

## Sunday Fire Destroys Southport High School



Scores Of Firemen Battled The Blaze Sunday Night

Fire of undetermined origin destroyed the Southport High School building here Sunday night. There had been early reports that arson was suspected as the cause, but a State Fire Marshal who inspected the building ruins Monday declared he could find nothing to substantiate this theory. Official investigation also failed to turn up substantial evidence that the fire had been deliberately set.

With only two rooms in the building still fit for use, local school officials have called off classes for the remainder of this week as they search for a solution to the problem of what to do about holding school for the remainder of this year. Mid-term exams started Friday.

Superintendent Fred Smith of the N.C. Baptist Assembly is attempting to work out an arrangement which will permit the use of one or more of the buildings over there for grades 1 through 6. Superintendent George Williams says this will take care of about 350 of the 650 students affected by the catastrophe.

Of the existing school facilities, the home ec building was undamaged, as were the two temporary classrooms next door and the two classrooms in the Marineology Building. These, together with the two classrooms in use on the second floor of the City Hall and the two usable rooms in the high school building, will give a nucleus of space with which to work out a solution to the housing problem. Other possibilities include use of some of the classroom space at Trinity Methodist Church and at Southport Baptist Church. There also is a possibility that one or more classes may be taught in the gymnasium and that two or more classes might be able to use the Community Building.

Williams said this morning that he hopes that arrangements can be made to get the children back in school Monday morning.

Jerry Jones turned in the alarm about 6:45 o'clock Sunday afternoon that brought action from the Southport Volunteer Fire Department, the Fire Department at Sunny Point, the Volunteer Fire Department at Long Beach and the Volunteer Fire Department at Holden Beach. The Town Creek Rescue Squad was on hand with their ambulance to help with any emergencies that might develop.

A light rain that still was falling after a day of rain helped make it possible to confine the blaze to the four walls of the building. A stiff northeast breeze was blowing, but sparks were killed before they could pose a threat to nearby farm buildings.

It appeared that the blaze started on the second floor of the main building, somewhere in the area of the teachers lounge. Apparently it had been burning for some time before firemen appeared upon the scene, and once the heat caught the tar roof, water which poured from a half-dozen fire hoses had little effect. Chief fire damage was confined to the second floor of the old part of the main building, but by the time thousands of gallons of sooty water had seeped down to the first floor, damage there was almost complete.

In addition to the two first floor rooms in the new wing, the auditorium escaped fire damage, there was little fire damage to the library or to the cafeteria. All of the exterior walls were left standing, and this helped firemen to prevent the spread to other buildings.

Although the office was the (Continued On Page Four)



Charred Walls In Upstairs Hall Fallen Bell

### Penalty Will Be Made For Late Listing

By Ira D. Butler, Jr.  
If you have not already listed taxes for 1969 please do as soon as possible so the long lines of the last minute rush can be avoided. The listing period is from January 2-31 and it appears a smaller percentage of Brunswick county property owners have listed than in past years at this time.

We wish to bring to your attention that failure to list during the January listing period subjects the property owner to the late listing penalty "which shall be ten per cent (10%) of the tax levied for the current year or one dollar (\$1.00) whichever is the greater"—105-331c North Carolina General Statutes. If you, as the owner of property on which the regular tax would be \$100 did not list until the tenth of February would be subject to a penalty of \$10 which would be added to the tax bill you receive in the fall.

We have had people come several months after the listing period is over to list their property which should have been done during January. This is hard on the property owner who in many cases has had to make a special trip to Southport, and on the office people who have to stop their normal (Continued On Page Four)



Present Check To Hospital

L. T. Yaskell, chairman of the Board of Trustees for Doshier Memorial Hospital, is shown receiving a check for \$425 from Mrs. Connie Young, past president of the Southport Junior Woman's Club. This represents the net proceeds from the Annual Christmas Ball. On the left is Mrs. Teressa Conrad, new president of the club. (Photo by Spencer)

### Hear Bond Vote Explained Savings And Loan Reports Good Year

Southport citizens attended a public hearing Thursday night in the Brunswick county courthouse, called for the purpose of explaining provisions contained in a special bond election set for Tuesday, February 11, and calling for the sale of bonds totaling \$215,000.

Officials told those in attendance that no increase in the current tax rate nor in the rate for electric current is anticipated.

The largest item included in the bond election will be for \$170,000 for use in improving and expanding the electrical distribution system. It is anticipated that the elimination of increasing maintenance costs, plus improved efficiency of operation, will result in savings sufficient to meet the annual payments for these bonds.

Although there was critical questioning from the audience, there appeared to be a general favorable attitude toward this provision.

The second item deals with issuing \$30,000 in bonds for recreational facilities, with a proposed city pier slated to be allocated most of this money. There was some discussion as to (Continued On Page Four)

All officers of Security Savings and Loan Association were reelected at the annual meeting of stockholders held here Thursday. Nobody was elected to fill the vacancy of director and secretary-treasurer created by the recent death of W. P. Jorgensen.

