

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 MONTHS	1.00
THREE MONTHS	.75

Wednesday, March 6, 1946

To Be Commended

It is said that one deserves no credit for doing one's duty, and so it might be added that a group of men can earn no particular praise for doing the right thing. But we are going to skip the rules for a few moments and try to tell you why we think it is such a fine thing that last week's manhunt wound up in an orderly delivery of the fugitive into the hands of the law.

If the stage ever was set for mob violence, we believe it was Wednesday afternoon when, after more than three days and nights of scouring the swamps and woods for the man who was wanted for the cold-blooded shooting of their friend and neighbor, the fugitive ran into the hands of a group of armed men. Feeling having run high from the moment the murder was reported had mounted higher and higher as the chase progressed; and so with the capture of the man suspected of the murder things reached a critical climax.

Then the first of two cool decisions was made. Instead of giving way to brute passion at the moment he was made prisoner, the men who took him chose to carry the accused man before the widow of the murder victim and ask her to say what they should do.

It was then that the second decision was made, and it was made by a brave and fair-minded woman. Mrs. Williamson appeared before members of the posse and thanked them for what they had done to capture the man suspected of the murder of her husband. Then she asked that he be delivered into the hands of the law for trial, and prayed aloud that the will of God be done.

We believe that every person who figured in this drama will forever be thankful that there was no lynching. First of all, there is the matter of the private conscience to consider; and no right-thinking man wants an unlawful killing on his record. Second, there is the reputation of our county, of our State and of the South as a whole.

If the chase had ended in violence there would have been unending reams of copy from the presses of those who are ever ready to criticize the Southern states and their citizens. None of them will find time nor space to give credit where credit is due for a job well done. That is why we have paused long enough to tell some of our fellow citizens how proud we are of them.

Broken Homes Raise Crime Record

In an address before the annual meeting of Catholic Youth, J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in discussing the importance of efforts dedicated to good citizenship and toward clean living, said:

"The postwar crime wave which we feared is upon us. It is mounting in intensity. It is growing in severity. It is not isolated. It is nation-wide. In fact, other countries report similar experiences. Lawlessness is not inherited; it is acquired—and so is character. Therefore, is it not much more important to build character?"

"View with me, if you will, the passing parade of crime. It presents a sordid spectacle. Out of each 1,000 marching in this endless parade, 521 have marched once to a prior arrest, and 210 are under 21 years of age. More persons aged 17 are arrested than in any other group. Of each 1,000 murderers, 140 are under 21 years of age; of every 1,000 robbers, 360 are under 21; of burglars, 510; of thieves, 340; of arsonists, 250; of 1,000 car thieves, 630 are under 21; and of 1,000 rapists, 320 are under 21 years of age.

"In the background of each of these youths lies a story of shocking neglect. Boys and girls are being deprived of the care and guidance necessary to the proper formation of their characters. Their lawlessness had its roots in every instance in broken homes, in homes where mothers and fathers, because of their neglect, misunderstanding or irresponsibility, had failed in their primary obligation."

Open Your Eyes

Few people today have any conception of the important part the Bible teachings played in the business progress of the United States or the creation of our government. America was founded on man's consciousness of God, man's daily labor and the fruits therefrom.

All over the world during the past two decades political teachings which aggrandized an individual have taken the place of Bible teachings. Equality, freedom and religious liberty have been lost in nations which glorified individuals rather than principles.

In our own country, strong factions are seeking to tie our future progress to all-powerful government. People are losing sight of the fact that America was not built on this basis, but was built upon a constitution that embodies the teachings of the Bible.

It is high time that we come to our senses and, instead of aping foreign governments that criticize our country but turn to it for men and money to settle their everlasting quarrels and poverty, renew our respect for the spirit that breathes behind our own constitution, based on ideals which have given us liberty and blessings beyond those enjoyed by all other peoples.

And don't let any foreign or domestic politician try to tell you he has a system under which government will do for the individual what the individual cannot do for himself if he keeps government his servant rather than his master.

Praises Clark

The performance of Rep. J. Bayard Clark of Fayetteville as a member of the Congressional Pearl Harbor Investigating committee has won praise from several high-ranking Democratic members of Congress.

Although Clark has kept his questioning of witnesses to a minimum, his attendance at the tedious meetings has been almost constant. The questions he has asked have been important ones.

