

MISTER MAYOR

Public Service Becomes Second Career For These Three

BY ERIC CARLSON

When Mason Barber retired to Sunset Beach in 1986, it was the 28th and (he hoped) final move in a long, satisfying career with the Exxon Corporation.

When George Anderson retired to Calabash in 1987, he quickly settled into to a quieter life on the 14th hole after traveling throughout Southern Asia as an international vice-president of Chase Manhattan Bank.

When Wally Ausley retired to Holden Beach in 1990 as one of North Carolina's best known broadcasters, he was returning to the beach where he had spent weekends and vacations since the 1930s.

Like most new retirees, all three men figured that they would finally have a chance to relax, to play a lot of golf and to pursue other hobbies that had always taken a back seat to their busy careers.

What they did not expect of their so-called "retirement" was to become the mayors of their new hometowns.

Mayor Barber of Sunset

Barber says he sought the post as a way to get involved in his community and to help guide its future.

"I've always enjoyed working with people," he said. "Once I retired, I had the time to devote to something worthwhile and thought I could accomplish something for the betterment of the community. I saw that Sunset Beach was destined to grow and wanted to see that we preserved the character of the town, and at the same time see that essential services were provided."

Recognizing that most of his neighbors, like himself, live on fixed incomes, Barber is proud of helping to keep the town's tax rate as low as possible. At the same time, he cites his efforts to encourage a new supermarket and drug store to Sunset Beach as an important benefit for local residents, both as a convenience and an asset for the town's tax base.

"My philosophy is that things are going to change and if people can't accept change, they're going to have a problem," he said.

A willingness to adapt was essential for Barber as he went from the U.S. Army to the University of Georgia and up the corporate ladder in the Exxon Corporation.

When his country said go, Barber went—to Saipan, Iwo Jima and other hot spots in the Pacific theater. And when the company said go, Barber went—moving to New Orleans, Tampa, Atlanta, Jacksonville and cities all over North Carolina. (Barber and his wife Ginny lived in Charlotte four times.)

He can recall "never a dull moment" in his career with Exxon, from his first days greasing cars in a service station in 1949, to his last



CALABASH MAYOR George Anderson (above left) displays some of the more than 1,000 open salts he has been collecting since his mother gave him the first one over 20 years ago. He retired from Chase Manhattan Bank. Holden Beach Mayor Wally Ausley (top right) continues to be an avid sports fan and West Brunswick High School Trojans supporter after an illustrious broadcasting career as the "Voice of the Wolfpack." Sunset Beach Mayor Mason Barber (bottom right) retired to Brunswick County from the Exxon Corporation.

post as the company's distribution manager for the Southeastern U.S.

While vacationing in the Myrtle Beach area, the Barbers decided to explore nearby Brunswick County, where they discovered Sunset Beach. They decided it was just the kind of small town they were looking for as a retirement locale. They built their first vacation home in 1984 and moved into another house permanently four years later.

The Barbers wasted no time getting involved in local civic activities. Ginny helped organize the town's beautification committee. As a former president of the Sunset Beach Taxpayer's Association, Mason was well-known when he arrived and was soon selected to be the town's mayor.

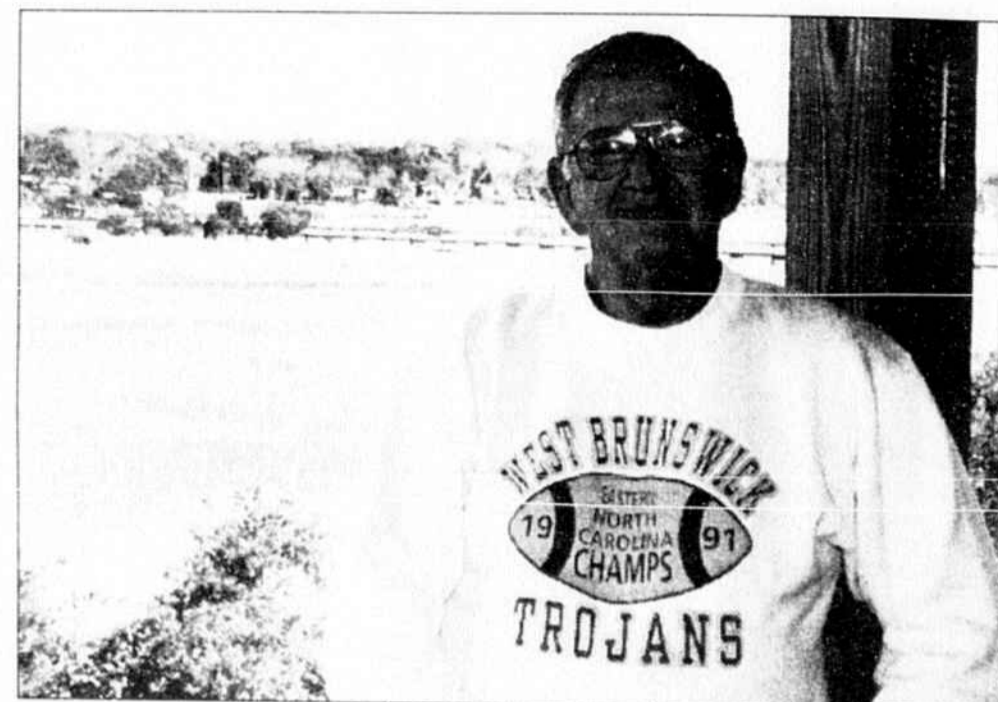
"I've enjoyed being in government. It's very challenging," Barber said. "It's not that much different from business, except you have citizens instead of customers. The rules and regulations make it a bit different, and you can't delegate as much as you can in the business world. But it's been a lot of fun."

