

## Time and tide

### 50 years ago

It was June 23, 1943, and the featured movie at the Southport USO for the following Thursday was "The Loves of Edgar Allen Poe". On a recent fishing trip Jim Thompson had gone fishing until he broke his pole, but then caught two ten-pound drum with the crippled equipment. Jake Wade, presiding genius of *The Charlotte Observer* sports department, was to be in Southport over the Fourth of July holiday; and in the baby show just past, some of the entrants were Julia Ashburn, Charles Ray Wells, David O'Neal and Louis Cox.

The forerunner of the aerosol bug bomb had just been perfected for use by the armed services; school children had been urged to sell War Bonds during their summer vacation; and a meeting on dim-out regulations was to be held the following week.

### 40 years ago

It was June 17, 1953, and the first sailfish catch of the season had been made. Capt. Basil Watts' *Idle On II* had in fact brought in two of the prized gamefish the preceding week. All of the converted minesweepers had been reporting catches of 500,000 to 600,000 menhaden daily. A ferris wheel and merry-go-round had been added to the recreational attractions at Long Beach; a freak storm on Saturday had changed a lot of things; and the Bible school at Trinity United Methodist Church was just ending a successful session.

Low score for the past week at the Long Beach miniature golf course was 32, the record being held jointly by Dick Brendle and Jack Swan. Test pilings for the docks at Sunny Point had been driven; our editorial writer had spoken a few words on the Korean police action which was currently in progress; and our "Not Exactly News" editor had made light comment concerning the recent and expected visits of the stork to local homes.

### 30 years ago

Carolyn Johnson, Miss Brunswick County for 1963, made it big in the *Pilot* for June 19 that year. We had her in two photographs on the front page. A blue marlin had been caught by a party fishing out of Southport to add variety to fishing news that week.

The summer program at the N. C. Baptist Assembly was to begin the following week; the feature story that week was about blueberries; and there was a bride's picture on the society page of Mrs. Lee Aldridge.

### 20 years ago

A banner headline in the *Pilot* on June 13, 1973, announced that a new primary school would be constructed in Southport. The county hospital bond referendum was scheduled for the following Saturday. Not only did this newspaper endorse the issue, we ran a sample ballot on the front page that week.

A whale had been sighted by fishermen on the Long Beach Pier; Presbyterians at Oak Island had scheduled summer services at the Moose Lodge building; and a photo on an inside page showed workmen sandblasting the mast on Frying Pan Lightship.

### 15 years ago

The *Pilot* for June 14, 1978, had a lot about the coming N. C. Fourth of July Festival, as well it might, with that event being only two weeks in the future. The General Assembly had passed a local-option bill for liquor by the drink, with seven municipalities in Brunswick County qualified to vote on the question.

That was the week the Robert Howard family moved to Whiteville, and we made editorial reference to this loss of leadership; a DOT study had recommended improvement to highways 133 and 211 in Brunswick County; and the Rev. Earl Richardson had been succeeded as pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church in Southport by the Rev. Claude Chaffin.

### 10 years ago

A flotilla of sailboats had converged upon the old Southport yacht basin and our photographer had taken a panoramic shot which was blown up and used across the entire width of the front page of the *Pilot* for June 15, 1983. Eight candidates were seeking the vacant office of sheriff of Brunswick County.

On the sports page we had a feature about Bill Tucker, a local man, who had won a national sailboat championship in his class in the Recal-Decca Bermuda One-Two Race; also on the sports page we had a photo of JoJo White, a product of Southport baseball, serving as umpire and calling a close play in a youth league game; and the summer program was underway at the N. C. Baptist Assembly at Fort Caswell.

### 5 years ago

Memorial Day weekend had brought record crowds to Brunswick County beaches and we had pictorial coverage of numerous special events in the *Pilot* for June 1, 1988. For the upcoming weekend Lori Wrenn Boggs was scheduled to serve as emcee for the Fourth of July Festival Queen's competition at Hatch Auditorium on Saturday evening.

South Brunswick had made it to the eastern North Carolina finals in the 2A baseball playoffs and Wynn Beck had been named North Carolina high school baseball player of the year; former students at Brunswick County High School in Southport had held a reunion and we had a photo of their composite band; and the sports fishing season had gotten off to a spectacular start, as witness the pictures and write-ups we had in the *Pilot* that week.

