

Dredge Playa Sinks While Being Towed Along N. C. Coast

24 MEN ARE RESCUED

Cause of Disaster to Recently Overhauled Vessel Not Learned

LEFT HERE WEDNESDAY

Was En Route, in Tow, to Morehead City to Take Up Dredging Work

The 800-ton dredge, Playa, sank suddenly about 25 miles northeast of Frying Pan Shoals off the North Carolina coast yesterday morning while en route from here to Morehead City in tow of the tug, Barrenfolk, of Charleston, officials of the Stone Towing company here said last night.

Twenty-four men aboard the dredge were rescued by the crew of the tug. No reason had been given for the sudden sinking of the dredge late last night.

The craft originally was the property of the now defunct Waldeck-Deal company of Miami, Fla. It was sold at auction here to the Atlantic, Gulf and Pacific company, of New York, January 13, for \$31,000. It was placed in dry dock immediately after the purchase and \$15,000 worth of repair work done on it.

Reason Not Learned.

C. L. McLeod, an official of the Atlantic, Gulf and Pacific company now in Wilmington, said last night that he could give no reason for the dredge's sinking as it was supposed to have been thoroughly gone over while in dry dock here.

Of the 24 men aboard the Playa, Mr. McLeod reported that about 20 of them were Wilmington men. He said the captain of the dredge reported all safe and no serious injuries. No list of the crew could be secured last night.

The Playa was to have been used in dredging Morehead City harbor. Officials of the A. G. and P. company last night did not inform Mr. McLeod as to what will be done about replacing the dredge although they said in a long distance telephone call that its replacement would be considered at a meeting today.

The Barrenfolk, a heavy sea-going tug, was to have brought the Henry Bacon, government dredge, here for work on the inland waterway or the Cape Fear river.

The captain of the dredge informed Mr. McLeod that at the time of the sinking only a moderately heavy sea was rolling, not heavy enough to endanger the dredge.