn't perfect either, but it appeared to the judges that the race wouldn't get started until nightfall if they kept sending them back for new starts.

Several of the fastest boats expected to be in the races broke down in the morning on trial runs. Freddy Willis lost a wheel and shaft before the races ever started. The moral to this is: "If you've got a fast boat, let it alone. Trying to soup her up a couple hours before the race means shell back