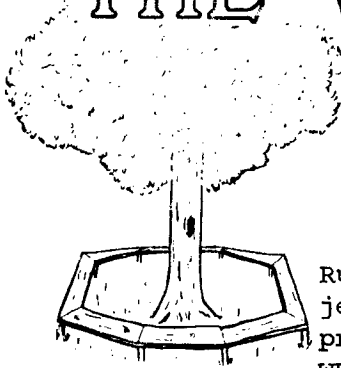


Oct. 1984

# THE WHITTLERS BENCH

SOUTHPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

P. O. BOX <sup>10170</sup>~~10170~~ • SOUTHPORT, NORTH CAROLINA 28461



OCTOBER MEETING - Robert Ruark's life will be subject discussed during the program to be held on

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, at 7:30 P. M. in the Board Room of the Public Library. Please note change from the regular meeting date. This was necessary in order to avoid a conflict in the schedule of the speaker, Susie Carson, who is teaching local history at Brunswick Tech. on Thursday nights. Coffee will be available after the program.

CITY ALDERMEN APPROVE LEASE OF OLD JAIL:

On August 9th, the Southport Board of Aldermen approved a ten-year lease (the longest period which they can legally approve) of the Old Jail located at the corner of Rhett and Nash Streets to the Southport Historical Society. The Society in return will pay a \$1.00 annual lease fee, agree to maintain the facility and be responsible for liability and property insurance. The appropriate lease agreement has been executed by our officers.

SOUTHPORT AND DIANA: It is with considerable gratitude for our blessings that we report no material exterior or structural damage to the older historical houses and buildings in town, although some suffered considerable roof and interior water damage on September 13, 1984. Many of our lovely old trees lost limbs, or in a few cases were uprooted.

CEMETERIES: The Cemetery Committee is now making a study of the damages to the two cemeteries in the town limits. Plans are already underway to clear the debris from the Morse Cemetery and the Committee is still assessing damages at the Old Smithville Cemetery at the corner of Moore and Rhett Streets.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATION: The 1984

N. C. General Assembly appropriated more than \$2 million dollars for historic preservation projects, including several old county courthouses. Also included was a \$150,000 grant to the Revolving Fund of the Historic Preservation Foundation of North Carolina, Inc., whose Executive Director, J. Myrick Howard, gave a program for us in 1983, showing slides of some of the Foundation's preservation efforts. The grant must be matched by private funds.

SOCIETY OFFICERS - TWO-YEAR TERMS: It has been suggested that since our officers do serve for a two-year term we should remind members who the current officers are, with another year to serve:

President	Jean Prevost
V. President	Mary Anne Russ
Secretary	Madeline Gordon
Treasurer	Pauline Swain

"NORTH CAROLINA, CIRCA 1900": This collection of 35 watercolors by Samuel D. Bissette, sponsored by Wachovia Bank and Trust Co, will travel throughout the state galleries and museums during the next three years. The Wilmington artist attempts to capture the spirit of life in North Carolina from 1880 to 1920. The exhibit opens at St. John's Museum of Art, Wilmington, in December 1984. Watch your newspaper for other information on the exhibit.