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Third-Quarter Funding

More Than \$200,000 Derived From Sales Tax

Funds derived from third-quarter collection of the local option one cent sales tax total more than \$200,000 for Brunswick County and nine municipalities, according to a report received this week from the N.C. Department of Revenue.

A total of \$200,987.87 is to be distributed here after the Department of Revenue withheld its customary 1.003 percent, a fee charged for

collection of the tax along with the state's three-percent levy. The \$200,000-plus distribution is the highest received here since the local tax was approved two years ago.

Also this week, the county received word that October collection of the one-percent levy here was \$57,615—down from the \$61,214 recorded the previous month. A collection of \$76,762 was noted in

August, the highest collection ever in Brunswick County and a primary reason the third-quarter distribution is so high.

The third-quarter funds are derived from the September and August collection, plus the July collection of \$65,047.

Greatest beneficiary of the third-quarter funding is Long Beach, which will receive \$11,293 from the tax. Southport will get \$6,876, Yaupon

Beach \$2,124 and Boiling Spring Lakes \$1,203. Other Brunswick County municipalities and the amounts they receive from the third-quarter funding are Shallotte \$3,275, Bolivia \$87, Holden Beach \$2,226, Ocean Isle Beach \$1,505 and Sunset Beach \$1,091. Calabash, the county's tenth municipality, was not incorporated in time to benefit from this year's sales tax funding.

The greatest single funding, of course, is for the county itself. Of the \$200,000 total Brunswick County will get \$171,302. The tax is distributed among the county and the towns on the basis of ad valorem taxes paid. Long Beach ranks highest in the county in this respect; Southport has the greatest population and Shallotte has the highest retail sales.

The tax is collected in 92 of the state's 100 counties. Levy of the tax is optional in each county, and was approved here in the fall of '71 by a vote of the county commissioners. The local receipts are far out of proportion with county "sales," but the tax is also applicable to materials bought out of state and brought to Brunswick County for use. The greatest influence on the sales and use tax receipts is Brown and Root's construction of the Carolina Power and Light Company nuclear power plant near Southport. The usual \$60,000 monthly collection throughout Brunswick is approximately three times what the amount would be were it not for the materials brought here for construction.

Stratmon Gives Apollo 17 Gifts

David L. Stratmon, Sr., Public Affairs Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Tunisia, recently wrote a letter to the editor and readers of The State Port Pilot, relating a visit he and Ambassador Talcott Seelye made on President Bourguiba of

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SOUTHPORT NATIVE David Stratmon, left, Public Affairs Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Tunisia, recently presented to President Bourguiba of Tunisia (right) a moon rock and a Tunisian flag that had been carried on the space

odyssey of Apollo 17 crew members Schmidt, Evans and Cernan. President Bourguiba said he was pleased to have these gifts from his "good friend, President Nixon."

New School Will Provide 'Total Education Program'

By BOBBY HILL

A report on the educational specifications for Southport's future primary school has been released by the Board of Education, and the volume should serve principally as an architectural guide for the facility which is projected to be ready for use in the fall of 1975.

The 26-page volume calls for space to accommodate 600 pupils, stating that the present enrollment of 525 for grades kindergarten through four is expected to grow to 700. This overflow is planned to be handled by assigning pupils in grade four to Southport Middle School.

The preface of the report, signed by Supt. Ralph C. King and Assistant Supt. for Facilities John J. Hicks, gives special credit to "the principal and teachers of the Southport Primary School, the central office staff, and the clerical staff of the school and central office."

Activities considered in planning for the school include both educational processes and community use of the facility for such things as civic meetings.

Flexibility is one of the main requirements seen in the report, which says, "It is our desire that the design of the facility will be such that whenever teaching-learning concepts are changed totally or modified in part the facility will lend itself to the

program."

"Team teaching," individualized instruction and open classrooms are methods presently planned to be used in the school, and the report calls for a "pod design" to be used for flexibility. The school will have four "pods."

The school will have electric heating and air conditioning, a 350-seat cafeteria and educational television facilities in all

rooms.

Personnel at the new facility will include one principal, one assistant principal, 26 state-allotted teachers, a secretary, a librarian, a part-time nurse, two reading teachers, two custodians, five cafeteria workers, a music and an art teacher in the future, a special education teacher in the future and three in-

Leland Phone System Ready

Southern Bell has announced that a \$160,000 project for the Leland area is almost complete. Final tests on the 900-circuit cable are being completed and the additional facilities provided by the project will be put into service by the service by the first of December.

