

## Call 1955 Worst Year For Fires In Area Forests

Serious Fire Loss Reported By District Forester For Columbus And Brunswick During Past Year

### INCENDIARY FIRES CAUSED TROUBLE

Greatest Destruction Resulted From Green Swamp Fire, But Others Also Caused Serious Loss

Foresters marked 1955 down as the blackest year in recent history for Columbus and Brunswick counties as far as forest fires are concerned.

The year saw 76,915 acres in Columbus, and 58,917 acres of forests and fields in Brunswick county ravaged by fires. The damage amounted to \$620,127 for Columbus and \$468,597 for Brunswick. Together well over \$1 million lost.

The office of Thomas Rhyne, Jr., district forester, reported that the worst part of 1955 were the first six months. This was the time of the Green Swamp fire which raged out of control through large timber tracts in both counties.

**Worst Portion**  
However, without the Green Swamp, the first half of the year would still have been the worst portion. There were 167 fires started during the January-June period in Columbus, as compared to 14 for the last six months. In Brunswick there were 114 fires for the first half of the year as compared to 21 for the July through December period.

Incendiaries are considered responsible for 47 of the Columbus fires, debris burners who let fires get out of control started 71 others, and careless smokers started 36.

Eight of the Columbus fires were caused by campers and hunters, four in lumbering, one by railroad, and ten through miscellaneous methods.

Of the 181 fires in Columbus county during 1955, only four were so-called "natural fires"—fires started by lightning. The rest were man origin blazes.

**47 Incendiaries**  
Although 47 of last year's fires in Columbus county were set fires, available enforcement of laws permitted only one arrest and conviction for setting fire. Four other persons were cited for infractions such as burning without permits. The five cases netted a total of \$41.50 in fines and court costs.

In Brunswick county, despite a record of 36 incendiary fires, there was only one case for no burning permit netting \$16.50 in punishment.

In Columbus 26 persons paid suppression costs (cost of extinguishing blazes) for a total of \$202.81; one landowner paid \$3. In Brunswick three persons paid suppression costs totaling \$70.05.

The 76,915 acres lost in Columbus last year is six times more than the 12,235 acres lost in 1954. The \$618,923 losses is about seven times as much as in 1954.

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## Brief Bits Of NEWS

**LIONS TO MEET**  
The regular meeting of the Southport Lions Club will be held tomorrow (Thursday) at 1 o'clock in the Community Building.

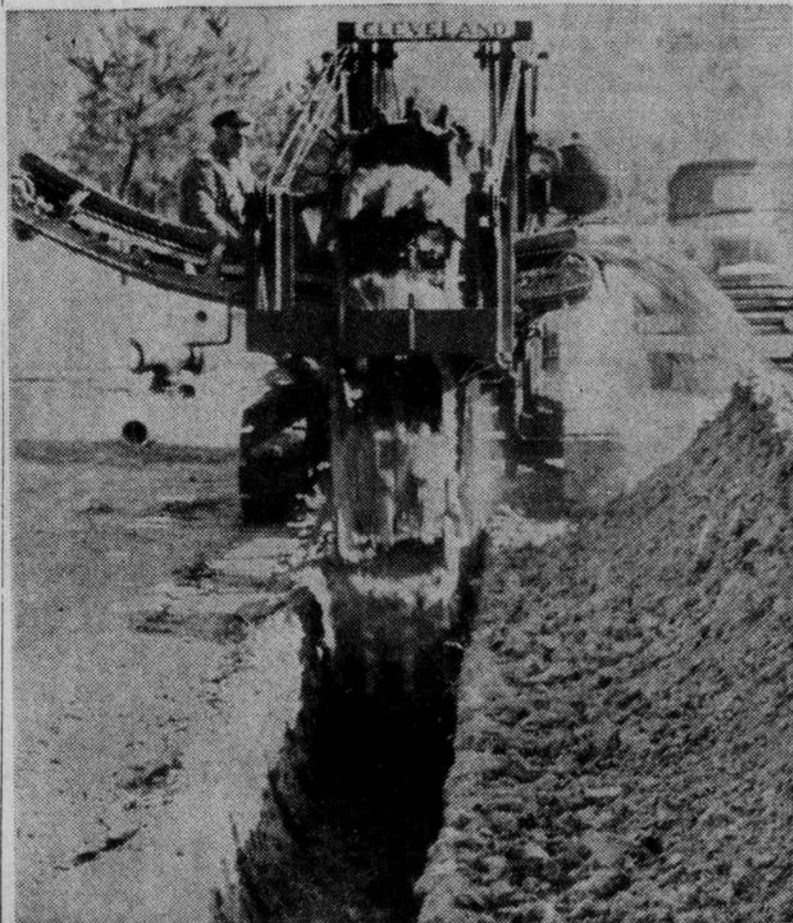
**RETURNS HOME**  
W. P. Jorgensen, who has been a patient at Doshier Memorial Hospital for the past few weeks, was able to return home Friday. He still spends a good part of each day in bed.

