### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 1962

## THE STATE PORT PILOT, SOUTHPORT, NORTH CAROLINA

# At Yaupon Beach-

# **Impressive** Improvements

By DRAYTON COOPER

"A family beach with good, substantial commercial development"-"A quiet place where we can feel like we're getting away from the hustle and bustle of the city".

These are two descriptions of the same place, Yaupon Beach, given by residents of the area on the same day. They may be somewhat conflicting in their scope, but they are both adequate in summing up the fast-growing resort community near Southport. In 1954, when the late G. V. Barbee, Sr., first began promoting and developing this relatively short stretch of the North Carolina coast, there was nothing but scrubby pines, glaring sand, and a road running through headed toward another beach.

Today, nearly 10 years later, Yaupon Beach can boast of a year-round popultaion of 200 residents, plus a well-planned, adequate shopping area, and a community of attractive homes.

Gib Barbee, son of the founder of Yaupon, is carrying on the work his father started when the family moved here in 1954. "My father saw the possibilities inherent in this part of the coast after travelling from Maine to Florida looking for a place to settle", young Barbee declared.

The elder Barbee was connected with real estate in the town

"Frankly," Barbee continued, What does this beach have to There well over 300 lots in this ternoon, but a good number of of Wake Forest, N. C., when the 1958. bottom literally fell out of his market. This sudden depression in "there was nothing here in '54, offer today? To find this out, we area of the development. New sun-lovers were stretched out on real estate in the Piedmont town absolutely nothing." It was evi-took a leisurely tour of the beach, streets are being cut through the the sand starting on the summer it was refreshing to hear him real estate in the Piedmont town absolutely nothing." It was evi-was caused by the removal of dent even to just a casual on-talked with several people who will be dredged so that small and already a well-done shade. It was refreshing to hear him state this as the purpose of his "Then they ought to do like

and money has been put into the are now making their homes boats can be launched. The family moved to Bruns- beach since then.

there. wick, purchased the section of "We feel we have a well-round-Practically all of the available started on these lots, but most the beach which is now known ed community building here. It land on the ocean side of Yaupon of the progress of Yaupon can as Yaupon, and started to work. isn't anything flashy or specta- has been sold. A good many of be seen on the ocean side. Driv- sonal interest in the fishing luck "This is the only work I've ever cular, but we do believe that it is these lots already have substan- ing down to the water's edge, known," the younger Barbee went sound, and will continue to grow tial looking homes built on them. one notices first of all the two on. The quiet-spoken, but ener- well in the next few years," Bar- "We would much rather have a large motels. These buildings have getic real estate entrepreneur at- bee continued. There was none family come in, spend a few days an unhindered view of the sea, tended the University of North of the usual promotional sales- looking around, and find just and there is nothing to block the beach in the county that has a Carolina, but came back home to talk one associates with inter- what they want in the line of a cool breeze the perpetually blows full-time certified life guard on take over the reins of Yaupon viewing land developers. lot. This way they're satisfied in from the water. follownig his father's death in But what about Yaupon's with what they've purchased, and There are three motels in Yau-



Within the past few months a spring, and most of them were medical convention has been held of this type." He pointed to a at Yaupon, and a group from the newly finished house of average Pilot Life Insurance Company is size, but very neat and liveablescheduled in a few weeks. looking.

One of the motels, the Ocean Near Yaupon itself is the site Front, is the proud possessor of of the new Oak Island Golf and Brunswick county's only coastal Beach Club. Here, on land purmotel swimming pool. The pool, chased from the original Barbee installed in Clarence Murphy's tract, a group of men are opening motel, is already a big drawing a highly restricted real estate decard for persons who prefer to do velopment centered around an 18their swimming in the quiet, fresh hole championship golf course. large fish Saturday afternoon on clared. "Up there they freeze waters rather than in the surf. Construction was started this the fishing pier at Yaupon Beach. them when they have a big sup-Across the way from the mo- week on the club house at the After a two and one half hour ply and they sell them to folks tels is the amusement area. Here course.

the younger members of families visiting the beach can spend their boost for our beach," Barbee of the fish ranged from a stinger- she was pulling our leg, but she idle hours. There are bumper continued. "We hope to begin ray to a tarpon. Sheldon was us- insisted that this does happen. cars, a universal attraction for playing on the course by the first ing a spinning reel and monofila- So if it happens at Morehead, a narrow-guage railroad, a fish-

ing pier, and a small, but popular, Barbee answered a question about all of the hundred spectators who Beach, Shallotte Point and other

