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## Public Hearing On Bridge Project Set For May 24

A public hearing for the proposed high-level bridge to Oak Island, required before any work can begin on the project, is scheduled for May 24.

The hearing has been delayed because of necessary action and reevaluation by the State Highway Commission's Planning and Research Division. A required environmental impact study also was time-consuming.

Little opposition to the SHC project is expected at the public hearing, to be held at 3:30 p.m. in the Brunswick County-Southport High School auditorium. Long Beach Town Manager Jack Hayward said earlier that his town's people would not care where the bridge was located, just so the State Highway Commission got on with the work.

The high-level span is expected to take 18 months to complete, according to a SHC spokesman.

The swing-type bridge that had served Oak Island was demolished by an Intracoastal Waterway barge last September 7, stranding a large number of Labor Day tourists and the island's increased population. For several months, the only link

with the mainland was an overcrowded and oft-maligned ferry service.

The present one-lane bridge was put into service in November, easing the strain on island residents but still the scene of early-morning and late-afternoon traffic snarls. The summer beach season is expected to be slowed somewhat, but the majority of island business owners report the loss of customers is below what was expected.

The state was criticized by island residents for what they termed a poor response to their emergency situation. The SHC, however, has

developed a bridge plan to satisfy most Oak Islanders.

The public hearing will air local sentiment regarding the proposed new bridge, to be located just to the west of the existing waterway crossing and to have a vertical clearance of 65 feet — high enough to accommodate waterway traffic without having to be opened.

The southern approach to the bridge would cross the marshlands south of the Intracoastal Waterway and would tie into existing NC 133 again approximately one-tenth of a mile south of state road 1102 north of the waterway.

The hearing is to include an explanation of the proposed bridge and approaches, right-of-way requirements and procedures and relocation advisory assistance. The hearing will be open for any statements, questions, comments or material pertaining to the proposed project.

## Beach Police Chief Resigns

Aubrey Hickman has resigned as Long Beach chief of police, according to Town Manager Jack Hayward.

In a report of a recent town board meeting, it was noted that Hickman's resignation was effective March 23. Patrolman Glen Cockram was named acting police chief.

In a letter addressed to Hayward, Chief Hickman stated that "after much consideration, it is with reluctance that I tender my resignation as chief of police."

Hickman said the decision was made because he has interest in some business enterprises on the beach which are requiring much of his time. "It has become increasingly more difficult to pursue these interests and, at the same time, devote to the Town of Long Beach the time required in the performance of my duties," Hickman stated.

Cockram was appointed by Mayor O.G. Coleman.

## Political Views

Next week's edition of The State Port Pilot will include a special section about politics on the county and district levels. Letters have been mailed to the candidates, who were told that all news items and advertisements for the special section must be in the newspaper office by this (Thursday) afternoon.

Purpose of the section is to give politicians an equal chance to present their views, and to give the public an opportunity to consider what the candidates have to say before deciding for whom to vote.

## Growth Noted During National Library Week

National Library Week was observed Sunday during a program held at Southport-Brunswick County Public Library honoring students who participated in projects and displays inspired by this observance.

Rep. Thomas Harrelson was speaker and expanded on the theme for this year — "Reading Makes The World Go Round." "The library holds a special place in our society," he said, "because it is a symbol of our freedom — freedom from censorship, intellectual freedom. Surely no institution holds greater promise for the future of American Democracy and the benefit of all citizens."

The speaker spoke of the steady, spectacular increase in the use of library facilities in Brunswick County, including the bookmobile.

P.R. Hankins, Brunswick County chairman for the National Library Week ob-

servance, presided, and following a musical medley by the Waccamaw High School Glee Club, the invocation was given by the Rev. Mr. Glisson. The welcome was extended by James Clemmons, vice-president of Friends of the Library for Brunswick County.

Mrs. Dorothy Davis introduced professional library personnel and school librarians were introduced by Mrs. Edna Gause, supervisor of Brunswick County school libraries.

Members of the National Library Week Committee and special guests were introduced by Mrs. Frances Stone, assistant county superintendent of schools, and this was followed by a group of choral selections by the Leland High School Glee Club. Ralph King, county superintendent, introduced the speaker.

After the speech by Rep.

Harrelson, the Southport-Brunswick County High School Glee Club sang two selections.

A progress report on Friends of the Library was given by Harold Aldridge, chairman of the board of trustees for the library. Mrs. Martin Nielson presented awards and gave recognition for projects in connection with the Library Week observance.

The following persons were elected to serve during the coming year as officers of Friends of the Library: president, James Clemmons; vice-president, Mrs. A.P. Henry, Jr.; secretary, Mrs. Martin Nielson; and treasurer, Mrs. Catherine Skipper.