# Here's an 'aye' for the eyes

Our body sends us a message, but do we always listen?

I'm reading a magazine while waiting to see the eye doctor. I'm the only one in the room, secretly testing my eyes, closing one and trying to read posters on the wall, hoping no one is watching this sort of craziness. I change eyes. The words and pictures are clear. No problem.

But it's still early, a mid-morning appointment. Words and road signs are never fuzzy this time of day. How do I explain that to the optometrist?

I think I need glasses, Doc, but only at night. Only after I've been working all day. Think you can arrange for some time-release lenses that kick in just when you need that bit of extra protection?

By afternoon my eyes are stinging, tired and stressed. Could it be my imagination? I want to close them and sleep until they are recharged.

Some say it's time to get glasses, not unusual for a guy in his 30s to wake up one day and find the eyes are not functioning as swift as usual. They no longer seem comfortable where they are now, where they have always been, just below the forehead and straddling my nose. Something has changed. They suddenly feel like strangers.

People gave advice. I listened. Better get those glasses now before you cause more damage. Dark frames maybe. You should get contact lenses. They're good for sports. As much as you use your eyes, I'm not surprised they're giving you problems.

Okay, let me respond to that one.

Unless a person is visually handicapped, we all use our eyes. Do news reporters use their

Terry Pope



eyes more than a bank teller? More than a salesman? What's a news reporter to do? Sorry, Boss. I can't work today. Can't take notes. I've got to rest my eyes. Doc says I should be in bed.

I've got good news for the concerned. My eyes are better than normal, better than a majority of people. When I left the waiting room I knew I'd pass that test. I have 20/15 vision, says the doctor, slightly better than 20/20. He was a bit amazed standing there, asking me to read line after line. I sensed that most people who have their eyes examined can't tackle the 20/15 chart. They are there because they need glasses. I was a rarity, captured on his turf.

The letters kept getting smaller and smaller, and I could see them. But there is always a catch. His tests indicate I'd better change something that I am doing wrong or else permanent

damage will result in the inability to focus on far-away objects. Once that damage is done, it is there forever.

Then what in the world is wrong? It's the computer screen. No ifs, ands or buts. It is the video monitor in the newsroom, the one I use to write stories.

Sitting too close to it will permanently damage the eyes. A person should be at least 18 inches from the screen. Also, fluorescent lighting causes a glare on the screen that plays havoc with the eyes. You don't notice it at first. Then one day it strikes. Eye strain.

What's next on his complaint list? Paper cuts? Lower back pain from sitting on the job all day? Some are saying it, others are thinking it. They hammer nails through their hands, get run over by a bulldozer and fall three stories only to land on their heads, all in a day's work.

Now that's an occupational hazard. And he wants to talk about eye strain.

Still, you pull your hair, you rub your eyes, buy Visine and blame it on allergies, pollen and the lack of sleep.

It is a sight for sore eyes. A person who can't quite figure out why the road signs are fuzzy, why the eyes are stressed and why the letters seem to blur together go running to the eye doctor. Instead of glasses, they are given some simple wisdom.

All it takes is a glare screen from an office supply store and moving farther away from the video monitor. Children who sit too close to the television set, within eight feet, are also victims. Parents beware.

When the body is sending you a message, it pays to listen.

## Opinion

Continued from page 4

fisheries have found to post their bright fluorescent green "Don't Eat the Shellfish" signs?

Can you imagine Joe and Jean Tourist leaving one of our fine waterfront restaurants after a great meal of "local" seafood, deciding to take a stroll along the scenic waterfront and not 50 feet from that same restaurant there's the sign! Just what I would want to see.

Makes you wonder, but I don't recall seeing any of these signs along Wilmington's waterfront close to their eating establishments. They may be there, but not as conspicuous. Then again maybe all of Wilmington's wastewater runs all the way to Southport before it contaminates the shellfish.

Oh, well. Nothing to worry about. The beaches' new treatment facility won't add much more and, besides, who likes those old nasty oysters and clams anyway? Me!

