

# The State Port Pilot

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JAMES M. HARPER, JR. Editor

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Wednesday, May 12, 1954

## Hospital Week

Almost all of us have at one time or another used the facilities available at our county hospital.

These cause for these visits ranges from the very simplest treatment to

emergencies where the immediate use of the hospital was often the difference between life and death.

Our hospital has assumed the role of a good friend, always ready when the need arises.

Many of us can remember the time when our hospital was not yet built, but how many of us have considered the chaos which would result if our hospital were to disappear overnight?

We have become so accustomed to the services offered that many of us take it, and the attention which it affords, too much for granted. This week we have an opportunity to become better acquainted with Doshier Memorial Hospital, which is conducting a special open house in observance of North Carolina Hospital Week, May 9-15.

Only by actually observing the hospital's new equipment and the special services which speed the recovery of patients can we realize the tremendous improvements in hospital service which have been instituted over the last few years.

A hospital is a community servant. It is also a community responsibility. Visit your hospital during North Carolina Hospital Week.

## THE SECRECY LAW

The other day in discussing the secrecy law with one of our prospective members of the State Legislature he confessed that while he knew that it was not the popular thing to say, he frankly could see nothing objectionable about the law. He got down a report of the proceedings of the last session of the Legislature and we read the law together.

In simple language it provides that sessions of the appropriations sub-committee may be held in executive session, but that the findings of these sub-committees must be reported to the appropriations committee in open session and that final action also shall be taken at an open meeting.

Nothing dangerous about that, you say. Nothing hidden, nothing secret. It just gives the boys a chance to talk frankly about the matters of business before them without fear of having their off-the-record comments reported. There can be no final action without a public hearing, so what's the danger?

Actually there is none, if this were all there is to the matter of considering public business in secret session. But the danger lies in the fact that this is just a point of beginning, and that if this special act of the legislature can give one sub-committee the right to exclude the public from a meeting where public business is being handled, then there can and will be other demands for privacy.

The point to consider, we believe, is that a man in public office is the servant of the people, not the dictator or boss. The business in which he is en-

gaged is public business, and if that is true it is the right of the public to know when and in what manner this business is handled. The public may not at all times be reasonable and understanding, but the public is entitled to know.

Weimer Jones, president of the North Carolina Press Association and editor of The Franklin Press, has taken a leading role in the battle against the secrecy law. Recently he had the following editorial comment to make regarding this law:

"Newspapers have a responsibility to observe secrecy in a very few, narrow areas—for the protection of the rights of citizens. (He cited national security as an example.)

"But newspapers also have a responsibility to provide the public with information about the public's affairs. And because the newsman's job keeps him on the scene where public business is transacted, whereas the public usually cannot be there, newspapers have the responsibility of leading the fight against the always-present danger of the abuse of secrecy, and the equally always-present danger of its spread beyond the few, narrow areas where there is any real justification for it."

We do not like dangerous trends, and we believe that enactment of the Secrecy Law by the last Legislature was a dangerous trend. We hope to see it repealed, and we certainly hope that the representatives from Brunswick to the State Legislature will do their part to take this measure off the books.

## A SALUTE TO DR. JOHNSON

To work at one job successfully for fifty years is no mean accomplishment. And we join his hundreds of friends throughout the county and state in congratulating Dr. Floyd Johnson, Brunswick County Health Officer, on the high honor and recognition recently accorded him by the State Medical Society at its annual meeting in Pinehurst.

Dr. Johnson is one of 41 medical doctors in North Carolina that were inducted into the Society's Fifty-Year Club --- and was one of the youngest, if not the youngest, men in the Society to be so honored. The club was organized this year as a part of the Society's centennial year celebration.

The good Doctor started practice in his home county of Johnston in 1903 and in 1905 came to Columbus County where he practiced privately at Cerro Gordo before taking over as county

health officer on April 1, 1921. When most men would have been content to relax on their accomplishments Dr. Johnson about five years ago took on additional duties and responsibilities by becoming Health Officer of Brunswick County. In addition to his professional work he does extensive farming and is active in civic and professional organizations and his church, having served on the Board of Stewards of the Whiteville Methodist Church almost continuously since coming to Whiteville in 1921.

Mere words fail to describe such a person as Dr. Johnson. He is truly a servant to his fellowman and one of his greatest and noblest assets is his humility. We salute this honored, humble servant of God and man and wish for him many more years of fruitful life and service.

## The Flower Show

Every year we are amused when visiting out of town judges are outspoken in their amazement when they see what a good job the ladies of Southport do on their Annual Flower Show.

The fact is, there are some things we can do down here just as well as folks can who live in much larger cities, and holding a flower show is one of them.

