

THE BELHAVEN PILOT

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HOSPITAL COMPLETED AT BELHAVEN

IN LESS THAN 50 YEARS BELHAVEN BECOMES CITY COMPLETE AND STRONG

Its Growth Has Been Slow, Steady, and Secure Because of Its Advantages As A Port, of a Vast Timber Industry, and a Seafood Outlet Unexcelled In Eastern North Carolina; It Has Overcome Many Misfortunes, and Is Now In Sound Financial Condition.

Some towns are boom towns and flourish overnight; some towns gradually grow from small beginnings. The best of towns at times have misfortunes, and some of them don't fully recover. Belhaven has gone through all these vicissitudes, and is now in sound condition, not only as a center of commerce, and banking, but its fiscal affairs are in good shape.

Belhaven is standing out today among the towns of Eastern North Carolina for its progressive spirit and the energy with which its citizens are going about making it bigger and better.

Forty-nine years ago, it was a landing place along the beautiful Pungo River, populated by about 75 people. Because it was convenient to the water transportation of that day, it was chosen for the site of a saw mill town. In a few years its population had increased ten-fold.

Its natural resources brought sawmills and other plants utilizing wood, many of which departed from the scene as they depleted their sources of supply, and left the resolute leaders of Belhaven with the bag to hold.

These vicissitudes usually meant a period of travel for Belhaven's people, but it developed strength and leadership, and a resourceful people soon had the town up and going again.

Today, Belhaven is up front. It is a beautiful town of more than 2,000 people. It has many beautiful new homes in its residential subdivisions. Many new business structures are under way, or recently completed. Its merchants sell everything its citizens wish to buy.

Belhaven is often called the largest Hyde County town because so many of its leaders are natives of Hyde. Its mayor and several other officials are Hyde natives or the sons of Hyde County natives.

In fact, Belhaven, being less than 50 years old, had to be populated by other places. So as ambitious people during periods of agricultural depressions wanted to get away from the farms, they came to Belhaven, the new and growing town.

And where else do you find greater timber workers and leaders than from farms? Hence Belhaven was built by strong people of character, energy and vision.

Fifty years ago, the region was known as Jack's Neck. Where the Pungo River narrowed was the little settlement called Belport. This was considered an ideal site for a sawmill and in 1898, John A. and J. E. Wilkinson, native sons of the locality, left the Branning Mfg. Co. in Edenton and located at Belport.

It was principally with the idea of developing a town that John A. Wilkinson erected a mill at the Belport settlement. It was true that he was interested in the Norfolk Southern Railway which owned all the land and maintained a terminal there. But Mr. Wilkinson like Dr. W. J. Bullock, who had sold the land to the Railroad Company, saw the prospects of a fine town there, and it was to create the town that he started a mill there. The people laughed at his courage and joked about the future he saw for Belport.

Within a year after May, 1898, when the Wilkinson Brothers erected their mill in the settlement that had at that time 75 people, within its indefinite bounds, the town was incorporated and boasted of 700 people.

There was an interim when the place was also called Mattapungo, which was a coined word in honor of Dr. Bullock's daughter, Mattie, and also for the Pungo River. The officials balked at such a long name for the post office and so the

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WHY "THE PILOT"

We call this section, dealing with Belhaven and its hospital, THE BELHAVEN PILOT. It's a good name for a newspaper, if Belhaven had one. It is reminiscent of the good old days when the river meant so much to the town from the standpoint of transportation. With the boats, and the old time pilots that led the way and brought business to the town, and took away the cargo it had to sell, Belhaven would have not grown into a large town in a few short years.

Old timers now remember the whistle of the steamers coming up the river, and the Pilots of these boats were men of consequence in the Pungo Region. They meant something to the community.

It is hoped that this BELHAVEN PILOT will point the way, not only to a good trading center, but to a haven of health and comfort for those who need medical services. It is dedicated to the new health center, the modern hospital that has been provided for this area through the generosity and the unselfish labors of leading citizens of the community.

A good pilot, always leads to a good harbor. May this be our aim, always.

The Front Entrance of Belhaven's New Health Center



OVERSHADED By giant trees at the front door, and overlooking the broad sweep of water that merges into Pungo River, the New Belhaven Hospital is conveniently located within a few steps of the business center of the town.

BELHAVEN'S CITIZENS GET LOW WATER RATE

Town Paying For Modern Water Plant and Five Miles of Pipe at That

Citizens of Belhaven enjoy a low water rate, considering that the town is paying for a modern water plant, and maintains over five miles of water mains and sewers. Belhaven doesn't pump its water from a lake, but gets it from deep wells. Its citizens buy water for 30 cents a thousand gallons, and less. A recent cut in rates works to good advantage.

Effective October 15, residential consumers of water pay a minimum of \$1 and the water rate is as follows: first 1,000 cubic feet, \$2.25; next 1,000, \$2.20; next 1,000, \$2.10; with succeeding reductions down to 80¢ per 1,000 cubic feet. A cubic foot is approximately seven and a half gallons liquid measure.

