



Playhouse To Parsonage

A third cottage made the trek across the Holden Beach Bridge Monday morning, this one destined for a distinct change of careers. The Sunbeam II, a family beach cottage owned by Melva Price of High Point, once stood at the foot of the new bridge exit on property now zoned commercial. Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church of Supply, the new owner, plans to convert the

cottage into a parsonage. Alan Holden Realty acted as Mrs. Price's agent in arranging the donation. Holden said several groups, including the Holden Beach Senior Citizens, inquired about receiving the house, but that the Supply church was the first to get the necessary paperwork together.

SOME RELIEF IN WORKS AT HOLDEN BEACH

Septic Tanks No Longer Pose Health Threat

BY SUSAN USHER
 Septic tank problems in Coastal Shores subdivision at Holden Beach no longer pose an immediate public health problem and steps have begun to try and correct the drainage situation that caused the systems to fail. Recent heavy rainfalls inundated septic tanks of homes along Shell Street, causing them to discharge raw sewage to the surface. The 28-lot subdivision is located near the west end of the island. County health officials asked seven property owners to curtail water usage and use of their septic tanks because the sewerage posed a public health threat. John Crowder, acting county health director, said the waste is laden with bacteria and viruses that can be picked up and transmitted to others by animals drinking the water, children playing around it, or anyone else who comes into direct

contact with it. Such water-borne diseases include hepatitis, dysentery and typhoid fever. He said Tuesday that no further action by the county is required at this time since the threat has abated. "We checked again Monday and it had dried up pretty much. It's no longer a public health threat." However, the property owners, are still being cautioned in a second letter to restrict water usage, to limit use of their washing machines, to fill low areas of their lots and to encourage the town to install a drainage system there. The letter also notes that a longer-term solution may be to transfer the water for off-site disposal. If the situation isn't corrected, Crowder said last week, the problem will recur. "If somebody lives there, they will have a problem," he said. Harvey Lee of 1192 Ocean Boulevard West, the only permanent

resident whose dwelling is affected, said the drainage problem has existed for some time. "Believe me, it has been a real trauma for five months," he told Holden Beach Commissioners Monday. Commissioner William Williamson, who operates Carolina Seashore Retreat is one of the affected property owners. He closed 30 of his 150-plus camper lots in advance of the health department notice. "I could see the problem. I'm just glad it wasn't over the Labor Day weekend," he told the Beacon. When Lee first broached the problem to Holden Beach Commissioners, they told him correcting the drainage problem was his responsibility. Monday night, board said that while they didn't know what the long-range solution would be, that responsibility should be shared by state and local government and the property

owners. "The town is wrapped up with it," said Mayor John Tandy. "We will do whatever is necessary because of the health threat." Commissioner Lyn Holden also reminded Lee that in dealing with the Shell Street problem, the town has to keep in mind that it is setting precedent for dealing with similar problems in the future. The N.C. Division of Coastal Management plans to issue a minor CAMA permit to the town for installation of a swale up to 15 or 20 feet wide to carry stormwater away from the lots and toward the marsh along the Intracoastal Waterway. According to Holden Beach Town Manager Bob Buck the permit should be issued in about two weeks. Also, Jim Griffin, developer of the Holden Beach West property just west of Shell Street, has installed (See SEPTICTANK, Page 2-A)

Williamson Gets Three Years For Hewett Murder

A Brunswick County jury returned a verdict of guilty of involuntary manslaughter at noon Friday in the trial of Forrest Williamson, 48, of Shallotte, charged with the April 6 murder of William Hewett, 47, of Civietown. After hearing only two days of testimony, the eight-woman, four-man jury deliberated about three hours before coming to a decision. Other optional verdicts were guilty of first and second degree murder, and not guilty. Judge Coy Brewer Jr. sentenced Williamson to three years, the lightest penalty he could have assigned. Rex Gore, representing Williamson, and Wanda Bryant from the District Attorney's office, presented a total of three witnesses whose stories were completely compatible. The testimony of the defendant and that of David Faulk, testifying for the state, related the incidents of April 6, beginning with the early hours of the day in which Faulk and Hewett were together. Faulk said at one point his companion pulled out a gun, a .22 caliber revolver, and put it to his stomach, then Faulk took it from him and showed

it under the seat of the car. Later, Faulk said, Hewett retrieved the gun and put it against his forehead and cocked it. Again Faulk took it from him. After the two men were joined by Forrest Williamson, they all sat around on the deck behind the Red and White grocery store, where Williamson was employed, drinking beer. Hewett remarked, "I wish someone would blow my brains out," Williamson replied, "I'm sorry, I don't have a gun." "That's no problem," Hewett was quoted as saying, as he went to his car and got his gun. He gave it to Williamson, who then placed it against the center of Hewett's forehead and fired, according to the testimony. Williamson testified, however, that he believed the gun was not loaded. Gore expressed satisfaction with the verdict, and said that under the Fair Sentencing Act, Williamson will have to serve only half his sentence, a year and a half. "But actually, they've been serving only about 40 percent of their sentence, so he could be out by Christmas next year," he said.

