

THE STATE PORT PILOT

A Good Newspaper In A Good Community

VOLUME 42 No. 40 14 PAGES TODAY WEDNESDAY, April 21, 1971 SOUTHPORT, N. C. 5c A COPY PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY

Early Opening For Shrimping

Shrimp season will open early this year in some Brunswick County waters as a result of research efforts by the state Division of Commercial and Sports Fisheries. The season traditionally opens about May 15, but this year certain waters opened at five o'clock this afternoon (Wednesday). Waters to be opened are Intracoastal Waterway ONLY.

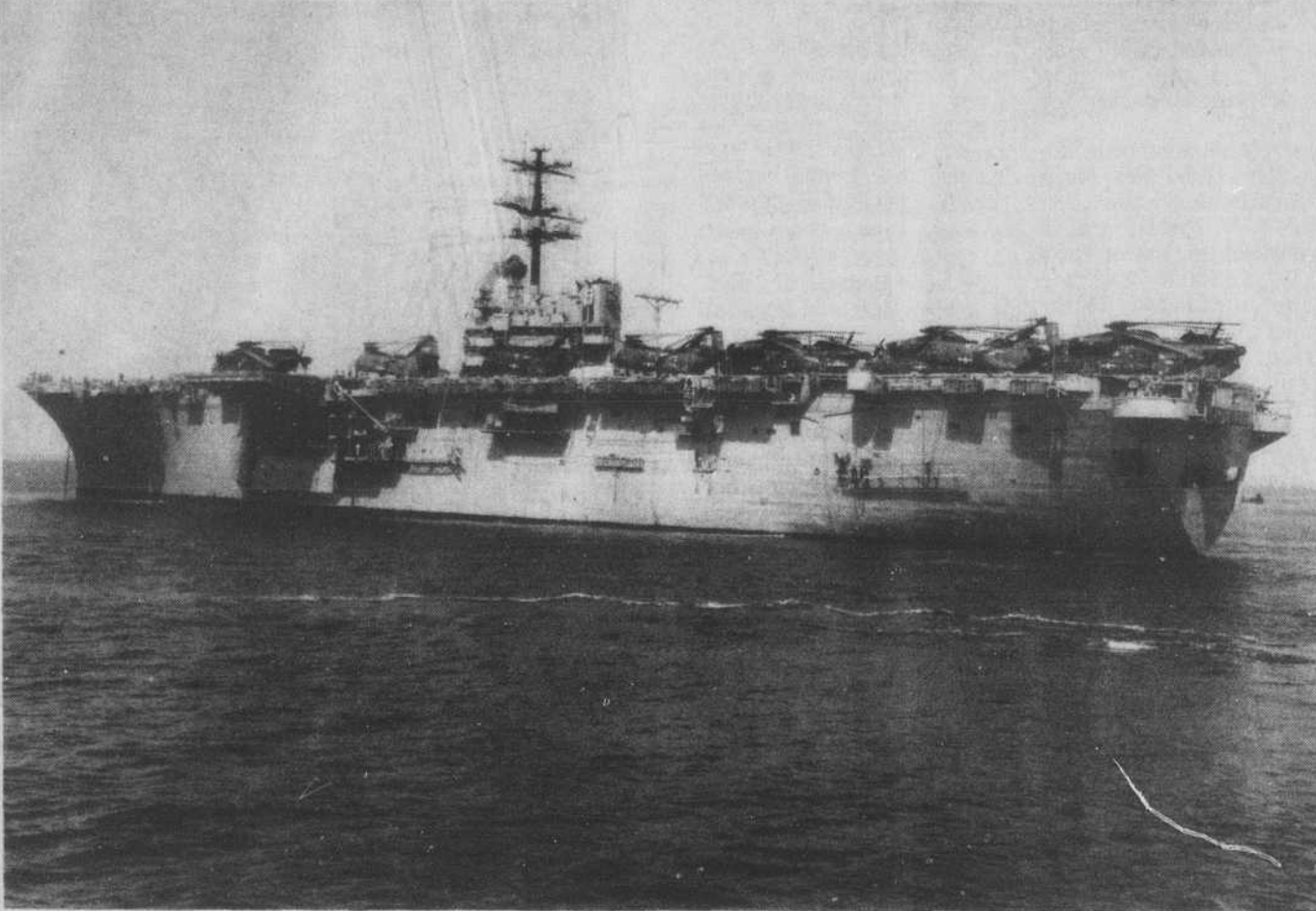
Division biologists recommended this break from tradition after the results of this past winter's work, along with four previous years of shrimp research, were studied.

Research has shown that "We need to take a closer look at shrimp management," according to Ed McCoy, division chief of research and development. The water temperature is now high enough for the pink or spotted shrimp to be up from their winter hibernation and moving about, he said. The big ones are migrating toward the inlets and will move out into the ocean and southward. If the season is not opened now, these migrating pink shrimp will be lost to North Carolina fishermen.

