

ROLL OUT THE SAVINGS

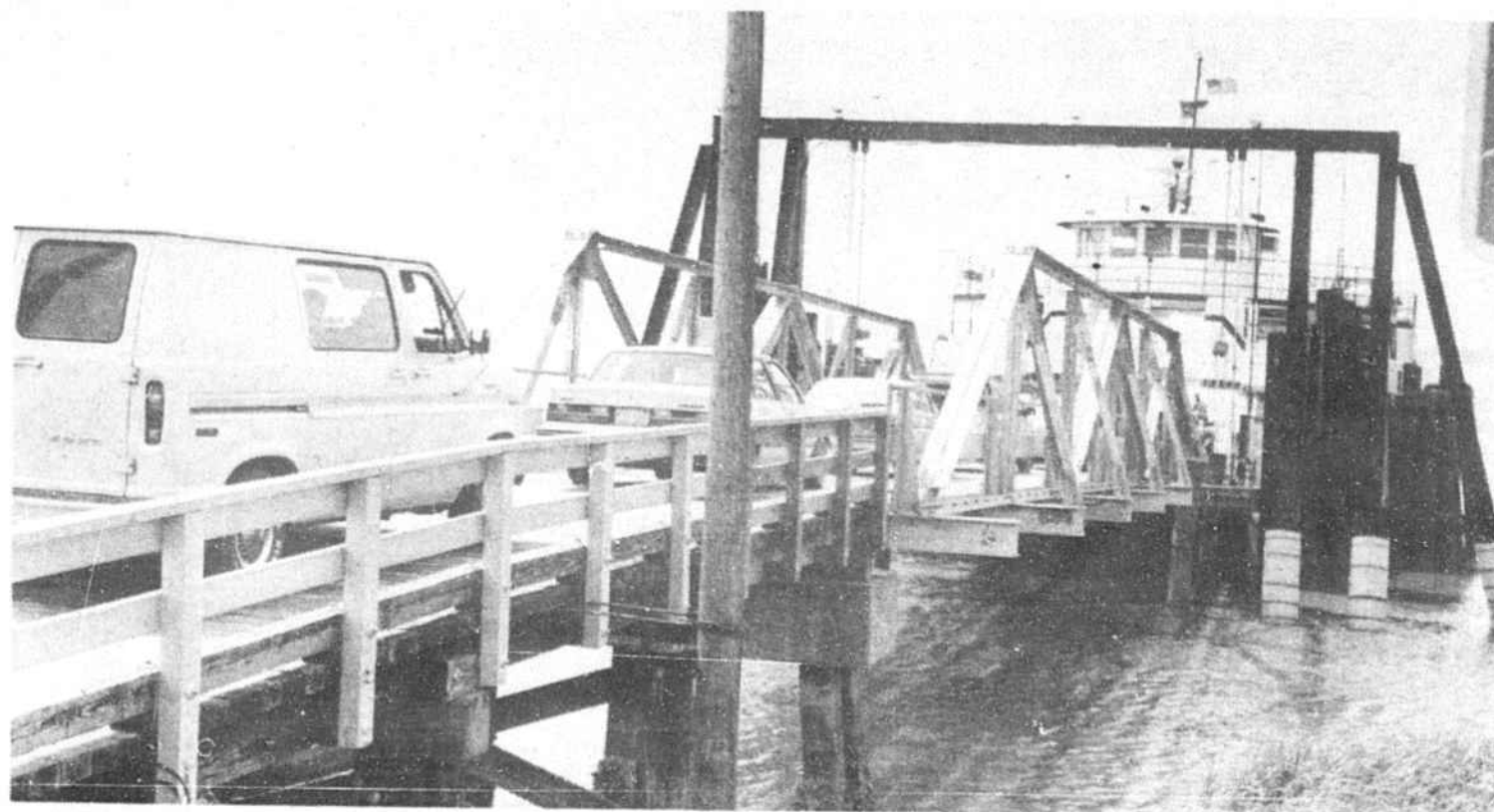
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STAFF PHOTO BY MARJORIE MEGIVERN

THE GATEWAY to tranquility is this bumpy entrance to the Fort Fisher-Southport ferry, where cars line up long ahead of time for each schedule departure.

