

**ROVING REPORTER**

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Only trouble is that they are too large to get into our mouth. Anyhow, we believe that everybody who goes to the show at Shiloh Friday night will be well entertained.

In a note to this paper Joe Cox of High Point was a bit outspoken after coming to Southport and seeing the U. S. Government terminals. Joe, a long-time friend of Southport and this area, said in his note: "I think I will write a letter to the State Ports Authority, suggesting that they move their headquarters to Southport, so they can see what they should have developed instead of Morehead and Wilmington. It took the Federal Government and Bill Keziah to overcome the Atlantic Coast Line and Wilmington politicians." Mr. Cox may have been putting it a bit rough, but there was something in point in what he wrote. The State Port Authority would really do well to have its offices here where they can keep in touch with the U. S. Army Transportation Corps.

We nearly always have trouble with Steve Worth of Fayetteville when Superior Court is in session and he comes down to serve as court reporter. Steve asks so many outlandish questions that a fellow is sure to be caught on something or another, unless he remembers he has work to do somewhere else. This last week's term we were forced to the conclusion that Steve is slipping. He asked us how many times we would have to write the figure 9 if we were ordered to paint consecutive numbers on the doors of a 100 room hotel. We put it at 20 if there was no connecting doors or closet doors in the business. Steve claimed there was only 19 "9s". Finally getting him cornered in front of Judge Frizzelle, he finally admitted there might be 20 and to change the subject he asked how many living presidents of the United States? Of course, anybody could answer that. The hitch comes along in anybody being dumb enough to ask the question.

To those who noted the slow beginning of construction on oceanfront lots at Long Beach it may be encouraging to learn that a count made Sunday showed an even 40 buildings on the front street. This number includes houses that have been moved back and are being repaired and new houses under construction. The second row has had even greater construction activity. We haven't

counted there, but it is safe to say that Long Beach will have more than a hundred homes ready by the first of June. The construction has greatly exceeded all expectations early in the year.

Just when we were planning to be the first man to catch a fish from the Yaupon Beach pier, word comes that Bus McGougheny, Red Springs mail carrier, has bought a ticket to fish on the pier. That would be disheartening if it were not for the report that somebody was out on the pier, as far as it now runs, Sunday and that they made a nice catch. This coming Sunday somebody will probably go further out and next Sunday they can go even further out, and so on. It may be that Bus and your Rovin' Reporter will still have a chance to be the first to make a catch when the pier reaches its full 800-feet. We are still betting on ourself. We can watch the pier running out more closely than Bus can.

Several Wilmington people and a lot of folks from elsewhere have migrated to Southport in recent weeks, some to live here and some who are commuting for the present. Among the commuters is Dr. Arnold L. Sobel, optometrist, who spends each Wednesday here. Dr. Sobel appears highly pleased at these one day trips each week in Southport and expects that he will soon have to spend more time here. On the other side of things, there are a lot of people in the area who are really pleased over the fact that when their eyes or glasses go wrong they can get them attended to without having to spend a day going somewhere else.

People from all about are interested and making inquiries with regard to Yaupon Beach. This last week a New Jersey family came in to look the place over with a view of investing. They were much pleased, and during the course of their talk with Mr. Barbee he told them of another New Jersey family living only 15-minutes from them who are interested in the same thing down here. Before leaving they told Barbee that they were going to contact this other family and that they expected the both of them would be moving in here soon. They had never heard of their interested neighbor until they came down here.

Things sort of run together sometimes. Sunday at about 1 o'clock we were talking to Mayor J. A. Gilbert about the boat landing ramp that is to be constructed here. An hour later we

were over at Davis Creek on Long Beach and Dr. Smith of Ramseur asked us, "Why does not Southport build a boat landing ramp? It would bring a lot of business there. About all of the boats that come to Long Beach each summer would unload and load at Southport." Dr. Smith, with some trouble, had just gotten his beautiful little cabin cruiser out of Davis Creek and had loaded it on his trailer.

Talking to Mr. and Mrs. A. Leon Capel of Troy Sunday, Mr. Capel said that the cold got all of his peaches that were in bloom. There will be very few this year, he said. As for apples, things are a little brighter. Apples bloom just a little later than peaches and not so many were out when the cold came along. The late blooming apples are giving some promise but he is afraid that some of them will fall from the trees without maturing. Apple is a big word with the Troy man. He is said to be the biggest apple grower in North Carolina. He is said to have fifty thousand apple trees and plenty of peaches. The Capel home on the Big Hills at Long Beach sustained little damage from the storm.

To add to the immediate and generally cheerful outlook locally, it appears that another week or ten days will see the beginning of steady employment to around 200 men at the fish factories and on the boats. This is more or less seasonal work, but in a good year it turns loose a lot of money in this area. A really good year creates something like a neighborhood boom. Talks with various fishermen gives the idea that this will be a real good fishing year. Don't ask me how those fellows know. We don't know, and we doubt if they do. But the fact remains that when they predict a good year we generally have one. The skippers are now predicting a good year, so that must be what is coming up. Shrimpers are predicting the same for their sort of business. Sport fishermen appear equally as confident. Maybe there is a lot of wishful thinking in it, but anyhow there is thinking.

