

Susie

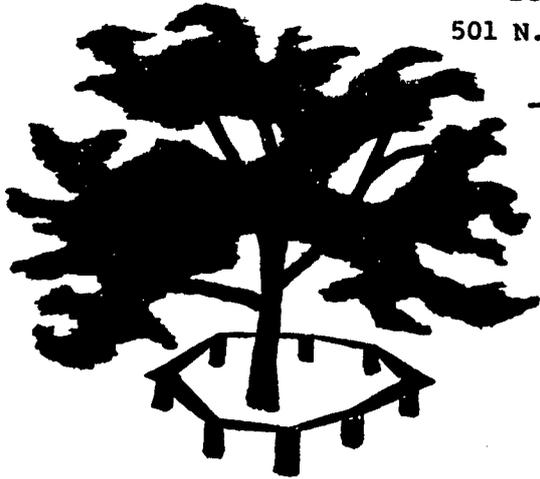
# THE WHITTLERS BENCH

Susie

## SOUTHPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

501 N. Atlantic Ave. - SOUTHPORT, NORTH CAROLINA 28461

May 4, 1990



MEETING: The Southport Historical Society and the Old New Hanover Genealogy Society will hold a joint meeting May 19, 1990. The meeting will be covered dish and drinks will be furnished. The schedule is as follows:

- 10:00 - 12:00      Old Jail opened for visitors  
Sale of books  
(refreshments available)
- 12:00 -            LUNCH
- 2:00 -             Short Meeting (Old Jail)

Jail will be opened after meeting for further visits.

We are asking as many members as possible to attend meeting and circulate in order to meet our visitors. Should it start raining, we will use the Methodist Church for the meeting and luncheon.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: Will be held 3:00 pm on Saturday May 19, 1990 in the Old Jail. If any member has anything he/she would like to place on the agenda for discussion, please contact any officer or director.

HISTORIC MARKERS LOGO: The Whittlers Bench Tree shown above is a copy of our Society's new logo for Southport's Historic Building Markers. The new drawing will replace the white anchor now used on the plaques. The wordage on the plaques, "Historic Southport, North Carolina 1792" will remain the same. Jack Fairley will supply writeup describing requirements, etc.

SOCIETY MEMBERS: Is there anyone interested and willing to:

1. Update society goals and by-laws?
2. Work with schools on essay contest, trivia game or ?????
3. Dust the jail?
4. Write an article?
5. Plan a halloween spook program?
6. Prepare historical dialogue for talk to visitors in terms of 1904-1910 use of new jail?
7. Set up tour of homes?
8. Record oral history?
9. Develop your own idea with our support?

THANK YOU: Abbie Bitney sends thanks for get well wishes and cards. She is home now but not out and about yet.

For the welfare of our environment, we all need to change our habits and this is how you can help; Get involved with:

SOUTHPORT/ BOILING SPRING LAKES RECYCLING

WHEN: 10:00 am - 12:00 noon every Saturday

WHERE: Wilsons Plaza parking lot by Salvation Army Drop-off box

WHAT: Paper of any kind

Accepted: junk mail, telephone books, cardboard packaging (cereal, diaper boxes) magazines, catalogues, supplementary newspaper ad pages

These items may be combined.

corrugated cardboard boxes (separated from other paper newspapers (separated from other paper items, folded only once and stacked in paper grocery bag) computer paper separated from other paper

Any color glass accepted: should be rinsed, cap removed and separated by color

Aluminum accepted: pie plates, aluminum foil, all beer/ soft drink cans and scrap aluminum: window frames, doors, siding, etc.

Not accepted: no steel cans (soup, juice, vegetable) scrap metal: copper and brass

