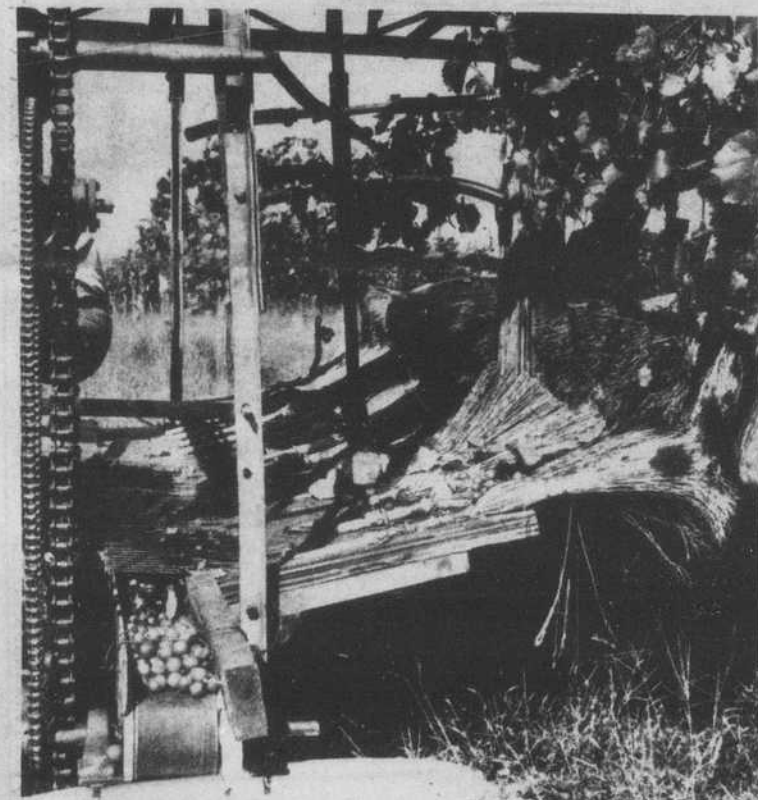




Farmer In His Vineyard

Harry Sell is shown here inspecting the crop of grapes produced this season in a field of three-year old vines in his vineyard near Southport. He and his

son, Harry D. Sell, Jr., have 40 acres planted in scuppernon grapes and other members of the muscadine grape family. (Photo by Spencer)



Picking Operation

Harvesting operations were in progress at the Sell Grape Farm near Southport this week and the above photo shows a mechanical grape-picker designed and built by Harry Sell operating in the field. (Photo by Spencer)

Grape Production Is Big Business

A Brunswick county man may have an answer to the question: What can eastern North Carolina farmers do to replace tobacco as the major cash crop? He is Harry Sell, who took up farming late in life, and who now has 40 acres of grapes and 13.3 percent of the state's acreage in this crop.

Seven years ago, after reading all the information he could find on the grape growing industry, Sell planted his first 1.25-acre of scuppernons. This week he harvested more than 6 tons per acre from these vines.

His early planting convinced him that the soil and climate were suitable, so two years later he planted another 5 acres. The next year he added 10 acres and has followed that expansion schedule for each of the last three years. Now he has over 40 acres in production, some of them very profitable.

"It takes five years to reach the point where production is profitable," Sell said this week during a pause in his biggest harvest. "We are getting about a ton per acre from our three-year-old vines, while our one and two year old fields are hardly worth picking-labor costs this year."

Scuppernon grapes are a member of the muscadine family, whose distinguishing

characteristic is that they grow singly or in clusters, not in bunches. Some of the vines on the Sell Grape Farm appear to be rounded off with ripe fruit.

One good thing about the grapes Sell is producing is the price, which is \$275 per ton. Another is the fact that there appears to be no immediate threat of flooding the market. "One buyer told me we can grow 5,000 acres here in North Carolina without running the price down," he reported. When it is considered that there are only about 300 acres in North Carolina now devoted to cultivation of this type of grape, the importance of the 40-acre local operation gains stature.

But if grape growing is big news at the Sell Farm, a new grape picking machine, designed and built by Sell himself, is even bigger news: for without it there was danger of creating a bottleneck of picking-labor. No entirely successful grape picking machine has been placed on the market, so the Brunswick county man, a licensed

(Continued On Page Eight)

Thieves Hit Post Office At Leland

Thieves stole \$211.45 in cash and stamps from the safe in the Leland Post Office last Tuesday night, according to Brunswick Sheriff Harold Willetts.

