

The Pilot Covers  
Brunswick County

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## Two New Strikes Are Threatened

Involve 500,000  
Electrical And Telephone  
Company Employees;  
Walkout Termed Inevitable

### FOREIGN MINISTERS END CONFERENCE

Communique Not Yet Issued  
But Authoritative Information Says Agreements Reached

Two huge strikes are expected to be effective, involving about 500,000 electrical and telephone company employees today. Walkout of 200,000 workers in plants of the electrical industry's "Big Three" is expected to be effective next week. A nationwide walkout by telephone employees was seen by independent spokesmen as a possible strike scheduled for Thursday by Western Electric workers in the New Jersey area. The deal is for a 30 per cent wage increase.

Foreign ministers of three powers were reported to have agreed to a four-power rule of Japan. The agreement, which is expected to be reached other "important decisions" including atomic energy and a five-year trusteeship for Korea. The agreement, which is in position to be reached, the Big Three agreed that Japan should be controlled by the U. S., Britain, and France. Full details of the agreement were not immediately made known. The foreign ministers met in Moscow for Washington. The communication on results of the conference is to be issued in Washington, Moscow, and London at 10 p. m. EST today. In Moscow, Byrnes said the ministers had reached agreement on control.

Gen. George C. Marshall, new U. S. envoy to China, was entertained at lunch for Chou-En-Lai, deputy chief of the communist party and other delegates to the forthcoming peace and conference.

With virtual hope of finding anyone to rescue workers toiled persistently in an explosion-blocked tunnel to reach the place where 20 to 50 coal miners were trapped. Trained rescue crews, working in shifts inched to within 1000 feet of the area during the night. Fires, gas fumes, and debris stymied every effort to rescue.

President Truman is preparing to put his struggle for Congress for labor and other legislative proposals squarely upon the people, brought his Christmas holiday to home toward a day with a final round of cabinet visiting. The president is expected to speak to the people in a nationwide radio address after the holidays, probably the first in January, on his over-all program, including universal training.

## Brief News Flashes

**RECEIVES DISCHARGE**  
Robert Hudson Leonard, of Brunswick, after 22 months in the navy, was granted an honorable discharge from the Navy separation center at Charleston and has returned home.

**RETURNING HOME**  
H. H. Smith, son of Mrs. H. H. Smith of Southport, received his honorable discharge from the Navy at Jacksonville, Fla., and is returning home this morning. He is a graduate of the Southport high school and has served about three years of service.

**WARD MINESWEEPER**  
A dispatch from the Fleet Training Town News Center states that Gilbert Winslow Cox, sea-ward first class of Brunswick, was assigned to the U. S. Minesweeper, which will be the first United States minesweeper to enter Tokyo Bay.

## Letter Portrays Needs Of Peoples War-Torn World

Rev. Frank Howard Makes  
Appeal For Support In  
Drive For Canned Foods  
To Aid Peoples Of Europe, Asia

BY REV. FRANK J. HOWARD  
The War Relief service of the National Catholic Welfare conference is conducting a drive for canned foods to be distributed among the needy peoples of Europe and Asia. In connection with the need for this food, extracts from the letter of Rev. Dr. Edward W. Swanson, assistant director of the National Catholic Welfare conference, give a good description of the stricken peoples of the war-torn world.

"Before I left the United States, I saw pictures of starving people. Now, God knows, I have seen the reality—and it hurts. It is much more gruesome and horrifying than any picture. It is an awful feeling to see people starve before your eyes, and to have nothing in your hands to give them."

"Four those goods over here as fast as you can, is all I can say. You are saving lives. Until you see thousands of refugees milling aimlessly up and down the roads choked with the homeless, children huddles in broken angles of walls or against mothers who offer no more than a body's warmth, bodies of men bent against wind and sleet and rain, you cannot have the faintest conception of what being homeless and hungry means. These scenes repeated over and over with deadly repetition, haunt me. The fight for survival in a fox hole did not stop—foxholes are still offering shelter for thousands. "It is vital that the general public in the U. S. know something regarding the necessity for relief of millions of war paupers in Europe. The widespread destruction left by the war is simply unbelievable. Few have adequate shelter or fuel. The food ration is dangerously low and there is no food to fill the meagre allowance of calories per day. There is little medicine to combat disease and in the hospital."

