

The State Port Pilot

Southport, N. C.

Published Every Wednesday

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Entered as second-class matter April 20, 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

Wednesday, May 19, 1948

Whereof She Speaks

We notice that at the last meeting of the Southport Home Demonstration Club Mrs. Anna Davis made a talk on home gardens. This is an important phase of club activity, and special emphasis is being laid on this department now that the United States is being called upon to ship such great quantities overseas for the needy in war-torn countries.

The ladies hardly could have chosen a better person to make this talk before the club, not if Mrs. Davis is able to present a word picture of her own gardening activities. On the hill back of her house overlooking the yacht basin is the best garden we have seen in Southport, and it is the product of her own labor.

Short-Sighted Criticism

You do not have to travel far to find someone who is in serious disagreement with the Motor Vehicle Inspection law, but many of the arguments being used against this program are based upon prejudice and not on facts.

In the first place, our people are ignoring the primary reason for passing this law: The conservation of human life and property. Automobile accidents were piling up at a rate which was a menace to our very social and economic structure, and radical measures were required to restore a measure of sanity to our management of motoring.

Statistics show that the new program already is paying dividends, that there has been a material decrease in accidents and fatalities since the first of the year. As the enlarged Highway Patrol becomes better organized and when the inspection lanes have come closer to the completion of their first year's task, it is reasonable to believe that there will be even better results written into the record.

The trouble with the critics of the program is that they are measuring time and trouble and dollars against death and injury and suffering. You cannot do this and keep your reasoning sound. The new program has its shortcomings, and in some instances hardships, but the saving of human life is more than enough to justify all of these things.

A Needed Service

We hope that members of the Board of County Commissioners will find it possible to make provision for a Veterans Service Officer for the county in the new budget.

If everyone were of independent means and no problems in human relations were in prospect, there would be no need for this service. Nor would a Service Officer be needed if each man, woman or child who will have problems which date back to the two World Wars were able to take care of these things for themselves. There would not even be a need for a head of this work if in each community in our county there were some patriotic person who stands always ready and willing to help an ex-service man, his widow or his orphan with the endless round of paper work that usually precedes definite action.

But this is a normal county, and our people are just about average. There are many who cannot do for themselves and there are others who will not, even though their negligence hurts someone who is helpless.

A war is not over when the last gun is fired, and a nation's responsibility for her fighting men and members of their families is not discharged with separation from active duty. There are

problems, many and varied, which will continue to crop up; and some provision must be made to have them handled in an orderly and efficient manner.

Otherwise needless hardship and possible suffering will come to men, and members of their family, to whom we all owe a great measure of gratitude and our everlasting vigilance that their welfare is not neglected.

An Old Issue

It crops up every biennium, so it is unlikely that anything new can be said upon the subject. We refer, of course, to the question of a candidate campaigning for office while holding down a public job.

For purposes of illustration, State Treasurer Charles M. Johnson has been attacked for running for Governor and keeping the Treasurer's post at the same time. He held on to the State job, while Kerr Scott, his chief opponent—that's the opinion of political experts—resigned as Commissioner of Agriculture when he tossed his hat into the ring. Likewise, F. Eitel Carlyle, solicitor of the ninth district, is under fire for allegedly using time in campaigning that the State was entitled to by reason of the office he holds. Some have called upon him to resign, contending that if he wants to run for Congress, he should do so on his own time.

On the other hand, hosts of officeholders are seeking re-election in precinct, county, State and nation, and presumably devoting a mite of their time off to keeping fences in repair and erecting a few new fences here and there.

It's sort of puzzling to attempt to differentiate between the lads who are using "public" time to seek promotion and those who use "public" time to seek re-election. Of one thing we may be sure, if fence-building were denied officeholders there would be a heavy turn-over.

About the only thing that would stop candidates already holding office from taking time off to do a bit of campaigning is a law limiting tenure to a single term.

But this observation won't bring reform and, come April and May of 1950 and 1952, columns of your newspapers will be full of the same. Oh, well . . . ho-hum. And far into the night.

Hospital Week

The great task facing the smaller hospitals is to acquaint the general public with the very great needs that exist. It puts the management of hospitals in an embarrassing position to go about advertising how woefully lacking their facilities are. This they should not have to do.