When Captain L. F. Safford, Navy decoding chief at the time of Pearl Harbor, shot the dragging investigation back into the headlines again by charging that a Japanese code message which meant war had been received by high Army and Navy officials three days before Pearl Harbor and later destroyed, Clark went to work.

According to both of the highest ranking members of the committee, Senator Alben W. Barkley (D-Ky) and Rep. Jere Cooper (D-Tenn). Clark's questioning of Safford effectively punctured his testimony and prevented Republican members from making political hay of his assertions.

Through his questions, Clark made Safford first admit that any destruction of such a message should only have been ordered by Army Chief of Staff General George C. Marshall or Chief of Naval Operations Harold Stark, then withdrew the suspicion he cast on their names. Democratic leaders say it was this cross-examination which caused Safford to repudiate his testimony.

The Fayetteville congressman, who has scoffed at the political turn the investigation has taken, also has injected occasional humorous touches into the inquiry which have reminded some members of the committee not to take themselves too seriously.

The other day a Republican committee member, Representative Frank B. Keefe of Oshkosh, Wis., stated that Capt. Alwin D. Kramer had been awarded the Legion of Merit and demanded the record show that he had been awarded it, citation and all.

At that point Clark, who had been poking fun at the wordiness the record had attained, interjected that he would not object to inserting the citation, but declared that "pretty soon the record will hold everything except the almanac."

Speaker Sam Rayburn, who appointed Clark to the committee, declares that the North Carolinian has gone as much as any member to keep the investigation, which has so often dipped deep down into politics, on an even keel toward its stated purposes, to clear up the questions surrounding Pearl Harbor for historical purpose.

"Under The Dome"—The News & Observer.

OFFICES AND OFFICIALS

(Editor's Note: It is our purpose to keep this column both impersonal and non-partisan. Our only interest is to encourage the voters of this county to nominate and elect the best men available for public office. Nothing contained herein shall be considered as an endorsement nor as a criticism of the men now holding the job under discussion.)

The coroner is the only county official with authority to serve a warrant upon the sheriff, and although this is a rare duty for him to be called upon to perform, it does give an idea of the peculiar powers vested in him.

Wherever death occurs as a result of violence, wherever there is a death through accident, wherever someone dies suddenly, or wherever death occurs in a case that has been unattended by a physician it is the duty of the coroner to conduct an investigation.

Whenever the death is due to natural causes or wherever death is due to unavoidable accident, the coroner so pronounces it and that ends the case. However, if as the result of his investigation he has reason to believe that there has been foul play, it is his duty to empanel a jury have them view the body, summons the witnesses and to hold an inquest.

At this hearing he rules as judge of almost unlimited authority, having the right to admit whatever evidence he sees fit. The office of coroner is not a

salariated position, remuneration being paid only for the days he works. The coroner in this county gets \$5.00 per day, plus 5-cents per mile for all travel performed in connection with a case.

The coroner is elected for a term of four years. On two occasions when referring to this office we have made mistakes concerning the election of the last two men to fill the office. John G. Caison was nominated and elected in 1938. He served until August, 1942, at which time he resigned and entered the Coast Guard. W. E. Bell was appointed to fill his unexpired term and was named by the Democratic executive committee to take the place of Mr. Caison on the party ticket in the November election that year. He was elected, and still holds office by virtue of that election.

Widow Intercedes For Man Who Killed Husband

(Continued from page one)

The advice of some cool heads in the crowd saved the man from physical violence. The turning point came when it was decided to go to the wife of the slain man and ask her what she wanted to see happen to the man suspected of the murder of her husband.

It was then that Mrs. Williams spoke the words that probably saved his life for the time being. She thanked the citizens for what they had done to capture Gause, then asked that he be turned over to law enforcement officers in order that the law might take its course. "May God's will be done," she said.

After being in the hands of the citizen searchers for the better part of an hour, Gause was delivered to the officers, who

carried him to the jail in Wilmington where he is being held without bond.

Gause told his captors that he was the man who fired the shot that killed Williamson and he claimed that Luke Gause was with him at the time. The latter has been arrested and is also being held without bond, pending the results of a coroner's inquest.

