



Fire Destroys House

Fire of undetermined origin destroyed the big two-story house on the Finch farm, located on N. C. Highway 87 near Southport, last Wednesday night. The house has been abandoned as a residence, so the cause

of the fire remains a mystery. This picture was taken at the height of the blaze, and a few minutes later the structure had been reduced to a pile of hot coals.

Education Board Okays Consolidated School Bids

Members of the Brunswick County Board of Education voted Monday night to award contracts for the construction of three consolidated high schools in Brunswick county, this to be done as soon as all phases of the contracts have been approved by the State Board of Education.

The following firms will be awarded contracts:
General Construction: J.W. Cook, Northern School, \$752,872; A.G. Carter, Western & Southern Schools, \$1,548,716; Electrical Contract: Watson Electric, \$446,216; Plumbing Contract: Sneed, Inc., \$341,957; Heating and Air Conditioning: Henry Baker Heating Company, \$412,185; Kitchen Equipment: Jacobi Supply, \$93,383.58.
Bids for certain phases of grading and filling will be accepted within the next two weeks. After further deliberation concerning cost construction and

available capital the board affirmed subject to final confirmation of analysis of cost construction and available capital to accept Plan I—completion of all buildings less gym bleachers, carpeting in classrooms, grading of athletic fields, etc., planters and pavers in courts, and movable furniture furnishings.
Superintendent Ralph King, H.M. Anderson, attorney, and

Jack Croft, architect, reported to the board events that took place during their meeting with the Brunswick County Commissioners Monday afternoon. It was stated the Commissioners agreed to the following:
To grant a one year delay on principal payment on monies derived from school bonds (\$200,000 less interest).
To defer contract covering kitchen equipment (\$93,383.58)

until end of building construction. Letter of intent to contractor from the Board of Education is to verify contract will be honored and equipment will be installed at specified time.

County Commissioners affirmed that additional monies will be made available during the next fiscal year to assist in completing Plan I of building

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County Will Provide Extra School Construction Money

Payment of school bond principal will be deferred by the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners to provide approximately \$200,000 of the extra money required for consolidated school construction.

The board was informed that about \$307,000 extra is needed to meet the bid totals so that contracts could be let for construction of schools to serve the western, southern and northern areas of the county.

The board, after hearing the report of School Supt. Ralph King, Architect Jack Croft and Associate Architect Ronald Bible, agreed that the schedule of payments of the school building bonds would be set up to defer the payment of principal

for the first year. This should provide an additional \$200,000 for the school construction.

Commissioner W.D. Ward moved that the Board of Education be given a letter of intent that the county would provide the other \$107,000 in next year's budget, to be furnished within the ability of the tax structure to support it, and upon availability of funds.

The motion was unanimously adopted.

In other business Monday, the commissioners heard a request from Lockwoods Folly residents that the ban on shrimping in the southern area of Lockwoods Folly Inlet be lifted. J.W. Robinson and Jerry Moore

presented the request, and asked the commissioners to contact Dr. Thomas Linton, Fisheries commissioner.

Dr. Linton has promised to investigate the situation and promised relief if it were justified by the shrimp count.

Tax collector Homer McKeithan presented a report on the collections by his department that showed an increase each year since McKeithan was named tax collector four years ago.

McKeithan addressed a letter to the board that read:

"Gentlemen:
"It is with great pleasure that I submit to you my collection report for the levy year of 1969.

"I would also like to include a report of collections for the four years I have been tax collector, in comparison with the four years collection prior to my appointment as collector. A breakdown will be shown on attached sheet.

"Since becoming tax collector on October 3, 1966, I have been able to show an increase in percentage collected each year, despite the steadily growing levy each year.

"At the time of my appointment the collection percentage was only 85.43 percent. I am happy to report that as of September 30,

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Republicans Hear State Chairman

Representative James E. Holshouser, chairman of the N.C. Republican party, told an audience of several hundred at a Varnumtown rally Friday night that one party rule has resulted in the highest, most oppressive tax package ever foisted off on the people of the state.

The minority caucus leader in the General Assembly told gathered Brunswick voters that the new tax legislation has given the state a \$118 million surplus in the last fiscal year. He called on voters to repudiate the representatives who favored the new taxes.

Holshouser said that voters could fight against excessive taxes by sending Republicans to Raleigh, since the N.C. Republican party favors the repeal of the new soft drink and tobacco taxes and one-half of the 2 cent additional tax on gasoline.

Between a fish fry and entertainment consisting of country and western music, voters also heard from Thomas Harrelson

and J.W. Suggs, both Republican candidates for the General Assembly. Both Harrelson and Suggs voiced opposition to the so-called "Democrat Tax Package" which, they stated, puts a severe dollar drain on local economies.

Republican candidates for the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners outlined the G.O.P. platform of progress for the county. The Republican platform includes support for the Board of Education in its efforts to implement the three consolidated high school program, institution of a county manager form of government, improvement in hospital facilities and quick action to halt beach and inlet erosion in Brunswick county.

Harold Willetts, incumbent Republican sheriff seeking reelection, took note of improvements within the sheriff's department. He cited the new county-wide radio communications system, the addition

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Postponed

The Democrat Rally and fish fry planned for Saturday night at Shallotte has been postponed until Thursday night of next week, according to Democrat Party Chairman Grover A. Gore. The outing will be held in the Lions Club Park across from the Shallotte High School starting at 5:30 o'clock. Chairman Gore says that all Democrats are urged to attend.

