



Old Fashioned Christmas Tree At Brunswick Town

The beginning date of the use of Christmas trees in America is uncertain, but some sources state that the custom was introduced by German immigrants in the early 19th century. The tree is first mentioned in German literature in 1605. Brunswick Town was in ruins after the American Revolution, but a few families returned, and in 1804 Bishop Francis Asbury visited Brunswick, mentioned the brick walls of St. Philip's Church and that there were four houses standing "entire". A replica of the type of tree these inhab-

itants would have used is on display in the lobby of the Visitor Center. It is decorated with homemade and iced cookies, strings of popcorn, paper ornaments, paper chain, and painted pine cones of the area. Miss Kathy Carson of the Brunswick Town staff is responsible for this display of homemade decorations, from baking and icing the cookies to stringing the popcorn. Visit the site and see the unique Christmas tree.—(Brunswick town photo)

Auto License Plates Go On Sale January

Application cards necessary for obtaining 1970 license plates were placed in the mail on December 18 and Department of Motor Vehicles officials expect this huge mailing, estimated at more than 3,300,000 cards, to be delivered by January 1. Motorists will be paying more for their 1970 plates than they have been paying in the past. The registration fees were increased about 25 percent by the 1969 Legislature. This does not apply to North Carolina's amputee war veterans and those war veterans have a 100 percent disability rating by the Veterans Administration. They will get their tags free! The new reflectorized red and white plates will go on sale throughout the State on January 2. The 1969 plates expire December 31 and their use beyond that date is permissible only if they are duly registered by the department to the vehicle on which display is made. Owners who have their vehicles properly registered by the department have until February 16 to obtain new plates. Surrounding area residents may obtain plates at Shallotte, where office hours will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday thru Friday, and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays. The local license agent, Mrs. Christine Soles, points out that "to renew a plate you must have a renewal card" and cautions against the misplacing of it when

Continued On Page Four

Colorful Christmas Parade Draws Big

Lights flashed, flags billowed, and a crowd estimated at 8,000 stood in the cold weather to watch the annual Shallotte Christmas parade last Saturday morning. The 50-unit parade included the Brunswick County Band, the Wampee Band and the Chestnut School Band and many decorated floats. If the crowd lacked enthusiasm, it wasn't noticed by the parade members. The Star Dels, the Bicyclists of Union, the Pom Pom Girls and many others shouted greetings to the familiar faces and wished season's greetings to everyone. The smallest members of the parade was a Baton Group from Carolina Beach. Their rosy cheeks and bright smiles brought compliments from mothers who had their own warmly-wrapped in layers of warm clothing. Adults and children alike had their fancies tickled by the clowns and the appearance of a Mexican with a donkey-cart. Shallotte's Commercial Education Departments are to be commended for their float with the theme in mind that commercial students today, leaders tomorrow. Miss Samantha Townsend, WWAY Weather Girl was the Parade Marshal. She was riding in an open convertible and waving to the cheers of the crowds along the way. Miss Brunswick Beacon, Miss Carolyn Marshall of Shallotte, escorted by Col. Dave Stanly,

(Continued On Page Four)



MRS. EDITH SMITH

Historic Sites To Be Closed

Brunswick Town and Fort Fisher State Historic Sites will be closed December 24-26 and normal hours of operation will resume on December 27. Both sites are open seven days each week throughout the year with the exception of Christmas and Thanksgiving day. Visitation to the sites has been excellent this calendar year, according to William G. Faulk, Jr., site manager at Brunswick Town. More than 94,000 persons have visited Brunswick

(Continued On Page Four)

Mrs. Smith New President Of Woman's Club

Mrs. Afton Smith, Jr., was installed as president of the Southport Woman's Club at their annual banquet in the Community Building. The occasion was a joint meeting with the Lion's Club and was presided over by Mrs. W.E. McDougale and William Powell. Other officers installed were Mrs. McDougale, 1st vice-president; Mrs. Laura Roughton, 2nd vice-president; Mrs. James Melton, secretary; Mrs. Cash Caroon, treasurer; and Mrs. Landis Brown, chaplain.

(Continued On Page Three)

Time And Tide

Believe it or not, but there was a front page photo in our edition for December 22, 1964, showing a total eclipse of the moon, a shot taken looking out across the Cape Fear River on the previous Friday night. There was little then to foretell man's this year's romp on the moon. Sue Jones had been selected Woman of the Year by the Southport Junior Woman's Club, and her picture also was on the front page. There was a picture, too, of the Savannah, famous nuclear powered merchant ship, which was to pass through the Southport Harbor that week, and this also was a harbinger of things to come in the nuclear field. And everywhere in that edition, from front page to want ads, you could sense the Christmas spirit!