**TURKEY SUPPER**  
The Southport Woman's Club will serve a turkey supper Friday night from 5:30 until 7 o'clock in the Community Building. Tickets may be secured from Mrs. E. J. Prevatte.

**JAIL SERVICES**  
The 9 inmates of the Brunswick county jail were treated to the usual Sunday afternoon jail services Sunday. The WMS of the old Shalotte Baptist church, Rev. J. D. Hales, pastor, had charge of the services.

**FRATERNITY MEMBER**  
Bertram Burris of Southport is one of 29 East Carolina College students who have been chosen for membership in the Sigma Phi Phi Fraternity. It was founded during the 1954-55 term at the college and is both a social and a service organization.

## Laying Water Mains



**WORKING**—There are signs of major activity about the streets of Southport during recent weeks as a Durham contracting firm has been busy laying water mains that will give better service to a large number of residents. Better fire protection also will result.

## Big Improvements Being Made Here

**Water Mains Being Laid To Serve Several Additional Sections Of City Of Southport**

**WILL GIVE BETTER FIRE PROTECTION**

**Large New Residential Area Being Laid Out And Streets Being Constructed By Developers**

The city is now having a full mile of 6-inch water mains laid from the ice plant to Fodale Avenue, thence around Fodale Avenue and back to the River Road and Cape Fear Heights. The area embraces the new subdivision being prepared for Frink and Herring. The pipes will afford water for fire protection and all domestic uses.

New piping are also being laid in the western section of town known as Bowery Hill. Water for domestic uses only has been available there. There was no fire plugs or sources of large supply for use in case of fire.

City Manager John West is very much pleased at the recent construction of new facilities in the form of water mains, storm sewers and drainage.

## Fishing Facts On Cape Fear

**Rod And Cane Pole Fishermen Had Good Luck Last Year Fishing From Locks On Upper Reaches Of River**

A report by the Wilmington District, Corps of Engineers, reveals some 23,400 rod and cane pole fishing folk caught almost 5,000 pounds of fish in waters adjacent to the three locks on the Cape Fear River during 1955. The most popular fishing spot, according to the report, was at the number 2 lock at Elizabethtown where a total of 3,764 pounds were taken by 15,945 fresh water fishing devotees.

Lock Number 1 near Acme ran second with 3,851 fishermen getting 1,000 pounds. Number 3 at Fayetteville had only 3,691 visitors who caught only 226 pounds. Figures kept by locktenders show the best fishing season to be from February through June. At Elizabethtown, for example, the catch was: February, 162 pounds; March, 646 pounds; April, 855 pounds; May, 799 pounds, and June, 520.

April and May were fair months at Acme when 175 pounds and 265 pounds, were caught during the respective months. Best months at number 3 near Fayetteville were March and May when only 60 pounds and 45 pounds were taken by 3691 fishermen.

The catch consisted largely of bream, brass, perch, crappe and... (Continued On Page Two)

## Governor Hodges Is Scheduled For Banquet Speaker

Tenth Annual SENCBA Banquet Will Hear Report From N. C. Governor On Hurricane Rehabilitation Survey

**PLANS MEETING WITH ADVISORS**

**Citizens Advisory Panel Of Which Mayor Roy Robinson And City Manager John West Are Members To Meet**

Governor Luther H. Hodges has accepted the invitation of the South Eastern North Carolina Beach Association to be their guest speaker at its Tenth Annual Banquet, Saturday, January 28, Cape Fear Hotel, Wilmington, at 6:30 p. m.

