

## EDITORIALS:

WILLIAM BARNUM KEZIAH

One of the richest rewards that has come to us from our chosen profession has been the close association it has brought with W. B. Keziah, the most unforgettable character we have ever known.

The first time we saw him was 25-years ago, when we came to Southport to see him on a matter of business. Soon the question at hand had been pushed into the background, and we were discussing the prospects for development for this town and Brunswick county. Already he had been preaching the gospel of undeveloped resources, and he never let up until the day a little more than one month ago that he entered the hospital for the last time.

Bill Keziah loved Brunswick county and its great potential, and he felt an obligation to tell everyone with whom he came into contact about the wonderful prospects for development that he had envisioned. From the lips and the pen of a less interesting man this ceaseless hammering might well have become tiresome; but not from Bill Keziah.

He was progressive, for he could not abide the thought of standing still. He was unselfish, for not once in all of the projects to which he gave his support did we find one that gave prospect of great personal gain for him. He was wise, for on the day that the Sunny Point Army Terminal was dedicated, his dreams for the great natural harbor facilities at the mouth of the Cape Fear river were realized. And he was a fighter. Most of his battles for recognition for his beloved area of North Carolina were fought alone, but he never shrank from combat. His weapon was his trusty typewriter and his resources came from a brilliant mind. Governors,

Senators, Representatives and heads of governmental departments and agencies felt the sting of his verbal lash, yet were numbered among his friends.

Bill Keziah was host and official greeter for the community that he loved. He never permitted the fact that he was deaf to interfere with his social or business contacts, and for many visitors an opportunity to talk to him was one of the highlights of each trip to Southport. There are hundreds of persons in North Carolina who can spell on their fingers today simply because they learned in order to be able to talk to him.

He was honored by the Outdoor Writers of the World with a life membership, and in 1954 he was "Tar Heel of the Week" as selected by the editors of The News and Observer.

His restless energy and rapid pace did not make him unkindful of some of the greatest blessings of life in a small town. He loved children, and in turn was beloved by children. He had a matchbox trick that has held countless youngsters delighted and spellbound for hours on end. He loved horses, and was a good horseman until a few years ago when he gave up the sport. And he loved fishing; freshwater fishing, that is. He took great pride in his ability to lure perch and bass from their natural habitat, and some of his most enjoyable hours were spent upon the lakes and ponds of this area.

In the years to come the name of W. B. Keziah will be remembered with reverence and affection; for although he had no great material possessions to leave them, he has left an indelible impression upon the minds and hearts of his fellow citizens, who some day may see the fruition of the dreams he held for his beloved Brunswick county.

## IT WON'T STAND STILL

Senator Harry Flood Byrd, lifelong crusader for economy-in-government, and chairman of the Joint Committee on Reduction of Non-essential Federal Expenditures, has reported that in the month of January, Uncle Sam's civilian payroll hit the billion a month level!

Employment during this month totaled 2,387,015 civilian workers, and a House study committee has stated that all "essential tasks" of the Government can be performed by two million—or less. Certainly this would seem to be help enough to run a country ostensibly dedicated to the principle that "the best government is the least government." But the worst is not yet.

The Council of State Chambers of Commerce reports that in non-military agencies "the Administration is in the process of adding a total of 85,655 new jobs to those in existence last June 30." It estimated the cost at \$450 millions in "salaries and other expenses."

The Council calls attention to the bill

## THE MID-EAST MESS

Acceptance by Israel of the demands of the UN, the US and the Arab "summit" conference at Cairo, for immediate troop withdrawal from Aqaba and the Gaza Strip (as confidently predicted at this writing) seems unlikely to pour the anticipated oil on Suez waters.

