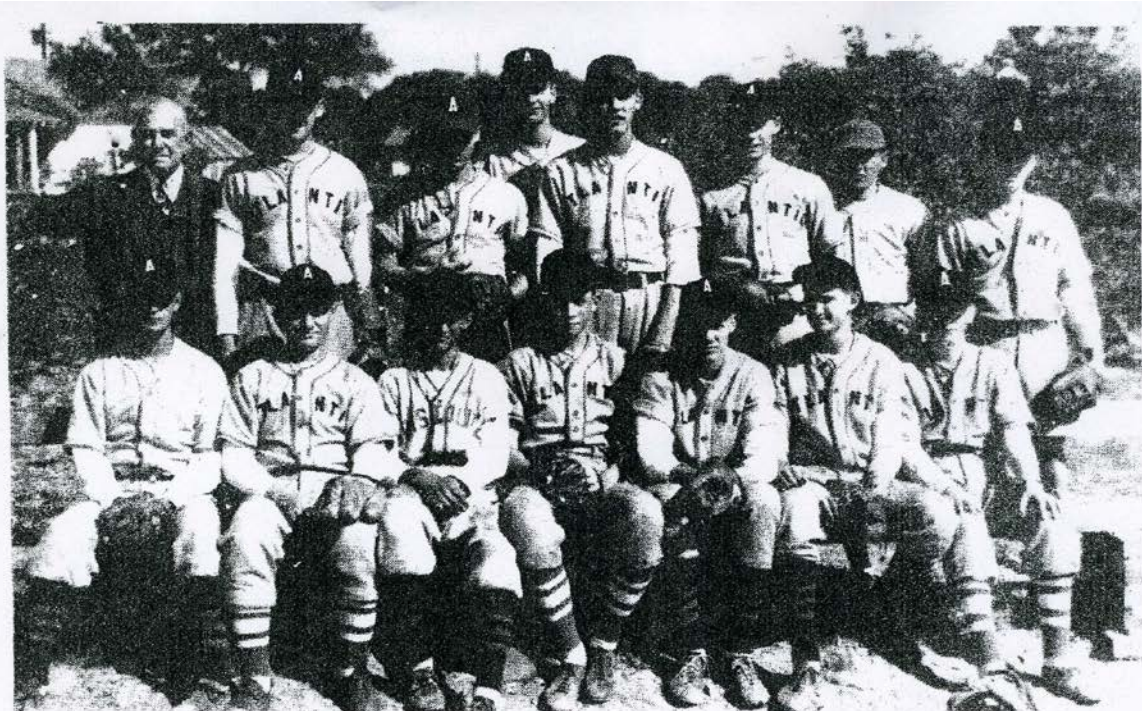


#60 1949 Atlantic HS Champion Team Picture



Gary Morris of Atlantic supplied this picture of the 1949 Atlantic High School baseball team. In the upper left corner is Moose Tenny, who is described on the back of the picture as "the best coach we ever had." From left to right are (back row) Jack

Lewis, Jack Rose, Ronald Moore, John Caswell, Roscoe Salter, Abbot Nelson and Rodney Smith. In the front row, left to right, are Donald Fulcher, Larry Pittman, Garland Fulcher, Roy Hilton, Gary Morris, Milton Smith and Julian Willis.

Gary Morris

Top athlete remembered

By SARAH BEHRER
News-Times Staff Writer

"JUST IMAGINE Gary Morris missing a hook shot." That is the challenge issued in a special column about the Atlantic High School seniors of 1952 in their yearbook *The Pirate*.

Clearly, no one could imagine it.

BACK THEN in the halls of Atlantic High School, Mr. Morris, who now lives in Atlantic, earned the nickname "Hook" because of that "unstoppable" shot.

Hook and his basketball teammates Jerry Nelson, Buddy Willis, Julian Willis, William Salter, Frank Gillikin, Thomas Salter, Don Willis and John Smith played a 14-game schedule against all the local teams.

JACK JOHNSON, who coached the Atlantic High School basketball team the year that Morris was a senior, now teaches at East Carteret High School.

"Beaufort and Morehead City were always our toughest competition, especially Beaufort with Tom McQuaid as coach. But we had a great team that year!" Mr. Johnson said.

MR. MORRIS, who also played baseball for Atlantic High School, has a collection of sports mementos from Atlantic in the early 1950s which includes a trophy he won for being the "best athlete in the county" in 1952.

Don Femia, owner of Dom's Lunch in Morehead City gave the trophy annually. Mr. Femia was also the originator of the Mullet Bucket trophy for which East Carteret and West Carteret football teams compete every September.

AFTER high school, Mr. Morris accepted an offer to play basketball and baseball for Louisburg College, but after college he turned down a professional basketball contract which would have taken him to Florida.

"I didn't want to leave Carteret County!" he said. So he returned to Atlantic where he continued to play baseball in the county men's league, and met his wife Jeanette.

Mr. Morris' youngest son Garland, a 5-0 fourth grader at Atlantic School has taken up his fathers' interests and is playing on little league baseball and practicing for junior high basketball.