

# The State Port Pilot

Southport, N. C.

Published Every Wednesday  
JAMES M. HARPER, JR. Editor

Entered as second-class matter April 20, 1923, 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, March 23, 1949

## The School And Politics

There is nothing we would like better than to be able to believe the statement of Representative Odell Williamson that his decision to make a sweeping change in the membership of the Brunswick County Board of Education is based upon a desire to take the schools of our county out of politics. But his action of taking full responsibility for creating a new board fails to bear out this statement, and we have a firm conviction that no group as important as this body should owe its existence to the efforts of one man.

We do not intend to compare the relative ability of the men whom Williamson proposes to name with the ability of the men whom they are to replace. The board would be stronger, we think, if some were appointed from each group.

The point we raise is whether it is right for a Representative to ignore the precedent of filling existing vacancies only; whether he is within his rights when he disregards the preferential vote given two of the men whom he proposes to replace; and whether it is morally right for him to take action of this kind without a clear mandate from the people.

Certain it is that he could not have received the nomination last May if he had stated as a part of his program that he proposed to appoint whom he pleased to the Board of Education; and if he had managed to clear the Spring hurdle he surely would have tripped in the General Election had he taken a stand on this policy.

The only mitigating circumstance we can find in his action is that it is no worse than his report of efforts that have been made by other Brunswick county citizens who sought to use another means of political approach to take the matter of naming the board of education out of the hands of the man whom the people elected.

Representative Williamson tells us that the group which attempted to undermine his efforts did so without first discussing the school situation with him. If these men really had the best interest of the county school system at heart, a good place to have started would have been with a public hearing called for the purpose of letting the Brunswick county representative know the wishes of the majority.

The action of Representative Williamson is sure to create a major controversy, and regardless of the outcome we fear that the result will not be to take school matters out of politics.

## The Bonus Bill

There are several features we like about the bill introduced last week by Representative Odell Williamson to provide the payment of a bonus of \$25. to arresting officers for each conviction in connection with arrests of persons operating a still in Brunswick county.

For one thing, it provides no extra payment in cases where no person is arrested along with the destruction of a still, and in this one respect alone would be a great improvement over past performances of cutting up a still whose operator escaped.

For another, it provides that this payment of \$25.00 be made a part of the costs of the case, and that only one bonus fee shall be paid in each case. It also is noteworthy that no fee is to be paid unless a conviction is obtained.

One of the points on which we disagree with this measure is in the provision that where the defendant is not taxed with the costs or where he is unable to pay these charges, the bonus of

\$25.00 must be paid by the county from its general fund.

But our principal objection to the bill is that there is no provision made for local jurisdiction at any point, and we believe this is a dangerous measure to write into our local laws without placing this power at the discretion of some county agency. Our own choice would be the county commissioner, and if the bill is amended enabling them to provide these payments within their own knowledge of conditions and proper discretion, we think that it should be enacted.

Too much, both pro and con, has been said about this pending legislation, and much of it has had nothing at all to do with the merit of the bill. Two men who represent rival factions within their own political party are using this argument for jockeying into a more favorable place of power. Their exchange should not be permitted to cloud the issue, and where sides are taken the decision to do so should be based upon facts and not upon prejudice.

## Complete This Road

On Sunday it was our pleasure to visit three of Charleston's Famous Gardens, and while we were tremendously well pleased with the beauty of these places, we were much more impressed with the fact that the State of South Carolina has done an excellent job of rendering these places easily accessible to the motoring public.

This is in direct contrast to our own State, about whom much has been said in connection with the good roads program. In other words, no visitor this year can reach beautiful and historic Orton Plantation without having to travel over some dirt road. True, the River Road has been surfaced to within a short distance of the garden gates from the Wilmington end, but a seven-mile stretch extends from that point in the direction of Southport for which no bid has been asked.

We hope that these conditions will be entirely corrected before the next blooming season. There are no grounds upon which to attack the value of paving the remainder of this road, for aside from the great benefit which will result from its development as a tourist route, the territory through which it runs comprises some of the richest farm lands of Brunswick county.

Orton Plantation is without question North Carolina's outstanding scenic attraction during the early spring. We are proud that this wonderful show-place is located within our boundaries, and we want everyone to have an opportunity to visit these gardens, and to be able to do so with comfort and safety.

