

## Preparation For Sunny Point Job Near Complete

Indications Point To Work  
Going On Full Scale Operations  
On Two Phases  
Of This Work By Next  
Week

### RAILROAD IMPORTANT TO OTHER PROJECTS

Sub-Contracts Let In Order  
To Speed Work Of Completing  
First Steps In Operation Up The  
River

By W. B. KEZIAH

According to recent information from Colonel Roland C. Brown, chief of the Wilmington District Army Engineers, a sub-committee under the W. A. Smith Construction Company of Houston, Texas, will be in for active railroad building operations by January 1, a week from today.

The Smith company has the contract for the approximately 25 miles of access railroad from Leland to Sunny Point. This contract includes bridges and two sidings, each able to accommodate 70 railroad cars and both built for the purpose of allowing incoming and outgoing trains to pass each other at points between the terminal and main line connections.

As a part of the railroad building a sub-contractor, to whom the Smith company gave a contract for the construction of the Tower Creek and Allen Creek railroad bridges, already has begun his preliminary work. So far his activities have been confined to test piling operations and the clearing the right-of-way to the approaches of the bridges and trestles. Activities towards the building of these bridges and trestles will be redoubled within the coming week.

With only railroad and dredging contracts let so far, real activities on these contracts will be underway within a week. The railroad construction is expected to be especially pushed as the road will be needed for the bringing in of construction material for the docks and various structures.

Contractors for 50 miles of site railroad or sidings and for the building, utilities and 3 huge wharves and trestles are to be let early in the new year. At the peak of construction about 2,500 men will be employed and the already scheduled construction work calls for operations to be finished in November, 1954.

## Brief News Flashes

### OFFICES CLOSE

All county offices and the city hall will remain closed from the end of business on Tuesday until Monday, December 29.

### PRACTICE GAME

Southport high school basketball teams will play their first games of the season Friday night when they meet teams comprised of former students.

### LEAVES HOSPITAL

Principal H. T. Sanders, injured two weeks ago in an automobile accident, was able to leave the hospital Saturday but still has a heavy cast on his left arm and side.

### BOARD CHANGES

Leo Medlin, who has been elected as a member of the board of county commissioners, has resigned as a member of the school board at Leland. He formerly served as chairman of this group. Mr. Medlin has been succeeded on the school board by F. D. Williams.

### MRS. DENNING HONORED

President E. N. Howle of the North Carolina Educational Association has announced the appointment of Mrs. Verna T. Denning of Southport to the Board of Editors of the N. C. E. A. magazine. Mrs. Denning represents the southeastern district of the association and her area is composed of 13 counties.

### SPECIAL EDUCATION

Mrs. Verna T. Denning is serving the county as instructor in a phase of special education authorized in July by the State Board of Education. When it was discovered that she possessed the requirements for this type of work, she was approved by the State the first of September. She formerly had served as a member of the high school faculty at Southport.



## CHRISTMAS AGAIN

By RICHARD BRAUNSTEIN

The difficulty in the Church has seldom been to believe that the word CAME, but always to believe that it COMES. Most of us are believers in a revelation that is a revelation that is.

Christmas is something contemporary, prevalent, momentary, current. It is the birthday of the Christ who came and the Christ who comes, the Christ who taught and the Christ who teaches, the Christ who healed and the Christ who heals.

It is the time when we entrance childhood. Childhood is the world's fresh beginning. Christianity is a Youth Movement. Why discuss any other and more modern movement dedicated to youth?

Christianity began with a babe and it continued on its glorious way by the enthusiasm and momentum of a young man. A young man who changed the thinking of the world. A teaching that makes people better and happier deserves to go on forever.

For three centuries after the birth of Christ the Christians never thought of celebrating a birthday. Good Friday, Easter, Pentecost. But not Christmas. Why? Because those early believers lived under the shadow of a sword. Persecution was their portion. Death always loomed in the foreground. Assurance of immortality was the only thing that mattered. Peace after the storm. A birthday, getting in the world was not a thing to be commemorated. Getting out of the world was the chief concern.

With better times came better thoughts. Perhaps we should say with better thoughts came better times. The conclusion was reached that Christ came not to bring

death but life. He came into the world to take out its hurt and sting. To rob it of failure and frustration.

The season we observe was originally a Roman feast to celebrate about December twenty-fifth, the new upward movement of the sun with its promise of gradually lengthening days. From early Roman sources we get the holy, the Yule-log, the Christmas tree and the exchange of gifts. It is a mark of power to create a new holiday for mankind. It is a mark of greater power to redeem an old holiday. Men's eyes were turned away from the sun because now a greater light was risen in the sky.