George Harmon, district manager for the company's Wilmington operations, explained that the project became necessary in order to meet the increased demand for telephone service along Highway 74-76 between Leland and Wilmington.

Approximately 2 miles of 9-duct concrete conduit was placed underground late last

year at a cost of nearly \$83,000. The new 900-circuit underground cable is housed in one duct of the conduit.

"The additional space available in the conduit should enable us to install cable needed for future growth in this area quite easily," said Harmon. "Installing conduit reduces the risk of cutting existing cables when it becomes necessary to place additional cable along the same route," he added.

"With the completion of this project, over \$300,000 will have been spent in the Leland area for new telephone facilities during 1973," Harmon concluded.

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SEDC Report Shows Population Up, Tobacco Down, Units Vacant

By BOBBY HILL

A recent study of Brunswick County by the Southeastern Economic Development Commission gives an up-to-date survey of local living conditions, population and labor, industrial information, etc., in an effort to provide information "useful to an industrial or business prospect who may be considering the expansion of existing facilities or is looking for a new location."

The 44-page booklet lists the area as "basically a resort county with limited industrial employment for its people." Major employers are listed as the tourist trade and commercial fishing or related service activities. Although agriculture is termed "important" as an employment factor, the study finds that "major increases"

have occurred in stevedoring and construction activities.

With a county-wide population of 24,223 by a 1970 census, the study states that, "the populations figures for the county if plotted would show an upward trend. It is anticipated that this trend will continue for some time."

Stating that the growth rate has recently been "increasing at a faster than anticipated rate," the study projects county population

for 1980 at 28,386.

The county has had a ten-year growth rate of 19.45 percent, with only Waccamaw Township showing a negative growth factor of 11.15 percent.

Northwest Township, with a 54.73 percent growth rate, is the fastest-growing area listed by the study, and Smithville comes in second in this category with a 29.54 percent growth rate.

With 873.0 square miles of

land, Brunswick County has a density of population of 27.75 people per square mile, although the study states that this figure does not reflect "the outlying fact of certain areas being non-inhabitable."

The study lists the median age in the county at 26.4 years.

Stating that "in excess of 100,000 people reside within 25 miles of Southport," the

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At Sub-Committee Hearing

County RDC Director Voices Farmer Support

The old National Guard Armory in Lumberton was the site last Monday for the first of a series of public hearings on the tobacco marketing problem facing the flue-cured region.

Congressman Rose of North Carolina's 7th Congressional District, which includes Brunswick County, fulfilled his promise to "bring the sub-committee on tobacco on the U.S. House Agriculture Committee to North Carolina to get a first-hand view of the

marketing situation."

The sub-committee is chaired by Congressman Walter B. Jones of the North Carolina 1st District. Other members include Congressman Rose, Congressman Wilmer Mizell of the N.C. 5th District, Dawson Mathis of Georgia, Edward Young of South Carolina, and William C. Warmpler of Virginia.

Approximately 25 witnesses appeared before the subcommittee presenting

their views of causes for the marketing problem and possible solutions. Officials from several agricultural organizations including the Farm Bureau, the North Carolina Grange Association, and the National Farm Organization, farmers, merchants, and other businessmen, discussed the problem with the Congressmen.

The situation that has brought about the marketing problem centers around the inability of farmers to place their tobacco on warehouse market floors and sell it due to over-crowded conditions. Several witnesses testified that on numerous occasions heavy losses have been experienced from rotting and insects due to delays in marketing.

The consensus of opinions was that most of the marketing delay is being caused by the failure of the companies to provide adequate labor and facilities to move the leaf from warehouse floors after it is purchased. It was noted that several processing houses have closed in recent years although the companies contend that farm mechanization and new preparation methods are forcing overflows which the companies cannot handle.

Brunswick County was represented at the hearings by Jackie Stephenson, director of the Resources Development Commission for

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Market System Of Tobacco Hit

