Most Of The News All The Time

THE STATE PORT PILOT

A Good Newspaper In A Good Community

The Pilot Covers Brunswick County

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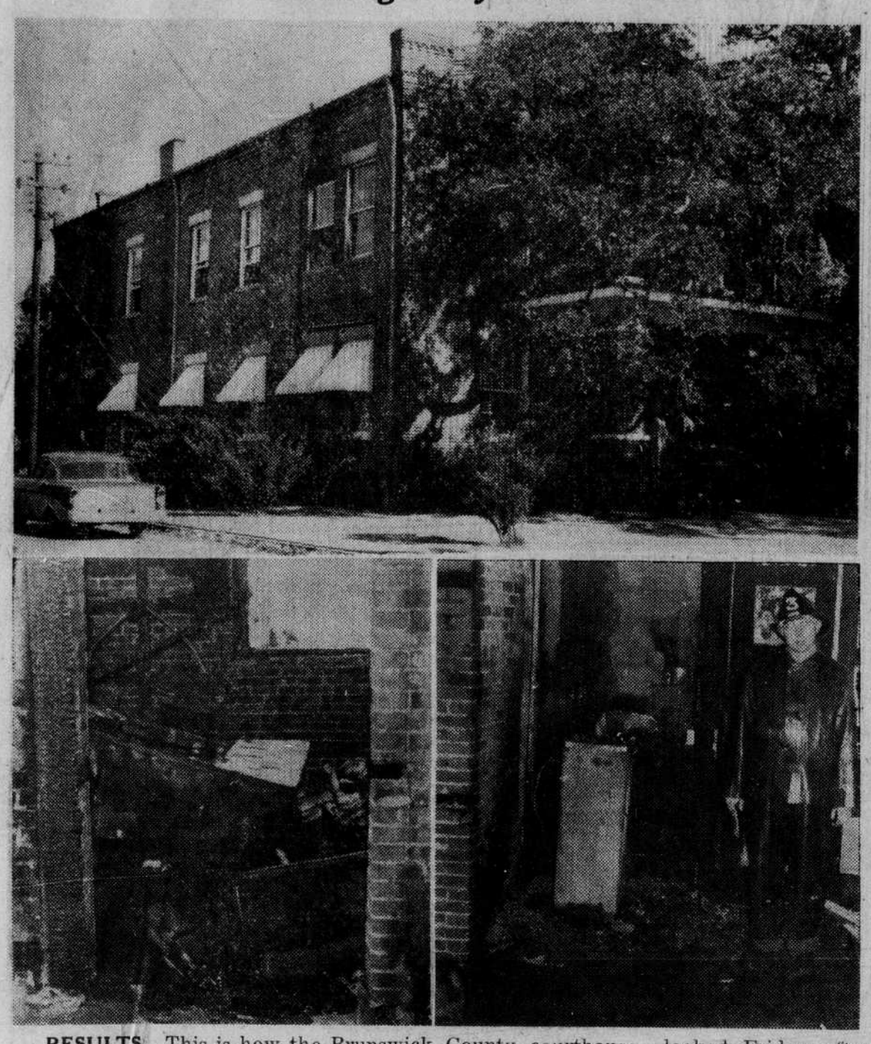
Damaged By Fire



RESULTS—This is how the Brunswick County courthouse looked Friday after firemen had extinguished a blaze that for a time threatened its total destruction. Principal damage occurred at the left rear of the building, where the office of the clerk of court was completely burned out. The vault was locked, so little or no damage resulted to valuable papers contained therein. Left below is a scene of the clerk's office following the fire. On the right is a scene in the downstairs lobby, where Fireman John Fullwood is standing by a charged line ready to put out any evidence of a rekindling blaze.—(Photos by Huntley.)

Board Members Express Praise For Assistance

Members Of Board Of County Commissioners In Session Here Monday Sent Letters Of Appreciation To Sunny Point And City Officials

COVERS VARIOUS KINDS OF HELP

Fire Fighting Efforts As Well As Moving Help Offers Of Office Space Recognized By Commissioners

Members of the board of county commissioners were in session here Monday and faced multiple headaches as a result of the Friday fire at the courthouse. But while considering relocation of offices on a temporary basis and settlement of insurance claims preparatory to making repairs to the building, they took time out to direct that letters of appreciation be sent to the Mayor of The City of Southport and to the Comamnding Officer at Sunny Point, expressing their appreciation for the outstanding work of the fire departments, assistance in moving and for offers of temporary quarters.

