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POLITICS was the order of business at the Brunswick County Democrat rally here Monday night. Left, Hector McGeachy and County YDC President Thomas Young listen attentively, while Doran Berry ponders a question. McGeachy,

Berry and Charlie Rose, candidates for the 7th Congressional District seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, were featured speakers at the rally held at Herman's Restaurant.

This County Has Been Overlooked, Candidates Agree

Brunswick County has been overlooked too long, three Congressional candidates agreed during a Democratic rally here Monday night.

Charles Rose, Doran Berry and Hector McGeachy, candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives seat to be vacated by Alton Lennon's retirement, were featured speakers at the Brunswick County Democratic Rally, sponsored by the county YDC.

The dinner, attended by approximately 200 persons, was donated by Herman Strong, himself a candidate for county commissioner, and was served at Herman's Restaurant.

Gene Leggett, a little-known candidate for governor, was the only statewide candidate present. Wilbur Hobby and Pat Taylor, also seeking the party's nomination for governor, and Margaret Harper, the Southport woman in the race for the lieutenant governor nomination, were represented.

Rose, Berry and McGeachy, all of Fayetteville, are seeking the 7th District seat in the U.S. House. The rally was not without gentle chiding among the three candidates, each of whom said the county needs to be a little better cared for.

Rose said the inlets need to be dredged and stabilized, not only to provide the shrimper with better access to deep water but also to protect the beaches from erosion. He urged improvement of US 17, and said the reason South Carolina beaches are more attractive to tourists is that they have better roads leading to them.

The 32-year-old candidate, who said he gained a lot of knowledge losing to Lennon two years ago, said he would like to see Corncake Inlet reopened.

"I see no reason why it can't be reopened; everything I've heard shows



CHARLIE ROSE, right, a candidate for the 7th District Congressional seat, discusses Brunswick County politics with a fellow Democrat.

that it should." Rose said he is committed to help Brunswick County grow, and that a Congressman would need seniority to get things done: "That's why many people voted for Alton Lennon last time," Rose noted.

"I want to see Brunswick County become what you want it to become," he told the Democrats Monday night.

Berry, speaking second and in a lighter vein, said Rose memorized his speech very well because he touched the same subject all three would mention.

"McGeachy will say that Charlie's too young for the job and Rose will say Hector is too old," said Berry, "so at 43 I guess I'm the man who's best suited."

Berry, who said he is the only one of the three candidates who pays taxes in this county, noted that he used a pontoon bridge when he first came to Long Beach—"and I'm still using a pontoon

bridge." The candidate, a former solicitor in Cumberland County, noted that he has urged for years what the other candidates are advocating now, "It's time we took the money and bring some of it back where it all started—at the mouth of the Cape Fear River."

Berry said more emphasis should be put on education: "I'm not only for quality of education, but for equality of education."

McGeachy, at 54 the eldest of the candidates, has served in the North Carolina Senate for ten years, including one session as representative of Brunswick when the county was included in a four-county district with Cumberland.

He said his father was Cumberland County sheriff for 40 years, mostly because he listened to people. "And that's the way I was brought up — to listen."

"Brunswick needs a man (Continued On Page Nine)

Residents May Register In Precincts, Says Board

Southport area residents can register to vote near home by virtue of a State Board of Elections memo to the local office.

Mrs. Vivian Tatum, executive secretary of the Brunswick County board, said precinct registrars have been granted permission to register prospective voters—by appointment only and in the registrar's home.

Registrars in the Southport area are Mary Dilsaver for Southport 1; Mazie Willis, Southport 2; and Stephen Farquhar, Oak Island. Registrars for Brunswick County's other precincts are listed in an advertisement in this State Port Pilot.

Precinct registration was not possible before, Mrs. Tatum said, because the county had fewer than 14,000 voters and therefore operated on a modified plan; the

Bolivia office was to remain open only three days a week. A special, in-the-field registration by Mrs. Tatum during the past two weeks has increased Brunswick County voter registration, which the

executive secretary had estimated at 11,000. She reported that 201 persons were registered at Southport during the one-day registration, followed by registrations of 151 at Leland,

49 at Waccamaw and 169 at Shallotte.

Mrs. Tatum said most of the registrations at Waccamaw and Shallotte were of high-school age persons, while most of the Leland and Southport registrars were new residents who are associated with industrial projects in the two areas of Brunswick County.

No more special registrations are expected before the April 7 deadline, said Mrs. Tatum. Anyone registering after April 7 will not be allowed to vote in the primary election, May 6.

Mrs. Tatum clarified several matters that have concerned new residents of this area:

A person can vote in statewide elections if he has lived in the state for one year and in the precinct 30 days; and

A person can vote in local elections if he has lived in the precinct 30 days, even if he moved from out-of-state within the past year.

Mrs. Tatum said she was pleased with the registration at the four county schools, adding that she thought most of the high school students who want to register have done so. She noted, however, that many of the new residents of the Southport and Leland areas may not be registered although qualified.

Mrs. Tatum said questions concerning registration should be directed to her. The Bolivia office is open Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 9 until 5, and the number is 253-5652.