Gause was questioned closely by his captors and made satisfactory accounting for the time that elapsed between the shooting and his capture. Curtis Vaught, colored, was implicated by him as one who assisted in his escape by setting him across the inland waterway Sunday night.

Others were implicated by him as one who assisted in his escape by setting him across the inland waterway Sunday night.

Others were implicated for furnishing him food and water during his period of hiding out, but these charges are being investigated by officers before any official charges are brought.

CHERRY BLOSSOMS BLOOM IN COUNTY

(Continued from page one)

see the flowers. The understanding is that the blooms will be at their peak during the next several days.

In addition to the cherry trees, Clarendon also has many camellias, azaleas and other beautiful flowers now breaking into bloom. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas make no charge for admission to the grounds.

R&S TO AGAIN START SEASON IN SOUTHPORT

(Continued from page one)

show, Mr. Raftery said, "It's much bigger and much better." "That sort of a claim from him means a lot. During the eight or ten years that the show has had its winter quarters in Brunswick the R. & S. has shown a marked

growth and improvement. The organization features rides but also offers a wide variety of other amusements. An indication of its standing as a high class show is that it follows the same route when on tour each season. Some

shows may jump from this to that place, but the R. & S. has standing that recalls it to the same places each season. This is the same way that its first week of each season is always given to the home county at Southport

D. J. SMITH — REAL ESTATE

Specializing in the sale of Southport and Brunswick County, N. C. Real Estate. If you wish to sell your farm, city property, timber land, cut-over land, beach property or any other kind of real estate, list it with me for sale.

D. J. SMITH — Real Estate
OFFICE OPPOSITE P. O. SOUTHPORT, N. C.

MR. FARMER:—

We have a full line of Certified And Selected Seed.

SEE US FOR YOUR NEEDS!

THE COUNTRY STORE
Longwood, N. C.

We Have, When Available, A Complete Line Of

LUMBER and BUILDING SUPPLIES

See Us For Your Requirements

SMITH BUILDERS SUPPLY, Inc.

DIAL 2-3339
WILMINGTON, N. C.

Why Take A Chance

When You Can Have Protection For Less Than 1c A Day

War bonds—life insurance policies—deeds—last will and testament, and your other valuables will have complete protection in a **SAFE DEPOSIT BOX IN OUR MODERN FIRE PROOF AND BURGLARY PROTECTED VAULT, THE COST IS LESS THAN 1c A DAY**, your box is entirely private and personal. You hold the only keys made for your box, your key with the guard key held by the bank and the custodians service is necessary for you to open your box.

- * A special private booth is provided for your convenience.
- * You may use your box as often as you like and there is no further charge.
- * Three dollars per year plus sixty cents federal tax, or less than 1c per day pays all the cost.
- * Boxes are rented for one year subject to renewal at patrons option.

YOU ARE INVITE TO INSPECT THESE SAFE DEPOSIT BOXES AND OUR OTHER FACILITIES.

"Columbus County's Only National Bank"
First National Bank Of Whiteville
"PROGRESS THROUGH SERVICE"
MEMBER FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORP.
MEMBER OF FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

FOR Better Crops AND Bigger Profits

Place Your Orders Early for Delivery at Farm Sheds.

ODELL BLANTON
AGENT
SUPPLY, N. C.

NOTICE!

The Brunswick County Board of Equalization and Review will meet in the Brunswick County Tax Office on the following days for the purpose of reviewing the tax lists for the year 1946:—

NORTH WEST and TOWN CREEK TOWNSHIPS:—
Monday, March 18th, 9:00 a. .m to 3 p. m.

SMITHVILLE and LOCKWOODS FOLLY TOWNSHIPS:—
Wed., March 20th, 9:00 a. m. to 3 p. m.

SHALLOTTE and WACCAMAW TOWNSHIPS:—
Friday, March 22nd, 9:00 a. m. to 3 p. m.

The Board shall, on request, hear any and all taxpayers who own or control property assessed for taxation in the county in respect to the valuation of such property or the property of others—shall correct errors in the name of persons, in the description of property; but shall not increase or reduce the assessed valuation of any real property, except where errors have occurred, where property has been sub-divided, or where something of value of \$100 or more has been added or removed from the same, or where some extraordinary circumstance has affected same.

W. P. JORGENSEN
TAX SUPERVISOR
BRUNSWICK COUNTY