The benediction was said by the Rev. Mr. Glisson, following which a reception was held in the council room of the library. About two hundred persons attended the program.

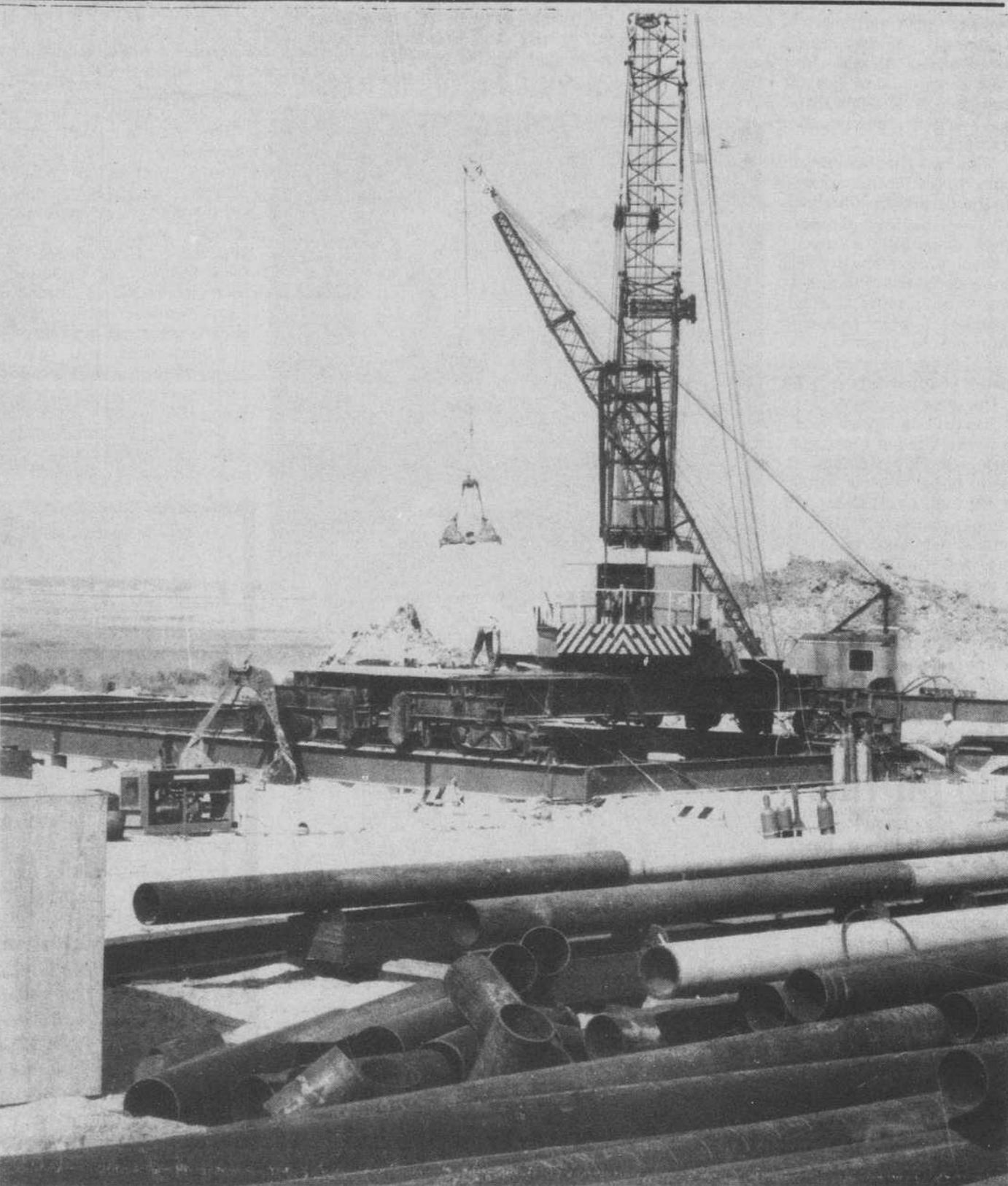
## Festival Floats Must Be Okayed

Organizations interested in entering their own float in this year's annual Fourth of July parade should have the floats completed and ready for inspection by June 1.

All floats must be approved by members of the Fourth of July Float Committee.

Beginning May 1, members of the Float Committee will be calling on local businesses for their order for professional floats provided by the Thomas D. Richie Float Company of Charlotte.

For further information regarding specifications for floats, please contact Sally McDougle (457-6843) or Mary McHose (457-3731).