Following is the text of the letter to Mayor E. B. Tomlinson, Jr.:

"Dear Mayor Tomlinson,

"I have been instructed to write to you on behalf of the members of the Board of Commissioners for Brunswick County and express to you and to the citizens of Southport our sincere appreciation for the assistance, and offers of assistance, that have come to us from you good people following the Friday morning fire at the court house.

"The board feels that only the prompt and efficient work of the Southport Volunteer Fire Department made it possible to save the building from total destruction. It is impossible for us to adequately express our admiration for their effective work.

"The board asked me to express their gratitude for the offers of moving equipment and personnel and for making building space available to help take care of things during this emergency. This extends to several individuals, who have been generous in their offers of assistance.

"We have a big problem, but we are digging in to work it out to the best possible advantage.

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Fire Fighting Equipment

READY—This is the equipment at the Sunny Point Army Terminal Fire Station, which is always standing by for use in case of emergency. Trained personnel man these trucks, and their timely assistance Friday morning had much to do with the successful efforts to prevent total destruction of the Brunswick County courthouse.

Listing Begins On January 6th For 1958 Taxes

Prelisting Of Real Property Being Done On Basis Of Revaluation Program, With 50-Percent Of Value Being Used

SAME PERCENTAGE ON PERSONAL PROPERTY

Very Important For Each Property Owner To List In His Own Precinct; Must Have Complete List Of Property

Mrs. Ressie Whatley, Brunswick county tax supervisor, said yesterday that the job of listing 1958 taxes will begin on Monday, January 6.

New figures from the revaluation program will be used, and clerks are now busy prelisting real estate. Mrs. Whatley says that 50-percent of the assessed valuation will be used as a basis for taxation and further declared that the commissioners have not yet made a definite decision as to the new tax rate. However, she did indicate that there will be a substantial reduction below the current figure of $1.80.

Mrs. Whatley stressed the importance of each property owner listing in his own precinct, and as soon as listers are able to work out a schedule, notice will be given.

Property owners are urged to prepare a complete list of personal property, and Mrs. Whatley said that the same 50-percent figure will be used in determining the listing value.

All field work has been completed by the crew in charge of the revaluation program, and they are now working to transfer the figures from their cards to the tax scrolls.

"It looks like we won't be taking much time off for Christmas in this office", Mrs. Whatley said Tuesday.

Superior Court Term Cut Short By Fire Damage

Special Term Of Brunswick County Superior Court Was In Session Last Week Before Friday Morning Blaze

Fire cut short last week's session of Brunswick county Superior court for trial of civil cases when Judge Raymond B. Mallard and out of town jurors and witnesses arrived Friday morning to find that fire had left the courthouse in an unusable condition.

Judge Mallard dismissed the jurors and spent part of the hearing motions, before declaring the special session ended.

In two cases of Harrelson vs Zelinka, a verdict was rendered for the plaintiff in each instance. In one case involving damage to his station wagon, he was awarded $275. For injuries sustained by Mrs. Harrelson, driver of the vehicle at the time it was involved in an accident with a car driver by the defendant, an award of $250 was made.

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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, December 19,	
6:22 A. M.	0:00 A. M.
6:33 A. M.	12:34 P. M.
Friday, December 20,	
7:13 A. M.	12:40 A. M.
7:22 P. M.	1:23 P. M.
Saturday, December 21,	
8:00 A. M.	1:27 A. M.
8:10 P. M.	2:08 P. M.
Sunday, December 22,	
8:44 A. M.	2:13 A. M.
8:54 P. M.	2:52 P. M.
Monday, December 23,	
9:26 A. M.	2:56 A. M.
9:38 P. M.	3:34 P. M.
Tuesday, December 24,	
10:06 A. M.	3:38 A. M.
10:20 P. M.	4:15 P. M.
Wednesday, December 25,	
10:44 A. M.	4:20 A. M.
11:02 P. M.	4:56 P. M.

