

THE STATE PORT PILOT Southport, N. C.

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After making several premature starts that were cut short by cold weather, spring seems to be coming around now in all of her glory.

Don't feel too sorry for the man who is willing to sacrifice his time and talent for the good of his government in consideration for a big salary.

Adjectives lose their lustre when used too freely.

One trip aboard a yacht will explain the exact meaning of the term "ship-shape."

The joy goes out of a "truth meeting" when you realize that the others in the group probably were holding back just as much as you were.

The Waterfront

While it is hardly likely that the Southport waterfront will be converted overnight into a thing of beauty, there are improvements that can be made with very little effort.

Reference is made to a number of wrecks of old boats lying just above the high tide mark, right where they have laid for years. They are absolutely worthless, and their former owners should be required to remove them at once.

Many north-bound yachts are now passing through Southport. Several of them stop each day to take on fuel or supplies. It will be far easier to interest their owners in stopping over for a visit if our waterfront is made more attractive.

Sober Thought

Responsible citizens of Brunswick county will give thoughtful consideration to two paragraphs contained in the report submitted by members of the grand jury to Judge G. V. Cowper here in Superior Court last week.

"Our deliberations have covered three murder cases, several robberies and other crimes, all charged against white boys or young men who are not yet in their prime. We would remind the white people that but one colored person was named in any indictment, that being a minor offense and no true bill found."

"We state very soberly that unless the homes of this county meet this challenge of crime and correct this condition, the County of Brunswick cannot go forward."

Their report indicates a thorough investigation of the various county offices and institutions by members of the grand jury. Foreman J. B. Church and his colleagues are to be congratulated upon the fine manner in which they disposed of their duties.

Judge Turns Teacher

A group of Southport high school students who attended court Thursday morning probably learned more about the functions of that body in the course of a very few minutes than they would have been able to learn in days of study from a written text.

When the boys and girls came in with their teacher, Judge G. V. Cowper, who was presiding, was charging the jury before the members retired to decide on a criminal case. As soon as the body of twelve had withdrawn to the jury room, Judge Cowper had the sheriff clear three of the front seats in the courtroom so the students could sit down for a few minutes.

The jurist then proceeded to explain in detail every duty of each person or group of persons who participate in a court trial, taking a hypothetical criminal case from the moment of arrest up to the point of sentence.

While most of the high school students have some hazy idea of the duties and

functions of the various court officers, few have had the opportunity to learn the actual facts from a trial judge of wide experience.

Judge Cowper is to be congratulated upon his courtesy and patience. If this teaching could be widespread throughout the state, perhaps our young people might have a greater respect and a better understanding of the law.

Incendiary Fires

More than half the forest fires reported to County Forest Warden Dawson Jones during the fall and winter months were of incendiary origin, according to the report which he submitted this week for publication in The State Port Pilot.

In plain, every-day English, twenty-nine of the forty-three fires were deliberately set by destructive, irresponsible persons.

There is little to be said for a man who will wilfully destroy the property of his neighbor by setting fire to it. Under the laws which cover the crime of arson, drastic punishment is provided for persons who set fire to buildings.

There are also laws which provide for a lesser punishment for incendiary forest fires. If the forest wardens can catch just one person red-handed, he can be used as an example to show citizens of this county that this malignant practice will not be tolerated.

No Better Proof

If any local citizen has any doubts regarding the desirability of securing a yacht basin for Southport, let him consider the following facts:

One north-bound yacht sailed from here Friday morning after an eight-day visit. During the time the boat was anchored at the R. L. Thompson dock more than five hundred dollars was paid out for food, fuel and supplies. The grocery bill at one store alone amounted to more than one hundred and thirty dollars. These figures do not include the individual purchases made by members of the crew of nine men.

It is unnecessary to add that business of this kind is a boon to Southport merchants. The ability to play gracious host to more yachts will further increase the business which comes from these water travelers.

It is only fair to mention a statement made to us by the mate who furnished these figures. "We like to trade with people of the type you have here in Southport," he said. "In some places a yachting uniform is a cue for merchants to raise their prices. They seem to figure that we have unlimited funds, and that they just as well have some of them. We have been given excellent service in Southport, and every price quoted us has been reasonable."

Make Schools Safe

The appalling disaster in the school at New London, Texas, in which hundreds of students perished when an explosion, followed by fire, destroyed a new \$1,000,000 building, should bring to public attention an old and grave problem—protection for school children.