The Governor has selected this occasion to reveal for the first time, the high-lights of his recently completed Hurricane Rehabilitation Survey. The recommendations have to do with permanent projects for long range planning along the North Carolina Coast, to help prevent and to hold to a minimum damages which might be caused by any future hurricane hitting the coastal area—to beach resorts, commercial, and sport fishing places, and to farm soil in this region.

Governor Hodges is expected to arrive in Wilmington about noon to confer in special session with his recently appointed Citizens Advisory Panel, of which John H. Ferrell, Manager of SENCBA, is chairman. The Citizens Advisory Panel consists of beach resort businessmen, mayors of coastal towns, including Mayor Roy Robinson of Southport and John West, city manager, county agents, soil conservation specialists, engineers, prominent farmers from disaster areas, a few Chamber of Commerce managers in the flooded regions, etc. This group represents the entire coastal region of North Carolina. It was the members of this panel at a series of meetings during the past four months who supplied a large majority of the suggested recommendations contained in Governor Hodges' Hurricane Rehabilitation report.

Notices have been sent by Ferrell to all members of "CAP" to meet with Governor Hodges in the Wilmington City Hall Council Chamber about 2 p. m., to discuss and review the recommendations included in his report.

## Development Is Being Opened

**Frink And Herring Are Cutting Streets And Laying Out Lots For A New Residential Development**

Frink and Herring are opening a new residential sub-division on Cape Fear River Heights west of Fodale Avenue. Their property there will afford 100 choice, high and dry building lots.

The Coastal Construction Company of Wilmington and Long Beach has already done much of the roadway and street work. It... (Continued On Page Two)



**Our ROVING Reporter**  
Tobacco canvass spread over seed beds all over Brunswick county is a very forcible reminder that winter will soon be over. Even when it was raining mildly Monday morning tobacco growers could be seen here and there in the country preparing other seed beds. The general preparation on the part of farmers is a sure indication that they feel spring weather is almost here. The tobacco grower has to be almost as observant as the fisherman. A mistake on the part of a fisherman may result in a financial loss, possibly life or injury. A mistake on the part of the tobacco grower may result in a good deal of financial loss and they do not often rush into premature efforts to get started.

With three miles of high and dry river bank facing on Southport's great natural harbor, the possibilities for industrial development here are almost unlimited, at least to the eyes of those who have ever given any consideration to development. Sunny Point has gone a long way toward attracting the attention of the country to possibilities here and it will continue to attract attention. Army engineers rated it the number one in safety and on the Atlantic Coast. That fact will stand out and go a long way towards attracting both land and ocean shipping. Nothing but the dullest of minds could fail to visualize the industrial and shipping development that is already beginning to be interested.

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## Commissioned



**HENRY E. GILBERT, JR.**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry E. Gilbert of Bolivia, is attending a five-month officer basic course at the Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, Va. He was commissioned December 17 after completing a ten-week Officer Candidate Course at Quantico.

## Representative Is Coming Tuesday To Aid Victims

**Applications For Purchase Of Government Surplus Property Will Be Received By State Civil Defense Office Men Next Week**

Clerk of Court J. E. Brown has been advised by General Edward F. Griffin that his representative will return to Brunswick county of Tuesday, January 24, to take further applications for Federal Surplus property from hurricane disaster stricken farmers and business men.

## Lester Babson Is Committeeman

**Freeland Resident Named To Succeed The Late Charles M. Trott As Member Of State Republican Executive Committee**

Ray Jennings, chairman of the North Carolina Republican Executive Committee, has announced the appointment of Lester C. Babson of Freeland as a member of the executive committee. Babson will succeed the late Charles M. Trott on the board.

The board meets in Winston-Salem on Friday and it is understood that Babson will be sworn in at that time.

Babson has been the Republican member of the Brunswick county election board for the past 12 years. He is respected by his fellow members and he has performed his duties in an efficient and pleasing manner, this despite the fact that he formed a hopeless minority. At the moment it is not known if the taking over of the duties of a member of the executive board will disqualify him from continuing his service with the election board. A... (Continued On Page Four)

## Loyal Dog Aids Stricken Master

Hunter Rescued From Woods As Result Of Intellimence Of His Pointer Bird Dog

Walter C. Burney's pointer didn't win his race against death, but he did delay it and in doing so won for himself the heart of Burney's family.

