

THE STATE PORT PILOT
Southport, N. C.

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JAMES M. HARPER, JR., Editor

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Simile of the season: As futile as a cheer leader whose team is behind 40 to 0 in the fourth quarter.

Remember, you have no more right in the middle of the road than the man you meet there, head-on.

If you know what you want, a salesman is less likely to sell you something you don't want.

Poets who have immortalized the smell of new mown hay evidently were sitting in the shade while someone else loaded it on a wagon.

A nickel is a small coin issued by the United States Treasury for use as drug store money all during the week and church money on Sunday.

Crazy Driving

It is a strange thing, but citizens of every community believe that the craziest drivers to be found anywhere live there, and they seem to take a sort of civic pride in that fact.

We know of at least a half-dozen towns in which we have commented on some act of poor driving only to have a native who heard us say "Well, you'll see more crazy drivers in Blankville than you'll find in any other town in North Carolina."

The pity of the thing is that every one of them was true when he admitted that his community was distinguished for its foolish drivers. And there are far too many communities in this state that share that doubtful distinction.

A Good Job

Several weeks ago through our editorial columns we urged the employees of the State Highway and Public Works Commission to do all in their power to speedily repair the rural roads in this county that had been ruined by washing rains. This was just before schools opened for the fall term and our chief thought was of the hundreds of school children who were to be transported to school in busses.

Monday we traveled over about a hundred miles of these dirt roads and were surprised that the highway force has been able to get most of them in such good shape. About the only thing that is lacking now to make their job complete is a wetting rain which will make the work of the road scraping machine more effective.

The force in charge of highway maintenance in Brunswick county is to be commended for its fine work, and if the roads are kept up as well throughout the winter there will be no basis for complaint.

Southport By The Sea

It is good to slip away for a few days to rest, reflect and study North Carolina. I joined three other Shelby business men a few days ago and spent three days at Southport, by the sea, down in Brunswick county on the extreme southeast corner of North Carolina.

Southport is rich in history as the mouths of all North Carolina rivers are, for at these inlets the first settlers landed in crude boats and established our civilization. The old residence in which we slept was built 142 years ago. It faces the sea and from our bedroom window the eye can see the incoming and outgoing ships, the quarantine station, the light house, the two coast guard stations, old Fort Caswell, and hundreds of small fishing boats that constitute the real industry of the little city. Around this house still stands a low wall that was

once high enough to form an enclosure in which the slaves were kept until they were sold to Southern plantation owners. Beautiful antique furniture is used in every room.

The streets of Southport are wide and lined with huge pin oaks, gnarled with the age of the centuries. Along these streets are some beautiful homes and here lives some of the most hospitable people in North Carolina. The visitors is never a stranger for long. Southport people live the rich, abundant life. They live easy and well. Seldom does a case of angina develop in that section for they do not race through life. Shelby, which boasts of its hospitality, could learn a lesson from Southport people. Sportsmen gather here all during the year to fish, hunt for deer, marsh hens, squirrels, coons, and ducks.

The town's host is W. "Booster" Keziah. Once a newspaper man, now a news feature writer for the newspapers and magazines, Mr. Keziah is a native of Union county. He meets all the visitors and makes their stay pleasant. Although handicapped with deafness, he is perhaps the best informed man on Brunswick county affairs. He should be on the city's payroll, for he is a wonderful asset. He never lets an opportunity pass to emphasize the need of a port terminal at Southport, where there is a natural land-locked waterway. The channel at that point is deep enough to accommodate most any ship that floats. Southport appears to have the natural advantages which should be given favorable consideration by the government. Other ports are being developed at tremendous cost while the Southport terminal could be developed at a minimum cost. It would save millions of dollars annually to the farmers and manufacturers of the two Carolinas and some day Mr. Keziah will convince the authorities of this fact. He has contacts with the highest and humblest people of the state and nation.

There has been no improvement in the method of fishing from the days when Peter and John cast their nets into the Sea of Galilee, except that gasoline motors are used today instead of sails. In the harbor at Southport are over 100 motor boats engaged in fishing and shrimping. Each morning at 4 you can hear the purr of these motor boats, setting out to sea to try their luck in the briny deep. Sometimes they come back empty, sometimes full to capacity. A small catch of sea food will glut the local market, so, in order to develop the fishing industry along the coast and improve the status of fishermen, who perhaps suffered more than any other class of workmen during the depression, the North Carolina Fisheries, Incorporated, has been organized with plants at Belhaven, Manteo, Southport and Morehead City. These plants have new buildings with cold storage facilities, canning and packing equipment to prepare and pack the sea foods that are taken each day by the fishermen. This constitutes one of the most worthwhile ERA projects undertaken in North Carolina. With beef and pork beyond the reach of the average man in price, seafoods afford the cheapest meat diet available. Many small town markets have not been able to carry stocks of fresh sea foods because they are so perishable, so, to meet this situation, the government has put up \$129,000 for operating expenses of these four Seafood houses. These houses, operating on a co-operative basis with the fishermen, receive the catches up to 10 o'clock at night, prepare and pack the seafoods in convenient packages for the retail merchants upstate and deliver the seafood in six refrigerator trucks as far back as the mountains of Western North Carolina. Mr. Charles E. Gause is in charge of the plant at Southport and is a princely gentleman who sees great possibilities in aiding commercial fishermen and at the same time afford housewives with the very freshest of sea foods within 12 to 24 hours after the catch. Thus the fishing industry of North Carolina is seeing a new day. The fishermen are prospering as never before and the housewives are afforded delicious meats at a price well under that of pork and beef. Southport leads in shrimp along the South Atlantic coast and the meat is so delicious that the New York market prefers Southport shrimp to any other.

