

THE STATE PORT PILOT

A Good Newspaper In A Good Community

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Nixon's Freeze Brings Inquiries

A number of inquiries about the wage-price freeze and other aspects of the President's Executive Order on Economic Stabilization are being received weekly in the Brunswick County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Services (ASCS) Office, according to R.L. Price, County Executive Director.

He reminded Brunswick County residents that additional information is constantly coming to the ASCS office, which is an official center for information concerning the stabilization program.

Most questions raised by Brunswick County people so far relate to the one cent boost in sales tax, BEMC rate increase and the price of fish and shrimp, Price said.

Most frequently asked inquiry is about the increase in sales tax. The official answer to that question is that it is legal since the "freeze" does not apply to state and local taxes.

While the county ASCS office is an official center for information on the wage-price freeze, it has no authority to act on complaints or handle requests for exceptions to the freeze, Price said. Such complaints or requests should go directly to the Internal Revenue Service District Office at 16 S. 16th Street, Wilmington. If this is not convenient, the county ASCS office can provide some assistance in putting the complaint or request in the proper channel.

Price also emphasized that the county ASCS office is serving as an information center for all county residents.

Normally, the ASCS office deals primarily with farmers participating in farm action programs of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. However, the more-than-2800 ASCS county offices throughout the Nation have been called upon to provide information service on economic stabilization to all citizens, Price reported, in order to give assurance that

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Southport Mayor Lester Lowe Dies Unexpectedly



Mayor Lester V. Lowe

This photograph of Mayor Lester V. Lowe was taken last Thursday afternoon in his office at Waccamaw Bank & Trust Co. where open house ceremonies were being held. His sudden death occurred that night. (Photo by Spencer)

Lester Vincent Lowe, 63, mayor of the city of Southport and a native of Chadburn, died at his home in Southport, Friday.

Mr. Lowe was prominently known in local, area and state banking circles, as well as a leader in civic, church and business affairs. He was a vice-president and director of Waccamaw Bank and Trust Co. and was in charge of its Southport branch at the time of his death.

He was the son of the late Moses Fielding Lowe and Charlotte Leonhart Lowe, members of the Sunny South Colon. He was reared in Chadburn, where he was born and attended local schools. Mr. Lowe graduated with a degree in electrical engineering from North Carolina State University in 1930. He worked with the Armstrong Cork Co., for two years and then entered banking with the Waccamaw Bank and Trust Co. in 1933 and remained with it during the remainder of his life.

Over the past 40 years, Mr. Lowe served with Waccamaw Banks in Chadburn, Fairmont, Whiteville and Southport.

He moved here in 1966 as manager of the Southport branch of Waccamaw Bank & Trust Co., which under his guidance became one of the outstanding offices in this banking organization. In addition to the new building in which open house was observed Wednesday and Thursday of last week, branch offices had been opened at Bolivia, Yaupon

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County March Of Dimes Was Successful Project

The Brunswick County March of Dimes was conducted in January and thanks to the hard work on the part of the community chairmen throughout the county, 1971 campaign was a success.

Brunswick County participated in the March of Dimes Telerama conducted by television station, WWAY, in April. This effort was assisted by Shallotte Radio Station, WNCB, Shallotte Jaycees, and many volunteers throughout the county. The Waccamaw Bank and Trust Company in Shallotte permitted use of their telephones and part of their building during the 18 hours of the Telerama. This event was most successful in spite of the fact that this was the first. After deducting expenses, Brunswick's share of the proceeds was \$1,059.27.

After chapter expenses, which are for supplies, money collected by March of Dimes campaign is divided three ways: 25 percent goes to the Research Foundation; of the remaining 75 percent, half is sent to the National

Foundation, the other half remains in the county chapter treasury.

This year the chapter has helped a Brunswick County child who is receiving

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Island Denied Disaster Status; Students Helped

George S. Willoughby, State Highway Administrator, and John H. Davis, chief engineer, flew down to Brunswick County this (Wednesday) afternoon to confer with Mayor C.E. Murchy of Yaupon Beach and Mayor Nick Coleman and

Town Manager Jack Hayward of Long Beach about plans for a permanent new bridge across the intracoastal waterway.

Present plans call for the installation of a monoton-type bridge at the site of the old bridge permitting one-way traffic and scheduled to be in operation by November 1. Meanwhile, two-way ferry service is being maintained between a temporary ferry slip at Fort Caswell and the ferry slip at Price Creek near Southport. Two vessels are engaged in this operation but have been hard pressed to handle the volume of traffic.