## A Cow And Schools

We hope the weary, overworked members of the General Assembly of North Carolina were not too busy to read about the cow which jumped into a silo in Oklahoma and couldn't get out.

Grady is a 1,400-pound cow. She jumped through a door seventeen and one-half inches by twenty-five inches in size. She couldn't possibly have jumped through that door. But the fact is she did.

Maybe there's a moral for our solons. It doesn't seem possible for them to do justice to our schools, but they can. And if they do, history will say they did the seemingly impossible and survived to become famous as did Grady, the cow.

## Mental Barrier

Now that so many folks are voicing concern about possible economic trends, it seems opportune to remember the story of the man, the bass and the minnows.

The man, according to our recollection, decided on an experiment. In his pool, he placed minnows and a bass, but between the minnows and the bass he placed a piece of glass. The bass could see his prey but he could do nothing more than dart here and there against the glass.

Finally the bass gave up and quit attempting to get to the minnows. When the experimenter observed this, he removed the glass and the minnows went swimming around the bass, unharmed, unmolested.

We should be careful in our thinking lest we create a mental barrier which would let prosperity go swimming by without seizing the opportunity to grasp it.

## STANALAND AND

Continued From Page One

Carolina as poorly paid and as poorly equipped for Law Enforcement as is the Sheriff's office in Brunswick County.

"I am very sorry indeed to think that Mr. Frink, who is considered the Democratic party's head felt it necessary to give out his first information on our county law-enforcement to the public press. This is very harmful to the Democratic party of Brunswick county and as the party head I think Mr. Frink should have taken the matter up with me personally and discussed the bad conditions in my set-up which he has never done. I will gladly discuss with him at any time or with any other person law violations that they know about. This is my business and I spend my time at that. There are some sections where it is hard to get cooperation and that makes it very hard on the success of Law Enforcement.

"I don't see any chance for what Mr. Frink calls a racket in the Williamson bill which is now pending in the Legislature. I don't think the Williamson bill is the dead negro in the woodpile. There is another major interest that is about to come up and friction is trying to be generated about it, and what the Law Enforcement has done or not done, has nothing to do with it.

"Outside of the president I think the people have voted for a change from Washington right on down to Brunswick County and I think they are entitled to it, and for my part they will get it so far as I am able to make it. As I see it Mr. Frink is on a sinking ship and he is going to drown and is catching at every straw that passes and with disregard to the future interest of the party. It is very painful to me to be forced to reply to Mr. Frink's public attack. If there was any justification for an attack, against me or my organization, indeed I think it should have been private and not public. At least to start with. I have talked with Mr. Frink on other matters and would have gladly conversed with him on this because I am seeking information of that kind.

"I do not have a quarrel with Mr. Frink. My only point is that Mr. Frink has done dis-service to our county and to the law enforcement officers of our county. I will be happy to meet with your board at any time and would like for you to extend an invitation to Mr. Frink to attend that meeting and hope that he will at that time furnish me with names and information of persons who may engage in the liquor traffic in our county. That is my job, and I welcome information and help on the part of any good citizen in the enforcement of all of our laws.

"Odell Williamson is a good representative and is up in the Legislature trying to do what his people want done and carry out his obligations to the people that sent him.

"I hope Mr. Frink will be able to see Senator Bob Hester. Perhaps he can get Senator Hester to change the Legislature's long-standing rules to fit the selfish few."

## The Rovin' Reporter

(Continued from page one) doubted if such amusements would pay him much this year. But, he realizes the beach is growing and growing fast. Amusements installed there now would grow up with the resort and help the resort to grow.

Nominated by William Bragaw as being our No. 1 reader fan, and supported by the young G. T. in person, we met up with Mrs. Hugh Marshall of the Institute of Government in Chapel Hill, this past week. We don't see any special distinction in being our No. 1 fan, but it was pleasant to have a very nice young woman claim that she was just that. She says she reads everything we write.

It certainly has not happened before, not within our time, to have the peak of the flower blooming season come along in mid-March. Whether such an occurrence is believable or not, the peak of the flowering is here and folks from up-state and elsewhere who wish to see azaleas in their crowing glory should visit Brunswick county gardens now. There will be a lot of blooms for some time yet but the peak is here now.

