

Information On Weed Varieties Given By Agent

County Agent Explains That
Many Farmers Were Pleas-
ed With Results Obtained
By Using Controversial
Type

OBJECTIONS NOT CONFINED TO 139

County Agent Advises Far-
mers Not To Go Over-
board In Planting New
And Relatively Un-
tested Variety Of
Tobacco

It appears that some people get
more confused by reading in-
formation about tobacco varieties.
It was the intent of last week's
article on tobacco to present the
thinking of several people. The
statements that specifically men-
tioned a variety were quoted from
a letter from our Extension To-
bacco Specialist and a report on
tobacco varieties from our agri-
cultural experiment station.

As stated in last week's article,
the information was given so that
tobacco growers could have ac-
cess to all possible information
in order to decide for themselves
the best variety for their farm
and conditions. This county agent
has never voiced himself as being
opposed to a particular variety.

The Coker 139 variety, accord-
ing to a large number of Brun-
swick county tobacco growers,
possesses some outstanding char-
acteristics. Some of these good
points are high yields, ease of
handling and curing, few suck-
ers and others. The chemical
analysis, as reported by the ex-
periment station, shows the nicot-
ine very low and the sugar con-
tent very high and exceeded only
by the new D. B. 244 variety and
another under test.

The criticism of pale and slick
tobacco has been misunderstood
and charged to Coker 139 when
in reality several varieties pro-
duced this kind of tobacco in
1955. It appears from the criti-
cism that 139 was the more com-
mon producer of this type to-
bacco. But again when this vari-
ety was planted on heavier soils
and allowed to thoroughly ripen,
they had more orange color. There
has been some criticism about
the lack of flavor and aroma. It,
too, has been charged to 139 by
some, but this may not be true
because this variety is new and
proper aging has not been com-
pleted.

There are a number of good
varieties for farmers to select
from. Any time a new variety is
tried, it may be good business to
put a part of the acreage in the
crop to determine its merit under
local conditions. The new Dixie
Bright 244 variety is being high-
ly recommended by the N. C.
Experiment Station. It would be
good for some of our farmers to
try some under our conditions.
This variety is likely to meet with
some criticism because it is new.
In general all new varieties de-
veloped in recent years should
be allowed to thoroughly ripen be-
fore planting.

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Brief Bits Of NEWS

TRUCKS IN TOWN

Big red tractors were parked
all over Southport this morning,
as many as a dozen at some
points where they could find ad-
vantageous places. The trailers
had been taken to the Terminal
to be loaded or unloaded there,
while the tractor operators came
on into town for accommodations.

TO FLORIDA

Mrs. H. A. Edwards and son,
Donnie, left Saturday to join
Mr. Edwards at Coca, Fla. Mr.
Edwards who is with the Hill
Dredging Company on the Ven-
tor, is now working with the
boat at Coca on an 8-month job.
Miss Kathleen Edwards, daughter
of Mr. and Mrs. Edwards, is
attending a business college in
Jacksonville, Fla.

BUSY DAY

Two deaths attributed to nat-
ural causes and one the result
of a wreck on the highway were
investigated Thursday by Coroner
Sam T. Bennett. Margaret Frink,
56-year old colored woman of
the Howell's Point community
was found to have died a natural
death, as had Gregory Fulford, a
4-months old white infant of
Lockwoods Folly township. The
fatality on the highway, investi-
gated the same day, was the
death of R. S. McKeithan, near
Town Creek.

Pleasant Visits Are Remembered

Retired Army Officer Writes To Inquire About People
And Places He Remembers Here

BY BILL KEZIAH

This paper has often carried
articles regarding former resi-
dents remembering the Southport
area and hobbling up to either
come home or write something
about the past and things around
the old town in those other days.
This week there came a letter
from Colonel John Merrick, U. S.
Army, retired, now living at
Matchez, Miss.

During World War I, Colonel
Merrick, then a Lieutenant of
Artillery, spent some time at
Fort Caswell. In 1926, the year
after the writer came to South-
port, Merrick spent much time
at Caswell. It was in that year
that the fort was sold and the
guns dismantled and removed.