He said that the postponement was brought about through a conflict with the Daughters of Eastern Star, who previously had made plans to use these facilities this Saturday night.

Baptists Here Plan Revival

Southport Baptist Church will conduct a series of revival services next week, October 25-30. The services of worship will be held at 7:30 nightly, Sunday through Friday.

The pastor, Rev. John C. Dean, will be preaching, and he will be joined in the pulpit each evening by a minister from one of the local churches who will read the scripture and lead in prayer.

Visiting pastors will be the Rev. Tom Taylor, St. Phillips Episcopal Church; the Rev. Paul Scott, Trinity United Methodist Church; the Rev. Samuel Levenberger, Southport Presbyterian Church; the Rev. Bill Deitz, Lebanon Baptist Church; and the Rev. Macon Wood, Bethel Baptist Church.

Special music will be offered by the church choir and soloists during the week. The church extends a cordial welcome to the community.

Coastal Corridor Highway Would Benefit This County

Governor Robert W. Scott told an estimated 500 persons here Monday he is convinced that a proposed coastal corridor highway linking Norfolk, Va., to Savannah, Ga., "is of critical importance to the economic development of our coastal plains and coastal area."

A similar response was heard from spokesman representing South Carolina Gov. Robert E. McNair, and Georgia Governor Lester Maddox during the East Coast Highway Conference in Convention Center.

Brunswick county was represented at this meeting by Commissioner V.A. Creech, Jr.; Mrs. A.P. Henry, Jr., secretary of Southeastern Economic Development Commission; Beaman Hewett, mayor of Shallotte; Lester Lowe, vice-president of Waccamaw

Bank & Trust Co.; and Mr. and Mrs. James M. Harper, Jr., of Southport.

Gov. Scott reviewed avenues of financing the highway, noting that the states were committed to a governmental partnership in highway construction. "The challenge at all levels of concern during the next few months must be on the decision-making process in Washington," he said.

"The success or failure of a coastal corridor rests to a large extent on the continued interest and support of people such as you at their gathering." He called on the audience, representing business and civic interests from Maryland and Georgia, to a "commitment to follow up on this program and to effectively represent our needs to the national administration and to the

Congress."

These present for the conference unanimously adopted a resolution noting the urgency of the coastal corridor highway in terms of economic development and "strongly recommending the earliest construction" of the highway.

The resolution also petitions the governors of North Carolina, (Continued On Page Two)

Partial Answer To Erosion Woes

Representative R.C. Soles, who has been working with Mayor John Holden to find some solution to the serious erosion problem at Holden Beach, was advised this week that Governor Bob Scott has approved the recommendation of the Seashore Advisory Board for the construction of groynes at two points along this section of the North Carolina coast.

In notifying Representative Soles of this action, a spokesman for Governor Scott said "I do not anticipate any delay in this project as it already has been discussed today with Archie Hathcock, the executive director of the Seashore Advisory

Commission, who in turn is working with representatives of the Highway Department."

Previously Representative Soles had written the following letter to Governor Scott regarding this project:

"I am sure that you have been aware for sometime now of the severe erosion problem along the North Carolina Coast and particularly in the Holden Beach section of Brunswick County. Presently, the Seashore Advisory Board has under consideration a project which would involve the construction of groynes at Holden Beach in Brunswick County and at Atlantic Beach (Continued On Page Four)



Women weren't left out of the action Sunday afternoon at the horse show sponsored by the Southport Jaycees. Hundreds of people watched the show at the Bonnett's Creek arena next to the Cape Fear River. (photo by Ed Harper)

Time And Tide

There was a sports note on the front page of our edition for October 16, 1935; Frank Niernsee, a Southport boy, had won the fall tennis tournament at High Point College for the second year in a row. He was a varsity basketball player under Coach Virgil Yow. A front page photo showed workmen atop the steeple of Southport Baptist Church, repairing damaged caused by a recent bolt of lightning.

Friendship Baptist Church in Waccamaw township was to be host later that week at the annual meeting of the Brunswick Baptist Association; Belk's in Wilmington (it was Belk-Williams back in those days) had men's suits advertised for \$18.94—and they were all wool; but on the editorial page the editor had a piece about "The High Cost of Living."

It was the fall of 1940, October 15, to be exact, and R. Gregg Cherry was coming here for a political speech in the courthouse. Col. Earl I. Brown had been named District Engineer for the Wilmington District, U.S. Army Engineers. The late Senator J.W. Bailey had been a visitor in Southport aboard the engineer's yacht, Kittyhawk.

A service station man had lifted the hood of a car owned by a Shallotte citizen and had discovered a bird nest on top of the engine—"Guess This Motor Hummed Like A Bird," quoth the headline; and the congregation of Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church were hosts to the Brunswick Baptist Association of that year.

A headline on the front page of The Pilot for October 17, 1945, predicted that one postwar development at Long Beach would be (Continued On Page Four)



Paul Dodge, a member of the host Oak Island Golf Club, taps in a birdie during the weekend Oak Island Men's Invitational tournament. Dodge collected the birdie on the par 5, 14th hole at the oceanside course after hitting his approach shot within a foot of the hole. (photo by Ed Harper)