

The State Port Pilot

Southport, N. C.

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The Open Forum

This week we received a well-written letter for the Open Forum column complaining about the existence of a local situation which possibly should be corrected.

The only trouble is that the letter was not signed.

Newspapers have a policy of long standing never to pay any attention to anonymous communications. The Open Forum column is open to our readers for an expression of their feelings on matters affecting the welfare of our community, but anyone genuinely interested in working for improvement will have no objection to having his name identified with his good cause.

Fishing Spotlight

We believe that records for the past few years prove conclusively that Southport is the logical port of departure for the best fishing trips to be had along the North Carolina coast.

Blues and mackerel for the taking; plenty of fine trout in season; amberjack, barracuda, dolphin and bonita for those who will go after them; and sailfish. All these have helped to earn the reputation which this place has come to enjoy with saltwater fishermen from Washington South.

And now a new feature has been added. Last Monday Bill Styron landed a 121-lb. silver tarpon while fishing inside over near Bald Head Island. Then Saturday, just to prove that this was no fluke, Fred Willing landed a 65-lb. beauty of the same species.

Saturday afternoon interested spectators were treated to a rare spectacle when they visited the Southport yacht basin to see the day's catch. There hanging from the rack was an 8-ft., 2-in. sailfish, and right beside it was Willing's tarpon, two of the world's finest big game fish, caught the same day.

The School Comes First

Two weeks from tomorrow, on September 1, the consolidated schools of Brunswick county will open for their fall term. But even at this late date there are scores of people living within the Shallotte school district who are more interested in suits and warrants growing out of the disagreement last Spring over naming the local school committee than they are the chance of their school getting off to a good start for a successful year of work.

Already too much has been said about the differences of opinion which exist among the various factions in what is considered by many to be the most progressive section of Brunswick county. We hesitate to bring up the subject again and do so only for the purpose of urging that wrangling and bickering be forgotten now in the interest of seeing twelve hundred Brunswick county girls and boys get a chance to derive full benefit from the year of school which they are about to commence.

We do not believe that any great obstacles exist with regard to the principal or his teaching staff. Most of the trouble has come from methods which were employed to attain these results—and these methods were used to combat others just as questionable.

All of which means that nobody seriously questions the ability of the principal or the teachers now elected to conduct a successful school term. The only thing that will make this impossible will be to have their work carried out under the cloud of court action and the normal life of the community disturbed by bitterness and hard feelings.

We would like to see all pending suits and threats of counter-suits dropped for

good. If this cannot be done, we hope that all matters now pending can and will be postponed until after school adjourns next Spring. We believe that the welfare of the children dictates that this course be followed, and where the well-being of the girls and boys is concerned prejudices and partisan politics hold no right-of-way.

A Friend Indeed

The 1927 baseball team of the New York Yankees is regarded by many as the greatest of all times. From the purpose of this editorial, whether that is true is not especially important. At any rate, that was a great team which Miller Huggins fielded.

The Yankees of 1927 had Babe Ruth, Tony Lazzeri, Combs, Musial, Koening and others who were brilliant fielders and great hitters.

But even with their tremendous power and skill afield, that team or no other team would be capable of winning without a pitcher of equal calibre. Yes, a good baseball team must have a pitcher.

However, this is not a baseball editorial. We mention a baseball team and a pitcher to illustrate what we mean with respect to the farm program. We have acreage allotments, we have a conservation program, and we have many other features which are important to our farm economy. There are the players in the field. And then we have a pitcher—the Farm Bureau.

Without this pitcher, there could be no success. When the tobacco program was mired in a sea of mud four years ago, the Farm Bureau paved the way for the Tobacco Stabilization program which has been—and this year more than ever—the saviour of leaf growers. All other phases of the program could have been in expert hands, but if the Farm Bureau hadn't led in establishing a means of insuring 90 per cent of parity for growers, these would have availed nothing.

When we realize that probably three times as much tobacco is now going into the Stabilization pool as was the case last year, then we can begin to appreciate what the Farm Bureau did to help farmers. It literally pitched the farm program out of a hole.

There is a note of satisfaction to be gained from the knowledge that the tobacco our people work to produce can go only so low. It's like a man who owns a 95-mile-an-hour automobile and never drives over 45. He knows that should an emergency arise, there is power and speed for the asking.

