

# The State Port Pilot

Southport, N. C.

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JAMES M. HARPER, JR. Editor

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Wednesday, June 30, 1948

## Uncle Jim Lewis

About a month ago we wrote an editorial about Uncle Jim Lewis, faithful employee of the postoffice department for many years and loyal friend of hundreds of Southport people; and in the first paragraph we hastened to assure our readers that we were writing no eulogy marking his death, but that he was making a game fight for his life as a patient at Doshier Memorial Hospital.

Uncle Jim lost that fight, and last week he passed from this world into a better land.

Even now we plan to write no idle words of praise for this fine old colored gentleman. His good deeds will continue to speak for him, and white and colored citizens alike will miss him as one who enjoyed their mutual respect and affection.

## Reliable Service

There is much building going on in Brunswick county, and general repairs and improvements are being made to homes and buildings every week. Much of this work is being carried on by people who live away from here.

We offer this word of advice: Make use of the services of persons who live in this section, who have gained a reputation for honesty and dependability and who plan to continue in business. Often there is a temptation to deal with some new arrival, particularly where there is the matter of monetary savings involved. But there always is the danger of getting hooked by a fly-by-night operator, a man who will have your money and be done before you discover that the work he did didn't hold up.

For building, for plumbing, electrical wiring, painting and many other jobs of this nature, we believe that it is better to deal with a man or a firm who will be here if you need help later.

## Build More Cottages

"One of the biggest troubles with our beaches along the coast of Brunswick county is that building of new homes is not keeping pace with the summer-time demand. Folks wait until hot weather comes and then descend on us wanting to rent cottages. They care little or nothing about how much rent they have to pay. They want a beach home when they want it and at times when there are not half enough to go around.

The above, insubstance, were some of the remarks made this week by R. W. Powell of Goldsboro, one of the owners of the beautiful Caswell Beach strand. Caswell Beach has a number of fine homes, most of them private, with a few that can be rented for a week or month if the would-be renter speaks for them several months in advance.

A vacant beach lot brings no income, while a good cottage rents for \$75.00 per week in the summer time. Cases can be shown where beach home owners occupy their homes for a week or two at vacation periods then rent the place for the rest of the year at rates that have more than paid the cost of both lot and building.

The solution to the beach problem would seem to lie in the owners of beach lots building homes this summer, this fall or this winter. Certainly the time is here when building should be given serious and immediate consideration both by those already owning beach lots and those who are planning to buy.

## Its Baseball

Southport wasn't supposed to have a chance Sunday, not with the local nine facing Spofford, one of the leaders in Cape Fear League play. But the local boys threw the dope book out the window and proceeded to humble a better ball club by a score of 8 to 7.

That's baseball for you, and that's what makes every player on even the weakest teams go into each new game filled with the thought that here is where the story changes, here is a game he is sure to win.

## Worthwhile Vacations

Now that we will have a breathing spell from politics we can get on with other important matters such as barning tobacco, laying by the cotton crop and generally preparing for the coming tobacco season and answering the question of vacation for some of us.

All work and no recreation does not pay and for some there is no recreation or rest possible unless he can get away from his job completely.

Naturally we are partial to vacation spots in our section of the state, which has some of the finest sea and lake resorts in the country and we recommend that our people see their home section of the state first. However, after our section of the state, we feel that our people should not fail to "discover" the many scenic wonders of North Carolina, especially Western Tar Heelia.

We hope many of our people will be able to see the many wonders and scenic beauties of north Carolina from Murphey to Manteo and Wilmington to Asheville this summer. There is much to behold and the change and recreation thus gained will pay off in greater health and happiness.

## The Draft Law

Like most subjects of the kind, selective service is the object of both carping criticism and enthusiastic praise. The Congress, however, has passed the law and the machinery is being oiled for inductions to follow.

Public opinion and the world situation seemed to demand that the draft be used again. It appeared to be the general belief that the country was in the position of the automobile owner who carries along a spare tire. He hopes he won't have to use it, but it's better to be prepared.

That, in essence, is the position of those who have advocated a full-strength military personnel. And despite regrets that the young men of the nation must be snatched away from their normal pursuits, it seems reasonable to believe that the best way to guard against being stranded on the lonely road of international relations is to have this spare tire handy.

On this basis, America accepts the draft.

The best information now available points to the following developments: Men between 18 and 25 must register, probably on August 16.

Inductions are likely to start on or about Sept. 22.

18-year-olds will not be inducted but can escape the 21-month draft by volunteering for one year and enlisting for six years in an active reserve.

