

Harrelson Says He May Run For Congress Again in '88

BY ETTA SMITH

Tommy Harrelson of Southport said last Saturday he's "keeping his options open" as far as running for Rep. Charles G. Rose's seat in 1988.



Harrelson, who spoke at the Brunswick County Republican Convention, told The

Brunswick Beacon that a lot of people are asking him to run again for the Seventh Congressional District seat.

In 1986, Harrelson garnered 39,289 votes to the incumbent's 70,471. The district includes Brunswick, Columbus, Cumberland, New Hanover and Robeson Counties.

In Brunswick County, the race was closer, with Harrelson claiming 6,840 votes to Rose's 7,551.

"Whether or not I run depends on a lot of things," said Harrelson. "I

have a lot of things to catch up on because of the year I took off to campaign. I will know for sure by the end of the year."

Harrelson estimated he still faces a campaign debt of between \$65,000 and \$70,000.

In an address that had all the tones of a campaign speech, he told the audience that if it weren't for them there wouldn't be a two-party system in Brunswick County.

"We've got to get enthusiastic," said Harrelson. "Brunswick County

has become the murder capital of the southeast, and a lot of the problem is related to drugs."

In a one-party system people turn their eyes the other way," he said, "and let these drug dealers continue their destruction."

"Since 1975, when we (Republicans) left office the Democratic Party has allowed this county to go down the tubes," he continued. "We have to work to challenge what we have here in this county. It's obvious the Democrats

aren't taking care of things."

Harrelson said he was proud of the blacks at the convention who were willing to work with the Republican Party.

"We've got to work with the blacks who are willing to work with us," he said. "We've got to get Gov. James Martin re-elected and another Republican president elected."

Harrelson introduced convention guest speaker Patric Dorsey, secretary of the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, who in turn,

praised Harrelson and told the audience, "You know and I know he will be our candidate again in 1988."

Dorsey cited the growth of the party as a positive sign for the next election season.

"Since 1972 we have elected two out of three Republicans in the governor's race," she said, "and have won four of six races for the U.S. Senate."

In Craven County, where Dorsey lives, she said she has seen the (See COUNTY, Page 2-A)

THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

HOAG & SONS BOOK BINDERY
12/31/99
SPRINGPORT MI 49284

Twenty-fifth Year, Number 20

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Shalotte, North Carolina, Thursday, March 26, 1987

25c Per Copy

26 Pages

'Elizabeth II' Coming To County

The Elizabeth II sets sail early Sunday from Mann's Harbor on her first voyage to Wilmington and Southport.

She's due to arrive in Wilmington by mid-afternoon on Sunday, April 5, in time for the Azaia Festival on April 9-12. The 16th century sailing ship will be open for visitation in Wilmington April 7-20.

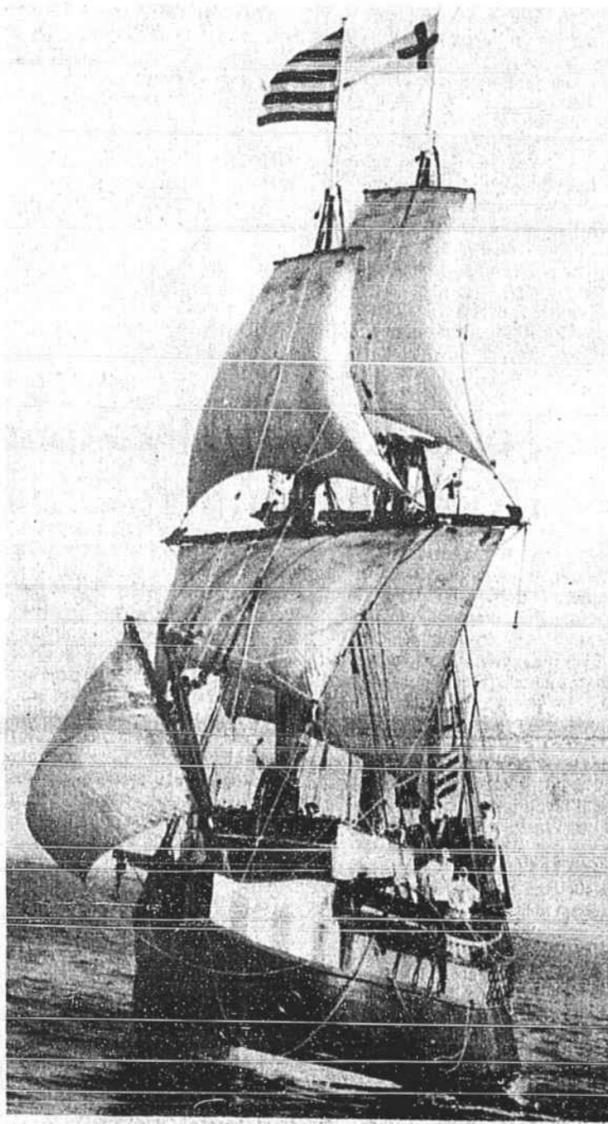
On the 21st, the square-rigger will sail down to Southport, where she will be open to the public April 22-28.