Here's One Staple Pleasure That Has Escaped Inflation

BY MARJORIE MEGIVERN

Prices of everything we need and want continue to skyrocket, from cars to clothing to movie tickets to medicine. There's just no way to get ahead of inflation; like the Cookie Monster, it gobbles our disposable income with an insatiable appetite.

It's good news, then, that one of this county's most enduring pleasures costs the same as last year and the year before. It's a tiny price, too, for the delights provided.

The North Carolina ferry operating between Fort Fisher and Southport will give you a 30-minute, one-way river ride for just 50 cents per pedestrian, \$3 per car, or \$1 per bicycle and rider.

And what do you get for this small change? Well, of course, the pragmatic answer is that you get from one place to another in fairly short order. If you live on one end of this route and work on the other, it's certainly a reliable way to get back and forth. The ferry schedule is completely dependable, rain or shine. In inclement weather, you can sit in the car or seek shelter-with-a-view upstairs in an enclosed lounge area.

More importantly than transportation, you can enjoy an outing on the river without the expense or hassle of owning your own boat. The Cape Fear River, your route to

WINTER SCHEDULE (Until May 1)

Leaves Southport	Leaves Ft. Fisher
8:00 AM	8:50 AM
9:40 AM	10:30 AM
11:20 AM	12:10 AM
1:00 PM	1:50 PM
2:40 PM	3:30 PM
4:20 PM	5:10 PM
6:00 PM	6:50 PM

SUMMER SCHEDULE (Begins May 1)

Leaves Southport	Leaves Ft. Fisher
8:00 AM	8:50 AM
8:50 AM	9:40 AM
9:40 AM	10:30 AM
10:30 AM	11:20 AM
11:20 AM	12:10 PM
12:10 PM	1:00 PM
1:00 PM	1:50 PM
1:50 PM	2:40 PM
2:40 PM	3:30 PM
3:30 PM	4:20 PM
4:20 PM	5:10 PM
5:10 PM	6:00 PM
6:00 PM	6:50 PM

natural world.

The river means boats and islands and breezes and clouds; it also means a flock of the most enterprising birds in existence. Audacious terns follow in the wake of the ferry boat and demand bread or cracker crumbs from passengers. This is high entertainment during the trip; no night club act or Broadway show can compete with the fun of feeding those persistent birds.

If you insist on finding educational value in this 30-minute trip, focus on historical relics visible in the river: Price's Creek Lighthouse built in 1849, the profile of Ft. Caswell, one of the strongest of southern forts during the Civil War, and the remains of the Cape Fear Quarantine Station built in the 1890s by the Marine Hospital Service.

Evidence of modern industry is visible along the way, too: Pfizer Chemical smokestacks and the loading docks of Sunny Point Marine Ocean Terminal, as well as intake canal screens leading to the Carolina Power and Light nuclear plant.

Where can you see and do and feel so much in 30 minutes for \$3 per car? This opportunity is scheduled for you at frequent intervals, too. Check the schedules; the current winter schedule is from Nov. 1 till May 1.

L. Bookworm



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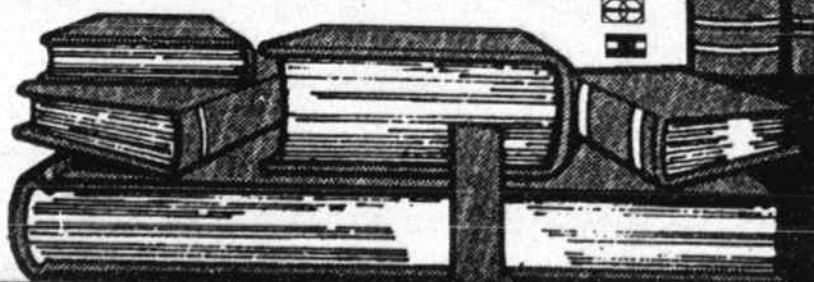


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