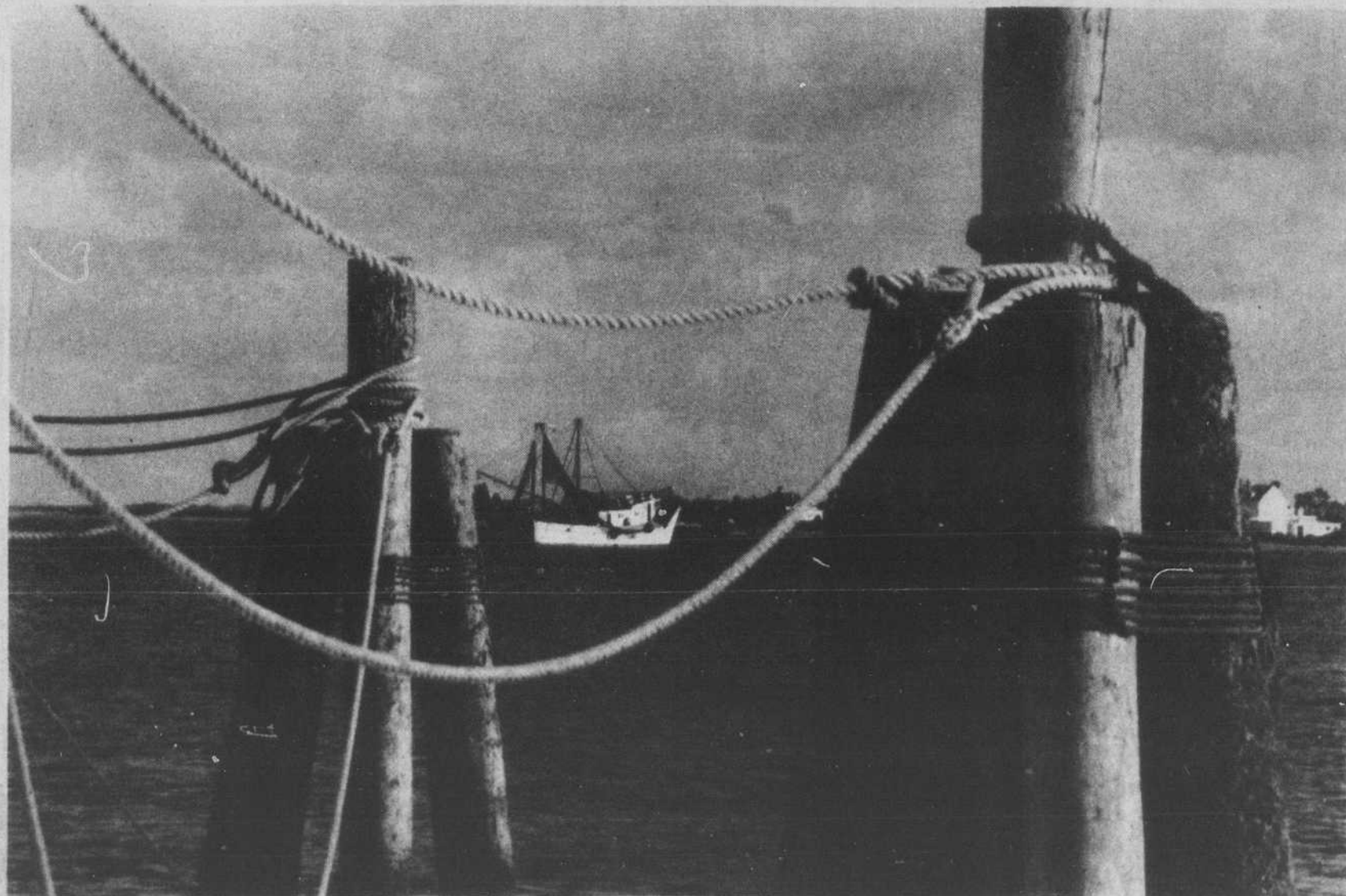
Sharply criticizing the "atrocious manner in which we are now being forced to market" tobacco, Director of the Brunswick County Resources Development Commission Jackie Stephenson last Monday made several suggestions for changes in tobacco marketing at a public hearing on this topic at Lumberton.

Stephenson called on the tobacco subcommittee of the House Committee on Agriculture to either make substantial changes in the existing system or "do away with the belt system altogether and open markets according to need dictated by weather conditions and producer preparation."

Charging that bad weather and restrictive marketing hours have kept 20 percent of Brunswick County's yearly five million pounds of tobacco from buyers, Stephenson said, "The time has come that we must all band together in a cooperative effort, or I greatly fear we shall before too many more years pass see the entire tobacco industry crumble and fall."

Other changes in the marketing system Stephenson suggested include: (1) legislative action giving the Flue-Cured Tobacco Marketing Committee "broader representation" and "stronger en-

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A SHRIMP BOAT DRYING its nets in the Cape Fear River is framed by mooring ropes of the Frying Pan Lightship on the Southport waterfront. The river is a suitable haven for boats

from the lower part of Brunswick County that shrimp off Cape Fear and choose not to return to home port via the Intracoastal Waterway each night.