Visitation hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tours of the ship are \$3 for adults, \$2 for senior citizens and \$1.50 for children ages 6-12.

The Elizabeth II is a state historic site administered by the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources. She was built with private funds under the auspices of the America's 400th Anniversary Committee to commemorate the first attempts by England to settle North America. In the late 1500s, Sir Walter Raleigh sponsored three expeditions to Roanoke Island in modern-day North Carolina, two of which established non-permanent colonies.

The wooden ship was inspired by the Elizabeth, captained by Thomas Cavendish in the 1565 voyage to Virginia, and represents a 50-ton Elizabethan merchantman. She was completed in January 1984 and dedicated the following July.

With a home berth at Manteo, the vessel sails to other North Carolina ports primarily in the autumn and spring. Admission fees provide two-thirds of the vessel's operating budget, which increases substantially when she is sailing.



THE ELIZABETH II, the state's 16th century sailing ship, will be open to visitors when it docks in Wilmington and Southport next month.

AFTER EIGHT YEARS

County Manager Quits On Disability Retirement

BY SUSAN USHER

Eight years after taking the helm of Brunswick County government, William D. Carter is stepping down as county manager—and with short notice.

His resignation for health reasons is effective April 1.

"That's when my disability retirement goes into effect," Carter, a diabetic, explained Monday evening. "I'm not disabled to work, but I'm not able to do the job full-time."

He said he plans to first concentrate on improving his health before looking at several employment opportunities. Under the disability program, he can work up to 20 hours a week in state or local government or full-time in another field. He does plan to remain in the county and to continue being actively involved, though in a different capacity. Carter ruled out one career possibility immediately: real estate.

His letter of resignation came as no surprise when Carter read it at the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners' meeting Monday night. One commissioner, Chris Chappell, gave him a standing ovation.

Commissioners had been told the news earlier in the week, while department heads were told earlier in the day.

"I waited just as long as I could," Carter told the Beacon Monday.

He had taken a leave of absence from late November until February because of problems with his health. After surgery to correct a blocked artery in his leg, he suffered a staph infection that delayed his recovery. On his return, Carter gradually built from a few hours in the office a day to a full day, but the schedule took its toll.

While commissioners have encouraged him to take whatever rest he needed, said Carter, he wasn't satisfied with his own ability to meet the demands of the job.

"It's me that's the problem," he said. In evaluating the job in relation to his health, Carter told the board, "I have determined that I am unable to devote the necessary hours and energies this challenging position demands without great sacrifice to my health."

Carter applied for disability two weeks ago, and approval by the medical review board came through last week, sooner than he had anticipated. He said he had to take the retirement in April, or else reapply later.

However, he said he would be



WILLIAM CARTER

available on a part-time basis to help with the transition in management.

Carter assumed the county post on March 19, 1979, succeeding Cray Milligan of Ash, who had held the job for two years before his resignation that February.

Previously Carter had served as assistant administrator and tax collector for Bladen County, had operated a family funeral home business and served as a district manager for a life insurance company.

"It seems that about every eight years I start a new career," he noted Monday.

Carter's tenure, which has corresponded to a period of rapid growth in the county, has had its ups and downs as the county expanded its water and sanitation services, dealt with revaluation and other growth-related issues. By his own checklist, Carter met the goals first set on his arrival and others, including reorganization to make county of-

fices less autonomous and gearing county services up to keep pace with the county's growth.

Carter's management approach—typified by delegating responsibilities to department heads along with the freedom to develop their own solutions—sometimes set him at odds with staff members and commissioners. On the one hand he was hailed as a "strong administrator" on his arrival, one willing to take a strong line with county employees. Yet a more recent board of commissioners called on at least one occasion for a "tightening of the reins" of county government and more oversight of employees.

When Carter was hired by the county, its bond rating was low, its finances in the red and demands for services increasing with the county's rapid growth. "It was pretty much a laughingstock" across the state, he said, and there were few applicants for the county manager's post.

