

EDITORIALS:

BOAT LAUNCHING RAMP

If someone were to ask us what the biggest recent improvement in the matter of attracting visitors to the Southport area we would not hesitate to nominate the new boat launching ramp located at the foot of Howe Street.

Two incidents that occurred last week have helped convince us that this is true.

Over in Whiteville, sixty miles away, an appreciative boat owner wanted to know who he could write and thank for the launching ramp. He said that he had used it, thought it was fine and plans to use it many more times this summer.

A man driving an automobile with a trailer hitched on behind asked a Southport citizen if there was any place around here where a fellow could launch his boat. "I have come all the way up from Cherry Grove, S. C., looking for a place where I could get my boat in the water and get it out again," he declared. He was directed to the facility on the waterfront here in Southport, and the chances are that the next time he gets ready to go to the coast on a

vacation Southport will be his first objective.

We think that you will see these illustrations repeated many times during the coming months. As we have said before, boating has been the fastest-growing sport in the United States during the past few years. But a boat is no good unless you have some place to use it, and for the average individual this means not only a body of water upon which to float it, but facilities for launching and retrieving as well.

The nice thing about putting a boat in the water at Southport is that when you do you have a multiple choice of some of the best inside fishing to be found along the coast. There is the river, the inland waterway, the bay and numerous creeks. Only in the roughest kind of weather is it impossible to use your boat in some of these waterways.

These are some of the reasons why we think that this new facility on the Southport waterfront will prove highly popular with boat owners from all parts of the State.

CHARTER BOATMEN'S ASSOCIATION

The Southport Charter Boatmen's Association may not be a perfect organization, but it is a step in the right direction as the men in the business attempt to promote sports fishing in this area.

Funds from regular membership dues and from associate members are used for promotional advertising; and members of the association help each other by placing extra parties with local boatmen. The theory behind the plan is good, and most of the practices that have been carried out thus far appear to be sound.

There are eighteen sports fishing boats operating from Southport now, and this is big business for a community this size. Not only do the men who own and operate the boats prosper

when business is good, but the effects reach over to motel operators, restaurant operators, service stations, stores and other places of business.

The mere existence of the Charter Boatmen's Association does not mean that the party boat skippers comprise one big, happy family—as much as that is to be desired; but it does mean that they are banded together to pool their best interests in a common effort to promote Southport as a sports fishing center. They deserve recognition, not only for the good job that they do in their service to fishing parties, but for their efforts to attract more visitors and more business to this town.

More power to these men and to their organization.

ROVING REPORTER

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tion, asking that we secure him a house at the beach, large enough to accommodate 6 adults and one baby. The lease, if we could secure one, to run from July 8th to September 1st. Likewise, during the week, have come direct inquiries from Greensboro, Charlotte, Philadelphia, Pa., and Tonawanda, N. Y., all of a like nature as the one from Venezuela—all interested in securing homes at the beaches.

Although many of them make a regular habit of keeping their grass and flowers watered during dry weather, practically everybody was busy at such a task Friday afternoon. They had all lost hope of rain anytime soon. Seeing Mrs. Maxine Fulcher at this task, we remarked in passing that she was inviting it to rain that night or the next morning. Next morning at 4 a. m. it began to rain. Still raining at 7 when Sam Bennett came by the office with an invitation to ride over to the beach. Still raining when we got there and when we left. Still raining at noon that day and the most we thought of was the good that the rains were doing to our farmer friends all over the county. Best soaking, general rain Brunswick has had in a long time.

With everybody too busy, with memories of how the leading spirits had to work day and night in sweltering heat to put on last year's 4th of July celebration, it now appears to have been decided to take a rest in Southport this year. The committee says that they will not have a 4th of July. Southport is so close to the beaches and most folks want to go to the beaches and have a bit of relaxation instead of having to perform all of the work that is attendant on putting on a celebration. Our understanding is that this year the folks just intend to have a street square dance on Saturday night preceding the 4th and another dance on the night of the 4th.

