

# Sound Of Surf

From Holden Beach  
By John M. Clarke

"We've added several hundred thousand dollars of property valuation to the tax listings for Holden Beach since last year's mailings," reported Finance Commissioner Doris Newman.

"Last July, Brunswick County was able to employ its first full-time tax appraiser, James Padgett," she continued. "Since then, he has been devoting most of his time to appraising the backlog of homes that had accumulated during the last few years throughout the county, including those on Holden Beach. And now that the county tax office has added them to their records," Mrs. Newman said, "we are authorized to include them in our listings."

"The Town is very appreciative of the interest expressed by those property owners who were concerned with the fact that their tax valuation was less than it really should have been."

Mrs. Newman concluded, "Only when all our property tax values are listed correctly can each of us pay our fair share for our mutual benefit."

Nine building permits were issued by our Town Clerk, Mrs. Lucille Burks, during the month of March and five were issued in April. Since January 1, a total of 20 building permits have now been issued.

"Water, water, everywhere," he typed, as he looked out over the broad, blue sea... but barely a drop of rain fell here on Holden Beach during the entire month of April. My water gauge collected a grand total rainfall of a scant .06 inches, all of it falling on one day, April 12. I also noted a "trace" on April 8 when we had a sprinkling that didn't show any measurement in the gauge.

However, our year-to-date rainfall total of 12.59 inches compares favorably with that of 1971, when we had totaled 12.07 inches at the end of April. Last year in April I tallied 4.40 inches.

Looking ahead, in May, 1971, I recorded a total of 2.80 inches.

In regards to our temperature, our lows ranged from 31 to 62, averaging 49.6 degrees. And our high temperatures varied between 54 and 80, averaging 68.2 degrees. All of which are quite comparable to last year.

I have now received the first letter expressing an interest in a Town Meeting, sort of. It was suggested that there might be value in discussing the problems common to those owning property on canals. It was felt that the passage of motor boats causing an excessive amount of wake can lead to

an unnecessary amount of erosion of the banks and filling up the center of the canals. The gentleman suggested that if the topic could be discussed and the problem defined, it might be possible to develop a solution.

Any other topics? Or should I conclude that everyone else feels that our problems are not worth our collective time and effort to resolve. (Because I know we have "problems." I've heard people talk.)

It's a pleasure to report that through the fine cooperation of the Brunswick County Board of Elections office in Bolivia, my wife and I were able to cast our absentee ballots and vote in the North Carolina primary last Saturday.

I nearly dilly-dallied too long. When I drove up to the Board of Elections office in Bolivia, I learned that the 1971 General Assembly had enacted legislation, as I understand it, that prohibited the Brunswick County office from simply handling me an application form to fill out so they could hand me an absentee ballot.

The new legislation required that (1) I mailed the Board of elections a request for an application; so (2) they could mail an application form to me; so (3) I could complete the application, have it notarized, and mail it to them; so (4) they could mail an absentee ballot to me; so (5) I could vote, have my ballot notarized, and mail it to them.

I would like to think the prescribed procedure (which I have followed, with the most prompt response by the Board of Elections office) makes absentee voting more responsible, or something. Not knowing the facts, or the problem, I suspect that it has eliminated a lot of voters who wouldn't go to that much trouble to vote. And I'm reluctant to think that there's a direct correlation between the vaunted value of the vote and the sustained strength of

# Trail Project Is Recognized

The Brunswick Town Nature Trail was featured at the annual meeting of the Garden Club of North Carolina held in Wilmington at the Timme Plaza recently. The convention program depicted the bridge over the pond at the Nature Trail on its cover.

The awards banquet, announcement was made of the award presented to the Garden Club of North Carolina for the Nature Trail project by the South Atlantic Region at its annual meeting held in March. The award received was the South Atlantic Regional Conservation Award, the only regional award received by North Carolina.

Delegates to the convention traveled by chartered bus to the Brunswick Town Nature Trail. Box lunches were furnished and the Woodbine and Southport Garden Clubs were hostesses to the convention, providing beverages and dessert. After the picnic lunch everyone made a walking tour of the Trail. One of the highlights of the tour was seeing the recently completed bridge at the far end of the pond. About 250 garden club members visited the Nature Trail.

my stubborn steak.

By the time you read this, my wife and I expect to be up visiting my sister and brother-in-law at their home in New York near Northport, Long Island. We have remarked, on occasion, about the coincidence of their living near Northport and our living near Southport, almost.

Maybe I'll get a column in next week, but probably not.

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## An Open Letter To My Friends & Supporters

Dear Friends,

THANK YOU from the bottom of my heart for your generous support. You have been my supporters and friends for many years, and I'm so appreciative of it. I wish I could thank each one individually, but since that is impossible, let me say here that I will never forget how good you have been to me.

You made me the high man in the Senate race by 2260 votes, which certainly speaks for itself. Thanks and Thanks again!

Sincerely yours,

**Arthur W. Williamson**  
Democratic Candidate For State Senate



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