Another temporary measure engaged in by SHC forces is the transportation of passengers by small boat across the inland waterway at the side of the bridge. Transportation is being provided by SHC employees

from the landing on the south side of the canal to a point near Oak Island Golf Course. This works well except at peak periods of the day when workmen going to and from Brown & Root swarm these facilities.

Any planning by the Highway officials and local municipal officials today probably will be a consideration of permanent relief in the form of a new bridge from the mainland to the island.

Town Manager Hayward said today that the American Red Cross has provided an emergency first aid vehicle for use on the island. In addition, he said that the ARC had interceded to work out an arrangement for transportation by helicopter for any patient at Oak Island whose hospital destination is

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Highway employees transporting passengers across the Intracoastal Waterway with the loading dock on the south side shown in the background. (Photo by Spencer)



This is the loading dock and walkway on the north side of the Intracoastal Waterway at the site of the demolished bridge. (Photo by Spencer)



This is the ferryboat Toby Tillett as it enters the temporary slip at Fort Caswell to discharge vehicles brought over from the mainland. (Photo by Spencer)

Excursion Craft Ferries Students

The 225 children on Oak Island who are riding a ferry to and from school each day will find their journey a lot more comfortable starting today (Wednesday).

The State Highway Commission has announced it has signed a contract with Mrs. Peggy Bellamy, of North Myrtle Beach, S.C., to transport the children from the island to Southport each day aboard her excursion boat, the Ron Tom Queen. The children have been crossing on the state-owned ferry Hatteras since a barge struck and demolished the only bridge to the island on

September 7. John Davis, state highway chief engineer, said that using the South Carolina vessel will mean that the children will be riding in an enclosed deck, be protected from the elements and have safer crossing. Because the Ron Tom Queen can carry only 191 passengers, it will be necessary to make two round trips in the morning and two in the afternoon between the Coast Guard dock on the island and the state's dock at Southport.

"The vessel has been thoroughly inspected and certified by the Coast Guard

and has been ridden by Ralph King, Brunswick school superintendent," Davis said. He said that shortly after the mishap which knocked out the bridge that Pat Bellamy, husband of the boat's owner, called the office of Governor Bob Scott and offered help in the emergency. Fred Morrison, an aide to Scott, got in touch with the Highway Commission and informed officials there of the offer.

This led to the contract signing. Under terms of the contract, the Highway Commission will pay \$500 per week for use of the vessel,

fully equipped and operated by the owners.

The Ron Tom Queen is a 64 foot vessel, powered by diesel engines, and has two decks. Only the lower, full enclosed deck will be used by the children and the top deck will be off limits. The enclosed deck has more than 125 chairs, life preservers for all passengers and can be heated.

"The thought of children having to cross on the open deck of a ferry has disturbed us," Davis said.

The Highway Commission started the emergency ferry (Continued On Page Four)

Robert Howard New Bank V-P

L.R. Bowers, president of Waccamaw Bank & Trust Co., this week announced the promotion of Robert D. Howard to vice president and manager of the Southport offices of this outstanding Eastern North Carolina banking institution.

Howard succeeds the late Lester V. Lowe, whose sudden death occurred here Thursday night. He has been employed at the Southport bank since 1967 and has worked closely with the late

Mr. Lowe. "We are pleased to announce the promotion of Robert Howard to this position of responsibility in our organization," President Bowers said. "We think he is an outstanding young man who had the opportunity to work closely with our late vice president, Lester V. Lowe. We have every confidence that our Southport offices will continue to be outstanding members of the (Continued On Page Four)

Time And Tide

The first special edition of The Pilot we ever attempted was the issue for September 23, 1936, and in it we made a conscious play for fall vacation visitors, believing then as now that this is one of the most delightful seasons in this area. One headline took satisfaction in the fact that a hurricane had bypassed Brunswick in its path to the mainland in another state. There was a feature story on the Cape Fear Pilots, with photos of the seven active members of the local association. Throughout the fourteen pages of this edition there were pictures of people and places of interest in the town. Scenes of fishing and of catches of fish predominated. There were ads, too; most of them proclaiming the fine natural attractions for vacationists and retirement living here in Brunswick.

Five years later, in our edition for September 24, 1941, there was another headline expressing relief that another hurricane had bypassed Brunswick. There had been a military atmosphere in town during the past week, as soldiers from Fort Bragg were at the old CCC camp site on field maneuvers.

The nation was on daylight saving time, but on the following Sunday all clocks were to be moved back one hour. Homecoming services were scheduled for the following Sunday (Continued On Page Four)



Receives Promotion

Robert D. Howard has been promoted to vice-president of Waccamaw Bank & Trust Co. and has been named manager of the Southport offices of that institution. (Photo by Spencer)