Courthouse Hit By Friday Fire

Pre-Dawn Fire Friday Caused Damage Amounting To Several Thousand Dollars To Public Building In Southport

COUNTY OFFICES BACK IN BUSINESS

Clerk Of Court's Office Is Completely Burned Out; Board Of Education, Auditor And Sheriff Move Quarters

Fire of undetermined origin was discovered burning in the Brunswick county courthouse in the icy cold hours before day Friday morning, and only heroic work on the part of the Southport Volunteer Fire Department, together with able assistance from a pumper truck and crew from Sunny Point, saved the historic building from total loss.

No accurate estimate of damage was available early this week, as both the county commissioners and the insurance companies had qualified contractors working up figures which will be used as a basis of settlement. There was sufficient insurance to fully cover the loss of everything except valuable papers.

First to discover the blaze was Johnnie Swain, whose home is across the street from the building. He called for help, and the noise he made awakened Mrs. Neils Jorgensen, who telephoned the fire station. Soon the local fire -fighters were on the scene and were battling the blaze.

They discovered that the fire had started in the section of the building occupied by the clerk of court, and their early efforts to combat the flames were hampered by a live electric line that was shorted out. Once they were able to get their equipment in range, they put a stop to the further spread of fire which threatened to engulf the entire building.

The work of the firemen was hampered by the bitter cold, and water that flowed away from the building soon turned to ice. Volunteers entered some of the offices in the south end of the building and began to carry out equipment and records. However, the major loss was confined to the one office. The vault of the

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Club Sponsoring Lighting Contest

The Southport Garden Club will sponsor a Christmas decoration contest this year for residents of the city. Mrs. J. E. Dodson, president of the organization, announces that Mrs. Ed Harrelson will be in charge of securing judges and Mrs. W. S. Wells is in charge of taking them around town to judge.

The judging will take place on Christmas night and there will be prizes awarded in each of three classifications. These are for the best living Christmas tree, for the most attractive doorway and for the best decorated entire house front.

Resisting Arrest Causes Shooting

Deputy Sheriff Henry Pike Engaged In Tussle With Dave Williams Sunday Night Over Possession Of Officer's Pistol

Dave Williams, 39-year-old colored resident of the Antioch church section, is a patient at Dosher Memorial Hospital in Southport with a bullet wound in his shoulder, reported to have been inflicted Sunday night as he attempted to wrest a pistol from the hands of Deputy Sheriff Henry Pike, causing the weapon to discharge accidentally.

According to reports, Deputy Pike and Deputy Sheriff Leon Galloway gave chase to Williams when they stopped him driving in a reckless manner on the Midway-Bolivia road. When he drove up in his yard the officers were right behind him, and he lit out running. Pike overtook him and placed him under arrest, but Williams told him, "I think I'll take your pistol away from you", then proceeded to try. The officer said that he did not fire the weapon deliberately, but that it went off

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Holiday Plans Are Announced

Schools Closing Friday After Short Day Schedule; County Employees Have Three Days Off; City Has Tuesday Til Monday

Brunswick county schools will get out for the Christmas vacation Friday following a short day schedule and will reopen on Thursday, January 2.

Holiday vacation for employees of the City of Southport will extend from Tuesday to the following Monday. City Manager Carl A. Galloway said yesterday that all trash placed in containers before 8 a. m. Monday will be picked up that day. All trash placed in the proper place by 8 a. m. on Friday, December 28, will be pick-

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Combined Choirs Present Cantata Sunday Evening

Singers From Six Churches In This Community Sang "The Christmas Angels" Sunday Evening At Methodist Church

The combined Church Choirs of Southport churches presented their Christmas cantata, "The Christmas Angels", by Stewart Landon, Sunday evening at Trinity Methodist Church.

Participating were representatives from Southport Baptist Church, Bethel Baptist Church, Sacred Heart Catholic Church and Trinity Methodist Church. The pastor of the latter church, the Rev. Lawrence Bridges, presided.

The following program was presented:

"Welcome Christ The Lord"; choir; "The Ancient Path", choir; "Comfort Ye", men's chorus and choir; "Shepherds On A Lonely Hill", women's chorus and men's chorus; "Glory To God", choir; "Harps Of The Highest", Mrs. Ruby Splawn and choir; "Come Yet To Bethlehem", Mrs. Bryant Potter and men's chorus; "Bow Down", men's chorus, R. C. Grant, choir; "Glory To The Newborn King", choir and congregation.