Presumably the Israeli acquiescence was purchased by US promises to defend freedom of navigation in the Gulf of Aqaba and to protect Israel against Egyptian raids from the Gaza Strip. At the same time, the four Arab leaders, King Saud of Saudi Arabia, King Hussein of Jordan, President Kuwatly of Syria and President Nasser of Egypt, concluded their conference by signing a

joint statement of neutrality which demanded the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Israel from Gaza and the Aqaba straights and pledged mutual support of "the sovereignty of Arabs over their lands and territorial waters." The joint communique emphasized the sovereignty of Egypt over the canal, while Egypt maintains that the Gulf of Aqaba, lying between Egypt and Saudi Arabia, belongs to the two Arab nations.

These developments would appear to leave the Middle East just as tense as it has been since the Franco-British-Israeli invasion—and place the US in a position of deeper involvement and greater confusion, officially and unofficially.

Americans are asking (as it is said, President Eisenhower asked when he was called back from his Georgia vacation for secret conference with Congressional leaders): "How on earth did we get into this mess?"

More difficult and considerably more important, however, is the question: "How on earth do we get out of it?" The diplomacy of expediency which we have been pursuing since the first London conference on Suez seems only to have drawn us deeper into the mid-East quicksands.

It takes hundreds of nuts to hold a car together, but only one in the driver's seat to scatter it all over the highway.



## Letter To Editor

Editor  
The State Port Pilot  
Southport, North Carolina  
Dear Sir:

We are, as always, enjoying your fine publication each week. I have noted with interest all through each year your support each drive being sponsored in Brunswick County and Southport.

Public education and interest achieved through the medium of your publication are immeasurably more valuable than the funds each organization is able to collect.

As you can see from this letterhead, I am intensely interested in Mental Health. I have noted there is no Mental Health Association in Brunswick County, and therefore there is no organization to mobilize community support for increased mental health facilities or to work toward the promotion of mental health in the community.

As you are undoubtedly aware Mental Health is the No. 1 Health problem. I hope you are also aware that I am very interested in Brunswick County's mental health phase, and I think every individual should be made aware of good mental health.

Many millions of dollars are spent yearly for research in polio, cancer, tuberculosis and heart disease, and the results have proved to be well worth the cost. Much less is spent in the United States yearly on mental health research, notwithstanding the fact that mental illness counts for more hospitalized patients today than all other diseases combined. More than a billion dollars of taxpayers' money is spent yearly to care for those suffering from some phase of mental illness. In industry it shows itself in absenteeism, accident proneness, alcoholism and instability in the employees. These problems are expensive ones and cost industry as a whole untold millions of dollars in slowed production and personnel turnover.

Mental Health Week throughout the nation takes place from April 28th to May 4th. I hope you will find it expedient in your schedule to include some sort of article to bring this problem to the public.

I feel a great concern about this matter, not only because it is a public responsibility, but also because I know the tremendous toll this affliction takes in our state and our communities. What I do to help others, I also do to help myself and mine.

Sincerely yours,  
Frances Graham Key

## MAN WHO STARTED

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wrote many stories about "Bouncing Log Spring", a source of an enormous flow that he sought to have used for industrial purposes. He visited the scene hundreds of times, and among those who went with him were Governor Luther H. Hodges, State and Federal geologists and representatives from several major industries.

One of his roles was that of serving as a one-man greeting committee to strangers to Southport, and in making these contacts he actually was able to use his inability to hear to an advantage as he would inform newcomers of the fact that "I have not heard a word spoken in more than 60 years, but every day I run into folks who are a danged sight dumber than I am." His eagerness to make new contacts and to meet new people gained hundreds of friends for him and for his community.

During his illness he received scores of get-well cards and letters, and among his messages was a telegram from Governor Hodges and a personal note from Senator W. Kerr Scott. Although he was a man of simple tastes, dozens of floral designs were sent by his friends to decorate his last resting place.

Funeral services were conducted

ed Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock from Trinity Methodist Church by his pastor, the Rev. R. H. Jordan. He was assisted by the Rev. L. D. Hayman, a former pastor. Active pallbearers were Col. Wm. F. Murphy, Steve Wall, Donald S. Tydings, G. V. Barbee, Dr. R. H. Holden and Dempsey Coleman.

