

THE WHITTLERS BENCH

SOUTHPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

313 East Moore St. • SOUTHPORT, NORTH CAROLINA 28461

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* * * * * ANNIVERSARY MEETING THIS THURSDAY * * * * *

Our third anniversary meeting and covered dish dinner will be Thursday, January 25 in the fellowship hall of Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Bring your favorite covered dish and join us for dinner at 7:00 PM.

Our special guests for this evening are Brent Glass, Catherine Bishir and Renee Gledhill-Early of the N.C. Division of Archives and History. Mr. Glass is administrator of the Historic Preservation Section; Ms. Bishir and Ms. Gledhill-Early represent the Survey and Planning Branch.

January is membership renewal time. Remember - we need you to keep the society going in 1979! Your interest and support will make this the best year yet. Please bring your membership dues to the meeting Thursday or mail as soon as possible to Southport Historical Society, c/o Mrs. Susan Carson, at the address shown above.

BIDS SOUGHT FOR BOOK

Three printing companies have been asked to submit bids for publishing Southport's architectural history. In response, one printer has already sent an estimate that is within our budget, and we expect to hear from the others soon.

Before talking to the printers we had to be sure of approval on a grant of State funds for publication. In mid December, Mr. Alvin Kornegay represented the City of Southport at a conference in Raleigh for grant recipients. Thanks to Mr. Kornegay's determination, notification of our grant came before the end of the month. If there are no unexpected delays, the book should be available this spring.

The book will include an introductory history of Southport and a summary of architectural development, followed by photographs and descriptions of 196 buildings. Measured drawings, old photographs, and a map showing building locations will illustrate the report. According to Carl Lounsbury who made the study, Southport will have one of the most thorough architectural reports in North Carolina.

A word of explanation is due those who have requested copies of the unpublished manuscript. At present our only copy is being used to obtain bids, and it will be needed for proofreading once the printing is begun. After that you will, of course, be welcome to use the report for reference. However, in order to protect the copyright, we cannot distribute the report before publication.

HISTORY GROUP HONORS REAVES

The North Carolina Society of County and Local Historians honored Bill Reaves for his publication "Southport: A Chronology" at their meeting in Raleigh on November 18. Mr. Reaves, one of three winners chosen for the Cooke Memorial Book Award, received a certificate of achievement for his contribution to local history writing.

Announcement of the awards came during the 37th annual meeting of the County and Local Historians, held in conjunction with Culture Week.

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A membership application form is printed at the bottom of the next page. When renewing, please be sure we have your correct mailing address. If you are not yet a member and would like more information, just send your name and address to the Historical Society or pick up one of our brochures. New members are always welcome!

LOGO NEEDED

One of our members has pointed out that our historical society should have an official logo, that is, a trademark or symbol that will be easily recognized. A good example is the Southport City Seal, the familiar double circles with a drawing of Baldhead Lighthouse in the center. Our logo could be either a picture of some local scene or an abstract symbol.

Please think about this idea, and if you have any suggestions let us know by writing to the newsletter or telling one of our officers.

ARCHIVES RECEIVES GIFT

Two newspaper items of historical significance have been presented to our archives by Bill Reaves.

A portion of the Wilmington Morning Star, June 12, 1879, contains the memorial address "delivered in Smithville, N.C., May 22nd, 1879 on the Occasion of Unveiling the Monument Over the Lost Pilots of This Port."

The November 23, 1911 edition of the Evening Dispatch (Wilmington, N.C.) carries a front page story on the opening of the railroad in Southport and the joyous celebrations that were held when the "first train went through on time this morning amid enthusiasm." Throughout the paper are more stories and anecdotes about the railroad and this exciting day.

A special note of thanks to Bill Reaves for his kind gift. We are pleased to have this information about important events in Southport's history.

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Bob Thorsen has been doing research in the old records at City Hall, and he has sent the newsletter these notes from the minutes of the November 7, 1923, meeting of the Board of Aldermen.

The mayor was T.B. Carr and Aldermen present were C.L. Bell, J.H. Russ, M.G. Thompson, D.E. Arthur, C.R. Livingston and J.W. Thompson.

Motion was made by D.E. Arthur and duly carried that the mayor "give instruction that the light plant be run every Friday afternoon for the purpose of ironing."

Motion was made by C.L. Bell and duly carried that the City appropriate \$ 150.00 for the Chamber of Commerce to assist in defraying expenses incurred by the Chamber of Commerce in the State Ports Terminal fight, the same to be paid in three installments.

SOUTHPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY - MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____	Membership Dues (please mark one and enclose payment in the amount shown)		
Address _____	//	Individual	\$ 5.00
_____	//	Student (through high school)	2.00
Phone _____	//	Business, institutional or professional	15.00
	//	Sustaining	25.00
	//	LIFE	100.00

(All dues and contributions are tax-deductible)