Eight years later, Carter cites stability in county government as a factor in its high bond ratings, financial solvency and a good reputation statewide as a progressive county.

"I'm proud to have had a part in that, however small," he said. He wrote in his letter of resignation, "I firmly believe that as public officials it is our responsibility when entrusted with a position belonging to the people, to leave that position better or at least as good as when it was accepted."

Crediting the assistance of excellent employees, he added, "I leave with a feeling of true accomplishment."

Among items he sees as still high on the county's agenda are arriving at a long-term solution for solid (See CARTER, Page 2-A)

Leland Man Killed, Three Injured When Youth Rams Truck Into House

BY ETTA SMITH

A Leland man was killed and three others were injured when a 15-year-old boy drove a truck into an apartment on Mt. Misery Road early Tuesday morning.

William Guy Bondurant II, 21, of Shasta Park Apartments, died from multiple injuries after the youth rammed a 1986 GMC pickup truck into the apartment, according to N.C. Highway Patrol Trooper J.V. Dove. He added, "It appears to be a deliberate act."

Three other occupants of the apart-

ment, Brenda Smith, 19, and Ricky and James Wagoner (ages unknown) were treated and released from New Hanover Memorial Hospital in Wilmington, said Dove.

The driver was not injured in the incident and is being held at a juvenile detention center until a petition hearing can be scheduled.

Brunswick County District Attorney Napoleon Barefoot said that some charges have been drawn and others are pending against the youth. The incident is still under investigation.

"I can't release any more information on it because it's a juvenile case," he added.

Trooper Dove said that several witnesses called the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department following the incident. He and sheriff's officers responded.

No bond is set for juveniles in North Carolina, he said.

County Coroner Greg White said Bondurant's body was sent to the regional coroner's office in Jacksonville for autopsy.

Marshfront Lot Construction Moratorium Imposed At Holden

BY ETTA SMITH

A 60-day moratorium imposed Tuesday by Holden Beach commissioners will stop further construction on marshfront lots that don't have 5,000 square feet of dry land.

The action was recommended by the town's planning board during its March 19 meeting.

During the moratorium, commissioners will draft an ordinance that deals with marshfront lots. The present ordinance deals with lots on canals, but does not address those bordering marshes.

Planning board members said at

their meeting that they are concerned that the town has no regulations to prevent another situation like the one surrounding construction of a house at 117 Windjammer Lane.

The former owner of the Windjammer Lane property, James Calvin, recently appealed the issuance of a building permit for the construction of a house there, but the town board of adjustments upheld the issuance.

The permit allowed present owner, Frank Jacobus, to delete a lot on a plat of clarification in order to keep one of the lots out of the marsh, according to Buck.

The board of adjustment's decision

to uphold the permit issuance can be appealed to the Brunswick County Superior Court, but Calvin said that as of March 24 no appeal had been filed.

Buck said that the plat of clarification was prepared to correct an error in an earlier survey of the property.

According to Calvin's attorney, Grover Gore of Southport, the plat clarification of a 1984 survey has allowed Jacobus to revise the northern part of Westwind Subdivision, where the property is located, and that Jacobus has taken a 50-foot section of Windjammer Drive in the process.

He said that Calvin had sold Jacobus the property in 1985 and informed him then that the lots were low and couldn't be built on. According to Gore the two men had a gentleman's agreement that the marsh portion would not be filled or altered in any manner.

Jacobus's attorney, Roy Trest of Thomasboro, said the original plat showed that Jacobus had purchased six 50-foot lots from Calvin. When Jacobus had the property surveyed he found that the map was wrong and that there were only five 50-foot lots on the property.

Other Business

In other business the board of adjustment:

•Failed to second a motion from alternate member Jack Scarborough to create a committee to draft zoning regulations on Planned Unit Development (PUD).

•Received petitions from residents who are opposed to a gun shop that recently opened at Holden Beach. The petitions have 31 signatures. According to Police Officer Jeff Williams, who is co-owner of the business, it is being relocated to Shalotte.

•Approved the design of a sign for

the Harbor Acres Subdivision, subject to applicable regulations set forth in the zoning ordinance. All signs placed in the town must be approved by the planning board.

•Reached a consensus that a bed and breakfast-type business is a commercial establishment and should only be allowed in commercially zoned areas. The town has only one such establishment and it is located in a residential area.

•Voted to exempt the telephone transformers placed on Salfish Drive from setback restrictions in the zoning ordinance.