Seven County Residents Included In Drug Bust

Among 42 persons rounded up in the last two weeks by North Myrtle Beach narcotics detectives in their "Operation Profile," were seven from Brunswick County. Charges against the suspects ranged from trafficking in LSD, marijuana, or cocaine and possession or manufacture of marijuana, to use of conveyance to transport controlled substances. Brunswick County residents arrested were: Eric Scott Isenhour, 25, and Christopher Thomas Blevius, 26, both of Ocean Isle Beach; John Wesley Caraway, 27, and Larry Franklin Larrimore, 20, both of Shallotte; Tracy Lynn Harmon, 21, Jeffrey Rex Barlow, 20, and Marvin Lee Gore, 20, all of Ash. Information regarding specific individual charges was not available at press time. According to Walt Floyd, chief of detectives, the busts were made by infiltrating various drug dealing locations around the city.

Utilities Board Dives Into Water System Role

BY SUSAN USHER
 Members of the Brunswick County Utilities Board immediately began immersing themselves in the county water system at their organizational meeting Monday night. Described by County Manager Billy Carter as "probably one of the most important boards the county has to offer and probably the most important right now," the panel is charged with running the county water system in a "businesslike" manner. Its first job is to set priorities for extension of lateral lines off the main trunk lines. Numerous subdivisions and communities have put their names up for consideration, some citing development potential, others problems with water quality and/or septic tank operation. Commissioners have budgeted \$1.5 million for water-related expansion projects, but said Carter, "it won't do everything" requested. The manager indicated recommendations from the board will be treated with respect by county commissioners. Members unanimously elected Franky Thomas of Leland chairman and Alfonza Roach vice-chairman. Thomas, a county commissioner for eight years and former chairman, also served four years on the Lower Cape Fear Water & Sewer Authority. Roach, of Supply, is a former member of the Brunswick County Board of Health. "We need to have a couple of meetings on our own and get our feet on the ground before we face the public," suggested Thomas, referring to the tremendous public interest in the lateral lines. Board members' orientation will

include a 1 p.m. tour on Sept. 15 of county water facilities, including the N.C. 133 plant, the Malmo plant and a pump station, a 6-30 p.m. briefing on Oct. 22, and their first regular meeting on Oct. 13 at 6:30 p.m. Their regular meetings will be held the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m., in the commissioners'

chambers. Commissioner Frankie Rabon, as the ex-officio or non-voting member, charged the utility board with its responsibilities before the swearing-in by Regina White, clerk to the board of commissioners. The county's water project has evolved from an idea, he said, to "the

threshold of becoming one of North Carolina's largest and most complex municipal water systems." He urged members to take their roles seriously because the "backbone of future economic development in Brunswick County is in your hands." In addition to the plant on N.C. 211,

the new 24 mgd surface-water treatment plant nearing completion at Malmo and a series of elevated storage tanks and pumping stations, the system includes miles of 24-, 36- and 42-inch trunk lines from which laterals extend. Existing lines run from Southport-Oak Island to Calabash, with new trunk lines being

laid along N.C. 87 from Winnabow to Southport and along U.S. 17 to Shallotte. The county plans to buy raw surface water from the Lower Cape Fear Water & Sewer Authority's King's Bluff Plant in Bladen County and is currently the authority's only customer. County Attorney David Clegg is the regional utility board's chairman.

According to county officials, the more water the county can sell the better, because those profits lower the cost of water used by the county itself. "The overhead stays the same," said Carter, with Water System Director Kenneth Hewett adding that the only additional production costs are for chemicals and electricity. The county is negotiating with several potential customers, including North Myrtle Beach, S.C., but no agreements have been reached.

County water will be available to the Leland Sanitary District in approximately two months, according to County Engineer Dan Shields, before the district is actually ready for it. The district board has not yet awarded contracts for construction if its water distribution lines. In any case, said Carter, "there is no way citizens will be shortchanged on water," as some rumors have suggested. Attending Monday's meeting were Utility Board members Thomas, Roach, Commissioner Rabon, Morris Crouch, Ernest McGee and Bill English. Absent were Robert Nubel and Ed Gore. Also present were Commissioners Grace Beasley and Jim Poole.



TAKING OATHS OF OFFICE Monday, with ex-officio member Commissioner Frankie Rabon in the background, were Brunswick County Utility

Board members (from left) Morris Crouch; Ernest McGee; Alfonza Roach, vice-chairman; Bill English and Franky Thomas, chairman.