Southport, therefore, has a great future, and in my next article I hope to tell you about the 10,000 acre island off shore, the only place in North Carolina where tropical vegetation grows.—Lee B. Weathers—The Cleveland Star.

WASHINGTON LETTER

Washington, October 30.—Sage counsellors believe they are making progress in weaning President Roosevelt away from advocates of radical experiments who have heretofore held his ear. Symptoms of new tactical policies are noted in his two recent public addresses. The liberal element among the New Dealers are not at all pleased with the trend while the conservatives ring rejoices at the prospect of calling a halt to experimental legislation and anti-business complexes. Republican critics are frankly skeptical at the idea of the Administration giving up some cherished ideals as a gesture for business and industry support. Both parties recognize the tremendous political possibilities of having billions of dollars of private capital turned loose on the eve of a Presidential election. People forget petty grievances when good times are here again.

The facts are that industry was willing to keep money in storage gathering mildew rather than interest in perference to an uncharted sea of governmental policies. As an illustration, it is estimated that nineteen billion is needed for replacement for machinery and other equipment in American industry. To supply this market and others would require plenty of money for material and labor. But industry is not opening its hidden hoards for unemployment until it is convinced that oppressive taxation and ham-stringing legislation has been definitely discarded.

Political opponents conceded that threats will not dynamite this log-jam of capital resources. Hence, the overtures from the White House are staged in the hopes of initiating a great recovery within private enterprise. Word is seeping back from Congressional districts that the lawmakers would prefer a program which will not place them in bad with voters now disgruntled over the heavy cost of government relief efforts by which a certain class of citizens are helped at the expense of those able to pay taxes.

The principal topic in conversation in Washington these days is the possible outgrowth of the forthcoming conference between the government, management and labor under the auspices of the N. R. A. Both capital and labor elements share the suspicion that the conference will involve nothing more than the extension of government control over business men and workers. Industrialists feel that the Administration will endeavor to transfer the responsibility for absorbing the unemployed because of admitted failures of the Federal authorities to put 3,500,000 men back to work by November 1. Charges are also made that the phrase "ten million unemployed" is being used as a political football without regard to the accuracy of the figures. Government authorities concede privately that there is a wide difference of opinion as to the exact number of people out of work. It is argued in official quarters that from one to three million people are without employment even during the height of boom periods due largely to their unwillingness or inability to find gainful employment. It is predicted that the Federal government cannot expect private industry to reabsorb the unemployed while they face the competition of government financed projects paying high wage rates for shorter hours. A marked change in government policies dealing with relief work is expected shortly.

Nationwide distribution of a pamphlet containing an analysis of benefit payments and the farmers under the Agricultural Adjustment Act with the corollary estimate of the cost of processing taxes to the consumer is provoking considerable discussion among politicians. The net effect of the statistical breakdown of benefit payments is to show that the farmers of certain states have corralled an unusually high percentage of the checks flowing from A.A.A. gift bag. The Agricultural Department officials are now engaged in a counter move to offset the implications of favoring farmers in one section against those engaged in similar enterprises in other states. The study, apparently sponsored by opponents of processing taxes, claims that the present cost of these taxes actually amounts to \$4.00 per capita.

The statistical picture shows that the farmers of Iowa and the merchants with whom they trade have a good reason to cheer the processing taxes, as this state received more than thirteen times the receipts of all the farmers in the nine North-eastern states, while Kansas alone received 25 percent of the



processing taxes on wheat for the entire country. On the other hand, the farmers of the North-eastern states will probably growl at the claim that the consumers in their states pay over 28 percent of all processing taxes while the tillers of the soil in the commonwealths receive less than one percent of farm benefit payments. Critics of A.A.A. policies insist that "benefit payments per farm average all the way from 9c in Maine to \$317.02 in Iowa." The politicians anticipate that Secretary Wallace will intensify the potato control plan, which has been temporarily shelved in order to win over farmer critics in Maine and other potato growing states.

Union county reports the poorest cotton crop in 25 years as result of the summer drought followed by early fall rains and boll weevil infestation.

Advertising is what draws trade away from a small village.

Advertising also will keep it at home.

The State Port Pilot

"YOUR COUNTY NEWSPAPER"

Southport, North Carolina