## Shame Of The Absentee Ballot

The following is an excerpt from Raleigh Roundup, our State capital commentator, speaking of the second primary election last Saturday:

"There was no absentee ballot in the primary. That's virtually the whole story. This column agrees with thousands and thousands of good Democrats throughout the State who firmly believe that Dick Fountain really won in 1932 and Dr. Ralph W. McDonald really won in 1936 . . . but they lost. J. M. Broughton became Governor in 1940, and the 1941 Legislature gave the hatchet to the absentee ballot in the primary."

We are in full agreement with the action of the 1941 Legislature. There was one sin of omission. It didn't go far enough. If the uses to which the absentee ballot are put are questionable in primaries, they are also questionable in regular elections. There are no essential differences.

The shame of the absentee ballot is one that should be removed from the State scene. Never again should it be used to wrong either party candidates or election nominees. The 1949 Legislature has an opportunity it should not ignore.

## Rovin' Reporter

(Continued from page One)

they have a bit of luck the folks who now write in for a cottage have to be advised that there are no vacancies. The answer to all of this is that the hundreds of people who own vacant lots at our various beaches should start building. And they should start up this year. The demand will increase twice as fast as cottages can be built.

The nicest fish taken without a boat reported to us thus far this season was caught at Holden Beach the past week by R. S. Lennon, cashier of the Davis National Bank of Mullins, S. C. Mr. Lennon was vacationing at the beach with his family and made a number of nice catches by wading out to the wreck of the old Confederate Blockade Runner Ranger. His best fish was a sheephead that weighed eight and a half pounds. This fish was caught on a cane pole and was landed despite the fact that it broke the pole.

Writing from Fair Bluff, an old friend, Dr. Maurice A. Waddell, expressed a great deal of pleasure over a recent visit made to Southport and the Brunswick county beaches. He said it would not be his last visit to Brunswick county. Both he and his family were very much surprised and pleased at the fine Brunswick county beaches.

For some hours Saturday afternoon our companions on a jeep ride along the strand of Holden Beach, Robinson Beach and Bellamy Beach, were Dr. R. H. Holden of Shallotte and R. S. Lennon, cashier of the Davis National Bank at Mullins, S. C. The doctor had his hands full with the jeep but Mr. Lennon talked our own lingo and made a wonderful companion as he was as much interested in the beaches as we were. Between us we decided that some day there is bound to be a real coastal highway from Caswell Beach, through Long Beach, crossing Lockwoods Folly Inlet and going down through Long Beach, crossing Lockwoods Folly Inlet and going down through Holden Beach, Robinson and Robinson and Bellamy Beaches and crossing Shallotte River Inlet below Shallotte Village Point, then on through the Ocean Isle property. When that road does come there will be the biggest jump in beach property value that any part of the North Carolina coast has ever seen. The day, and this road can be speeded up by owners of lots starting to build at an even faster pace than they are building now.

We were having a wonderful time Saturday night with two of the nicest girls at Holden Beach. The only fly in our soup was that some onery subscribers to this paper, residents of Lumberton, Red Springs, Fayetteville and other places, kept hounding in on us. Aided by years of experience with college girls, we managed to hold our own tolerably well. For the information of those fellows, we are asking those same girls to come up and go fishing with us this week, and we are going to take them to a place where there won't be any flies to bother us.

A couple of the largest and nicest tomatoes we have seen this year were grown by Mrs. A. B. Willis of Shallotte and were presented to Mrs. R. H. Holden of Shallotte and Holden Beach Saturday. One of them weighed one pound and seven ounces, the other one pound and one ounce. They were perfect in shape. Mrs. Willis said she had quite a patch of tomato vines, some of them promising to produce something even better than the above.

Writing from his home at Miami, W. F. Smith, native Southportman, says he gets more news out of The State Port Pilot

than he gets out of the New York Herald. If he is looking for news of Brunswick county, we guess that he certainly does. Mr. Smith said that we should be proud of the paper we are putting out for Brunswick county, that in its unflinching boosting it was the best advertisement and best aid to development the county has ever had or ever will have.

We are proud of the esteem in which hundreds of subscribers outside the state hold it.

Mrs. H. G. Ratcliffe invited us around to her house the other day to see the two 3-weeks old wild rabbits belonging to her son, Jimmie. Getting them somewhere in some manner, they were no larger than a small mouse. Feeding them seemed a problem, but it was solved by using a medicine dropper. Now weighing about two ounces and regular grasshoppers at getting about the bunnies are us gentle as kittens and they still love their medicine dropper with its milk. Along with the daily milk ration they are now developing a fondness for grass, lettuce, beans and other green things that rabbits love.

