

The State Port Pilot

Southport, N. C.

Published Every Wednesday

JAMES M. HARPER, JR. Editor

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 MONTHS1.00
THREE MONTHS75

Wednesday, June 8, 1949

Homecoming Day

This week Southport citizens will engage in an all-out program along the lines that our people do their best work. Friday is Homecoming Day, and every man, woman and child in this community will be considered as a host to visitors who return here to join in what should turn out to be one of our most enjoyable expressions of hospitality.

This program has been under consideration for several weeks, and we confess that at times there were some confusing and indefinite arrangements. But now there is not a single one of these but what will be under perfect control Friday, and if we know the people of Southport, visitors to this community on that day can promise themselves a good time long to be remembered.

To offer any advice to our people as to how they should treat strangers would be presumptuous. However, there is one particular in which every one of us may cooperate to help this community to make the very best possible impression; and that is to clean up our yards, lots and streets today and tomorrow so that on Friday our guests will realize that here is a beautiful town in which the citizens take great pride.

And so, on behalf of the people of Southport, The Pilot bids our visitors welcome and we sincerely hope that each and everyone of you will enjoy your trip here for Homecoming Day.

The People Speak

Saturday saw the expression of a clear mandate from the people of North Carolina for Better Schools and Roads, and it is a source of great pride to us that the citizens of Brunswick county by a margin of nine to one placed their stamp of approval on these two progressive measures.

In view of the weather conditions, which made many of our folks the victim of one of the problems which the vote was designed to help correct—muddy roads—the 2,500-votes cast in Brunswick was a remarkably high total. No other county in the third highway district gave a better percentage favoring the programs.

It was a pleasure to see Republicans working hand-in-hand with the Democrats to put this bond issue over. It was a satisfaction to see folks at the polls who came there despite handicaps which would have kept persons of less determination at home. It was fine to see this spontaneous response from our people to an opportunity which offered them a chance to get their children in good school buildings and their cars out of the mud.

One of the most significant developments was the discovery that a successful election can be run in Brunswick without spending great sums of money.

In one precinct 123 people voted in favor of better roads, and not a dissenting vote was cast. The leader in the community had never before taken an active part in an election. In another section of the county the efforts of a minister were among the more outstanding activities in getting out a big vote; and in another a professional man gave help where more experienced politicians either could not or would not function.

It was the voice of the people that was heard Saturday, and it is good to know that it can be shouted in Brunswick on a strictly amateur basis.

From Spokane, Washington, comes the story of the deputy sheriff who knocked on the door of a house and was told to "shut up." When he tried again, the voice screamed more abuse. Looking through a window, he saw the guilty party—an angry parrot. Now don't all of you start buying parrots.

The Highway Crisis

Sometime ago, the Commissioner of Public Roads delivered a startling address, whose main theme was the vast damage being done to our highways by heavy commercial vehicles. Much evidence in support of that is appearing in various states.

According to a story in the Chicago Daily News, written by Roy M. Fisher, "Failure of Illinois officials to enforce truck weight laws is a major cause of the \$2,000,000,000 highway crisis facing the state today, highway engineers believe." In this case, the weight limits were lifted as a war emergency measure. After the war, the limits were theoretically reimposed, but there was only a nominal amount of enforcement. According to an Illinois division of highways survey, one-third of the trailer type trucks operating on the state highways carried illegal loads in 1947.

Mr. Fisher also wrote: "Although truckers have long insisted weight has little to do with highway wear, highway engineers point to a growing list of examples to prove the contrary." Some of the huge modern trucks are so heavy that past ideas of the causes of road damage have had to be changed. Roads which will last indefinitely under the stress of normal traffic break down relatively quickly under the big loads. And to build roads which will stand any kind of truck and load involves a staggering cost to the taxpayers.

This has become a national problem. It is a problem which will grow more intense as time goes on. The only sound solution seems to be the imposition of reasonable weight limits—coupled with strict enforcement of the law. The highways, after all, are a public property, publicly paid for and maintained. They are in a very different category from a railroad right of way which private enterprise must support entirely out of its own pocket.

That the recent General Assembly ignored these warnings is hardly worth mentioning here. If we are correctly informed, weight limits were lifted in the discretion of the State Motor Vehicle Department. And if political pressure could change the color of patrol cars, it seems reasonable to believe that weight might also yield to pressure.

RALEIGH ROUNDUP

HURRICAN . . . About a year ago Candidate-for-Governor Kerr Scott said he was going to open the windows of the Capitol and let in a little fresh air. As per his promise, the windows were hoisted several weeks ago and the fine, fresh rural atmosphere filled the place. But the window-raiser didn't stop with the mere raising. He took out the windows and the fresh air became a strong breeze, then a hefty wind. Now there is a Scott hurricane and every old-line State employee feels it, fears it, and knows it is useless to fight it.

All signs indicate that it will continue to blow fiercely until July 1. The men at the top were hit first. Now many of the underlings will get their pink slips.

PRICE VS KENDALL . . . As reported here before, Colonel Henry E. Kendall, Employment Security Commission chairman and native of that old political stronghold, Shelby, is almost sure to be replaced by one Brooks Price of Charlotte.

