

## Large Number Of Fires Broke Out Last Week

Fires of Mysterious Origin Cause Great Damage In Addition To Loss Of Hours On The Farm

### AXED RESOURCES OF FIRE CREWS

Blaze Near Holden's Beach Others Strung Out Across The County To Old Dock In Columbus County

Twenty-five fires in one day axed the entire fire fighting resources of Brunswick county last week. Although all of the conflagrations were reported quickly, two of them managed to assume fairly large proportions and a heavy growth of young timber was burned over, the timber being practically destroyed.

All of the twenty-five fires occurred on the road from Holden's Beach to Old Dock, in Columbus County. From the start of the first until the last one was discovered barely two hours elapsed. An investigation is being made by forestry authorities to determine the origin of the fires. It is an unusual occurrence to have that many fires break out suddenly along the road in quick succession. District Forester Brewer of Fayetteville has been here conducting an investigation. If evidence of willful setting of fires is found the authorities are prepared to follow through their investigations with full prosecution of the offenders.

In addition to the great loss of forest products sustained, the fires were costly in that they made it necessary to call into action a number of farmers who would have been busy with their spring farming operations.

## Plaque Will Be Presented

Senior Class Will Present Service Plaque To School Honoring Former Student

The Senior class of Southport school has purchased an attractive plaque which, when completed, will contain the names of all former students who are now in the service of their country.

W. R. Lingle, principal of the school, says that the list is partially complete, but if those who know of former students whose names should be on the plaque would give their names to him the task will be completed sooner. The plaque will be presented at a formal program in the near future.

## Brief News Flashes

### VISITED RELATIVES

Ensign John D. St. George has recently been transferred from Baltimore to Norfolk. He spent last week here on leave, visiting his aunt, Mrs. John Swan. His sister, Miss Frances St. George, of Charleston, S. C., also spent the week here with Mrs. Swan and other relatives.

### CORRECTION

The Pilot stated in an article last week that J. W. Ruark was first to file for the democratic primary for the office of Representative. This was incorrect as W. J. McLamb filed on Thursday afternoon. Mr. Ruark filed on Saturday for the same office.

### ENLISTS IN SPARS

Miss Clyde Fields Swain, daughter of R. C. Swain, was sworn in as a SPAR in Raleigh on Monday. She will leave Friday to report for training at Palm Beach, Fla. For several weeks Miss Swain has been trying to enlist in either the Waves or Wacs. She passed everything with the exception that she was a couple of pounds under the required weight. Not being able to make this weight, she enlisted in the SPARS.

### VISITING MRS. ROSENBAUM

Mrs. Donald McDonald and little son, Stephen, from New York City, are spending some time at Shallotte with Mrs. M. M. Rosenbaum. Mrs. McDonald and Mrs. Rosenbaum were college classmates.

## A Crime To Destroy



Stands of beautiful and valuable timber, such as the above, may be seen on every hand, growing by the roadsides of Brunswick county. This timber is the most valuable resource to be found for the future. It is a crime to carelessly or willfully destroy the heritage of future generations.

## Whiteville To Have Cold Storage Plant

Expect Cold Storage And Freezer Locker Plant To Be Ready For Operation By End Of This Year

### TO HAVE CAPACITY FOR 1,000 LOCKERS

Plant Will Meet Long-Felt Community Need; Government Grants High Priority Rating On Materials

A complete and modern cold storage plant, containing both cold storage and freezer locker units, is the latest addition to Whiteville's expanding industry. Filed with Thad Eure, secretary of state, on the 22nd day of April was a charter for a business to be known as the Columbus Cold Storage Corporation, with an authorized capital stock of \$100,000.

Six Whiteville business men are listed as stockholders, all of whom are young men of approximately the same age. They are: Lee Braxton, W. C. Black, Dial Gray, D. L. Love, J. D. Sikes, and Dr. M. L. Johnson.

The charter states that the objects for which the corporation is formed are "to own and operate a cold storage plant or any other plant for slaughtering, curing, storing, preserving or processing for itself and the public, food animals, meats, vegetables, poultry and dairy products, and food of all kinds, and to buy and sell at wholesale or retail all of said food items either in a natural or a finished state, and to generally engage in the business of dealing in and rendering service to the public in all of its needs for preparing and preserving foods of all kinds, including the power to buy, sell, install and service freezing units of all kinds for private or public use."

