

THE STATE PORT PILOT Southport, N. C.

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY

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Entered as second-class matter April 29, 1928, at the Post Office at Southport, N. C., under the act of March 3, 1879.

Subscription Rates ONE YEAR \$1.50 SIX MONTHS 1.00 THREE MONTHS .75

NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION 1941 Active Member

Wednesday, July 9, 1941

A vow to take nothing off of anybody may be honesty or pseudo-bravery.

Funny thing, but when you roast your neighbor over the coals, he isn't the one who gets burned.

If you think your job is hard, what about that of the radio news commentators since the Russians got in the war.

Some columnists can't spell—what's more apparently can't smell either.

About Bankruptcy

The following appeared in the "Under the Dome" column in The News and Observer on the morning of July 4, and gives an unbiased opinion of a local situation about which a lot of half-truths have been told in recent weeks:

The Federal bankruptcy suit of Brunswick County, scheduled for hearing in Elizabeth City August 12, is not as bad as it sounds, according to State Treasurer, Charles M. Johnston, head of the Local Government Commission. There was a time when Brunswick, with a total taxable property valuation of little over \$6,000,000 owed \$2,155,000 in outstanding bonds and interest.

The Local Government Commission recognized the bankrupt state of the county, got creditors together and agreed to exchange old bonds for new ones of longer maturity and lower interest. The county levied a \$1 debt retirement tax, 40 cents of which met interest payments and the remainder established a sinking fund for buying in bonds.

Cooperative creditors exchanged old bonds, some bearing 6 per cent. interest, for new ones bearing 1 to 4 per cent. interest, and \$1,819,000 of the total debt was thus extended. Trouble arose when the Catholic Order of Foresters and the Women's Catholic Order of Foresters declined to exchange their bonds and obtained judgments.

Believing in the policy of all creditors sharing alike, the Local Government Commission advised the pending suit which, if successful, will provide for the two defendants to make the same exchange as other bondholders. Federal bankruptcy laws permit the use of such pressure upon recalcitrant creditors where two-thirds of them have agreed upon the refunding policy.

In fact, Brunswick is further from bankruptcy than it has been since the refunding began. Many creditors are selling for 40 cents on the dollar and getting paid from the growing sinking fund.

In Prospect

We wouldn't be surprised if the development of Southport as a place of residence for Camp Davis officers dates from July 4, 1941, for conspicuous among the holiday visitors here were officers and their ladies from that post.

As a matter of fact, the ice already has been broken. Last week a local lady rented her vacant house to a man who is a chaplain at Camp Davis, and it is almost a certainty that others will follow on his account.

There's nothing more logical than that Southport will become the home of many of these men as soon as this community has been discovered. The fact that we are situated some sixty-odd miles from the camp is no serious obstacle, for most of the men are able to be away from their duties rarely except on week-ends.

That leads squarely to a comparison of living conditions in quiet, peaceful and unrowded Southport with those of a Wilmington that is suffering acute growing pains. We think that all we need do is get our people to provide furnished accommodations for the officers and their families, and we'll soon have many of them for our permanent residents.

Germany And Russia

As one news commentator put it, Stalin is the last and most impressive example

of the utter folly of trying to appease the one-time Viennese house painter who has become master of a continent. The Russians, obviously afraid, did everything in their power to mollify the Nazis. They signed a non-aggression and collaboration pact. They agreed to deliver to Germany considerable quantities of vital raw materials. According to reliable writers, they permitted German technicians to come into Russian industry in an attempt to speed up production and transport. They did nothing to prevent any of Hitler's territorial acquisitions. But all this was not enough. And the oft-given warnings of Winston Churchill at last came true—when Hitler was ready he struck at Russia, despite the pact, despite all pledges of friendship.

Hitler's spoken reasons for war against the Soviet are his usual ones—he claimed that Russia had not lived up to her agreements, that Russian agents were seeking the downfall of the Reich, and that he was simply acting to save Europe from the blight of Communism. No one believes that these reasons amount to more than an easy alibi for the wanton breakage of another treaty. Russia has in abundance what Hitler most sorely lacks—grain, to feed the German people; oil, to propel the German war machine. And, on top of that, if Russia could be destroyed as a military power, Hitler would no longer have to fear attack from the East. He could then concentrate all of his weapons for the final assault on the British Isles.

It is clear to anyone that Hitler has taken a gigantic gamble. Russia, as Napoleon found out, has been the graveyard of empire before. It is a vast land, and much of it is geographically and climatically unfriendly. In the Little Corporal's phrase, "Empires die of indigestion." And Russia is the biggest bite that any conqueror could attempt. Hitler certainly must have felt there was no other solution to his problems before deciding to give the marching order to his legions along the 1,500-mile front that extends from Narvik to the Carpathians.

From the military point of view, you can find about any opinion on the quality of the Russian army, you want. Russia gives out few figures concerning the Red army. However, it is generally believed that at least 12,000,000 men have been given military training and that, fully mobilized, her regular army, plus reserves, would total 5,000,000 or more. Estimates place her air force at 9,000 planes, though there is doubt as to their quality. It is known that she has gigantic quantities of tanks, motorized artillery and other mechanical arms, but, again, many think them of poor quality by comparison with the Nazis' tools of destruction. Of all the nations, Russia and this country are the nearest to being self-sustaining, so far as resources are concerned. However, Russian industry has been notoriously inefficient, and so she cannot make the most of what she possesses.

