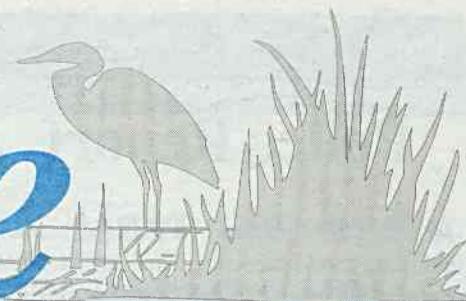


The Shoreline



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A Shoreline Community, Pine Knoll Shores, N.C.

Town Hall 247-4353

Will Consider Change in Form Of Government

The members of the Pine Knoll Shores Board of Commissioners have made known their intent to consider changing the Town's form of government from mayor/council to council manager.

A resolution to consider an ordinance amendment to the Town Charter to bring about such a change was unanimously passed by the board at its regular monthly meeting June 13. The resolution calls for a public hearing on the proposed ordinance amendment to be held at 2 p.m. July 11 prior to the next regular monthly meeting.

A second charter change is also included in the resolution of intent. It would provide that persons appointed by the commissioners to fill vacancies on the Town Board would generally serve until the next municipal election. At present appointees are named to serve the remainder of unfinished terms in office.

(Government) Continued on Page 4



Marking the Spot: Taking part in the ceremonies dedicating the Iron Steamer historical marker were (l to r) Janet Eshleman, president of The History Place; Mayor Joan Lamson; Shelby Freeman; Michael Hill, research supervisor with the state office of archives and history; Ansley Wegner, research assistant; County Manager John Langdon, and developer Gerald Barfield.

Marker Commemorates Shipwreck Site

By Bill White

The Iron Steamer Pier is gone. But the pier and the shipwreck from which it derived its name will not soon be forgotten, thanks to a North Carolina Highway Historical Marker dedicated in Pine Knoll Shores June 9. The marker is at milepost 7 on Route 58 (Salter Path Road).

The timing of the dedication was appropriate, coming 142 years to the day after the Confederate blockade-runner S.S. Pevensey was run aground on June 9, 1864 and scuttled by her crew to prevent capture by the Union gunboat New Berne, which was in hot pursuit. The Pevensey's crew scrambled ashore and became prisoners of the Union.

The Pevensey was an iron-hulled sidewheel steamer with one deck and two masts. Built in London in 1863, she had a short but eventful life, successfully running the Union blockade of Wilmington four times before being lost. For years part of her wreckage, lying about 100 yards off shore, was clearly visible at low tide and the ship became familiarly known locally as The Iron Steamer.

In 1959 Shelby Freeman, a local entrepreneur, built a fishing pier from which visitors could

look down and view the wreckage. He named the pier The Iron Steamer and capitalized on the historic aspects of the site to successfully promote his enterprise. The pier, which passed through the hands of a succession of owners, was dismantled last year to make way for a subdivision of 10 ocean front homes now being built. The saga of the Pevensey and the pier was covered in detail in the July, 2005 issue of The Shoreline.

Although the historical marker does not mention the pier, concentrating on the shipwreck that remains off shore, the pier is indelibly linked to the site and Freeman had the honor of unveiling the marker.

He regaled the spectators with highlights of the pier's early days, noting that he was selling real estate at the time and acquired the

300 feet of ocean front that became home to the pier and subsequently an adjoining motel only because he couldn't sell the property to anyone else.

Freeman not only found himself with the advantage of an historic attraction literally under his feet, but benefited, he said, from a little early help from Mother Nature. His new pier opened just before Hurricane Donna roared up the coast, wiping out four other fishing piers on the island and badly damaging The Iron Steamer installation. Freeman had his fledgling enterprise up and running again in short order and for some time reaped the rewards of being the only game in town, proving, he said, that an ill wind can do someone some good.

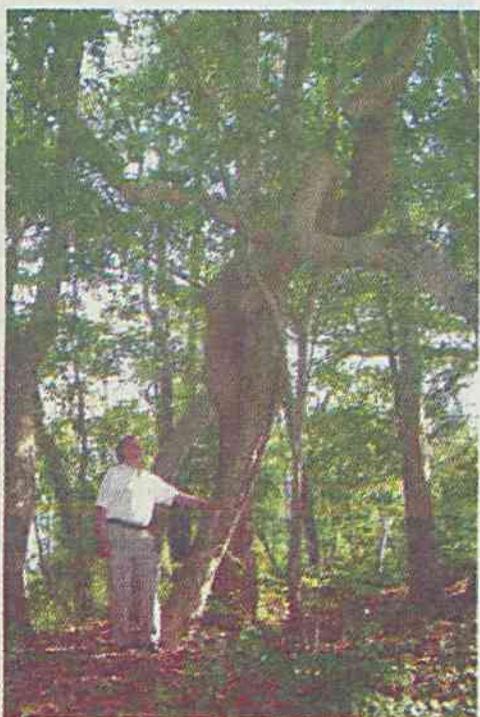
The importance of remembering events of the past was a recurring theme of all the speakers at the dedication ceremonies, including PKS Mayor Joan Lamson. The mayor had suggested installation of the marker to the North Carolina Office of Archives and History, which administers the highway marker program.

"This area of the coast is rich with visible history, both underwater and on land," said Lamson. "With so much development and redevelopment upon us it is important that we

(Shipwreck Site) Continued on Page 4



There It Is! Shelby Freeman unveils the historical marker noting the site of the wreck of the S.S. Pevensey.



Unity Equals Strength: Clint Anderson, a member of the PKS Community Appearance Commission, checks on two oak trees and a bay tree that have seemingly grown together to form a united front against the vagaries of weather that beset the maritime forest. See story on page 12.

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Deadline for August issue is Monday, July 17th. Deadline for Sept. issue is Monday, August 14th Articles always welcome!