

# The State Port Pilot

Southport, N. C.

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### Prepare Against Fires

The most dangerous forest fire season is still a few weeks off. The turning of the year and the preparation of tobacco seed beds usually mark the beginning of the most dangerous period.

It is beginning to be generally admitted that the most important crop grown in this county is the woods crop. Many farmers and landowners have been slow in coming to this realization. Those who realized it years ago and acted for the protection of their woodlands have profited and are continuing to profit. The number of such wise thinking and acting land owners is increasing largely each year.

More than ever the land owners are recognizing the forest fire wardens as necessary for the protection of their property.

A good plan to put into effect now would be for the forest fire wardens, the landowners and the critical and often careless public to get together on a realization that the work of forest fire protection requires general cooperation.

It is never too soon to make preparations to guard against forest fires. It is a good time now to begin such work and deepen the forest fire prevention consciousness on the part of the public.

### We Must Not Fail

Someday the war is going to end. Someday millions of American men will come home from across the seas, and again the danger will be faced that the people of a war weary United States will wash their hands of international problems. If they succumb to that danger, they will probably never have another grace period in which to muddle through a "preparedness program" such as they have had in the last two wars.

Now, before the war is over, before the danger of a weary reaction sets in, is the time to help create an effective peace organization and to help lay the groundwork for dissolving archaic trade barriers.

The late Wendell Willkie spoke from the heart when he said: "I was a soldier in the last war, and after that war was over I saw our bright dreams disappear, our stirring slogans become the jests of the cynical, and all because the fighting peoples did not arrive at any common postwar purposes while they fought. It must be our resolve to see that this does not happen again."

"While they fight, the people of the world must come to a common understanding of what they fight for and what they hope for. Millions have already died in this war and many thousands more will go before it is over. Unless Britons and Canadians, and Russians and Chinese and Americans and all our fighting Allies, in the common cooperation of war, find the instrumentalities and the methods of cooperative effort after the war, we, the people, have failed our time and our generation."

### Christmas Seals

Christmas Seal time is here again. This heartwarming practice of buying cheery little seals to help combat tuberculosis, began just forty years ago and has since become a world-wide tradition. The Christmas Seals are sold in 46 countries. This year, as usual, they make their appearance. In a war-torn world they are reassuring reminders that we live in a civilized world after all and humanity has a streak of goodness in it that will not be put down.

This year, as never before, the Christmas Seals are needed. Tuberculosis is on the increase. The steady progress of medical science in the treatment of the disease has not been sufficient to stem the debilitating inroads of war. Our crowded war production centers, overwork and nervous exhaustion have been an open invitation to tuberculosis. The great tragedy is that too many persons don't realize it when the

unwelcome guest has found its way into their homes.

Yes, the Christmas Seal has new significance this year. It is one means by which all of us can take part in the fight against the renewed threat of man's ancient enemy—the white plague.

### No Picking On Weather

For once duck hunters have been left standing flatfooted, unable to pick on the weather and blame it for poor duck hunting. For years they have been contending that with the duck hunting season opening on the first of November and closing the first of the year, they have had no duck hunting weather in which to prove their skill.

As a matter of fact, there is usually very little duck hunting weather in this part of the state until after Christmas. Until about then the temperature seldom falls to or below the freezing point.

This year things are different. Folks awoke Saturday morning to find there had been a drop to the freezing point during the night. All day Saturday things continued cold. Saturday night things went down to 20 degrees above zero, which was plenty cold enough for duck hunting.

Since the weather proved all right for even this early in the year the duck hunters have turned resourceful. Some made fine bags of the birds and some did not. Those who did not blame it on not having enough shells and accused the other fellow of getting them all.

### Two Great Assets

About the greatest asset that Brunswick county has is its fertile farm lands, supplemented by a climate that permits the growing of any sort of crop from peanuts to pulpwood. The possession of this asset is not well known outside the county and is too little known and understood here.

We may expect to see the county develop rapidly with the developing of the farming lands and a general spreading of the knowledge that the county has great farming, truck raising, dairying and other livestock possibilities.

To aid the spreading of the knowledge of the county's possibilities, we have two great assets that the average citizen of the county does not appreciate. These assets are Bald Head Island and Orton Plantation. Both places are already known through practically all of America and in many foreign countries. Anywhere that you may go in the United States you can hear Bald Head Island spoken of as the semi-tropical island with its wonderful varied vegetation on the coast of Brunswick county, N. C. The island is a powerful drawing card for the creation of interest in Brunswick county.

The same thing can be said of Orton Plantation, in an even greater degree. Before the war this wonderful Low Country Plantation with its magnificent mansion, wonderful flower garden and great nursery, drew many thousands of visitors to the county. It still draws its thousands despite war and travel restrictions. It is known far and wide as one of the most outstanding beauty spots in North Carolina. Much of the publicity of Orton reflects itself to the benefit of Brunswick county.

It is doubtful if any place in North Carolina has received more pictorial publicity than Orton Plantation in Brunswick County. Only a week ago the American Baking Company issued its December issue of "The Merita Family," a trade journal that goes among many thousands of its dealers and the public. This issue was devoted mainly to pictures of scenes in North Carolina. More than a hundred pictures were carried. Of that number only two—Bald Head Island and Orton Plantation, in Brunswick county, got full page displays.

### Preparing Land Now

Mindful of the shortage of labor that existed this spring and the continuous rains that prevented them from getting any plowing done until the planting season was actually here, a great many farmers have been busy plowing or discing their lands during recent weeks. Apparently very few tractors have been idle. When they have not been in use for the sowing of small grain they have been pulling plows or discs to turn lands for next season's crop. Such work at this season of the year is not a bad idea.