Scrap metal - copper and brass

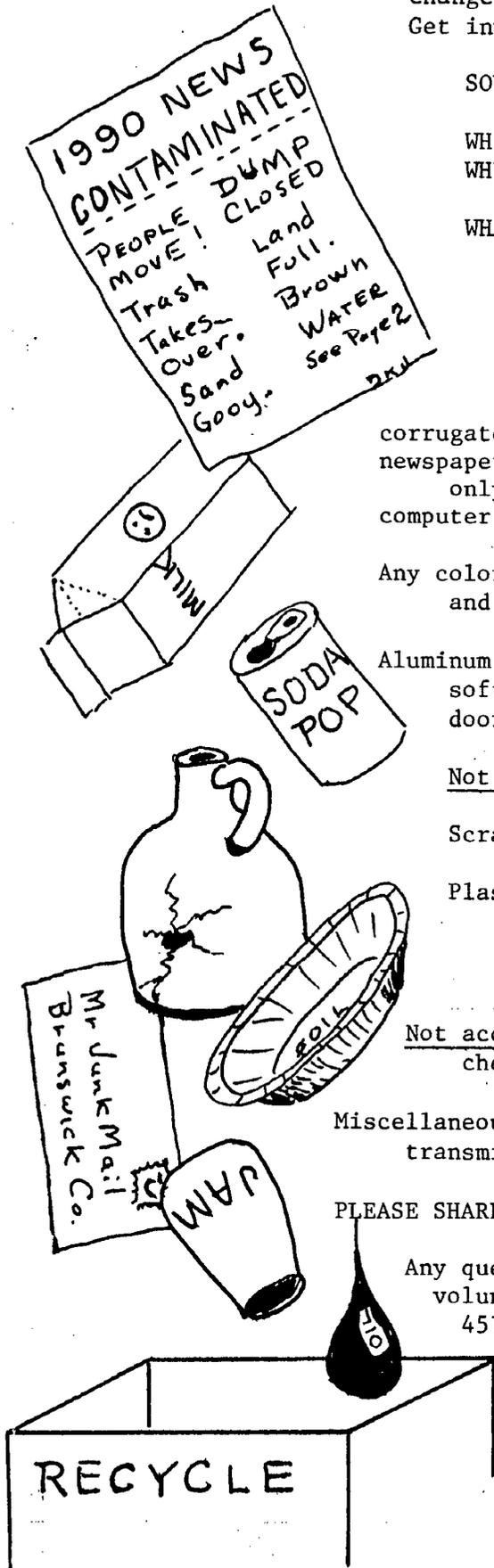
Plastic containers accepted: please remove lids and crush to take up less space. Milk jugs, oil & antifreeze containers, soft drink bottles, shrub and flower pots, bleach & detergent bottles

Not accepted: six pack rings, small yogurt, cottage cheese and sour cream containers

Miscellaneous: lead-acid auto batteries, used motor, transmission & diesel oil

PLEASE SHARE THIS SHEET OF INFO WITH A FRIEND!

Any questions about recyclables or information on volunteering in our program, please call Janice Stanley 457-6516 or Kelley Sellers 457-4647 or Bill Dunn 845-2163. Boiling Spring Lakes Recycling Center kindly handles all our recyclables. They are located on Highway 87 across from BSL Fire Dept. This center is open Tuesdays and Thursdays and Saturdays 10:30 - 1:30.



Several books have recently been presented to the Southport Historical Society Library which is housed at the Old Jail. The next time the Jail is open, you are invited to come by and see what we have on the shelves. Many of the books are genealogical in nature and were presented to the Society by Roy Pollitt of Colonial Heights, Virginia, and Susan Carson, a member of the Society. A more recent gift is by Mrs. Jean Laux of Southport concerning old cemetery markers. Mrs. Jane Thrailkill has presented a book with a Civil War background. You will soon be hearing more about this one.

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Because of some very diligent work on the part of two members of our Society, I will more than likely be able to give you a list of the purchasers of the original lots of Old Smithville - the lottery for which was held in March 1793 in Wilmington, probably in the office of Joshua Potts.

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Our list of persons to be invited to our Celebration of our Bicentennial Year in 1992 continues to grow. If you know someone who should be added, please call Paul Sweeney at 457-4561. The ones we wish to contact are the descendants of the early settlers of the town, and most especially the descendants of the first town commissioners: Joshua Potts, Charles Gause, William Espey Lord, Robert Howe, Jr., and Benjamin Smith. (Note: Benjamin Smith died without issue, but we would certainly want to recognize descendants of his brothers, and sisters, if there were sisters. I do not know about this). And we would definitely not leave out descendants of Captain John Brown who first talked Joshua Potts in coming to "The Fort" so he could be cured of an illness by the "salubrious breezes" from the Cape Fear!

