

The State Port Pilot

Southport, N. C.

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Desire To Own A Home

There have been many theories advanced as to why the housing shortage in the United States is so acute, but it is our guess that the real trouble rests with the basic longing of the average American to own his home.

Our population has undergone no sudden nor startling increase since before the war, but the buying ability of many of our people has been increased ten-fold. For the first time in their lives thousands of our citizens are able to pay for a home if only they can find one.

We hope that the majority of these people will be able to hang on to their enthusiasm and to their resources long enough to realize their dream.

Shirking Responsibility

The other day we were talking to one of our fellow citizens when he asked the question, "I wonder what this place would be like if we didn't have any churches?" Then before we could hazard a guess he answered the question for us both: "I know one thing, if we didn't have any churches here I wouldn't want to live here myself."

Still, so far as the responsibility of a good many people are concerned, our community would be without churches. It is amazing to know the number of people who dwell a life of peace and security, who make independent incomes under our system of law and order, and who take all these things for granted. They acknowledge no obligation whatsoever for the support of the church, the organization which is the foundation stone of our civilized living.

And if you are interested in knowing to whom these remarks are directed, the answer is to you—unless you have done your fair share to support the church of which you are a member.

Where Might Is Right

As one watches a dying body as it twitches and shudders in its death throes, one of the first conscious reactions is to wonder if the loss of this life might not have been averted.

A good many lives can be saved simply through the exercise of normal precautions. If there is any question as to whether it is safe to meet a car in a narrow bridge, for instance, don't try it. If it is a thrill you are seeking, remember that your life is a dear price to forfeit if you go too far. If somebody hogs your right-of-way, remember that it is better to be alive than to be dead, right.

That goes for the pedestrian, too, particularly the kind who sets a course along the edge of the hard surface and refuses to be crowded off the road, even when cars are passing as they draw abreast his position.

The old saying, "it's better to be safe than sorry" never had a greater meaning than when applied to travel on the highway.

Nature Study

The live rattlesnake about which you may have read last week in the Rovin' Reporter's column created quite a bit of interest locally, and after being placed on display in the show window over at Harry Robinson's store, a steady stream of school children passed by to get their first close-up view of this reptile king.

One lady who saw the kids crowding about the cage took the local merchant to task for aiding in abetting in

the satisfaction of what she termed the morbid interest of the children. And, too, she pointed out the danger involved.

Then Harry took the floor. "Now, Lady," he said, "I consider that I've done a favor for every child who has had a chance to see and hear this here snake. Most of them never heard a rattle-snake buzz before. Now if they are ever in the woods and they hear a buzzing noise like that, they won't have to wonder what's making it. They'll know. The way I figure it, Lady, is that I might have saved the life of several of these boys and girls just by having that snake in here for one day."

The educational qualifications of this exhibit had escaped us until we heard about this conversation, but later when we helped load the crate for shipment to the State Museum in Raleigh we had reason to understand what Harry was talking about. The sound of the rattler's warning is indeed a terrifying sound, and it is well for those who may to hear it when the snake is on the inside of a cage looking out.

It Grips The Imagination

Elsewhere in today's paper is the account of a proposed canal connecting the Waccamaw river with tidewater through Mullet creek. Though this proposition is yet still in the discussion stage, the obvious diversified benefits to be derived from it are so many and so immense as to challenge the imagination.

The territory affected would be thousands of acres extending from Brown marsh in Bladen county all the way to the sea and down the coast as far as Georgetown where the Waccamaw empties into the Atlantic ocean.

The proposal calls for the cutting of a canal which would provide an outlet for flood waters of the Waccamaw river into tidewater some 200 or more miles up the stream from Georgetown. This outlet into the sea would provide drainage for thousands of acres of land in Columbus, Bladen and Brunswick counties where the backwaters of the Waccamaw accumulate to make farming and forestry operations next to impossible during a great part of the year.

Moreover, in the same water-jammed territory, the problem of malarial control presents a health hazard which cannot be properly handled until some means is available for adequate drainage of the affected regions. In the same territory also, lumber operations and road building are seriously hindered by high-water conditions.

It will make the proposal more concrete to people in Whiteville to point out that Soles swamp, which skirts the southern limits of the city, could be drained by this canal connecting the Waccamaw with Mullet creek. Extension of the city further south has been stymied by an almost year-round flooded Soles swamp. The White marsh and extensive bay areas in the southern section of the county, including Simmons bay, Big bay and Marsh bay, would also discharge their water through the canal into the sea.

