

# THE STATE PORT PILOT

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Standing Watch

This is Christopher Byfield standing watch in the rain on the deck of his 16-foot sloop which he and a companion plan to sail to the Galapagos

Islands, a distance of 4,000 miles. The sailboat is being made ready for this sea voyage at the Southport Boat Harbor. (photo by Spencer)

## Youths May Register Now

"The United States Supreme Court has ruled that all states must allow person 18-20 years of age, who are otherwise qualified, to register and vote in National elections only," said H. Foster Mintz this week. He is Chairman of the Brunswick County Board of Elections. "This means that North Carolina will commence registration of those persons 18-20 years of age who are otherwise qualified under the state requirements. All other prerequisites must still be met and the only change is the minimum age. "It is important to understand that these newly enfranchised voters will not be qualified to vote in State or local elections, but will be able to vote in National elections," said Chairman Mintz. "In other words, the first election in which the 18-20 year olds will be eligible to vote will be the 1972 election for president, vice-president, U.S. Senate and Congress only."

This ruling went into effect January 1. Registration of 18-20 year olds must be done in the office of the County Board of Elections at Bolivia.

Each chairman, executive secretary or other authorized officer must register these newly enfranchised voters during regular office hours in the office established by the County Board of Elections as required by GS-163-67 and State Board Rules and Regulations for establishment of modified full-time offices. Office hours in Bolivia are Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 9 to 5 o'clock. Registration shall be on the same forms as are now used for all other registrants. Each registrant will be

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## Sailor Planning Voyage

A 22-year-old skipper who never sailed a boat is making final preparations for a 4,000 mile ocean voyage to the Galapagos Islands aboard his 16-foot sloop which is being outfitted at the Southport Boat Harbor.

He is Christopher Byfield and both he and his 20-year old mate, Ross Mosley, are from Toronto, Canada. They arrived in Southport two weeks ago after towing their craft on a trailer during a 24-hour automobile trip.

Mosley also is without prior experience in sailing vessels. Plans call for their small raft to be repaired and overhauled here, then the young sailors will travel down the Intracoastal Waterway to Florida so they can get some experience in handling their craft. Key West is the point of departure for their ocean

voyage. Already while in Southport they have licked one bit of inexperience. One day last week they went out black-fishing with Capt. Frank Hutton aboard the Nola Dare. When the photographer first snied Byfield Tuesday he saw him standing on the deck of

his boat, which was in the cradle at the Boat Harbor. He had on foul weather gear to protect him against the rain. When asked what he was doing up there, Byfield replied that "it is getting a little close inside."

A 16-foot sloop does not provide a lot of cabin space.

## Highway Fatality Total Indefinite

There is some discrepancy in the total number of highway fatalities for 1970 as compiled by Coroner Lowell Bennett and the State Highway Patrol. Coroner Bennett's report shows there were 16 traffic

fatalities on the highways of Brunswick County last year, plus one death resulting from a tractor accident but not on a state-maintained road, and a death from having an automobile fall on the owner and crush him to death. This also was not on the highway. The Highway Patrol figures show 13 traffic deaths, and the reason for this lesser total is that they claim three deaths charged to highway accidents should not be thus credited, since the victims burned to death.

Bennett admits that fire caused their death, but says their automobile burned after being involved in an accident. "The fire may have caused their deaths," Bennett said, "but it was preceded by an accident. That's why I have them charged to our traffic fatality total."

This three-death tragedy occurred February 21 on the Midway Road near Bolivia. The victims were Herman Elbert Johnson, Elizabeth Johnson and Rufus Bellamy. Coroner Bennett reported that there were seven deaths attributed to drowning in Brunswick County during 1970.

## Time And Tide

In our issue of January 8, 1936, announcement was made of the Supreme Court decision bringing an end to the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. Announcement from the office of the U.S. Army District Engineers in Wilmington reported that the final link of the Intracoastal Waterway was nearing completion.

One of the pioneer President's Birthday Dances was scheduled for the recreation hall at the CCC Camp; arrangements had been made for the sale of automobile license plates here in Southport; and Southport had been excited over the false report of the presence in a local barber shop of one of the ten most wanted criminals in the United States.

On the front page of The Pilot for January 8, 1941, there was a full-length picture of Mr. and Mrs. J. Melville Broughton and the caption announced plans for his inauguration on the following Tuesday as chief executive of North Carolina. A landmark in the Town Creek section had been lost when fire destroyed the Lindsey Walker home. Bald Head Lighthouse was back in use, this time as the location for radio signals.

