

Bench Nominees Are Whiteville Lawyers

Three Whiteville lawyers were nominated last Thursday by the 13th District Bar Association as potential replacements for former District Court Judge Wayne Long who resigned last month.

Bar members chose Thomas Aldridge, D. Jack Hooks Jr. and Michael Willis as nominees from a field of six candidates. Gov. Jim Martin will choose one attorney from the three Democratic nominees to replace Long, 37, of Shallotte.

Long resigned Feb. 25, two days after being arrested in Durham for driving while impaired. He was serving his first term as a district court judge for the 13th Judicial District, which includes Brunswick, Columbus and Bladen counties.

Also nominated at Thursday's bar meeting were Shallotte attorney Sheila McLamb, Brunswick County's attorney David Clegg and Tabor City lawyer Ralph Jorgensen. The bar was mandated under state law to nominate three lawyers from the

same political party as Long, a Democrat.

District Bar Association President Elva Jess, a Southport attorney, was not nominated for the position. After carefully considering the seat, Ms. Jess requested at the Brunswick County Bar Association meeting last week that her name not be nominated at the district meeting.

Aldridge, 37, has been an assistant district attorney in Whiteville for two years. He worked as an attorney in

Alamance County for ten years prior to moving to Columbus County.

Hooks, 31, has been in private practice in Whiteville since 1980. Willis is also in private practice in Whiteville.

Long's resignation marks the second time a judge's seat has been vacant in the 13th Judicial District since February 1983. Former Gov. Jim Hunt named a replacement for Judge J. Wilton Hunt Sr. who resigned after being charged with bribery and gambling in the federal Color operation.



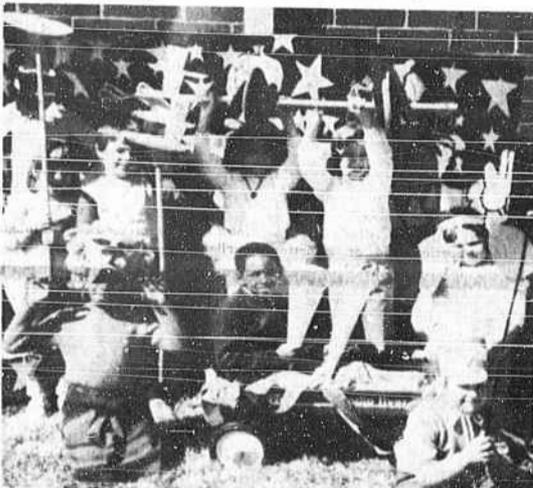
Career Club Winners Chosen

Winners in the Leland Middle School Career Club competition were recently chosen. Eleven students will advance to district level competition. They are, from left, front row, Robert McClelland, fine arts, John Owens, marine science, and Mickey Thompson, manufacturing; second row, Kathy Allen, personal service, Teresa Mintz, business and office, Tisha Jones, consumer and homemaking, and Jamie Beasley, transportation; third row, Keith Allen, environmental, Matthew Tripp, health, Mark Palmatier, construction, and David Hardie, public service.



Talent Winners Chosen

Talent winners from Leland Middle Schools' Career Club were chosen recently. Group winners are, from left, front row, LaTonya Graham, Zeldia Jackson and Tyra Jones; second row, Yolanda Riddy, Tara Walker, Tonya Williams and individual talent winner Wendy Brew.



'Circus' Held At Lincoln

Kindergarten through first-grade students at Lincoln Primary School celebrated Music Month and Physical Education Week last Thursday with a program, "The Circus." Students performed acts on the balance beams, dressed as wild animals and performed acrobatic feats on the parallel bars. Pictured are, front row, from left, Sharon Suggs, Travenus Grainger, Becky Hewett and Amanda Livingston; back row, Kelly Mintz, Ray Caffee, Sabrina Lee and Jenny Crowder.

Irregular Election Will Determine 'Mayor' Of Ash

Vote not just once, but as many times as you like. There's no residency requirement and cash votes are the only ones that count. Better yet, state and federal investigators aren't likely to interfere.

It may sound like a politician's

dream, but actually it's a fundraising event for the Waccamaw Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department.

Anybody that wants to can vote Friday from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. for the new "mayor" of Ash. The fire and rescue squad building on N.C. 130 is the only official polling place.

At least three candidates—whose names were undisclosed at press time—are seeking the seat now held by Boyd Lee Smith. More may enter in the final moments of the campaign, for once in office, the duties of the "mayor" aren't very demanding in this unincorporated rural com-

munity. For those not into politics, plenty of live blue grass music will be provided. Refreshments will also be offered for sale.