Regardless of the cause of this cataclysm, it emphasizes the fact that thousands of schools throughout the nation, including some which are supposedly model plants, contain hazards that may—any day, any minute—result in disasters equally great.

It may seem unbelievable, but schools still exist in which the doors open inward. If fire broke out, panic-stricken children would pack against these doors, making it impossible to open them. And when the flames were extinguished, blackened, unrecognizable bodies would be found.

In other schools fire escapes are inadequate, or are difficult to reach. In others, heating plants are of poor construction or age in bad repair. In others, stairways are narrow and are so designed and situated that a fire breaking out on a lower story would immediately roar up the stair wells, fed by draft, making it impossible for children on upper stories to escape. They wouldn't even have a fighting chance for life.

Yes, literally thousands of schools contain hazards such as these. Experts from fire preventative organizations have often inspected relatively new school buildings—and found, to the astonishment of the proud board of trustees, that they teemed with hazards, any one of which could cause disaster and wholesale death.

Whatever the cause of the New London disaster, it should make the people think—and their thinking should force expert inspection of every school in America, and the elimination of any hazards found.

Just Among

The Fishermen

(BY W. B. KEZIAH)

Returned

Following the publication of a broad hint by this department in last week's paper, Postmaster L. T. Yaskell reports that County Forest Warden Dawson Jones has returned the borrowed official minnow bucket in good order and that there is now a feeling of contentment and safety.

Good Sign

It is a good sign to find the yachtsmen from the North, now on their way home after wintering in Florida, making inquiries about the summer and winter fishing at Southport. They are being told that Southport is the midway point between the north and south, and that fishing is good here the year round, especially in the fall and summer.

Promise

President Julian Price of the Jefferson Standard Insurance Company at Greensboro, has written the Civic Club that just as soon as he gets back from Texas, where he is attending a convention of agents of his company, he is coming to Southport for some of that fishing that he has heard so much about.

Argument

A point of argument is whether or not the wreck of the Mount Dirfys, which went down on Fryling Pan Shoals on the 26th of December, will be good trout fishing ground this summer. The eyes have it. They say that when the Greek freighter went down it had been a long time since her bottom and sides had been scraped and divested of marine growth that had accumulated thereon. She is already a source of attraction to the fish and her bulk will steadily increase in value to the sport fishermen as the years go by.

Boats

Despite the great number of small boats at Southport there were times last year when the influx of sport fishermen was so heavy that parties often had difficulty in obtaining a suitable boat. Prospects are for this trouble to be greatly lessened this summer. Two different parties have advised the Civic Club that they would put out boats for hire and thereby increase the number that was already available.

Hopeful

Folks who can remember as far back as a year, two years or three years, can take a look at the busy scenes on the Southport waterfront any of these fair days and feel assured that our fishermen are coming along alright. They are busy at their boats and nets or out on the deep in quest of shrimp, crabs or fish. The fishing season is not here yet, but the men are all at work much sooner than at any time within the past several years. They are making fair wages now and are looking forward to a good year.

Inquiries

Up-state folks are beginning to write in and make inquiry about the fishing and the prospects for getting boats, rooms and meals when they come to Southport. For the fishing parties, things are looking the best that they have looked in many years. The local fishermen all think there will be plenty of fish, plenty of good boats to carry out the parties and extra efforts will be put forward to provide accommodations. It is thought that the Civic Clubs booklet, which should be ready for distribution in ten days from now, will contribute much to bringing people to Southport this year.

Weather

March loaned to April some very changeable, not to say bad, weather. A result is that there has been little in the line of fishing for the past several days, but nobody is discouraged over that. It is just a little while now until blues and Spanish Mackrel will be striking. Out at the numerous wrecks the trout will be affording royal sport and surf fishing for drum will be in its glory on the beach at Bald Head Island. The little bit of bad weather has not discouraged any one. On the contrary, everybody is looking forward to a great fishing season during the next eight or nine months.

A distinguished visitor to an insane asylum went to the telephone and found difficulty in getting his connection. Exasperated, he shouted to the operator: "Look here, girl, do you know who I am?" "No," was the calm reply, "but I know where you are."

A very old man was accosted in the village street by a stranger who said, "I beg your pardon, but you must be very old." "Yep," said the old man, "I'm getting on for ninety-six." "And you have lived all your life here!" marveled the stranger. "Not yet."

Farm Questions

By PERCY CROSBY

Honeydale—50 Minutes Out.



"Good Gracious! You'd think some people would have the decency to pull down their shades."

