

Time and Tide

55 years ago

In our edition for April 8, 1942, was the renovation and modernization of Shallotte Trading Company (Kirby's). On the front page was a photo of Orton, which showed bands of blooming azaleas, and an accompanying headline said, "Orton Gardens Approaching Heights of Beauty." There was a complaint that several books were missing from the Southport Public Library; a freshwater fisherman had found a huge osprey caught in a splintered cypress stump, victim of nature's own cruel trap; and the Rev. Cecil Allgood, then rector of St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Southport, was shown wearing a gas mask, a rumored piece of survival equipment for civilians in this, the war year of 1942.

45 years ago

The front-page picture in the *Pilot* for April 9, 1952, showed the Shallotte High School band marching in the Azalea Festival parade. The fever was contagious, for Southport school patrons had held a meeting to discuss organizing a band here. There was a front-page story of the first tobacco of the season being planted in Brunswick County; Easter was upcoming, and the editor had some nice things to say about the planned observance here. On the sports scene, there was a story that illustrated the value of not giving up. Shallotte was behind by a score of 13-1 in a baseball game with Leland when the Tigers coach took out star pitcher Ray Scott to give some of the other boys game experience. The Pirates went to work and pulled out a 14-13 victory with a rally that even Scott was unable to put down when he was called back to the mound.

35 years ago

April 4, 1962, and Southport was all spruced up for a house and garden tour on the following Sunday, sponsored by Woodbine Garden Club. Mrs. Ira D. Butler had been named "woman of the year" at Leland, an honor accorded by the Home Demonstration Club. Services on Sunday afternoon at St. Philip's Episcopal Church at Brunswick Town had been planned in connection with the Azalea Festival; Gen. James Glone was heading the Cancer Crusade in Brunswick County; and there was a headline, "Loose Leaf Sale Predicted for Border Belt."

25 years ago

On the front page of the *Pilot* for April 5, 1972, there was a pretty picture of Orton Mansion. In the foreground, and just as pretty, was Cheryl Johnson of Long Beach, the reigning N. C. Rhododendron Queen. Politics still was a dominant topic, both in the news and on the editorial page, and in a front-page story voters were warned they had only two more days to register.

The "Waterfront" column that week was about seagulls and the successful efforts of J. D. Sharpe of Southport to catch and remove from their necks plastic beer-can holders which were an impediment to their flight and feeding; and organizational session had been held for the Southport Art Association; and a U. S. Farm Census report showed that the number of farms in Brunswick County was declining.

20 years ago

The North Carolina Shell Club was holding its spring meeting at Yaupon Beach and that was a story in the *Pilot* for March 30, 1977. That week marked the first anniversary of the Southport Rescue Squad, and Leila Pigott had written a report which we carried in our news column, plus a picture on the front page. The publisher had just returned from Atlanta, where he had watched North Carolina lose to Marquette in the finals of the NCAA basketball tournament; a total of 140 Southport youngsters had shown up at Taylor Field for tryouts for youth league baseball play; and we had a photo of students from Southeastern Community College erecting equipment for a playground at the youth league park near Southport Elementary School.

15 years ago

On the front page of the *Pilot* for March 31, 1982, we carried an illustrated story of a fox-squirrel tagging project being carried on in Brunswick County by Dr. Peter Weigl of Wake Forest University. The photo showed him holding a handful of baby squirrels. Glen Peterson had passed the state bar examination and had been sworn-in before judge Edward Preston. We had an interesting photo of the taxidermy class at Brunswick Tech in which each member was shown holding a deer head he had mounted; a farewell dinner had been held at Fox Squirrel Country Club for golf professional Bruce Oliver, who was leaving to accept a similar position at Panama City, FL; and there were several announcements of special services being planned for Easter.

