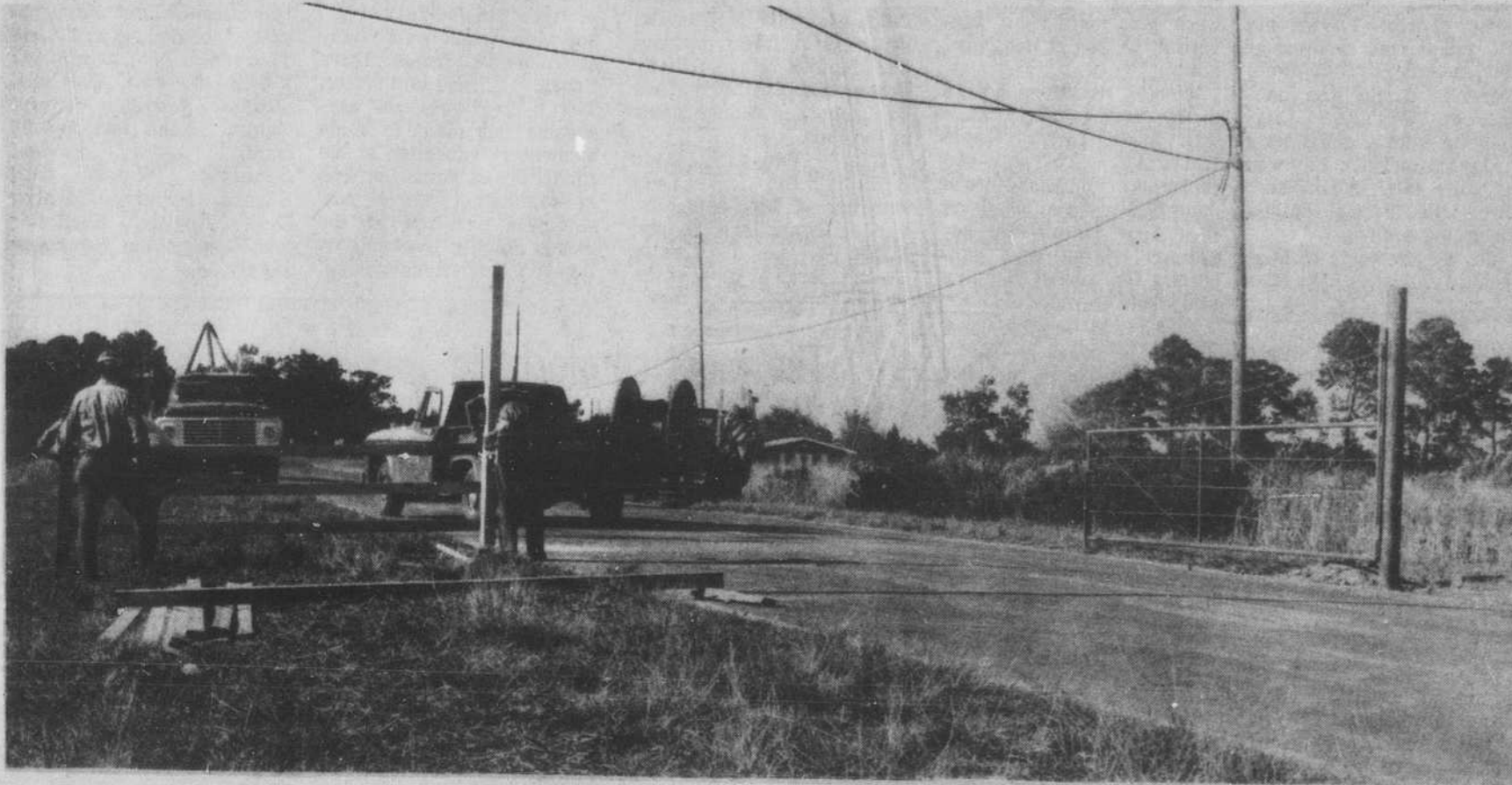


THE STATE PORT PILOT

A Good Newspaper In A Good Community

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Highway Closed For Canal Construction

The discharge canal from the CP&L plant near Southport will cut across Highway 87 & 133 and also Highway 211. This week gates were erected across Highway 87 & 133 to close off traffic while a canal is dug and a bridge erected. When this has

been completed, the same procedure will be followed on Highway 211. Now all traffic to Wilmington must detour by the Lindner Farm. (Photo by Spencer)

BEMC Annual Meet

Electric Co-Op Elects Freeland Man To Board

Approximately 800 persons attended the Brunswick Electric Membership Cooperative annual meeting here Saturday.