Although Colonel Kendall was not a Scott man, he has done virtually everything except turn cartwheels and do head-stands for the Governor during the past five months. It is understood Price was offered a place on the Industrial Commission, but eschewed that for Kendall's job, a position he has had an eye on for 10, these many months.

NEW FACES . . . The order of the day here is that old maxim "To the victor belongs the spoils." There may be criticism of Governor Scott, but he believes the people requested new faces in Raleigh by electing him.

However, Uncle Sam protects with jealous hand the Employment Security Commission in each State and looks with sharp disfavor upon its being made a political football. When "Human" Talmadge kicked ESC about in Georgia, the Social Security Board withdrew its funds until the floor was swept. Now similar action has been taken in Arizona.

There seems little danger of this occurrence in North Carolina.

CO-OP DEPARTMENT STORE . . . The E. A. Filene Cooperative of Virginia, which in 1948 set up the nation's first cooperative department store, has just completed a difficult year. Although set up to do a volume of \$1,500,000 annually, it actually did only \$600,000, losing approximately \$150,000. The management of the store says new advertising and promotion policies will cause it to break even this coming year.

N. C. MYSTERY STORIES . . . Every North Carolina library, private and public, should have a copy of "The Devil's Tramping Ground and Other North Carolina Mystery Stories" by John Hardin, who gathered these yarns and broadcast them on his "Tales of Tarheelia" program on Radio Station WPTF in Raleigh

The Rovin' Reporter

(Continued from page one)

plenty about the island and the beautiful daughter of Aaron Burr. Writing to say that the tomato plant assembly line pictures and story were being sent out to the newspaper and trade journals, Carl Sink, feature writer for the State News Bureau, says that he believes the publicity will do great good in interesting plant producers in North Carolina and Brunswick county. Quoting him specifically in part of his letter, Mr. Sink said: "In my opinion you are around Southport blooming and prosperous looking, Southport, Bald Head Island and the rest of Brunswick county will burst out in a tourist boom the like of which even you don't dream of."

Passed over the desk to us this week was a note of thanks from Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Potter of Shallotte. The thanks being to some one they did not know personally. It appears they were fishing on the Waccamaw river and it was raining. C. D. parked his fishing tackle box in the bed of a pickup truck that was standing near his car. Then, man-like, he forgot it and they drove home and did not discover the loss until they arrived. Returning to the river in the hope of regaining the tackle box before the unknown owner of the truck left in it they found the machine gone. But, the owner of the truck had considerably left the tackle box with all of its contents intact. Mr. and Mrs. Potter very much appreciate the recovery of the box, and don't know whom to thank.

Lt. Commander W. R. Bomberger, retired Coast Guard Officer took us to task the other day because of the fact that no United States flags were displayed at Southport on Memorial Day. We do not know the reason for this omission. The post office, bank, county and town offices all made a holiday of Memorial Day. That is, they closed and took the day off from work. Taking the day off was about the extent of the observance.

Brunswick, based on the vote cast, turned out the largest majority of any of the Southeastern North Carolina counties for the road and school bonds. The returns showed more than 9 to 1. This can easily be understood when it is considered that the entire opposition to the bonds in this county was along highways and at garages. Such folks could easily get out and vote. On the other hand most of our folks who were for the bonds live on the 250 miles of unpaved roads. It rained steadily all day long and these folks could not get to the polling places. For instance, only 6 people along the 10-mile stretch of River Road were able to get in to Southport No. 1 precinct to vote. They described their rain soaked road as terrible and they had to cross a deep stream on a bridge that the grand jury has condemned as dangerous.

The Cadet, Captain Howard Victor, arrived here Sunday night from Florida, where they were

engaged in sport fishing during the winter. Captain Victor has a good boat in the Cadet and the Cadet has a good skipper in Captain Victor. The two have fished the length of the coast, Florida to New York. Last summer instead of going to New Jersey as usual, they spent the summer at Wrightsville Beach. While there Captain Victor decided that owing to the proximity of the gulf and the shoals he would base at Southport. He expects to be here for five months, at least. Jim Wilson, sports writer on the Wilmington Star-News, is a good friend of Captain Victor and it was largely through Jim's good offices that the Cadet came here.

High Times

By Cheerleaders
This week has been an exciting one to all of us. There are many reasons, but the most important as you'll know is the fact that school is out. Our Seniors, although busy and fussy, were a little sorry to leave their school behind. They were, however, gracious enough to leave their ways, looks, and actions to the various unlucky students. We think you will enjoy this, their last will and testament:

Jimmy Ratcliffe leaves his seat in detention hall to Bill Cranmer; George Stanley leaves one hour in detention hall to Coopie Burris; Jean Helms and Jimmy Ratcliffe leave their title as gig-gest flirts to Jackie Marsh and Billy Doshier; Barbara Price and Jimmy Davis leave best-all-round to Patricia Adams and Darrell Fisher.