In his letter he refers to many
people he knew during that
period, and Bald Head Island,
Fort Caswell and Southport all
apparently hold a warm spot in

his memory. In part he wrote:
"Mr. Styron of Beaufort and
Miss Berry have kept me in-
formed of the progress in North
Carolina since I have been here,
but it remained for Mrs. Griffin
to really set me straight, on
keeping up-to-date with your
fair city and its people whom I
knew in the long ago.

"You may remember that when
Caswell was dismantled and my
classmate, Newman, had the job
of removing the ordnance, he
came to know you, Bonner Bus-
sell and the Willis (Capt. W. T.
Willis) families, Capt. Barnett
and many other fine people. It
was only natural that he tell me
at Fort Bragg of the fine fish-
ing off Southport and that we
respond by returning with him
and enjoy the fine sport our-
selves.

"I know that among the
(Continued on Page Four)

Clearing Ground For New Building

Masonry Cook House At
Rear Of Ft. Johnston Dem-
olished Tuesday In Pre-
paring Site For New
Houses

TWO DUPLEXES ARE
BEING CONSTRUCTED

Contractor Hauling In Soil
To Raise Level Of Founda-
tion For These New
Buildings

CLEARING GROUND
A crane swinging a 1000 pound
steel ball as a hammer demolish-
ed the small building at Fort
Johnston yesterday morning. With
the roof three feet thick, the
job was not so easy as it sounds,
two hours were required for the
task of leveling the building.

The wrecking was done as a
preliminary to the construction
of residential buildings on the
property for administrative of-
ficers at Sunny Point.

At present the construction op-
erations will be confined to the
erection of two duplex homes to
house 4 families. One of them
will have two 3-bedroom apart-
ments and the other two 2-bed-
room apartments. Frontage of
both buildings will be brick
veneer.

Preliminary to the start of con-
struction of the buildings, G. W.
Taiman of Wilmington is now en-
gaged in hauling in 500 truck
loads of earth for the purpose of
leveling the Garrison Grounds.
Taiman was one of the 47 con-
tractors who had jobs at Sunny
Point during its construction.

Law Enforcement Figures Given

Report Made Of Activities
Of Sheriff's Department
During 1955 With Boot-
leggers Being Chief Vic-
tims

Looking through the records at
the court house some interesting
figures were found relative to
law enforcement for the past
year.

A total of 213 arrests were
made. These were divided among
the officers as follows: Sheriff
E. H. Gray, 59; Deputy Leon
Galloway, 50; Deputy Henry Pike,
63; Deputy O. W. Perry, 32; De-
puty H. G. Ratcliffe, who is jailer
and office deputy, 20.

A total of 376 civil papers were
served as follows: Sheriff, 44;
Galloway, 151; Pike, 39; Perry,
71; Ratcliffe, 65.

A total of 158 capias and sub-
poenas were served, divided as
follows: Sheriff, 19; Galloway,
56; Pike, 43; Perry, 24; Ratcliffe,
15.

In raiding whiskey stills, 92
were captured with assistance
from Alcohol Tax Unit officers;
44 were taken without assistance
from the ATU. There is no record
here of how many stills were
taken by the ATU without assis-
tance from the local officers.

A total of 321 gallons of whis-
key and a total of 26,250 gallons
of mash was destroyed during the
year; 15 automobiles were con-
fiscated with the assistance of the
State Highway Patrol; 16 places
were raided for whiskey, beer and
Continued On Page Two

Surplus Food Is Available For Storm Victims

Families In Brunswick That
Have Sustained Serious
Loss Due To Hurricanes
Eligible For Commodities

WELFARE DEPARTMENT
HANDLES DISTRIBUTION

Applications May Be Made
At Southport, Monday
Through Friday, Or At
Health Office In
Shallotte

Families who suffered hurricane
damage to their crops or work
may receive some surplus food
items during the winter months
if they are found to be in need.

Jay P. Davis, Director, Surplus
Commodity Distribution, State
Agricultural Department, met
Friday with representatives of
the Brunswick County Agricul-
tural, Health and Welfare De-
partments to discuss this possi-
ble aid to people in need.

Any person who feels he is in
need of food items during the
winter months may apply at the
Brunswick County Welfare Office
in Southport Monday through
Friday from 8 a. m. to 5 p. m.
In the offices of the Health De-
partment in Shallotte a represen-
tative will accept applications on
Tuesday from 9:30 a. m. to 4:30
p. m. Investigations will be made
to determine the need of each
applicant.

