

THE STATE PORT PILOT

A Good Newspaper In A Good Community

VOLUME 43

NUMBER 50

12 PAGES TODAY

SOUTHPORT, NORTH CAROLINA

JULY 5, 1972

5 CENTS A COPY

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY



THE FRYING PAN LIGHTSHIP was moored at the foot of Howe Street this weekend in time for the Fourth of July festival. The ship was not open to the public, but visitors to Southport can look

forward to next year, by which time the vessel will have been converted for use as a nautical museum.

Southport Fourth Was 'Best Ever' Celebration

Boat races and sidewalk art shows. Floats, Indian dancers and fireworks. Flags. Happy Children, clowns and picnics. Sunshine, donkey baseball, cotton candy. Flags.

And more flags. This year's Fourth of July festival, now with "North Carolina" in its name, was all Southport. Thousands of area residents and upstate tourists were in town Tuesday, enjoying a sometimes quiet, sometimes excited day by the river. Here, you can let the children play.

An estimated 7,000 to 10,000 persons were in Southport for the parade and Tuesday afternoon attractions. It was a hot sunshine day, reaching 95 degrees, but it doesn't take long to find the cool spots on the waterfront. The well-organized speedboat races, with enough breeze to ripple the Cape Fear River, drew a good crowd along the river bank that seemed made for watching.

Stephanie Helms reigned over the three-day celebration as Miss Fourth of July. Chosen in the Saturday night pageant at Fort Caswell, she will represent the town in festivals throughout North Carolina for the next year.

Sunday, exhibits were opened that included the Junior Woman's Club art show, the Wildlife Commission's display, and the on-board tour of the Naval Ship Lynch, employed for oceanographic research. Tuesday, Army exhibits of helicopters and heavy artillery were added.

Donkey basketball on Sunday afternoon took its usual toll of Coast Guardsmen and Southport Jaycees. A Monday night street dance featuring the Men of Distinction kept the town up 'til midnight, but once-a-year is allowed. Police reported an unusually calm weekend.

The Southport (North Carolina) Fourth of July Festival is an amateur production every year except the end result. Bosses grant their employees time off to prepare for the festival. Somebody local calls Alton Lennon, who calls somebody in the Navy who sends the Lynch here for five days. Volunteer firemen don police wear and keep a crowd orderly.

With a community spirit that reflects Independence Day, Southport put on another show that would be expected only from a larger town with greater resources. Southport was a good host.



STEPHANIE HELMS, the new Miss Fourth of July, was crowned during the Saturday night pageant at Fort Caswell. Stephanie, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Young of Southport, will represent Southport in various pageants across the state during the next year.

Major Draft Policy Change Made

The Selective Service System has announced a major policy change which will permit men scheduled for induction after July 1 to enlist or be appointed in the National Guard or Reserves after receipt of their induction orders.

The regulation change also

will permit men who receive induction orders to join regular branches of the armed forces for a minimum of two years active duty, if such programs are offered. The new policy does not affect men with June reporting dates.