Last week's event was one of the best in a long series of successful flower shows, and it came as a somewhat of a surprise when those in charge were informed by the judges that this was a

standard show except for not having printed programs.

The more important qualifications were fully met.

Many small boys are just the type their mothers wouldn't want them to associate with.

Said one deer to the other: "I wish I had his doe."

Most of the older widows are worth a second glance, and we usually give them an extra one or two for good measure.

## SCHOOL DAZE

By Irene Parrish and Jeanette Long

Sorry we missed you last week, but things are buzzing so fast around Waccamaw High it's hard to even think. Everyone is busy studying for exams and getting ready for that big day, graduation.

You should see the juniors and seniors now. They look right comical. Everybody is in a whirl about the banquet. As the end draws nearer, we can't help feeling sorry over losing our seniors, for they are a sweet class that will always be remembered around Waccamaw. We wish to extend to them our very best wishes for happiness and success always.

Wednesday the annuals came, and it really caused excitement, especially in the senior class. Everyone is rushing around to get his friends to autograph his annual and bragging about how well his pictures look. We think the annuals really turned out well. The seniors have a right to be proud of them.

This will make the "Believe It or Not" column, we won the ball game! It was the very last game

of the season against Southport and the boys were a little disappointed because they did not have time to win more. The game ended with a score of 4 to 3 in our favor. Our boys have really progressed since the first of the year, and maybe by next year they'll be Brunswick County Champions.

Seen Around: The seniors rushing around with their annuals.

Mary Lou Duval losing two dollars... Belton Babson raising the flag... Linda Evans making one seam jeans... Reba Duncan, Linda Evans and Joyce Parker sporting new hats... Willie Ward taking pictures... Mrs. Greene carrying a biology book around... Wonder why?... Juniors and seniors rushing to get ready for the banquet... Pat Simmons having trouble with the bus. Poor fellow, better luck next time... Miss Jackson having to be absent from 4th period class... Lois Duval sporting a new hair do... Kay Smith giving everyone a poodle cut... Mr. Greene showing visitors around... Mary Lou and Kay thrilled over getting to go to the banquet... Agriculture boys building a furnace in front of the teacherage. Working hard these days, poor boys... Billie Hewett and Avis Duval going with Jessie Little to the funeral... Eugene Tripp driving to school every day.

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## Not Exactly News

Capt. J. B. Church is the best weather prophet we know. In fact, we will take his opinion ahead of the official weather forecast any day. Last week we remarked to him that we would give a lot to know how to predict the weather as accurately as he can. "Well," he said, "if you had been trying to outguess the weather for as long as I have in order to make a living I suppose you would be able to" . . . And that reminds us of the member of a fishing party going off-shore from Southport Sunday who slipped up to the mate, seeking a little inside information with which to impress his fellow passengers. "Will we see Diamond Lightship this morning," he asked? "I hope not," said the mate. "That's off Morehead City". Actually the fellow did not even see Fryingpan Lightship, for it still is in drydock and her station is being filled by the Relief.

Unless we miss our guess the combined Lions Club Ladies Night and Athletic Banquet here tomorrow night should be one of the most enjoyable programs held in Southport in a long time. . . . W. T. Fullwood and Slim Osborne have some of the best blooded Plott hounds in the United States . . . The Lindner Farms have diversified their activities by planting 10-acres in Irish potatoes at the old Mercer farm near Winnabow. "Rob Roy" is the Thursday-Friday feature at the Amuzu. Richard Todd is the star . . . At Charlotte

theatre we'd like to see the Thursday-Friday show, "Go, Man, Go", another full length feature about the fabulous Harlem Globetrotters . . . Tuesday-Wednesday are the dates for showing of "Salome" at the new Long Beach Drive-In theatre.

Folks who believe that life is lazy in Southport and that all activity begins at morning mail time at 8:30 should see and hear the automobiles and boats that begin to stir around 4 a. m. each day. . . . Quail have paired off, and once more you can see them everywhere . . . These recent chilly nights haven't been good for early truck growers, particularly for those who have snap beans . . . There is some hope of early action on the part of the city in abandoning the present trash dump.

They have a new tennis net for the court used by the ladies. It was made by Dallas Pigott and Meritt Moore from heavy tarred twine, and is really built to stand a beating . . . It is likely that the new athletic field will do more than anything in a long time to produce some good young baseball players. The location near the center of town makes it possible for youngsters to get together and play without making that long trek to the old diamond, hence more time for playing and more interest in getting up a game . . . Latest party fishing combination we have heard of is Bill Kincaide and Doshier Ruark, Jr. . . . There are unmistakable signs that school soon will be out.