Our farmers and business men should remember that no baseball team is great without a good pitcher on the mound. In our farm program, it has been the Farm Bureau which has supplied the pitching in our behalf.

RALEIGH ROUNDUP

... John Battle, new Governor of Virginia, is a native of New Bern. Many of the top men in Virginia now were born in other states. Some were remarked here last week that Virginia, the mother of presidents, hasn't even been pregnant in 50 years.

... With college football practice only a few days off, some of the Big Four (Wake Forest, Carolina, Duke and State) teams are finding it difficult to get in touch with their players. Carolina has reportedly lost two important linemen, Duke a halfback, and Wake Forest a guard and two backs, one of these being the freshman star, Traveligne.

... Although many service stations took a part in opposition to the increase in the gas tax, the State issued last week to its departments the names of stations throughout the 100 counties which will sell gas to State cars at a 2-cents-per-gallon reduction.

AMOS AND ANDY ... If a little burnt cork or black shoe polish were smeared on the faces of Charlie Parker and Kerr Scott, they could easily pass for Amos and Andy of radio fame. The Governor, of course, is "de president of de compny" and Amos, much the more articulate of the two, is Amos Parker, taxicab driver.

Reports of their press conferences often read like a script from the radio team. Parker sits at Governor Scott's elbow at the press conferences, and then the dialogue begins. Why is Amos at Andy's side that way? Well, because he is afraid Andy might suddenly start mumbling something about "eight million, ten million, 12 million" and say something wrong. He is there just in case. It's really funny ... how Parker must guide the governor.

KNOCKS ... Last Friday afternoon Governor Scott was complaining about the "knockers" (he never knocks anything or anyone, chambers of commerce, etc, you know) and he was wanting to know just what free services the State provided its Governors at the Mansion. He wanted to know if it is right for his son, Robert, to continue to drive one of the Mansion cars to and from his school work at Duke University.

Sang out Parker to the press correspondents: "Ask him about the shoes, boys. Ask him about the shoes."

So, they asked about the shoes. It developed that he had some shoes mended here awhile back and found the work had been done free of charge at the prison. No more of that, said Governor Scott. Wanted to save the State some money.

Rovin' Reporter

(Continued from page one) wife and little daughter. Last, but not least, was Miss Frances Bird, a teacher at Duke University, where her father is one of the professors. Rev. Mr. Bird was talking church to us and asked, "Did you ever know the Reverend Charles Trotter, that fine old Episcopalian minister of Salisbury?" "No," was the answer. "We never knew the Rev. Charles Trotter, but we knew a grand rascal of the same name who is one of his sons."

M. E. Huggins, secretary to the North Carolina Baptists, was here last week. In fact, a great many North Carolina Baptists were here last week, all seeming tremendously elated at the prospects for an early closing of the deal for Fort Caswell. Not the least of their elation resulted from many of them getting to see Fort Caswell for the first time and getting a personal idea of what is being bought. Mr. Huggins told us he would be back this week and we have an idea that there will be a lot more Baptists in addition to him. Sergeant Mann, who remains in charge as caretaker pending the closing of the deal, tells us that hundreds of cars are going to Fort Caswell daily.

A lot of Brunswick county folks attended Farm and Home Week in Raleigh, according to Jake Tinga, veteran teacher at the Bolivia school. Mr. Tinga wrote us from Raleigh while the meetings were in progress. He described things as wonderful. We have not been able to get anything like a list of the Brunswick folks who attended, but from the many fine comments that have been heard there must have been a crowd.

We felt a very distinct personal loss last week in the death of Everett Holden of Shallotte. Everett and we were always good friends, esteeming each other in spite of our individual faults. We knew him first as one of Shallotte's pioneer business men. He slowed up in business in his later years as late as the war times he was still carrying on a big business. He gave us ample proof

of the size of this business. With no bank at Shallotte at the time, he always insisted on our bringing his funds to Southport for deposit. Sometimes, especially during the tobacco season when farmers were paying up, Everett would fill our pockets with cash for delivery to the Waccamaw Bank in Southport.