Even today we have inherited traditions and customs that have crept into the picture through the centuries. A stream takes on the coloration of the terrain through which it flows. So Christmas, like a ship that accumulates barnacles, has become crusted with legends and superstitions. A recent editorial in the Saturday Evening Post queries, "Who's Birthday is It?" There is room for Santa Claus but he is something or rather, somebody else again, born over sixteen hundred years ago, in the Italian seaport of Bari, Italy. He was the patron saint of

children and sailors. He lived and wrought in a very special manner. But reduced to simplest phrasing, Christmas is not this or that by way of extra curricula and erroneous addenda but JESUS CHRIST'S CONCEPTION OF HUMAN THOUGHT AND LIFE.

There has always been a dispute about the precise date of the Nativity. This seems of least importance. It is a fact, not a date, we record. Western civilization chose December twenty-fifth. We were in Armenia or Abyssinia we would be expected to celebrate January sixth. If we complied that would be our way of interpreting and comprehending Christmas. To be understanding and cooperative, to honor convictions and be harmonious, that too, would be celebrating Christmas.

The world has not changed very much since the First Noel. Those were noisy and boisterous times when Christ was born. Highways

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## Capt. James A. Pinner Passes

Retired Coast Guardsman Dies At Doshier Memorial Hospital; Funeral Services Held Saturday

Captain James A. Pinner, 92-years old, widely known in his day as a Coast Guardsman and retaining a vivid memory of the days when life saving was carried on with brains and brawn at the oars, died here in the Doshier Memorial Hospital early Friday morning.

Living quietly at his home here (Continued on Page 2)

## Carr Funeral Held Thursday

James Edson Carr Laid To Rest In Northwood Cemetery; Was Prominent Citizen Of Community

Funeral services for James Edson Carr, prominent Southport citizen, were conducted Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock from St. Phillips Episcopal Church. The Rev. Dan Allen, the rector of St. Phillips was in charge and was assisted by the Rev. Norwood L. Jones, pastor of Trinity Methodist church. His death occurred Tuesday afternoon at Doshier Memorial Hospital.

Interment was made in Northwood cemetery with members of Brunswick County Post No. 192 American Legion, serving as active pallbearers. Members of the board of vestry of St. Phillips Episcopal Church and members of the board of directors for the Southport Building and Loan Association were honorary pallbearers.

The deceased was a member of a prominent Southport family and had been active in many phases of community activity. For almost two decades he had served as secretary-treasurer of the Southport Building and Loan Association. Prior to that he had been auditor of the City of Southport. During World War I he served in the Navy, and during World War II he was a member of the Selective Service Board. He also was a member of the board of trustees of Doshier Memorial Hospital.

Surviving are his mother, Mrs. T. B. Carr, Sr.; his wife, Mrs. Irma Davis Carr; his daughter, Mrs. Jack Hughes; four sisters, (Continued on Page Two)

## Cuts In Tobacco Acreage In 1953 Are Considered

Some Representatives Advocate Reduction As High As 12 1/2 Per Cent Next Year

### QUOTAS EXPECTED TO BE SET NEXT MONTH

Final Decision Will Be Up To Secretary Of Agriculture; Situation Almost Unchanged

Reductions in the 1953 tobacco crop, ranging from nothing to 12 and one-half per cent, were advocated at a five-state tobacco meeting in Raleigh last Thursday.

States represented were North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida and Virginia.

A reduction of at least 12 and a half per cent had been proclaimed by the Department of Agriculture in July and an announcement of the final reduction figure is expected soon after January 1.

James E. Thigpen, chief of the Tobacco Branch of the United States Department of Agriculture, said the only change in the situation since July is that tobacco stockpiles are 19,000,000 pounds less than had been estimated and poundage is 57,000,000 pounds less than had been forecast in the July 1 announcement.

Nearly 100 selected persons, representing all phases of producing and marketing tobacco, met secretly in an unpublicized meeting with Thigpen at Hotel Sir Walter to give the nation's top tobacco official their sentiments about acreage reduction.

Thigpen heard recommendations for no reduction in next year's acreage up to the 12 and a half per cent in the summer by the Department of Agriculture.

Sentiments gathered at the meeting will be taken into consideration by the Department of Agriculture in arriving at a new figure or retaining the reduction already announced.

While the tobacco men were holding their meeting, the crop Reporting Service of the U. S. and North Carolina Departments of Agriculture announced that North Carolina this year produced 904,320,000 pounds — the third largest crop on record in the State. A total of 978,000,000 pounds produced in 1951 broke the previous record of 913,000,000 pounds set in 1946.

Acreage from which the 1952 crop was harvested totaled 738,000 acres, the same as last year, which compares with the 10-year average of 645,300 harvested acres. The average yield for the year was estimated by the Crop Reporting Service at 1,225 pounds to the acre, compared with a yield of 1,325 pounds in 1951 and 1,120 pounds on the 10-year average.