An upstairs visitor got bored while on a deer stand and climbed a tree to gather pine cones for his wife. He was interrupted in this harvest by the appearance of a big buck passing near the base of his tree. He tried to jump on top of the animal, but

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## State, Federal Charges Of Vote Fraud Possible

And the election goes on... A public hearing will be held Tuesday that probably will decide which of the two candidates for a seat in the House of Representatives will get the job.

The State Board of Elections, which ordered a complete investigation by the SBI, has announced its decision to reopen the election dispute between candidates Thomas Harrelson and Arthur Williamson. The public hearing will be held at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday in the Columbus County Courthouse, Whiteville.

Also, federal action is possible in the charges of fraud and forgery in South Lees Precinct, where FBI as well as public attention has been focused. A grand jury session will be held in New Bern on Monday to hear evidence pertaining to the alleged election irregularities.

The public hearing ordered by the State Board of Elections will start one day before the 1971 General Assembly will convene in Raleigh. J. Hubert Norris, who is in

charge of facilities in the Columbus County Courthouse, said the District Courtroom has been set aside for the hearings both Tuesday and Wednesday of next week.

The State Board earlier had announced that the House contest ended in a tie, but further allegations by Harrelson caused the five-member panel to reopen the case. It ordered a "complete and thorough" investigation by the SBI, which followed

another investigation by the federal bureau.

Apparently, the decision of who will get the House seat depends on the outcome of the investigation by the SBI which has not been made public but probably will be aired at the hearing.

Alex Brock, executive secretary of the elections board, said that notices of the public hearing were sent to attorneys for the two candidates on Monday. When

contacted Tuesday morning, a Columbus County Board of Elections spokesman said the first he heard of the public hearing was what he read in the newspaper.

The local board turned down Harrelson's original request for a vote recount, but the candidate received favorable action when he appealed to the State Board of Elections.

The State Board's latest action results from a petition from Harrelson that alleges fraud and forgery in South Lees Precinct; specifically, the adding of non-voters' names to the poll book and the forging of the Republican judge's name to that book.

The reopening of the case "doesn't necessarily mean that at this point the SBI's findings either will substantiate or refute the allegations," Brock said. "It is just a matter, based on the investigation at this point, that the board made a decision that a public hearing should now be conducted in this matter."

Brock said the board probably would do one of three things: reaffirm its previous decision declaring the race a tie, declare Williamson the winner or declare Harrelson the winner.

If there is evidence of either fraud or forgery, or both, the State Board of Elections would forward such findings to the appropriate Superior

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## Action On Jail, Landfill Delayed

Action on new jail construction and a county landfill system was deferred by the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners until its next meeting January 18.

Preliminary discussions with state officials were held Monday at the board's first session of the new year.

Paul Butler of the North Carolina Department of Local Affairs met with the board to discuss state assistance for the county sanitary landfill plan, which is scheduled to be presented at the next board meeting.

Representatives of the State Department of Social Services also met with the county commissioners to discuss the jail situation but the board postponed action on jail construction, too.

The board ordered that public hearings be held on recently completed zoning ordinances for Brunswick County. The action came after a meeting with Jackie Stephenson of the count Resource Development Commission and Clifford Stroussburg, director of the eastern area office of the N.C. Division of Community Planning.

The commissioners received a report from Tax Collector Homer McKeithan that 1970 tax collections through December amounted to \$906,577.08, representing 59.3 per cent of the 1970 levy and an increase of 7 per cent over the amount collected during the same period last year.

The assistant county librarian's salary was increased by \$100 per month, noting the person filling the position has two year's college education and seven year's experience but was making only \$2,900 annually.

The board adopted a resolution urging persons

from 18 through 20 to register to vote.

The commissioners discussed with Rep. R.C. Soles, Jr., the upcoming General Assembly, stressing the need for erosion control funds for Holden Beach.

The American Bicentennial Committee includes Miss Helen Taylor of Winnabow, Bill Faulk of Old Brunswick, Thomas Harrelson of Southport, J.G. Worrell and Mrs. Doris Redwine of Shallotte, Mrs. Mary Randolph of Bolivia and Mrs. O.W. Cleaton of Leland.

## Student Busing Routes Change

Changes in the Brunswick County school transportation system will be implemented Friday in compliance with an order by the federal Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

The action was taken by the Brunswick County Board of Education during its regular meeting on Monday. Last month, representatives of HEW informed the local board that changes were necessary both in the school bus routes and school faculties to meet with desegregation rulings by the federal government.

The board agreed to consult with Waccamaw Bank and Trust Company and Bank of North Carolina—the two banks that served Brunswick County—to determine their interest in funds to be invested. These are building funds that would not immediately be obligated.

