

The State Port Pilot

Southport, N. C.

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JAMES M. HARPER, JR. Editor

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Grim Reminders

During the past few days Southport people have had two grim reminders that there is constant danger for the men who make their living from the sea.

First, there was the case where a local man lost his life when he fell overboard from a trawler on which he worked. His body was found three days later.

On last Wednesday this community was gripped with tense excitement as word came that victims of a tanker blast were being brought here for treatment or for burial. Our citizens saw six lifeless bodies taken from the ship, and a seventh from which all life passed the following day in the hospital.

For the men who love the sea and who know something of its mysteries, these are but two more tragic pages in the history of man's conquest of one of nature's most powerful elements.

Our oceans are our international highways, and their waters are sources of food and profit; but now, as always, they continue to exact their toll in human life.

The Lions Clubs

Since the only two active civic clubs in Brunswick county are the Lions Club at Leland and the Lions Club at Southport, we thought that it would be appropriate to reproduce a recent editorial which appeared in The State Magazine:

"There are a number of different civic organizations in North Carolina—Rotary, Kiwanis, Exchange, Civitan, Lions and so on—but it seems to us that the outstanding one, so far as civic work is concerned, is the Lions organization.

"The reason for this is that the Lions have concentrated upon one main project.

"A few days ago we were in a group and one member of it happened to remark that he belonged to a Lions club.

"Oh, yes," was the comment made by another individual in the group. "You're the guys who are doing so much to aid the blind."

"The trouble with most civic organizations is that they either are not concerned about civic projects at all, or else they jump from pillar to post, tackling one proposition for a month or two at a time, then dropping it and taking up something else. Not so with the Lions, however. They make aid-to-the-blind their constant objective and, in addition to that, they also interest themselves in various other projects.

"We believe it would be a fine idea if every civic organization would follow a similar plan. Place one project at the top of their list, and keep it constantly in mind, even when engaged in other activities.

"It doesn't pay to scatter your shot too much, as every hunter knows. The same thing may be said about our civic clubs."

With particular reference to what the Brunswick county clubs are doing about this program, it might be added that each club has recently conducted an active White Cane sale, proceeds from which go to the State Blind Commission. It seems appropriate to add, too, that members of the Southport Lions Club recently paid the expenses of a delicate operation which it is believed will restore permanently the sight of a local child.

Sensible Plan

We are much interested in the idea of veterans retail stores similar to that recently started as a WAA experiment

in New Orleans, and according to announcement there is prospect for others.

It is reported that the Carolinas stand only one chance in five of having such a veterans department store. The reason is that there are five regional officers in the zone which includes Charlotte. These are Atlanta, Birmingham, Jacksonville, Nashville and Charlotte, with WAA zone headquarters at Atlanta.

Through such vets' retail stores, WAA will dispose of government surplus in non-commercial amounts. At present minimum quantities cannot be reduced below normal commercial lot sizes without the approval of the WAA administrator. Exceptions to this rule include items on the veterans' set-aside list and items representing small holdings to be liquidated, or items in mixed lot of merchandise.

At the New Orleans experimental store, operations and results of which are now being studied, veterans used only their discharges to establish priority for buying. There was no advance certification, and veterans paid \$200,000 on the first day for their selections of 2,000 scarce items attractively displayed which cost the government \$500,000. A sales staff of 250 handled the demands of the 10,000 merchandise-hungry veterans.

This looks to use like a sensible plan that will make it possible for ex-service men to buy some of the things they need without having to purchase more than they want or without having to pay a profit to regular retail outlets which have been doing the bulk of the buying and distributing.

Charter Day

October 4 is a red-letter day in every rural community. It is the second anniversary of the White House Conference on Rural Education when more than 200 leaders from every state and representing every phase of rural life met for three days to study the pressing problems of the public schools for rural children and youth.

During the Conference, the late President Roosevelt said:

"In three generations 80 percent of the total population will be direct descendants of those now living on farms in the United States. Thus, many of those who will be the leaders and citizens of our nation will be given their understanding and appreciation of democracy in educational institutions in rural areas.

"Many of the best and most of the poorest schools in the nation are found in our rural areas. When, however, rural schools are compared with urban schools as a class it is an inescapable conclusion that millions of rural children are seriously handicapped in the educational opportunities available to them."

It was following this Conference and the President's speech that the Charter of Education for Rural Children was adopted.

Such a charter can remain just a collection of nice-sounding words, or it can be a goal on the horizon. But it can also be the standard of educational opportunity for every rural child.

To be such a standard, which should be the birthright of every child, there must be a determined action program in every community. The school board can do a part. It can fight for more money for the school program so that the teachers will be better qualified and better paid, buildings will be better equipped, and the educational program broad enough to meet the needs of the children in a democracy.

But it takes more than a determined and enlightened schoolboard. Every citizen, whether he is a parent or not, must resolve to work for the betterment of his school so that every child will be a contributing citizen in our democracy, regardless of the part of the nation in which he went to school. Every citizen should contribute his effort to make the school the center of the community and HIS school.

Charter Day is merely one day to focus attention on the schools but it should serve to stimulate continuous action to improve education.

Remember the symbolic Tower of Babel? Now again we don't speak the same language, and we are failing to reach Heaven because we can't understand one another.

Not only are our citizens air-minded, they are travel-minded as never before in the history of our country. We will do well to place ourselves in position to make the most of both these trends.

Just Among The Fishermen

Writing us this week of having spent most of his life in the Wilmington section and having hunted and fished in the Southport area many times, J. Laurens Wright, of Charlotte, Division Manager of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, tells us that he hopes to have the opportunity to come to Southport on a fishing trip this month. Under the direction of Mr. Wright the Standard Oil Company recently got out a splendid little booklet for nationwide distribution. The Southport area received the most flattering attention in this booklet.

Captain Crawford Bourk of the good ship Blosson and Jimmie went fishing Saturday with his first mate, J. W. Thompson, of Raleigh, owner of the craft. Others in the party were Charles Smith, Dr. Hugh McManus and Robert Sessoms, all of Raleigh. Without being placed on oath the party claimed they caught 249 blue fish Saturday. Sunday they caught nothing at all. In fact a strong north east wind was blowing and caused the owner-first mate to fall overboard. From his watery predicament he was rescued by the Captain via the well known boat-hook-in-the-east-of-the-pants method.

The wholesale price of spots has dropped three or four cents per pound since Sam T. Bennett and S. Bunn Frink engaged in the business with their net and 16 foot skiff. However, in spite of the competition, Maxie Cooker tells us he made \$180.00 out of his rowboat fishing operations last week. Maxie and his father are still the ones to depend on when it comes to producing for local consumption.

For the past year we have not done anything to publicize the fine fishing off Southport; at Long Beach, Holden's Beach, Howell's Point, Shallotte Inlet, Gause Landing, Brooks Beach, Calabash and other fine fishing points on the coast of Brunswick.

Our reason for this is that some years ago we were working for the Southport area and apparently did a good job. So good, in fact, that it did us out of a job. Last fall we had more than two hundred requests during September, October and November, the folks asking us to make reservations for fishing boats and hotel accommodations.

Complying with these requests repeatedly, we always found that all available, dependable boatmen were booked with parties two weeks or a full month ahead. Added to this was the fact that there were no hotel accommodations. Much of our time was taken up writing and wiring parties that we could not make the reservations they asked, that none were available.

There are still no hotel facilities at Southport. The supply of boats is practically the same as last year. Under the circumstances, it would have been a very poor policy to further publicize things and create a greater demand for what we do not have—adequate boat and hotel facilities.

Without flattering ourselves, we take the privilege of saying that we have some rather far-reaching newspaper connections among the Outdoor Writers and Sports Editors of the big newspapers in the north and east. Most of these fellows completely understand the reasons why they have not been receiving publicity regarding the Southport fishing. They are waiting, just as we are waiting. They know we have the fishing, but that other things must become equal before this fishing can be really developed.

The sportsmen, the men and women who like to fish, are also waiting for these other things—boat and hotel accommodations. When the word goes out that such things are available the coastal sections of Brunswick will see sportsmen coming here by the thousands. Not just to Southport, they will come to all coastal sections of Brunswick.

There is one thing we definitely plan to do. When conditions will again justify sport fishing publicity our efforts will not be confined to just Southport. It must be the whole of the coast of Brunswick, if anything. Giving each fishing center the personal contacts and publicity that its facilities for taking care of sportsmen will warrant. That means that unless a community has boats and other facilities for taking care of sportsmen we shall not be able to do much for them.

It was both foolish and hurtful to Southport to overdo the thing here, as was done before the war. It is true enough that nation-wide attention was attracted to the Southport fishing. At the same time the inability to provide accommodations that were asked for left a harmful impression that will not be disposed of until we have hotel fa-

cilities and ample dependable boats. Under present conditions it is hard to do much in the way of building to take care of sportsmen and tourists. Shallotte Point, near Shallotte, is the only place along the coast of Brunswick that has been able to do anything at all. A nice little hotel and various other facilities that have been built there have proven a wonderful success and a big expansion is in order. Let the rest of Brunswick county coastal points do something in the same order of what has been done at Shallotte Point and we guarantee that the sportsmen will hear about it and act accordingly in 1947.

Veterinarians Are In Demand

Good Opportunity for Farm Youths To Enter This Profession, Veterinary Chief Says

RALEIGH—The need for more veterinarians in North Carolina's expanding livestock industry and to meet increased public health demands was expressed by Dr. William Moore, Veterinary Chief for the Department of Agriculture here recently. Dr. Moore revealed that in the country as a whole there are fewer than 15,000 veterinarians and that of this number more than half are over 50 years of age.

Pointing to the opportunity for farm youths to enter this well-paid profession or for young men who have a natural love for animals, Dr. Moore disclosed that while approximately 40 young men in North Carolina are eager to enroll in a veterinary college this fall, there will undoubtedly be only four or five of this number who will be successful in their attempt to find any veterinary school willing to accept

them. In Dr. Moore's opinion this is due to the fact that accredited veterinary schools, of which there are but 11 in the United States and Canada, are already jammed to capacity and above their normal quotas for new men, and also because as Land Grant colleges they must give preference to new students from their home state before allowing youths from other states to matriculate.

There is only one apparent recourse which can be taken in the near future to meet the increased need for young veterinarians in North Carolina, Dr. Moore stated.

ed, and that is to offer at least five or six scholarships annually, financed with state funds, to those young men who, in the opinion of a committee set up for the purpose, will do best in taking a full veterinary course at some designated and first-rate veterinary school out of the State. A system of student exchange may be set up, suggested Dr. Moore, whereby provisions may be made in advance to accept out of state students into our N. C. diesel school or the textile school, for instance, in return for enrollment of our scholarship students in the vet-

ernary school of the respective university out of state.

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Farmers Know What a Profit Is For

AS his own boss, the farmer has long since found out that a profit is not just an extra sum, above the bare cost of doing business, which can be used as you please. It is the main source of funds necessary to pay for a new silo, buy better machinery, and improve the house and the barn:

In spite of the great rise in income, farm profits are no more than necessary to keep the farm plant producing efficiently. It's the same with the iron and steel industry which makes the materials for the farmer's tools:

In 1945 steel companies had left, after meeting all expenses but before paying dividends, only a little more than one-tenth of one cent on each pound of steel sold. The profit on each dollar invested was less than five cents. Year by year since 1941, when the war started, earnings have been declining.

Although last year's output of steel was 19

per cent greater than in 1940, the last prewar year, pay rolls were nearly double but dividends were lower.

There are many misunderstandings and misrepresentations about profits. Some people forget that reasonable profits are a necessary incentive of the American system, which results in abundant low-cost farm products and abundant low-cost steel products:

It is up to those who know what profits are for, and what they can do, to see that they are not destroyed—and with them our high standard of living.

Steel mills need all the scrap iron and steel they can get. The shortage is serious. Farmers can get extra dollars and help increase steel output by sending worn-out machinery, etc., on its way to the furnaces. AMERICAN IRON AND STEEL INSTITUTE, 350 Fifth Avenue, New York 1, N. Y.

The Institute has printed a booklet STEEL SERVES THE FARMER. Write for a copy and it will be sent gladly.