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Last Week For Filing By Primary Candidates

A strong fight for seats on the county board of commissioners appears to be shaping up as the filing deadline nears.

Incumbent Republicans William A. Kopp, Jr., Robert Simmons, J.T. Clemmons

and John Bray have paid their filing fees at the Brunswick County board of elections office in Bolivia. A fifth member of the all-Republican board, Vardell Hughes of Waccamaw Township, has not filed for

election. Deadline for all county, state and federal candidates to file is Monday, February 21.

Democrats who will vie in the May 6 primary include Wayland Vereen, Bob

Thorsen and Herman Strong of Southport, who seek the commissioner seat now held by Bray, and Dural Guiton and Lonnie C. McKoy, Jr., candidates for the Northwest Township nomination.

Andrew Gray, Democrat of Lockwoods Folly Township, has filed for the board seat now held by Clemmons. At presstime today, no Democratic candidate had filed from Town Creek Township, which Kopp represents, or Shallotte Township, Simmons' home area.

In other county contests, Democratic Register of Deeds Durward Clark has no opposition thus far.

There are two vacancies on the county board of education, which are decided (Continued On Page Six)

Island Developers Face Lawsuits For Dredging

The state has found another topic of controversy that could stymie development of Bald Head Island.

According to Gov. Bob Scott, a state fisheries official found "excavation on the river shore of the island below the high water mark" during an inspection this week. Under the state's dredge and fill law, a suit can be brought against developers who dredge without a permit obtained for the C&D division of the State Department of Water and Air Resources.

The discovery of the dredging was made by Walter Johnson of Long Beach, assistant supervisor of the state fisheries division.

The director of the C&D division said that warrants are being prepared against E.L. McLamb, a contractor, and Carolina Cape Fear Corporation, owner and would-be developer of the 12,000-acre tract near Southport.

Thomas Linton, director of the fisheries division, said a dredge was used to fashion a barge landing which was

used to unload heavy equipment on the island. The state administration has adamantly refused to help the developers, contending that Bald Head is a unique island that needs to be preserved.

Under the law, a conviction for the alleged offense could result in a fine up to \$500 or 90 days in jail for each day of

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Candidate Pays Her Filing Fee

Margaret Harper of Southport paid her \$300 filing fee Tuesday, officially entering the race for the Democratic nomination for lieutenant governor.

She used her first five campaign contributions — plus some money of her own — to pay the filing fee. "Obviously these were not large contributions," she said. "I think that is the way it should be."

Speaking for a television-radio-press news conference in Raleigh Tuesday afternoon, Mrs. Harper noted that much has been said of candidates being honest: "It takes money to run a statewide campaign and the law requires that candidates list their sources of contributions. I did that last time I ran for lieutenant governor

and I intend to do it this time, too."

Mrs. Harper finished second to Pat Taylor in a three-way battle for the state's second highest job in 1968. She received 23 percent of the vote despite campaigning for only ten weeks.

Last week, when she announced on the steps of the Brunswick County courthouse that she would run for the lieutenant governor nomination a second time, Mrs. Harper said she believed this year was the year that North Carolina voters would elect a woman to high state office.

Traveling with the candidate to Raleigh were her husband, James M. Harper, Jr., campaign manager Semi Mintz, Miss Cheryl Johnson, Mrs. Leila Piggott and Mrs. Dorothy Hardee.

Mintz Chosen Campaign Aide

Margaret Harper, candidate for Lieutenant Governor, has announced that Semi Mintz will manage her campaign for the Democratic nomination for this office.

Mintz is a graduate of Davidson College where he was a star basketball and tennis player. He was tennis coach for one season following graduation.

After graduation from Davidson he coached for two years at New Hanover High School in Wilmington before joining Burlington Industries (Continued On Page Six)

And He's Willing

Magistrate Has Lot To Learn

Magistrate Ephraim Swain said that 90 percent of the people who come before him are people he doesn't know, and that's unusual for a man who has spent most of his 58 years in Southport.

"That shows how much this area has changed in recent years," said Swain, who was appointed magistrate February 1 by resident Superior Court Judge Edward Clark of Elizabethtown.

The new magistrate works alternate days with E.F. "Skeet" Gore, who has served the county for many years.

"The work load just got too

big for one man to handle," Swain noted.

A Southport native, Swain worked for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for 33 years as a civilian employee before retiring in 1969. Last January, he was employed as maintenance supervisor for Waccamaw Bank and Trust Company before resigning to take this job February 1.

While employed in Wilmington, he commuted from Southport every day. "I wore out three new cars and four used ones in 18 years," Swain said.

