



### Grounded

A sailboat and dinghy cruise past the huge barge and "Royal Engineer" tug that ran aground in the Intracoastal Waterway on Holden Beach Monday afternoon. Heading north, the barge struck the marsh near High Point street. It had passed through the Ocean Isle Beach bridge at approximately 2:27 p.m. Monday, reported bridge tender Anthony Stevenson.

STAFF PHOTO BY TERRY POPE

## Shalotte Hires Patrol Officer, To Fill Chief's Post By July

BY SUSAN USHER

Former reserve officer Eddie Reynolds was to begin work as a patrol officer for the Shalotte Police Department late this week, following action by the board of aldermen last Wednesday night.

The board voted unanimously to hire Reynolds after meeting behind closed doors for more than an hour to review applications for patrol officer and chief of police.

Mayor Beamon Hewett said the board expected to fill the chief's position by July. Nine applicants are interested in the job previously held by John Wayne Campbell, who was fired in April.

William Edward (Eddie) Reynolds Jr., 25, formerly of Leland, fills a vacancy created more than a year ago when Jimmy Todd left the department. Starting at an annual salary of \$13,458, he will serve the standard one-year probationary period before becoming eligible for

permanent status. A full-time reserve officer for the department until approximately three months ago, Reynolds was relieved of duty by the former chief of police.

Mayor Beamon Hewett said that Reynolds' forms for state law enforcement certification were never submitted by the department to the state after he began working for the town. But Hewett said he has been assured that now the forms have been submitted, Reynolds will get credit for his past experience with the town and will receive his certification credentials this week.

The board also made Jerry Wilson of Holden Beach a reserve officer. Wilson has been working informally in this capacity for the past several months.

#### Christmas Lights

Aldermen voted to put \$6,000 in the proposed 1985-86 budget toward the purchase and installation of lights that would cost about \$16,000, including extra lights purchased over a

three-year period. Aldermen figure it will take an estimated 80 lights to cover U.S. 17 from one end of town to the other, spacing lights on some of the 108 electrical, telephone and other types of poles situated along the main street.

David Gause, Paul Wayne Reeves and Bobby Russ showed various lighting styles to several women in town, they said. The models they liked best were a candle, at \$135, and a hanging star, at \$139, two of the least expensive in the catalog.

Before making a final decision, however, the board will check the latest manufacturer's catalog for prices. Members also think a company representative should survey the street to determine the most effective display.

While businesses off of U.S. 17 have requested Christmas lights in their areas, the board agreed with Mayor Hewett, who said, "I don't think we should get off 17 at any time."

Otherwise, they said, the town would have to install lights all over town, which would be cost-prohibitive.

The board learned that Brunswick Electric Membership Corp. wants to "straighten" some electrical service poles along U.S. 17. And Mayor Beamon Hewett suggested that future utility installations in town be placed underground.

#### Other Business

In other business, the board:

- Canceled a public hearing on a special use permit request to allow construction of a duplex on Pender Street. The person proposing the project has withdrawn his request, the mayor said.

- Delayed action on signing a revised county water contract until the new county water system comes on line, on the advice of water plant manager Kenneth Hewett.

"He said unless we were dissatisfied with the existing contract to leave it as is and change

when the other system comes on," said the mayor.

If the county must call upon the town to supplement its water supply, he added, the town would be reimbursed at the same rate it now pays the county for water. Hewett said he "didn't mention" reimbursement for forced start-up costs as first proposed because the town is routinely starting up its pumps on a weekly basis anyway, since maintenance of its existing system is a requirement of its current contract with the county.

- Set a reimbursement rate of \$20 per hour for the town's backhoe and \$14 for the dump truck, as requested by Maintenance Superintendent Albert Hughes. The town recently cleaned an unsightly lot and needed to set usage rates for equipment so that the property owner could be billed.

- Lacking nominations, delayed appointment of a member to the Brunswick County Council on the Status of Women until the next meeting.

## Holden Beach Will Try Saturday Hours In Fall

Property owners visiting Holden Beach on weekends this fall will be able to take care of business at the town hall—at least on a trial basis.

On a split vote, Holden Beach commissioners decided Monday to open the town hall from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays during the months of September, October, and if business warrants it, November.

"The idea has been tossed around for 10 or 12 years," said Commissioner Hal Stanley in making the motion. "There are definitely some people who want someone here (on Saturdays)."

"The time has come to find out—if on a trial basis—if there is a need for it. We need to lay it to rest one way or another."

The matter came up Monday following receipt of a letter from Bill Lovelace of the Holden Beach Property Owners Association that asked the town to consider Saturday hours at the town hall as a service to non-resident property owners.

Based on N.C. League of Municipalities records, said Town Administrator Bob Buck, Ocean Isle Beach is the only municipality in the state that keeps Saturday hours. Town Clerk Alberta Tatum works Saturdays and takes Wednesdays off.

After meeting with town office employees, Personnel Committee members Gloria Barrett and Stanley recommended against Saturday hours during the summer.

"It was generally felt that if we were going to have the office open this isn't the time of year to do it," said Mrs. Barrett. "But that Easter weekend is. Most people get a holiday Easter weekend."

Buck summed up the position of town employees in a memo, stating that effective response to the public would be limited during Saturday hours because only one employee would be on duty. Having that employee take compensatory time off during the week, he added, would cause a hardship for the office—especially weeks that affected the tax collector/bookkeeper or secretary.

Stanley first proposed the hiring of

part-time help rather than "arbitrarily" asking existing employees to begin working Saturday hours. That, he said, might equate with voiding a verbal contract or understanding at the time of employment that no Saturday hours were involved.

Commissioner Barrett voted against the motion, saying three months was too long a trial period. Stanley said the time period could be shortened if it became apparent the need didn't exist. But Mrs. Barrett said the town shouldn't advertise the town hall as being open certain days and then close it.

Commissioners Lyn Holden and Graham King were absent.

## Leland Resident Seeks Payment For Fire

A Leland man whose business was destroyed by fire in December is suing his insurance company to recover more than \$150,000 in damages.

Willie E. Sloan, owner of the M&W Minute Mart on U.S. 17 near Town Creek, filed suit May 14 in Brunswick County District Court against Montgomery Mutual Insurance Co. and the Leland Insurance Agency Inc. Sloan is asking that a jury hear the case and award \$52,000 for building and personal damages and \$100,000 in punitive damages.

According to the suit filed by at-

torney A.A. Canoutas of Wilmington, Sloan was issued an insurance policy from Montgomery Mutual on Nov. 20, 1984 effective until Nov. 20, 1987 to cover business merchandise and inventory for his store. After signing a lease for the store, Sloan advised the Leland Insurance Agency that his lease would have to insure not only the business, but the building inventory of \$40,000 and \$12,000 for personal property, the suit states.

Following the Dec. 9 fire that destroyed the store at the intersection of U.S. 17 and N.C. 87 near Town

Creek, all forms and required statements were submitted to David J. Morris, an adjuster with GAB Business Services Inc., the suit states.

Sloan states the insurance policy was "in full force and effect at the time of the loss" and that the premium had been paid. However, Montgomery Mutual has refused to pay the claim, the suit states.

If the jury finds that Sloan did not have the "broadest coverage available concerning business

owners protection," then the suit asks that the insurance company be found responsible for failing to provide such coverage as requested by the plaintiff.

The incident has caused "grievous mental anguish, pain and suffering by putting the plaintiff out of business and near financial catastrophe," the suit states. It is asking for \$52,000 in damages plus interest, and \$100,000 in punitive damages from either the Montgomery Mutual or Leland Insurance Agency.

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