

WHEN WILL the Marine Resources Center open officially? No one is quite sure, but the people working there to get it all together are optimistic about the good things it will have to offer the area and are already inviting some scattered groups of students in for short talks and small tours. Says Ned Smith, Director, the center is a focal point of interest about coastal and marine resources that will help people use these resources wisely. He speaks glowingly of our "magnificent coast" and hopefully about the varied functions the completed center will serve. First, there will be school groups of all ages coming through; then, two teaching labs will soon be equipped to handle fairly large classes; meeting rooms will be made available for both research and local or civic groups; a library will be fully stocked with appropriate materials, 16 aquarium tanks will be seething with marine life typical of our very own coastal waters; research labs will be used by people whose particular projects can be done only here; the center will operate a Marine Advisory Service which will help people who earn their livings here to do it better.

We've chatted about the center before, surely, but our enthusiasm is nudged each time we wander into the place, and we are eager to keep it on your minds so that when its various delays in opening are finally over, we'll all be ready to support it all we can.

CHARLES JOHNSON is the Aquarium Specialist at the center. We asked him about his possible need for volunteer help when things get buzzing over there (or swimming, as the case may be). He says the setting up of the tanks will be a big job and they will welcome help in the washing of the gravel, etc., as well as in putting up some of the displays. Then, after that, the big thing will be keeping the tanks going, - cleaned and replenished. Eventually, tour guides will probably be trained, under Ned Smith, and, already, our PKS Garden Club is at work on a booklet that will answer some questions about the center and be available to the public.

It's really going to be neat over there! Ned Smith had a group of kids in the auditorium recently, showing them slides of the area, telling them a bit of island history and pointing out the maritime forest beyond where trails will be marked and hikers will be able to walk close to the salt marsh and, if they're paying attention, see many forms of the busy life in the woods: frogs, turtles, dragonflies, ribbon snakes ---

And the best part of all is it's right in our very own town!

YOU SAY YOU CAN'T MAKE IT UP TO MONTICELLO THIS BI-CENTENNIAL YEAR? Don't despair! James A. Bear, Jr., the Resident Director and Curator of Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson, near Charlottesville, Virginia, is coming here! Yup, he will be talking at the Duke Marine Lab Auditorium at 8:15 p.m. on Friday, May 21st; his lecture is called: "1776: Thomas Jefferson on the Threshold of the Arts; a Historian's View." Sponsored by our friends in the Beaufort Historical Association, this really exciting evening is open to all of us for \$2.00 apiece, including a reception afterwards at the Josiah Bell House, where advance tickets are being sold now. Louise Baker, PKS, also has tickets: 726-8238.

James Bear is a native Virginian with a BA and MA from the University of Virginia who, since he was named curator at Monticello in 1955, has done extensive research and writing about Thomas Jefferson, including three books: Family Letters of Thomas Jefferson, Private Life of Thomas Jefferson, and Jefferson at Monticello.

ANOTHER PROGRAM you will want to know about -- on May 20 at 7:00 p.m. in St. Paul's Parish House in Beaufort, Maxine and Benjamin Swalin will present Painted Music, a correlation of art and music. Dr. Swalin before his retirement was conductor of the North Carolina Symphony, and Maxine Swalin is a talented musician in her own right.

GARDEN CLUB OFFICERS for the coming year are Janet Robbins, President; Marj Johnson, Vice-President; Elizabeth Ames, Secretary; Kay Johnson, Treasurer; Audrey Hoffmeyer and Irma Brossman, Project Co-Chairmen. The May meeting, the annual luncheon, will be held May 17 at the John Yancey Motel. And, our own Vivian MacDonald presented a program, "Bouquets of '76" at the 51st annual meeting of the Garden Club of North Carolina at the Hilton Inn in Raleigh on April 28.