Even so, she is a tremendous antagonist for any power. And it is known that during the last year Stalin has been working feverishly to overhaul his forces. The morale-destroying political commissars who were stationed with army units and who had the power to overrule commanding officers, have been largely abolished. In truth, the Russian army has been reorganized much on the lines of capitalist armies.

The poor Soviet transportation system may delay full mobilization for a month or more. But as time wears on, and if Hitler is not able to defeat Russia in a hurry, the Germans should find this campaign the most difficult they have attempted.

Mr. Churchill's finely-phrased speech of June 22 was of exceptional interest. No statesman has been more anti-communist—he has fought the Soviet idea for 25 years. He said he would take nothing back that he has said before. But, he said, the one aim of British policy now is the complete destruction of Nazism. Therefore, he added, England regards Russia as an ally, and will give her all possible aid.

That is likely to be the attitude of our government, though it may not be expressed so frankly. Washington doesn't trust Moscow, and high officials have said lately that defense strikes were communist-inspired. However, Mr. Roosevelt's policy, like Mr. Churchill's is the overthrow of Hitlerism. In that endeavor, any ally is welcomed, especially so powerful a one as Russia.

If Hitler subdues Russia, he will have all he needs—the blockade will no longer be important, and he will have taken a long step toward mastery of Asia as well as Europe. If Hitler loses in Russia, he will be finished. The fate of much of the world may be decided in the wheat fields of the Ukraine, and the oil lands of the Carpathians.

Just Among The FISHERMEN BY BILL KEZIAH

Although we have to be very conservative in the use of stuff in this column, we have some outside connections that have frequently earned us charges of being an A. No. 1 liar, in our treatment of matter for hunting and fishing editors. In fact we have been frequently paired up with Roy Osborne of the Texas State Game and Fish Commission. This was a teaming up that moved President J. Hammond Brown of the Outdoor Writers Association to swear that he would bet on us every time. We seem to have gotten quite a reputation—such as it is—among the Outdoor Writers.

But, now comes John Derr, sports editor of The Greensboro Daily News. John was the narrator of a fishing story last week, the setting being at the Orton Plantation pond. He deposed and alleged that a Guilford county man caught a bass on a jitterbug plug on the said pond. The fish tore loose from the jitterbug, and kerplunked against a cypress knee. It bounced back into the water and the fisherman, reeling in the plug, hooked it again just back of the dorsal fin. At this juncture a fish hawk pounced on the struggling bass and the stern hooks of the jitterbug caught it by the left wing. The sportsman caught both fish and hawk, the hawk being exhausted, was laid in the bottom of the boat and while the sportsman was not looking it revived, grabbed the bass and flew away with it.

A party from Warsaw came out tops with a Gulf Stream catch this past week. They got 38 large amberjack, dolphin, barracuda and albacore. The largest weighed 32 pounds. The party was composed of G. D. Bennett, E. F. Strickland, J. T. Gresham and Wayne Jordan.

One of the most epochal fishing and get-together parties of the year will be pulled off at Manteo next week when a large number of the sports writers of northern and eastern newspapers will assemble for the meeting of the Outdoor Writers Association of America. Churchill Bragaw and possibly the writer may attend.

The 4th was a poor day for fishing, with almost a gale blowing. In spite of that Southport and Fort Caswell had a great many people fishing and crabbing from the boat docks. They seemed to enjoy themselves and a few made nice catches. Camp Davis furnished a large number of these amateur fishermen.

For one of the holidays we had a group of army officers, all young First Lieutenant's, and their equally young wives in charge for most of the day. They had quite a time catching crabs and it was no unusual thing to see a First Lieutenant in your Uncle Sam's Army flat on his stomach netting a crab for the madam. The party was made up of Lieut. and Mrs. Paul P. Sant, Lieut. and Mrs. Conway Mizelle, Lieut. and Mrs. R. H. Hutchinson, Lieut. and Mrs. A. B. Pugh. It is quite possible that some of these folks will become residents of Southport soon.

Our good friend Bob Wilson of The Washington Times-Herald is quite pleased at the prospects for blue fishing this year. The prospects are largely founded on report from Southport and elsewhere all down the coast, telling of plenty of the fish. For five years the blues have been scarce. This year, so far as Southport and the lower North Carolina coast is concerned, they are unusually numerous and of large size. The coast of Maryland, New Jersey, etc., should have plenty of them soon. J. Hammond Brown of The Baltimore News-Post and Don N. Carpenter of The Washington Daily News have also been much pleased at the reports of the blues.

For the past week the local menhaden boats have had to range almost to Georgetown in quest of fish. Down there they made pretty good catches and it is encouraging to have them report that the fish are not only fairly numerous, they are moving along up the coast, with each day apparently bringing them nearer to Southport. A few days more and the boats will not have to go far from Southport, according to Captain John Erikson.

