

THE STATE PORT PILOT
Southport, N. C.

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He doesn't have to be a contortionist or magician to get himself into a pickle.

It's a funny thing. One fellow found he was cleaned and then was all washed up too.

Some people think it's sharp-witted of them to make cutting remarks.

It Is Your Paper

Recently we had a friend give us the benefit of some constructive criticism. "The Pilot," said he, "is too much a Southport paper and does not have enough news from the county."

That's the truth. But we honestly do not know what to do about it. The reason that news from Southport is more plentiful is due to two or three things. One, of course, is that this is the county seat, and there are many things that take place in connection with the county government that are of just as much interest to the people in Waccamaw township as to the folks here.

Another reason that Southport news predominates in The Pilot is that we live here and are therefore able to investigate and to write up the things that we see and hear about. But you'll have to remember that Brunswick county is a big place, and it is impossible for us to cover all parts of it during any one week.

This means that what we need most is for our readers to cooperate with the persons in their local community who send in news to the paper and try to see to it that there is some news sent in every week. This is no place for false modesty, because there is unsuspected news value in many things that go unreported.

We have always prided ourselves that we were running a newspaper for the county, not merely for the town of Southport, and we have made many similar appeals to our readers to help us make this hope a reality. Now there is better reason than ever before why they should do this.

We believe that one-half the papers we mail to persons in the county each week are read, then mailed to someone away from home. It is increasingly true that these mailed papers are being sent to boys in the armed service, and from what they tell us when they are at home on a furlough, these papers are mighty welcome.

This gives us all an opportunity to help cheer up the boys in the army, the navy and the marine corps. If you readers and correspondents will do what you can to get the news to us, we'll do all in our power to help make The Pilot a real letter from home, no matter what community in Brunswick county the boy may hail from.

Wake Up America

The complacency with which the American people, after the first shock of Pearl Harbor, are viewing the U. S. participation in the war, is not the sort of thing that is designed to bear the fruits of victory.

Quite apart from what happens at the battlefield, the civilian is going to have an important part in the winning of this conflict. We are not, here on the home front, supposed to run around like chickens which have been recently decapitated, but on the other hand, are supposed to be fully awake to the fact that America has a job to do, and a job in which all of us must of necessity participate.

There's going to be serious dislocation of many phases of our every-day life. We cannot expect to continue to go along in our merry, easy going way, despite the war. "Business as usual" is just a phrase today.

But America and our American way of life are worth all the sacrifices which we are called upon to make in this struggle for preservation of the freedom which our forefathers so dearly earned. America must wake up, and realize the magnitude of its stupendous task.

It Is Reverses That Put Our Courage To Test

The gravity of the Allied position with the fall of Singapore cannot be underestimated. This bastion of the United Nations in the Far East has been regarded as the key to all Allied operations in that whole area of the South Pacific.

Nevertheless, it is such reverses as this that put civilian morale to the greatest test—reveals to us whether or not we can take reverses thumbs up.

It is easy to keep civilian morale at a high pitch when everything is going smoothly on the battlefield. The Germans, who up until the Russian emergence had known nothing but victory in this war, are now for the first time being put to the test as to whether they "can take it." Reports leaking out of the third reich indicate that the Nazis are not taking defeat very gracefully.

There is a difference between blinding ourselves to the true situation, and recognizing conditions as they exist and still keeping spirits high. It is the difference between folly and courage.

It would be foolish if the American people did not use the fall of Singapore as a signal for greater endeavor. As one man has put it very aptly, there are too many people on the sidelines in this war, and too few on the playing field. We shall all have to be in there pushing and shoving before the end is in sight.

We can learn a lesson from the fall of Singapore, but it is not the lesson of defeatism. It can and must be the stern lesson that whatever factors contributed to this grave reverse in the Far East will not be allowed to do a repeat performance if it lies within the province of a united America to prevent it.