One thing that has pleased us a great deal during the past week was the number of Brunswick farmer friends who stopped us or came to the office to remark on how fast their tobacco plants have been growing under the impetus of good rains early last week. These rains were followed by warm and growing weather for tobacco and all sorts of crops that are up out of the ground. The last week has been really wonderful for setting out tobacco and doing everything that has to be done on the farms at this season of the year. Like the beach residents after the storm, the farmers have been both busy and happy.

It will be nothing like as long in coming as Sunny Point was, but Deepwater Point, partly in and partly out of the Southport city limits, has attention attracted it again. Something will come there and we believe it will be big. The term again is used without any reservation. Attempts have been made to develop one at Deepwater Point and the attempts were politically blocked. Early in World War II the United States Navy spent thousands of dollars there making tests with the intent of building a great drydock there. The tests showed everything that could be desired. The place was ideal, but the project was killed. The Navy still knows of that area, and even if their plans are still blocked other interests also know of it. We believe that before the year is out Deepwater Point will be very much heard from.

Thoughts of those freshwater springs that create Allen Creek cannot be obliterated from the mental picture. There in a 5-mile stretch of stream enough fresh, pure water comes out of the ground each day to float a fleet of battleships. Forty-six million gallons, according to Pat Riley of the State Division of Water Resources. That water, with plenty more in reserve underground, is wasted, so far as human use is concerned. Now for the first time in history the area of the springs is reached by a railroad. Certainly, it is a military railroad, but that makes little difference. Washington and other sources told us months ago that this military railroad can also be used by private industry in the development of natural resources. The water boiling out of these springs and also found elsewhere in Brunswick is a great State and National resource.

Last week a Lumberton banker told us that the beaches in Brunswick county are coming back, and fast. He was referring specifically to Long Beach, with which he is well acquainted. But his remarks can be applied to any and



**INCOME TAX** time doesn't worry Jennie E. Lefler, 50, a Salisbury, stonecutter. With 18 deductions to list, filling out the April 5 due tax form is just a formality. Having such a large family is a blessing in many other ways, too, the Leflers say, and they highly recommend it. The family was eligible for and go a group rate on hospitalization.

all of our beaches. Figuratively speaking, they are pulling themselves up by their bootstraps from the havoc that the storm surrounded them with. A few days and for weeks after the storm people who were supposed to be intelligent and well-informed were telling us daily that it would take 50 years for the beaches to come back. We said 'phooey' to that and we don't mind saying it again. In a few months our beaches have come back, not yet as big as they were, but by the summer of 1956 they will be bigger than ever before.

Whether they go by day or by night the commercial ships that pass after pass between Southport and Wilmington will wonder at the being subject to a cost of several hundred dollars each more than it would cost them to load or unload their cargoes here. They will wonder at all of the Government ships unloading or loading here and why the same thing is not for them. The answer to their wonder lies simply in the fact that the political minded State of North Carolina has simply never recognized, as did the Army Transportation Corps the existing of the greatest deepwater harbor on the coast of North Carolina. With the State Ports Authority functioning for years it is still a regrettable fact that there has never been an official visit here by the authority nor its members. Some of them appear to be disinclined to even take a look and see the possibilities here.

There may and may not be an opening here at Southport for a stevedoring firm. The fact is that several weeks prior to the beginning of operations SPAALT will call for bids on the stevedoring work, and existing or new firms will bid on such work in much the same manner that contractors bid on construction. The contract, so far as anyone knows may be won by interests a long distance from here, or it may be won by someone here or in Wilmington. One thing that apparently balances things as much in favor of a new concern as an old one is the seeming fact that the established firm cannot alternate its working force between this place and that. The terminal here will have a priority on the services. Even if he is just starting on a job at another place he would have to drop it and come here whenever there is a call for loading here. That may be often. It looks doubtful if the same stevedoring force can serve two places.

With the T. F. Scholes, Inc., having approximately two months longer to go on the railroad job here, some of the families are leaving for other jobs with the company elsewhere or to go with other companies. Among the families to leave this week or soon are Mr. and Mrs. Fred Duncan. Mr. Duncan, a foreman with Scholes, has a position with the A and D Railroad at Clarksville, Va., and has already left for his new work. The children have been in school here during the year and a half they have lived here. Mrs. Duncan stopped us on the street this week to say how much the entire family has enjoyed living in Southport and that they hope to return here some time.

"It was a great trip for us and we are still marveling at the vastness of Sunny Point," wrote Rev. W. T. Albright of Greensboro in a note of thanks for having piloted him and some companions over the installation recently. Rev. Mr. Albright went on to say that it was mighty unselfish of us to give our time so freely to showing folks over the installation. Snicks, showing people about Sunny Point gives us a lot of satisfaction. In the first place, just a few years ago a lot of people thought the giant terminals would never be built. We get a lot of satisfaction in showing the place to such folks now. At the same time we get even more pleasure from showing it to folks who have always believed in it. In short, we get some fun from all sides about these guiding trips that we make daily. The other day Attorney Wwright McEwen met us on the street and asked if we had been to Sunny

Point lately? "Not since I was up here two hours ago," we told him.