Following funeral services here, his body was taken to Waxhaw for burial in the family cemetery. Interment was held late Sunday afternoon, with brief graveside rites conducted by the Rev. Mr. Martin.

Mr. Keziah had one sister and one brother and one half-brother, all of whom are deceased. His only son died during World War II in an airplane accident while serving in the U. S. Army Air Corps. Only nieces and nephews survive.

## Fabulous Bill

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some 10 miles from Southport. Purest, crystal clear water pours from the earth in a quantity and steadiness that defies comprehension.

"Some Southport people in Raleigh," says Stuckey, state geologist. Most of us had thought that Bill when he wrote of what such a water flow could mean in industrial potential took Chamber of Commerce license and added plenty to the millions of gallons pouring from the strange springs. Imagine our surprise when we found that Keziah had understated that total," a Southport citizen said.

Now Southport and the Department of Conservation are looking for an industry that is looking for multiplied millions of sweet pure water daily.

Keziah knew from the first time he looked across the mouth of the Cape Fear at Southport that there was where, in all logic, a state port should be. Today his vision is confirmed in the multimillion dollar Sunny Point Army Terminal a short distance from the quaint village. Keziah was never happier than when he chronicled the news of this plant for Brunswick and detailed its progress.

The plant has added jobs for many Brunswick people. It has increased business in all lines at Southport. "But it has not over-run us," says James Harper, Southport editor.

"But it was a life saver the past two years. You know we depend on our sea crops of fish and shrimp. For some reason, we had almost failures both in commercial fishing and shrimping in 1956. But business held up because of the impact of the Ammunition Loading Depot."

Keziah was pleased too that the Sunny Point project did not overwhelm slow, quaint, ancient, picturesque Southport. Its charm remains undisturbed. The sea laps soothingly at the shore, the Garrison stands a reminder of Colonial days and of the earlier name of Smithville, the peaceful little park spreads its gnarled trees and walks invite one to relax and rest his soul.

I regretted Keziah could not tell me about Long Beach. I missed him as we drove along the beautiful strand with the Atlantic rolling in a stone's throw from the highway. There Hurricane Hazel did her worst. She destroyed in one fell swoop 300 homes and cottages. Amazingly enough, though the third summer after the tragedy has not rolled round, 125 of the homes and summer places have been rebuilt. The storm opened a new inlet on the far end of the strand that cut off a couple of miles of the loveliest beach. Southport people are cheered by the news the Corps of Engineers has been given authority to proceed with plans to close the inlet.

The shrimp boats, which now operate winters out of Key West, will be coming back to Southport in a week or so now.

His friends are hoping that Bill

## Not Exactly News

Joe and Annie Laurie Ramsour have really had their hands full for the past two weeks. Joe is head man at Oaks Plantation and his wife works in the office at Orton Plantation. Their daughter, Carolyn, was a patient at Dasher Memorial Hospital in Southport; and his father, J. J. Ramsour, was a patient in a Wilmington hospital. It took a lot of work, worry and travel to take care of their many interests. . . . Our congratulations to Mrs. Dallas Pigott for the splendid work she has accomplished as volunteer director of the high school glee club. We enjoyed the program the boys and girls put on Thursday night at P. T. A. Their work should help support the movement for a full time music teacher for the local school next year.

Harry Clark, Director of Industrial Promotion for the City of Wilmington, is a brother-in-law of the Rev. H. M. Baker, a former Southport minister. Incidentally, we learned from him Monday that the Bakers have a new member of their family, a boy. It is their third son, and brings the number of their family to four. . . . We had an opportunity last week to observe that Representative James C. Bowman enjoys a fine measure of friendship and respect from his fellow members of the State legislature.

"Instantbul" starring that old swashbuckler himself, Errol Flynn, is the Monday-Tuesday feature at the Amuzu. . . . Manager Brennan Furpless of the Amuzu can take comfort from the fact that movies are not the only thing that folks stay home from. The Womanless Wedding Friday night was a great histrionic success, but there

were too many empty seats to justify the discomfort and embarrassment imposed upon the men who were strapped and stuffed into their strange apparel. . . . Everybody in town should make a trip out in the river on a boat so they can see how pretty Southport looks from that point of view.

