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Phone Cables Being Installed

Southern Bell is placing 1,765 feet of nine-duct cable conduit and 9,200 feet of 600-pair underground and aerial cable to furnish additional facilities in the Southport area.

Demand for new telephone services has been heavy and is expected to continue to increase as industry and employment grows in and around Southport.

The cable conduit is being buried in the downtown area along N.C. Highways 87 and 211. It will be placed at depths ranging from 25 inches minimum to 48 inches maximum to meet various safety standards and requirements. The \$64,000 project includes placing of the conduit and replacement of concrete along the cable route.

Early next year an addition of 400 lines and telephone numbers will be completed in the central office. In December, 1973 another 400-line and number addition is planned. Plant investment on these two projects will total \$130,000.

Mental Health Idea Approved

Brunswick County commissioners have agreed to cooperate with New Hanover and Pender county officials in developing a complete Comprehensive Mental Health program for the area.

No local funds are involved. The county board responded to a letter from Richard Walker, Director of the Brunswick County Health Department, citing the availability of federal funds "for hiring staff to organize, research and plan for the construction of a Comprehensive Mental Health Center and corresponding satellites." To secure these funds, he explained, the cooperation of the three county governments is required.

"The development of such a center could have a direct and positive impact on the quality and quantity of services provided to our citizens," Walker said.

John Wilson, local Health Administrator of the Southeastern Mental Health Center which serves the three-county area, said the regional center with satellites "is the best way to determine the mental health needs, the types of programs, etc., that are needed in our area. It would also be the best way to involve all three counties in joint planning for a Mental Health Center."

SPINAL SURGERY

Vardell Hughes, county commissioner from Waccamaw Township, is hospitalized following spinal surgery. He is expected to be incapacitated for a month to six weeks.



WORK CONTINUES on the laying of telephone cables along the west side of Howe Street. Southern Bell is financing the \$65,000 project,

which will result in 400 additional lines in the Southport area. Another expansion of the same magnitude is scheduled for December, 1973.

Republican Rally Speaker

Gardner Addresses County GOP's

Republicans gathered in Yaupon Beach Thursday night to hear Jim Gardner caution against Republican over-confidence in the November 7 general election.

Gardner, who lost a hard-fought primary campaign to Republican gubernatorial candidate Jim Holshouser, spoke in support of Holshouser and the entire Republican slate from the White House to the local level, and reminded his audience of 1948, when what he called Republican over-confidence had Thomas Dewey in the White House while Harry Truman was winning the election at the last minute.

The \$10-a-plate rally attended by 200 party faithful was opened by Charles Blake, Brunswick County Republican chairman, with the invocation being read by

E.C. Blake. Charles Blake cited Republican achievements in Brunswick County, including a 25-percent tax cut, and called for work toward a county-wide water and sewer system and teacher's supplement pay.

Master of Ceremonies

Bagged Ice Plant Open

A new ice plant that prepares bagged or block ice untouched by human hands is holding its grand opening this weekend.

East Coast Ice and Fisheries, a quarter-million dollar endeavor, is located on NC 133 (Long Beach Road). Manager of the local operation is Bobby Willis of Southport.

"The plant makes its own ice, crushes it and then bags it," Willis said. "The ice is untouched by human hands."

The plant, which has been open since the first of May, is fronted by a grocery store and a self-service gas station. The store will be enlarged to 60 by 80 feet, Willis said, and a trailer park will be laid out on an adjacent 21-acre tract.

East Coast Ice supplies 145 bagged-ice boxes found at other businesses in this area. Also, ice is supplied in bulk to shrimp boats.

The building, which is all-metal, is insulated. The ice-maker is located atop the building and water is available through three pumps. Proper-sized ice is conveyed to the bagging area, while undersized pieces fall to the main floor to be carried to shrimp boats and other buyers who would use the ice for cooling only.

The plant is owned by R. D. Price (the founder), Willis, Carl Walker and W. L. Braswell.

Frank Rouse, state chairman of the G.O.P., introduced party candidates Jerry Scott, running for the 7th District Congressional seat; Nick Smith of Durham, for Attorney General; State Representative Tommy Harrelson, running for reelection in a district which now includes Brunswick and Pender counties; Bill Kopp, chairman of the all-Republican Brunswick County Board of Com-

missioners; and Commissioners John H. Bray and Robert Simmons; and the G.O.P. candidate for Brunswick County Register of Deeds, Arthur Knox.

Other guests include Miss Young Republican, Vicki Ransom; Larry Ashley and Mack Barnes, officials of Brown & Root Construction Company; Brunswick County Manager Jerry Lewis; vice-chairman of the Brunswick

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Registered Voters Could Top 13,000

Registration of voters in Brunswick County ends Monday with perhaps as many as 13,000 being eligible to cast ballots in the November 7 general election.