Farm Census Is Being Planned

County Agent Urges Grow-
ers To Cooperate With
Furnishing Important In-
formation At Tax Listing
Time

As farmers list their taxes in
January they will be asked to
report their farming operation for
1955, reports A. S. Knowles,
county agent. The farm census
survey is considered confidential
information and cannot be used
for tax purposes or in anyway
to intimidate the individual farm-
er.

The purpose of the farm census
is to obtain reliable information
on land use, crop acreages and
selected livestock numbers. In-
formation of this type is needed
each year in order to plan and
carry out the most practical agri-
cultural programs for Brunswick
county in particular and North
Carolina in general, says County
Agent Knowles.

Changes in the production of
crops and livestock brought about
by the National Emergency must
be based on current and reliable
information in order to use farm
resources efficiently and to pro-
tect the welfare of all farmers.
Farmers cannot wisely plan for
the future without studying and
using all available facts pertain-
ing to agriculture in the same
way that efficient business men
analyze their operation.

It is with the welfare of farm-
ers in mind, therefore, that an
annual farm census survey is
made, says Knowles. "It will
greatly assist the Farm Census
reporter and speed up the report-
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Our ROVING Reporter

Back from Florida to stay, Mr.
and Mrs. Phil King and little
daughter, Jennie, are among the
folks who can be regarded as
really happy this Christmas. They
are happy to get back home and
are satisfied that they have seen
all of Florida that they want to
see during their year there. One
thing that Mr. King is not so
well satisfied over is to see all
of the wreckage still scattered
around back of Long Beach. He
thinks the town should have a
real cleaning up and the burning
of all trash before next season's
beach period begins. Other peo-
ple have had the same idea and
it is hoped that it will be acted
upon.

Far from knowing the names
of all the newcomers to this area,
we would be overlooking many
people if we tried to list the
names of the those we are glad



County Prepares For Long Holiday

City Employees
Having Holiday

City Manager John West
reminds all property owners
that city employees will be
off for Christmas this week
end and he says there will be
no trash pick-up service after
tomorrow (Thursday) until
Tuesday morning.

All employees, except the
policeman, will have Friday,
Saturday, Sunday and Mon-
day off.

Announcement is made of
the employment of J. E.
Piner as meter reader.

Christmas Music By Baptist Choir

"The Child Of Bethlehem"
Presented Sunday Evening
Under Direction Of Mrs.
R. C. Daniel

The choir of Southport Baptist
Church under the direction of
Mrs. R. C. Daniel presented "The
Child Of Bethlehem" Sunday eve-
ning.

The program was sung with
only the light of two candelabra
and the choir lights. The rostrum
was decorated with magnolia and
ivy and potted poinsettias. On the
communion table was an arrange-
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New Police Chief For Southport Is Native Of City

Tommy Willis, Member Of
Police Department Of
Wilmington, Will Take
Over Duties On January
2nd

R. H. Constante has resigned
as Chief of Police of the City of
Southport to accept a position at
Sunny Point Army Terminal and
has been succeeded by Tommy
Willis.

The new chief is a native of
Southport and at present is a
member of the Wilmington Police
Force. He comes here highly rec-
ommended by his superior offi-
cers and will report for duty on
January 2.

Constante had served as head
of the city law enforcement
forces for just a few weeks. He
formerly was a member of the
State Highway Patrol and en-
joys a good reputation as an
officer.

E. F. Gore continues in his role
of policeman.

County Court In Lengthy Session

All-Day Session Of Brun-
swick County Recorder's
Court Held Here This
Week In Effort To Clear
Docket

Officials of Brunswick county
Recorder's court spent the full
day Monday trying the clear the
docket, with the following cases
being heard:

William Brockington, public
drunkenness, 30-days on roads, sen-
tence suspended on payment of
a fine of \$25 and costs.

Harry Eugene Sheffield, speed-
ing (65-mph) fined \$10 and costs.
Lloyd McKeithan, no operator's
license, not pressed on presenta-
tion of valid license.

Charles Franklin Bell, drunk
driving and reckless operation,
fined \$50 and costs on reckless
operation charge. Not guilty as to
drunken driving.

George Warrenton Carnes,
speeding (70-mph) fined \$15 and
costs.

Herman Babson, expired op-
erator's license, not pressed on
presentation of valid license.