In his duties as magistrate, Swain will act as judge in criminal cases subject to as much as a \$50 fine or 30 days in jail, and in civil cases up to \$300. The purpose is to take a burden off the courts, but the defendant always has the right to appeal.

Also, the magistrate serves as a convenience to the public. For example, and out-of-state driver caught for speeding can pay a fine to Swain and be on his way instead of waiting for next Monday's court to convene.

Because he has been on duty only two weeks, Swain's detail has not been anything unusual. "Except for one marriage," he noted. "I was a witness while Mr. Gore performed the ceremony."

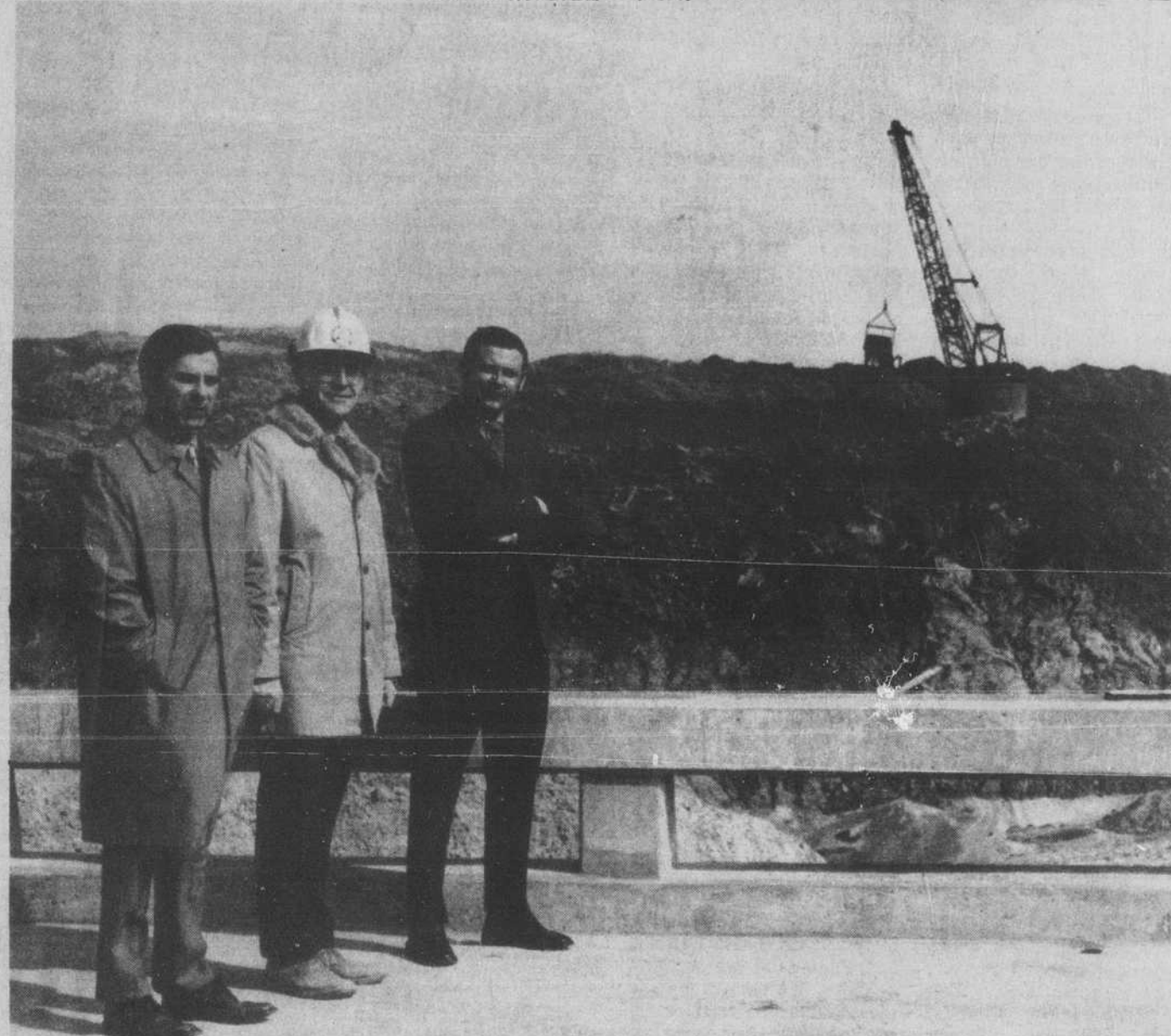
So far, Swain has issued warrants but has not officiated at any hearings. "I've been reading quite a bit," he said. "But I will be able to learn much more from experience."