Mayor Anderson of Calabash

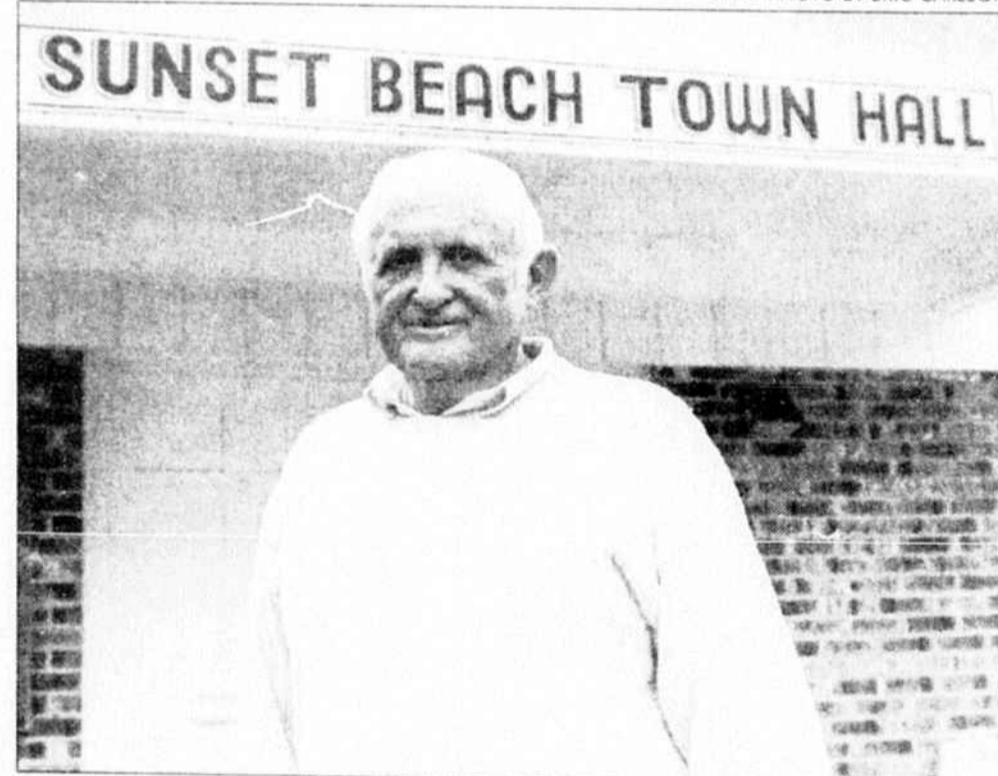
George Anderson is enjoying his first term as mayor of Calabash after serving four years as a commissioner. He was a member of the first board to be elected following the merger of the old downtown business area of District 1 with its rapidly growing neighbor, the Carolina Shores golf and retirement community that comprises District 2. He is the first mayor from Carolina Shores.

In a town where there's sometimes friction between the "old" and the "new" residents, Mayor Anderson has demonstrated a commitment to represent the entire town of Calabash, not just his home district.

Born on a farm in Northern Ireland, Anderson arrived in the U.S. at the age of 3, about a month before the great stock market crash of 1929. His father had emigrated to Canada and eventually to New Jersey, where he took a job as a trolley driver. He was later hired by the Mutual Life Insurance Co. and moved the family to Brooklyn,



STAFF PHOTO BY ERIC CARLSON



N.Y., and eventually to Long Island.

As a youngster, George found he had a talent for singing and became active in choir groups. He once sang in the famous Trinity Church at the corner of Broadway and Wall Street in New York City.

While a student at New York University, Anderson decided he wanted to be an opera singer. To pay his expenses after college, he took a job with Chase Manhattan Bank, while pursuing his opera studies at night.

"I had planned to work there for about five years," Anderson remembers. "Lo and behold, five years turned into 43."

"When I applied for the job, they noticed I had been born in Ireland. Even though I left when I was 3, and couldn't speak a foreign language, they decided I ought to be in the international department."

Anderson's operatic ambitions took a back seat as he advanced through the company's ranks, eventually taking over leadership of the bank's operations in Southern and

Southeast Asia and the South Pacific. He travelled extensively, to India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, the Philippines, and other countries throughout the region while heading a department of 600 to 800 people.

Back home on Long Island, Anderson got his first taste of elective office when he was named chairman of the local school board. He fondly remembers having the privilege of handing his children their diplomas at high school graduation.

Anderson's first wife died of cancer. When he later remarried, his second spouse Marilyn had a vacation home in Carolina Shores. He had been planning to retire in New England, but one trip to the North Carolina coast made him change his mind. The two moved south shortly after he left Chase Manhattan.

"I came down here to retire," he said. "Unfortunately or fortunately, it didn't turn out that way. After the

(Continued On Page 6)