

THE WHITTLERS BENCH

SOUTHPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

• SOUTHPORT, NORTH CAROLINA 28461

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MEETING THIS THURSDAY NIGHT

The Southport Historical Society would like to welcome all its members and wish them a Happy New Year!

The fourth anniversary meeting of the Southport Historical Society will be held this Thursday, January 24th at 8:00 P.M. in the board room of the Southport-Brunswick County Library. Our annual covered dish dinner has been postponed until this spring.

At our last meeting Mr. Robert Thorsen was elected president. He has since informed us that he will not be able to serve. We will be electing a new president at this meeting. All current members are urged to attend and the public is cordially invited.

Our program for the meeting will be presented by Mrs. Eleanor Smith and Mrs. Susan Carson. They will present highlights of Southport history.

GRANT OBTAINED FOR MUSEUM

We are happy to report that the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, Inc. of Winston Salem has given the Southport Historical Society a \$3500.00 grant to be used toward restoration of the old jail building. With this grant we can get started on reroofing, replacing gutters and downspouts, removing and replacing boxing, repointing mortar joints, and painting exterior trim and window bars.

This building will give us the much needed permanent home for the records and exhibits of the Historical Society.

BOOK GOES ON SALE

In early December Carl Lounsbury returned to Southport to launch sales of "The Architecture of Southport" by making a formal presentation of the new book. Receiving the first copies were Bob Russell, director of the Southport-Brunswick County Library and Susan Carson, president of Southport Historical Society.

As of this week, almost a hundred copies of the book have been sold. Members of the historical society will have an opportunity to purchase the book at our meeting this week. At other times the book is available at the Curiosity Shop, the Carsons' house at 501 N. Atlantic, and by mail. If you wish to order by mail send your name, address, and the number of copys you wish to have sent to: Southport Historical Society, 501 N. Atlantic, Southport, N.C. 28461. Please enclose \$3.00 plus \$.75 postage for each copy ordered.

All proceeds from the sale of this book will be used for the work of Southport Historical Society.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It has been my pleasure to serve as president of the Southport Historical Society for the past three years (1977-1979). Now, as we begin a new year, we can look back with pride and a sense of accomplishment at what we have achieved together during this time.

One encouraging sign of progress has been the steady increase in membership. We started the year 1977 with 45 members and today we have 69.

Our projects and programs for the past three years have taken us in several important directions. In the spring of 1977, Janet Seapker, then administrator of the Preservation Section of Archives and History, met with us to explain the purposes and methods of making an architectural inventory. As a result, we initiated the long-range project which culminated recently with publication of "The Architecture of Southport." The inventory has also provided Archives and History with the information needed for its nominating of a portion of Southport to the National Registry of Historic Places. The former Brunswick County Courthouse, now City Hall, was placed on the Registry last year in a statewide theme nomination of historic courthouses.

Significant steps were taken in other aspects of historical research. For example, several members of the Society donated money to the public library toward the purchase of Volumes II and IV of the Colonial and State Records of N.C. Some members began conducting an oral history project which promises to be a most valuable addition to the research materials in our archives. The Society also made plans for erecting a marker at the Old Brown's Chapel Cemetery.

We have had several opportunities to promote community interest in the history of Southport and the work of our Society. Our first brochure, "A brief History of Southport", was published last year and has been eagerly received by the public. Bill Reaves' "Chronology of Southport, Vol. I", was printed through the support and sponsorship of our members and was placed on sale during the 1978 Fourth of July Festival. That year also, we began our annual Fourth of July exhibit of photos, documents, and artifacts for which we have recently purchased a permanent display case. A program of Southport historical sketches was warmly received when Eleanor Smith and I presented it for the county DAR chapter and for the Southport Womans Club.

Last winter our Society and the Brunswick County Historical Society co-sponsored the N.C. Museum of History's traveling exhibit of early colonial documents. This fall we sponsored a highly successful tour of Fort Caswell. More than 75 people enjoyed seeing the ruins of the old fort and hearing its history interpreted by a very capable guide from the Baptist Assembly staff.

This past year Southport Historical Society received a rather unusual gift--the 1904 county jail building. Having become City property when the county government was relocated, the jail was offered to us for adaptive use in our historical program. A grant from the Z Smith Reynolds Foundation, secured through the efforts of Eleanor Smith and others in the community, has provided funds to begin the preservation work.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT (Con't)

In summary, much has been accomplished by the interest and enthusiasm of our members, but much remains to be done. Let's resolve to make 1980 a year of even greater undertaking and achievement.

Susan S. Carson, President

SOUTHPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROGRAMS

1977-1979

January 1977	Bill Reaves - Southport history from newspaper accounts
April 1977	Janet Seapker -- The architectural inventory as a preservation tool
July 1977	Mayor Eugene Tomlinson - Questions and answers about preservation goals in City planning
October 1977	National Trust film - "A Place in Time"
January 1978	Gordon Watts - Underwater archaeology in N.C.
April 1978	Bob Russell - Genealogical research in the Southport Library
	Carl Lounsbury - Preliminary report on the architectural inventory
July 1978	Carl Lounsbury - Color slides and discussion of Southport architecture
November 1978	Bicentennial film on the American Revolution
January 1979	Brent Glass and Renee Gledhill-Early - N.C. Division of Archives & History services to local history projects
May 1979	J. Robert Warren - Stagville Preservation Center
July 1979	General discussion and planning session
October 1979	Carolee Williams - Historic Fort Caswell

A REMINDER

January is the month to renew your membership with the Southport Historical Society. Please fill out the attached application and mail it to the Society at 501 N. Atlantic Ave., Southport, N.C. 28461, or bring it to the meeting Thursday night. We have many projects to be completed and welcome new members.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
SOUTHPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NAME _____ MAILING ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE NO. _____

// Individual \$5.00 annually // Student \$2.00 annually

// Business, institutional, club,
or professional \$15.00 annually // Sustaining \$25.00 annually

// Life \$100.00

Please mark the category of membership desired and enclose payment shown.