The Supply-Bolton road really saves distance and traffic for folks traveling from Charlotte or towns in that vicinity to Southport. Just follow Highway No. 74 to Lumberton, then take Route 211 to Supply. . . . If this is a pretty week-end, you should see a flock of visitors to Southport and the nearby beaches. There still will be plenty of azaleas in bloom, so a visit to Orton and Pleasant Oaks should be well worthwhile. . . . We do not know of any sheep in Brunswick county except those that have gone wild over on Bald Head Island.

From the whistling we heard last week, quail have begun to break up out of the coverts into pairs. . . . And speaking of quail reminds us that on last Wednesday only the fast and efficient work of the Southport Fire Department and a contingent from Sunny Point Army Terminal saved a barn located on the Taylor farm near Southport in which two bird dogs were penned. The structure actually was ablaze when Wesley and Charlie Johnson got the dogs out. Firemen also were able to save the building. . . . Watch for Gene Austin, grand daddy of all the crooners and an old Southport favorite, Sunday night on Goodyear Playhouse.

Keziah will know that glad some sight. But they shake their heads in doubt. He is sick unto death.

## CAUTION FARMERS

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soils will probably increase in the future. But until a definite need for these elements is known to exist, Brunswick farmers would be wise to apply only those currently recommended, and then only on those crops specifically requiring them. Otherwise, they may run into considerable trouble.

The fertilizer grade is the guaranteed minimum percentage of nitrogen, phosphate, and potash contained in a fertilizer. A number of grades are available in North Carolina, all of which appear on the Approved Grade List. This Grade List is determined each year at a public hearing at which farmer representatives, members of the fertilizer industry, N. C. Agricultural Experiment Station scientists, and members of Agriculture meet with the members of the Board of Agriculture to consider the va-

rious grades that are needed to meet the different soil and crop conditions of the state. The selection of these grades, Knowles explains, is based on N. C. Agricultural Experiment Station data, and the judgment of farmers and industry representatives. The grades appearing on the list may then be manufactured and offered for sale by the various companies operating in North Carolina and adjoining states.

To be certain that the purchaser of fertilizer gets the quantity of plant-nutrient elements guaranteed on the bag, the N. C. Department of Agriculture maintains an effective inspection service. State inspectors sample fertilizers present in warehouses and other places of sale and in storage. These samples are analyzed; and if they do not contain the quantities of nitrogen, phosphate, potash, and other elements guaranteed on the label, the manufacturer must reimburse the purchaser an amount of money sufficient to compensate for this shortage.

As long as farmers purchase these approved grades of fertilizer in sacks or bags that contain a clearly stated guarantee, they can be reasonably sure of getting their money's worth. In fact, farmers who in 1956 purchased these approved grades received, on the average, plant nutrients in excess of the guaranteed amount that was worth 89 cents per ton of fertilizer.

All facts considered, Knowles concludes, a farmer will generally do a lot better to purchase those approved fertilizer grades which will supply, in the proper ratio and amount, the plant-nutrients elements found by a soil test to be needed for his particular crop and soil conditions. And since there is a grade or material for all of these various conditions in the state, there seems to be little justification for the trouble and probable added cost of "custom-mixed" fertilizers.

CAKE AND PIE SALE

A cake and pie sale will be held at 10 o'clock Saturday morning at Dan Harrelson's store for the benefit of the school piano fund.

## SOMETHING TO SING ABOUT!



A happy family group. A snug home. Plenty of food. Sure, the birds have it good.

But what about you and your family—and their future? — Provision for a snug home and for a life that is free from want can be made through a program of regular savings. Start small, and watch your Savings mount up. But most important, start your program of regular savings soon!



## Southport Savings &amp; Loan Association

W. P. JORGENSEN, Sec'y.-Treas.

SOUTHPORT, N. C.

## The State Port Pilot

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