The plant will conserve summer fruits and vegetables in the (continued on page two)

## Gets Promotion To Rank Of Captain

Several years ago Charles Southerland, son of Mrs. C. F. Southerland of Southport, began work on the U. S. E. Dredge Comstock, then based at Southport. Few of the men who were on the ship then stuck to their jobs, especially after the war clouds formed and the Comstock was converted into a service ship. Young Southerland remained, however. He was with the Comstock when it was sent to South America, where it has now been for three years. Last week Captain Charles Southerland, commander of the Comstock, came home from Trinidad to spend a short leave with his mother in Southport. He was recently made commanding officer of the vessel.

## Prisoner Of War Of The Japanese

Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Harvell, of Bolivia, have not seen their son, Edward Lassiter Harvell, signalman third class, in seven years and have little hope of seeing him until the war in the Pacific ends. The young man has been a prisoner of war in the hands of the Japs since the fall of Bataan.

## Election Board Met Here Monday

Election Officials Receive Instructions Regarding Democratic Primary Election And Are Sworn In

Brunswick county election officials met here, Monday, with the Election Board for the purpose of receiving instructions and to be sworn in. Owing to court being in session at the time, the meeting was held in the county commissioners' quarters at the tax collector's office.

Deputy Clerk of Superior Court B. J. Holden administered the oath to the approximately 20 men and women who will be in charge of the primary election. Through some misinformation it has been stated that George B. Ward was contesting with M. B. (Continued on Page 2)

## Alex McKeithan Died Saturday

Highly Respected Citizen Of Freeland Passes After A Short Illness, Was 72 Years Old

Mr. Alexander McKeithan, highly respected resident of the Freeland community, died at his home Saturday, after a short illness. Mr. McKeithan was 72 years of age and was well known throughout Brunswick and Columbus counties. Funeral services were held Sunday evening at Freeland.

Surviving are seven sons, Lacy McKeithan, of Greelyville, S. C., C. E. McKeithan, of Hartsville, S. C., J. D. and Roy McKeithan, both of Freeland, and Lloyd McKeithan, U. S. Navy; two sisters, Mrs. Marial McKeithan, of Bladenboro, and Mrs. Fannie Simmons, of Fort Mills, S. C. (Continued on page two)

## Inoculate Your Soybean Seed

Farmers Urged To Inoculate Soybean Seed Before Planting, Especially On Lands Where The Crop Has Not Previously Grown

Brunswick County farmers were urged today by C. O. Bennett, chairman of Brunswick County Agricultural Conservation Committee, to make sure that soybean seed planted this spring is properly inoculated, especially on land that has not repeatedly grown the crop.

"Inoculation is cheap and is a simple operation, and is one that usually pays good dividends in increased production and in maintaining soil fertility," said Mr. Bennett. "Yet it is one that may be pushed aside in the rush of farm work this spring. The nitrogen-fixing bacteria which inhabit the soybean root system must be introduced from outside sources if the crop is to be grown on new land. Even on land which has repeatedly grown the crop it is regarded by experienced growers as cheap crop insurance."

"Any practice which will increase soybean yield even a small amount is more than ordinarily important this year, since the allied war effort is depending on the American soybean crop to maintain the vitally important stockpile of vegetable oils and proteins. Inoculation is a practice which will make a decided increase in (Continued on Page 2)



## Our ROVING Reporter

The general rains which came Monday had the effect of greatly speeding up the planting of tobacco throughout Brunswick. Ten days without rain, during which time the farmers worked untiringly, found almost everybody with plenty of land prepared. This land was about two days to set out tobacco plants. Until this week's rains came, practically all growers were following the slow and tiresome method of watering the plants as they were set out. There is no need for such operations since the rain.

From word received in round about ways it is obvious that a great many of the men, who have been stationed at the Section base at various times during the past two and a half years, are now serving overseas. From command-

## Got A Big Still 600 Gallons Mash And 3 Operators

Sheriff Willetts And His Officers Made A Complete Haul Of Liquor Making Outfit In Town Creek Township

### THEIR FAST RUNNING DID LITTLE GOOD

Two Were Run Down And The Third Was Captured In Good Time, Cases To Be Heard Monday May 8th

Sheriff C. P. Willetts and his fellow officers put a 150 gallon steam submarine type whiskey still out of business Friday. In addition to capturing the outfit, they got all three of the operators. In addition to the sheriff, the officers engaged in the raid were Deputy Sheriff H. L. Willetts, Deputy Sheriff C. O. Blanton and A. T. U. Agent Charles Gray, of Wilmington.