Mary Docks Daniels, speeding
(65-mph) fined \$10 and costs.
John Wesley Childress, speed-
ing (70-mph) fined \$10 and costs.
Jerome Harry Stallings, speed-
ing (70-mph) fined \$15 and costs.

Jack Merrill Ricker, drunk driv-
ing, reckless operation, fined \$100
and costs and license revoked
for one year on drunken driving
charge. Not pressed as to reck-
less operation.

Richard G. Causey, public
drunkenness, fined \$25 and costs.

Caesar Daniels, possession for
purpose of sale, 6-months on
roads, sentence suspended on pay-
ment of a fine of \$150 and good
behavior for two years.

Mathew Leroy Robinson, no op-
erator's license, carrying conceal-
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Christmas Story Told Again In Song And Story

"Star Of Bethlehem" As
Shown At Morehead Plan-
etarium Presented Here
In Condensed Version

The State Port Pilot pre-
sents a condensed excerpt of
"Star of Bethlehem," the
story of the birth of Jesus,
being offered daily at the
Morehead Planetarium at the
University of North Carolina
in Chapel Hill, through Jan.
8, except Dec. 24-25.
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head Planetarium, Univer-
sity of North Carolina,
Chapel Hill

When the Wise Men came to
Jerusalem and spoke to Herod
of the Star, the king did not
know what they were talking
about. He had not seen the Star.
He called the priests and scribes,
and let them listen to the Wise
Men. Again, however, there was
no knowledge of the Star, yet
these same priests had as part
of their duties the task of watch-
ing the sky to keep track of the
phases of the Moon, by
which the lunar calendar of the
Jews was operated.

In Luke's story, we read of
the shepherds, who saw the angel
of the Lord and the heavenly
host, but there is no mention of
the Star.

There is no evidence that any-
one, save the Wise Men, saw the
Star.

Star Of Significance
This is important, because it
indicates that the Star of Beth-
lehem could not have been a
brightly shining star, blazing
splendidly in the sky for all to
see. It must have been, instead,
something that everyone might
have seen, but of significance
only to the Wise Men.

If we could know something of
the origin of these Wise Men—
if we could only know who they
were and what they believed—
we might be able to discover
what they would have taken as a
portent.

They are known from the
earliest Greek narratives as the
Magi.

The Scriptural story does not
specify their number. In the
Eastern Church 12 has been the
traditional number. In paintings
preserved from the early days of
the Roman Church, there is great
diversity, some showing two,
others three or four, one even
showing eight Wise Men. The
number three seems to have
evolved from the fact that three
gifts—gold, frankincense and
myrrh—are mentioned by Mat-
thew.

Persian Priests
It was Caesar of Araxa, a sixth
century writer, who first spoke
of them as kings, but that they
were Persian priests is the con-
stant tradition of the early
church. In all the paintings sur-
viving from the first four cen-
turies of our era, the Wise Men
are always depicted as wearing
the traditional headdress of the
Persian priesthood.

Matthew tells us that the Wise
Men came "from the east to
Jerusalem." They said, "We have
seen his star in the east," a pas-
sage which is almost universally
misinterpreted to mean that they
looked into the eastern sky to
see the Star. This is an ancient
of translation, however, that is
differently rendered in different
versions. Actually, it refers to
the fact that the Wise Men, in
the east, saw the Star. In other
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Following is the tide table
for Southport during the next
week. These hours are ap-
proximately correct and were
furnished The State Port Pilot
through the courtesy of the
Cape Fear Pilot's Association.

Tide Table

High Tide	Low Tide
Thursday, December 22	
0:53 A. M.	7:08 A. M.
1:12 P. M.	7:41 P. M.
Friday, December 23	
1:53 A. M.	8:15 A. M.
2:11 P. M.	8:41 P. M.
Saturday, December 24	
2:57 A. M.	9:24 A. M.
3:15 P. M.	9:41 P. M.
Sunday, December 25	
4:02 A. M.	10:30 A. M.
4:20 P. M.	10:42 P. M.
Monday, December 26	
5:03 A. M.	11:32 A. M.
5:23 P. M.	11:40 P. M.
Tuesday, December 27	
6:03 A. M.	0:00 A. M.
6:24 P. M.	12:30 P. M.
Wednesday, December 28	
7:01 A. M.	0:36 A. M.
7:23 P. M.	1:24 P. M.