'Lung Power' Aids In Drive

Southport teenagers contributed their lung power this week to the annual fund-raising campaign of the Brunswick County Heart Association by filling with their breath the red balloons they will sell on Southport streets this weekend.

The teenage sales team will be captained by Miss Francie Haake. The following weekend, the balloon sale will be conducted by members of the Sub-Junior Women's Club.

Another part of the heart campaign this week will be the collection Friday afternoon of money in canisters by a committee headed by Mrs. Josephine Newton Smith and including Mrs. Douglas Franklin, Mrs. Ruth Harrington, Mrs. Mattie S. Hewett, Mrs. George McCracken, Mrs. Patricia McCracken and Mrs. Bernice Trull.



Construction of the NC 87 bridge across the CP&L canal will be completed this week and the NC211 route will be closed during construction of another bridge. Observing work on the bridge are, left to right, Bill Kopp, chairman of the

Brunswick County board of commissioners; Paul Stampar, resident CP&L engineer; and Jackie Stephenson, director of the county Economic Resources Commission.

City Plans For Expansion; Has 'Option' On Perimeter

Property within a one-mile perimeter of the present Southport city limits has been taken under "a kind of shepherd's control" until such time as the city can afford to annex the area.

The extension of authority to the out-of-town area was approved Thursday night by the Board of Aldermen, which understood that if the action were not taken by July 1 control of the property would revert to the county — perhaps permanently.

Annexation of the property in the near future is unlikely, however; no area can be annexed until the city is able to provide 100 percent water and sewage service, and the board indicated an unwillingness to extend service outside the present limits until everyone inside town is provided access to water and sewer lines.

Plans to extend a sewer line about 300 feet outside the city limits drew criticism and a letter of response from Alderman Pierce Horne. In a

letter addressed to Mayor Dorothy Gilbert, Horne noted that the majority of tax-paying citizens inside the city limits do not have water and sewage service, the storm drainage system is inadequate, streets and sidewalks are in poor shape and other projects should have priority.

Therefore, Horne stated,

the city has no business extending a sewer line to private property outside the town limits. To do this, he added, would hurt chances that the local 30-percent share of a proposed \$750,000 water-sewer project could be raised through a bond issue.

The planned sewer line would be extended from the hospital 1,480 feet along Howe

Street. The last 300 feet is outside the city limits, but City Manager C.D. Pickereil said a \$1,600 check from the property owner has been received and this should cover the cost of extra materials and labor.

The total cost of material for the 1,480-foot extension would be approximately (Continued On Page Six)

Altered Bridge Route Won't Bother Ecology

A revised study of what effect the proposed Oak Island bridge will have on the environment has been prepared by the State Highway Commission's Planning and Research Department.

The new environmental impact study was prepared

because of "unforeseen developments within the project corridor." What happened was that a SHC survey crew found a crew from Carolina Power and Light Company surveying the same land, and it was later determined that CP&L had

first claim to the land as a dump area for spoil from its drainage canal.

The new State Highway Commission report supercedes a similar statement released in late December. Plans for a new bridge were developed hurriedly after a barge demolished the old swing-type bridge on September 7 last year, stranding a number of Labor Day vacationers and island residents.

According to the SHC report, the proposed bridge "is essential to the continued economic and social development of the island and will result in safer and more efficient traffic operations."

The planned high-level bridge, which would cost about \$3.6 million, would have a 65-foot vertical clearance to accommodate traffic on the Intracoastal Waterway. "The project is expected to create only minor or insignificant environmental effects," the report stated, listing the acquisition of about 25 acres of undeveloped land, minor degree of erosion, siltation, noise and air pollution during construction; and insignificant effect on the ecological balance in the marshland surrounding the project.

"This project will have no significant effect upon the quality of the human environment," the report (Continued On Page Six)



Ephraim Swain, a lifetime resident of Southport, was appointed magistrate February 1. The appointment was necessary because the case load in the Southport area has become too large for one man to handle.



Campaign Diary

By MARGARET HARPER

The other half of the Harper team held the spotlight Thursday night when the Democratic Women of Cumberland County staged a program featuring the wives of candidates. Since I didn't have a wife, they asked me to send my husband. Jim agreed to go, and as it turned out, he had a fine time.

I had an appointment with a Fayetteville photographer to have some pictures taken, so I made the trip with him. When I came back by the auditorium to pick him up, the ladies told me I should keep him on the road making speeches while I stayed home.

That's just woman's talk!

During the week following my formal announcement, most of my time has been spent opening mail and answering telephone calls. I have received encouragement and promises of help from all parts of the state. There's no doubt about it, I'm way ahead of my position one week after I announced for this same office four years ago.

The biggest news for my campaign this week was the (Continued On Page Four)