Walter Burney, a retired Wam-anish businessman, collapsed following a stroke while hunting near his home, Thursday afternoon. He had with him a brown spotted pointer he'd gotten shortly after Christmas.

Burney fell within 10 or 15 yards of US 74-76, but he was in a location where he might not have been noticed. His dog sensing his master's plight, ran to the highway and began acting up in such a way as to attract attention.

**Dog Attracts Attention**  
Highway Patrolman F. D. McLean said:

"I passed by as the dog came out to the highway, but didn't think anything about it until I came back a few minutes later and the dog was still there."

"He was jumping across a ditch to the road, then jumping back. I got curious, stopped, and the dog led me to Mr. Burney. He'd lick his master's face and whine."

McLean said he made the stricken man as comfortable as possible using a raincoat as a pillow and another coat as a blanket, and sent for an ambulance.

The highway patrolman said he found Burney about 4:30 p. m. "A Negro man who'd been by said he'd noticed the dog there about 4 p. m. If it hadn't been for the dog Mr. Burney would have probably died there in that pine thicket that night."

**Illness Is Fatal**  
The young dog did all he could for his new master. It is something Mr. Burney's family will long remember. But even the dog's faithfulness and loyalty, and the hopes for Mr. Burney's... (Continued on Page Four)

## Truck-Trailers Deliver Entire Cargo For Ship

First Time In History Of North Carolina Shipping That Delivery Of Cargo Accomplished In This Manner

**GOOD PROSPECTS FOR EXPANSION**

**Prediction Is Made That Commercial Cargoes Will Be Delivered Here In Similar Manner**

By W. B. KEZIAH  
With the point of origin unknown and destination also off the record, a big ocean freighter is here taking on a full cargo, with every pound of it being delivered to the ship's holds by tractor-trailers. Therein is probably being set a precedent in freight transportation for North Carolina.

Most of the tractor-trailers are owned by lines in Alabama and Texas. That fact has no bearing on where the cargoes originate. The machines go wherever they are ordered to go and pick up cargo. Like-wise, getting return cargoes here, they take them wherever they are ordered taken.

Some of the operators do not see their families for weeks or months. One operator stated this week that he sees no prospect of keeping up his home life, unless he moves his family here. It is one certain port of call. While on runs from here he may be sent anywhere to take a cargo or pick up one for a return journey.

Scuttlebutt has it that the trailers give stevedores an easier loading and unloading job than do railroad cars. Large ocean freighters usually have five holds from which cargo is removed or loaded. It is desirable to have cargo on the wharves directly opposite the holds of the ship, and with freight cars having only side doors midway their lengths, it is not so easy to string them along with the doors exactly opposite the holds of the ship.

On the other hand, the tractors can back up and deliver their loads anywhere on the loading ramp and right under the swinging booms.

Similar scuttlebutt has it that the tractor-trailers are doing a mighty good job in bringing in cargo and taking others away, thus helping the chance for Southport to become a great trucking center. Commercial cargoes will... (Continued On Page Two)

## New Motel Now In Operation

**Ray Walton And Frank Lennon Proprietors Of New Facilities For Taking Care Of Guests**

The Southport Motel and Restaurant opened last night and enjoyed the rare experience of being sold out completely its first night. The first meal to be served in the new establishment was breakfast this morning, and that, too, attracted a lot of customers.

This new business is an attractive pair of buildings of modern construction, located on Howe street. The restaurant fronts on the street, with several rooms behind it fronting a courtyard that separates this building from the... (Continued On Page Two)

## 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, January 19,	
11:47 A. M.	5:47 A. M.
0:00 P. M.	6:15 P. M.
Friday, January 20,	
0:24 A. M.	6:44 A. M.
12:41 P. M.	7:10 P. M.
Saturday, January 21,	
1:27 A. M.	7:50 A. M.
1:44 P. M.	8:12 P. M.
Sunday, January 22,	
2:34 A. M.	9:02 A. M.
2:53 P. M.	9:18 P. M.
Monday, January 23,	
3:41 A. M.	10:11 A. M.
4:03 P. M.	10:24 P. M.
Tuesday, January 24,	
4:46 A. M.	11:15 A. M.
5:10 P. M.	11:26 P. M.
Wednesday, January 25,	
5:48 A. M.	0:00 A. M.
6:12 P. M.	12:13 P. M.

