



AND HERALD

15th Year Devoted to Interest of Princess Anne and Somerset County

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Unworthy

is own initiative as a represen-
tative of Maryland and "not at
anyone", States Attorney Pren-
dred the arrest of Rives Skinker
lisher of a political sheet here,
of malicious slander of J. Mil-
the June 3 issue of the Somer-

Attorney's action has the
of many people here. Matt-
o years that he has edited and
per in Princess Anne, has viol-
y every ethic of the newspap-
s exceeded the bounds of good
sed every opportunity to smear
s of many of the county's best
s printed as truth, without the
rmation, ordinary street gossip
e chatter.

occasion that he has express-
orally on any subject, petty or
unjust, he has exceeded the
cy. The issue is nearly always
smear attack upon some per-
he attack is always more vio-
leed warrants.

und the distinguished office of
lisher of a country weekly,
proven himself unworthy of
newspaper field had a regula-
ar to the lawyers' Bar Associa-
rs' Medical Association, or the
office, Matthews, in our opinion,
n expelled from the high posi-
ng ago.

Placed Under \$2500 Bond



RIVES SKINKER MATTHEWS
Editor of Somerset News

RATION BOARD EXONORATES TAWES MONDAY

Thursday's Morning Sun
contains a statement by Leo
McCormick, State OPA head,
said that the entire Tawes'
case would be reviewed in
Baltimore at a public hearing
on Monday, June 14.

State Comptroller J. Millard
Tawes was cleared Monday of all
charges of violating the Office of
Price Administration's ban on
pleasure driving in connection
with his trip in a state-owned
vehicle to his son's wedding at

MATTHEWS ARRESTED FOR LIBEL

Rives Skinker Matthews, editor
and publisher of the Somerset
News, here, was arrested Tues-
day and placed under \$2,500.00
bond on a charge of criminally
libeling State Comptroller J. Mil-
lard Tawes in the June 3 issue
of his newspaper.

States Attorney Prentiss W.
Evans brought the charges against
Matthews after Tawes had been
exonerated of a charge of plea-
sure driving.

Evans said that he had been
observing the Princess Anne pap-
er for some time and commented
that he took the action as a rep-
resentative of Maryland and "not
at anyone's request.

The State's Attorney also said
he planned to ask Attorney Gen-
eral William C. Walsh to assist
in the case.

Matthews was arrested in Prin-
cess Anne by Sheriff Murray
Ward and a State Trooper and
was carried to Crisfield for post-
ing bond before Trial Magistrate
Fred N. Holland, who fixed June
14 as the date for the prelimin-
ary hearing.

Matthews described his arrest
as "an assault upon the freedom
of the press" and charged that
he was a victim of "political
persecution."

He charged that his arrest was
inspired by "Mr. Tawes' political
friends in Crisfield."

"The motive is to put me out
of business because I . . . dare
oppose or question Tawes.

Mr. Matthews declared he will

unkfully, there are many men of
in the newspaper game today, but
they exist, they are a constant
of the freedom of the press.

er defiling the mantle he wears, he
ks to hide behind it. After scorning his
on, he now seeks its protection. Like
man-American Bund demanding their
tional rights, while seeking to under-
ose same rights, Matthews now cries
arrest is "an assault upon the free-
the press."

persecuting many of our citizens be-
ood taste or reason, he now shouts he
im of "political persecution."

ether he is guilty of the charge of
l libel placed against him is a matter
Court to decide; but of the charge that
worthy of the high position an editor
hold in the community, he has been
public opinion . . . and found guilty.

Questions

orial concerning the
o Georgia to witness
riage, the Baltimore
few questions .

questions that the
the following para-

law has now been
ives Matthews, the
iginally brought Mr.
to the public's at-
was it necessary for
eriff and a State
arrest Mr. Matthews
arge? Why was he
use the telephone
hauled off to jail?
hority is a State
his question is for
(and the Governor)
a procedure?"

like to help our
e editorial staff of
e Evening Sun.

as not sicked upon
s. Prentiss W. Evans
ment to the press
took the action
ews as a represent-
State of Maryland
anyones request."

s said that he had
g the Somerset News
e. Anyone who has
ged privilege of ob-
ews' paper, knows
vans meant, and we
prompted his action.

Mr. Evans' said he took the
action at no one's request. Mr.
Evans word in this part of Mary-
land is a shade better than Mr.
Matthews.

As the Salisbury Times so ably
pointed out in their editorial on
the same subject:

"Mr. Matthews' was quite with-
in his rights in reporting Mr.
Tawes' Georgia jaunt as a sus-
pected violation of the pleasure
driving ban. It was the methods
he followed, the words he choose
to express his protest at Mr.
Tawes' trip that have been ques-
tioned by State's Attorney Prentiss
Evans in filing suit for libel."