One State Bureau of Investigation agent said the mode of operation used by the thieves to enter the Leland Post Office was the same used by thieves to loot the Calypso Post Office in Duplin County last Sunday night.

Sheriff Willetts said the thieves pried the metal frame of a glass door that separated the lobby and the offices to get to the safe.

Willetts stated the metal-framed door was pried enough to allow the lock bolt to slip and the door to be opened. The \$200 safe also was destroyed by the thieves who pried it open.

The sheriff said SBI agent Billy Greene—the investigating officer of the Calypso break-in—said the pattern followed in the Leland break-in was the same in the Calypso post office break-in and larceny.

Postal Inspectors D.T. Hunter, C.D. Garland and SBI Agents J.E. Richardson, Whiteville; and Bill Hunt, Wilmington; assisted Sheriff Willetts in the preliminary investigation.

Board Holds Meetings To Hear Problems

The Brunswick County Board of Education met last Tuesday night and heard Mrs. Frances Stone, ESEA Director, review the ESEA Title I program for the 1969-70 school year. A question and answer session followed the presentation.

Thomas Horne, attorney, gave a report on the Ripley property survey and reported on communications between him and the Ripleys concerning this property.

The board met jointly with the local school committeemen from Southport Elementary School and Brunswick County High School concerning students previously assigned to their respective schools and now attending Bolivia School. Those present from Southport School were T.M. Lee, principal, Johnny Vereen, Hubert Brittain and Leon McKeithan. Those present from Brunswick County High School were A.C. Caviness, principal, Eugene Gore, Arthur Gore and Alvah Cox. The board agreed to abide by plans submitted to the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare stating that all students previously assigned and attending Brunswick County High School will attend the two Southport Schools.

The board approved the following teachers contracts for the 1969-70 school year: Lincoln—Carolyn Deese and Gloria M. Gore; Union—Jewell White; and Waccamaw—Diana Hughes.

The board approved the list of substitute teachers submitted as follows: Mrs. John Kopp, Mrs. Joe Best, Mrs. Janie C. McCracken, Mrs. Eva May Willetts, Mrs. Ha Mae Murrell, Mrs. Lenora Thomas, Mrs. Louise Willetts, Mrs. Elizabeth Williams and Mrs. Gail Kopp.

Brunswick County High School—Mrs. Jessie Monroe, Mrs. Vivian F. Crawley, William L. Fish, Mrs. Alberta McLeod and Mrs. Jessie Monroe.

Leland School—Mrs. Cathy (Continued On Page Five)

Murder Charge Faces Youth, 19

Ronnie Hutchinson, 19, Leland was charged with murder Monday after his alleged victim, Thomas Wayne Skipper, Jr., died in New Hanover Memorial Hospital.

Hutchinson had been charged with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill in connection with an August 3 incident in which Skipper was wounded by a .22 caliber pistol.

Skipper died Monday morning as a result of the wound. The warrant charging Hutchinson was immediately changed from the assault charge to murder.

Brunswick County Coroner Lowell Bennett stated that no inquest would be held in the death. He said he had turned the matter over to the court.