10 years ago

The inland cruise ship *Spirit* had timed its passage through Southport to host the annual Patriots Ball for a dinner-dance cruise on the Cape Fear River. That was a story in the *Pilot* for April 1, 1987. Telephones were being made available for private residences on Bald Head Island, with a \$10-per-month surcharge above Southport rates. Baseball coach Paul Faulk excused Quinton McCracken from practice so he could compete in a track meet with Whiteville, and Quinton won the 100-meter race with a South Brunswick school-record time of 10.81 seconds. The Brunswick County Extension Homemakers had announced plans for their 1987 quilt show, and we had a nostalgic editorial about the closing of Harrelson's Grocery in Southport.

5 years ago

It was March 18, 1992, and Department of Transportation workers and equipment had been in Southport over the past week planting oak trees, and we had a photo of that activity on page one. Long Beach was coming up on a referendum to decide whether a public sewer system should be constructed, and that vote was Tuesday; Brunswick Community College spring enrollment was up some 22 percent from the previous year; and "The Cottages at South Beach" cluster housing development had been approved by the Bald Head Island Village Council. The North Carolina Symphony had provided a fine performance at full Hatch Auditorium the preceding week; Boiling Spring Lakes commissioners and mayor were holding constituent office hours to hear citizen concerns; and a score of area residents had signed-up for a trip to Southport, England, which was also in a year-long bicentennial celebration.

'Southport' is not for sale

Aldermen seemed to warm to the idea if CP&L, movie money is good enough

When it comes right down to it, I'm probably solidly in the minority here, but I wish the movie moguls of Hollywood and Willywood had never found Southport.

Really, I defy any of you star-struck set gawkers out there to tell me your life has been enriched in any way by any movie filmed in full or in part in the Southport-Oak Island area.

More likely you've been inconvenienced by stalled traffic through the city's downtown or insulted by one of those snippy West Coast *artiste* types who earn their living carrying water for the movie stars.

Certainly the City of Southport has not been enriched by its flirtation with the movie industry. Outside of a substandard house the movie folks renovated for "Crimes of the Heart" last decade, the standard payment by movie makers to the city has been an occasional couple-hundred-dollar donation to repair the city gym floor or rebuild the community building.

Not one additional hot dog has been sold in the City of Southport because the movies have come here to shoot. Movie crews come self-contained. Catering wagons follow them from Willywood.

And, Southport has not had a single extra visitor to venture here in hopes of seeing the river view he saw in "Spies." The movie folks who have from time to time invaded Southport have not spawned one extra room night at the Sea Captain Motor Lodge, the sale of even one stuffed flounder dinner at the Ship's Chandler or the sale of even one postcard from Waterfront Gifts. Not one mocha-choca-latte has ever been sold at the Java Jetty because "Weekend at Bernie's" was filmed here. My rant against the invasion of movies is

Richard Nubel



prompted by a recent movie industry request of the city. Screen Gems, a company that wants to film the epic "I Know What You Did Last Summer" in Southport, wants to film city police cars with the city's logo, the water tower with "Southport" on it and generally create the impression the story (not necessarily another "Ben Hur") takes place in a coastal town called Southport.

Okay to that point, but the movie company wants city fathers to sign on to an agreement that in the movie Southport may be "portrayed fictionally or non-fictionally."

As objectionable as that is -- movie industry people portraying Southport in any light -- aldermen seemed as if they would warm to the idea if the money were right.

"When they use your name the price goes up," alderman Paul Fisher said last week, missing the salient point completely, but making his own that Southport's image is for sale at the right price.

At least alderman Nelson Adams appeared more concerned about the city's actual portrayal.

"We have to be careful what we affix our name to," Adams said, asking if anybody had bothered to check what the rating of this box office giant would be.

But, Adams -- who must sizzle at the implications of the movie title "Amos and Andrew" shot here -- couldn't hold on to his halo very long.

Next discussion before aldermen was whether or not to take Carolina Power and Light Co. up on its offer to give the city \$30,000 to erect a "Welcome to Southport" sign near the city garage. CP&L's proviso: The sign would actually say "Welcome to Southport, Home of the Carolina Power and Light Co. Nuclear Plant."

Adams said anyone willing to put up 30 grand can print anything he wants on a city welcome sign.

