

# THE STATE PORT PILOT

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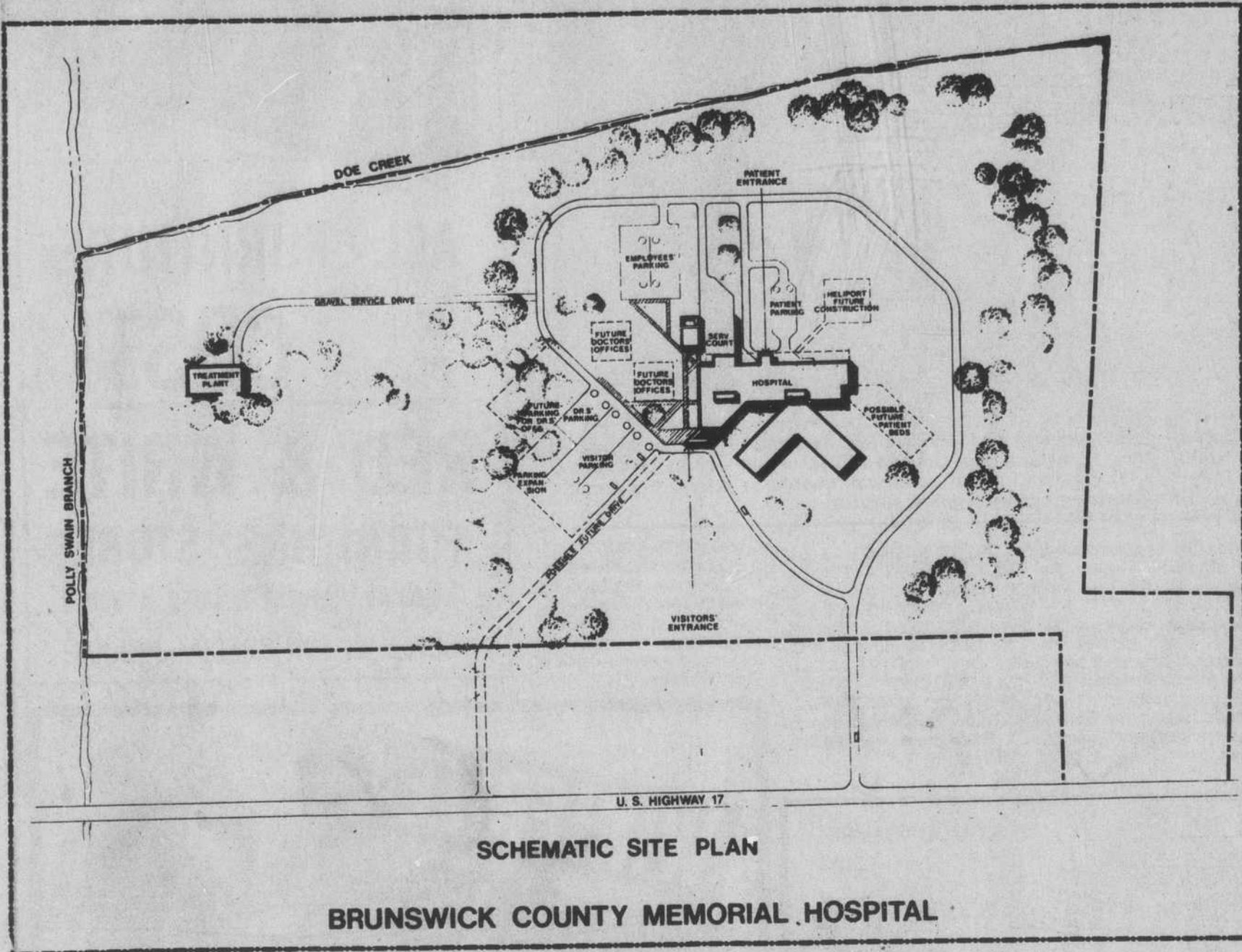
12 PAGES TODAY

SOUTHPORT, NORTH CAROLINA

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SCHEMATIC SITE PLAN

BRUNSWICK COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

THE YEAR'S TOP STORY is the hospital situation in Brunswick County, and the schematic drawing for the planned \$2.5 million facility near Supply is the center of attention in the unfolding drama. The hospital plans shown here call for 60

beds, the number reportedly allotted the county; Doshier Memorial already has nearly this many beds and has shown a strong stubbornness in giving them up. Also a point of controversy is the county giving rent-free office space to doctors.