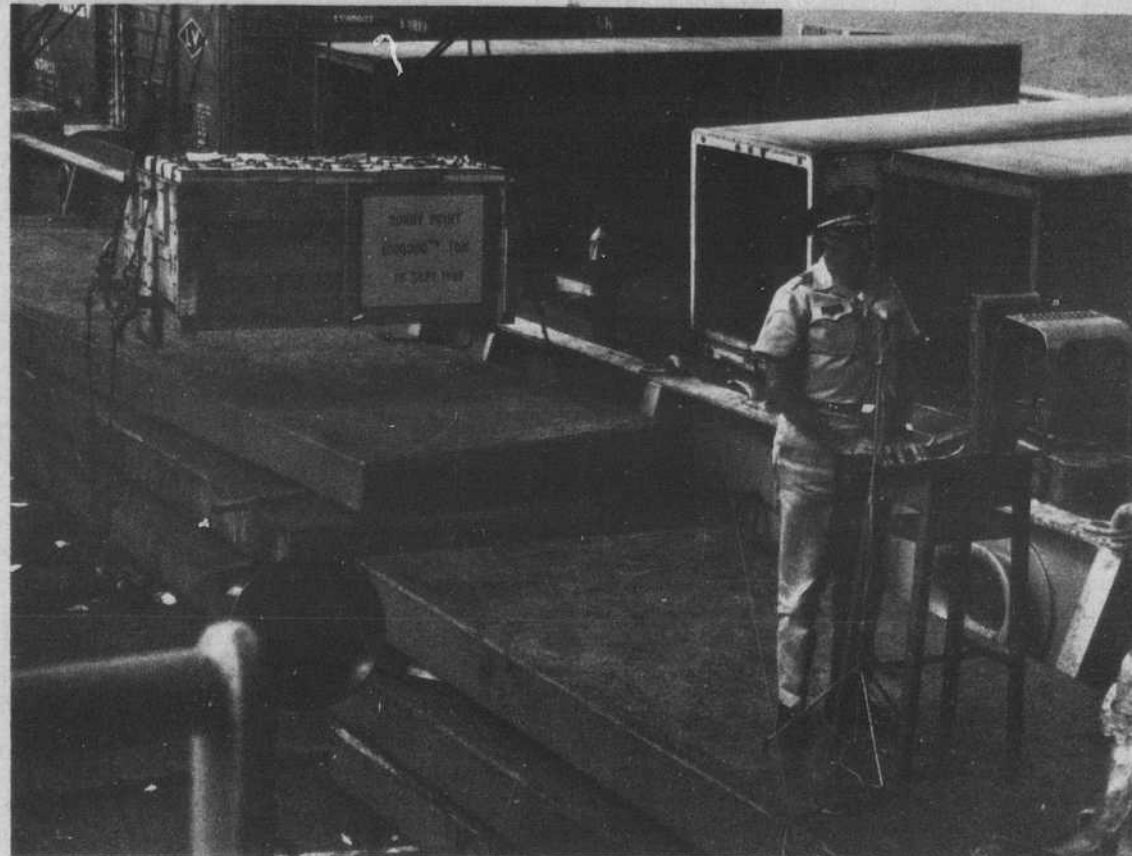
Hutchinson is being held in the county jail without bond until his district court hearing Oct. 6.

Time And Tide

It was September 20, 1939, and there was news that week of upcoming attempts at growing citrus fruit at Orton and on Bald Head Island. A veteran big-game fishing skipper had stopped here on his way south for the winter season and had added weight to the local contention that Southport was probably the best fishing spot north of Florida. Recent marriage events had made Inez Harrelson the wife of Don Shannon; Murley Hood had been transferred from the Bogue Inlet Coast Guard facility to Oak Island; and the Southport School News told that Lula Marie Swan had been elected secretary of the freshman class.

News of the preceding week had it that the Long Beach Pavilion would be open for the entire winter. That week's Pilot announced that the building would be operated as an oyster roast. Lewis Hardee's Sea Queen had topped all other boats in daily catches on Monday when she had brought in 50 bushels of shrimp. All boats were doing well, but prices were down. Evangelist H.A. Foster was holding forth at the Shallotte Methodist Church; a premature war scare was being dispelled in a page one story; and we don't know why, but food prices had been soaring in Mongolia.

It was September 20, 1944, and never before had more square inches of bare, female flesh been spread over the front page of The Pilot. The picture, a good 3 col X 12 in. shot, showed a local lady holding two baby foxes, which animals were noticed only on second glance. Southport had once again been through a hurricane scare, and once again had been spared; the San Jose, a trawler of the W.S. Wells fleet, had brought in a well-holed aircraft gunnery target; and Miss Margaret Bartels had become the bride of Jack Hickman in New (Continued On Page Four)



Millionth Ton At Sunny Point

Colonel Robert D. Reid, Commanding Officer, Military Ocean Terminal, Sunny Point is shown addressing a group of visiting dignitaries as the millionth ton of cargo is loaded aboard vessel Thursday morning. There was a brief ceremony marking this significant milestone in the operations of this important military installation.

Million Ton Mark At Sunny Point

Military Ocean Terminal, Sunny Point, celebrated the shipment of its millionth ton of cargo in 1969. The Terminal is forging ahead in an effort to beat the 1968 record of 1,335,196 measurement tons by December 31.

The military men, government employees, and the contractor personnel who joined Thursday in observing the pallet of artillery projectiles being loaded aboard the SS Baylor Victory were well aware of the resources required to move one million tons. The manpower, money, and material expended by the Terminal from 1 January to date play a significant part in the economy of the Southport area.

What does the handling of a million tons mean? Specifically: Ten million dollars in contractual services including the payroll for longshoremen, railroad personnel, and other contract labor; 1.7 million dollars for civil service personnel; 3 million dollars for materials, and 180 thousand dollars in tug and pilot services. Physically, the million tons of cargo movement required: 21,200 railcars, 6,000 truck trailers, 161 ships, 35 million gallons of fresh water, 1.7 million kilowatt hours of electricity, and 23.5 million board feet of lumber.

