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SUNSET BRINGS TO A CLOSE another cold winter day at Long Beach, drawing a day closer the time when the water will again be warm enough for swimmers, and the beach warm enough for sun bathing.

Long Beach Meeting Centers On Contract

A meeting of the Long Beach Town Council last Thursday centered on discussion of that town's contract with Associated Consultants, Inc., to negotiate for beach erosion protection and for financing of water and sewer systems. Attended by more than 50 people, the meeting was dominated by complaints about the legal document. Members of the town claim that the contract is not in accordance with a town charter stipulation that business be conducted in public meetings. Town officials, on the other hand, justified the contract as being part of the town manager's job of hiring personnel. Edward Liggett is the acting town manager. However, Liggett's signature is not on the document, which is signed by all the members

of the council. Paul C. Plybon, president of Associated Consultants, Inc., reportedly made an offer to withdraw from the agreement. According to Liggett, Councilman L.H. Conley made a motion to accept the contract. The motion was removed, and the matter was tabled until the town's next monthly meeting on March 15. Also presented by Conley was a motion to inform the federal government of the town's intent to participate in a beach erosion control project. The only motion voted on, it was passed with the single dissenting vote of James Ratcliff. Ratcliff said he was not opposed to some type of erosion control. He indicated, however, his preference for the matter to be investigated more thoroughly as to

available measures of erosion control. The town's legal representative (the firm of Bryan, Jones, Johnson, Hunter & Greene at Dunn, North Carolina) is reportedly checking the legality of the contract with the Institute of Government in Chapel Hill. Greene has indicated that he considers it legal. Town officials are in general agreement that the contract is justifiable. Liggett maintained that Associated Consultants has proved its worth. He says Plybon has made a trip to Washington, D.C., in connection with the contract. Liggett also says that Plybon has verbal concessions and letters of intent for right-of-way clearance for erosion control. Also according to Liggett, (Continued On Page Twelve)

Commissioners Now Planning For New Hospital Bond Issue

The Brunswick County Board of Commissioners has announced intentions to seek as much as a \$2.5 million bond for construction of a 60-bed hospital to be located in the Supply area of the county. In a release to a Wilmington newspaper earlier this week, Commissioner J.T. Clemmons said the hospital bond issue would be called for at the Tuesday meeting of the Board of Commissioners. The matter was not discussed during the Tuesday session; however, a legal notice concerning the bond issue has been drawn by the county attorney and appears in this issue of The State Port Pilot.

The proposed bond issue will have to be approved by the Local Government Commission. Thomas Horne, the county attorney, expressed confidence that the issue would pass through the commission because of the county's strong tax base and healthy financial status.

After securing this approval, the Bond Council would write an ordinance to be referred to the Board of Elections by the County Commissioners. According to Horne, a separate election would probably be held on the bond issue this May or early this June.

Details for the proposed hospital have been studied by a hospital committee. This commission is a group of about 30 members named by the Brunswick County Commissioners two years ago, divided into an executive

committee and several subcommittees which have been studying the feasibility of a new hospital for the county.

The site committee studied maps to determine the geographical distribution as well as the distribution of county residents. The committee has recommended that the proposed hospital be located in Supply.

Five sites near Supply were originally chosen, but that has been narrowed to a 35-acre site about one mile south of the community.

Shalotte attorney Mason Anderson, chairman of the county's hospital commission, said the site in Supply was chosen because, "in terms of transportation and people, Supply is the fairest for all the people concerned."

A. Bibson Howell and C.P. Cardwell, Jr., were hired as

consultants by the hospital commission.

"The recommendation of the consultants is that the county build a hospital with operating rooms, diagnostic services and other support facilities that would support a 100-bed hospital," Anderson said.

The hospital would consist

primarily of private rooms. "If everything goes right, and the county commissioners call for a bond issue, the building of the hospital would take possibly two years," Anderson said last week.

