

Time and tide

50 years ago

Fifty years ago this week it was announced that almost 11,000 surgical bandages were made by the women of Southport during the month of November. The local Red Cross chapter, consisting of 49 women, worked a total of 600 hours on bandages for wounded soldiers overseas. The women had been busy on the project for several months.

Chief W. H. Barnett, commanding officer at Oak Island Coast Guard Station for several years, had been promoted to the rank of lieutenant; servicemen were urged to take out life insurance policies on themselves for the protection of their immediate families; and the rationing program for the county was being followed closely for expected changes resulting in a shortage of certain items.

40 years ago

Forty years ago this week preliminary work had begun on the dredging at Sunny Point. Scheduled to do most of the work was the super dredge A. G. Williams. The huge vessel was outfitted with 28-inch pipes, developed 5,000 horsepower and was capable of moving 900,000 cubic yards of soil per month. Diking of the disposal areas was begun in preparation for this dredge, plus two others, to begin work in the next few months. A drill boat, used for blasting and drilling rock bottoms, also was to be on hand.

The fish left by the drainage of numerous ponds on the Sunny Point terminal had created problems. Arrangements were made for the Naval Reserve unit to move the threatened gamefish to safer waters.

30 years ago

Sports made the front page of the Pilot 30 years ago this week. Southport had defeated Belhaven 14-7 to win the state championship for eight-man football. There was a front-page photo showing all members of the 14-man squad, together with coach Pete Lee, assistant coach Ronnie Hood, and W. N. Williams, who was principal of Southport High School at the time.

Waccamaw Bank and Trust Company had purchased a lot on Howe Street on which to build a new office; a painting by Mrs. Gilliam Hornstein had been chosen for the traveling show in the North Carolina Artists Exhibition; and on almost every page of the Pilot there was more about the new state football champions.

20 years ago

A front-page photo in the Pilot for November 29, 1972, showed Kim McDougle of Southport being crowned Miss Merry Christmas during a pageant sponsored by the Shallotte Jaycees. Newly elected Brunswick County officials were to be sworn-in the following Monday.

A total of \$172,000 in quarterly sales tax funds had been received for distribution to Brunswick County and its municipalities; a site near Supply had been recommended as the location for a new Brunswick County hospital; Mrs. Rhone Sasser of Shallotte had been named March of Dimes chairman for the 1973 campaign in Brunswick County.

15 years ago

An eight-column headline on the front page of the Pilot for November 30, 1977, announced the first "Shop-at-Home" promotion sponsored by the Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce. Phil Barton, who had resigned as librarian at the Southport-Brunswick County Library, had received a painting from members of the board of trustees and we had a photo of Leroy Mintz, chairman, making the presentation.

An architectural firm had been hired by the Brunswick County Board of Education to proceed with building plans based upon the \$10-million bond referendum; and Trinity United Methodist Church in Southport was to host the district conference on the following Sunday.

10 years ago

A picture of the six contestants in the forthcoming Miss Brunswick County pageant appeared in the Pilot for December 1, 1982. That event was scheduled for the following Saturday evening at Shallotte Middle School. The "Shop-at-Home" promotion for the Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce was in full swing, with early Christmas shopping as the main theme.

A Sea Grant fisheries workshop was scheduled for an all-day session on Friday of that week at the library in Southport; our "Waterfront" column outlined the prize schedule for the 1983 U. S. Open King Mackerel Tournament, and the "Snake Trail" was being held in Bolivia that day.

5 years ago

In the Pilot for November 25, 1987, we had a photo of Denny Breese examining the rudder from the Spanish galleon *La Rosa de Bilbao* which he and his diving crew had retrieved from the Atlantic Ocean off Bald Head Island, where it had lain for 183 years. A fellow member of the Brunswick County Rescue Squad had paid tribute to Merritt Lear for the hard work and leadership he had given that organization before his death.

Quinton McCracken, South Brunswick High School football star, had been named a member of the North Carolina Shrine Bowl team, the first ever from Brunswick County; DOT had approved the installation of a stoplight at the corner of Ninth and Howe streets in Southport; and debate over the location of a proposed second bridge from the mainland to Oak Island still was going on.

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Two countries better than one

"Where are you from?"

A question which people are often asked and to which they give a simple enough answer. Yet, in my case, the question has a different connotation.

The reason is when it is directed towards me it is meant to ascertain, because of my looks and my accent, to which country do I belong.

This sets off a whole train of thought and produces a variety of answers, often somewhat convoluted, depending on my mood at a given moment.

I really sometimes wonder which country am I from. Am I from India, where I have my roots and where my parents live, but to visit I now require a visa? Or the United States, the country of which I have been a citizen for most of my life and in which I have been living continuously for the past few years and on and off throughout my life? Or am I from Germany, where I was born and spent my first year?

Almost immediately, I rule out Germany since I have no memories, for obvious reasons, of the time I spent there. I haven't even been back to the country since then. Thus, Germany to me seems almost as distant as, say, Britain or Egypt.

This leaves India and the United States in the reckoning. Here, the dilemma becomes acute. Does one feel closer to the country from which one derives one's roots and values? Or towards one's adoptive homeland which is currently providing one sustenance?

Now, this may be the easy way out, but I like to think of myself as a combination of both, trying to derive inspiration from the best in both countries and societies.

Being in a predicament about one's identity

Amitabh Pal



does have its advantages. It gives me the opportunity to be proud of two countries rather than just one. One is the world's most powerful democracy and the other is the world's largest. The United States, the first democracy in the modern world, has long been an inspiration to other countries. India, the only consistently democratic nation in the Third World, serves as an example to other developing countries that one can value basic human freedoms even if one has vast economic problems and an ethnically complex patchwork of people.