Migration, as well as growth, are brought to a halt by cooler water temperatures during October and November, according to McCoy.

Also, he said, our research has shown that as soon as pink shrimp reach a marketable size, they should be harvested. In addition to the larger shrimp migrating now, there are quantities of acceptable marketables that can and should be caught now.

With the water now warm enough for migration, it is quite clear that if we are to approach maximum potential yield, now is the time to open the season in some areas, McCoy concluded.



Helicopter Carrier Here

The amphibious assault ship Guam, a helicopter carrier, was one of the ships of the Atlantic Fleet Amphibious Force which came into Sunny Point over the past weekend to loan U.S. Marines and supplies for six months

deployment maneuver in the Mediterranean. This big ship is shown as it approached the dock at Sunny Point. The Guam can carry 2,000 Marines and 20 helicopters.

Grandstand Falls; More Than 125 Race Fans Hurt

The Leland Raceway grandstand collapsed Saturday night, injuring about half of the 250 persons sitting on the wooden seats. Some fell as far as 30 feet.

No one was hurt seriously, according to reports, and the worst injuries were broken bones.

Ambulances and rescue squads from throughout Brunswick and New Hanover

counties made continuous runs between the track and Wilmington hospitals.

The first warning of danger, said several persons who fell from the stands, was a cracking sound.

An administrator of New Hanover Memorial Hospital termed it "a miracle" that no one was killed. Extra medical personnel were brought in for the emergency, and Cape

Fear Memorial Hospital and Babies Hospital at Wrightsville Beach also participated. The latter did not treat any patients, although extra staff members were on duty.

Those with simple fractures were treated and released, but 13 persons were admitted at New Hanover Memorial Hospital, and their conditions were listed as "good."

Deputy George Britt noted that rescue operations were hampered by about 75 to 100 persons who demanded a refund of their money. All racing was cancelled after the grandstands collapsed.

He estimated that 6,000 persons were at the track Saturday night.

A raceway official, who said the stands had been repaired during the past month, attributed the mishap to "overloading".

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Five Candidates Enter Each Race

Last minute filings and one change in category has led to a ballot for the municipal election in Southport which has five candidates for aldermen in each of the two wards and five candidates for the office of mayor.

Among the more significant late developments was the entry of Lester V. Lowe into the mayor's race. A companion development was the withdrawal of Mrs. Dorothy R. Gilbert, from the mayor's race and her decision to seek instead to be re-elected to the Board of Aldermen, this time as a representative from Ward

No. 1. With Lowe in the contest for mayor, that race now has William R. Thorsen, J.K. Porterfield, William H. Crowe and Robert Tharp as other contestants.

In addition to the announcement by Mrs. Gilbert that she will be a candidate for alderman from Ward No. 1, Bill Miller and Dempsey W. Hewett also filed for that office. W.L. (Shorty) Hufham, a member of the present board, and Al Martin, previously had announced.

In Ward No. 2 Harold Aldridge, incumbent, has (Continued On Page Five)

Time And Tide

Three members of the Cape Fear Pilots Association had had a thrilling experience on the Thursday before our issue for April 22, 1936. The water pump on the little pilot boat, the R.R. Stone, had become disabled and the craft had filled with water. The men of the Oak Island Coast Guard station saw the distressed craft and rescued all hands aboard. The late Dr. Roy C. Daniels had been elected president of the Southport Building & Loan Association, succeeding his father, the late J.N. Daniels, in that office.

Dr. Ralph McDonald, candidate for governor, was coming to Southport for a Saturday speech; the thermometer had dropped to a cool 39-degree reading during the previous weekend; and Ira Chadwick had been named the most athletic boy at Shallotte High School.

The paving project on the road to Long Beach was nearing (Continued On Page Four)

Owner Defends Plan Of Island Development

If the state were to buy Bald Head Island it would cost more than \$20 million, the owner says. But there's one problem:

The island isn't for sale. William Henderson, president of Carolina Cape Fear Corporation that owns the property, addressed a joint meeting of the House and Senate conservation committees a week after Gov. Bob Scott called for the state to initiate condemnation

proceedings to force the owner to sell.

Henderson said his firm intends to go ahead with plans to develop the island complex.

Conservationists have fought to maintain the island in its present state, and Scott has envisioned the establishment of a marine research laboratory.

Henderson said Bald Head is not a primeval nor virgin forest, but has been cut over

at least three times in this century, the latest harvest in the early fifties.

Nor is it a wilderness, he said, noting the island has been inhabited at various times since 1713, including farming operations, military operations, citrus grove and truck farming, and a successful hotel and pavilion operation.

Henderson said various scientists who have studied the island have also substantiated it is not a living laboratory of unique floral and fauna, since both vegetation and animals on Bald Head can be found in other sections of the state.