For once at least we have done something worthwhile, something we will not be sorry about. We donated a box of nylon hose, the kind the womenfolks wear, to the Cape Fear Area Girl Scouts, Inc. Those girls, by selling cookies and trading were able to acquire Pretty Pond and the surrounding land area in Brunswick county. Now they are again selling cookies to raise money with which to build their lodge and start a girls camp for New Hanover, Pender, Columbus and Brunswick counties. They can auction off or otherwise dispose of our "socks" and put the money if there is any, in the cookie kitty.

We have already said it once, so this is just repeating something we have already asked. It pleases us to hear of the many folks in Brunswick county who are building nice new homes. We believe the rest of the folks in the county are interested in such things and that they make good publicity. If you or your neighbors are building a nice new home just write us about it, telling us how large it is who owns it and where it is located.

Not asking for it, not expecting it, not getting it, we have been carrying on as well as we could with publicity for Southport and Brunswick county for a number of years when we had to dig down in our own pocket for some of the expenses, and had to give all of our own time. Both of these things were done gladly, despite the fact that we had nothing to gain personally. In five years no citizen of Southport has personally contributed a dime to aid in the effort. So, it made news one night this week when Ormond Leggett came to the office where we were working a little and handed us a nice little check, saying: "That's a little bit of my appreciation for the fine publicity you are always giving Southport." It wasn't the money as much as it was the appreciation that caused this to be a very pleasing incident.

The weather, like some other things, can be one man's meat and another man's poison. Tuesday morning of last week a very warm wave struck here. We wrote something for the papers accordingly. Well sir, between the time when we wrote that stuff and when it appeared in the papers the warm wave bounced off and about the coldest weather since Christmas struck in its place and held on for two or three days. We were so sure of Tuesday's warm wave that we did not hesitate when Jerry Ball, press relations man for the Standard Oil Company in Charlotte, phoned in to ask if we would take him fishing the next afternoon. We had to phone Jerry next morning and tell him the fishing trip was just as much off as the hair on a baldheaded man.

The new hardware annex of the Shallotte Trading Company at Shallotte is, we believe the most complete hardware store in Brunswick. With the Trading Company's business outgrowing ability to take care of it all under one roof, the annex for hardware was a happy solution to the problem. Buying the Trading Company a number of years ago after being brought up as a member of the G. W. Kirby & Sons at Supply, Hobson Kirby, the owner, has kept pace with the business needs of a large section of fine farming country and the town of Shallotte.

# Not Exactly News

The other day Bennie Sellers, son of Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Sellers of Supply, came in the office with his father and picked up a copy of The Pilot and started reading. We were flattered at this attention and so we asked our young visitor what is the first thing he reads when their paper comes each week. "I allus turns to the movie programs the first thing," Little Bennie confided. The baseball boys were out at the ball diamond Saturday afternoon getting things in shape for practice this week.

Ben Stephenson, music director for Southport high school, has ambitious plans for a school band next year and promises to bring out the first edition of this musical organization before the end of this term. Billy Benton, Leland boy who is one of the best athletes ever developed in Brunswick county, is now busy working out with the Agusta team of the South Atlantic League. Benton was purchased from the Philadelphia Athletics, and he has been farmed out for this year to the Class A Georgia Team.

So far as we remember information obtained from former county agent J. E. Dodson some months ago was that the average corn yield per acre has increased four or five bushels during the past ten years. This speaks well for several things, better seed, better preparation of the land, better fertilization and cultivation. Better tools may have also entered largely into the increase. This week County Agent A. S. Knowles and a lot of farmers have been getting together to discuss better practices of corn growing. With lands already built up greatly by legumes there should be continued yearly increases in the average corn production.

This is the season of the year when the timber land owners in Brunswick view with real concern the possibility of woods fires and the damage they can do. High winds may now be considered as almost certain. Along with the winds there is the ever present danger of dry weather in late March and throughout April. The combination of wind and dry weather is a dangerous one. The timber owners now needs to be constantly on the alert to see that forest fires do not reach his woodlands. The public should share this alertness and cooperate by promptly reporting forest fires that they find breaking out anywhere.