Eliminate The WPA Entirely Now

Now, we think the time has arrived for calling a halt to the WPA work, not only in this county but all over the country. As long as there was actual need for this form of dole in the country, we could put up with it.

But now, as we see it, there's no further use of continuing the WPA work in this county or anywhere else. There's plenty of employment to be had by those who have the "get up and get" to go out and secure it. The nation is crying for help in the defense program, and anybody with an ounce of energy or ambition can get a job.

Every able-bodied person who is available will be needed for the farms this spring, summer and fall, for the care, cultivation and harvesting of the all-important crops which are now definitely considered one of America's first lines of defense.

Refusal of work on farms because better wages can be secured on WPA projects can, in this extreme emergency, no longer be tolerated or endured. This has long been one of the chief banes of the farmer's existence.

In short, the time has now arrived when the farmers, confronted with the most stupendous task in their history, should no longer be hacked and harassed by such an impudent and annoying situation.

We must, therefore, see to it that the farmer is given every consideration in getting farm labor during these critical times, and no better start can be made than by first eliminating one of the chief of his worries—the WPA projects which have prevented him more than once from getting the hands he so vitally needed on his farm.

AHEAD OF ENGLAND IN TAXES


(Charlotte Observer.) No longer can the tax apologists point to England as being more heavily harassed in this respect than the United States.

Under the new tax bill, the per capita tax in this country is \$180 a year. It is \$173 in Great Britain. Our taxes will amount to about 25 per cent of our national income, as against 22 per cent in England.

It is true, of course, that English income taxes are greater than ours. But the English are not burdened with the vast numbers of sales taxes, excise taxes and "nuisance" taxes on which our government depends for much of its revenue. Lastly, the English are not burdened so heavily with taxes levied by local government. In Great Britain, the national government collects 90 per cent of all taxes; here the Federal government collects only about 60 per cent.

We cannot blame the cost of defense for the staggering tax load we are now carrying. In Great Britain approximately 80 per cent of all government expenditures are for military purposes. Here only about 50 pct. is used at present for those purposes. Half the cost of government, in other words, is for non-defense activity, and Congress and our local governments have shown absolutely no wish to make reductions in any important direction.

Just Among



The FISHERMEN

BY BILL KEZIAH

Seventy-three Carteret county boat-owners signed the petition asking for the survey and removal of obstructions from Southport shrimp trawling grounds some years ago.

Only forty Brunswick boat owners signed the same request. Congressman J. Bayard Clark obtained an appropriation of twenty thousand dollars with which the work was executed.

A petition now being circulated states that ten thousand dollars was obtained.

A Carteret county man, Ben Gray, contributed nine-tenths of all the funds that were contributed to the local movement for the move to get the appropriation.

Carteret county fishermen operating here with sink nets have been using equipment for the taking of fish that was in every way within the law.

Shrimp trawl nets with their small mesh are unlawful for the taking of fish as many thousands of pounds of very small fish are destroyed.

There are such things as the pot calling the kettle black and we are positively not a party to any movement inspired by selfishness and which may bring down on the heads of local boatmen restrictions and enforcement that will put them out of business.

The gist of all the above is that, so far as we are concerned, the Carteret and other fishermen are perfectly welcome to fish here. So long as they do not fish illegally or in a manner that is destructive to seafoods. We appreciate the fact that the Fisheries Commission is not enforcing certain laws against our own boats. Laws, which if enforced, would stop all fishing with shrimp trawls at this season of the year.

Some say one thing, some another. At this time it is not perfectly clear whether sportsmen going out from Southport will have identification cards. The boatmen will, of course, have to have such papers. We rather think the identification of the boat crews will be sufficient, unless conditions become vastly different from what they are now. We are trying to obtain definite information on the subject and it is a rather slow undertaking. The most that can be said is that the status of things should be well cleared up by the time the sport fishing season is ready to get underway.

