

Would You Believe A Real, Live Boa Constrictor?

Boa Constrictor Office Visitor

So this kid walks into the newspaper office with this boa constrictor wrapped around his neck.

"Hey, what you got there", we asked, like we couldn't see.

"My pet snake," he says, like we ought to be able to, plainly.

We still would have thought it was some kind of post-Halloween joke but the snake moved its head in a menacing looking arch that passed close to the boy's face. His forked tongue was flicking out.

"Aren't you scared of him?" we blurted out, seeing all the time that he obviously was not.

"Nope," he said, "he's tame and he won't hurt me. He's wrapped around me, but he doesn't squeeze tight. He won't bite".

The idea came from a visit with an uncle, whose pet boa constrictor captured their fancy. First they had a gopher snake, but he died. The replacement was this boa constrictor all their own. They bought him at a pet shop, which does quite a good business in snakes.

George Wilson says the family pet is about half grown, that he probably will reach a length of 12-feet and be about 25-inches in circumference. With proper care and attention he should live to be about 25-years-old. They figure he now is six or seven years old.

Feeding is no great problem, except for the fact that he is on a very special diet. He lives on

live rats, and sometimes these are hard to come by. George says there were a dozen places near their home in California where they could buy white rats. "Now it looks like we are going to have to raise our own rats to feed him", he said.

This feeding is something else again. To begin with, boas don't eat but once or twice a month. When they do, they want their meal served raw, and alive. They do not go into action the moment their prey comes into reach. They wait around for the mood to strike them, then they strike their victim. This serves the purpose of stunning the rat, and immediately the snake embraces it in a powerful coil

that usually crushes out all life and flattens out the carcass to make it easier to swallow whole. All of this sounds slow and deliberate, but the Wilsons say that once the feasting ritual begins, it gets over so fast you can hardly believe you saw it happen.

A couple of grown rats will hold a snake's appetite for two weeks, and he can go much longer between meals. This can be stretched into months, or even into a full year.

Plan Meeting To Consider Fund Raising

Dr. T. C. Blalock, Assistant Director of the N.C. State University Extension Service, will be visiting in Brunswick county Thursday. The purpose of his visit is to meet with the Brunswick 4-H Foundation Committee and make plans for the county to complete its quota in a drive for a million-dollar Foundation for the 4-H club members in North Carolina.

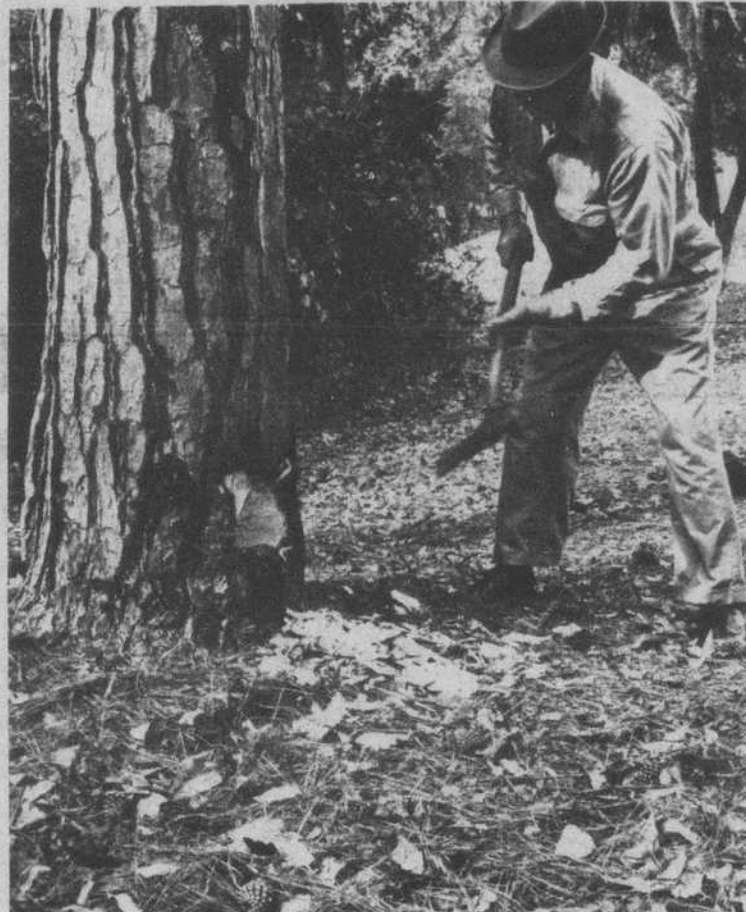
Those serving on the Brunswick Foundation Committee are James M. Harper, Jr., editor of State Port Pilot; Earl Milliken, Shallotte Broadcasting Company; Lester Lowe, vice-president, Waccamaw Bank and Trust Company; Rhone Sasser, vice-president, Waccamaw Bank and Trust Company; Douglas Hawes, secretary-treasurer, Security Savings and Loan Association; Foster Mintz, Elmore Motor Company; W. A. Powell, attorney; Hugh D. Vance, Electrification Advisor, BEMC; and Roy Stevens, Director Resources Development Commission.