Mrs. Vivian Tatum, executive secretary of the county Board of Elections, said her office in Bolivia will be open Thursday, Saturday and Monday to register new voters, and precinct registrars will be available by appointment. Registration, she said, has been good.

"Since May we have had a steady flow," she said. "We have registered here in this office about 300 or 400 people." That brings the county registration total to about 12,600, according to the executive secretary, with precinct registrars still to be heard from.

The county operates a part-time Board of Elections office as required for counties with fewer than 14,000 registered voters.

The registration books will close Monday at 6 p.m. Then, Mrs. Tatum and the Board of Elections personnel must process the registrations, count ballots, prepare ballot boxes and instruct precinct officials. "The law changes so often," she observed, "we have to do this every election."

Registrars for the county precincts include: Hoods Creek, Charlie Smith; Lelaah, Mrs. Gracie Beasley; Town Creek, Mrs. Lois Rabon; Bolivia, Mrs. Betty Joe Cheers; Southport I, Mrs. Mary Dilsaver; Southport II, Mrs. Jean Fullwood; Oak Island, Steven Farquhar; Mosquito, Mrs. Edna Crouch; Supply, Charlie Calson; Secession, Cletis Clemmons; Shallotte, Ira Chadwick; Frying Pan, Darrel Johnson; Grissetown, Jean Crowell; Shingletree, Mrs. Louise Lewis; Longwood, Rev. W.H.D. Flowers; Exum, Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Brady; Waccamaw, Faye Ingram; Ash, Shelton Stanley.

Phone numbers for these registrars are listed in an advertisement in this issue of The State Port Pilot.

Mrs. Tatum said persons who have lived in North Carolina (and a particular precinct) for 30 days may register.

About half of the latest registrants are young people, Mrs. Tatum noted, but mostly of college age. "We haven't been registering as many high school students," she

said, "because last March we went into the schools—even registered those who were eligible. We think we got them all."

Young people could register for the May primary if they would reach their 18th birthday before the general election next month.

Absentee ballots, which numbered 86 in the 1970

election, have totalled about 90 so far this year, about 75 of them for military personnel. "We expect many more requests," Mrs. Tatum said, because civilians (including college students) have only been able to request the ballots during the past two weeks.

These ballots have to be returned by Nov. 1, she added.

Strong Chosen As Police Chief

Herman Strong has been hired as Chief of Police for Southport, a position which he has held on two previous occasions. He was sworn in Friday at City Hall.

Strong succeeds Walton Willis as head of this local law enforcement agency. The latter had held the position since 1968 when he succeeded Louis Clark. Prior to that time Willis had been a patrolman with the local Police Department.

Since his last tenure as police chief, Strong has engaged in a variety of undertakings. For a time he operated the Pines Drive-In, but about two years ago he completed construction of a modern restaurant situated outside the city limits of Southport and had enjoyed the life of a successful restaurateur.

Recently he sold this business to John Handley, a retired U.S. Air Force officer, who has changed the name to Lantern Restaurant.

Four years ago Strong was elected as a member of the Board of Aldermen for the City of Southport, a position

he resigned when he moved into a mobile home outside the city limits.

The last time he served as chief, Strong was a one-man police force, having held down the duties alone for several months. He now takes over the direction of an organization which included three patrolmen and four dispatchers who are on round-the-clock duty for the operation of a communications system which links the local police department with a regional law enforcement network. A complete police file also has been maintained by these people.

When Strong reported for duty all of the patrolmen and all between the dispatchers were on "vacation", a condition which had existed since Chief Willis made a similar move on the previous Sunday. Ed Hamill, a retired Marine, was sworn in Monday as a patrolman and Al Martin now is working as a dispatcher. Chief Strong said Tuesday he thinks he will have no difficulty filling other police department vacancies.

Time and Tide

Thirty-five years ago this week 25 tons of shrimp were caught by the local fleet. Some 125 boats from various ports along the North Carolina coast were here to take advantage of the big run of shrimp in the area.

In regard to the proposed yacht basin for Southport, it was announced that the local citizens were to pay for the bulkhead which would cost an estimated \$12,000.

As evidence of the fine fishing of all kinds, Capt. J.B. Church, skipper of the menhaden boat John M. Morehead, was excused from jury duty by Judge E.H. Cramer. The reason was that if Capt. Church were confined in the court for a week, the boat and its crew would miss out on a whole week of fishing.

Thirty years ago this week a Wilmington taxi driver was fatally burned in a mysterious explosion at The Pines near

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JIM GARDNER . . . Thursday Night GOP Speaker