Reduction in this year's yield, along with lower quality leaf, was largely caused by unfavorable weather, the government agency noted. Dry weather and abnormally high temperatures extended over much of the State during June and July, it was recalled.

Fred S. Royster of Henderson, president of the five-state Bright Belt Warehouse Association, disclosed after yesterday's meeting that the association of warehousemen has gone on record favoring

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## Uncle Bob Sampson Saved From Death

Quick Action On Part Of Wife Of Air Force Man Resulted In Rescue Of Aged Negro

Recently a small and old building at Long Beach was destroyed by fire. Filled with old nets, fish boxes and barrels, it was of so little value that its destruction did not attract any attention.

It was only by accident this week that it became known that Mrs. Minnie Payne, wife of Master Sergeant Joy F. Payne of the U. S. Air Force, saved the life of Bob Sampson during that fire.

Uncle Bob, aged Southport Negro, has been cooking for the Swains at their fish camp for years. At 6 o'clock, the morning of the fire, Mrs. Payne happened to look out of the window of her residence a couple of hundred feet away and across the street. She saw fire and smoke pouring from the fishing shack. Feeling that Uncle Bob, whom

she had frequently seen putting around the building, might be inside, Mrs. Payne broke in the door and could barely see the aged Negro lying in his bunk. He was unconscious from the smoke and the courageous woman rushed into the fire and smoke filled room and dragged him bodily out.

The Negro is well up into the eighties. He is noted for his politeness and his invariable practice of shaking hands with and tipping his hat to all with whom he comes in contact. Treated at the hospital for his smoke-filled lungs and slight burns, he is now completely recovered from his experience. He recognizes the fact that he owes his life to Mrs. Payne and her quick acting. Another minute in the smoke and fire-filled room and he would have died.

## Church Choirs In Christmas Program

### Police Chief Kills Mad Fox

Mrs. S. B. Frink had quite a scare Monday afternoon when on returning to her home she found a large fox endeavoring to climb the door screen. Mrs. Frink had gotten out of the car and was near the door before she noticed the unusual actions of the animal.

Mrs. Frink lost no time in getting back into the car and reporting to her husband. He sent Chief of Police Jack Hickman and Fred Fulford to see what it was all about. They found the fox by the side of the house and shot it.

Investigation reveals that it had slobbered all over the door screen and had badly scratched it. It was evidently rabid and Mrs. Frink is congratulating herself that she was near the car when she saw it.

## Ordination Of Brunswick Man

The Rev. Frederick Elwood Gore Ordained To Christian Ministry With Appropriate Ceremony Sunday

The Rev. Frederick Elwood Gore was ordained to the Christian ministry Sunday afternoon by the Supply Baptist Church. The Rev. E. C. Reeves, pastor of Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church, preached the ordination sermon and the Rev. W. M. Ussery, pastor of the Supply Church, presided at the exercises.

The Rev. W. R. Moorehead read a report of the presbytery, consisting of a group of ministers from Brunswick Baptist Association, recommending that the church proceed with the ordination. The Presbytery had examined the candidate's Christian experience, doctrine, and fitness for the office.

Others participating in the program were the Rev. T. D. Toler, who delivered the charge to the church; Isaac Willette, who led in the ordination prayer; Vernon Galloway, who presented the Bible to the candidate; and the Rev. Fred Johnson, moderator of Brunswick Baptist Association, who welcomed the candidate on behalf of the association.

The new minister is pastor of (Continued on Page 2)

## Student Night Program Planned

Returning College Students Will Participate In Evening Service At Southport Baptist Church

Next Sunday will be Student Night at Southport Baptist church with college students from the church in charge the evening service.

Student Night is an annual observance in an increasing number of Southern Baptist churches. The purpose of the program is to acquaint the members of (Continued on Page 3)

## Ballot Recount Denied By Carr In Election Row

Superior Court Judge Beford Whom Hearing Was Held In Seeking Writ Of Mandamus Denies Kopp Petition

### SAYS LAW DOES NOT APPLY TO HOUSE

Judge Carr Takes Position That Legislature Is Not A County Office And Therefore Does Not Come Under Special Act

Judge Leo Carr has denied the writ of mandamus sought by W. A. Kopp for a recount of ballots cast in the general election on November 4. Kopp trailed Odell Williamson by 57 votes in this contest, and sought a recount under provisions of a special act of the Legislature passed at the last session providing that a recount could be called by a candidate for county office who trailed by not more than 1 per cent of the total vote.