The board of education

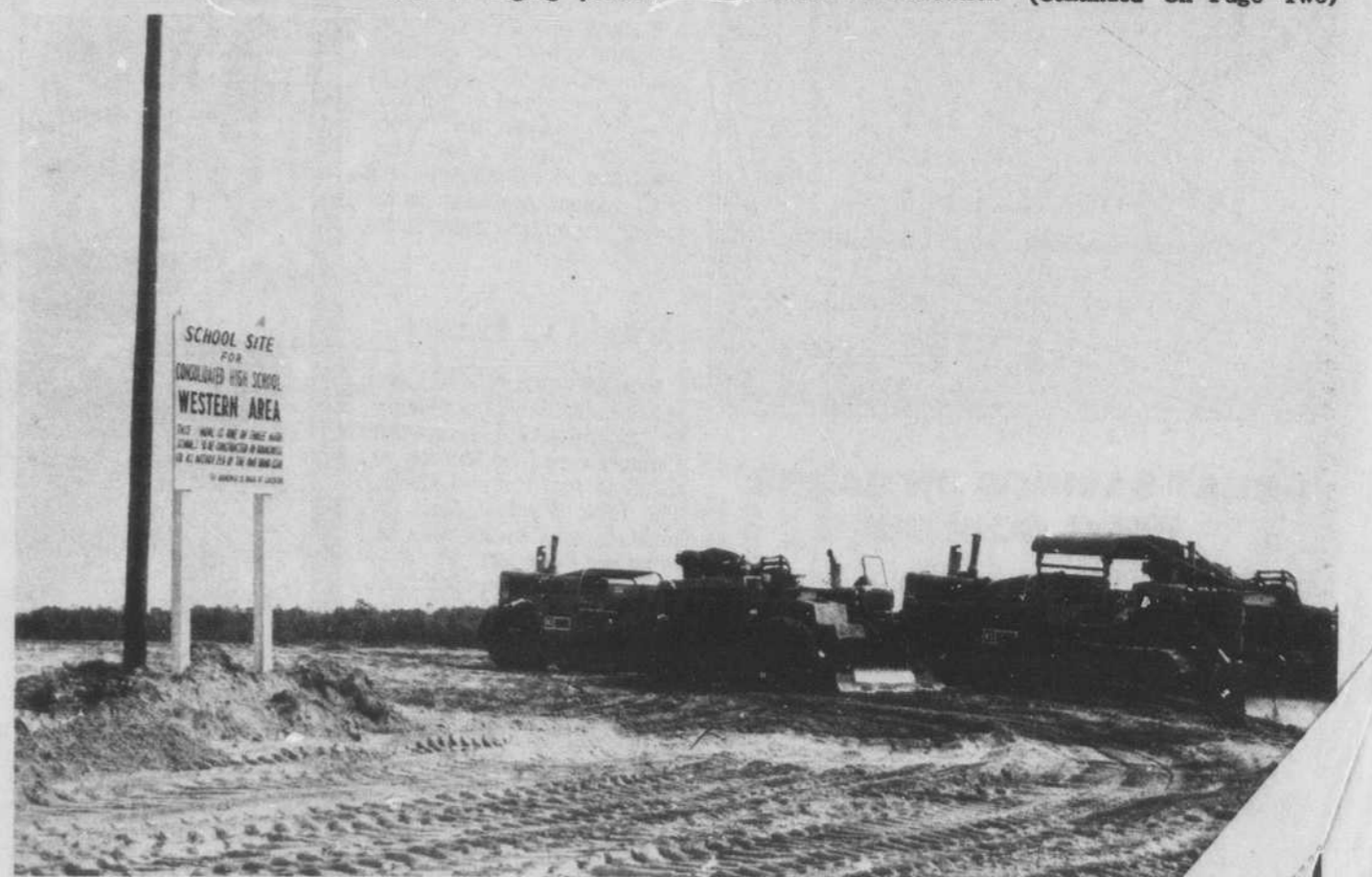
decided to bid the funds if either of the banks wanted this to be done. Ralph King, superintendent of Brunswick County schools, was authorized to make investment of these funds.

The board authorized the signatures of the Board secretary and chairman for the checking account with the Bank of North Carolina at Shallotte.

The position of deputy attendance counselor for the Leland area was discussed by the five-member board but no action was taken on this matter. Also, the board agreed to finalize the application to acquire property that has been declared surplus by the Military Ocean Terminal at Sunny Point.

The brick style to be used in construction of the new consolidated high schools was selected.

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Site Preparation Continues

Site preparation continues on the three sites for construction of consolidated high schools for Brunswick County. Heavy equipment has been

doing this work on the Western Area near Shallotte. (Staff Photo)