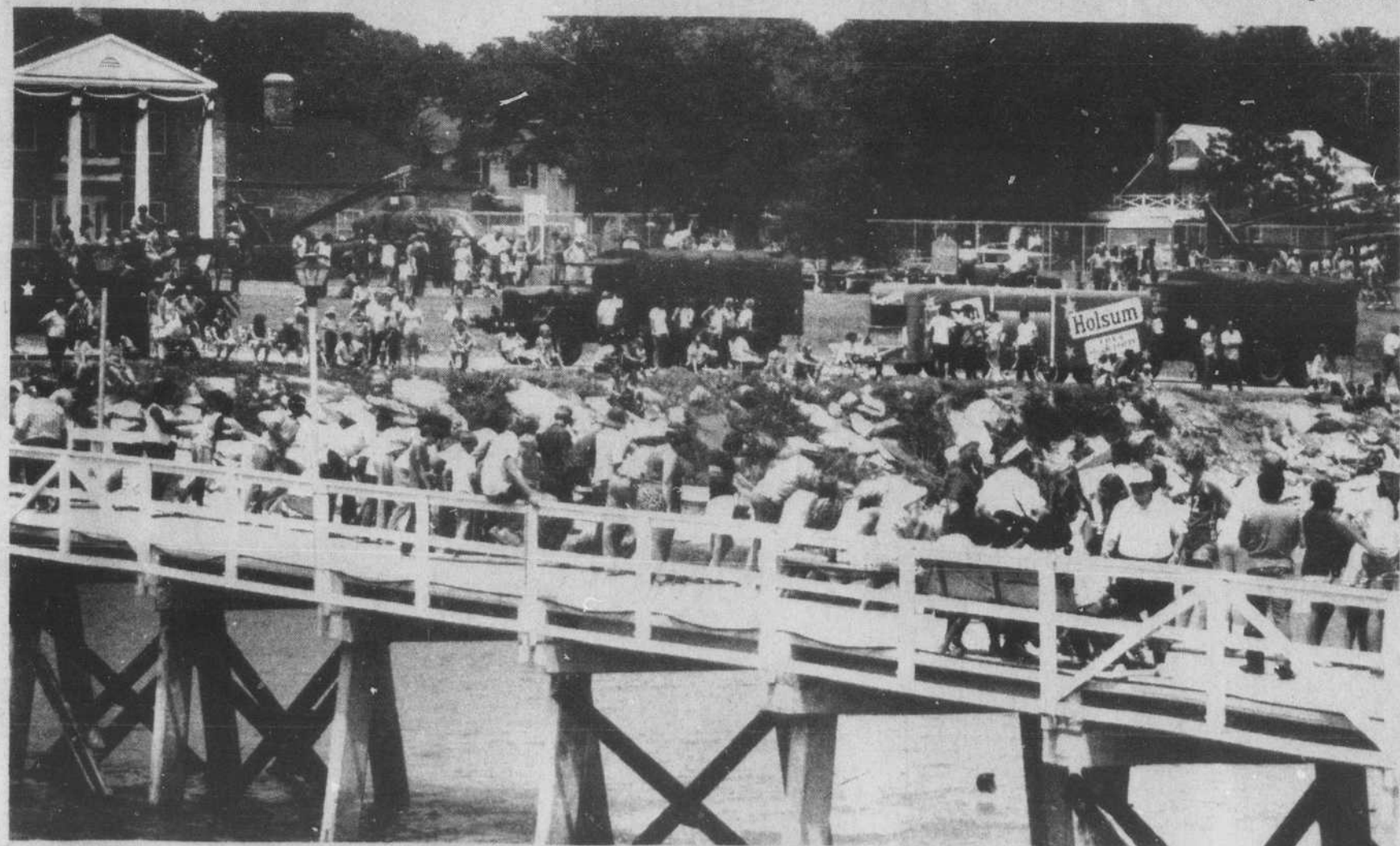
The change was reported

by Mrs. Carolyn Rees, executive secretary of the local Selective Service board.

The result of discussions between the Department of Defense and the Selective Service System, the new policy is expected to stimulate recruiting for the National Guard and the

Reserve forces. The Guard and Reserve forces are estimated to be 40,000 men below their authorized strength, and both Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird and Deputy Secretary of Defense Kenneth Rush have recently expressed concern over this

(Continued On Page Four)



LARGE CROWDS attended the North Carolina Fourth of July festival at Southport this week. Here, visitors gather on the Southport waterfront to watch powerboat races on the Cape

Fear River and to go aboard the Naval Ship Lynch which was moored at the city pier. A display of Army helicopters and heavy equipment also attracted visitors to the waterfront.

Cycle Wreck Sunday Fatal

A high-speed motorcycle wreck Sunday killed Oliver Thomas Perkins, 31, of Leland.

The wreck occurred near Northwest about 7:30 p.m. Perkins, who lost control of the vehicle, was reported dead on arrival at New Hanover Memorial Hospital in Wilmington.

River Dredge Bids Expected

An invitation for bids for maintenance dredging of Lockwood Folly River will be issued this week, according to a report made to the county commissioners Monday.

The bids are scheduled to be opened August 10, with work to begin shortly afterwards.

The project will include the removal and disposal of approximately 65,000 cubic yards of silt material.

The announcement marks a step forward in the controversial project, which had been delayed because no suitable disposal area could be located. Congressman Alton Lennon announced that about \$100,000 has been included in President Nixon's 1972 fiscal year budget for this work.

Other business at a routine county commissioners meeting included the reappointment of Mrs. Sylvia Kirby to the advisory board of the Southeastern Mental Health Association and the appointment of Sheriff Harold Willetts and William McDougle, Sr., to the Lower Cape Fear Planning Unit which has assisted law enforcement units in Brunswick County.

Also, the county has moved towards participation in the Police Information Network, which provides rapid access for information pertaining to criminal records, identification, etc. The federal government would pay for the first year's cost.

The commissioners approved the purchase of eight swivel chairs and a ten-foot conference table for the county board's office, total cost of which will be \$1,314 based on state contract prices.

A special meeting of the

Time And Tide

Thirty-five years ago this week, Dr. W.S. Doshier had gone to Boston to specialize in gynecology and obstetrics. He was to be replaced by Dr. L.C. Fergus, a native of Wilmington and a graduate of Medical College in Virginia. A Dutch dinner and a beer supper were given in honor of Dr. Doshier.

The Carolina Yacht Club announced that it would hold races in Southport in August. Entries from Miami to Norfolk were expected.

A Raleigh man who visited here for the first time three years before and had returned whenever possible since then, commented on the future of the town and the surrounding area. He stated that the folks upstate would be interested in the area if more advertising were done and they knew more about it.

L.T. Yaskill had been elected head of the Brunswick County American Legion Post; a former Southport boy and his father had come from New York in a homemade trailer, and a contractor was here looking over the possibilities of shipping facilities in the area.

A front-page picture of Little Coney, the popular swimming site on the Southport waterfront, was featured in the Pilot 30 years ago this week. Its use by the public had decreased since the opening of roads to the beach area.

Experienced men were wanted by officials in Washington to handle large anti-submarine boats off Cape Fear. Local men who knew the waters of the area were asked to volunteer and several local seamen showed interest. The Fourth of July was properly observed in a celebration here. A community picnic and dance were held as part of the festival occasion.

Classes were to be held on first aid procedures in Vacation Bible Schools in the town. Classes for both colored and white students were to be held throughout the area.

Man-O-War birds were sighted hovering over Southport

(Continued On Page Four)

(Continued On Page Four)