Present at the ceremony were: Colonel Robert D. Reid, Terminal Commander; John L. McCarron, Vice President of Ryan Stevedoring Company; James U. Rooker, Assistant Superintendent, Rocky Mount Division Railroad; Commander Henry N. Helgesen, U.S. Coast Guard, Captain of the Port; Lieutenant Edward McIntosh, U.S. Navy, Military Sea Transportation Service; Arthur C. James, U.S. Air Force Water

Port Liaison Office; Paul Huffam, American Federation of Government Employees; Rutherford B. Leonard, President of the Wilmington local of the International Longshoremen's Association; Charles Rogers, President of the Southport Local of the International Longshoremen's Association; Emerson B. Tyler, Cafeteria Contractor; and Mike Sellers, Williams Lumber Company.

In his remarks before the small but proud group of observers Colonel Reid said, "Our fighting men of all the services in Vietnam and other parts of the world owe much to the patriotism and industry of the one thousand North Carolinas who operate this unique terminal."

Development Is Advocated By Former Owner

A letter this week from Mrs. E.C. Napier, the former Celeste Boyd, of Charlotte tells of some of the struggles of her late father in his efforts to save Bald Head Island. She adds that she favors development because "I would like to see my father's dream come true."

Following is the text of her letter:

"I read a clipping from your newspaper with more information about Bald Head than any article I read. I am very interested in getting a couple of clippings and any other articles that might have been written. The article I mentioned, I think, came out in August. I did not get the date as it was a clipping.

"I read an article written by someone here in Charlotte. He said, 'Admittedly, some one made a small attempt in developing the island.' I resent those words, or my father spent over a million dollars trying to develop it.

"T.F. Boyd, my father, bought the Island from the Smith family in 1914. It had been in trust one hundred years. He lost all his money, and in a vain effort to save the "Big Island", Bald Head, he offered it to the State for taxes due, (around seven thousand, for a State park). They refused.

"I could write a book about Bald Head, the joy and the heartaches it brought to us. My father died a few years later. We were land poor and the depression had come.

"A.M. Marshall of Charlotte got my mother, who was eighty years old, to give him an option. He sold the other island to Mr. (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.

Thursday, September 25	
8:15 AM	2:10 AM
8:39 PM	2:34 PM
Friday, September 26	
8:57 AM	2:52 AM
9:21 PM	3:22 PM
Saturday, September 27	
9:45 AM	3:34 AM
10:03 PM	4:04 PM
Sunday, September 28	
10:27 AM	4:16 AM
10:45 PM	4:52 PM
Monday, September 29	
11:09 AM	4:58 AM
11:27 PM	5:34 PM
Tuesday, September 30	
11:51 AM	5:40 AM
12:09 PM	6:16 PM
Wednesday, October 1	
12:39 AM	6:22 AM
	7:10 PM

Brief Bits Of NEWS

JURY COMMISSION
R.E. Bellamy of Shallotte, Thomas S. Bowmer of Southport and P.R. Hankins, Jr., of Supply have been named to the Brunswick County Jury Commission which will meet Monday at Southport.

NAACP SPEAKER
Dr. William A. McMillan, president of Rust College at Holly Springs, Miss., will speak at the Brunswick County High School gymnasium Sunday, October 12, at 3:30 p.m. The public is invited to come hear this speaker. Dr. McMillan is a native of Southport.

BAZAAR CHANGE PILOT
The annual Trinity United Methodist Church Bazaar will be held November 14 in the fellowship hall of the church's new education building instead of the Daughters of America building. Luncheon will be served.

POWER INTERRUPTION
Electric service will be off in Southport, Sunny Point, and Boiling Spring Lakes, Sunday from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. This interruption in service is due to necessary changes to be made in the sub-station of Sunny Point by Carolina Power and Light Company.

Nuclear Plant Draws Ire Of Junior Women

A controversial program was presented by Mrs. Donnie Dodge concerning the construction of the proposed Carolina Power and Light plant to be located in the area at a recent meeting of the Southport Junior Women's Club.

There was a lively discussion on the potential advantages and disadvantages of the plant locating here, and resolution was unanimously adopted protesting the location of the plant in this area.

During the business session the decision was made to take part in the Dobbs Children's Home open house to be held October 5 in Kinston.

There was discussion of the proposed beautification project to be done in the Franklin Square Park. Also, there was much discussion of the possible preservation of the Cranmer House as part of Southport's heritage.

Contributions to Women's Prison in Raleigh were announced and members were told of a letter of thanks from the prison official.

A project was adopted by the club to make and fill Christmas stockings for the children's home. These will be hand-made and will be filled according to age groups.