

# Lockwood Folly River Pollution Blamed On Restricted Flow

BY DOUG RUTTER

A new theory on pollution in Lockwood Folly River and a potential solution has gained quick support from local fishermen, town commissioners and state officials involved in shellfish management.

During a meeting last week of the local conservation group Save Our Shellfish, area clambers and oystermen agreed that restricted water flow in and around the river is at least part of the reason for pollution problems in Lockwood Folly River.

John F. Holden, a resident of Holden Beach for more than 50 years, introduced the theory which received widespread support from shellfishermen and others in attendance.

He said increased water flow around the river could be achieved by cutting through a sandbar which has formed on the extreme western tip of Long Beach and allowing the river to flow as it did some 15 years ago.

According to Holden, the sand peninsula has been

*"It appears that the river never really gets flushed out."*

—John Holden  
Holden Beach

gradually developing for more than a dozen years and has cut off the free circulation of water from the river through Eastern Channel and Lockwood Folly Inlet into the Atlantic Ocean.

Prior to 1975, he said there was no sandbar and water in Lockwood Folly River flowed freely through Eastern Channel to the ocean.

Without good circulation of water between the ocean and the river, he said pollution stays in the river

and causes areas to be closed to shellfishing and also limits growth of the oysters and clams.

"It appears that the river never really gets flushed out," said Holden. Pollution in the river has gradually become worse over the past eight years as the west end of Long Beach has shoaled, he added.

Since last summer, shellfishermen have been greatly restricted in their harvest in Lockwood Folly, which has traditionally accounted for about 40 percent of the county's shellfish.

The state shut down about 153 acres of shellfish waters last August and reopened the area briefly last month. The lower section of the river, downstream of Genoes Point, has been closed and reopened a number of times since last fall due to changing pollution levels.

SOS President Annie Smigiel said restricted flow has a lot to do with the ongoing problem of pollution in the river and that improving flow would help clean up the shellfish beds.

"It's probably not a cure-all, but at least it would be a step in the right direction," she said.

In addition to town officials at Holden Beach, state officials involved in shellfish management have also said the proposal makes sense in terms of allowing the river to purge itself easier.

Rich Carpenter, regional manager with the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries in Wilmington, said circulation at the mouth of the river is not adequate for shellfish. He said the state stopped shell planting on the south side of Sheep Island about 10 years ago because of a slow growth rate.

"The idea they've got is very logical," said Carpenter, who attended last week's meeting. "I don't see any way it could hurt. All it could do is help the water circulate."

Poor circulation can slow the dilution of polluted shellfish waters and lengthen the time they remain closed. (See RIVER, Page 2-A)

# THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

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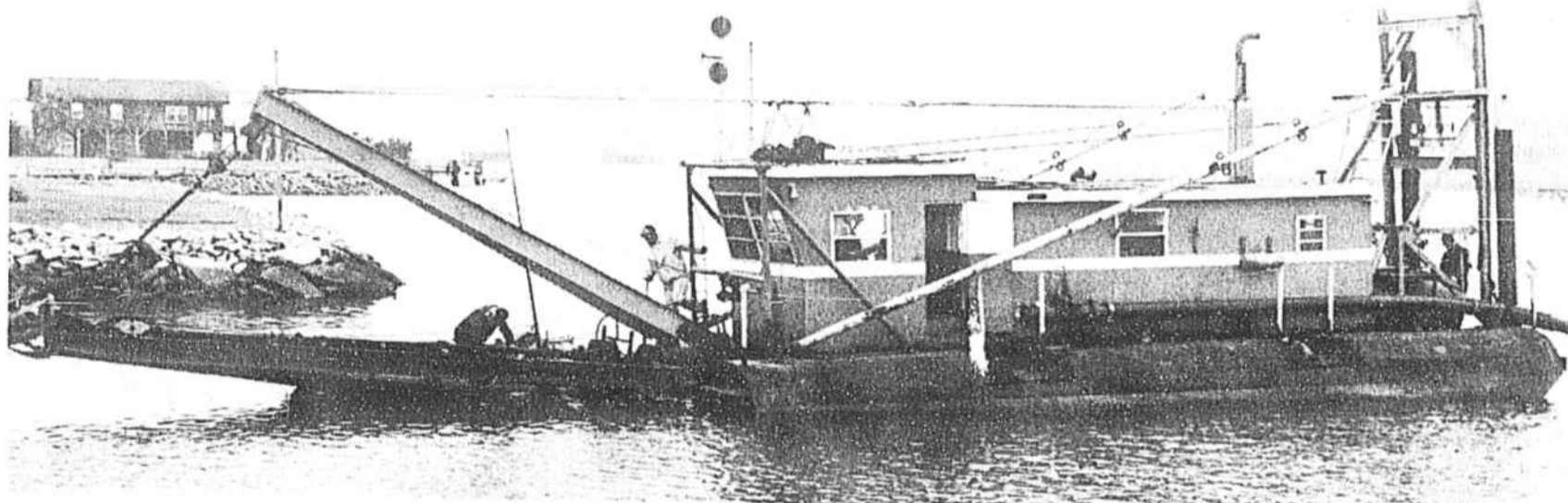
Twenty-seventh Year, Number 18

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Shallotte, North Carolina, Thursday, March 9, 1989

25c Per Copy

34 Pages, 3 Sections



Canal Dredging Begins

STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

Dredging of the first five canals east of the Ocean Isle Beach causeway began last week in the canal west of Concord Street. G&G Dredging of Holden Beach is doing the excavation work, and the total cost of the project

should be about \$280,000. Dredge spoil is being pipe from the dredge to a dike system on Craven Street.