Years ago when Captain Bill St. George put out his almost undefeated Southport baseball team, winning 3 out of 32 games that season, every small boy in town became adept at some form of handling the ball. But the town team dropped out of the picture in year or so. Since then we have had only mediocre high school baseball teams. The school boys just did not have any higher goal to aim at and they could not keep up their interest in playing. Things are changing now. It seems that we are getting more and more hustly young men here, and some of them are said to be good players. We hope that Southport will again form a high class team and thereby get both entertainment and encouragement for the school teams. The new Taylor Park field is both convenient and much better for baseball than the old one was.

NEW CONSTRUCTION  
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will be put in, 12 feet in width and with dirt shoulders on each side. The entire width will be 24-feet. With the base material all having to be moved from the rock crusher near Dock No. 2, a lot of hauling is involved along with much grading and fills. Passing down near Orton Pond on the north the terrain is rather uneven. The same condition applies to Walden Creek on the South. On the operations here are A. D. McCoy, representing the Boyle Company, and James F. Powell, a sub-contractor, and Scott Smith a foreman for Boyle. The Boyle Construction Corporation is said to be one of the largest in South Carolina. They also have the contract for 13 miles of wire fencing here, for which a sub-contract has been let to another contractor who will probably arrive next week. The home town of the Boyle Company is Sumter, S. C.

SCHOOL DAZE  
Reba Duncan  
After Easter holidays we started on a short schedule, with school taking in at 7:45 and getting out at 1 so the girls and boys can get home early enough to work on the farms.

The banquet was held Wednesday night at the Hotel Whiteville and everyone seemed to enjoy it tremendously. The girls looked beautiful in their gay colored evening dresses and different kinds of flowers and the boys were handsome in suits and bow ties with their boutonniere of white and red carnations. The night might have looked gloomy outside (rain) but inside the heart of every boy and girl was a feeling of warmth and happiness as they left the banquet. The theme for the banquet was moonlight and roses and when entering the room guests walked through a white gate covered with moss, roses and ivy. Each table was

**Praises Boat Launching Ramp**

**Southport Native Sees This As Boon To Water Sports Development Along Southport Waterfront**

A news story in last weeks paper told of the proposed boat launching ramp that the City Officials of Southport are preparing to build. Among a great many other expressions relative to the matter, the following letter was received yesterday from G. Butler Thompson, Lumberton Attorney who is here frequently with friends on fishing trips. Mr. Thompson's letter speaks for it being the best speller in high school. Mercedes Smith dying her hair black. Thebert Smith, Reba Duncan and Joyce Parker keeping classes for Miss Galloway to decorate Wednesday. Mary Lou Duval having a cold after the banquet. Judy Duval and Christian Etheridge hiding behind the stage. Melton McCombes having to drive a bus Wednesday. Everybody liking the new schedule. Mr. Warren engaged. Everyone liking to go to school Saturday. Joyce Parker got exhausted Wednesday night and couldn't come to school Thursday. Richard Piver thinking he is as pretty as anybody. Margie Smith visiting Tuesday.

So Long, Folks. See you next week.

self: "I note, with much interest, that the new city dock now under construction will also provide a launching ramp to be used by fishermen who bring their boats with them on trailers when they go to the coast fishing.

"I, personally know of several fishermen who have had to pass up Southport for such fishing trips when they specifically wanted to go there but due to the difficulty in launching their boats have had to go elsewhere. These people would naturally be repeaters had there been any means of launching their boats.

"On one occasion, last summer and before hurricane Hazel paid her disastrous visit, I guided a party of friends to Long Beach and to a hard surfaced road that ran almost to the water's edge at low tide and they, with some difficulty, launched from that site. However the trip down the Waterway to Southport and from there to the fishing grounds and the return trip consumed so much time that they did not return, although they had fine luck, caught many speckled trout and other varieties of fish. I feel certain that this facility will result in a large number of such parties making Southport their fishing headquarters."

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**CITY ELECTION**  
**Tuesday May 3, 1955**  
**Challenge Day Will Be Saturday, April 23 1955.**

- The following are serving as Registrars:
- 1st Ward Mrs. Riley Willis
  - 2nd Ward Miss Annie M. Newton
  - 3rd Ward Mrs. Velma Ward

Any person who has been a resident of North Carolina for a period of one year and a resident of Southport for a period of 30 days, and who is otherwise qualified to vote, may register.

Persons who have moved from the ward in which they are registered to another ward are urged to see the registrar in their old ward and arrange to have their name transferred to the books of the ward in which they now reside.

**THE QUESTION OF INSTALLING THE CITY MANAGER FORM OF GOVERNMENT WILL BE VOTED ON AT THIS ELECTION.**

W. L. Aldridge, Auditor,  
City Of Southport

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