Lt. Gov. Pat Taylor, a candidate for governor, who was supposed to be guest speaker at the Saturday afternoon gathering, never came. He did send a telegram, however, explaining that the extra legislative session had kept him in Raleigh.

The Rev. W.D. Frank of the Ash-Freeland area became the first black director in the 32-year history of BEMC, edging F.D. Inman by a 311 to 305 vote. The victory for the write-in candidate climaxed a successful attempt by a minority coalition to halt alleged discrimination in the two-county co-op.

First news of the coalition — which claims, Jewish, Catholic and Indian mem-

bership but is mostly black — came from an NAACP leader in Brunswick County who said the group wanted a minority member on the nominating committee. The Saturday victory for Frink was more than the black leader expected.

Traditionally, the nomination committee has listed one candidate for each available position.

The bylaws allow that a name be put in nomination either by a petition or from the floor, but blacks claim their right to do either has always been restricted by the whites.

C.D. Branch, president of the co-op that serves Brunswick and Columbus counties, got right to the point: "The most appropriate thing I could say to you on this day would be a few things about the responsibilities of board members." He told the

BEMC members that "the main item of business and primary purpose here today is the election of three incoming board members."

The annual meeting almost didn't get underway. Scheduled for one o'clock at Columbus County Warehouse in Whiteville, the meeting was postponed one-half hour because there were not enough voting members for a five-percent quorum.

After a few more selections from The Executives, "the finest banjo-picking group in the country", the members heard the president's message from Branch, the treasurer's report from J.B. Ward, Jr., and the manager's report from R.G. Hubbard, Jr. Hubbard called special (Continued On Page Four)

Time And Tide

The Pilot for October 28, 1936, reported a meeting of Brunswick county citizens at Shallotte High School for a discussion of plans for organizing a REA co-op in this area. Another mark of progress was the report that the beach road had been hard surfaced as far as the Intercoastal Waterway bridge.

A heated political campaign was drawing to a close in Brunswick and The Pilot that week was filled with ads from the various candidates; six Brunswick county men had been convicted in federal court for shooting coot at night; and a seasonal note reported that trout were biting on the whiting grounds in the Cape Fear River.

In our edition for October 29, 1941, there was a report that work had started on the USO building in the Garrison. There was a front page picture showing the late Buck Devane at work in one of the Southport shrimp packing houses. The highway death toll for Brunswick had mounted to eight for the year.

Geese were already flying southward; an ancient cannon ball had been unearthed during excavation for the foundation of the USO building; and a party fishing with Capt. H.T. Bowmer had caught more than 400 bluefish.

The year 1946 was another election year, with voters scheduled to go to the polls on the following Tuesday. Thus a good part of the advertising section in our October 30 issue was given over to political advertising. Southport was preparing for the annual Halloween Carnival and the old gym was the scene of this fall festival.

Fine fishing was reported at Howells Point; one of the Watts boats had reported catches of over 400 bluefish on two days that week; and yachts were moving south through the Inland (Continued On Page Four)

County Roads Help Is Asked

Additional personnel and equipment to maintain the secondary roads in Brunswick County have been requested by the board of commissioners.

Acknowledging the efforts of the individuals associated with the State Highway Commission, the board nonetheless said that an improvement in service "is necessary to insure our citizens the benefits which they deserve from the State of North Carolina."

The resolution adopted by the board of commis-

sioners stated that "there being approximately 208 miles of unpaved secondary roads in Brunswick County, it is the opinion of this board, as evidenced by the many complaints by citizens throughout Brunswick County, that necessary funds are not being provided to maintain these roads in accordance with state highway standards in that these roads should be passable in all types of weather without undue hardship on the citizens of this county."