Can't seem to get up in time to meet the bus . . . Tenth grade boys beating the 9th in soft ball. . . . Everyone worrying over the approaching exams.

Waccamaw High School has been one of the comparatively few high schools in the state to give unit credit to the library assistants. Mrs. Greene, as librarian, has taught library science.

Well, so long Folks. See you next week, if the thoughts of exams don't get us down.

### CHIEF OF S.B.I.

(Continued from Page One) an office staff employed by the department, including 17 field agents.

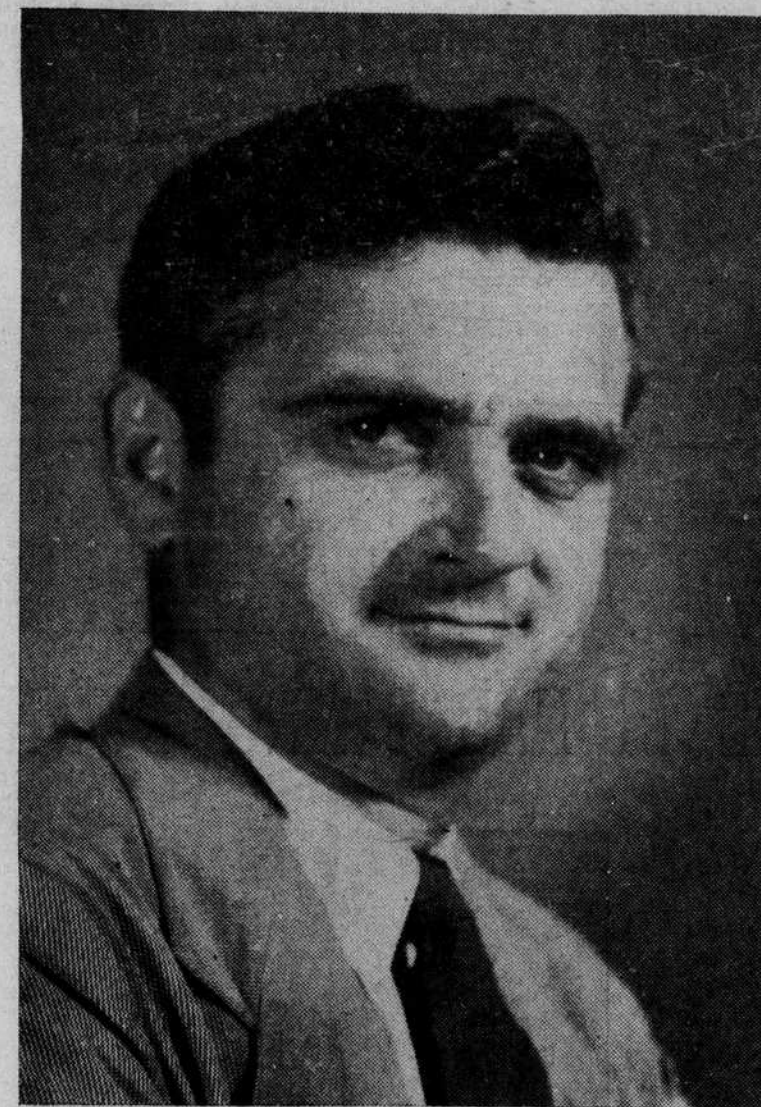
Among the special services available in cracking puzzling crimes are those of a finger print expert, ballistics expert and document examiner. Highly trained personnel take care of these jobs for the S. B. I., and their services are available when needed to help with investigations of crimes in any part of the State.

### Alderman Meeting Postponed A Week

The regular meeting of the Southport Board of Aldermen, scheduled for tomorrow night, has been postponed until May 20, according to Walter Aldridge, City Auditor.

The postponement was made in order not to conflict with another meeting and in order to handle some other matters that cannot be brought up until next week.

## FOR STATE SENATE



RAY H. WALTON

NATIVE OF BRUNSWICK COUNTY

GRADUATE OF WACCAMAW HIGH SCHOOL.

GRADUATE OF WAKE FOREST COLLEGE SCHOOL OF LAW— (B.S. & LL.B. Degree.)

FORMER SOLICITOR BRUNSWICK COUNTY RECORDER'S COURT. MEMBER BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION.

LION ... MASON ... METHODIST

I am a Brunswick County Boy who wants to see Brunswick and her people have every benefit to which they are entitled. I want to go to Raleigh to fight for this recognition, and when I get back the folks in the State Capitol will know that Brunswick County is a part of North Carolina.

(This Advertisement Cost \$16.00 And I Paid For It Myself—RAY H. WALTON)