The purpose of the Foundation is to provide funds for scholarships for 4-H members who have made outstanding accomplishments in 4-H activities and who are also good students and need scholarship assistance. The Foundation also provides camping facilities for 4-H members all over the state. The 4-H Foundation is already well on its way toward reaching the million dollar goal as over \$800,000 have been raised. Brunswick 4-H members are receiving benefits from the program and the County 4-H Foundation Committee would like to see the Brunswick quota of \$3500 raised as soon as possible.



Garden Club Officials Visit Southport

Mrs. Baron Mills, left, president of the Garden Clubs of North Carolina, Inc., was a visitor in Southport Monday where she and other officials discussed the Brunswick Town Nature Trail project with Mrs. James M. Harper, Jr., project chairman, and with Bill Faulk, site superintendent. The above photo was taken at the Indian Trail Tree in Southport, and in addition to Mrs. Mills includes Mrs. Gardner Greer of Wilmington; Mrs. Harper; Mrs. Roscoe D. McMillan, past president of the state organization; and Mrs. Ernest Parker, past treasurer of this organization.



Boxing A Pine Tree

Using an old boxing axe, 82 year old W. L. Hobbs of Delco boxes a large pine tree at Brunswick Town State Historic Site which will be part of an exhibit on the terpentine industry. Two kilns, one burned and one unburned, will also be constructed. Authentic tools of the trade will be featured in the exhibit and their use illustrated and described. Prior to the American Revolution Brunswick exported more navel stores, tar, pitch and terpentine, to England than any other port. Much sawed lumber also was exported.

Mrs. Rourk To Serve County In Fund Drive

Mrs. M. H. Rourk of Shallotte has been appointed director for the Brunswick County 1969 March of Dimes Campaign, it was announced this week by Clarence W. Walker, volunteer State Chairman.

"It's time we stop telling ourselves that birth defects strike only at 'other people' and 'other people's children,'" Mrs. Rourk said. "A birth defect can hit any family, rich or poor, any race, any nationality."

"Birth defects are this nation's second greatest destroyer of life, claiming approximately half a million unborn babies each year and killing 60,000 of our children and adults," she declared. "More than 250,000 American babies are born each year with a defect, and an estimated 15 million persons of all ages have one or more defect that affects their daily lives."

The director said that the March of Dimes, which won the fight against polio, attacks birth defects by financing research and supporting more than 100 birth defects centers at major medical institutions throughout the United States.

Mrs. Rourk has worked closely with the Brunswick County March of Dimes for many years.