Picture the probable results to the county - thousands of acres of water-soaked land drained for agriculture purposes, new growths of timber in regions too wet to grow trees, the problems of malaria brought under control, lumber operations greatly facilitated, more and better-maintained roads, and great new territories opened for development. All this for a relatively simple operation.

The possibilities of this proposition grips the imagination. It should be followed through speedily and vigorously. Old-timers talked about it in other days and now admit that it should have been done long ago. Unfolding of present plans in this direction will be watched with intense interest.

It is our sincere opinion that the teaching profession is the most important profession in the county and the activities going on inside the school rooms the most important activities. The beginnings of all other professions are in the classrooms of the nation where the teacher is engaged in the business of training young America.

As the teachers take up their tasks for another school session, patrons and friends of the schools have a solemn obligation to extend to them their heartiest and most sympathetic cooperation. Their's is an ancient and honorable profession. Upon them rests heavily responsibility for tomorrow's community.

Just Among The Fishermen

Fishing on Capt. T. H. Watts' "Idle On" over the old wrecks off Bald Head Island, a Wilmington and Wrightsville Beach party caught 214 trout last Friday. The largest fish is reported to have weighed over four pounds. It was caught by T. Costello. At this time of the year a great many trout congregate in the waters about the wrecks. They are caught by anchoring the boats and fishing on the bottom of the ocean. Sea trout cannot be taken by trolling.

The Institute of Business, lately created to operate in connection with the School of Commerce in the Greater University at Chapel Hill, will carry out a lengthy survey of both commercial and sport fishing here at some date within the next two months. The institute has for its purpose the promoting of industry in North Carolina and the survey will be conducted by Professor Kirpatrick. He will be assisted by J. W. Bailey, Jr., son of Senator Bailey. We have been advised he will get in touch with us with regard to the date of his coming. He is interested in all angles of sport and commercial fishing, seasons, financing of industry, factories and banking.

Our former fishing companion L. T. Yaskell, who held out in a very pleasing manner as a postmaster at Southport for many years and who also became noted for his hospitality to visitors in this section, was due to come home this month or next on a fishing trip. He is now in business in New Jersey and is doing fine there, excepting some personal bad luck. A couple of months ago his elder brother died. Three weeks ago the eldest son of this brother was killed in a motorcycle wreck. The young man had just returned from overseas service. Friends here are still hoping that Mr. and Mrs. Yaskell will get home some time soon. Personally, we have missed the guy more than we would have missed anybody else.

Folks who thought the 1946 season would close along the coast with the coming of September have another guess coming. It is true that many of the summer residents had to return to their homes in order that their children might enter school and to continue their business efforts. However that may be, it is not just summer visitors that the coast of Brunswick has to look forward to. There will be a lot of fall vacationists and hunters and sports fishermen along during the next three months. We know of at least a dozen outstanding newspaper sports writers from other states who will be here between now and Christmas. We ought to know of these cases. They have written us of old times and their plans to come.

No man can predict the marsh hen hunting tides along the coast of Brunswick or anywhere else. Tides high enough to enable the hunters to get after the birds usually come with the full moon and the day following. The September full moon is here today, and going purely by that fact there should be some good shooting today, tomorrow and possibly a day or two longer. The whole thing, however, sort of depends on the direction of the wind. If the wind is from the east or northeast the hunting may be fine.

Joe Brooks, Baltimore sportsman and friend of the Brunswick county, which he frequently visited in pre-war days, has been cashing in on his skill with a fly

fishing rod. For several weeks Joe has been handling his beloved tackle, fishing before movie cameras that have been recording fishing as it is done by experts. We have seen Joe and his fly rod technique operating in Brunswick county waters and we can say that if the movie camera makes a faithful recording the public will see something to marvel at.

Judge R. Hunt Parker, who learned something of the ways of fishing while presiding over Brunswick county Superior courts, has been presiding over the Cumberland court during the past three weeks. When the court will end is still uncertain as it has been engaged on the notorious Ewing murder case for the past three weeks. When Judge Parker finishes there and gets over to hold court at Lambertton he is planning on a week end at Southport and a freshening up of his fishing knowledge with Clerk of Court Sam T. Bennett and your Rovin' Reporter.