THE INTERSECTION OF PAMLICO AND MAIN



BELHAVEN'S busiest section is the intersection of Main and Pamlico Streets. Looking southwardly from the Guaranty Bank corner, we view many of the principal business fronts including Rialto and Windley, the Florist Shop, the new Cameo Theatre, Belhaven Candy Company, Belhaven Tobacco Company, etc. The large store in the foreground is Burgess Department Store, formerly the Peele-Mitchell Co.

POTATO SUPPORT PRICE CUT SHARPLY FOR 1949

Small Government Subsidy May Result in Smaller Planting Next Year

A support price level based on 60 per cent of the parity has been set for the 1949 Irish potato crop, according to M. H. Covington, Extension horticulturist at State College.

In addition, the national production goal for next year has been set at 1,935,300 acres—about 200,000 less than the planted acreage this year. This figure includes 1,223,100 acres for commercial production and 712,200 for non-commercial purposes (less

than three acres on the farms). The commercial production goal for North Carolina has been set at 29,500 acres.

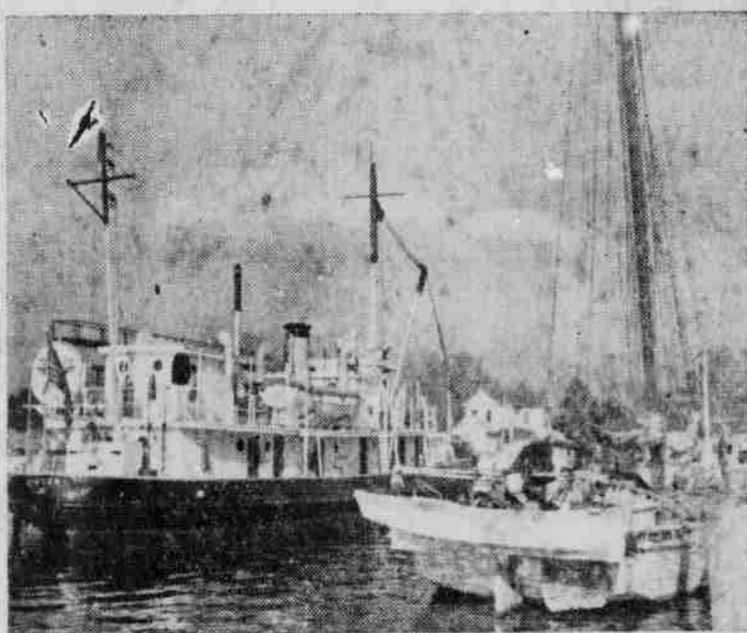
The new support price level represents a sharp decrease from that which prevailed in 1948. It is the maximum reduction allowed under existing legislation.

Commenting on the new support level, Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan said:

"I have been extremely reluctant to approve the lowering of the support price for potatoes to 60 per cent of parity. I want it clearly understood that this figure applies to potatoes only, and that it cannot be regarded as a precedent or as the attitude of this Department in establishing the general level of price supports under our new legislation. Controlling excess production by dropping price supports sharply is not a desirable way to get adjustments, no matter how necessary those adjustments may be. However, Congress has given the Department authority to do so."

Secretary Brannan will inaugurate the potato program for the 1948 crop along with probably equal proceeds the entire money gain which have accrued to the Commodity Credit Corporation during the 15 years of its general support and procurement operations.