This Week In . . . DEFENSE

President Roosevelt told his press conference he still hopes the U. S. can stay out of the world conflict. His statement was made in answer to a reporter's question if changing international situations had caused the President to alter his belief, stated in 1939, that the U. S. could and would stay out of the war.

Navy Secretary Knox told his press conference reports that Navy vessels were engaged in convoy duty were "absolutely untrue," and said reports that the Navy had lost lives, material and equipment or had been involved in any encounter with belligerent craft, were "most decidedly" not true.

OPM Director Knudsen issued a statement urging greater defense efforts and said "nothing could be further from the truth" than that Russia's entry into the war had averted danger to this country. Mr. Knudsen said "we are in somewhat better shape than we were last Summer but we need the spark of enthusiasm—yes, of patriotism—to carry the program forward faster."

AID TO RUSSIA, FRANCE, CHINA

Acting Secretary of State Welles announced Russian requests to buy strategic materials had been received and brought to the attention of the proper Government officials. Mr. Welles also said the U. S. has under consideration a plan to relax export restrictions on Russian commerce to permit the flow of war materials to that country. He also announced U. S. and North African French officials have arranged a plan calling for continuous movement of two ships carrying tea, sugar and other food to

Africa, and two carrying strategic materials to the U. S. President Roosevelt suspended duties on British Burma vessels reaching the U. S., to aid the flow of supplies to China over the Burma Road. Treasury Secretary Morgenthau extended China's \$50,000,000 credit here for another year. Assistant Commerce Secretary Hinchley asked commercial airlines for 12 transport planes to meet "emergency defense requirements of the democracies."

ARMY

In his bi-annual report to the Secretary of War, Army Chief of Staff Marshall urged that Congress pass legislation permitting use of armed forces outside the Western Hemisphere and permitting holding selectees, National Guardsmen and Reserve Officers in the service for more than one

--- NOT EXACTLY NEWS ---

We think the management passed up a swell opportunity for advertising and good will when he failed to announce that Joe Leighton's Sunday afternoon concert several times during the dance the night before as a free attraction. His place couldn't hold the people that would have come had they known about the engagement, and you can't make us believe that the profit on the stuff sold over the counter and out of the kitchen wouldn't have been a lot more than the small-change admission that was charged. You'll never see that much good will go for that price again.

"When they sound like that in the day time," said Dr. Fergus Sunday afternoon, "they're bound to be good." He was talking about the Leighton orchestra, of course, and what he said just about sums up what everybody else around here thinks. With a replacement for Blake on the electric guitar, another vocalist, and the addition of one more good sax we can't see what's to keep that outfit from getting great. . . . All in all, we doubt if the people of Southport ever had more fun packed into one holiday week-end.

"The Ramparts We Watch," a documentary film, is the feature attraction Friday and Saturday at the Amuzu. It has a strong historical flavor that keeps it educational as well as entertaining. . . . Frank Niernse, who with his wife is spending several days here with his mother, is still the tennis stylist; and there has been a re-birth of interest in playing since he came.

One thing that impresses us every year go over to Fort Caswell is the beautiful grounds which the grounds are kept. We don't see they do it with no larger number of men than they use over there. . . . A man who hadn't seen in over 35 years came to see Furpless last week. The visitor was the dealer who sold him material for the construction of the Onslow county courthouse for which contractor in 1904.

McDonald Gilliken, the lad whose picture ran two weeks ago, is a driving instructor at Camp Blanning, Fla. He has received his promotion to rank of sergeant. . . . There be a large loss in Brunswick county's first crop of small grain. Farmers who didn't get wheat, barley and oats cut before the rains are still watching them take a beating from weather.

Most ambitious farming venture we have seen this year was when Wrent Mintz decided to solidate the assets of a half-stand of tobacco used two men with spades to take up the growing plant and considerable dirt and plant down in the place of a missing hill. . . . new crop of jitterbugs we get the greatest out of watching Brother Christian. He'll be a top hand at that racket, though, because makes the mistake of keeping time with music.

Gen. Marshall said that conditions have changed to such an extent that a "grave national emergency" exists of a more severe character than the public realizes.

The War Department announced it will promote its officers on the basis of merit instead of seniority and permit re-enlistment for Regular Army men only if they are qualified for promotion in order to weed out those not able to take advantage of further training.

The War Department awarded contracts totaling more than \$478,000,000 for planes, engines and parts. The OPM announced its aircraft specialist, Merrill Meigs, will go to England to confer on production methods. Gen. Arnold, Chief of the Army Air Forces, lowered requirements for pilots of heavy bombers so

that fliers with 750 hours of air experience could be built at a rate of 500 a month. The Air Force announced experimental glider training for its personnel.

SELECTIVE SERVICE More than 750,000 men reached 21 since Selective Service registration last October. . . . throughout the nation. President Roosevelt ordered 900,000 inducted into the Army to meet needs now in service. . . . Pending final action by Congress on legislation deferring who were 28 on July 1 or by Selective Service Director they ordered temporary deferment of this age group. He advised local boards to defer striants with one or more

(continued on page two)

FOR DEFENSE



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THE STATE PORT PILOT