## Superior Court Here Next Week

**List Of Firms On Honor Roll**

Word from the Wilmington office of the U. S. Army Engineers reports the following firms on the honor roll for their work at Sunny Point:

Goode Construction Co., T. F. Scholes, Inc., Boyle Construction Co., H. C. Bryant Electric Co., Winkelman Construction Co., and W. J. McLamb & Son.

It has also been announced that plans for a fire observation tower on the Sunny Point reservation have been cancelled.

## Another Busy Court Session

**Large Number Of Cases Disposed Of Here Monday Before Judge Earl Bellamy In Recorder's Court**

A variety of cases were disposed of here Monday before Judge Earl Bellamy in Brunswick county Recorder's court, with the following judgments being handed down:

Jesse T. Brown, possession, fined \$10 and costs.

William P. Andrews and Mrs. Ormond Caison, fornication and adultery, 90 days on roads, sentence suspended on good behavior for two years, not breaking any laws and paying a fine of \$50 and costs.

Vance Errell Young, speeding (70-mph) fined \$15 and costs.

William Hosea Long, Jr., improper equipment, fined \$25 and costs.

Prince Robert Helms, operating on wrong side of highway, fined \$25 and costs.

Harry Healy, speeding (55-mph) fined \$10 and costs.

John W. Gore, non-support, one year on roads, suspended on condition that defendant pay \$15 per month to the support of his illegitimate children.

Hermit Braxton Mebrin, improper equipment, fined \$10 and costs, fine remitted because of mitigating circumstances.

Ransom George Dodd, no chauffeur's license, fined \$25 and costs.

Edward Norman Hall, no chauffeur's license, fined \$25 and costs.

Nero Gause, failing to report and accident, fined \$10 and costs.

Hardin Henry Roberts, expired auto license, taxed with costs.

Herbert Whittier, speeding, no pros.

## Trial Of Crisp Murder Case Set For Wednesday, With Special Venire To Be Called From Sampson County

**CROWDED DOCKET IS IN PROSPECT**

**Solicitor May Call For Special Term To Relieve The Situation; Large Crowd Is Expected Here**

Solicitor John J. Burney, Jr., was here this week, preparing a calendar of next weeks term of Superior court which will be presided over by Judge Q. K. Nimmo.

Solicitor Burney stated that the selection of a jury to hear the R. E. Crisp murder case will begin Wednesday morning. At the opening of court Monday morning he will ask Judge Nimmo for an order for the summoning of a special panel from Sampson county to hear this case. This procedure will be in accordance with an order given last year.

The regular jury list drawn for the term some time ago from Brunswick county will serve until Crisp case comes up Monday. The Crisp case, which grew out of the death of a young hitchhiker, will probably require two full days on the part of the court.

With a large number of cases awaiting trial, Solicitor Burney stated that it was his plan to ask for a special term of court for the trial of criminal cases in order to clear up a lot of matters that the court will not be able to handle next week.

The term next week is expected to draw one of the biggest crowds that has attended a term of criminal court in years. A grand jury to serve through 1956 will be drawn Monday from the regular jury list that has been called for that time, Clerk of Court J. E. Brown says.

## Construction On Pier Under Way

**Long Beach Will Have Ocean Fishing Pier In Operation In Time For Use Next Summer**

W. S. Blowe and Jimmy Bigford have started work on the fishing pier at the lower part of Long Beach and near the Big Hills. They plan to have it ready for the first spring fishing. The location is said to be ideal for pier fishing.

The structure will extend out 700 feet over the water and will have a 100 foot "T" on the end. Next winter it is planned to run the pier a few hundred feet further out and build another "T" on the extension. From a distance in the air it will look like a giant plane with two sets of wings.

At Yaupon Beach, about 4 miles from where the Long Beach pier is being constructed, the big steel pier did mightily well its first year, despite the fact that it was a bad year for all sorts of fishing. The owners say that the pier added greatly to the attractiveness of the real estate development. The... (Continued On Page Two)