The order signed by Judge Carr stated: "The court is of the opinion that the statute under which the petitioner seeks relief applies only to a county or township office and that a candidate for the House of Representatives, being a candidate for the office of Member of the General Assembly, is not a candidate for county or township within the meaning of that term as it is used in the election laws or in said statute and, therefore, the said statute does not apply to candidates for the House of Representatives.

"It is, therefore, ordered that the petition for the writ of mandamus as set out in the petition be denied."

In explaining his position Judge Carr said: "I have given careful study to the statutes and the decisions of the Appellate Courts in this and other states where the questions arising in this case have been considered, which statutes and decisions were referred to in the argument made before me at the hearing and the two briefs filed with me by attorney for Petitioner Kopp. There are two questions of law arising on the pleadings and the evidence in this case that have required careful study on my part. One is the question of whether or not the writ of mandamus is available in this case and another is whether or not the statute under which the action is brought applies to a candidate for the House of Representatives.

"The decision of Appellate courts in the majority of cases where similar questions have been considered tend to support the contention of Petitioner Kopp that his request having been made at a recess meeting of the board was made in apt time. As indicated, however, in the order it does not appear necessary for the court to make a ruling on this question in view of the fact that the Court is of the opinion that the statute does not apply to a candidate for the House of Representatives.

"The great majority of decisions in respect to whether or not the office of member of the General Assembly is a county office indicate that such office is not a county office. It is contended by the attorneys of Petitioner Kopp that the statute in question, to-wit, Chapter 462 of the Public Laws of 1951 should be (Continued on Page 2)

## South Carolina Man Found Dead

W. H. Heffner Found Dead At Home Near Calabash Last Week And Murder Is Suspected

W. H. Heffner, 80-year-old semi-recluse, was found dead at his home just over the line in South Carolina near Calabash Wednesday last week. He had two bullet wounds in his body, apparently made by a .22 rifle.

South Carolina officials pronounced it murder but robbery apparently did not enter into the killing as the dead man was found to have \$35.00 in his pocket. However, if the crime was committed by robbers they could have been frightened away before they found the money. The officers are said to have two suspects.

Mr. Heffner had no known close relatives. He was not known to have any enemies. At one time he was considered wealthy. A number of years ago he is said to have received \$75,000.00 for the sale of timber, much of it being in Brunswick county.

## Tide Table

Following is the tide table for Southport during the next week. These hours are approximately correct and were furnished The State Port Pilot through the courtesy of the Cape Fear Pilot's Association.

High Tide	Low Tide
Thursday, December 25	
2:48 a. m.	9:08 a. m.
3:11 p. m.	9:24 p. m.
Friday, December 26	
3:50 a. m.	10:11 a. m.
4:10 p. m.	10:19 p. m.
Saturday, December 27	
4:47 a. m.	11:08 a. m.
5:04 p. m.	11:10 p. m.
Sunday, December 28	
5:41 a. m.	12:02 a. m.
5:58 p. m.	12:01 p. m.
Monday, December 29	
6:31 a. m.	0:00 a. m.
6:48 p. m.	12:50 p. m.
Tuesday, December 30	
7:17 a. m.	0:48 a. m.
7:34 p. m.	1:35 p. m.
Wednesday, December 31	
8:00 a. m.	1:32 a. m.
8:17 p. m.	2:16 p. m.

**Our ROVING Reporter**

W. B. KEZIAH

County Supt. of Schools J. T. Denning was very much pleased at the performance of a Brunswick County boys and girls who form the Shallotte High School Band during their participation in the Lions Club Christmas party at Shallotte last Wednesday. The training that those young folks are receiving in music and marching will go a long way in giving them poise and bearing in later life. And for further compensation the money that the school community is having to put out on the band, it may be said that the Shallotte area is receiving widespread publicity.

We came to Southport 27 years ago and of the adult white men living here then only a handful remain. Among the men we first got to know and who are still living here are E. J. Hol-

den, W. H. Hood, Harold St. George, Thomas St. George, David M. Davis, Price Furlpess, J. A. McNeil, Capt. J. I. Davis, John D. Eriksen, Capt. C. N. Swan, Charlie McKeithan, George Grimes, John F. Potter, Sr., John G. Calson, Sam T. Bennett, G. C. Runk, Crawford Rourk, Geo. Arnold, Cratie Arnold, Charley Doshier, W. T. Fulwood, Sr., Fred Spencer, Clarence Spencer, J. A. Arnold, Earl Wescott, Ross Livingston, Alex Lind, Robert Thompson, H. B. Smith and K. Tobiasson. We believe that it is all who were of marrying age or above in 1925. An astonishing large number have died.

W. S. Wells & Son apparently guessed it right with regard to whether they should take their trailers to Florida this winter or stay here. Last week, according to (Continued on page four)