Have you read the issue of
the Somerset News of June 3rd,
or have you read any of the many
previous issues of this sheet,
wherein Mr. Matthews indulges
in one of his typical smear at-
tacks. If the choice of words are
not slanderous than they border
close to the line.

The question of the necessity
of the Sheriff and a State police-
man making the arrest, can be
answered by saying that Mr.
Ward was justified in carrying
as many men with him as he
thought was necessary to make
the arrest.

If Mr. Matthews was prohib-
ited from using the telephone, how
do you account for the fact that
he was able to contact his at-
See "QUESTIONS" page 8

Camp Wheeler, Ga.
Following a public hearing on
Monday night on the charges,
the Crisfield War Price and
Rationing Board exonerated Mr.
Tawes after deliberating 12 min-
utes.

The charges of violating the
pleasure banning drive were lodg-
ed by Rives Skinker Matthews,
publisher of the Somerset News,
whose political sheet is opposed
to the O'Connor-Tawes adminis-
tration. Matthews devoted prac-
tically all of his weekly to an
attack on Tawes last week.

The hearing was held by the
three members of the board:
John S. Holland, chairman, Honiss
A. Tull and Edward A. Milbourne,
associate members

In his statement before the
board, Tawes declared that, on
learning of the ban on pleasure
driving, he called the chief clerk
of the Crisfield board for details.

"I was advised that the ban
was not in effect in North Caro-
lina and Georgia," Tawes told
the board. "I drove to this dis-
trict before purchasing any gaso-
line. Before crossing the North
Carolina border into the banned
area on the return trip home, I
had the tank filled and had prac-
tically the same amount of gaso-
line in my tank when I got back
here as when I left."

The board's opinion said. It
was shown that because of the
lack of transportation facilities
available it would have been nec-
essary to drive to the southern
limit of the ban to obtain the
necessary transportation facilities
to enable Mr. Tawes to reach his
destination in time.

"And, whereas attending wed-
dingn is one of the permitted
uses enumerated under the emer-
gency ban, provided no adequate
means of transportation is avail-
able, it is the unanimous decision
of the board that Mr. Tawes is
not guilty of the charge prefer-
red and the case is dismissed.

The local board said they had
not been officially informed of
the ban on pleasure driving until
the evening of May 22, the day
before Tawes was said to have
started on his trip.

The ban was announced on the
evening of May 19.

Mr. Holland said that the
charges heard Monday were those
sent the Crisfield board by the
Baltimore OPA office and dealt
only with alleged violation of the
pleasure driving ban.

The charge that Mr. Tawes
was using occupational Gas or
"C" coupons will be tried by the
State OPA in Baltimore.

Little Miss Bonnie Lynn Carey
was confined to her home last
week due to measles.

"keep yelling for justice, even if
I have to go to jail."

"I object to the manner of my
arrest. I was sitting behind my
linotype machine trying to get
out my little one-horse weekly
when in walked the Sheriff of
Somerset county and a State
trooper.

"They said they had orders to
take me to Crisfield and that I
could use the telephone after I
reached there. But I grabbed the
telephone before they could stop
me and put in a call for my
lawyer and the Associated Press.

"The calls were completed by
my wife. The Sheriff said the
State's Attorney had said I could
make no telephone calls until I
was brought before the magis-
trate at Crisfield.

"However, my lawyer, Edgar
A. Jones, appeared in my office
a few minutes later and talked to
the Sheriff and State trooper and
they agreed to let me get a
bondsman."

Mr. Matthews said his next step
was to place a call for The Even-
ing Sun in Baltimore, but that
"the Sheriff instructed the opera-
tor to cancel the call."

He said that Mr. C. Edwin
Hayman signed his bond for
\$2,500.00.

It was charged that Matthews
has published material bordering
on libel throughout his two years
as editor of the Somerset News
and that the June 3 issue over-
stepped the "bounds of decency."

The warrant was issued "upon
information an oath of Prentiss
W. Evans, who charges Rives
Matthews with having on the 3rd
day of June, 1943 at Somerset
County aforesaid, unlawfully,
falsely, and maliciously did com-
pose, print, and publish, and cause
and procure to be composed, prin-
ted and published, a certain
false, scandalous, malicious, and
defamatory libel, of and concern-
ing J. Millard Tawes, Comptroller
of the State of Maryland contain-
ing therein among other things
certain false, scandalous, mali-
cious, and defamatory words and
matter of and concerning the said
J. Millard Tawes. All in contempt
of the State of Maryland and its
laws and the evil example of all
others in like case offending,
and against the peace, government
and dignity of the State of
Maryland."

—V—

Henry F. Lankford, son of Dr.
H. M. Lanford, this week re-
ceived a check as an established
prize of the Class of 1896 for
the most outstanding scholar in
Latin of the Haverford College in
Pennsylvania. Young Lankford is
spending a short vacation with
his father in Princess Anne be-
tween school terms: