

The State Port Pilot

Southport, N. C.

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Clean-Up Program

This week the Southport Lions Club is giving a practical demonstration of what it had in mind when members went on record favoring a general clean-up program in this community. The grounds about the Community Building, whose purchase by the city was made possible through the efforts of this civic organization, are getting a thorough cleaning under the watchful eye of Lion D. J. Smith.

If this campaign is to be successful, then it will require the full cooperation of all the citizens of Southport. If you haven't done anything about cleaning up your own yard or your own vacant lot, this will be a good week to begin. Clean up for Christmas!

Help The Postmaster

The postmaster in your community has a hard task ahead, but you can help make his job easier and help make it possible for him to render better service to you and to all the other patrons of your postoffice by following a few simple rules during the Christmas rush.

1. Do your Christmas mailing early.
2. Wrap securely; address plainly.
3. Call for your packages immediately notification.
4. Do not block the way to the stamp window.
5. Your postmaster is friendly and courteous to you throughout the year. Be as thoughtful and cooperative as you possibly can during the next two weeks.

Dangerous Trend

Recently we had something to say in these columns about the manner in which youngsters are permitted to roam the streets at night, and we mentioned at that time we are fortunate that no serious problems in juvenile delinquency have developed as a result.

Well, that development is underway; and one unmistakable sign is increasing evidences of vandalism on the part of these restless young people.

Some of the Southport boys and girls apparently have fallen victim to Halloween fever, and believe that the season still is open for the destruction of property.

The ideal cure for this situation, of course, is for the parents to begin to do their duty as such, and to start trying to make the home so attractive that their boys and girls will want to spend happy evening hours there in the family group.

The next best thing is for the development of some organized recreation program that will afford these young folks wholesome amusement under the supervision of trained and responsible leaders.

The third thing, and the only one that we may be sure we can offer just now, is a friendly word of warning to our young friends. Very often the only important difference between a practical joke and your trip before the juvenile judge is getting caught. A good way to stay out of trouble is to stay out of bad company, for exploits which frequently start out based upon the bravado of a boisterous group frequently wind up with one of the most innocent participants being the goat.

Whose Tail Is Burning

The Saturday Evening Post recently ran an article on turkeys. To illustrate the birds' stupidity, the author cites instances where they roosted on lighted flares, thus slowly roasting themselves alive, and apparently didn't know

whose tail was burning. The magnitude of the fire loss in this country makes the American people seem alarmingly like the turkeys. Fire is under and around them—but they don't seem to know it.

Some facts issued by the National Board of Fire Underwriters, which is conducting the most aggressive campaign in its long history to make America conscious of the fire menace, tell part of the story. One out of every hundred homes is destroyed or damaged by fire each year. Every day, on the average, 110 stores burn. Fire strikes in 29,900 factories each year. The daily total of theatre, hotel and restaurant fires runs to 78. It all adds up to a total loss which may exceed \$600,000,000 this year. If that doesn't impress you, maybe the fact that fire destroys between ten and eleven thousand lives annually will.

A turkey could save itself by the simple expedient of hopping off the burning flare. The American people could prevent something like 90 per cent of all fires by almost equally expedients. Proper care with smoking materials, plus periodic inspections and repairs of heating units and electrical equipment, would alone effect a gigantic cut in the total loss.

Turkeys are stupid. Their instinct of self preservation is inadequately developed. But we who permit loss and death by fire to continue at record levels, are in no position to laugh at them.

About Roads

In a long letter to this paper A. H. Graham, chairman of the State Highway Commission, gives assurance that Brunswick county roads will receive every possible attention in 1947.

As a matter of fact, much of that promised attention has already been started. Large forces of State Highway employees are now working on various roads in this county and others are scattered all about eliminating flood damage. Improvements are well underway and next year will see much permanent construction.

From chairman Graham's letter it does not appear at this time that any long stretches of roads are due for paving along their entire length all at one time. But beginnings of paving will be made on a number of roads in 1947 and these roads will be completed as soon as they can be handled without undue interference with the keeping up of other roads.

Chairman Graham's letter and the attitude it expressed was very pleasing. It distinctly convey a promise to see to it that in Brunswick, where little attention has heretofore been paid and where road conditions have grown into serious problems, will be looked after in the future.

A "Monstrous Thing"

In the current government-labor crisis is posed the most serious domestic issue this country has faced since slavery. Slavery leaders defied the government by disregard of contract agreement and appealing to liberties which in this instance are at best only relative.

The slavery issue resulted in establishing a separate allegedly sovereign government which appealed to arms to authenticate it. The current trend of labor unions is to set up within the government structure a powerful organization equal in strength to the government itself and capable of defying the government with impunity. The obvious result of such an eventuality would be a breakdown of the republic just as surely as admission of the right of secession would have broken the republic.

The preservation of the republic demands that the government never admit the functioning of an organization within the governmental structure which has any such power. In his tacit and blunt defiance of the government, John L. Lewis has indicated his belief that the organization which he heads has arrived at that point where it can challenge with impunity the authority of the government in matters relating to the best interests of the people at large.