Wiley Sholar, timber dealer of Lenoir, former president of the South Atlantic football officials association and our fishing companion several times a year, ran in this week to say hello and to ask what were the prospects for a fishing trip this year with us. The nearest we ever came to seeing a real big time football game was when Duke University played Southern California a few years ago in the Rose Bowl. Our only nearness to that game was when Wiley tried his best to get us to go with him as his guest, and we never came near going. Mrs. Sholar was with him on the trip this week and she looks a great deal better than he does.

When he moved to Southport several years ago Ross Livingston, father of the Southport mayor, brought with him a beautiful grey horse which first attracted his attention while marching in the first inaugural parade for President Woodrow Wilson. Not only is H. R. Hewett a good surveyor, but he is a good woodsman as well. When he starts out with his bush knife in his hands you needn't be afraid to follow him through the thickest swamp. That weapon not only serves to clear the way, but comes in handy in beheading snakes.

It got warm enough one day last week to start up some discussion about speed boats. Davis Creek, at the lower end of Long Beach, should be a busy scene for this activity this summer with the landing being easily accessible by good road. His audience cheered Speaker Bill Hiatt Friday night when he appeared on the screen in the color picture of Orton Plantation. Incidentally, we recommend that movie as a good program for any club who can get it. And that's that for now.

five school districts. I feel that each man I have named is a good citizen, fully qualified to fill that office.

"This week I plan to introduce a bill which will create a law providing for five school districts in Brunswick county. At present, no such statute is on the books, but I feel that the best interest of education in Brunswick county can be served through this means of representation, and I will make provision that it shall be done in this manner in the future."

RECORDER HEARS violation of previous sentence. Mayan Taylor and William C. Taylor, reckless operation, damage to property, continued. Abraham Ravenel, drunk and disorderly, 30 days in jail, suspended on payment of a fine of \$10.00 and costs.

## Williamson Names Five

Continued From Page One was done," Williamson says, without any contact being made with me and without any effort being made by this delegation to work through me as their representative, the normal channel for handling this business.

"Furthermore," Williams said, "I have been informed that one of the members of this delegation is at present a member of the board of education. Apparently he did not feel inclined to continue service on the board unless he was given the privilege to name the men who would serve with him. For that reason I feel fully justified to leave him off."

"In naming the new Board of Education," Williamson continued, "I have done as I promised in the primary election and that is to give representation to each of the

**LESPEDEZA HAY**  
\$30.00 & \$35.00 Per Ton.

**DUPONT DYNAMITE**  
Fuzes & Caps

**SEED - FEED - FERTILIZER**  
Farm Equipment

**THE COUNTRY STORE**  
Rice Gwyn, Jr., — Proprietor  
Longwood, N. C.

# DO YOU WANT A TELEPHONE?

In an effort to interest telephone people in providing adequate service to the sections of Brunswick county not now served, the Brunswick County Farm Bureau is collecting data on the need of phones.

This information is to be assembled and presented to parties who may be interested.

If you live in or near any of our thickly settled communities and wish telephone service, you are invited to write the undersigned without further delay. Advise where you live and if it is your intention to put in a telephone if this service becomes available.

Write this information today. Do not put it off.  
Address:  
**J. J. HAWES, SECRETARY**  
Brunswick County Farm Bureau,  
Supply, N. C.

## SCHEDULE

### W. B. & B. BUS LINE

#### Southport, N. C.

EFFECTIVE TUES., JAN. 20, 1948

### WEEK-DAY SCHEDULE

LEAVES SOUTHPORT	LEAVES WILMINGTON
**	7:00 A. M.
7:00 A. M.	*9:30 A. M.
9:30 A. M.	1:35 P. M.
*1:30 P. M.	4:00 P. M.
4:00 P. M.	6:10 P. M.
6:00 P. M.	10:20 P. M.

\*—These Trips on Saturday Only.  
\*\*—This Bus Leaves Winnabow at 6:10 Daily.

### — SUNDAY ONLY —

LEAVES SOUTHPORT	LEAVES WILMINGTON
7:30 A. M.	9:00 A. M.
10:50 A. M.	1:35 P. M.
4:00 P. M.	6:10 P. M.
6:00 P. M.	10:20 P. M.