## CAPITAL LETTERS

By Thompson Greenwood

**FRIENDS**—If you read Drew Pearson's Washington Merry-Go-Round column, which runs in about a half-dozen North Carolina Dailies, you have frequently been surprised at the apparently close relationship between Mr. Pearson and Former Governor O. Max Gardner. Well, that relationship is very real.

A few years back, before Drew became so famous, he hurt the feelings of General MacArthur, who has a pretty good opinion of himself—as you might have guessed by watching the Pacific war news.

MacArthur sued Pearson for a cool million dollars. Gardner, who has worlds of respect for the press, went to the columnist's rescue—and charged him not one red cent, according to reports. The suit was eventually thrown out the window, and Pearson continued his merry way until now he has become so important as to be called a "chronic liar" by that man in the White House and to be voted the Washington columnist having the most influence on these 120 million Americans.

And as for Gardner, his defense of New Dealish Pearson has meant thousands and thousands of dollars to him in one way or another.

**RECEPTION**—Gregg Cherry's going into office next January reminds one of Governor Gardner's first receptions in 1928. Do you know who were the ranking members of the receiving line—not Supreme Court justices, or any fellows like them, but regular old newspaper guys—"Fleet" Williams, who now helps Josephus Daniels write editorials, Bob Thompson, now editor of the High Point Enterprise, Charles Parker, who is now associated with Allied Military Government, and others. This may give you some idea of the appreciation Gardner has for the press.

**DOC**—If you keep up with sports much, you know that Doc Blanchard, Army freshman, is probably the most famous football figure in the Nation for 1944. Well, Wake Forest had Blanchard all set to be a good Baptist, but in spite of everything he became an Army man.

Back yonder around World War I days, Doc's father was a real Athlete for Wake, both on the gridiron and on the diamond. Known as "Big Boy," C. W. Blanchard was a familiar figure around Wake Forest. He and L. Y. Balentine, your next Lieutenant Governor, were good buddies, playing

baseball for the Baptists in the spring and continuing for some mill team during the summer. "Big Boy" left Wake, went to Tulane to study medicine, played three or four more years of football under another name, became a physician, settled in South Carolina, died about a year ago. His boy at West Point is carrying on the name—

**ROSES**—In his speech to the members of the Citizens Association in Raleigh last week, Governor Broughton alluded to a line from the famous Negro drama, "Green Pastures," in telling of the troubles of being Governor. If you recall, "De Lawd had worries aplenty in that play, remarking at one stage that "even being de Lawd ain't no bed of roses." Governor Broughton said being leader of the State is no bed of roses. Maybe so, but JMB has certainly enjoyed it as much as any Governor we have had.

**DAY**—J. C. B. Ehringhaus said last week: "All through my life I had thought that the happiest day of my life would come the day I was sworn in as Governor. Well, I can tell you it was the most unhappy day of my life."

North Carolina was on the verge of bankruptcy when Governor Ehringhaus, desperately ill with a kidney ailment, arose from a sick bed to take the oath as Governor in 1933.

Those who kicked Ehringhaus in those days love him now. Soon or later he will be recognized

as one of the few really big men in North Carolina. Self-effacing and gracious, a real citizen, he is an excellent attorney, and, so far as anyone knows, he has no political ambitions whatever.

**NOTES**—Governor's first appointment will be a secretary, but at this time he does not know who it will be—John Harden, who handled his publicity, is first choice—In Omaha, Neb., last week to attend the annual session of the Commissioners of Agriculture, your Commissioner of Agriculture could not locate one spittoon in his hotel. "Doesn't anybody chew tobacco in Omaha?", he asked, reaching for a cigar—Plans are being laid for a beautiful 4-H Club camp at the new test farm at Waynesville—You ought to see the colorfoto of that Goldsboro lovely in the December Esquire—Garland Porter, former State News Bureau man, will marry an Edenton girl in January—The labor situation in printing plants will likely prevent a half-dozen annual State publications from appearing this time, if law will permit—If you know of anyone, or any three or four, having 50,000 gallons of apple cider for sale, get in touch with the N. C. D. Agriculture—Leo DeSola, a talented musician, and WPTF (Raleigh) have come to the parting of the ways—too temperamental—You may expect R. G. Deyton to continue as assistant director of the budget under Mr. Cherry—Cherry, now writing his Inaugural Address, is getting in touch with various departments for their ideas—

A timber farm is any woodland that is protected from fire and cut in a manner that will keep the land highly productive.

23 billion board feet of lumber are cut in this state every year. Only six states in the United States produced more lumber than North Carolina last year. Three of those states were Alabama, Mississippi, and Georgia. The others were western states.

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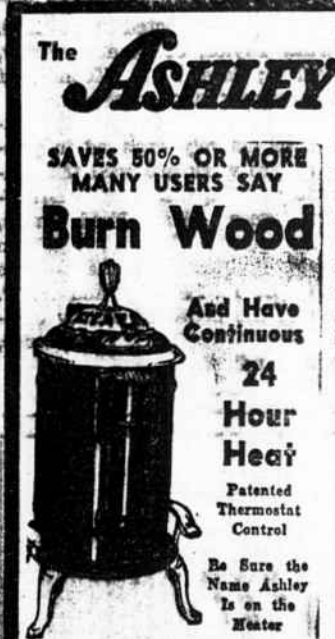
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