## Babson, Grissett Seek County Republican Seat

Two Republicans with reputations as strong party workers will be seeking election as chairman of the Brunswick County Republican Party Saturday.

Shirley Babson of Bolivia and Malcolm Grissett of Grissettown both want the job, a two-year commitment.

The new chairman will succeed John Dozier of Boiling Spring Lakes, who has held the post for six years.

The convention begins at 2 p.m. in the Public Assembly Building at the Brunswick County Government Center in Bolivia. Alan Pugh, special assistant to Gov. James G. Martin, will be the guest speaker.

Support for the candidates began emerging at precinct meetings held in late February at polling places across the county. Delegates to the county convention were elected at the precinct meetings.

Dozier said in an interview last month that he expects supporters and volunteers from the campaign of former presidential candidate Pat Robertson to be highly visible again Saturday, as they were at the last convention. Both candidates are expected to seek support of these delegates.

Hospitalized because of a recurring asthma problem, he was unavailable this week for comment. The man who ran Robertson's county campaign, Ike Williams of Leland, had considered running for chairman but has since changed his mind. He has been quoted as having channeled his support to Grissett.

A Mary Kay cosmetics consultant, Babson served as secretary of county party in 1982, has been a member of it for 27 years and a delegate to the state convention since 1976. She is a member of the Republican Federation of Women and the Brunswick County Republican Women.

She served eight years on the Brunswick County Board of Education, including four as chairman, and represented that board on the Brunswick Community College Board of Trustees for four years.

Mrs. Babson also served as president of the Brunswick County Council on Youth Needs.

She coordinated Sen. Jesse Helms' county campaign from 1972-1978, and as 1980 county campaign chairman for the late Sen. John East.



BABSON GRISSETT

She was appointed in 1987 by Gov. Martin to the Personnel Administration Commission for Public School Employees.

According to Mrs. Babson, "because of years of hard work and determination by a small group of people from all over the county, and many new Republicans moving into the county," she continued, "we have grown to the extent that we have the opportunity to elect more Republicans to county office."

The party worker said her efforts with this core group and with newly

(See TWO SEEK, Page 2-A)

## Planners Change Meeting Schedule

As a result of scheduling conflicts, two changes have been made in the Brunswick County Planning Board's upcoming slate of public forums on countywide zoning.

According to Planning Director John Harvey, a meeting that was to be held on Friday, March 10, at Lockwood Folly Community Building has been rescheduled for Wednesday, March 22.

Also, a forum that initially was set for March 28 at Town Creek Community Building has been changed to Friday, March 10.

The public forum series begins today (Thursday) at the Sea Trail Clubhouse near Sunset Beach. All of the zoning meetings begin at 7:30 p.m.

Other forums are scheduled for March 16, Shallotte Town Hall; March 17, Leland Community Building; March 27, CP&L Nuclear Plant Visitors Center; March 29, Hood's Creek Community Building; March 30, Waccamaw Community Building; and April 5, Public Assembly Building.

## Shallotte Will Begin Sewer Plant Expansion

BY DOUG RUTTER

Shallotte will increase its wastewater treatment capacity by about 70 percent over the next two months, with town employees doing the bulk of the sewer plant expansion work.

Town aldermen decided last week to allow town employees to perform most of the work instead of hiring subcontractors. They expect the move to save the town more than \$34,000.

If all the work were contracted out, the job would cost approximately \$72,625, compared to \$38,500 doing part of it in-house, according to consulting engineer J. Finley Boney. "An awful lot of this work can be done by town forces," he said in a

recommendation to the board last Wednesday.

Employees will lay approximately 15,000 feet of irrigation pipe to expand the spray field, erect a barbed wire fence around the site, seed approximately three acres with grass, raise dikes and construct three monitoring wells. Of the total cost, the town has already paid \$12,000 for engineering fees and \$3,000 for construction of a 25-foot-deep monitoring well.

Shallotte will spend close to \$1,500 to hire a contractor to clear, grub and bush-hog the land before town employees begin on their work.

After seeing the estimated cost, aldermen balked at a proposal to contract all of the work involved in the

expansion. Labor cost was the main difference, said Boney.

The expanded irrigation field will be situated on about 14 acres of a 27-acre tract of land across from the existing plant on Forest Drive in the northeast section of town. After months of negotiations, the land was purchased last year for approximately \$54,000.