Southport sportsmen who know their river say that there will be fine trout fishing at the various fishing spots between town and Bald Head island this week. The trout always come in during the September and October full moon periods. City Clerk E. R. Weeks, Prince O. Brien, Ed Marlowe and Bernice Russ were out that way Saturday and Sunday and got over 100 nice fish, including 16 big trout. This week they say it will be a lots better.

Never a week end comes without this or that party from Whiteville arriving to spend Saturday night and Sunday fishing from the Quarantine station. This week end a party comprised of Mr. and Mrs. Otis Washam, Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy King and Bill Lewis were out there. They got a box full of fine fish, including

a 10 pound black drum caught by Washam and a 10-pound flounder taken by King.

OPEN FORUM

A column dedicated to opinions of the public. A mouthpiece for our views and observations of our friends and readers, for which we accept no responsibility. Contributions to this column must not exceed three hundred words.

Bolivia, N. C. Sept. 6, 1946

Editor, State Port Pilot Southport, N. C. Dear Sir:

The following composition, "America" by Rabbi A. H. Silver, contains such striking beauty, I would love to see it in print in our paper.

"God built a continent of glory and filled it with treasures untold. He studied it with sweet flowing fountains, and traced it with long winding streams. He carpeted it with soft rolling plains and columned it with thundering mountains. He planted it with deep shadowed forests and filled them with song. Then he called unto a thousand people and summoned the bravest among them. They came from the ends of the earth, each bearing a gift and a hope. The glow of adventure was in their eyes and in their hearts the glory of hope. And out of the bounty of earth and the labor of men, out of the longing of hearts and the prayers of souls, out of the memory of ages and the hope of the world, God fashioned a nation of love, blessed it with purpose sublime, and called it, America."

Yours very truly, H. B. Clemmons.

LENGTHY REPORT OF GRAND JURY MADE TO COURT

(Continued from Page One) Phelps, H. Foster Mintz, G. F. Ganey, A. W. Smith, Elliott Tripp, M. B. Chinnis, E. H. Gray. The routine investigation of the Register of Deeds office and Clerk of Courts office was made.

Everything was found to be in order.

The grand jury made a tour of inspection. They found the county home in good condition, but wish to call attention to the fact that its recommendation regarding disposal of sewage has been ignored. (May term) In view of this, the body, as a whole, wishes to request that some action be taken to correct this situation.

"In looking over the jail the grand jury took note of the fact that no provision has been made for the heating of water. This does not add to or promote the health and cleanliness of those confined therein. The grand jury wishes to recommend that a heating system be installed providing uniform heating and that provisions for heating water be made.

"Upon finding that none of its recommendations regarding repairs and additions to schools have been carried out, the grand jury does not feel that the county should be subjected to the expense of a tour of inspection. Recommendations are useless if they are entirely ignored.

"The grand jury is recommending that some action be taken in regards to welfare of the community and has turned over several names to the Superintendent of Public Welfare. It is our desire to make our county a better and safer place to live and we have tried to be governed with this thought uppermost in mind when making recommendations.

"R. B. Hawes, "Acting Foreman "George E. Thompson, "Secretary."

BENEFITS MOUNTING TO MILLIONS SEEN IN PROPOSED PROJECT

(Continued from page one) tend to Brown marsh in Bladen county, the highest elevation of the Waccamaw watershed, toward and eastward into various territories comprising three Brunswick counties and two in South Carolina. Below canal in South Carolina. From there to the sea, down the Waccamaw through the proposed canal would relieve the straits of the lower Waccamaw, offering improved drainage facilities to South Carolina counties. The head waters of Mullet creek and the Waccamaw are separated by a narrow ridge across which the water would be dug. From the ridge to tide water, the distance is less than five miles. The difference in elevation between two points is said to be 174 feet, a fall which would assure a slow drainage.

Though little beyond the discussion stage as yet, consultation with leading farm, business and professional men in both Brunswick and Columbus counties responded with enthusiasm to the proposal and are unanimous in their belief that it would be a boon in the opening many thousands of acres of water-logged territory to improved farming and forestry operations, while at the same time solving a major problem of health through malarial control.

VOTE FOR

H. EDMUND RODGERS

For Congress in the Coming Nov. Election FROM THE SEVENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT (Cumberland, Harnett, Robeson, Bladen, Columbus, Brunswick, New Hanover)

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—NOTICE—

Regular bus trips to Long Beach will be Discontinued Effective Sept. 15th.

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