"A fine example of what can be done is seen at our Birth Defects Treatment Center in Chapel Hill and our Birth Defects Evaluation Center at the Western Carolina Center in Morgantown. The point is that we need more such centers not only in our State, but in many others. "In our State alone," she said, (Continued On Page Four)

Aldermen Postpone Action On Pier

The boy was Bill Wilson and the young man with him was his brother, Douglas. They are the sons of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Wilson who recently moved back to North Carolina after living for several years in California. Mrs. Wilson is the former Barbara Johnson of Southport.

The snake is named Bo and is a young Columbian Boa Constrictor. His measurements are 6-ft. in length and he is 9-inches in circumference. His basic color is tan, with dark brown saddles. His disposition is gentle but his looks are dangerous.

Bo was a Christmas present for the Wilson boys last year, and

After hearing protests from several citizens regarding plans to build a municipal pier at the end of Davis St., members of the Board of Aldermen Thursday night agreed to postpone action on this project pending an investigation of an available site at the end of Atlantic Avenue.

None of the opposition was aimed at the pier project as such, but there was disagreement with the plan to erect the proposed structure at the end of a 33-foot street. Spokesman for the group was Grover Gore, who lives at the corner of Davis St. and Bay St. Others who oppose the construction of a pier at this site were Mrs. Claudia Wells and Mrs. Laura Roughton.

the City of Southport, funds for the construction of the pier and the sewage pumping station.

A Southport Art Commission was appointed by Mayor E. B. Tomlinson. Its first function will be to set forth plans to raise funds for the erection of an Art Center at the location where the old Cramer Home now stands. To serve on this commission will be Mrs. Ormond Leggett, C. D. Pickrell and Mrs. J. A. Francis, to serve for 3 years; A. C. Caviness and Mrs. E. B. Tomlinson, Jr., to serve for 2 years.

It is contemplated that no city funds would be involved in this project, but that any building will be financed by public subscription.

City Attorney Kirby Sullivan was directed to negotiate with representatives of the Stone Estate for the purchase of the waterskirt lying between Howe St. and Davis St. with the object of having the city acquire this property as the site for a waterfront recreational area.

Board Begins To Make Plans

The Brunswick County Board of Education held a call session Monday night in the Board of Education office.

The Board accepted the resignations of Dixie M. Bennett, Bolivia, and Marriane Gore, Southport.

The board voted to request the Shallotte A.B.C. Board to distribute directly to the Union High School its share of net (Continued On Page Four)

Christmas House Plans Are Made

"Home for Christmas" will be the theme for the Christmas House sponsored by the Southport Garden Club and Southport Women's Club December 14-15 at the Community Building.

Mrs. L. H. Hardee, general chairman, has named the various categories and the person in charge of each category. Everyone is invited to enter arrangements and decorative ideas.

A list of categories includes: Doors, Mrs. D. C. Pigott; Trees and Gift Wrappings, Mrs. J. D. Loughlin; Fireplace and Mantle Arrangements, Mrs. D. C. Herring and Mrs. M. M. McHose; Windows, Mrs. A. E. Huntley; Living Room, Mrs. R. B. Thompson; Dining Room, Mrs. J. A. Gilbert; Coffee and Other Table Arrangements, Mrs. E. C. Harrelson; Kitchen, Mrs. C. E. Bellamy; Wreaths, Mrs. G. R. Garrett; Wall Hangings and Free Hangings, Mrs. L. T. Vermillion; Religious, Mrs. F. L. Willing; Christmas Crafts, Mrs. J. K. Porterfield; and Festive Tables, Mrs. James M. Harper, Jr.

Time And Tide

It was November 16, 1938, and a huge picture appeared on the first page of the week's Pilot. Two local ladies were shown with a fine catch of drum taken from the beach at Bald Head. They were Mrs. Susie Munn and Mrs. Franto Mollycheck. The artists which had been visiting Southport during the summer and early fall were talking of placing all of the local scenes on exhibit in Wilmington; our editorial writer had listed "man's seven mistakes"; and Leslie S. Thompson had joined the staff of the Whiteville News Reporter.

