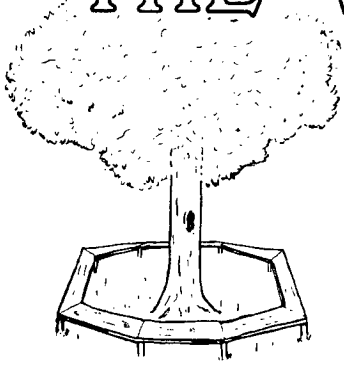


THE WHITTLERS BENCH



SOUTHPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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JANUARY MEETING - OUR TENTH ANNIVERSARY

The Southport Historical Society was organized January 1976; it will celebrate its Tenth Anniversary at its January 23, 1986, meeting on the upper floor of Security Savings and Loan building. Please note the location change for this meeting, which will begin at 7:30 P. M. The meeting will feature the installation of officers for a two-year term. Mrs. Susan King will do the installation. The program will feature a review of the history and accomplishments of the Society. Officers to be installed are:

President
Vice Pres.
Secretary
Treasurer

Mrs. Susan Carson
Mrs. Eleanor Smith
Mrs. Jan Quinn
Mrs. Pauline Swain

Light refreshments will be served after the program and business session. Look around and find someone to bring to the meeting. We are always seeking new members!

NEW SIGNS FOR OLD CEMETERIES: Many of you will have seen the new signs at the Old Smithville Cemetery on Moore and Rhett Street and the John N. Smith Cemetery on Leonard Street. The sign at the Moore-Rhett Street cemetery denotes it as "The Old Smithville Burying Ground" and records the fact that the oldest stone that has been located in the cemetery bears the date of 1804. It is believed that earlier burials there date back to the beginning days of Fort Johnston. The John N. Smith Cemetery sign states that it was named for the first person buried there - in 1874, and that it is the burial site of Elias Gerthel Gore, Southport's "Gentle Giant", known as Nehi, who died in 1944. Nehi stood 7 feet 11 inches and weighed 700 pounds.

The new signs have been erected by the Southport Parks and Recreation Department; our Society helped in providing historical information. Albert "Tebo" Rogers designed the signs.

The Society's book, "The Cemeteries of Southport and Surrounding Area" (price \$8.00) is available from The Curiosity Shop, Leggett's Stores or the Southport Public Library. We will have some available on January 23rd at the regular meeting.

THE CHRONOLOGY OF SOUTHPORT, VOLUME I (now reprinted) is once again available! Copies may be obtained from The Curiosity Shop, Leggett's, Susie Carson or Broad-foot Bookmark, the publisher. The author and Publisher have graciously agreed to give the Historical Society a per centage for each book sold. We appreciate this so much. And we are counting on you to help us sell books! People will buy books if it is known they are available. Tell them. The Chronology by Bill Reaves will be interesting to all who love Southport. The price is \$15.00.

DUES TIME AGAIN: At the October 1985 meeting the membership approved an increase in our annual dues to \$10.00. Please fill in the form below and mail your \$10.00 to Post Office Box 10130, Southport. Or you can bring them to the January meeting.

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