Campaign Diary

By MARGARET HARPER

Last week I left you in Smithfield, the night before two whirlwind days in Johnston County with Sarah Ann Sasser at the controls. A play-by-play would take up all the space for this column this week, because we appeared at 16 different events in 18 hours. But there's one very special event I must lift out.

That was the "For Men Only" breakfast Wednesday morning at the Woman's Club building in Smithfield. The cooking and serving was done by men wearing aprons with "Margaret" written across the bib in big red letters. More than 75 men showed up for this event where I was introduced by Tom Lassiter, a long-time friend who is published of The Smithfield Herald. I wouldn't want any kinder words than those to be written on my tombstone!

Among the interesting stops in Johnston County was one at rural Pleasant Grove where I met Mr. and Mrs. Coats who have given a museum to that community. Mr. Coats, who is blind, has been a long-time collector of bells which he has hung on an attractive bell-tower outside the museum. He said that when I win he wants me to come back and we'll ring all the bells, just like they do on Christmas and Easter. Present for this part of the tour (and also for the all-male breakfast) was Carlton Barbour, who was the man who moved the Waccamaw Bank of Southport across the street so we could make it into my state campaign headquarters.

Another enjoyable stop was at Meredith College where I talked with the young people and saw my campus campaign (Continued On Page Six)

Retired City Manager

Pickerrell Is Still A Busy Man

When he was Southport city manager, C.D. Pickerrell stayed so busy he did not have time for his hobbies. Now that he has retired, he still doesn't.

"I had planned to catch up on my golf game," he said this week, "and I needed to do some work with my flowers. You'd be surprised how little time I have had to put on these things."

The Southport man retired several weeks ago after serving for 14 years as city manager. He let it be known that he was available to do some appraisals and real estate consultant assignments, and he has been busy ever since. "I like to have something to do," he confessed. "I'd be miserable

doing nothing."

If and when he catches up on his new duty assignments, the former city official wants to remodel his greenhouse, home of some of the most exotic camellias ever grown in Brunswick County.

"I want to keep my hand in this business," he said, "and I plan to continue to enter exhibits in camellia shows in this area." Recently he has spent as much time as possible with the outdoor plants he has in his beautifully landscaped yard.

But the retired city manager has another hobby—clock-making. Actually his skills do not extend along mechanical lines. He purchases the works from a German manufacturer and

encloses them in wooden cases of his own design. A grandfather clock has been his most ambitious undertaking. Already he is receiving requests to enter his clock collection in craft shows.

During these early days of retirement Pickerrell looks back with pride and pleasure upon some of the accomplishments made by the City of Southport during the time he served as city manager. A new water tank literally is one landmark, as is the new sewage disposal plant.

Less tangible but hardly less important has been modernization and extension of the electric distribution lines serving the

Racial Unrest Closes School

Racial incidents between individuals at Brunswick County High School in Southport Thursday led to confrontation between students. Thursday difficulties carried over into Friday and there were more extended confrontations and fights. Injuries to students were limited to minor bruises and lacerations.

School was dismissed on Friday at 1:30 p.m. An assessment of the situation resulted in the decision to discontinue school on Monday. Southport Elementary School was closed because of transportation problems resulting from the closing of B.C.H.S.

School was back in session on Tuesday with no incidents reported. Attendance was off approximately 50 percent in both B.C.H.S. and Southport Elementary.

The cause of the disturbance is still under investigation. Those students who were directly involved in the incidents have been temporarily suspended pending the finalization of the investigation.

As a precautionary measure, representatives from the Southport Police Department and the Sheriff's Department were on hand Tuesday and will continue to be available as needed.

Principal E.L. Pettiford has issued the following statement: "All persons who have been or will be suspended must not come on the school campus for any purpose whatsoever. All parents, all friends, all solicitors and all agents may come to the school, but it must be between the hours of 3:15 and 3:35 p.m."

Man Killed In Leland Crash

A head-on collision near Leland late Saturday afternoon killed a Burgaw man who reportedly drove his car left of the centerline.

Edmond Bullock, 59, was thrown from the vehicle by the impact and was killed instantly. The other vehicle was occupied by out-of-state travelers Mr. and Mrs. Edward F. Sylvia of Pawcatuck, Conn.

State Highway Patrol Trooper W.C. Fulghum said the wreck occurred at 6 p.m. about one mile west of Leland on US 74-76. He reported that three persons were injured.

A passenger in the Bullock car, Mrs. Edna Davis Walker, 36, of Rocky Point was taken to New Hanover Memorial Hospital, treated for leg injuries and released. Sylvia, 39, sustained leg injuries and his 29-year-old wife, facial and head injuries. Trooper Fulghum said it was raining at the time of the wreck.

Smorgasbord

A smorgasbord will be served at the Fellowship Hall of Ocean View United Methodist Church at Yaupon Beach on Saturday.

Two meals will be served, the noon meal beginning at 11:30 a.m. and the evening meal beginning at 4:30 p.m. Home-cooked food will be served, and the price is \$1.75 per meal.



RETIREMENT CITY MANAGER C.D. Pickerrell, still a busy man, finds time to spend with his prize-winning flowers.