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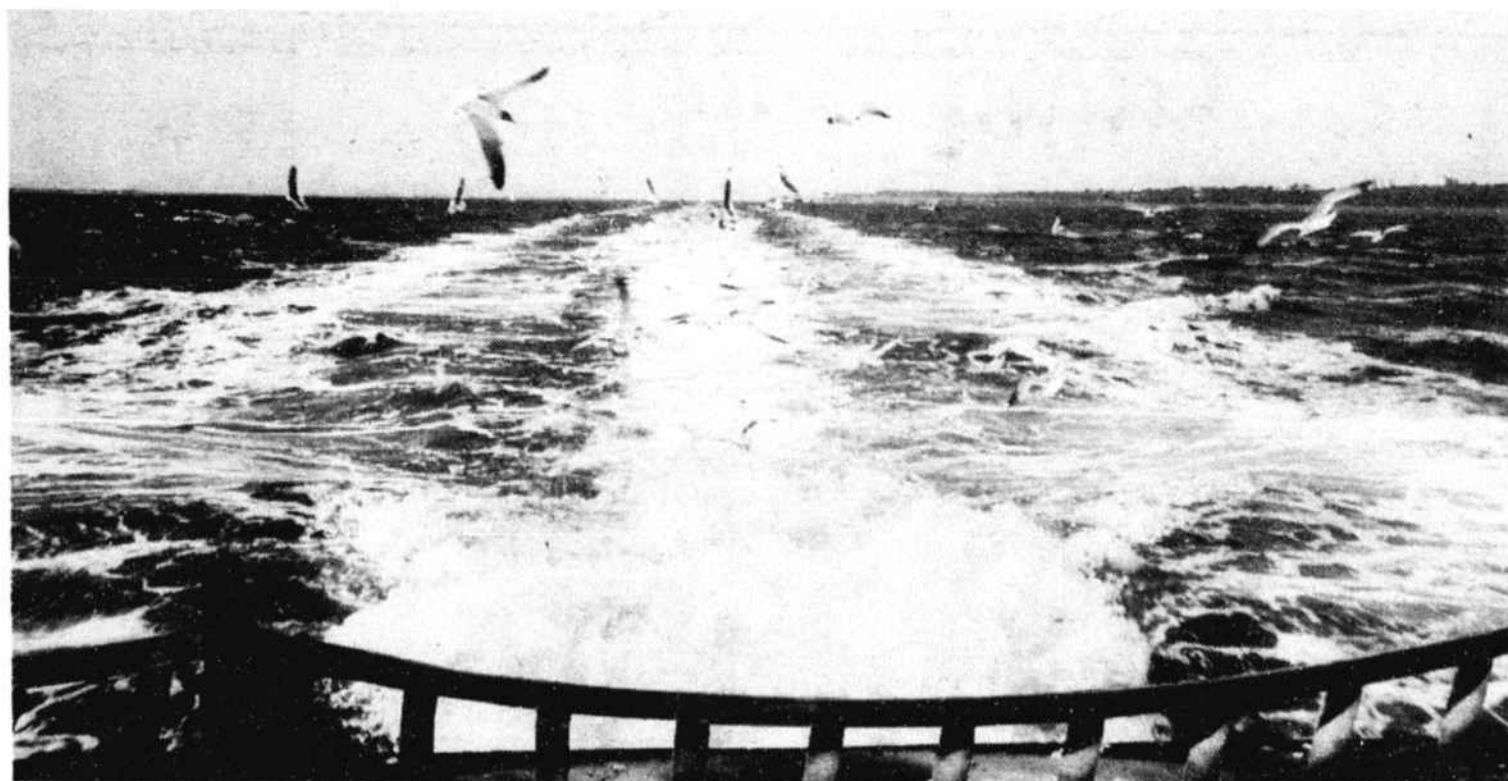
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HUNGRY GULLS hover above the churning waters off the stern of the ferry, looking for food below. If they're lucky, passengers will add variety to nature's menu with popcorn and bread.

TAKE A SCENIC RIDE!

There's Nothing Like A Ferry

Whether you're tired of being behind the wheel, relish time spent on the water, or simply want to feed the gulls, there's nothing that satisfies like a ride on the Southport-Fort Fisher Ferry across the Cape Fear River.

While riding a ferry may not be the fastest way to get from shore to shore, sometimes it's the trip itself that counts.

Typically, passengers who board the comfortable Sandy Graham or a sister ferry at Price's Creek near Southport are in no hurry to get to the other side. They're out for a bit of fun, not commuting to work.

Passengers can choose the enclosed passenger lounge or the deck, for a scenic view of the river during the 30-minute ride that ends so quickly you may want to make the return trip by ferry as well and double your fun.

Knowledgeable ferryboat riders bring along a treat for the hordes of seagulls that gather over the churning waters at the stern of the vessel. It's a treat for children and adults to watch the birds compete for bits of bread or popcorn.

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

The pleasurable trip carries passengers along a lovely stretch of riverfront, with views of Orton Plantation, Brunswick Town State Historic Site, ADM Chemicals and the Price's Creek Light, a former navigational range light.

Of course, there are also boats of all sizes and glimpses of the small dredge spoil islands that serve as rookeries for colonial seabirds.

During the main summer season, college students hired as summer guides are on hand to describe points of interest to passengers, and to answer questions about local at-

tractions and amenities.

While the ferry is a treat in itself, make your outing a day trip and enjoy the attractions available at either end of the route or both.

Southport, a picturesque waterfront community celebrating its 200th anniversary this year with numerous special events, offers galleries, parks and the CP&L Visitors Center. Brunswick Town State Historic Site and Orton Plantation are a quick trip from Southport on N.C. 133.

Across the river, prime destinations are the state historic site at Fort Fisher, which played a key role guarding the Cape Fear River in the Civil War, and the North Carolina Aquarium, one of three located along the state's coast.

The Southport-Fort Fisher Ferry accommodates cars, bicyclists and pedestrians. One-way fare is \$3 for a car or other vehicle 20 feet in length or less; \$6, vehicle or combination of vehicles from 20 feet up to and including 32 feet in length; \$1, bicycles; and 50 cents, pedestrian.

While subject to change, said John Shelton, a clerk at the Southport ferry terminal, the ferry usually operates on its winter schedule from Nov. 1 to April 30, when it adds more crossings. To double-check on the schedule or to find out about accommodations/fees for larger vehicles, call the ferry office, (919) 457-6942.

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