It may sound like a roundabout story, but we heard this week that Ralph Price, president of the Jefferson Standard Life Insurance Company, is buying a fast boat so that he can make quick and easy trips to Southport. His family resides at Myrtle Beach during the summer and he has little time to be away from the Jefferson, except on week-ends. Southport figures in the boat business by reason of the fact that the Greensboro business man is said to have a growing interest in the possibility of development here.

Anyone who keeps track of the sport fishing parties coming to Southport does not have to do much figuring on one point. More parties come to Southport from Myrtle Beach than anywhere else. One, two and three parties every day. The Myrtle Beach address is not always given with the reports of these parties. This is because of the fact that they are summer visitors or residents of Myrtle Beach and usually give their permanent home addresses. The Myrtle Beach paper apparently loves to write up the catches of these fishing parties, but not in telling where they fish. The paper usually says that the fish, "were caught near here."

Carl Goerch was in town Saturday. Along about noon that day everyone was out of the office. They were too lazy to close the office door. Getting back sometime in the afternoon, there was a note from Carl saying he had been to Bolivia, Supply, Shallotte, Holden Beach, Fort Caswell, Long Beach and here and that he left his love. Thinking we might get a line to write about his visit, we inquired about among the neighbors if they had seen and talked to Carl. Most of them said they did not know him and asked what he looked

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Not Exactly News

Remember the Sellers kids that used to be assigned the nickname "Hooper" just as fast as they got to be old enough to go to school? Well, there's another one coming on, name of Bennie. Since his family now lives at Supply he is getting his swimming start in Lockwoods Folly river and his baseball training on the new diamond at the fork of the road. Not only is baseball on the mend in Southport, but the prospects are for further development each season for the next few years since most of the players are youngsters.

Place Packards also high on the list of "big cars" owned by Southport drivers. There are at least five of late vintage. "Strawberry Roan" is a Gene Austry extravaganza scheduled to play Thursday and Friday at the Amuzu. Fishermen are finding the Davis creek landing at Long Beach a very good place to take off from for an inside fishing trip.

We saw Joe Reaves Saturday and learned that while he is not playing with any square dance organization this summer, he is anxious to know of any Fiddler's Convention dates. We think that Jim Thompson of Raleigh and his brother, Butler Thompson, of Lumberton get more enjoyment the year round from their

like. After we gave them a good description they usually said: "No, we have not had any very bald headed man in here today."

Highway Commissioner
(Continued from page one)
for Brunswick at this time. "About September 1 we will open bids for construction of new bridges over Jackes Creek, Town Creek and Bell Swamp on U. S. No. 17. One paving project also may be included for Brunswick."

This morning public announcement was made that bids on this work will be opened on August 30. Bids also are being asked for 3.7 miles of sand-asphalt surfacing from Phoenix toward Acme.

CONJURE SHOOTING
(Continued from page one)
Other matters disposed of before Judge McLamb Monday included:

- Elizabeth Hinscocker, speeding, fined \$10.00 and costs.
- James A. Anderson, speeding, fined \$25.00 and costs.
- Orbie Hewett, no drivers license, fined \$25.00 and costs.
- Gladstone Grigsby, speeding, fined \$5.00 and costs.
- Napoleon B. Barefoot, speeding, ordered to pay costs.
- Cecil Elliott Chestnutt, speeding, fined \$5.00 and costs.
- James Preston Butler, speeding, fined \$10.00 and costs.
- Edna Fields Bryant, possession, 90 days in jail suspended on good

behavior and payment of a fine of \$25.00 and costs.

Herbert Parker, violating stock law, ordered to pay costs.
George Karas, speeding, fined \$10.00 and costs.

Alfred B. Cheatham, Jr., speeding, fined \$10.00 and costs.
Nat Rabal, possession, fined \$10.00 and costs.

Jackie Raymond Jones, speeding, continued.
Robert Edward Doughtry, speeding, fined \$10.00 and costs.

W. C. Darrow, speeding, fined \$10.00 and costs.
J. C. Riggs, speeding, continued.

Harlee Ballard, non-support, continued.
Calvin Everett, Jr., drunken driving, reckless operation, not pressed.

Isaac Jenrette, Isiah Jewett, equipment for manufacturing, 6 months on roads suspended on good behavior and payment of a fine of \$100.00 and costs.

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