Noting the island is not the only place North Carolinians can go and "quietly contemplate" in a public area along the seacoast, he pointed to government-owned 52 percent of the Tar Heel coastline, including the two national seashore parks.

He said that due to nature's destruction, marsh areas are not the productive nurseries they once were, silted from the Cape Fear River has destroyed nutrients vital to the development of marine life; shellfish areas are polluted; plant, animal and bird life are diminishing.

"In short," he said, "good conservation practices must be initiated and maintained, programs which will require the allocation of millions of dollars if the island's natural resources and its environment are to be maintained in a way that will be meaningful to mankind."

Henderson said the officers (Continued On Page Five)

Ground Broken For Office Here

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held Wednesday for a new Commercial and Sports Fisheries building, called by C&D Director Roy Sowers "the beginning of a lot of things we will see happening in Brunswick County."

Sowers was in Southport for the ceremonies, which marked the start of construction of the \$26,000 building adjacent to the Small Boat Harbor. The building will house district offices for the C&D division. Currently, enforcement personnel and biologists are working out of their homes, with the nearest office in Morehead City.

The new building in Southport is scheduled for completion in June. It will have facilities to answer technical questions about marine life, as well as office and storage

space. According to Sowers, the facility "will help the seafood industry and it will also affect the proper development of coastal areas."

He said that although the estuarine study program is little known, it has provided invaluable training in marine life as well as aided in the evaluation in the land-use plan.

Others on hand for the ceremony included 13th district representatives R.C. Soles, Jr., Tabor City and Thomas Harrelson, Southport; Gerald Arnold, Hertford County representative; Ernest Parker, a member of the C&D Board from Southport; Dr. Thomas Linton, director of the Commercial and Sports Fisheries Division; and William Kopp, chairman of the Brunswick County Commissioners.

County Landfill Approved

A solid waste disposal plan that includes six landfills was approved Monday by the Brunswick County commissioners.

The county board made its decision after a two-hour debate with mayors of Southport, Shallotte, Holden Beach, Ocean Isle Beach and Boiling Spring Lakes. The subject of controversy was which plan would be used to determine how much each town would pay for its share, and no decision was made on this matter.

The beach municipalities —

Holden and Ocean Isle, along with Long and Yaupon beaches — were asked to provide the commissioners with information about their waste disposal loads during the summer months.

The plan, developed by the North Carolina Department of Local Affairs, was based on a per-capita costs. It was decided, however, that the beaches would not be providing a fair share on this basis because their populations are swelled by tourists during the summer. All the mayors present

were in favor of the overall plan, which calls for landfills to be located at strategic points throughout the county. The initial cost of the program is an estimated \$66,000 and the annual operating cost would be about \$35,000.

The commissioners had considered the waste disposal plan at their last meeting, but deferred action until the mayors had the opportunity to express their feelings. "We wanted to get everyone's feeling on the plan," said Chairman William Kopp.

Library Week Program Shows Community Effort

Friends of the Library in Brunswick County sponsored an observance of that event Sunday afternoon at the Southport - Brunswick County Library in Southport, with Dr. Richard Corbett as the speaker.

Also on hand to receive recognition for their efforts were winners in the Essay and Poster Contest sponsored by Friends of the Library. These young people and their parents helped to swell the crowd in attendance to around two hundred.

An enjoyable feature of the program was the concert by members of the Brunswick County - Southport High School Glee Club, under the direction of James Frink.

Robert Howard served as master of ceremonies for the

occasion and called upon the Rev. Reginald T. Bliss for the invocation. A welcome was extended by Mrs. Edna Gause, Brunswick County Chairman for National Library Week. Guests and library week committee members were introduced.

James Clemmons, principal of Lincoln Elementary School, introduced Dr. Corbett, who praised Brunswick County citizens for the manner in which they have cooperated to achieve the high standards of library service which is available. He said that he was greatly impressed with the observance program that had been arranged for this special occasion.

Dr. Corbett pointed out that

library facilities are the tools for continuing education and are particularly valuable for those who have not had the (Continued On Page Five)



Presents Speaker

Principal James Clemmons of Lincoln Elementary School, right, is shown here as he introduced Dr. Richard Corbett, principal speaker for National Library Week observance Sunday afternoon at the Southport - Brunswick County Library. (Photo by Delores Spencer).



Ground Breaking Ceremony

These persons comprised a portion of the crowd which gathered Wednesday for groundbreaking ceremonies for the new building which will serve as headquarters in Brunswick County for C&D Commercial and Sports Fisheries Division. The man holding the shovel is Roy Sowers, Director of the Department of Conservation and Development; to his right is Ernest E. Parker of South-

port, chairman of the C&D Committee of Commercial and Sport Fisheries. On Sowers' left is former Representative Arthur Williamson, who was largely responsible for obtaining funds for this project. On Parker's right is Representative R.C. Soles, and on the extreme right is Representative Thomas J. Harrelson. (Photo by Delores Spencer).