I think the proposition that Southport needs a \$30,000 welcome sign is iffy at best. But if it does, I know darned well Southport is now and always has been "Home of the North Carolina Fourth of July Festival," not home of the Brunswick Steam Plant. It is not home of ADM and it is not home of Cogentrix. It is not home of Robert Ruark.

I might buy into a sign that said Southport is "Former Home of Oliver's Grill," but I don't think Ed and Toni are going to offer up 30 Gs any time soon.

Southport shouldn't be for sale to Screen Gems and it shouldn't be for sale to CP&L. That any city official would consider selling Southport's name and image for any price is patently offensive.

'Other' teens require help

As a whole, the South inadequately invests in improving the lives of children

Immediately after graduating from college, I went to work for an emergency shelter for homeless or emotionally disturbed teens in Lewiston, ME.

At the time, I told myself the job was a good way to give something back to the community after living the self-indulgent lifestyle of a college student. But the truth was I really didn't know what I wanted to do next, and I thought the experience would be interesting.

As it turned out, the job was far more than merely interesting.

All of the social ills I'd read about in college textbooks suddenly were made palpably real. Reading about the sexual abuse of children is one thing, but working on a daily basis with girls and boys who had been raped hundreds of times is another thing entirely. Just before I quit the job, a 17-year-old boy put on his best suit and tie and quietly hanged himself in his room.

I left Maine with a depressingly clear sense of the tragedy and misery that poisons too many young lives.

A recent report entitled "The Southern Deficit: Facing the Facts About the South's Children" concludes that young people in the South face even greater problems than children in other areas of the country.

Southern children are more likely to live in poverty and one-parent homes, they are nearly 20 percent more likely to die before their 19th birthday, and they are about ten percent more likely to die violently.

The report also notes that the rate of teen "idleness" -- neither going to school nor working -- is 20 percent higher than the rest of the country.

While preparing the report, a group of south-

Holly Edwards



ern economists, demographers, attorneys, educators, social scientists and child advocates spent several days discussing why southern young people fare so poorly.

One of the reasons caught my attention. As a whole, the group concluded, southerners strongly believe in the independence of individuals and the importance of providing for oneself. While these values create a sense of self-reliance, they also lead many southerners to believe that "other people's children" are solely the responsibility of their parents. As a result, the report concluded, the South as a whole inadequately invests in improving the lives of children, particularly poor children.

"The moralization of politics and the dismantling of government goes together in the South as easy as grits and eggs," observed

Washington Post Southeast bureau chief William Booth.

To bring the situation closer to home, Brunswick County commissioners are now considering whether to fund a teen emergency shelter to be located on Doshier Cutoff Road.

Because of family violence, substance abuse, parent-teen conflicts and runaway situations, teens in the county often seek shelter and help outside the home, said Rebekah Page, director of the Brunswick County office of the Southeastern Center for Mental Health.

However, there is no place in the county for teens in crisis to go.

"The creation and implementation of an emergency teen shelter for Brunswick County is long overdue," Page declared.

Shelter director Frederick Simmel has received a stack of letters in support of the project from local clergy and others who work closely with families.

Brunswick County social services director Jamie Orrock called the lack of an emergency shelter for teens a "tremendous void" in the community.

"Our children need somewhere to turn or a safe refuge when family and society problems become more than they can handle at home," Orrock said.

Considering the rapid population growth in Brunswick County and the mounting problems faced by its young people, the need for the emergency shelter is undeniable.

The only question remaining is whether Brunswick County commissioners will accept responsibility for helping "other people's children" or turn their backs on the county's most vulnerable citizens -- its young people.

Dr. Marti Fowler



is pleased to announce the opening of her
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Dr. Fowler is a native of Kinston, NC and graduated from the UNC School of Dentistry in 1978. She has 19 years of experience in the dental profession and is skilled in all phases of restorative and cosmetic dentistry. She and her husband, Ron, and two children, Zach and Crissy, have been living in Long Beach for two years now.

The office will open in April 1997
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