"Further, it has been (Continued On Page Four)

Lincoln Parents Are Entertained

The first Parent-Teacher meeting for the 1971-72 school year was held Thursday night at Lincoln Elementary School.

The fifth grades presented a Halloween program. All of the fifth graders participated in the devotions. The history of Halloween was read by Phyllis Owens. Dana Mathis, Mary Robbins, Lynn Frazier and Regina Speight, the fifth grade Rockettes, presented a Halloween dance. The poem, "It's Halloween", was dramatized by Steven Howell, Dale Rabon, Archie Sellers and Paul Dove.

Tommy Kirkland, Norma Williamson, Charles (Continued On Page Four)

Centralized Hospital Idea Is Discussed For County

A centrally-located hospital to serve Brunswick County was discussed by the board of commissioners in its regular first-Monday session.

Mason Anderson, chairman of the Brunswick County Hospital Committee, told the board of progress in determining the feasibility of establishing such a facility in Brunswick. He said a financial feasibility study must be conducted that would include an analysis of the funds required for the construction of the proposed hospital together with a breakdown of the hospital's pay-back ability. These factors would

determine the government loans as well as an estimation of the various government and private grants which might be available and also the amount of local funds that would be required.

OTHER BUSINESS
Mrs. Minnie Holliday and Mrs. Marjorie Jones of Leland came before the board to request assistance in getting State Road 1427 repaired. They advised that it was, at times, impossible to use this road due to no drainage: the road has to be built up and the drainage ditches properly maintained. They also requested that the road be extended to the

cemetery in this area. The board advised Mrs. Holliday and Mrs. Jones that this request would be forwarded to the N.C. State Highway Commission for their consideration.

Residents of Ash came before to the board to inform them of the deplorable condition of State Road 1332. Mrs. Maude White, Mrs. Alberta Ludlum, Mrs. Dorothy Krimminger, Mrs. Ressie Milligan, Mr. W.O. Ludlum, Mr. James D. Parker, Mr. Willard Smith and Mrs. Ann Smith attended. This road is a school bus and mail route and is in (Continued On Page Four)

Sawdust Trail Bank Robbed Of \$4,000

The peace and quiet of this community was disturbed Friday morning when three bandits, one of them armed with a sawed-off shotgun, entered the Sawdust Trail branch of Waccamaw Bank and Trust Co. and escaped with \$3,775 in cash.

The robbery occurred about 9:25, shortly after the branch bank had opened for business. Three women employees were on duty at the time and there were no customers in the building.

While the stickup was in progress, another employee walked into the room, and all four were herded into the vault where they were locked in while the three bandits made good their escape.

The quartet was able to escape the vault within a short time, and the alarm was sounded. Members of the Southport Police Department soon were on the scene and were followed by law enforcement officers from the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department, the State Highway Patrol, The SBI and the FBI.

There were few clues for officers to go on.

The robbers were young blacks, estimated to be between 25-35 years of age and to be from six feet to six feet, two inches tall. One of them wore a leather coat and a red, white and blue knitted hat. Another had on slacks and a white tee-shirt. None of the three wore a mask.

According to reports the three men came in and stood around for a few minutes before one left the building. At this point one of the other men walked to the teller's window and pointed his gun as he directed bank employees to fill a pillow case

