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'Blue-Chip' Industry Plans \$40 Million Plant Here

Pfizer, Inc., Purchases 850-Acre Tract

Announcement was made in Southport Tuesday that Pfizer, Inc., has purchased a tract of 850 acres located on the Cape Fear River near Price Creek and that this will be used as the site for a \$40-million plant for the manufacture of citric acid.

The announcement was made by Bernard J. Quinn, vice president of corporate production and engineering, before a gathering of area governmental and business leaders and representatives of the news media. The scene was the lobby of the new Waccamaw Bank & Trust building and the announcement ceremony was timed to take place between the hours of one o'clock and

three o'clock and thus not interfere with the conduct of normal banking business.

Presiding over the ceremonies was Jackie Stephenson, Director of the Brunswick County Resources Development Commission. In his remarks he acknowledged

the hard work and cooperation of many individuals and organizations to help bring the Pfizer project to a successful conclusion. He recalled that negotiations had been underway for the past 18 months.

In making his announcement, Quinn said that building plans probably will be announced within six or eight months. He said that it probably will require two years to build the plant, which he estimated will cost in the neighborhood of \$40-

million and will initially employ from 200-300 people. When asked what the prospect will be for expansion, he replied that the plant at Groton was constructed in 1947 and employed 60-70 people. "Today it employs 2,000 persons," he said, "and this is typical of the growth of most of our Pfizer plants."

Don Vines, a personnel man for Pfizer, said that an effort will be made to use local labor and indicated that some training will be necessary for these prospective employees. Cape Fear Tech may be requested to help with this training program, he said.

Also present was John Nicholson, a Pfizer official who has been active in this project from the beginning. Others from Pfizer were Mr. and Mrs. Elwood, he being a vice president of the company; John Daugherty, legal counsel; and Tony Biesada, public relations man.

Michael Brown, past president of the Committee of 100 of Wilmington, said that he wanted to welcome Pfizer to this area and pledged the full support of his organization.

L.R. Bowers, president of Waccamaw Bank and Trust Co., host for the buffet which followed the announcement, welcome guests and assured Pfizer people of the full cooperation of his organization. "We know you will be an excellent corporate citizen," he said.

The planned operation on the Cape Fear River, two miles above Southport, would represent additional capacity for citric acid, supplementing existing manufacturing facilities at Groton, Conn. and Brooklyn, N.Y. Quinn said a new production facility was required to meet increased demands which have arisen not only from traditional uses of citric acid by Pfizer's present customers, but also from entirely new industrial applications. There are a number of possible new uses currently under active evaluation, he added.

Citric acid, often called "nature's acidulant" because of its occurrence in many fruits and vegetables, is used increasingly as an acidulant in foods and beverages and in pharmaceutical preparations.

The Southport plant would be Pfizer's third manufacturing plant in the area. (Continued On Page Four)



Aerial View Of Pfizer Property

Aerial view showing approximate outlines of property purchased by Pfizer Inc. some three-and-a-half miles north of Southport. The 850-acre site is being considered as a possible location for a modern multi-million dollar citric acid facility. The plant would be located near the Ferry Slip.

County Board Greets Pfizer

"The Brunswick County Board of Commissioners would like to take this opportunity to welcome the Pfizer Company as an industrial citizen of Brunswick County," Chairman W.A. Kopp, Jr., said Tuesday. "We have been aware of their interest in locating in Brunswick County for sometime and are indeed gratified that they have decided to invest in our county. Should the Pfizer Company elect to construct an industrial facility in this area, the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners will cooperate to the fullest extent in making them welcome.

The construction of a large industrial plant in our area would have a tremendous impact on the economy of Brunswick County, in that it would provide much needed job opportunities for our people."

A factor which will influence their decisions, is the availability of adequate water sources necessary for any future manufacturing facility. The Brunswick County Board of Commissioners on July 28 made application to the Economic Development Administration for a technical feasibility grant to explore potential water sources for both industry and municipalities in Brunswick County. This request for funds in the amount of \$40,000 has been approved and the engineering firm of Daniel, Mann, Johnson, & Mendenhall of Washington, D.C., has been retained to conduct this survey, and preliminary work is currently underway.

Should Pfizer, Inc., elect to construct an industrial complex in Brunswick County, it is the opinion of the Board of Commissioners that an Economics Development Administration grant of approximately \$2,000,000 will be forthcoming for the construction of a water supply system to serve this industry as well as the long range needs of the various municipalities in the county.



Signing Documents

Bernard J. Quinn, seated, is shown here as he completes the paper work for the purchase of the site near Southport where Pfizer will erect a \$40-million plant. Standing in the background are Marshall Shepherd, Department of Conservation and Development, D.C. Herring, Southport attorney and one of the property owners selling to Pfizer, and Wallace Murchison, Wilmington attorney. (Photo by Spencer)

Lawsuit Filed By State Due To Bridge Damage

A lawsuit asking one million dollars in damages has been filed by the N.C. State Highway Commission as a result of the September 7 mishap that cut Oak Island's only link with the mainland.