One of the great needs of the present day in North Carolina is for local leaders to carry this message to the public. Lives can be saved with more beds and that means more space. Many are suffering needlessly because there is no room for them in present institutions. The State and Federal governments have recognized this need. They have agreed to put up 72 per cent of the funds for expansion. That means 28 per cent is left for local communities.

Suppose we could buy an automobile for 28 per cent of list price! We'd find the money somewhere. And yet most North Carolina counties can add to their hospitals for 28 per cent of the cost, and in some cases the cost is even less. The thought pops up that a favorable attitude for action may be created if the story is adequately told.

Worthless Checks

An occasional look at Recorder's Court proceedings will reveal numerous cases involving worthless checks—rubber checks if you prefer, so-called by reason of their bouncing quality—and, of course, court records do not show all the bad check score. Hundreds of others are handled privately and in magistrate tribunals.

Just a glance, however, is sufficiently compelling to convince merchants and other business men that a lot of trouble could be saved if they would check up on issuers of this paper before accepting same for merchandise or cash. And, certainly, no honest person should be embarrassed thereby.

As for those who accept post-dated checks in lieu of merchandise and/or services, courts should not be made a collection agency in such cases and there is little sympathy wasted on those who suffer headaches by reason of the practice.

WELFARE DEPT.

BY RUTH E. PATTERSON
Superintendent of Public Welfare

In the past few articles we have told how the Welfare Office is able, with the help of the State and Federal Governments to give monthly checks to the needy aged and the needy children. You probably have been wondering if we do not have any people with financial problems in middle life.

Indeed we do. There are the sick and mentally ill. There are people stranded away from home who must be helped to get back. There are children with some problems which cannot be cared for by Aid by Dependent Children grants. All these expenses are lumped together in the planning of most local Welfare Departments under the head of general relief. This is a separate budget which is cared for by the county alone. There is no outside help from State or Federal Governments at all.

Shortly after the Revolutionary War the local town and county governments of our new nation saw that some people must have financial help from the town or county if they were to keep from starving. County commissioners at that time started the program of having an "Out-door Poor List." This was a list of the poor people in the county to whom the county sent a check each month. These checks were so pitifully small that they actually did very little good.

As people began to think more deeply about the real needs of the less fortunate there began to be movements which finally resulted in the present plan to Old Age Assistance and Aid to Dependent Children grants. These programs, as pointed out before, still leave a large part of the needy people for the county to care for. In most counties a budget is set up by the commissioners for the use of the local Welfare Department.

In this way, both the larger needs and the small incidental expenses are cared for by the local Welfare Department.

Due to the financial conditions in Brunswick County the county commissioners still handle the "out-door poor list. There is no money whatsoever for incidental needs, such as clothing for school children or bus tickets to hospitals. In cases where these needs arise your Welfare Department must depend on local organizations and the big hearts of the neighbors. Where you find cases which need the special attention of the Welfare Department, we shall be happy to help you plan with these people who need your help.

STARTS TODAY

The 1948 menhaden fishing season at Southport started up today with the W. P. Anderson, Captain Shelton, going out in search of fish. It is understood that the Brunswick, a former minesweeper, will start out the first of the week and that the John M. Morehead will follow immediately. All boats should be at work in about ten days.

U. S. DREDGE IS

(Continued from page one)
Captain John G. Swan. He commanded her during her citation-winning work in the war zone. Coming home a year before the dredge was returned to the United States, Captain Swan was placed in charge of another craft and when the Lyman came in he again found himself in command. Captain Swan, Julian Southland and Albert Russ, who are among those from Brunswick county on the Lyman, are now spending several days at their homes here. It is understood that the entire present crew of the

ship will make the trip to South America.

MR. TAYLOR TO PREACH

The pulpit of the Presbyterian church will be occupied Sunday.

night by Rev. L. A. Taylor, Wilmington. The services will be at eight o'clock. Dr. J. M. W. gett, pastor of the church, will be preaching at Lynchburg, C., at that time.

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SHALLOTTE, N. C.

FOR HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

I offer myself as a candidate for the House of Representatives for Brunswick County, subject to the will of the voters in the Republican Primary on May 29.

If nominated and elected I have one promise, and that is that I will serve the people of Brunswick County to the best of my ability.

JACK KING

Freeland, N. C.

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