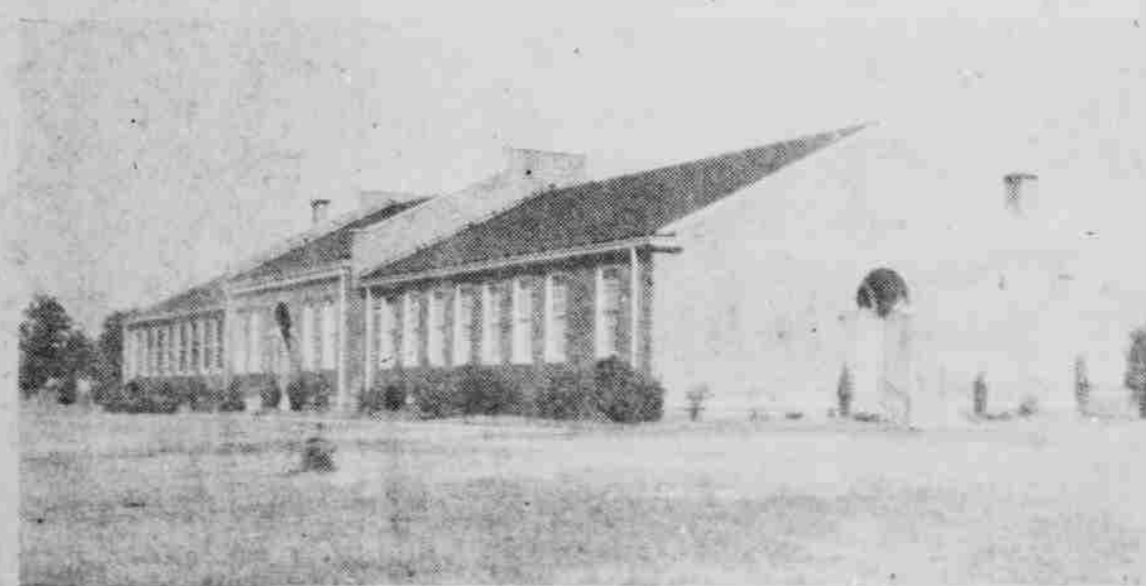
PICTURESQUE WATERFRONT ACTIVITY



SAILING VESSELS AS WELL AS THOSE POWERED BY STEAM will be found on the busy and picturesque Belhaven Waterfront. Belhaven is a central point from which the U. S. Coast Guard operates its vessels which locate and keep in repair, buoys, and other aids to navigation on our inland waterways. The picture above shows one of the buoy tenders tied up at the Belhaven dock. The skipjack in the foreground is an oyster boat. The picture below shows a shrimp boat and several of the oyster fleet tied up at the docks.—Photos by Aycock Brown.



THE JOHN A. WILKINSON HIGH SCHOOL AT BELHAVEN



THIS beautiful building erected on spacious grounds was constructed in 1937 and 1938 with WPA labor and named in honor of one of Belhaven's pioneer citizens, the late John A. Wilkinson, the man who built the mansion at the head of Main Street, now known as River Forest Manor, and whose family has done much to improve standards of education. A Memorial award of cash donation and a medal has been established for outstanding scholarship, citizenship and student activities.

SPLENDID MODERN UNIT TO SERVE 10,000 PEOPLE IN PUNGO HEALTH DISTRICT

New Hospital Acquired Through Generous Private Donations and Participation of State Medical Care Commission Without Demands on Taxpayers of City of Belhaven; 20-Bed Unit Completely Equipped, Built in Record Time.

PRESENT TRUSTEES OF PUNGO HEALTH DISTRICT HOSPITAL

The trustees of the Pungo Health District Hospital Corporation as presently constituted are as follows: W. P. O'Neal, President; A. D. Swindell, Vice-President; J. E. Edwards, Treasurer; Walt Zachowski, Secretary; W. B. Rodman, Jr., P. H. Johnson, Sr., Carter Dalton, Worth Calfee, Henry Vann Latham and C. R. Potter.

There are 19,336 people living in the territory within the boundaries of the Pungo Health District of Beaufort County, and it was with the ambition to serve the hospital needs of these people that a movement originated in Belhaven less than two years ago to provide them with a modern hospital service. The dream of a number of public spirited men in less than two years has materialized in the completion of a splendid hospital with 20 beds and which is now on the eve of opening for service to the public.

In January 1947 a group of citizens met and organized the Belhaven Hospital Building Corporation and the original signers were H. V. Latham, W. P. O'Neal, the Belhaven Mayor and town druggist, with Mrs. O'Neal. In this group of original incorporators were F. A. Volter, J. H. Lupton, W. E. Bateaman, L. H. Johnson, Dr. Clifford C. Byrum, Guy Davis, J. A. Lee, J. L. Lancaster, A. B. Posthumus Scott, Topping, F. T. Paul, E. G. Westerbeek, D. W. Latham, W. M. Volter, J. E. Edwards, J. C. McKeel, L. L. Johnson, M. L. Andrews, Walter Zachowski, Reginald Bishop, Clyde Foster, R. V. Williamson and Clyde Burgess.

Before the complete plans for the non-stock and non-profit corporation had been effected, the State became much interested in the provisions of the Hill-Burton Public Health Aid Bill, and the Pungo Health District Corporation rested on its oars until they could look into the possibility of bringing State and Federal aid to Belhaven.

When it was found there was a possibility of obtaining Hill-Burton aid they made application, but with Beaufort County in "C" priority status it was decided to create a district which included the Belhaven recorder's court area including parts of Bath, Lenoir, and all of Pamlico Townships. In the summer of 1947, just a year ago, the corporation was amended and named the Pungo Health District Corporation.

In January the group made up a prospect for the construction of a 20-bed hospital, one story, cinder block, brick veneer, with wood floor and no basement. On March 27, 1948 the project had moved along so rapidly that it was approved by the North Carolina State Board of Health and the United States Public Health Service, and on March 16 a contract was awarded to James W. Ballinger of Wilson, North Carolina, to construct the hospital. First ground was broken in April and on October 1 the building was complete; a remarkable tribute to the vision and energy of Belhaven people—the first hospital in the United States constructed under the Hill-Burton Bill, financed entirely without levy upon the taxpayers of the district, and by private subscriptions.

This group raised a total of \$33,816 exclusive of the land and legal fees, the site being donated by the City of Belhaven and valued at \$1,500. The cost per bed of building this hospital was \$6,499, and the largest contributor to Beaufort County's famed agriculturist, Honorable Fred P. Latham, who gave \$10,000. The total general contract for building the hospital was \$61,419, and with equipment and furniture the project falls short by only \$20 of costing \$130,000. This hospital, while designed primarily for the people of the Pungo Health District, will be open to people from the entire mainland of Hyde County and of Dare County who need its services.

During the week ended November 13, hatcheries and dealers in the Chatham area placed 186,000 chicks with broiler producers. Placements have increased steadily each week since the first of October.