There have been and still are a lot of confusing claims regarding the cost of Sunny Point construction. Reports lead the public to believe that the cost was anywhere between \$22,000,000 and \$24,000,000. Our understanding from the start of things has been that the first appropriation by Congress was in the sum of \$1,400,000. This went through the Savannah Real Estate Board for purchasing the big land area, with part going to the Army Engineers for the cost of designing the installation, a work that was done under contract. Following the first appropriation there was another of \$22,600,000, entirely for construction. It is assumed that further funds for operation costs are in the fiscal budget and this is thought to be a large sum. In addition there was approximately two and a half million asked for recently for the purchase of additional land and various construction. The public won't miss things far if it places the construction costs at 24 million. Operating costs will be another matter.

Without knowing that he was paying a good tribute to the powers of advertising, Sam Bennett told us Friday morning of the sale that morning of two building lots to citizens of Union County. Sam, along with G. V. Barbee, is engaged in handling the sale of Yaupon Village building lots. The two of them have been making things hum and both have been steadily advertising in this paper. Well, both of the Union County

men who had bought lots that morning were regular subscribers to this paper, and Yaupon Beach is so new that we have a good suspicion that they had never heard of the place until they read about it in this paper.

With a permanent military angle now established in the Southport area, the only possible way of ever realizing the dream of an all-Coastal Highway is to have it come down 130 to Orton, follow the by-pass around Sunny Point and hit the coast at Long Beach. Southport itself is out of the picture unless connections are made north of town. This connection already exists, lacking improvement and designation, both of which will come in time. The Coastal Highway, connecting with highway No. 130 at the Long Beach intersection, could proceed down the coast through Long Beach, Holden Beach, Colonial Beach and then onward through Ocean Isle. We believe that eventually the Coastal Highway will follow the above described route, the nearest possible route to the coast.

Our good friend, Steve Wall of the Army Engineers, slipped off suddenly and unexpectedly, even to himself, the past week for a cruise to Bermuda. He writes us that Bermuda is a pretty place and a good place for a fellow who does not like to work very much. He mentions that the past winter the temperature hit a record low of 42 degrees. We think that this information would have been more up to date if he had advised the high at which it is hitting now. Returning to the office in Wilmington this week, Steve found his desk littered with work awaiting him, just like any other fellow who goes on a vacation.

The Savannah Real Estate Board has not yet received any definite instructions about the new land deal down the Cape Fear and involving lands in both Brunswick and New Hanover counties. However, it is said that it is believed that something will be forthcoming soon. The land involved comprises a Safety Zone area to Sunny Point. With their very definite and exact safety requirements in regard to everything in connection with Sunny Point, it is believed that the new land requirements are a must that will be strictly followed out.

The importance of the truck in transportation is receiving a lot of recognition in the government's transportation facilities now being built just above Southport. There are parking and loading facilities for approximately 600 truck-trailers. This does not include the nearly a mile and a half of 22-foot truck lane running the length of the dock in addition to the dock. The truck facilities now being built there are rumors of mean more roads to reach them. The roads and parking places are not shoddy, temporary jobs. All have approximately 8-inches of rock base that is covered with three and four inches of asphalt. The truck facilities at the installation are assurance that there will be more and more substantial roads running in and out of Brunswick county.

The weather reports got things completely wrong Saturday. At 9:30 small craft warnings went up and winds 25 to 35 miles per hour were forecast for the afternoon. In contrast to this report the afternoon saw no winds at all and the Cape Fear was as calm and placid as it ever gets to be. However, in contrast to the Saturday afternoon calmness, Friday afternoon brought some very stiff winds and the river got decidedly rough. So rough that a small out-

Not Exactly News

Charlie Splawn, Southport boy, attended Boy's State last week at Chapel Hill. He fell in love with the UNC campus, and hopes to be able to spend his college days there. He says that one day they had Coach George Barclay for a speaker and that the Carolina football coach used James Varnum as an example of what a boy can do if he really wants to. Coach Barclay told the students at Boy's State that they will hear a lot about the former Shallotte football player next fall, and he praised the Brunswick county boy not only for his football ability, but as a fine all-round student. . . . A Rock Hill, S. C., fishing party will long remember Southport and Bill Wells because of an incident that occurred here Monday. The Southport man found a wallet that was well stocked with cash and checks. He couldn't locate the owners, but left word around various places and with Chief of Police Jack Hickman. A short time later the anxious owner showed up, and when Wells returned his billfold to him he was informed that it contained more than \$500 in cash, not to mention checks and other valuables.