If identification is required of all passengers on a fishing trip it sort of follows that some provisions for providing these identifications should be available here. A sort of sub-identification station for papers good for only sportsmen should serve the purpose. With hundreds of sportsmen coming here each month of the summer and fall it would work a great hardship and result in loss of business to the boatmen if there was too much red tape attached to their getting identification papers.

Several inquiries regarding the fishing have been received this week. Our own direct contacts force us to the conclusion that sport fishing will be just as popular as it has been in previous years. In addition to these personal contacts, Dr. Hyatt, Captain H. T. Watts, Captain Bowmer and various other boatmen say that they are getting a lot of inquiries. We think the business will be here alright if we have the boats and good boatmen for them.

Local and semi-local week end business is bound to make it rather hard to get boats on Saturdays and Sundays. Hundreds of men engaged in defense work in this area can only get off on one of the week end days for a bit of fishing. The same thing applies to many men in the army. The preponderance of week end parties has always been a source of trouble on account of the limited number of boats. The condition will be very much worse this year.

We suggest that ladies and those people who can get off to go fishing on week days should always make it a point to try and arrange for their trips on such days. Leaving the boatmen free to cater to the workers on Saturdays and Sundays.

WASHINGTON LETTER

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18—Registration for military service under the draft act this week brought the question of the nation's safety in times of war directly to millions of families. It is expected that this enrollment of potential soldiers and sailors coupled with depressing accounts of allied military and naval reverses on the battle fronts will develop a public awareness of the gravity of the times. Despite all the pep talk about speeding the production of war materials, things are not going so well as predicted.

Experienced morale builders say that the American people have been entirely too optimistic as to our ability to defeat the Axis powers within a few weeks or months. They also assert that it is beyond reason to anticipate miracles overnight by the re-organization of the Federal agencies handling war production plans. It is reported that one bottle-neck is the traditional antipathy of professional naval and military officials toward civilians and the feud between the two service branches as to which ranks first in the war effort. The hopes of the public for quick relief from the rubber shortage have been blasted by official surveys indicating the output of synthetic rubber on a small scale will not be a fact until late next year. Many proposed plants for making this material have only reached the blueprint stage and months are required to install essential equipment.

Government experts are striving desperately against inflation. They are taking a strong position in opposition to escalator clauses in union labor contracts calling for automatic wage increases as the cost of living advances. There is pronounced sentiment for a wage stabilization plan. The first real skirmish of the states against the encroachment of the Federal government into state social security systems has been staged before the House Committee on Ways and Means. The government and state unemployment compensation officials have been actively blocking proposals to Federalize the social security projects in the \$300,000,000 emergency fund sought by the President to soften the transition from a peace to war basis in plants.

The proposal of the unions to have the government pay a \$24 per week wage to workers unemployed by reason of a plant's transition to war production is considered too high in Congressional quarters. The enormous cost to the taxpayers would be several hundred millions. The A. F. of L. and the C. I. O. are contending that unemployment benefits under existing social security laws are too low. Congress may compromise on an \$18 per week bounty. Estimates are that in 1942, 9 to 10,000,000 persons will shift from civilian to war work. The trade unions want Federal legislation to increase benefits, and shorten the waiting period. According to A. F. of L. predictions an increase of seven million workers will be required by 1943 which is expected to absorb all the unemployed and bring several million women to work in industry.

The movement to open industrial jobs to women is gaining momentum. It will be featured more prominently as labor shortages are noted by the call of men into the armed services. It is said at least a million women will be needed this year as skilled workers in arms and munitions plants. They will take such jobs as machine operators, welders, riveters, and other work not too heavy. In small arms manufacturing, a study showed that women could do all but 9 out of 28 principal operations, and that in 14 operations women could take over entirely.

