

# THE STATE PORT PILOT

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## Economy, Politics, Bridge Top County News In 1972



To say that 1972 was a year of progress in Brunswick County would be to state the obvious.

The average county resident got lower taxes and three new high schools. The economy was boosted by construction of CP&L's nuclear power plant near Southport and continued heavy shipping from the Military Ocean Terminal at Sunny Point. Two major developers have taken advantage of Brunswick County's seashore attraction at Bald Head Island and Calabash. More happy than their opponents are the Republicans, who enjoyed an unprecedented sweep of local, state and federal offices.

And the good news-bad news of a year ago — the Oak Island Bridge — had a chapter added: bids for a new high-level bridge were received and opened, then the State Highway Commission rejected the apparent low bid and called for the invitation of bids to be re-advertised the first of the new year.

Other top stories include Waccamaw High School's second-place finish in the State 1-A basketball tournament and the beginning of a solid waste disposal system in the county. There was no

clear-cut top story this past year as there was in 1972 (the Oak Island bridge destruction) or in 1970 (nervous gas shipment, Bald Head Island purchase).

### NEWS SCHOOLS

This was one of the county's big stories a year ago when the three consolidated high schools were under construction in the northern, western and southern areas of the county. All three opened to students this fall, providing first-rate learning facilities that should prove to be a factor in creating top stories in years to come.

### CP&L WORK

Not even the Military Ocean Terminal to Sunny Point had the far-reaching effect that construction of the Carolina Power and Light Company nuclear power plant has had on the immediate Southport area. As many as 3,000 Brown & Root construction workers have been on the job at one time, the landscape has been altered dramatically by the discharge canal from the plant to the Atlantic Ocean, and by the time work is finished more than one million dollars will be paid to

the county through a one-percent use tax on materials used in actual construction.

### ISLAND BRIDGE

Our top story of a year ago is another of those that will remain in the news for several years. Destroyed by a tug and barge in September, 1971, the old Intracoastal Waterway swingbridge will be replaced by a fixed-span, high-level bridge hopefully by May, 1974. This year, the most important development was the opening of bids in November, but earlier this month the State Highway Commission cited an "honest mistake" by the apparent low bidder and voted to disallow all three bids, then re-advertise the project for bids to be opened in February.

### EAGLES CLOSE

Coach Jerry Taylor's Waccamaw Eagles finished the '72 basketball season with an outstanding 24-4 overall record but failed by three points to win the state championship, losing to South Edgecombe 54-51. Still, it was the best finish ever for a Brunswick County team in basketball. En route to the finals, Waccamaw beat Wentworth 64-51 and Maxton 73-68 in preliminary games.

### ELECTION SWEEP

The strength of the Republican victory in Brunswick County was so great one wonders if

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## '72's Top Ten

— Importance of the Sunny Point terminal as a supplier of materials to American forces in Southeast Asia. A high percentage of all arms and ammunition sent to Vietnam is shipped from the terminal, which is one of the largest employers in the county.

— Utilization of sanitary landfills to serve the growing demand for solid waste disposal here. The landfills, located in each of the county's six townships, are basic to orderly development that takes the environment into consideration.

— Announcement that Carolina Caribbean Corporation will undertake a \$15 million development in the Calabash area. Plans include a golf course, marina and condominiums—all intended to take advantage of and hopefully augment the town's reputation for seafood.

— Lowering of the county tax rate by 48 cents and realization of the profit a local option sales tax can mean. The party in office gets credit for both these levies, and nary a word of discontent has been voiced by the average Brunswick County taxpayer.

— Runner-up honors for Waccamaw High School in the State Finals of 1-A basketball. The Eagles finished with a 24-4 record, dropping the last game to South Edgecombe, 54-51.

— Opening of three consolidated high schools in the county — North Brunswick near Leland, West Brunswick near Shallotte and South Brunswick to serve the Southport-Bolivia area.

— Construction of the Carolina Power and Light Company nuclear power plant here. This was a big story last year and will be again next year and the year after. First of two units at the plant is scheduled to be placed in operation in December, 1974.

— Decision that a high-level bridge would be constructed to connect Oak Island with the mainland — and a recent decision to reject the apparent low bid and re-advertise. The State Highway Commission has announced that barring further complications the bridge could be put in use in May, 1974.

— Development of Bald Head Island. Sale of property is underway, a golf course should be ready for play next summer and a 140-room inn is under construction. The Corps of Engineers has rejected a pier building permit, though, and that makes this big news.

— A sweep by Republicans in the county, led by the incumbent board of commissioners. A decision by the State Board of Elections that gave Arthur Knox a close victory over Democrat Durwood Clark topped the outstanding showing by GOP candidates here.