Should the government back down in this crisis and give in as it has given in too many times before to labor leaders, it will only weaken its position and hasten the time when a worse crisis will arrive with a more serious threat to the very foundations of the republic.

Sport Fishing Recognized

(Continued from page one) of more fully exploiting its 300-mile coastline. Landlubbers Love It A recent preliminary survey in that state indicated that the percentage of inlanders who come to the coast to fish is increasing strongly, a good portion of them traveling hundreds of miles from the middle west. For some reason, New Jersey and Pennsylvania people are also devoted fishermen. And the number of men bringing their wives and families on their coastal expeditions is also "rowing."

The Department's belief in the rosy future of maritime sport-fishing is based on these factors: (1) It involves one of the most fascinating recreational gadgets in the world—the Ocean; (2) While the pursuit of the larger species (blue marlin, swordfish, etc.) requires considerable time, skill, equipment, and money, nevertheless, the ocean also is inhabited by plenty of fish of respectable size and good fighting qualities, but which may be landed by the veriest tyro;

(3) Whereas landlocked fishing involves the problem of supply of quarry, hook and line fishing of the ocean is unlikely to appreciably deplete the stock;

(4) Of all outdoor sports requiring a minimum of gear and bother, and providing sun, water, and most likely to yield a tall trophy or a tall yarn, it is hard to beat Gulf Stream fishing.

\$1,000,000 Industry Already the business of catering to saltwater fishing is estimated to be worth \$1,000,000 or more annually in North Carolina. Boats operate out of 29 ports,

varying from small inshore craft, to well-equipped two-engine party boats equipped to go 40 miles or more off-shore.

But the "industry" is not confined to chartering of boats. It also involves the housing and feeding of participants, and the provisioning of the parties, the acquisition of gear and bait, and similar necessities, for all of which there is a charge. In some North Carolina communities, it is estimated that up to 50 per cent of the population caters to saltwater fishermen for a livelihood.

As an example of the economic importance of the business, the communities in Southeastern North Carolina last year promoted a fishing rodeo, and it was estimated that \$200,000 was spent by sportsmen going after the \$2,000 in prizes. Next year, the same area will offer \$15,000 in prizes for game fish, and 50,000 fishermen are expected to participate.

The State proposes further development of this marine resource by sponsoring deep-sea fishing explorations of present and potential offshore fishing grounds, by experiments into just how and when to entice now-uncaptured game fish onto landlubber hooks, the marking of old wrecks, and similar undertakings, all of this to be tied in with an over-all marine resources laboratory and school to be established on the coast.

Already preliminary steps are being taken, and Miss Francesca La Monte, noted authority on game fish, and Secretary of the International Game Fish Association, is preparing a report for inclusion in an all-over marine survey of the North Carolina

It's A Business

Regarded by some as a rather frivolous sort of enterprise, the serving of sport-fishermen is being developed into a specialized vocation. The most conspicuous figure in the business is the party boat operator, of whom there are now some thousands in the United States. His operation is becoming progressively more complicated, and today involves considerably more than leading his guests to a good fishing ground. Many of his clients are novices going to sea for the first time, and the popular captain often is highly prized for his ability to make his guests comfortable and their outing interesting and enjoyable.

Larger party boats on this coast also carry a mate who is the "stern man." Here, especially, is required tact, courtesy and everlasting patience. The ideal stern man knows how to reassure nervous ladies crossing a rough bar, how to spin yarns, expertly bait hooks, mix drinks, and console the seasick and the luckless. He also gives diplomatic advice when an amateur handles a strike badly, and it is he who gaffs and boats the fish when at has been brought in.

\$20 To \$80 A Day

Such a boat and such a crew will cost you around \$80 per day in North Carolina. This includes use of the rods, reels and lures, and the privilege of sleeping aboard the boat at night, a novelty greatly relished by highlanders. That runs costs to from \$8 to \$20 apiece for the sportsmen.

There are also smaller boats, manned by one sailor who does all the work, renting for from \$20 to \$35, and hundreds of row-boats for \$1.50 to \$3 per day, if you handle them yourself, around \$7 per day if the owner poles or rows you around for inshore fishing.

This fleet of professional fishing boats is vastly augmented at times when commercial fishermen charter their hardy "workboats" for sport fishing when the commercial fishing is slack. As many as 25 such additions are available in some localities, and the practice has considerable significance in the economics of the commercial fishing industry. Fishing piers also do a year-around business, and there are even guides who will take you surf-casting. Sponsors of the move to expand the business on North Carolina's Coast rely on the following factors to justify the program:

(1) The possibility (valued by several authorities) that a large producing center (in the North Carolina Coast; (2) The fact that Cape Hatteras is the joint meeting place of both northern and southern species of fish; and (3) The fact that the Stream swings closer to this than it does to any other after leaving Florida. Venice, Italy, is 150 miles further north than Vladivostok, beria.

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