## Orton Folks Had Christmas Party

Employees of Famed Brunswick  
Plantation Had Old  
Time Plantation Christmas

With many of them having to work Monday and still others desiring to go on visits or engage in other Christmas activities, the annual Christmas party at Orton Plantation was held on Sunday this year. Folks who were present say that it was the nicest gathering at Orton since the war started.

## Ephraim Danford Funeral Wednes.

Bolivia Man Was One Of  
Brunswick's Best Known  
Farmers; Many Relatives  
Survive

Ephraim Jefferson Danford, one of Brunswick's best known and most successful farmers, died at his home near Bolivia Tuesday afternoon, December 24, following several years of failing health. Mr. Danford was 54 years of age.

Surviving are six sons: Ephraim, Early and George Danford, of Bolivia; Gray Danford, of Stratonsburg; Macon Danford of Myrtle Beach, S. C.; and Thomas Danford of Carlisle, Pa. Two daughters, Mrs. Nellie Futrelle of Bolivia, and Mrs. Thurston of Bolivia, and Mrs. Clemen of Myrtle Beach; and Clemen of Myrtle Beach; and two sisters, Miss Lavinia Danford of Bolivia and Miss Lavinia Danford of Bolivia.

## Board Investigates General Motors Strike



WASHINGTON, D. C.—Soundphoto.—This is general view of the scene of the President's Fact-Finding Board, investigating the month-old General Motors strike, as it began its hearings. Standing at left is Walter Reuther, Vice-President of the U.A.W. (CIO), in charge of General Motors negotiations, addressing the board.

## Four Men Are Rescued After Christmas Day Storm

Schooner Abandoned East  
Of Frying Pan, Men Are  
Found Near New River Inlet

CRIPPLED TOW BOAT  
GOT TO WRIGHTSVILLE

Former Southport Boy Was  
Among The Men Who  
Withstood Harrowing  
Experience

Four men, two of them former residents of Southport, apparently lost their lives somewhere east of Frying Pan Shoals on Christmas Day, when stormy weather and a crippled towboat left them aboard a powerless 90 foot towed schooner. Neither the boat nor men have since been heard of and hope of their rescue has been all but abandoned.

Aboard the boat, the Valmore, out from New York and bound for Florida were J. V. Watters, Dick Willis, Paris Willis and his son, J. T. Willis. They were serving as crew members, while the Valmore was under tow of a shrimp boat out from Morehead City. Paris Willis, a native of Morehead City, resided at Southport a number of years, married a young Brunswick county woman and the son was born and spent his early life here.

Towing the Valmore when she left Morehead City early Monday morning was the Dun Workin', a shrimp trawler owned by Raleigh interests. Aboard this craft was Paul Willis, brother of Paris Willis and father of young Dick Willis, with him were W. E. Howland and James Howland. Its engines out of commission and the boat out of control, they washed up on Wrightsville Beach late in the afternoon of Christmas Day and it was then learned for the first time of the missing Valmore.

The three men reported from the Dun Workin' resorted that they ran into a bad storm as they were nearing Frying Pan Shoals. Unable to make any headway with the load they were towing, they cut loose from the Valmore when one of the two engines of the Dun Workin' failed. After cutting loose, they were blown about by the wind and waves.

## Fine Work By Post Offices

Big Volume Of Holiday  
Mail Handled By The  
Nine Post Offices In This  
County

From all available reports the nine post offices in Brunswick county experienced a rush of Christmas business closely approaching that of last year. There was, of course, a falling off in packages to men and women away in service, but on the other hand the incoming mail was about as heavy as that of last year.