Our lawmakers are indignant. They claim the public has taken the wrong slant on the retirement pension for members of Congress. It is their contention that considerable misinformation has been given the people unintentionally or otherwise. The solons are asking study of the Civil Service Commission's analysis of the bill. The report states, "instead of costing from twenty-one to thirty million dollars to retire Congressmen, as has been loosely alleged, the cost of retiring all those affected, considering the very small number of members of Congress who would be able to meet the required age and service conditions at the end of this Congress, would not now be more than \$80,000 per annum". Furthermore, the Commission insists, "if applied to the full membership, which will never at any time be the case, the cost per annum would be approximately half a million dollars and not the thirty million dollars alleged".

Government employees are not exempt from the "blues" prevailing throughout the country as the hard shocks of war are felt by the public. The President has indicated that he will hearken to

NOT EXACTLY NEWS

Breman Furpless believes that there's something to this business of Friday, the 13th, being unlucky. On Friday of last week he said the print of the feature picture was the first bad one they had received in months—hence several breaks in the reel. Half-way through the first show one machine broke down, then one piece of film caught fire. Otherwise, everything was o. k. . . . They still hold nightly sessions down at Shallotte to determine the set back and checker champs.

There must be nervous times for seamen. Recently one boat ran aground off Long Beach, reportedly while using the pavilion lights as ranges. There was a report of an ocean-going tug that had similar trouble at Lockwoods Folly inlet . . . Secret of the success of the farming efforts of Mr. Jim Hickman is that he has never raised a strictly cash crop. He just plans for enough to eat and feed his stock, and depends upon selling some of his surplus commodities to take care of his other needs.

We heard the other day from Bill and Guy Courtney (Bill was the Standard Oil representative here for several months). He is completing a CAA pilot training course and Guy is piloting a litter of Dalmation pups . . . Mr. Bennie Williams is leading the local trend back to the good old days. Last Sunday he rode his horse in the Sunday School.

There are a lot of folks in the county who get their biggest movie thrill from the Gene Autry pictures. They'll all be glad to know that Gene and Smiley Burnett and Co. will be at the Ann next Wednesday and Thursday in "Down Mountain Way." . . . The fight faithful will have an opportunity to see the world's second ugliest man in action in Wilmington Friday night when the Swedish Angel tussles with Dick Lever, who managed to make a lot of local enemies in his appearance last week. Abe Yourist and Nick Carter, the latter a newcomer, will appear in the semi-final bout.

the pressure of Congressional sentiment for stream-lining Federal agencies. The Senate has applied the heat to hasten the transfer of government workers in non-essential jobs to more useful activity. The forced removal of many divisions not directly connected with war or defense stimulated veteran government workers to seek other brths to stay in Washington. With about 200,000 on Uncle Sam's payroll here it is recognized that much of the activity of the old-line groups could be conducted with fewer people and away from the turmoil of the war Capital. There are many delicate political problems involved so that the transformation will be only gradual.

About this time of the season Shallotte begins to come out of its drowsy spell and to fight back. One great loss causes everyone to mourn but discourages none. That is the loss of Edwin Gray, who will probably be out the rest of the year because of an injured ankle.

"Out rather late aren't you?" asked the guard. "Perhaps it is a little late," agreed the man, "but it's what the only chance a pedestrian has these days."

Fond Mother (writing to her soldier son): "Well, son, I hope you have been punctual in taking every morning so that you haven't kept the regiment waiting for you."

SHALLOTTE SCHOOL NEWS

A school newspaper, initiated by an industrious ninth grade, has met with success . . . James Sellers, able and efficient editor, has managed to incorporate into his paper a broad view of student life. He puts important school news, jokes, gossip of all kinds, quizzes, poems, and feature stories in this paper and generally covers school happenings. Due to lack of proper equipment and finances the paper thus far has been run on a mimeograph machine. Nevertheless the students anticipate its arrival with joy and are delighted with it.

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With your county government.
With National Defense developments.
With the war news as it affects the county.
With travel restricted by automobile tires and automobiles, your best medium of information is

The State Port Pilot

"YOUR COUNTY NEWSPAPER"

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