Sincerely  
Elliott Spencer  
Southport

regular basis.

Unfortunately, some unknown people also visit the island and destroy at every turn. Junior has had his home burned in the 80s, been broken into an untold number of times, trashed and everything that can possibly fit on a boat (since that is the only access) stolen and now burned again. Mr. Goins reported to you that he "walked through" the house when he was last there. Obviously, it has been broken into again as the doors are always padlocked.

There are a number of people who love Bluff Island. We take our families and friends over and camp for the weekend. To us it is what Bald Head was as we remember it from childhood.

As you can gather, Bluff Island is not abandoned; it is well loved and cared for. Our hope is that this distinctive landmark can be rebuilt, and whenever Junior is ready we will be there to help.

Thank you,  
D. P. Spencer, Jerry Fulkerson  
and families


## Junior's place

To the Editor:

Your article under "Waterfront" in the May 26 edition regarding the home of Junior Stephens on Bluff Island being burned to the ground was in error. His home was burned to the ground, but most of the rest of your article was inaccurate.

Junior, his family and friends have invested close to 20 years of time and plenty of hard work to create a home on a small island that most of us can only dream about. A home where they lived for years -- many more than the six reported -- and was a welcome spot to anyone in need or to just stay the weekend.

Junior does not live in Tennessee. He and his family are still in the area and are on the island as often as possible. His friends in Southport visit and check on the island on a



## Views On Dental Health

**Larry Hemby, D.D.S.**

### CROWN, CAP OR JACKET?

Let's clear it up once and for all. What is the difference between a crown, cap and jacket? There is no difference. They're just different names for the type of restoration that completely surrounds a tooth.

Several types of material can be used for this purpose. Perhaps the most appealing aesthetically is the porcelain jacket, which is 100% porcelain and can look absolutely perfect. The problem is that it lasts only until the first time the porcelain hits the wrong thing in the wrong way.

The strongest type of crown is all gold, but has obvious cosmetic drawbacks when used in the front of the mouth. The best combination for strength and beauty is porcelain fused to a gold or one of the newer metal backings. It is usually indistinguish-

able from the all-porcelain jacket. Another two alternatives are the all-plastic crown and the gold crown with a plastic front. While these can be aesthetically acceptable, the plastic can wear out and discolor with time.

Prepared as a public service to promote better dental health. From the office of:  
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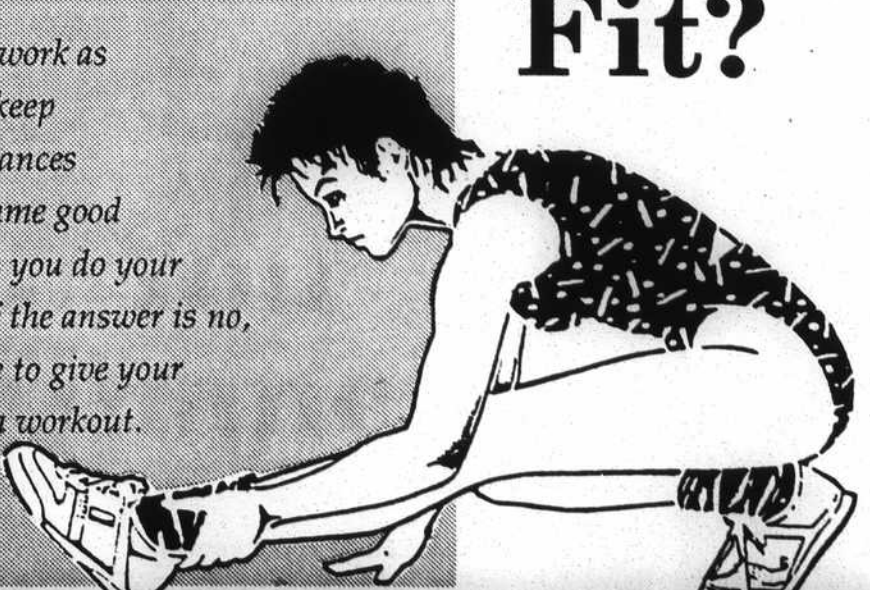
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# Are You Financially Fit?

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