Reelected were H. T. St. George, president; D. C. Herring, vice-president; Rachel Rook, assistant secretary-treasurer; Douglas Hawes, assistant secretary-treasurer; H. Foster Mintz, Earl Bellamy, Hobson Kirby and S. Bunn Frink, directors.

The report submitted by President St. George reflected a year of growth and service to the people of the area served by the two offices of the association, at Southport and Shallotte.

The report made by President St. George showed that the assets of Security Savings and Loan Association as of

December 31, 1968 totaled \$6,363,881. This was an increase of \$378,316, a 6.32% increase for the year.

Total savings were \$5,704,844, an increase of \$173,932, or a 3.14% increase. The number of investors totaled 2955. Dividends paid and credited to shareholders accounts totaled \$241,578. This plus dividends accrued for Bonus Shares totaled \$244,647.

Mortgage loans showed an increase of 8.56%. They totaled \$5,546,489 at the close of the year, an increase of \$437,353. The Association made 195 loans during the year. They totaled \$1,243,846. Forty-two were for the purpose of construction, 45 were for the purchase of homes, 10 were for the refinancing mortgages held by others and 98 were for other purposes. The association had a total of 1204 mortgage loans on its books as (Continued On Page Four)



Bank Announces Promotions

Changes in personnel responsibilities in the Southport Office of the Waccamaw Bank & Trust Company were announced this week by Lester V. Lowe, vice-president in charge. Included was the promotion of Robert D. Howard, left, from assistant cashier to cashier. Also the naming of Mrs. Edythe P. Smith, center, and Mrs. Judy Y. White, right, as assistant cashiers. Howard has been employed by the bank for the past two years and Mrs. Smith and Mrs. White are veteran employees of the local office.

### Port Improvement Needed

Deep water resources at Southport and adjacent lands have been recommended for study and development with the aim of improving these resources for greater contributions to state and local economy.

Further, it is recommended that inland streams including Shallotte river be improved to facilitate traffic on the Inland Waterway as well as ingress-egress routes to the ocean.

The collective idea behind the recommendations is to interest both shippers and industry to make greater use of state

resources including both land and water routes for a more comprehensive development of the state.

These are findings of a four-month study made by Commonwealth Transportation Consultants of Washington, D.C. at the request of the State Board of Water and Air Resources, the director of which is George Pickett.

Instead of continuously proposing deeper-and deeper-draft channels upstream in the Cape Fear and Northeast Cape Fear rivers, the study said, "a serious effort should be made to encourage industry to develop Southport and the undeveloped lands along the river downstream from Wilmington."

Federal provision of extensive additional deepwater frontage above and near Wilmington, the report continued, does not appear to be warranted at this time.

As for inlets, the report said greatest interest on inlet development is justified for the 120-mile coastline between Cape Fear and Beaufort where a preponderance of coastal people live and use water resources.

But inlets west of Cape Fear (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, January 23,  |          |
| 11:57 AM               | 6:02 AM  |
|                        | 8:16 PM  |
| Friday, January 24,    |          |
| 0:27 AM                | 6:46 AM  |
| 12:45 PM               | 7:04 PM  |
| Saturday, January 25,  |          |
| 1:15 AM                | 7:40 AM  |
| 1:39 PM                | 7:52 PM  |
| Sunday, January 26,    |          |
| 2:09 AM                | 8:40 AM  |
| 4:21 PM                | 10:34 PM |
| Monday, January 27,    |          |
| 3:03 AM                | 9:40 AM  |
| 3:27 PM                | 9:40 PM  |
| Tuesday, January 28,   |          |
| 3:57 AM                | 10:34 AM |
| 4:21 PM                | 10:34 PM |
| Wednesday, January 29, |          |
| 4:51 AM                | 11:28 AM |
| 5:09 PM                | 11:28 PM |

### Brief Bits Of NEWS

#### MOTHERS MARCH

The Mothers March for Polio will be held in Southport Monday night between the hours of 6:30 and 7:30 o'clock, according to Mrs. Connie Young, local chairman. She asks that porch lights be left burning to indicate that the residents are at home.

#### READING HOUR

The Southport Sub-Junior Womans Club will sponsor a reading hour at the Southport-Brunswick County Library beginning Saturday morning, February 1. Children from kindergarten to 5th grade will be eligible. The class will be limited to 20 children on a first-come first-served basis. Registration will be Saturday morning, January 25, from 9:30 until 11:30.

### Time And Tide

It was January 18, 1939, and the Southport Civitan Club had been organized on the preceding Friday. The 18 charter members had met, then and elected the club officers. Two unusual fish reported in the catch of the "Maude and Mable" the preceding week had been identified. One of the phenomena named "Donald Duck" the week before because of unusual facial characteristics, had been re-christened a California Perch.

Sen. Bunn Frink had presented a bill to the State Legislature calling for a nautical school of higher learning and the text of that bill was given in that week's issue of The Pilot. In other legislative action, the U.S. Congress had allotted funds for the construction of a yacht basin at Southport. The R. I. Mintz and W. L. Aldridge (Continued On Page Four)