It was December 23, 1959, and the local school committee at Shallotte changed the name of the athletic field to Rourke Field in honor of Dr. M.H. Rourke. The Bob White building in Shallotte had been moved from the highway right-of-way. George White, a senior at Leland, was to represent Brunswick county in the district section for the Morehead scholarship. Dale Williams led Leland to a 66 to 57 victory over Shallotte for their 13th straight win of the season. Bobby White of Shallotte was a dean's list student at Presbyterian Junior College.

Continued On Page Four

Year's Analysis

District Court -- 'Fairer, Efficient And Convenient'

By ED HARPER
The District Court in Brunswick County is still an infant, but it is a year old now and is learning to stand on its own. Judges, court officials and law enforcement personnel share this evaluation of the court system that observed its first birthday anniversary this month. It is a "crossword puzzle," said Jack Brown, county clerk of court, "and the pieces are just beginning to fit into place."

"It has been working the hell out of us," said one person closely-associated with the system, "but now it is starting to work FOR us." The district court was created for Brunswick County—along with Bladen and Columbus counties—last December. Elected to the judgeships were Ray Walton and Giles Clark, both lawyers. Lee Greer of Whiteville was selected solicitor for the court in the three-county area. Walton, from Southport, is chief judge for this district. Clark, an Elizabethtown

resident, is a young, energetic judge. These two men, along with solicitor Greer, enjoy the admiration of all law enforcement officers in the area, according to a sheriff in one of the counties. They "give dignity" to the court system, says the sheriff, and make his job a lot easier. Not only have the new judges added dignity to the courts of Brunswick County, they have added respect. Judge Walton said

the first time he stepped into court last December there were two lawyers and one defendant present. Now, when Judge Walton says court starts at 9:30 a.m., it does. One needn't observe many sessions of district court to be convinced Judges Walton and Clark have complete control of the courtroom. Probably, if one or the other came into court at 9:30 and there was no sheriff to officially open court, he would

open it himself. But the sheriff is usually there. Although the Constitution prohibits the requirement of legal training as a qualification for judicial office-holding, most critics of court action feel that legal training, which Walton and Clark have, is good for the system. The office of district judge is not comparable to that of

(Continued On Page Four)



Install Officers

Newly-elected officers of Southport Junior Woman's Club were installed Thursday night by Connie Young, past president. The new officers are, left to right, Donnie Dodge, publicity chairman; Jean Kenny, treasurer; Mrs. Young; Ellen Sherrod, president; Mary McHose, vice-president; and Judy Wiggs, secretary.



Club Woman Of The Year

May Barbee, left, was honored as Junior Club Woman of the Year at the Christmas banquet Thursday night. Presenting her the trophy designating this honor is Beth Sell.

Holiday Schedule To Be Observed

A Holiday schedule will be followed in Southport most of this week. City Hall will be closed from the close of the business day on Tuesday until Monday of next week. Both the Waccamaw Bank and Trust Co. will remain closed on Thursday and Friday. This holds true for all of their offices in Brunswick county.

Christmas holidays are being observed by the public school system, with classes not to resume until after the first of the year. All county offices will be closed December 24 through December 28, in observance of the Christmas holidays. The county offices will also be closed January 1 in observance of New Years.

Club Officers For Juniors Are Installed

The Junior Woman's Club of Southport held its annual Christmas party-meeting at the Lorraine Restaurant December 16. Members and their guests enjoyed a social hour from 7 to 8 o'clock and then a meal followed by the induction of new members into the club. They were Susan Smith, Susan Herring, and Patricia Foy. During the club year members collect commemorative stamps to be sent to the N.C. Correctional School for Boys in Raleigh. The member collecting the most is recognized as stamp champ. This year's champ was

(Continued On Page Three)

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, December 25	
8:45 AM	2:34 AM
9:03 PM	3:16 PM
Friday, December 26	
9:21 AM	3:16 AM
9:39 PM	3:52 PM
Saturday, December 27	
9:51 AM	3:52 AM
10:15 PM	4:28 PM
Sunday, December 28	
10:33 AM	4:34 AM
10:51 PM	5:04 PM
Monday, December 29	
11:09 AM	5:16 AM
11:33 PM	5:46 PM
Tuesday, December 30	
11:45 AM	5:58 AM
	6:28 PM
Wednesday, December 31	
0:21 AM	6:52 AM
12:33 PM	7:16 PM