## Liggett Lives Out-Of-Town

## New Town Manager Is Sought For Long Beach

By BOBBY HILL  
An open skirmish developed between new Mayor E.W. Morgan and Councilman Ellis Dudley in the Long Beach officials' first meeting Thursday.

New members Dudley, Morgan, Russ Morrison and Nancy Leggett were sworn in after the old council held an abbreviated meeting. Dudley was elected mayor pro tem.

Other members of the new board are Virginia Christenbury and H.E. Joyce, both with two years left to serve.

The major conflict of the night arose when Morgan proposed that the title of Acting Town Manager Ed Liggett be changed to town clerk or bookkeeper. After a verbal duel between Morgan and Dudley, a motion was passed to advertise for a town manager.

Morgan contended Liggett's residence being in Winnabow is a violation of the town's charter. "I'm resigning over this meeting," Morgan said.

Morgan added that Liggett drives a vehicle provided by the town to and from work, and he said this "compounds the violation."

Dudley then made a motion that Liggett continue as acting town manager. Morgan ruled Dudley's motion "out of order." "I'm presiding over this meeting," Morgan said.

Morrison then said he had heard Dudley say he would "abide by the charter" on the Liggett issue. Dudley replied, "I said I would not jettison a good pilot until I had a suitable replacement." He added he did not think the town could function without a manager, and he said he would "vote against" such a move.

Liggett's title would change his duties, and she said the council in the past has tried three times to hire a qualified manager but could not afford one. "It looks like our charter is calling for something we can't afford," she said.

Having previously said he would not move to Long Beach, Liggett said, "As soon as you can advertise and get a city manager, I'll vacate the premises promptly."

Liggett then proposed the motion, which passed

unanimously, that the city advertise for a qualified manager.

Prior to the meeting, the old council met briefly to pass a motion declining to pay "one penny" toward a \$2,000 bill presented by Paul C. Plybon. Plybon had previously had a \$20,000 contract with the town to aid in securing water and sewer money and beach erosion-control funds.

Morgan delayed appointing committees until the next meeting January 17,

presenting a long list of requests for information and reports.

Saying "all meetings will be open to the public," Morgan requested the following information: (1) an audit, (2) departmental budgets showing what is owned and when it will be paid, (3) a list of all town personnel and their salaries, (4) an inventory of all the town's "physical assets," (5) a list from all department

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## Shortage Of Gas, Maybe, But Not Of Opinions

By BOBBY HILL  
"It's like you're in a prison," Mrs. Lourdes Nixon of Lake Charles, La., said. "You're not free anymore. We can't go anywhere anytime we want to now."

"I'm not panicking," Mary Norwood of Southport said. "If I can just get my Christmas shopping done, I'll be OK."

"I think it's a crock," exclaimed Dr. Richard Conrad of Southport. "Furthermore, I think the shortage is a crock. The whole thing is contrived by the oil companies."

"I don't like it," William Furfless of Southport said. "I need gas to travel for work." Can he get by? "Not unless I change jobs," he replied.

Local opinion is varied on the proposal by energy chief William E. Simon that American motorists limit their gasoline consumption to 10 gallons a week. "If the nation complies, we will not

need gas rationing," Simon said at a Thursday news conference.

Area gasoline station operators are also divided in their opinions on the issue of 10 gallons per week per customer. Some operators expressed open doubt that motorists will voluntarily comply with the 10 gallon limit. Others simply offered their standard procedure of limiting customers to 10 gallons a day or \$2 or \$3 per purchase, shrugging their shoulders in resignation.

"I think it's rough," said one operator who asked not to be identified. That station limits customers to \$2 per purchase — when they have gas. They began the procedure Thursday.

"They (the motorists) are lucky to get that," Shorty Hufham said of the 10 gallons per week. Shorty has lived with the shortage for some time now, and it shows. Hufham's Exxon station also limits customers to "\$2 -

worth a day" — their standard practice for the past several weeks.

"If you want a real good-size depression, that's the way to go about it," said another operator of the 10-gallon limit. He also asked not to be identified. He said the area has "a lot of commuters" who must have more than 10 gallons a week to earn their livelihood. His station will place no limit on gas sales "as long as I have a reasonable amount of it."