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The United States War Camp Service held a formal opening and dedication of the Army and Navy Club Annex (in the Pythagoras Lodge #249, A. F. & A. M. Building at the corner of Nash and Dry Streets on Franklin Square) on Thursday, Sept. 12, 1918, at 8:30 P. M. The programs were printed by Pvt. Ray F. Kern, Post Printer, at Fort Caswell. The program was as follows:

Mr. J. Berg, Chairman, Southport, N. C.	
War Camp Community Service, presiding	
Music	Fort Caswell Band
America	
Welcome	Mayor Joe Ruark
Brief Address	Attorney Robert Davis
	for the Masonic Lodge
Prayer	Rev. F. R. Lee
Music	

(CONTINUED TO NEXT PAGE)

HISTORY PAGE, CONTINUATION

Presentation of the Army and Navy Club  
Annex

Mr. A. L. Weatherly

Acceptance of Club Annex

Representative of  
Army and Navy

Music

Social Hour

The Army & Navy Club was used much as the U. S. O.'s during World War II, and many a young soldier from Fort Caswell and sailors who often came to our shores found a "home away from home" at the Army & Navy Club. The American Library Association operated a library in the Club and also at Fort Caswell. The citizens of the town were actively involved with all activities at the Club. The War ended soon after the Club was opened but it remained open and in use for several years. A charming, but rather inaccurate, booklet was written about the Club by one of its employees during the time the Club was in use. Someday we hope to have the booklet reprinted, possibly as a part of another publication about Old Southport.

Many entertainments, plays, fund raisers and musicals were held in the Club. On March 30, 1922, the Masons held their Annual Ladies Night there and I was fortunate to find a copy of that program. The committee for the affair was composed of J. Berg, B. J. Holden and J. W. Thompson, Sr. The program follows:

Song

"Old Black Joe"

Miss Laura Southerland  
Mrs. C. J. Fields  
Mr. D. M. Davis  
Mr. G. H. Ruark  
Mr. Ed. C. Newton  
Mr. B. J. Holden

Play

"Patsy O'Wang"

Cast of Characters:

Patsy O'Wang, alias Chin Sum, from Hong Kong, Mr. Lindsey  
Dr. Henry Fluke, who runs a sanitarium, Mr. Butler  
Mike from the ould sod, an assistant, Mr. Ed Newton  
Mr. Boyler, a patient with rheumatism, Mr. Cavanaugh  
Mrs. Harriet Fluke, Mrs. I. B. Bussels  
Miss Simper, who has a mission, a Chinese Sunday School, Mrs.  
R. B. Morse  
Norah, maid of all work, Miss Gordan Thompson

Song

"Sweet and Low"

Miss Laura Southerland, Mrs. C. J. Fields,  
Mr. G. H. Ruark, Mr. B. J. Holden

Refreshments

While none of us would put on such an entertainment today, nor would we be a viewer, it does reflect the tenor of the times and is used here as a part of our history. Also, the names mentioned may be of interest to someone with a genealogical interest.

## HISTORIC STRUCTURES PLAQUES

### Guidelines

The Southport Historical Society has assumed the responsibility for handling the Plaques marking the historic structures of Southport from the Old Anchor organization. In connection with this, our President, Don Johnson, has designed a new logo for our newly issued plaques.

The criteria for qualification for a plaque remains the same:

1. Each structure must be within the city limits of Southport.
2. Each structure must be at least seventy-five (75) years old.
3. The age of each structure must be documented by:
  - a. Inclusion in the "Architecture of Southport" by Carl Lounsbury.
  - b. Other evidence of age presented to and approved by the Southport Historical Society.
4. The name on the sign has to be that of the original owner. The name of the current occupant is not appropriate and is not allowed.

We would like to plaque all eligible properties; a donation to the Southport Historical Society in the amount of \$100.00 to cover cost of checking deed, preparing plaque and installation is required at time of installation. Applicant should also be aware that sometimes there may be a time lag of several months between application and delivery of plaque.

HEAR YE! HEAR YE!: The City of Southport is most interested in obtaining the names of all persons who have served as mayor of the town, and to obtain a picture of each so they can have the pictures copied, framed and hung in a public area of City Hall. If you have any information at all that would help, please call Mrs. Sylvia Butterworth at City Hall.

FOR YOUR HISTORICAL INFORMATION:

Stromalong, A. B. - that is how he signed on board his first sailing ship. Ever since, sailors in the Merchant Marine have identified themselves with the initials "A. B." which signifies they are Able - Bodied Seamen. Mr. Stromalong was the most outstanding yankee seaman to have sailed into the Lower Cape Fear harbor. Old Stromalong and his clipper ship was to the sea as Paul Bunyon and his axe was to the land.