Folks over in Whiteville will be glad to learn that the Standard Oil dock has been rebuilt, and while its principal purpose is for the use of the crews from the boats of the Brunswick Navigation Co., the fact remains that it will again provide some desirable dock fishing. . . . Some of the local quail hunters are concerned over the effect of week end rains upon newly hatched quail. . . . Stacy Wells, Leland high school athlete, is playing with the Wilmington American

Legion baseball team. Speaking of baseball, Brunswick has two teams in the Cape Fear League and business appears to be on the up-grade for both of them. Manager Earl Bellamy has his Shallotte nine playing steady ball now that he has the services of a number of high school and college players. The Maco team draws most of its talent from Leland, with three Southport men also on the squad. . . . We do not know much about "Green Fire", the Sunday-Monday attraction at the Amuzu in Southport, but beautiful Grace Kelly is the star, and that's good enough to recommend it to us.

This is June 22, longest day in the year and officially the first day of summer. Up to this point it has been the coolest June we have ever seen. . . . When Johnnie Simmons came home from Florida last week he brought a fresh stock of sea shells for his summer side-line business. . . . We never saw such high tides as we have had in recent months, and they have been making up both at the time of the new moon and of the full moon. The result has been rough on the sand breakwater on the beaches. . . . Bobby Spencer, one of the best all-round athletes ever developed at Southport high school, is out of service and is now demonstrating that tennis is another sport at which he is quite adept. . . . We hear that one result of the fashion show here last week was to step up sales from Southport stores. Maybe there were others present who, like us, were surprised to learn just how many pretty clothes you can buy right here in town.

board boat returning from Battery Island with 4 men aboard capsized in the channel. All had lifebelts and all were rescued without difficulty. . . . A lot of wrecks, laid to slippery roads, smooth tires and sometimes to speeding, occurred in Brunswick over the week end. Only two men, both Marines, were hospitalized here with slight injuries. Monday highway patrolmen were expressing surprise at so many wrecks, none killed and few injured. It was a couple of those very rare days when motorists were just plain lucky or else there may be some truth in the old saying that Providence takes care of fools and drunks.

Money to pay these benefits comes from the old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund, which is built up from social security tax contributions of workers their employers, and self-employed people.

Mr. Avera pointed out that nine out of ten mothers and children are now protected by old-age and survivors insurance in case of the death of the family breadwinner and that in the entire country fathers have died now receive benefit payments. . . . In Brunswick County at the end of the year, 63 aged wives and husbands were receiving \$1,438.00 per month as dependents of retired workers, and 22 aged widows and parents received \$819.00 as surviving dependents of deceased workers. . . . These local figures for old-age and survivors insurance payments reflect a national trend, Mr.

trend." Thompson mentioned that the entire body of State Ports Authority hopes to come here and go for an inspection of the terminals on July 21st or 22nd, at which time they are scheduled to hold a meeting in Wilmington. Chairman Edwin Pate of the Board has several times expressed such a wish.

Mr. Avera stressed the importance of these benefits as the greatest or the only source of income to many of the families who received them. "Two out of three people now reaching age 65 can qualify for old-age and survivors insurance benefits," he said, "and nine out of ten mothers and children in the country are assured of survivors benefits in case of the death of the family breadwinner."

Wiley Franklin Goins, overloading, fined \$10 and costs. Horace Clifton Sutton, operating unmarked vehicle, fined \$10 and costs. Christina Elizabeth Smith, speeding, no operator's license, fined \$25 and costs.

Francis W. Fletcher, no operator's license, speeding (75-mph) fined \$40 and costs. Corbett Simmons, possession, drunk driving, fined \$100 and costs.

Mr. Avera pointed out. In the country as a whole, there were 6,886,480 people receiving benefit payments at the end of 1954—nearly a million more than in December 1953. . . . Mr. Avera stressed the importance of these benefits as the greatest or the only source of income to many of the families who received them. "Two out of three people now reaching age 65 can qualify for old-age and survivors insurance benefits," he said, "and nine out of ten mothers and children in the country are assured of survivors benefits in case of the death of the family breadwinner."

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