Folks who think they have been having flower watering problems during this dry spell should consider what they have been having to do at Orton, for weeks. Out there away over a hundred thousand gallons of water has to be fed to the plants and flowers daily. The pumps have to be kept going day and night and it takes 50 gallons of gas for the pumping engine every day. Along with the expense of pumping many man hours of labor has to be put in daily, keeping the earth from becoming too thirsty.

During his illness we missed our good colored friend, "Uncle" Jim Lewis, at the post office. With the consciousness of his absence there has always been the hope and expectation that he would get well enough to be about again, although not back at his beloved work of serving the public at the post office. His death this week and the realization that he will not be back is a blow.

A few nights ago at Holden Beach we met up with a couple of sweet girl graduates from Duke University. Now there is nothing enough unusual to make news out of meeting a couple or even several dozen girls at some of our beaches. Our ability to write this hangs entirely on the fact that these sweet girl grads told us that they had met the skipper of a Coast Guard boat who could recite Kipling. They didn't say that his favorite recitation was: "And I Learned About Women From Her."

The idea is a very simple one. So simple that we wonder why the hundreds of people who own beach lots in Brunswick county are not adopting it as their own. It is just this: "If the folks who own such lots at Caswell Beach, Long Beach, Holden Beach and other points will go ahead and improve their property this year by building a summer or year-round residence, they will be making a valuable investment, both for themselves and their neighbors." There are no prettier nor safer beaches anywhere than this on the coast of Brunswick. We should build them up and make them known for what they really are.

Saturday, for the first time this year, we noticed R. D. White, Sr., without a coat. This was so unusual that we thought

to ask about it, rather than just go on with the supposition that he had forgotten it and left it at home. "Well," he said, "it has been a little warm the past few days and I thought I could do without it."

The revaluation of real estate and homes gave Brunswick county a good increase in property valuation last year, but not what it should have given, if one may judge by what a number of influential citizens of the county are saying. This week one such citizen said to us: "They should have doubled the valuation and decreased the tax rate. I paid \$7,500.00 for a house that was listed on the tax books at \$2,500.00 after the revaluation. If the value of property in this county was put at what it is really worth we could get a very substantial decrease in the tax rate. As it is now, a lot of people who would like to come and buy property in Brunswick are kept away by what seems like a high tax rate. I believe our tax rate is really lower than that of any county in the state, when the real value of the property is given any consideration."

## LENGTHY DOCKET

(Continued From Page One)

not pressed with leave. B. N. Inman, speeding, capias. R. H. Gettie, speeding, capias. Allan Clemmons, bastardy, costs and compliance with other judgments.

Thomas R. Merritt drunk driving, transporting, operating after license was revoked, motion for jury trial, bond set at \$500.00.

Ray Smith, reckless operation, continued to June 30th.

Russell Herbert Broodlow, speeding, capias.

Frances Neal Jewell, speeding, capias.

Leon Ezzell, non support, costs and compliance with previous judgments.

Norris Henry, possession and transporting, continued to July 7.

Norris Henry, possession and transporting, continued to July 7th.

Oakland Smith, worthless check

judgment suspended on payment of costs and restitution for check. Appeal taken and bond set at \$50.00.

George Wellington Gray, operating motor vehicle after revocation of license, fined \$25.00 and costs, fine remitted.

Jackson Mercer Caton, drunk driving, continued to June 30th.

## CONSTRUCTION OF

Continued From Page One

said Mr. Bruton, would be built if only a road were available. Mr. Kyle thought the same thing. Since some sort of a road must be built before hope of outside aid can be entertained, it is being suggested that the beach owners and owners of residence lots get together, get a bulldozer and knock out a road through this property from the lower end of Holden Beach.

R. S. Lennon, Mullins, S. C., banker who went with a newsman down to the Robinson and Bellamy Beaches, expressed the opinion that the whole strand from Lockwoods Folly Inlet to the Shallotte River Inlet is the most beautiful one he had ever seen. He, too, saw the need of the property owners making an effort for a road by starting things themselves.

## CHARLOTTE MEN

(Continued from page One)

panions yesterday were M. L. Church and Ike Wynne, also of Charlotte. Their charter with Captain Lance and the Moja was just to fish offshore for the blue fish, but they all plan to return soon and go to the gulf for the big fellows.

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