Maxine Doshier and Richard Brendle leave their position as class grumbler to Leroy Stanley and Nancy Swan; Richard Brendle and Betty Jean Helms leave most athletic to Bobby Spencer and Rebecca McCrackan; Ula Garner and Jimmy Radcliffe leave their title as most romantic to Janice Swan and George Micheal Swain; Betty Jean Helms and Richard Brendle leave most concited to Linda Hickman and Tommy Bowmer; Barbara Price and Richard Brendle leave their position as most studious to Catherine McCrackan and G. W. Fisher.

Ula Garner and Jimmy Davis leave their quietness to Peggy Arnold and Ed Hanson; Barbara Price and Billy Smith leave their politeness to Merle Muncy and Loretta Spencer; George Stanley and Barbara Price leave their title of most cooperative to Lena Ward and G. W. Fisher; Ula Garner and Richard Brendle leave their neatness to Harriett Corlette and Elliott Hickman; Jimmy Davis and Barbara Price leave most likeable to Bobby Spencer and Peggy Arnold; Barbara Price and Jimmy Davis leave their positions as best sports to Pearl-line McCrachin and Bobby Spencer.

Ula Garner and George Stanley leave their wit to Lena Ward and Billy Doshier; Barbara Price and Billy Smith leave their friendliness to Gloria Hewett and Bill Cranmer; Richard Brendle leaves

Not Exactly News

Three Southport boys, Elliott Hickman, Bobby Spencer and G. W. Fisher, are members of the Whiteville Junior Legion baseball squad. Billy McDowell, Jimmy Radcliffe and Tommy Bowmer are local boys who have played legion ball with the Columbus county boys in former years. Sonny Ganey, who pitched some this season at Campbell College, is a Leland youngster who was on the Whiteville team last season.

County Commissioner Rob Rabon told us Thursday that he had just finished planting one field of tobacco for the third time this year. The first time the grasshoppers got it; the second time the hail made it a total loss; and now he is trying to find out how a late May setting will fare this season. . . . We saw a beautiful deer beside the Bell Swamp road the other night. It was a doe, and she turned and jumped back in the bushes instead of starting across the road—which doubtless saved her life and saved us from killing a doe out of season.

"Command Decision" is a new picture, which his title as most handsome to exercises. Everyone really enjoyed Betty Jean the message which was delivered Danny Harrelson; Betty Jean Helms leaves her beauty to Gloria by the Rev. Fred Kelly of Wil-Hewett and her cuteness to mington. The choir, which was Elizabeth Lupton; Barbara Price and George Stanley leave their title as most dependable to Clair Pottor and Peter Larsen; Jimmy Ratcliffe leaves his title as dumbest to Robin Hood, and teachers' pet to Catherine McCrackan; Richard Brendle has done a good job as class baby and leaves his

title to Charles Robbins. After looking over our class bank account we find that we have a small sum left. This we leave to the music department to be used as Mr. Stevenson sees fit. He has done a good job this year and we wish to show our appreciation by this remembrance. To the faculty and others connected with the school we leave our appreciation and best wishes.

With this we leave you until next year. It has been a pleasure to give you the weekly news report from our school. See you next year!

Monday night was class night for the seniors. Everyone seemed to have a fine time and enjoy the play very much. Tuesday night was "the night" with the seniors of Bolivia high school. We sure are going to miss them next year. There were large crowds at the exercises every night. The seniors wish to thank the folks for the splendid interest which they showed during the graduation exercises.

We have twelve members of the graduation class for 49 who are as follows: Gertrude Lewis, Louise Johnson, Juanita Davis, Jeanette Knox, Cora Rabon, Colleen Coleman, Sammie Lane Mercer, Louise Gray, Henry Gilbert, Jr., Lester Edwards, Clifton Sellers and Betty Jean Danford.

Say you school students, just think that from now on you won't have to worry about the homework that you didn't have time to do or the exam to study for or waiting for the end of

The music students of Bolivia high school gave a recital Thursday night. Mrs. John Copeland, the teacher, was in charge. We wish to extend our congratulations to the pupils for the splendid job they did. Everyone seemed to enjoy the program very much.

Sunday night found almost everyone in Bolivia school district out to the school house for the opening of our graduation

has received mighty good reviews. Monday and Tuesday at Shallotte should be worth going to see. The Thursday and Friday at the Amuzu is "Romantic" with Veronica Lake. . . . Davis and his wife, Miss Carrie, came to cast their ballot in the bond election day it just about made things official. . . . The Community Building is one place will look its best for Homecoming. . . . recent coat of paint and installation of screens really have dressed it up for. . . . One problem about Friday's celebration has been to secure a military band for the occasion. By next year this time Southport be able to provide her own band music. . . . always is good to see the college girls back home for vacation. . . . Building continues at Long Beach, new houses started over there last week. . . . And speaking of building, new houses to go up around Southport.

school to come. Most of probably be waiting for of a tobacco row, etc. . . . is going to be mighty fine for some of us now that is out. Maybe we'll get it before very long. Well, we will have to now but we want to take to wish you all a very vacation this summer and looking forward to having read our column next school.

Friday, Monday and Tuesday found everyone in high school with their head stuck in a book studying for final exams. If a few of us turn gray-haired don't be surprised because it was caused by studying so hard.

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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.

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