The director was Mrs. Dallas Pigott; assistant director, Mrs. Arthur Huntley; organist, Mrs. James Harper, Jr.

The following persons participated in the rendition of the cantata: Sopranos, Mrs. Bryant Potter, Mrs. Amos Splawn, Mrs. Robert Willing, Mrs. Roy Price, Mrs. James Splawn, Mrs. Lunda Jones, Mrs. Sam Watts, Mrs. Merle Muncy, Mrs. M. M. Hood, Mrs. John G. Swan and Mrs. W. L. Huffnam; altos, Mrs. Robert Jones, Mrs. Pigott, Mrs. Huntley, Mrs. Dan Harrelson, Mrs. Homer McKeithan, Mrs. Chancy Stanaland, Mrs. Lewis Hardee, Mrs. E. C. Blake and Mrs. L. D. Hayman; tenors, Edgar Finch, Robert Willing, Randolph Grant, G. E. Hubbard: bass, A. W. Blake, Leo Hawkins, E. J. Prevatte, Charles Murray, Dosher Ruark.

Fire Protection At Sunny Point

Major Emphasis Upon This Safety Feature At U. S. Army Installation Located Near Southport

MUCH EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE FOR USE

Conventional Fire Trucks, Tanker Trucks And Fire Boats Help Provide Complete Protection At Army Terminal

Fire protection and prevention is a continuing extensive operation at Sunny Point Army Terminal with 17 men assigned in three crews for the one land based company. These crews rotate on 24-hour shifts to maintain constant fire protection.

Contrary to popular belief, the life of a firefighter, at least that of a military firefighter, is not one of waiting for a fire to occur. The men at Sunny Point take part in regular training sessions that are designed to keep them abreast of the latest in firefighting techniques. Oklahoma A & M College Manual, and Army and Navy Technical Manuals are used as a basis for this training program. During the past 6 months the supervisory personnel of the department have all attended the Shipboard Firefighting School conducted at the Norfolk Naval Base. In this course the men were given practical experience in extinguishing fires burning in mock ship structures.

Sunny Point Army Terminal was designed and built with fire protection and safety features the predominant factors. To illustrate this there is a fire-reporting telephone system which consists of 67 units. Each of these is at a numbered location. Removing anyone of these phones from its hooks starts the alarm ringing and a corresponding location number blashing on the switchboard in the fire station. Each fire department truck unit is equipped with two-way radio in order that continuous communications may be effected.

There are three fire trucks utilized in the protection program at SPART, a 750-gpm pumper truck, a 500-gpm forest fire truck, and a 1000 gallon water

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Winter Weather Hit Thursday

Be it remembered that on Thursday morning, December 12, the thermometer reading at the U. S. Weather Bureau station in Southport was 14-degrees, and that the ground was covered with a light blanket of snow.

Moreover, the mercury failed to get up to the freezing mark all day, with 28-degrees being the high reading. On Friday morning it was cold again, but this time only 19-degrees. During the day it warmed up to 42-degrees. And with the rising temperature went the snow.

Recorder Holds Lengthy Session

Regular Weekly Session Conducted In Community Building Following Fire Which Made Court Room Unusable

Brunswick county Recorder's court met Monday in strange surroundings, due to fire which rendered the court room unusable. Scene of this week's activities was the Community Building, whose facilities were made available by members of the Southport Lions Club.

The following cases were disposed of before Judge Earl Bellamy:

Elliott Jackson pleaded guilty to charges of driving an automobile while he was under influence of an intoxicant and was fined $100 and costs.

Lewis E. Watson was found guilty of failure to yield right-of-way and was fined $10 and costs.

John Stevens pleaded guilty to charges of drunk driving and carrying a concealed weapon. He was fined $100 and taxed with costs.

Charlie Brown pleaded guilty to charges of operating motor vehicle with improper equipment and was fined $25 and costs.

Golden Thornton pleaded guilty to charges of speeding 65-mph, driving on wrong side of the road and following too closely. He was fined $25 and costs.