The architectural firm of Middleton, Wilkerson and MacMillian of Charlotte

would design the hospital. "The firm told the building committee 98 percent of their work is in hospital design," Anderson explained.

A second firm, Jeffries and Fairs of Wilmington, has been selected to supervise the hospital construction job, should a bond issue be (Continued On Page Twelve)

Board Suggests Zoning Outside Of Town Limits

By BOBBY HILL

Southport's Planning and Zoning Board held a public discussion here Thursday of a proposed recommendation to extend that board's jurisdiction to the city's extra-territorial area.

Basically, two projected proposals were presented by the board's chairman, W.B. McDougle. First, the board proposes to recommend that Southport add to the city the zoning area in a one-mile radius outside the city limits. Second, the board also recommends adding two new zoning districts to the proposed zoning of the extra-territorial area.

The two new zones would include Open Space and RA-20, Residential Agricultural District. The OS zone would provide a buffer area between residential and industrial areas. Also, the OS districts reportedly cannot be built upon because of the soil type.

The RA-20 zone would be subject to construction requirements of residential buildings. It was recommended that a minimum of 20,000 square feet of property be required per single family residential unit. This would allow well and septic tank development. A modification of this rule, if the develop-

ment is near to city water and sewer, would be to require 15,000 square feet per housing unit.

The supposedly controversial meeting was attended by approximately 30 people. Several arguments over zoning of specific lots were precipitated by individual misunderstanding of past zoning regulations and by isolated mistakes made on the proposed zoning map.

Bob Thorsen objected to the restricted general business zoning on Howe Street. This recorded objection contained Thorsen's desire for Howe Street to be strip-zoned general business all the way to the end of the extra-territorial limit. Thorsen said that the restricted zoning would be a hindrance to private enterprise.

Chairman McDougle replied that the intent of the proposed restriction of general business zoning along this street is to prevent Southport's main street from becoming congested and (Continued On Page Three)

'Country Boys' To Come Here

September 1 is the date tentatively scheduled for the opening of the new 18,000 square foot Wilson's Super Market to be located in the Southport Plaza Shopping Center.

Boney Wilson & Sons, the "Country Boys", who will operate the new ultra modern supermarket, are opening the door to a new "Wonderland of Adventure" in food shopping for the people of Southport and Brunswick County, according to a spokesman of the firm.

The opening of the new store will be the sixth for Wilson's. The others are located in Long Creek, Burgaw, Warsaw and Wilmington.

The Wilsons have over a half-century of experience in the grocery business. "Mr. Boney" as he was known to his many friends and customers, began his career in the grocery field 52 years ago in Wilmington as a clerk in a grocery store.

At the end of one year as a clerk, he opened a store of his own and operated it for approximately a year and one-half. He then decided to return to his home community in the long Creek section of Pender County and begin a grocery business there.

He began with a small store in Long Creek, which has been expanded many times in the past 50 years.

His oldest son, Ed, returned home in 1948 and became a partner in the business after attending Campbell College and serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. The store was again enlarged and a modern supermarket replaced the grocery store.

Upon graduation from Campbell College in 1955, his younger son, Allan, also came into the business and as a result further expansion of the business resulted in the construction of a second supermarket in Burgaw. By late 1959, the Wilsons had expanded their operations by opening their first supermarket in Duplin County at Warsaw.

In 1964, the fourth store was (Continued On Page Twelve)

Solicitor May Get Assistant

Rep. R.C. Soles, Jr., has introduced in the House of Representatives a bill to authorize an additional Assistant Solicitor for the 13th Judicial District that includes Brunswick County.

Soles currently represents Bladen, Columbus and Sampson counties, but represented Brunswick County in the legislature until redistricting. The 13th Judicial District includes Bladen, Columbus and Brunswick counties.

Soles said the legislation was requested by the solicitor of the 13th District, Lee J. Greer. "Greer is one of five solicitors in the State of North Carolina who has only one assistant," Soles noted.

"The case load which the solicitor and his assistant in the 13th Judicial District are handling is steadily increasing and will probably increase substantially if a new District Court Judge is authorized by the legislature in a bill which I have introduced," Soles said.