## Cherry Proclaims Dec. 28 Victory E Bond Bank Day

Calls Upon All Banks To  
Contact Customers To  
Help Put State Over Top  
In E Bond Drive

COBURN REPORTS  
\$50,000.00 SHORT

Urges All Workers And  
Every Prospective Bond  
Purchaser In County  
To Take Advantage  
Of Final Selling  
Days

Governor Cherry has proclaimed Friday, December 28, as Victory Loan E Bond Bank Day in North Carolina in an effort to help North Carolina reach its E bond quota, J. N. Coburn, Columbus county War Finance chairman, was informed in a telegram received this morning by C. T. Leinbach, state chairman of the War Finance committee. Explaining the purpose of the proclamation, Mr. Leinbach's telegram read in part:

"Asking all banks in the state to concentrate on the sale of E bonds by personally asking or telephoning all their customers and others to come to the banks and buy E bonds in a last minute push to put North Carolina over her 30 million dollar E bond quota and to hold her in her rightful place of dignity and honor among the other states. An emergency faces us—the honor of the state is at stake. North Carolina today has a top bond selling record by national recognition. Citizens of North Carolina have invested more in E bond, and all other securities than any of the 10 southern states. North Carolina banks have gone all out—have been and are the main stay for the success of the Victory Loan drive. This is our last shot—we just must ring the bell. A release has gone to all newspapers and radio stations announcing that Governor Cherry has proclaimed Friday, December 28, Victory Loan E bond bank day.

## County Welfare Supt. Resigns

Resignation Not Acted On;  
Mrs. Phelps Has Moved  
To Ahsokie, Where She  
Will Live

Because of illness and on the advice of her physician, Mrs. Maude Phelps county Supt. of Welfare, has tendered her resignation to the board of county commissioners. The resignation was not acted upon on December 21st as one of the members was ill and could not be present.

Mrs. Phelps has moved to Ahsokie, where she will live for a time with her daughter. No information is available as to a successor in case the resignation is accepted by the board. The responsibility for filling the position rests with the state board.

## Ensign Rogers Sees Japs Surrender In Tokyo Bay

Broad-shouldered, muscular and modest, Ensign George O. Rogers, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. G. O. Rogers, residents of 301 Washington St., stood up, tossed another piece of coal on the fire and eyed my pad and pencil suspiciously. He had just arrived home a few days before from the west coast where he had landed fresh from the Pacific and Japan. As a member of Admiral Halsey's staff, this 21-year-old ensign had seen a lot of fighting, a lot of "gold braid," but most of all—a lot of ocean.

Ensign Rogers was one of the 22 select men that made up the communications portion of Halsey's staff and it was their job to code and decode messages sent out or received on the admiral's flagship. Working four hours on and eight off, Rogers found it quite a grind to unjam a stack upon stack of urgent messages that formed the strategy and strength of Halsey's fighting fleet. The responsibility was frightening. One word or Japanese name misspelled might have thrown the entire Third Fleet off and caused chaotic destruction. They were given long lists of Japanese cities, islands, provinces and they were drilled constantly for accuracy and speed. Some messages were coded, some were plain text.

## Editor Soon To Be Home



Word has been received here that Lt. James M. Harper, Jr., editor of the State Port Pilot now on leave of absence, has arrived on the West Coast and will be home as soon as transportation permits. He expects his discharge soon and will resume his duties as editor on his arrival here.

Lt. Harper entered the Navy in August, 1943, as a Lieutenant, junior grade, and received his indoctrination at Princeton University. Training as gunnery officer was received at Gulfport, Miss., and New Orleans, La. He shipped out as gunnery officer aboard the SS Horace H. Harvey in March of 1944 and served aboard that tanker with his gun crew until December of that year. During his service on the Harvey he made trips to Europe, calling at Seapa Flow and Gibraltar.

In December of 1944 he was assigned to the SS Francis N. Blanchet, a cargo ship, as gunnery officer and was promoted at that time to Lieutenant, senior grade. Aboard the Blanchet he made one trip to India, coming back to the States by way of east and south Africa. In May he sailed for Italy, where he called at Naples, Civitavecchia and Leghorn. While in Italy he spent five days with his brother, Lt. Robert Harper, who at that time was stationed with mountain infantry in northern Italy. From Italy the Blanchet went via Panama to the Philippines, and from there to Australia. Returning to the Philippines, Lt. Harper and the gun crew were detached and given transportation back to San Francisco. On all of her trips since Lt. Harper was assigned to her, the Blanchet carried 600 Australian troops to Brisbane.

## Service Men Want Governm't Boats

Appears To Be General  
Lack Of Information As  
To How To Obtain Boats  
For Fishing

Brunswick county has a large number of ex-service men who are experienced in fishing and who would like to engage in this industry, if they could only secure boats. Along with the experienced men there are a number of in-experienced service men who would also like to engage in fishing. To these the securing of boats also present a problem.