James A. Aldridge pleaded guilty to charges of failure to yield right-of-way and possession of liquor with seal broken. He was fined $20 and costs.

Freddie Lee Johnson was found not guilty of driving too fast for conditions.

Carl S. Thompson was found guilty of giving worthless checks to E. O. Rabon, O. K. Bellamy, Ben Hewett, H. E. Milliken, Three Oaks and E. V. Gore, Jr. Judgment was suspended upon condition that the defendant make restitution to each plaintiff.

Eddie R. Gore pleaded guilty of driving too fast for conditions and was fined $10 and costs, fine remitted because of mitigating circumstances.

Glenn Parker pleaded guilty to charges of reckless operation and was fined $25 and costs. He gave

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TIME and TIDE

By JIMMIE HARPER

It was December 22, 1937, and Christmas was in the air. Santa Claus had stopped in Southport long enough to light the Community Christmas Tree, homes and streets were covered with decorations, and school was out everywhere. Confederate widows were receiving their semi-annual government checks, and a late run of menhaden insured a merry Christmas in many Southport homes.

Camp Sepona had been completely evacuated, but not all of the staff had left the area. Two more animals, a fox and a possum, had figured in front page news stories; the Southport Dolphins (Independents) had defeated a group of local collegians in basketball play; and Robert Marlowe had given two hitch-hikers a ride to Hallsboro.

The December 22 edition of The Pilot, 1942 being the year, carried a first hand report of the battle of Casablanca as witnessed by Sgt. E. F. Gore, USMC. Sgt. Gore had been serving aboard the flagship of the North African invasion force. Long distance telephone calls were being restricted, and three local citizens had been relieved of their ABC ration books.

A hen on the Amos Walton farm had gone into extended production, laying a phenomenal egg-within-an-egg. The Red Cross sewing room had been closed for the holidays; and trucks were making a countywide canvas in quest of scrap iron.

Academy Open To Train Sailors

Nine Openings For Cadets In Merchant Marine Academy For Men In This Section

The United States Merchant Marine, through its state representative, Charles R. McNeill of Whiteville, has announced openings for nine men at the marine academy, Kings Point, New York.

McNeill stated that the nine appointments were open to any man between the ages of 17-21, unmarried and willing to attend the academy for four years, with one year sea duty.

The representative said the mission of the merchant marine is "to attract a high type of young American with a definite ambition to become an officer in the United

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Brief Bits Of NEWS

NEW ALLOTMENT

Any farmer wishing an allotment for tobacco, peanuts or cotton must go to the ASC office and make application for a new grower allotment before February 15.

OFFICE CLOSED

The Selective Service office in Southport was closed as of December 16 and will remain closed all of this week, due to lack of government funds. Mrs. Delight G. Vereen is clerk in charge.

CHRISTMAS DANCE

Members of the Live Oak Garden Club will sponsor a Christmas dance on Saturday evening at the Community Building, with music being furnished by Johnnie Thomas and his orchestra. Dancing will begin at 9 o'clock.

LADIES NIGHT

A Ladies Night program will be observed by the Southport Lions Club tomorrow (Thursday) evening. It will also be "Teacher Appreciation Night", and members of the Southport High School faculty have been especially invited.

TURKEY SHOOT

The Southport Lions Club will sponsor a turkey shoot on Saturday, beginning at 10 o'clock in the morning. The site will be the garrison lot adjacent to the Community Building. Ladies are invited to participate, and if enough are interested a special bracket will be arranged for their competition.

NEED CLOTHING

Mrs. H. B. Smith, chairman of the Help-A-Home project for the Southport Woman's Club, has issued an urgent appeal for infant's clothing and for warm bed clothing. "This material does not have to be fancy", said Mrs Smith, "But it should be serviceable and it should be warm. There is current need in both of these categories.

TEACHER COURSE

Brunswick county teachers will meet on Wednesday, January 8, at 7:30 o'clock at Bolivia high school to discuss plans for two more college credit courses that will be made possible through East Carolina College Extension Department after Christmas. One course will be on "Visual Aids", and will be taught by Talmadge O. Page, Supervisor of New Hanover Schools. Another course in "Mental Hygiene" will be taught by Weldon Hall, principal at Waccamaw.