The still was located in the Snow Field section of Town Creek township. After locating it the officers concealed themselves and awaited development. Three negroes, John Smith and Wash Carles, of Wilmington, and Warren Goodman of the Snow Field section, appeared and proceeded to fire up the still. At this stage of the game Sheriff Willetts and his officers stepped out from concealment and informed them that they were under arrest.

None of the negroes took this advice as being definite. All three split the bushes in an effort to get away. The officers outran and captured both Smith and Carles. Goodman, being more well acquainted with his surroundings and having much ability as a runner, managed to get away. However, Deputy Willetts hunted him down and captured him next day. All three of the men will be tried in Recorder's Court Monday, May 8th.

In addition to getting the men, and the still, the sheriff and his raiders got 600 gallons of mash which the men were preparing to convert into whiskey.

## Small Day In Recorder's Court

Very Little Business Came Up For Disposal In Judge Ward's Court Here Monday

Monday was a small day in the Recorder's Court and this may have been partly due to the fact that last week found everybody too busy, catching up with farm work, to engage in any of the petty crimes that usually go to make up the business of the court. The Minutes show the following cases handled by Judge Ward Monday:

Edward M. Stevens, speeding; capias issued and case continued.

Harold Williams, Jr., non support; remanded to Juvenile Judge for trial.

John Smith and Washington Carlos, operating whiskey still; continued to May 8th.

Willie Miller, drunken driving; continued to May 1st.

Mrs. Goodman, no operators license; judgment suspended on payment of costs. (Continued on Page Four)

## Thinks That His Jeep Deserves All The Medals

Hickman's Cross Roads Man Gets Into The Lime-light From Experiences With His Car On Italian War Front

### HAS MORE THAN FIFTY HOLES SHOT IN IT

The "Brown Dog" Still Runs But Is Said To Be Due For A Mechanical Nervous Breakdown Sometime Soon

Corporal Raleigh B. Hickman, Jr., of Shallotte, figured conspicuously in the war news from Italy this week. However, three was plenty of confusion in names of places and Charlotte, instead of Shallotte, got credit for being his place of residence.

An action movie of the war in Italy which was recently shown in Southport, showed Corporal Hickman and the "Brown Dog," the jeep which he drives. A press dispatch of this week also mentions the Brown Dog. Corporal Hickman's home is at Hickman's Cross Roads, below Shallotte. His wife, who is the former Miss Violet Hewett, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Hewett, is making

her home in Southport while her husband is in service. The press dispatch follows:

WITH THE FIFTH ARMY, Italy—Corporal Raleigh B. Hickman, Jr., drives what he considers the most abused jeep on the Allied Fifth Army beachhead in Italy. If jeeps were recognized as soldiers are, Hickman's would be wearing a Purple Heart and three clusters.

Hickman, who is a jeep driver in the Fifth Army tank outfit and the husband of Mrs. Violet Hickman of Southport, says "Brown Dog," which is the name of his jeep, has been struck once by shell fragments, twice by the projectiles of a Nazi dive bomber, and once by the splinters of a 210 mortar. Hickman, who was in the jeep only when it was hit by a dive bomber, miraculously escaped injury.

"What a vehicle," he said. "It has over 50 holes in it and the motor sounds like a coffee grinder, but you can't stop it from running. Every time we send it down to ordnance for an overhauling, they keep pulling shrapnel out of the carburetor and the differential. They keep telling me it's due for a mechanical nervous breakdown."

## Farmers Had Busy Week Making Up Lost Time

### Thanks Folks Send It Soon

The State Port Pilot is making an effort to be a real county paper with coverage of news matter from all sections of Brunswick. With this aim, it is always appreciated when subscribers and friends send in news items and stories.

However, we are obliged to call attention to the fact that news matter is frequently sent us too late to be used, or if used hurriedly it often results in errors and confusion. For this reason we ask that news matter be sent in just as soon as available. Don't wait for the last mail.