Q. How can I get rid of worm infestation in my flock of pullets?

A. Where the flock is infested with round worms all pullets should be dewormed with nicotine sulphate, carbon tetrachloride, or tetrachloroethylene. These remedies may be secured at any reliable feed store. For tapeworms you should use kamala. If the flock is infested with both tapeworms and round worms, a combination capsule may be used, or the flock may be dewormed for round worms first and followed in about ten days with the tapeworm treatment provided the birds are not in lay. It is best not to administer any treatment while the birds are in lay.

Q. What treatment is necessary for sweet potato plants when set on soils infested with stem rot?

A. The stem and roots of all plants should be dipped in a 20-20-50 Bordeaux mixture or dusted with a mixture composed of 25 per cent monohydrated copper sulphate and 75 per cent lime just before planting. This treatment also applies to soils infested with the wilt organism. Where roots and stems are infested with scurf, they should be treated with ground sulphur immediately before transplanting. Treated plants may be set in moist but not water-logged soil.

Q. What is the formula recommended for home-mixed fertilizer to be used under corn in the piedmont section?

A. The best mixture is made by using 243 pounds of 16 per cent superphosphate, 43 pounds of cotton seed meal, 66 pounds of sulphate of ammonia, and 31 pounds of muriate of potash. This gives a mixture containing 4 per cent nitrogen, 10 per cent phosphoric acid, and 4 per cent potash. The fertilizer should be applied in the drill at planting time. A nitrate of soda mixture may be prepared by using 85 pounds of nitrate of soda instead of the sulphate of ammonia.

Lespedeza As A Basic Crop

This Legume Has Come To Be Recognized As Crop About Which Entire Conservation Program Revolves

Lespedeza can be made to serve as the hub for a good cropping system for conserving soil and water on the farm, according to H. M. Stott, agronomist of the Soil Conservation Service in the High Point demonstration area.

Although seed bed preparation is not necessary where lespedeza is seeded in small grain, Stott said, best results will be secured if the seed is run over lightly with a draw harrow. If seeding is done on land not in small grain, the seed bed should be disked well before the lespedeza is sown.

On badly eroded areas too poor to produce crops but which the farmer hopes to build up and return to cultivation, lespedeza is the ideal crop. Where this legume can be grown continuously for five or six years, Stott advised that lespedeza sericea, a perennial, be mixed with the annual variety.

Upon the advice of the State College Extension Service and the Soil Conservation Service many farmers are planning to retire their severely eroded land to pasture. Since much of this land is too poor to produce grasses and clovers necessary for a good sod, Stott recommended the planting of lespedeza, which will build up the fertility of the soil to a point where it will support a pasture sod and at the same time provide a limited amount of grazing.

Seeding lespedeza is also one of the first important steps in the preparation of land for strip cropping, alternate strips being seeded to lespedeza between strips or row crops.

Blue Mold Now In All Sections

Reports From Raleigh Indicate That Tobacco Farmers Are Suffering Plant Losses From Disease

Blue mold is spreading over eastern North Carolina and creeping up into the piedmont counties, according to extension specialists at State College.

In Robeson and Columbus counties the infection has been found in approximately 90 per cent of the tobacco beds, said Will Rogers, assistant in tobacco extension work.

Some farmers are setting out diseased plants, Rogers said in warning against this practice. All diseased plants should be left in the seed beds.

On sunny days, the canvas covers on the beds should be rolled back to give the sunshine a chance to dry the beds and kill the fungi causing the disease, Rogers stated.

"Sunshine will do more than anything else to control this disease," he declared.

Even after beds have become

infected, he added, applications of nitrate of soda should be dissolved in 50 gallons of water and sprinkled over the plants. Too strong a solution is liable to injure the seedlings, he cautioned. Ella Edwards were in Southport Saturday afternoon on business. Sam Mintz is very ill at this writing. He has been declining in health for the past few months. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Allen and family have moved to their new home. Mrs. Perry Mintz, Lena Mae and Evelyn Mintz spent Tuesday of last week with Mrs. Ernest Milliken. Miss Daisy Smith visited in this section Sunday afternoon. Miss Iva Lee Gore, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harley Gore, of Laurinburg, formerly of this section, was killed in an automobile accident Saturday. Mrs. Kate Mintz has been very sick for the past week with flu. F. G. Watts has opened up a new filling station. "So you've forsaken the world and become a disciple of Gandhi?" "Yes, I'm starting off with a clean sheet."



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