The government still has many thousands of small boats that were used by the Coast Guard and Navy for the various details of shore patrol. Almost without exception these boats are ideal for shrimp trawling, with only slight alterations. However, they do not seem to be available for purchase by the ex-service men.

In the office of this paper this week one young service man said he had been trying to get a boat, that he had thought he could get one through the G. I. Bill of Rights. But, if he could do this he could not find out where or how. He was getting around to the conclusion that the G. I. Bill of Rights was hokey, insofar as aiding ex-service men to get started in the fishing industry was concerned.

It appears that the trouble may be through lack of understanding both among the returned service men who need boats (Continued on Page Four)

## Holmes Succeeds Phelps As Lister

Unable to perform the work of tax listing in Lockwoods Folly Township because of his health and work that occupies his attention, Magistrate L. H. Phelps of Supply has resigned as tax lister.

Tax Supervisor W. P. Jorgensen has secured Hubert Holmes, young Shallotte ex-service man and son of W. R. Holmes, to replace Mr. Phelps. Mr. Holmes will be at Shallotte for tax listing, each Saturday during the month and on other week days he will be at convenient points throughout the county.

## Modern Banking Institution Is Near Readiness

Hooks Declares New Bank  
Will Serve Banking  
Needs Of Growing Community

OPENING WITH  
\$100,000 CAPITAL

Substantial Business Men  
Of Community Comprise  
Officers And Board Of  
Directors

The First National Bank of Whiteville will open its doors for business Wednesday, January 2. Heavy deposits are expected on the opening day.

With the new bank building, located on the corner of Main and Madison streets, completed and the bank personnel organized for business, the doors of Whiteville's newest business institution will open at 9 a. m. on the opening day for what is being freely predicted will be a successful business undertaking.

Though officials are reluctant to prophesy the volume of business on the opening day, there have been open suggestions that the first day's deposits should approach the million-dollar mark.

"We will be ready for business on the opening date," Bill Hooks, bank president, declared, "and we are anticipating serving the banking patrons of Columbus and adjoining counties with as modern, and efficient banking service as can be found anywhere."

Mr. Hooks said that nothing had been left undone to bring to Whiteville and Columbus county a bank in which will be found all modern banking facilities.

Beginning with a \$100,000 capital structure, the First National Bank has officers and directors comprising some of the leading business men in Whiteville, all but three of whom are natives of Columbus county. They include: Bill Hooks, president; S. L. Braxton, chairman of the board of directors; Bion Sears, cashier; R. L. Sholar, vice president; S. L. Fuller, vice president; Lloyd Collier, Crowell Black, Herman Leder, Ferbe Sledge, Luther Meares, J. R. Marks, directors.

Mr. Marks, recently released from active duty with the U. S. Navy in which he attained the rank of full lieutenant, has taken over the duties as cashier with nine years banking experience to his credit. Associated with him is a staff of trained personnel whose experience well qualifies them for their respective assignments.

Mr. Sears and a part of his staff have been busy for several weeks getting all details into readiness for the opening date.

The opening of the bank for business will mark the consummation of efforts begun here early last summer to bring a new bank to Whiteville. Believing that a new banking institution would fit well into the business structure of a growing community, the business men who later became the officers and board of directors of the new bank determined to organize and seek a charter for a national bank for Whiteville. The charter was granted during the middle of July, and immediately thereafter plans were begun for the opening of the bank at the earliest date possible.

A seven-year lease was secured for the use of the R. B. McRoy building where the R. B. McRoy Company had its retail grocery department. Selection of this location was regarded as fortunate, since its central location makes it convenient for all downtown customers. The interior and exterior of the building have been fitted up to serve the needs of a modern banking institution.

## Trawler Fleet Will Return

Lewis J. Hardee Thinks He  
Will Have His Big Sixty-  
Foot Boats Here Soon

Lewis J. Hardee, operator of a large shrimp and seafood house at Morgan City, La., stated definitely to this paper this week that his fishermen want to come back home. So do he and his family and so he may have his fleet of four large shrimp trawlers back here by the middle of January.

This past summer Hardee sold a fleet of six 50-foot shrimp trawlers to the U. S. Navy. (Continued on Page Four)