## Store Robbed Friday Night

Galloway's Robbed Of Undetermined Amount Of Merchandise, Southport Building And Loan Also Broken Into

Galloway's store at Southport was broken into and robbed of an undetermined amount of merchandise and five dollars in cash on Friday night. Entrance was gained by a rear window. The cash register, with the small amount of money that was obtained, had been left open. Among the articles taken were men's and children's shoes and shirts. Mrs. Galloway was unable to estimate just how much she lost as everything was found in confusion the next morning. Shoes, shirts and other articles were found taken from their shelves and piled indiscriminately over counters and showcases.

The same night the Southport Building and Loan Association office was broken into. Nothing was missed in this case, the would-be robbers being unable to gain entrance to the safe in which all money was locked.

Chief of Police Otto Hickman stated Monday that the robberies were believed to be the work of youths.

## Sunday Activity Was Interrupted

Sunday Preparations To Make A Run At A Still In Northwest Interrupted By Appearance Of Rural Policeman Perry

While three negro men were preparing to engage in some Sunday activity at a 120-gallon moonshine still in the Dark Branch section of North West township, Sunday, Rural Policeman O. W. Perry descended on them. All made good their escape.

Officer Perry captured the still and with it 400 gallons of mash that was just ready to go into the (Continued from page 1)

## Pulpwood Slump Threatens On Eve Of Invasion

Invasion Makes It More Important That Pulpwood Continues To Come In

### IS A CHALLENGE TO OUR PEOPLE

Department Of Commerce Gives Pessimistic Forecast

Military requirements for paper and paperboard are threatened by a pulpwood shortage on the eve of the invasion of Hitler's European Fortress, the Brunswick County Victory Pulpwood Committee declared this week.

A Department of Commerce report, just released, calls attention to this danger in a pessimistic forecast of pulpwood production during the second quarter of 1944. "Faced with the new Selective Service decisions affecting men under 26 years of age and progressive age categories afterward, and in particular proposed changes in farmer deferments, pulpwood-cutting operations may in the near future have a reversal of the present more favorable trend," the Commerce Department's Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce said.

"Conditions dictate the necessity of intensifying the use of prisoners of war, returning former workers to their jobs in the woods, obtaining the cooperation of farmers in continuing to cut as much pulpwood as possible even during the early agricultural season, importing foreign labor and recruiting more Canadian woodsmen."

"It will only be through such positive measures that the forthcoming probable drain in wood labor can be met, and the all-important pulpwood be made available to fill future requirements of the expanding war needs for pulp and paper."

The Victory Pulpwood Committee pointed out that the most critical phase of the war is approaching and that consequently it is essential that the Army and Navy get all the supplies they need on time.

"It is even more important now than it was a year ago to keep the pulpwood coming in," the committee said. "Once the invasion starts our soldiers will need a continual flow of replacement. Many of these will be made of pulpwood, and most of them will be packed or wrapped in paper and paperboard made of pulpwood."

"The need for pulpwood is a challenge to this county and every pulpwood producing county in the nation. We can't afford to let the boys down any more than can the war workers who build planes, tanks, and bombs. Let's keep the pulpwood moving until the American flag is raised in Berlin and Tokio."

## Blanked Again By Coast Guards

Oak Island Soft Ball Team Handed Southport A Row Of Duck Eggs Again On Oak Island Diamond Sunday

Playing on the Oak Island diamond, the Coast Guard soft ball team blanked Southport again Sunday afternoon by bringing home four runs and holding up the locals. In the previous game the score was three to nothing.

Morgan and Newton served as batteries for the Southport lads. (Continued on page 4)

## Ration Pointers

MEATS & FATS Red A8 through Q8, good indefinitely.

PROCESSED FOODS Blue stamps A8 through K8, good indefinitely.

SUGAR Sugar stamps 30 and 31, each good for five pounds indefinitely. Sugar stamp 40, good for five pounds of canned sugar through February, next year.

GASOLINE In 17 East Coast States, A-9 coupons, good through May 8. In other States, A-11 coupons, good through June 21.

FUEL OIL Periods 4 and 5 coupons, good through August 31.

SHOES Stamp 18 in Book One, good through April 30. Airplane stamp 1 in Book Three, good indefinitely. Airplane stamp 2 becomes good May 1 and remains good indefinitely.