Added since last season is an velopment. "I'll be quite truthful had really done a good job hanasphalt parking lot for the with you," he began. "When you dling the fish. amusement area. "This is really speak of philosophy, you're speakone of the biggest improvements ing of motivation, and the prime we've made," Barbee stated. pier, we strolled out over the blue waters of the Atlantic. Sevof them, a native of Lexington, munity in which to live," he con-N. C., told me that he started tinued. "We'd like to see a well-"It's a place where all of us

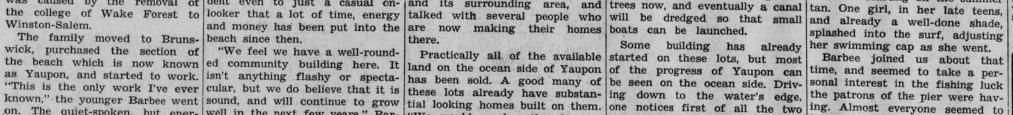
can have a good time," another and young." fisherman chimed in. "It's small enough that we don't have to worry about the kids getting lost, but large enough that there's something to do," he added. The beach was not overly

Some building has already her swimming cap as she went. know him.

> duty all summer long," he mentioned as we walked back toward

usually are ready to start on a pon, one on the highway, and the car. the other two on the beach. Of Leaving the pier, and driving

Consequently, there is no high- the three, the largest is the Yau- back toward the highway, we pressure sales promotion going on pon Motel, owned by Gib Barbee. passed several new homes that at Yaupon. Of course, there is The three motels have a com- would be a credit to any comland to be bought, plenty of it, bined total of over 75 units. munity. "This is the type home but the visitor isn't bombarded "This is just right for conven-with billboards and gimmicks." "This is just right for conven-tions," Barbee pointed out, "and bee said. "We averaged slightly At the present, the company is we're already beginning to do over one new house getting under opening up new lots on the in- some business of this type here." construction per week this past



"By the way, we're the only

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Sheldon Nelson, a 17 year old they do at Moreehad City," visitor from Greensboro hooked a | of the much-traveled girls debattle, the fish snapped his line who want to go crabbing." For "This will be a tremendous and got away. Ideas on the specie a moment we had a feeling that ment line. We are sorry he had maybe it is worth considering at As we returned to his office, nothing to show for his battle but Southport, Long Beach, Holden the philosophy behind his de- witnessed the fight realized he favorite fishing places alogn the

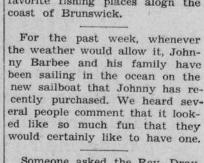
We often think that crabbing motivation in any real estate de- is a much neglected sport in and ny Barbee and his family have While the young real estate velopment is to make money. But around Brunswick, and when we been sailing in the ocean on the executive stopped to talk over a we believe that a certain respon- have an eager bunch of upstate new sailboat that Johnny has rebusiness problem with an em- sibility goes along with this, too." visitors who not only want to cently purchased. We heard sev-"We have a responsibility to have some fun, but who are in- eral people comment that it lookthe person who buys property terested in crabs to eat, we know ed like so much fun that they eral men were there fishing. One here and builds a home on it to that this is a form of entertain- would certainly like to have one. provide him with a good com- ment that should be encouraged.

Like Friday afternoon when a coming to Yaupon several years thued. We dlike to see a well-rounded development here where party of teenagers from Raleigh people can come who are both visited the Southport city dock semi-retired, as well as ambitious to try their luck at crabbing. Presbyterian church grounds sev-They were using meat scraps ob-"You can say that this is the tained from a local butcher shop, goal we're shooting for: to have but all the time they were coma community where people can plaining that fish heads would be come as a family group to vaca- better. We explained that you tion, or to live. We don't want a only have fish heads when you

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beach that is populated by a have fish, and that the local supbunch of 'rough-necks', but one ply for a couple of days had where the whole family can have been cut short by a northeast

Continued On Page 2



Someone asked the Rev. Drayton Cooper this week what is the probable mortality rate on the palmetto trees planted on the eral weeks ago. "We'll surely save one, and maybe the other." he predicted. "Both of them would Continued On Page 2



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SECTION B