The existing facility has a wastewater treatment capacity of 120,000 gallons per day. With the expansion, Boney said the daily capacity will increase 86,100 gallons to a total of 206,100 gallons.

The added sewage capacity will allow the town to lift a long-standing "moratorium" on sewage treatment allocations to large commercial

enterprises seeking entrance into town.

Although there is no official moratorium, the town has been unable to commit any sizeable portion of its capacity since the end of 1987.

The plant, which first opened in the summer of 1983, is now handling about 90,000 gallons of wastewater per day, but a good portion of the remaining capacity is reserved for various developers.

Mayor Jerry Jones said in an interview last year that numerous requests for sewer service have come in over the past 15 months and that several developers have contacted him about locating in Shallotte once the plant is expanded.

## Lewis, Waters Named To Vacant Magistrate Posts

BY RAHN ADAMS

Two Bolivia residents—a former sheriff's deputy and a former in-school suspension coordinator—are Brunswick County newest magistrates.

Elizabeth "Rendy" Lewis, 40, and Wiley Waters, 50, were appointed last month by Resident Superior Court Judge Giles Clark to replace retired magistrates S.A. Sue of Leland and Ephraim Swain of Southport.

Mrs. Lewis—the former deputy—was sworn in as magistrate on Feb. 17. She has been a member of the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department for the past 13 years.

"It's a change, but I feel I'm still helping the people of Brunswick



Lewis Waters

County," Mrs. Lewis told the Beacon last week. "I feel it's a step up for me in my career in law enforcement. There's a lot to learn."

Waters, who had coordinated the in-school suspension program at South Brunswick Middle School since

1984, took the oath of office last Wednesday.

"I think it's going to be an interesting and challenging job first of all," Waters said, "and I also believe it'll be a rewarding one."

Both new magistrates will participate in a two-week training course soon at the Institute of Government in Chapel Hill. They work under the direction of Chief District Court Judge William C. Gore Jr.

Mrs. Lewis, the wife of Wayne Lewis, is a 1967 graduate of Bolivia High School. She has 17 years of law enforcement experience, having worked as a dispatcher for the Southport Police Department and

N.C. Highway Patrol in Elizabethtown before joining the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department as a dispatcher in 1976. She became a road deputy two years later.

Waters, who is married to the former Earthly Hartsfield of Bolivia, is a Baltimore, Md., native and a 1955 graduate of Dunbar High School in Baltimore. In 1962, he retired as a master sergeant after 26 years with the U.S. Air Force and moved to Brunswick County. He was a substitute teacher in local public schools for two years before becoming in-school suspension coordinator at South Brunswick Middle School.

## Redwine Expects Opposition To Carolina Shores Proposal

Rep. David Redwine says he expects stiff opposition to a bill introduced last week that would incorporate the Village of Carolina Shores subject to a referendum.

House Bill 323 was introduced at the request of the Carolina Shores POA after approximately two years of meetings, surveys and studies.

If approved by the General Assembly and by voters in a fall referendum, Carolina Shores would become Brunswick County's 17 municipality.

However, incorporation of

Carolina Shores is opposed by the Town of Calabash.

Because of that, Redwine said it would probably be opposed by the N.C. League of Municipalities. On a similar note, he earlier had said the bill might have difficulty gaining approval because the House doesn't like incorporations to avoid annexation.

Last March Calabash Town Council adopted a resolution of consideration to annex a large tract that would include Carolina Shores. That motion must remain on file a year before the

board can take the next step, adoption of a resolution of intent to annex. Meanwhile, the town has commissioned a feasibility study to determine what areas, if any, it can afford to annex. Presently town officials don't anticipate an effort to annex Carolina Shores in the near future as several other smaller areas have higher priority with the town.

Still, Mayor Doug Simmons told the Beacon in a December 1988 interview that incorporation of Carolina Shores would limit ability of either community to grow.

Last week Redwine also proposed that the state levy a two-cent cigarette manufacturers tax. He estimates it would bring in \$370 million in state revenues, which could be used to finance salary increases for teachers and state employees, he suggested. Every pack of cigarettes sold outside the state and to foreign countries would be subject to the tax. According to Redwine, this would mean that consumers in foreign countries and other states would pay a large portion of munity Development to receive cer-

tain state benefits.

House Bill 322, of which Redwine is a co-sponsor, would appropriate \$967,186 for support of Domestic Violence Prevention Programs and Centers.

Of that sum, a \$20,000 grant would go each year of the biennium to the Coalition Against Domestic Violence Inc. Another \$30,000 per year would go to each of the 61 domestic violence centers in existence as of Feb. 1, 1988. These include Hope Harbor Home in Brunswick County.

taxes to North Carolina.

Also, 1 percent of the revenues raised would be used to study alternative uses of tobacco.

However, the Tobacco Growers Association of North Carolina opposes the proposal and officials with the N.C. Farm Bureau Federation and N.C. State Grange have said they oppose more taxes on tobacco products as unfair.

House Bill 424, which would allow seasonal employees of the Department of Natural Resources and Com-