Harold Lawson at the Sunoco station said, "They'll buy more than 10 gallons a week." He said there is "no way" the "average working man" can get by on 10 gallons of petroleum a week. That station sells 500 gallons of fuel a day — "first come, first served."

Simon said compliance with the 10-gallon limit will save more than 50 million gallons of gasoline daily, or nearly 20 percent of the national consumption, and

## Symphony Sets Local Program

A January 15 performance of the N.C. Little Symphony has been scheduled at Shallotte.

The 8:15 p.m. program will be held at West Brunswick High School. Conductor will be Stephen Simon, violinist, Judy Berman Benedict.

The performance will consist of "La Jolla" Concerto for Chamber Orchestra (John Vincent), "Trigane," Rhapsody for violin and orchestra (Maurice Ravel), July Berman Benedict, soloist.

After intermission will be Symphony No. 1 in B flat Major (William Boyce), and Symphony No. 35 in D Major K. 385, "The Haffner" (Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart).

As strong as support was out west, an equally high percentage of Southport area residents voted against the bond referendum. The reason was not that voters didn't want the county to have a new hospital; they didn't want to see Doshier Memorial shut down as the county commissioners promised it would be.

Prospects are strong that Doshier will stay open. Eugene Tomlinson, elected mayor of Southport Nov. 6, has since been outspoken in favor of Doshier's continued service to the community. In question now is the commissioners funding their share of the city-county partnership, and the number of hospital beds allotted this region that are eligible for state and federal assistance. It appears that the future of the county hospital is very much dependent on whether or not Doshier remains in operation.

Also part of the hospital story was the announcement last winter that the commissioners would cut-off support for Doshier if Board of Trustees Chairman L.T. Yaskell did not resign. He did not resign, but Bill McDougle was elected to succeed him as chairman; the county funded \$40,000 for Doshier this fiscal year. Charter Medical Corporation has a contract

with the Southport hospital for consulting services. **HAPPY ENDING** Southport's Fourth of July Festival ended with a bang—a bang of a premature fireworks explosion on a barge in the Cape Fear River that narrowly missed blowing up nine area men who were lighting the fuses.

The 130-rocket explosion was one of the biggest stories of the year — fortunately, one with a happy ending. Headlines on the front page witness the town's relief that the nine men escaped what

## Explosion, Bridge Ranked

## Hospital(s) Is Top 1973 Local Story

appeared from shore to be certain death. "Crowd Witnesses Near-Tragedy," says one headline. "Started With Drizzle, Ended With A Bang," recaps another label. Also on the front page is a "Thank You" letter, signed by the "Crew of the Fireworks Barge."

Turning to the inside of the paper, an editorial entitled "A Time For Thanksgiving" predicts the event will go down in history as the "celebration which will

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## 1973 Top Ten

1. The Brunswick County hospitals — the new \$2.5 million facility near Supply and Doshier Memorial, the local institution that Southport is reluctant to give up.
2. Thousands watched the Fourth of July finale that was stopped short by a spectacular explosion aboard the fireworks barge. No one was hurt.
3. The Oak Island Bridge — after several delays when bids were determined to be too high, construction finally began on the high-level span. Completion: maybe June, 1974.
4. Highway construction in Brunswick County as part of the Governor's long-term plan. Work is scheduled on US 74-76 at Leland, US 17 throughout the county and NC 211 to Supply.
5. The injunction sought by two county newspapers against the county commissioners in an effort to assure that public business is transacted in public.
6. Industrial construction — the reason behind the new-found Brunswick County prosperity. Sales tax is high because of CP&L, Pfizer is on the way.
7. Municipal elections. On Nov. 6 voters in nine Brunswick County towns elected new officials. In the Southport area, three new mayors.
8. Planning and zoning. The "growth pains" of progress are being felt at Southport, Long Beach with the Emerick case and at Yaupon Beach with annexation.
9. Bald Head and Carolina Shores — two well-conceived developments at opposite ends of Brunswick. And tied to Bald Head, an equally big story — Corncake Inlet.
10. The Southport Primary School — the first step in the second stage of new educational facilities in Brunswick County. A \$1.4 million project.