

# 1977 Shore Line

By Phyllis Makuck

The *Shore Line* changed as 1977 progressed. It added writers, moved from black mimeograph print to blue stencil print, reduced the frequency of issues, grew from four to six pages, introduced yellow paper and began to use double-sided sheets. There was no shortage of news and interesting stories, but first a look at what was happening with the paper.

Mary Doll and Betty Hammon seemed to be running out of steam. In August, they wrote: "THE SHORE-LINE DEADLINE HANGS over our heads like an ominous rain cloud each month (a month goes by at about the speed a week did in one's youth) and we find that lately, as wives of traveling, working husbands, we are traveling too (not working too, but traveling too). And so, one morning recently, we had a summit meeting over coffee and buttermilk biscuits, and we made a staggering decision: FROM SEPTEMBER ON, WE WILL PUBLISH THE SHORE LINE FOUR TIMES A YEAR." So, they produced no paper in October and November of 1977, and the first issue in 1978 would appear in March.

In September 1977, they introduced new writers in a rather quaint way, politically incorrect by today's standards: "...the George Eastlands are joining our, for want of a better word, 'staff,' and we are enormously pleased, sighing with joy, actually. They've done a couple of stories for us this time. You're going to love the new style and approach to things." Actually, the new staff members were George and Moni Eastland, who had recently moved to Salter Path Road in Pine Knoll Shores.

One of the first articles George Eastland wrote was "Alice Roosevelt Slept Here." No, he did not mean Alice Hoffman. The "here" he was referring to was a wing of Alice Hoffman's house where, he claimed, Hoffman's cousin Alice Roosevelt liked to stay. In 1977, it was serving as town hall.

But who was Alice Roosevelt? Hoffman was not a blood relative of the Roosevelts. The daughter of Hoffman's sister married President Theodore Roosevelt's eldest son. They had only

one girl, and her name was Grace not Alice. Perhaps President Roosevelt's daughter Alice knew Hoffman and visited Bogue Banks, but the two were not related. The visitor was more likely Grace Roosevelt, who with her brothers and their wives would develop Pine Knoll Shores. Grace Roosevelt may well have wanted to preserve a section of the house.

Alice Hoffman died in 1953, and a few years later, most of her house was torn down, as plans for developing the entire property were about to begin. Only this eastern wing of the "spacious and sprawling home on Bogue Sound" survived. In the early 1960s, the Roosevelts had it "...moved intact to a location near the corner of Yaupon and Salter Path Roads to serve as an office for the manager of the development." This "manager" was probably Don Brock. (He and others who worked in the "office" thought it had been Hoffman's kitchen.)

Although George Eastland's article has raised some historical questions, it provided fascinating details about Alice Hoffman and her house, drawing from information provided by Don Brock, George McNeill, Mrs. Eugene Willis and Mrs. Don Fiorini (no first names provided). Eastland concluded: "The house was an intricate part of the fabric of Bogue Banks and in retrospect—especially in the view of many—its razing was a loss to the island." Unfortunately, the one remaining wing was removed from the municipal site as well; a new building would replace it.

The progress of plans for the new municipal building appeared in almost every 1977 issue of the *Shore Line*. January began with thanks to volunteers for helping clear the site. A February story looked back to 1971, when the Roosevelts "gave the town acreage where the present town hall stands... and where a proposed town hall and firehouse would be located." In March came an indication that there would be a referendum on the overall "plan for a municipal complex." April provided "**BIG NEWS:** The plans for the proposed building for PKS municipal area are on display..." These "exciting, contemporary style" plans included offices and work areas as well as space for fire and police departments. In July, a public hearing on the new municipal complex was held.

Commissioners were proposing \$375,000 in bonds, underwritten by the FHA and divided to cover construction, equipment and "a pumper." The town had a matching grant from the North Carolina Department of Natural Resources to equip "a surplus army vehicle" for fire and rescue purposes. A "grant" to purchase a rescue vehicle was dependent upon the town's having "a trained volunteer rescue squad made up of certified Emergency Medical Technicians or Ambulance Attendants." (A few residents already qualified, and more were in the process of getting certified.)

In August, there was a referendum. "Yes" votes meant Pine Knoll Shores would have not only a new town hall but also its own fire department. The issues passed easily with 189 voting, fewer than "half the registered voters" and a small fraction of the total population.

*Shore Line* writers, while engaged in forward-looking plans for the town, devoted considerable space to looking back. A brief history provided insights on what constituted Pine Knoll Shores in 1977. The history divided development into two phases: "In the first phase, land was designated for a golf course, an ocean park, and one on the Sound, and the section now known as 'old' Pine Knoll Shores was laid out."

A description of phase two helped define what was "old" and "new" in 1977. Land in the "new" part of town was "...low and even swampy, so a drainage ditch was dredged which drained the area and provided fill for low-lying sections. This drainage ditch is now our beautiful canal along which are so many attractive homes." Also, "a channel was dredged on the south shore of the Sound paralleling what is now Oakleaf Drive. The canal and channel make the greater portion of the second phase of Pine Knoll Shores an island within an island, accessible on Oakleaf at McNeill Inlet bridge and by the Mimosa bridge near the Ocean Park at Salter Path. In addition to the main 'canal,' there are branches and basins—Brock Basin, Hall Haven, Davis Landing, Hopper's Hideaway, Hearth's Cove, and King's Corner."

The above place names appeared without further explanation but provided a good list of key players in the early development of the town. George McNeill, a local attorney, worked for

the Roosevelts and drew up many of the original legal documents that determined the character of Pine Knoll Shores. Don Brock did early survey work here as an employee of Henry Van Ossen and Associates, became an employee of the Roosevelts and played a key development role from the 1960s through the 1980s. A.C. Hall, Raleigh City Planner and owner of the Atlantis Lodge, drew up plans for "new" Pine Knoll Shores. A.C. Davis, a heavy-equipment contractor, dredged canals and made equipment available to clear other land as the town developed. Harry Hopper, a management consultant, worked for the Roosevelts through Stone and Webster management firm. Ted Hearth, an attorney for the Roosevelts, also worked for Stone and Webster. Charles King was a land planner, who did survey work during the development of the so-called "new" Pine Knoll Shores.

But a newer Pine Knoll Shores was yet to come: "And now, plans are being made for another beautifully planned section of the community to be located to the west of the Roosevelt State Park. These plans include a boat basin for the use of its residents." This, of course, would be Beacon's Reach.

Statistics printed in December put the Pine Knoll Shores of 1977 in perspective. It had a population of 770, less than half its current population. Atlantic Beach and Emerald Isle were even smaller with 560 and 260 respectively, according to the North Carolina League of Municipalities, which listed Morehead City's population at 5,670 and Beaufort's at 3,800.

Pine Knoll Shores' tax rate was 20 cents per \$100 of assessed property, by far the lowest in the county; however, the value of its real property was the highest in the county—\$41,316,000. Emerald Isle, with its long stretch of oceanfront property, was a close second even though its population was the smallest; unlike Pine Knoll Shores, Emerald Isle had considerable rental property, as did Atlantic Beach. Interestingly, the listed value of property in Beaufort was only \$21,094,680; later restoration of historical homes and some new development would raise the profile of Beaufort considerably.

For the next several years, coastal development would remain in high gear. By looking back and forward, the *Shore Line* in 1977 prepared readers for a bigger Pine Knoll Shores.