

Attorney Has Colorful Past, Giant Dreams For Future

BY MARJORIE MEGIVERN

Dan Pollitt can't be accused of timidity in pursuing his career or in charting its future. And he may bring a measure of glory to Brunswick County in the process.

The 65-year-old graduate of Cornell law school lives in Chapel Hill, where he has taught in the UNC law school for 30 years. But he also owns an oceanfront home at Holden Beach sees the Brunswick beaches as an attraction for students of an innovative law school he wants to establish in this area.

Pollitt's ideas have always cut against the grain, beginning with his choice of public interest law as his specialty, something most aspiring attorneys shun as unprofitable and controversial.

Why deal with individual liberties and often indigent clients? Pollitt replies with a twinkle, "As the twig is bent." This means his family history is one of social concerns. "Both my grandfathers were preachers, and my parents were Unitarians and members of the American Civil Liberties Union," he said.

He has dealt mostly with civil liberties and spent five years as law clerk for Joe Rowe in Washington during the McCarthy era. "We took loyalty cases, so I helped defend people like Arthur Miller and Lillian Hellman," he said.



STAFF PHOTO BY MARJORIE MEGIVERN

DAN POLLITT chats with a faculty member at UNC-W where he recently lectured.

Pollitt's personal encounter with the playwright, Hellman, is mentioned in her book, *Secunder Time* in which she narrates her questioning by the Un-American Activities Committee in the early 50s.

"Joe Rowe and I were with her before the committee the day her case was dismissed," Pollitt relates, "and when we left he told me to take her somewhere for a drink and he'd join us later. We had a martini, then another one, and at that point, I realized I had no money, and there was no sign of Joe."

He laughed heartily, remembering his panic as a green law clerk. "I decided the thing to do was order

another drink and hope something would turn up."

Something did. As he and Hellman were sipping the third martini, Averill Harriman approached them and sat down to chat. "I excused myself to go to the men's room, then slipped out the back door." Pollitt said, "I thought Harriman could pick up the tab."

After this stint with Rowe, Pollitt began his teaching career that included Arkansas, Oregon, Virginia, Georgetown University and Duke.

But he also represented Wilbur Hobby in 1985 in a Supreme Court case based on the question of all white grand jury foremen.

And he served as special consultant to congressional committees. "I actually helped make laws, par-labor board in 1961, then was consul- (See POLLITT, Page 32)

Holden Beach

Holden Beach is the combination of two land masses, separated by an inlet, that were filled in by Hurricane Hazel in 1954. The portion from the east end to the pier was known as Holden Beach until incorporation in 1969, when the west end, including Robinson's and Colonial Beaches, was included.

The pre-Hazel beach had been a land grant, given to Benjamin Holden by the King of England in 1756, and it passed thereafter to his son Job, grandson John, and great-grandson John. It was then divided among John's six children, one of whom was Luther, father of John Holden, now living on the beach and father of realtor/developer Alan Holden.

Development was slow until tourism began to be a factor in American life after World War II.

The first bridge was built across a creek to the mainland in 1925, but construction of the Intracoastal Waterway in the 40s eliminated it. Ferry service connected the island and the mainland till 1954 when a turnbridge was built. In 1986 a curving highrise replaced the old bridge.

Holden Beach now has a permanent population of 342 and 1,587 housing units.

Holden Beach Information

- Town Hall.....842-6488 and 842-6080
- Town Administrator.....Bob Buck
- Building Inspector.....Dwight Carroll
- Mayor, John Tandy.....842-2834
- Commissioners:
- Gay Atkins, Mayor pro tem
- Grahara King, public safety
- Harold Stanley, finance
- William Williamson, water
- Lyndon Holden, sanitation
- Police Chief, Raymond Simpson.....842-6707
- Tri-Beach Fire Dept.....842-6068
- Coastline Rescues Squad.....842-2222

Holden Beach Regulations

- The town of Holden Beach prohibits the following:
- Climbing or operating motor vehicle on or removing vegetation from dunes;
- Motor vehicles and wind-powered vehicles on the strand;
- Open fires;
- Littering on the strand, roadway or private property;
- Loud or offensive noise, including music, profanity or obscene language;
- Pets not on a leash;
- Surfboards on the strand or in the water within 500 feet of any fishing pier;
- Use of skateboards on Ocean Blvd. or the bridge or bridge ramps;
- Discharge of firearms;
- Hunting, with or without dogs;
- Use of paths through the dunes or crossing over private property.
- Visitors are urged to:
- Obey speed limits;
- Fish with nets in accordance with regulations, available at the Town Hall;
- Use designated public or private beach accessways only;
- Park off the pavement in unpaved areas only;
- Cook on the beach only in containers made for the purpose, such as B-B-Q cookers.

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