A DETOUR of the Fort Caswell Road has been constructed so that the Carolina Power and Light Company discharge pipes can be placed un-

derneath the roadway. The 15-foot diameter tubing has arrived at the site, and also is being laid underneath the Intracoastal Waterway.

## Morgan: Democrats Can Win In General Election

Democrats don't have to take a negative approach towards politics because their leadership has been responsible for North Carolina's progress since 1900, Attorney General Robert Morgan told Brunswick County party faithfuls during a Friday night rally.

Morgan, who was considered a front-runner for the Democratic nomination for governor until he decided to keep the attorney general's

post, addressed about 100 persons at Jones' Tranquil Harbour Restaurant.

"Not until 1900 when the Democrats took the reins did we begin to see progress in North Carolina," he said, adding that the state has had Democratic leadership ever since.

Morgan noted the advancements in education, industrial development, roads and the rehabilitation of the handicapped among the accomplishments of his party.

"We have seen a wise development of the natural and economic resources of the state," he told local candidates and other members of the audience.

Among the candidates present were Doran Berry, candidate for the 7th Congressional District house seat; State Senate hopefuls Bobby Sessions of Whiteville and Arthur Williamson of Chadbourn; and Commissioner of Insurance candidate Russell Secrest.

Local candidates included Bill Sue, Donald White and W.T. Bowen, vying for two available board of education seats; Durward Clark, unopposed candidate for Register of Deeds; and several candidates for county commissioner, including Wayland Vereen, Herman Strong and Bobby Thorsen of Southport; W.A. Stanley, Jr., of Shallotte; Lonnie McKoy, Jr., of Northwest and Ernest McGee of Town Creek.

Plans also were announced for the Brunswick County Democratic convention, scheduled for May 27 at the Shallotte High School auditorium.

Morgan, in his Friday night address, said despite the strong points of Democratic administration there are still things that could stand improvement.

## Motel Resident Killed In Blaze

A Holden Beach woman was burned to death early Friday morning when a fire swept through her motel room.

Mrs. Annie Lula Corbett, 52, was found dead inside her home at the motel. Cause of the fire was not known.

Lowell Bennett, Brunswick County coroner, said the body of Mrs. Corbett was found lying across a table.

The fire swept through the interior of the home, leaving it gutted.

Bennett said the body had been removed to Chapel Hill for an autopsy by the chief medical examiner to determine the exact cause of

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## Kirby's Store To Be Rebuilt

From ashes of the million-dollar fire that demolished Shallotte's Town and Country Shopping Center on April 11, will come a large shopping complex.

Floyd Kirby, Jr., owner of the building, has already started construction of a new supermarket, slated to retain the name of "Kirby's Food City", on a location near his former enterprise. Kirby said the new supermarket will include 19,800 square feet of space, and will be located at the intersection of U.S. Highway 17 and Highway 130.

The new location is located on a four and one-half acre lot. The businessman said that "barring bad weather and other problems, we hope to reopen August 1, this year."

"Negotiations" continued Kirby, "are underway now to bring in four other businesses to the new location."

Kirby, a native of Supply, said the new site will boast parking facilities for some 300 cars and that the new supermarket "will possess the most modern and latest innovations available." Facilities, he added, "with assets not to be found in any other market in eastern North Carolina."



NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK was observed last week, with the local celebration climaxed by a Sunday afternoon program at Southport-Brunswick County Library. Rep. Thomas

Harrelson was the guest speaker and noted the tremendous growth the library has enjoyed in recent years.

### Campaign Diary

By MARGARET HARPER

Ten days to go! Things still are looking good. Last week a poll taken by one of the gubernatorial candidates showed that I still am in second place in the race for lieutenant governor. The disturbing thing about the figures is that it showed more than 50 percent of the voters still undecided about whom to vote for. This is where you can help during the next few days. We must convince the uncommitted voter that this is the year when we ought to elect a woman. It sounds better when someone else says it, especially if it some of my home county folks.

Last Wednesday was a full day spent in Orange County, starting with an all-male breakfast at Carolina Inn with Orville Campbell serving as M.C. Later, he took me on a tour of the business district to meet some of the merchants. Elizabeth Ellis was principally responsible for plans for the luncheon at the inn, and afterward I visited "the pit" for a talk with the students. One of them was our own Kermit Phelps of Southport. Another contact there was with Dr. Lara Hoggard, who once was arranger and assistant conductor for the Fred Waring orchestra. I had met him one summer when he was in charge of State Music Week when it was held at the Baptist Assembly.

That night I attended a meeting of Democratic Women at Colonial Inn in Hillsborough.

Thursday morning I spent in Durham helping to make plans

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