Election proceeds will be used to support the fire and rescue squad.

January Unemployment Rises To 12.4 Percent

For the fourth consecutive month, Brunswick County's unemployment rate continued to climb in January, up to 12.4 percent compared to 11.6 percent in December, the N.C. Employment Security Commission reported.

"The highest unemployment rates continue to be concentrated in the eastern and western areas of the state," said ESC spokesman Bob Campbell. "Layoffs, primarily in the textile and apparel industries, contributed to significant increases in a number of counties."

In Brunswick County, of the 19,890 eligible workers that make up the labor force, approximately 2,460 were jobless in January compared to 2,290 who were unemployed in December, Campbell reported.

Several surrounding counties also experienced increases in unemployment rates in January. New Hanover County's rate jumped from 8 percent to 8.3 percent while unemployment rose in Columbus County from 12.2 percent to 12.8 percent. Bladen County experienced the largest increase of the surrounding counties, from 11.1 percent to 12.7 percent.

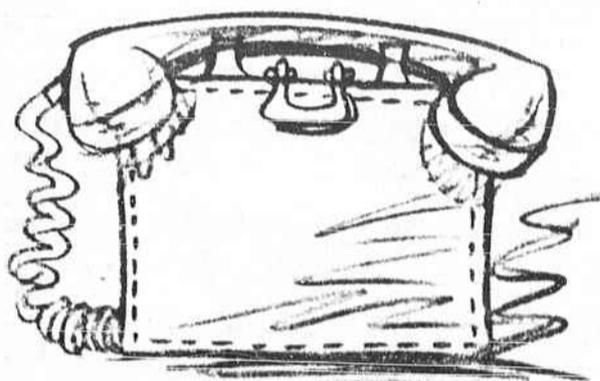
As a result of the 1980 census, the ESC's Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) used to rate unemployment in

certain parts of the state have undergone changes, Campbell reported. Prior to last month's changes, Brunswick County was in-

cluded in the Wilmington MSA, but has since been dropped from that area.

The county with the largest

unemployment last month was Swain County at 23.6 percent while Orange County maintained the lowest rate at 3.1 percent.



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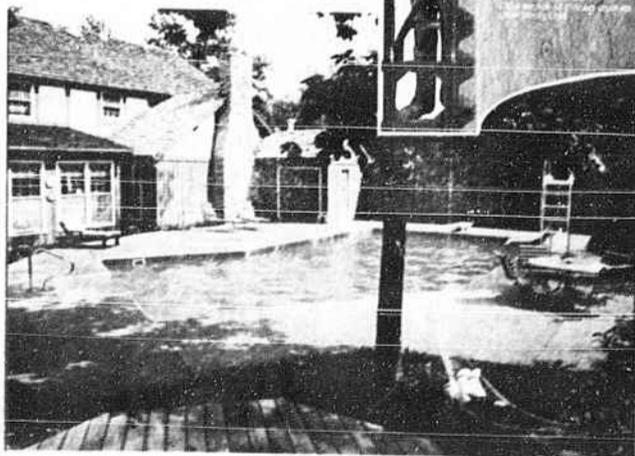
'Growl' Test Set By CP&L

Carolina Power & Light will hold its quarterly low-volume or "growl" test of its siren alert system around the Brunswick Nuclear Plant March 19, 20 and 21.

Residents within a 10-mile radius may hear the sirens for a few seconds at a time during these days. The sirens were installed to alert the residents if an emergency condition develops at the plant so they can monitor the Emergency Broadcast System for more information.

DON'T SETTLE FOR LESS THAN THE BEST!

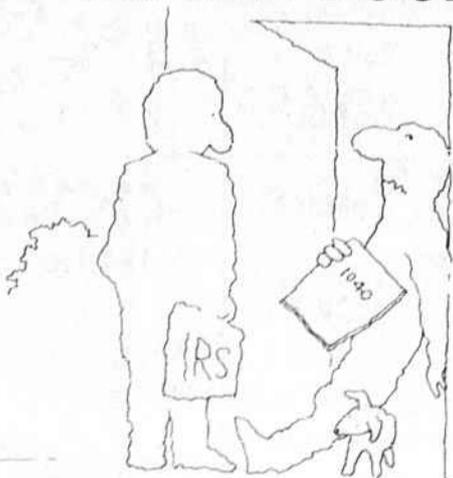
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