In the column "Fourth Estate" the editor had mentioned a fellow journalist, Victor Meekins, of Manteo. It seems that he had started the Roanoke Island newsletter while still Sheriff of Dare County. The prize winners in the county canning contest had been announced; Thanksgiving services were to be conducted at the Southport Presbyterian Church; and a sure sign of winter had come—rockfish.

It was November 24, 1943, and it was announced that week that farmers' income tax was due on December 15. A marauding bear had been ambushed and killed by a group of Exum farmers and dogs; the rails of the late Southport railroad were being taken up and scrapped; and Leroy Mintz was the acting principal of Waccamaw High School.

A War Bond sale at Bolivia High School featuring a local musical group and a free-for-all cake walk had netted almost \$3000 for the war effort. Our editorial writer had delivered the traditional (Continued On Page Four)

An Invitation

The State Dept. of Archives and History
the State Highway Commission
and

The Brunswick County Historical Society
request the pleasure of your company
at the

Unveiling of a Highway Historical Marker
for
John LaPierre

at Brunswick Town State Historic Site
Sunday afternoon, November twenty-fourth
Nineteen hundred and sixty-eight
at two-thirty o'clock

Social Hour

World War I Vets In Meet

Veterans of World War I met Saturday afternoon at the Agricultural Extension Building at Supply and elected a slate of officers to serve Barracks 1744 during the next year.

These officers include: James E. Pinner, Commander, of Southport; Henry R. Hewett, Senior Vice-Commander, of Winnabow; Henry D. Williams, Junior Vice-Commander, of Shallotte; Hal Martin, Chaplain of Shallotte; Emily E. Wesley, (Continued On Page Four)

Book Fair Is Set At Union

Union High School in Shallotte will sponsor a student book fair and science learning festival November 18-22.

These events are part of the national celebration of Children's Book Week. Begun in 1919, this week has become a traditional time to highlight for children the pleasure and knowledge to be found in reading good books.

The book fair and festival will be open during the hours (Continued On Page Four)

Tide Table

Following is the tide table for Southport during the week. These hours are approximately correct and were furnished The State Port Pilot through the courtesy of the Cape Fear Pilot's Association.

HIGH	LOW
Thursday, November 21,	
8:21 AM	2:04 AM
8:39 PM	2:58 PM
Friday, November 22,	
9:15 AM	2:58 AM
9:33 PM	3:52 PM
Saturday, November 23,	
10:15 AM	3:52 AM
10:33 PM	4:46 PM
Sunday, November 24,	
11:15 AM	4:46 AM
11:33 PM	5:40 PM
Monday, November 25,	
12:09 AM	5:46 AM
	6:34 PM
Tuesday, November 26,	
0:39 AM	6:52 AM
1:09 PM	7:34 PM
Wednesday, November 27,	
1:39 AM	7:52 AM
2:09 PM	8:34 PM

Brief Bits Of NEWS

TURKEY SHOOT
The Southport Jaycees will hold a turkey shoot Saturday at the Taylor Field, starting at 10 a.m.

BENEFIT BALL
The Junior Woman's Club of Southport is sponsoring their Annual Christmas Ball this year to benefit the Dasher Memorial Hospital. The formal or semi-formal dance will be held in the Community Building on December 6, from 9 until 1 o'clock. The Continentals will provide music for dancing and enjoyment. Tickets may be purchased from any club member.

The engineer for the project has been requested to provide data based upon soundings and test borings at the December meeting.

It was reported that the low bid for modification of the sewage pumping station at the foot of Nash St. was \$13,800. The board decided that this project will be too expensive to handle out of general funds and suggested that the solution may come as a part of a proposed bond election to be submitted to the voters sometime after the first of the year.

Other projects to be voted on will be funds for restoration of the power distribution lines for