Both are secular nations with a strict separation between church (in India's case, temple) and state. Again, belonging to the dominant religion in one country and to a minuscule religious minority in the other has helped give me a

unique appreciation about the necessity for such a separation.

Having a dual identity also gives me the opportunity to look at things, in times of international crisis for example, from a global perspective instead of adopting a my-country-right-or-wrong attitude. This has meant that, rightly or wrongly, I have been opposed to most foreign incursions by both countries in recent years.

It also helps me take a more balanced approach towards the problems facing both countries. Whenever people complain about the problems facing the U. S., I think to myself that they should travel to India to witness real problems. Conversely, when I see the numerous problems plaguing India, I rationalize that it has only been 45 years since India emerged from 200 years of systematic loot and mismanagement by the British and that perhaps when it has been independent as long as America has been (in another 171 years!), it will be as rich and prosperous as the U. S.

However, my situation does give me a somewhat confused identity.

It also gives me cause to worry about two countries rather than just one. And believe me, I do worry. What has added to my concerns is the fact that ever since I have become politically aware I have profoundly disagreed with most domestic and foreign policies of the administrations of both countries. So I have had to sit back and watch while, in my opinion, the governments of both countries have made a total mess of things.

Still, I would rather be in my condition, with all its drawbacks and its confusions, than any other. It does make for a fuller and more interesting life.

Merchants take shop-at-home off the shelf; prizes are listed

Southport-Oak Island merchants are gearing up for the annual "Shop at Home" campaign that gets underway this weekend.

The campaign is designed to reward residents who patronize local businesses all year long and entice those who may do their holiday shopping elsewhere. Each week for four weeks in December gifts donated by local merchants will be awarded in random drawings. Hundreds of dollars worth of prizes including merchandise, services and gift certificates will be awarded.

To participate, shoppers must complete entry forms to be eligible for that week's prizes. Entries are discarded after each drawing. Winners are randomly selected from all entries received at weekly drawings. The first is scheduled for Tuesday, December 1. Subsequent drawings will be held December 7, 14 and 21 at the Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce.

Entries can be dropped off at boxes located at most participating businesses.

The winners will be listed in *The State Port Pilot* and will be officially notified in writing by the chamber of commerce, which sponsors "Shop

at Home" in conjunction with the Christmas-By-the-Sea Festival.

Merchants and the prizes they have donated to "Shop at Home" include the following:

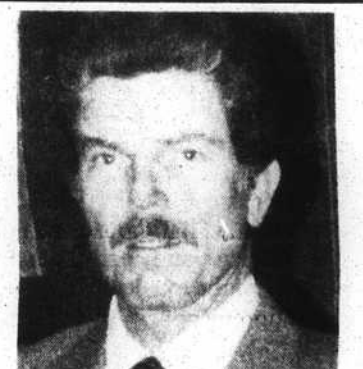
Lynne's Hallmark and Treasure Room, one stuffed animal each week; Century 21 Gordon Realty collector's Christmas ornaments (a total of five will be awarded); Carolina Cape Divers, Nautical Gift Shop, two \$10 gift certificates; Edna's Kitchen, one \$5 gift certificate each week; Nice 'n' Pretty, one \$10 gift certificate each week; Good Vibrations, a \$20 gift certificate, a Quabala numerology chart and a "Magic in Your Name" reading; *The State Port Pilot*, one one-year subscription each week; Lynn's of Southport, \$10 gift certificate; McDonald's, one \$5 gift certificate each week; Swayne's Garden, Gifts and Crafts, a set of four acrylic glasses; Seaway Printing, \$25 worth of copy service; C&S Jewelers, \$50 gift certificate; Scruggs and Morrison Realty, \$25 gift certificate to any chamber member; Margaret Rudd and Associates, Inc., \$30 gift certificate to Shoe Port; Bald Head Island Management, Inc., two

round-trip ferry tickets and lunch for two at the River Pilot Cafe; Jones' Seafood House, a dinner-for-two gift certificate; Carolina Power and Light Co., one gift certificate for a copy of *Joshua's Dream* by Susan Carson each week; Brad Williams, DDS, \$25 gift certificate to any chamber member; Southport Marina, Inc., two T-shirts; Hughes Gas and Grocery, \$10 gift certificate; Christmas Pelican/Pelican Station, Earth Tones limited edition Old Baldy Lighthouse; Elizabeth's Florist and Gift Shoppe, one \$5 gift certificate each week; Oak Island Jewelers, \$5 gift certificates to Lucky Fisherman Restaurant, Hughes Gas and Grocery, Christmas Pelican and Elizabeth's Florist and Gift Shoppe; Initial Stitch Embroidery Co., \$25 gift certificate; Flashback One Hour Photo, ten percent off any camera.

55 and Over Club

The next meeting of the 55 and Over Club will be held Wednesday, December 2, at 10 a.m. in the Stevens Park clubhouse.

There will be a presentation by Linda Crothers of the Brunswick County Literacy Council.



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Luminaries light the way

Clear plastic two-liter soft drink containers are being collected to light up the Southport waterfront for the Bicentennial Christmas celebration.

The bottles will be made into luminaries to "provide a waterfront glowing with candlelight during the upcoming '200th Christmas' celebration weekends," the second and third weekends in December.

The visitors center at 107 E. Nash Street will be the drop-off point for the containers. For pick-up or more information, persons should call the visitors center at 457-7927.

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