## Boat Harbor Gets Addition

The North Carolina State Ports Authority has approved the construction of a covered dry boat storage shed at its Southport marina.

The \$75,000 addition to existing structures at the state-operated facility will be financed from operating funds.

The dry boat storage area will include racks for at least 100 small craft, and a specialized forklift truck to remove boats from the water and place them in the new covered shed.

Completed in 1965, the original Southport state-operated marina was financed by a \$500,000 revenue bond issue. It has berths for 110 vessels, a 1.5 acre open storage boat park, a terminal building and marine repair shops.

## Potter Named ASC Chairman; Committee Members Are Listed

Newly-elected Community ASC Committeemen met as delegates to a County Convention at the ASCS Office in Shallotte recently and completed the 1973 elections by naming Aldreth C. Phelps of Supply to a three-year term on the County ASC Committee.

Phelps replaces Edgar L. Holden of Supply who retired after 20 years of service on the committee. Ivan V. Bennett and Arthur W. Bellamy of Shallotte were named first and second alternates.

In final action of the Convention, Ira A. Potter of Winnabow was named chairman and Curtis Hewett

of Shallotte, vice-chairman of the county Committee.

All County and Community Committeemen will begin their new terms on Monday, January 1.

Following is a list of the new Community Committeemen with the chairman shown first, followed by vice-chairman, regular member, first alternate and second alternate:

**LOCKWOOD FOLLY** — Alton Evans, Hollie Johnson, Carl Holden and Elwood Fulford;

**SHALLOTTE** — Arthur W. Bellamy, W.I. (Buddy) Hewett, Guy A. Hughes, James F. Gore and Ervin F. Hudson;

**NORTHWEST** — Jean G. Medlin, Leo Jenkins, Harlee Perkins, Addie Mae Butler and Reefus Stewart;

## Arthur Knox Takes Office

Arthur Knox was sworn in as Brunswick County Register of Deeds Friday in the Shallotte Court house before Magistrate Mrs. Lela Osborne.

A special meeting of the Brunswick County Commissioners was held Thursday for the purpose of hearing the oath.

Present at the meeting were J.T. Clemmons, Robert Simmons and Bill Kopp.

A recount had been requested by Democrat Durwood Clark when a difference of ten votes resulted between Clark and Republican Knox in the November general election. Clark's recount was denied by the State Board of Elections, which sent notification to the Brunswick County Board of Elections to certify Knox. Certification was granted Thursday.

**TOWN CREEK** — William P. Gore, R. Clifton Wescott, Jackie T. Potter, Jr., E.T. Albright and Ellis H. Lewis;  
**SMITHVILLE** — Willie Smith, L.P. Richardson, T.C. Lennon, Joseph Monroe and Leroy Parker;

**WACCAMAW** — Gardner King, Ivan V. (Bill) Bennett, Rembert L. Duncan, Lindsey Inman and J. Carl Pruitt.

## Water System Plan Supported

A resolution in support of a Brunswick County water system has been adopted by the Resources Development Commission, which also urged all involved agencies to expedite the construction of such a service.

The resolution noted that additional fresh water has been made necessary by industry, a 19.5 percent increase in population the past ten years and a tourist trade that has doubled.

The resolution states that: "WHEREAS, the Resources Development Commission for Brunswick County is charged by North Carolina statutory law with the responsibility of guiding the overall economic development program of Brunswick County; and

"WHEREAS, said economic development is highly dependent upon an adequate and constant fresh water supply for domestic, com-

mercial, and industrial purposes; and

"WHEREAS, the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners has

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## A Merry Christmas

An 11th hour Christmas surprise for a Southport woman and her visiting daughter was received Sunday night courtesy of Piedmont airlines.

Miss Donna Liggit Forbes of New York City flew here for Christmas to visit her mother, Mrs. Kittye Forbes, an employee of Carolina Cape Fear Corporation. Miss Forbes' miniature poodle Hansel was to accompany his mistress on the holiday trip, but it was discovered that the pet had been left behind at the New York Airport.

At 11:15 p.m. Christmas Eve, however, a Piedmont employee who had driven from Wilmington delivered the poodle to the Forbes, completing a Merry Christmas for all — including Hansel.



SAND-FILLED BAGS, used successfully at Holden Beach to stem the tide of erosion, are being employed at Long Beach near Lockwood Folly Inlet. The highway was closed last summer after wind and water eroded the pavement. The sandbags, known as groins, are placed perpendicular to the

strand and extend past the high water mark. They act as a breakwater, slowing the current along the beach and allowing suspended sand to drift to the bottom, thus building up the beach on the protected side of the groin. (Photo by Dan Shannon)