Defendant in the case is C.G. Willis, Inc., of Wilmington, Del., owner and operator of the towboat and barges that struck the Oak Island bridge in the early morning, a few hours after the official close of Labor Day Weekend. Many tourists were stranded on the island and the approximately 2,000 permanent residents have only limited contact with the mainland.

School children are ferried across the Cape Fear River each day, and the fall tourist and fishing season, usually a time of prosperity for the islanders, is practically nonexistent.

The lawsuit was filed

Friday with Brunswick County Clerk of Court Jack Brown by Richard Conley of Attorney General Robert Morgan's office.

The state alleges in the suit that the bridge will have to be replaced, and the channel fenders repaired. In the

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Time And Tide

Political news predominated in The Pilot for October 7, 1936. Senator Bob Reynolds had been in town for a visit; Judge Henry L. Stevens had been the speaker at the meeting of Young Democrats; and Kenneth McKeithan had been elected president of that organization.

Improvement was promised in electric service for Southport citizens with the purchase of new machinery for the power plant; the editor had had a word of praise for the Coast Guard as it watched over the shrimping activities of "some 200 boats in local waters"; and tentative dates had been set for a sailing regatta here the following summer.

"Ft. Caswell Is Purchased By U.S. Navy As Site Of Section Base Allotted For Southport" — that was the big headline on the front page of The Pilot for October 8, 1941.

The front page pictures showed St. Phillips Church at Brunswick Town and the Indian Trail Tree in the Cranmer

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Brunswick GOP Names Mrs. Smith As Chairman

Brunswick County Republicans approved by acclamation Saturday a proposal to recruit members of the nation's newest voting bloc — 18, 19 and 20-year olds — as delegates and alternates to the GOP district convention, to be held Oct. 27 in Whiteville.

Setting another precedent at their county convention in Bolivia, the GOP delegates for the first time elected a lady county chairman, Mrs. Kenneth E. (Betty) Smith of Southport. For the past two years, she has been Smithville Township Republican chairman.

At the Saturday session, Mrs. Smith was named by State Representative Thomas Harrelson, outgoing county chairman, as the county's "most outstanding township chairman" and was given a silver plate engraved with

that citation.

No stranger to political service, Mrs. Smith was a political science major at Pennsylvania State University, worked as a volunteer for Congressman E.L. Settler of Pennsylvania and later was Settler's executive assistant in Washington and in his Uniontown, Pa., office. She is

a member of St. Phillips Episcopal Church in Southport.

The proposal to encourage participation by young voters in Republican activities was made by L.C. Babson of Freeland, veteran party leader and a member of the Brunswick County Board of Elections, who urged

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CP&L Nuclear Training Program Begins

Approximately 20 Carolina Power & Light Co. employees have begun the first phase of a two-year training program in preparation for operation of the Brunswick nuclear plant near Southport.

The Brunswick plant will be the first nuclear electric generating unit in North Carolina. The first 821,000 kilowatt unit is scheduled for operation in 1974, and the second in 1975.

Between now and the fuel loading in 1973, the CP&L employees who will eventually operate the plant will study and train eight hours a day for five days a week.

The extensive training is standard procedure for nuclear generating operations, according to N.B. Bessac, manager of nuclear generation for CP&L.

In addition to preparation for operation of the nuclear plant, the men are working toward obtaining Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) operator licenses.

Supervisory personnel will apply for senior reactor operator's licenses and the remainder will apply for reactor operator's licenses.

At the end of the training period, the students will take written and oral examinations.

During the oral exam, each man will tour the then-completed first Brunswick unit with an AEC official. The official may ask the CP&L employee about any of the hundreds of mechanical operations, procedures and specifications of the unit. It is not an open book test.

Tests must be taken and passed before fuel loading can begin.

The first 16 weeks of training are spent in classroom work at Hartsville, S.C., which is the location of a CP&L nuclear generating unit. Subjects include basic nuclear physics, reactor

operations, health physics, instrumentation and control.

Videotape television instruction, daily and weekly quizzes and hours of home study are normal procedure. Men from NUS, which is a consulting firm, and John Connelly, CP&L nuclear engineer, provide classroom instruction.

Beginning in the middle of November the students will move to North Carolina State University for four weeks. The emphasis will be on receiving experience in reactor startups using the NCSU research reactor.

In January, the students will return to the Hartsville

classroom for five weeks instruction from General Electric about various aspects of the Brunswick units. G.E. is building the two boiling water reactors for the Brunswick plant.

Following the G.E. training, the group will transfer to Morris, Ill., near Chicago, for 20 weeks of training at the Dresden plant. The plant is approximately the same size as one of the Brunswick units and also has a boiling water reactor.

The men will learn the plant's systems, observe operations, and operate a

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Helicopter To The Rescue

Town Manager Jack Hayward is shown here observing members of Long Beach Rescue Squad unloading meats and vegetables from a helicopter during the emergency situation caused last week by the threat of Hurricane Ginger. Ferry services was discontinued for a part of two days because of the storm. (Photo by Shannon)