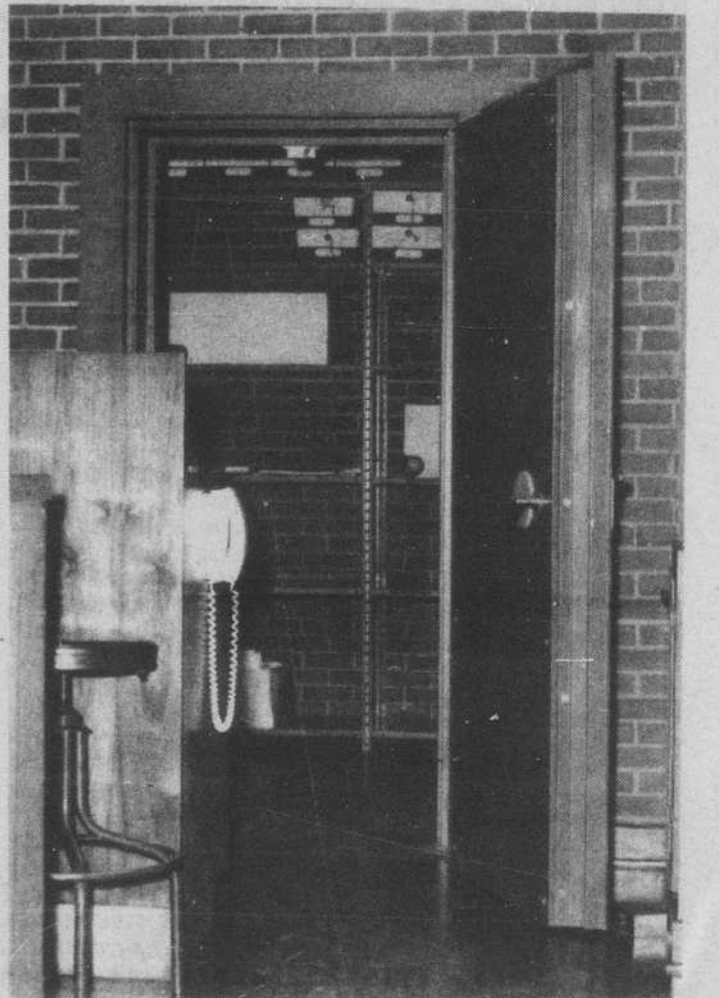
they had brought with money.

When this operation was completed, the bank employees were motioned to get into the vault where they were locked up and the robbers left.

The robbery victims told officers that there had been no threats and that the

robbers appeared to be perfectly calm as they set about the business of collecting the cash and making good their escape.

Prior to Wednesday afternoon no arrests had been made nor was it known if there are definite suspects for this robbery.



Vault Prison For Employees

This is the vault at the Sawdust Trail Branch of Waccamaw Bank & Trust co. near Southport where four bank employees were locked up Friday morning during a robbery which resulted in the loss of \$3,775. (Photo by Spencer)

Odell Williamsons Set-Up \$4,000 Scholarship Fund

Mr. and Mrs. Odell Williamson at Ocean Isle Beach have announced their sponsorship of a Declamation Scholarship fund in the amount of \$4,000 to be awarded annually in the Brunswick County School System. Of this amount, two \$1,500 scholarships will be awarded to the senior boy and girl enrolled in the public schools of Brunswick County who are finalists in the county declamation competition.

One thousand dollars will be utilized to provide a \$100 cash award to the senior boy and girl who are chosen as winners of the local com-

petition in the five county high schools.

The scholarships will be called, "The Virginia William Declamation Scholarship Award" and "The Odell Williamson Declamation Scholarship Award" for the girl and boy recipients, respectively.

Mr. and Mrs. William recently initiated this scholarship program by presenting checks totalling \$4,000 to Ralph C. King, Superintendent of the Brunswick County Schools, for the scholarships to be awarded to winners for the 1971-72 school term.

In making the presentation, Mr. Williamson said, "It has been my observation that it is a real asset for a person to be able to express himself and in making this award I hope the competition created in the speaking contest will help many."

Mrs. Williamson stated, "I am glad to be able to do this and hope that it will mean a great deal to further the success in life of many people."

Superintendent King expressed his appreciation to Mr. and Mrs. Williamson for their interest and for their (Continued On Page Four)



Establish Scholarships

Ralph King, Superintendent of Brunswick County Schools, is shown, left, as he accepts a check for \$4,000 from Mr. and Mrs. Odell Williamson to establish a scholarship fund for winners in an annual declamation and recitation contest to be conducted through Brunswick County Schools.



Homecoming Queen

Miss Marilyn Johnson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wesly Johnson of Southport, was crowned Football Homecoming Queen Friday night at the football game between Brunswick County-Southport High School and Leland. (Photo by Spencer)