January Tax Tops \$54,000

Collection of the one-cent sales and use tax in Brunswick County during January totaled \$54,823.38, according to the monthly report by the N.C. Department of Revenue.

The total is below the \$58,408 collected in December and the lowest since July, 1972. Still, the January total is the 7th highest since the local option tax was made effective in Brunswick County in October, 1971.

The January total will be combined with funds received in February and March for distribution at the end of the quarter. A small percentage will be withheld by the Department of Revenue as a collection fee.

The county and nine municipal governments share in the quarterly distribution of a property tax basis.

The first month of collection (Oct. '71), only

\$20,630 was received from the tax, which is applicable to good otherwise subject to the state's three-percent levy. The monthly receipts climbed steadily and have surpassed \$47,000 every month since May, 1972.

The largest one-month receipt from the tax was last September when \$66,771 was recorded, followed closely by October (\$65,229).

The November and December totals were in the \$58,000 range before the decrease in January.

The tax, commonly thought of as a levy on sales in Brunswick County, also is a "use" tax applied to goods bought elsewhere and brought here for use. Because of this provision, the Brown and Root construction work on the CP&L nuclear power plant near Southport has supplied a major part of the sales tax received here.

Unique Thing About Library?... "That We Have One"

By BOBBY HILL

The most unique thing about the library in Southport, says volunteer worker Mrs. Sue King, "is the fact that we have one."

Getting and keeping the Southport-Brunswick County Library has been a long uphill struggle. And, with the discontinuation of federal funds this year, the battle is apt to continue. However, the new library built in 1968 is now very much a part of its surroundings.

"We have a nice library," librarian Mrs. Dorothy Davis said. "We want people to realize there is a need for the service we provide."

The proof for services rendered is seen on a lot of charts in a back room

used for meetings. The charts, with a bunch of jagged lines running up and down, look like icebergs. The tops of the icebergs reveal that the library checked out about 3,500 books this January.

Like all icebergs, a lot is hidden down below. Mrs. Charlotte Hart, assistant librarian, would certainly agree. "We're checking out about 150 a day now. I tell you, during the summer they work the socks off us," she said.

A LOT HAS CHANGED

Until the new library was built, a room was used in the City Hall since 1959. Then from 1964 to 1966, concerned citizens began raising money to fund a separate house for books.

"Around \$43,000 was raised over the three-year period," Sue King said. "This was raised... we begged it in nickles, dimes and dollars." The finished building finally cost over \$98,000.

Miss Gertrude Y. Laughlin is another one who remembers the library's trials and tribulations. In fact, if you're a devotee of local literary talent, Miss Laughlin can remember for you things like the night Robert Ruark was born. Miss Laughlin has been the library's volunteer treasurer for 14 years, and she was the librarian before that, too. She remembers it all.

Things have changed since that night Robert Ruark was born.

As the imminently quotable Sue King puts it, "We've come a long way, baby." From a beginning of four paltry books, SBCL now boasts over 31,000 volumes. Furthermore, if they don't have the book you want, they can get it — through an inter-library borrowing system.

Another thing that has changed in recent years is the expansion of SBCL. There is a branch in Shalotte, run by Miss Josephine Nance. And, sometime in the not-too-distant future, a branch will be opening up in Leland.

Meanwhile, the "Bookmobile lady," Mrs. Patty Jones, will continue keeping her appointed rounds. "She drives, checks books in and

out, and does anything else that needs doing... Of course, she doesn't repair it (the Bookmobile)," Mrs. Davis said.

SEASIDE FLAVOR REMAINS

Like all libraries, it's quiet in there among the musty smell of old books and the ghosts of authors past. And there's that funny feeling that maybe Shakespeare or Walt Whitman is looking over shoulders to see how the reading is going. But some people aren't particularly awed by the presence of literary greatness.

Robin Thorsen and two other eighth grade girls sat at a table

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