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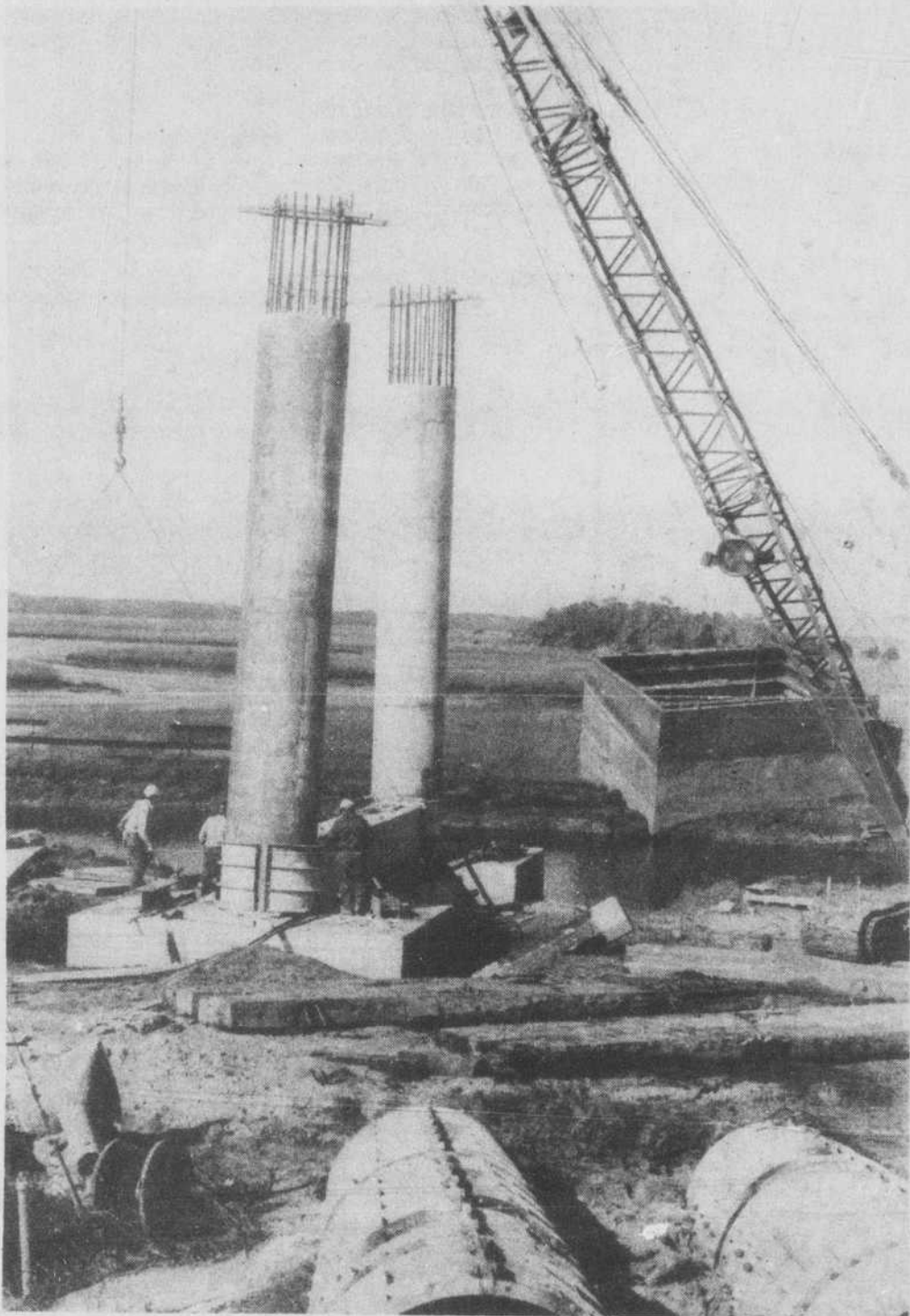
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THE SOUTHERN APPROACH to the new Oak Island Bridge, until this week only a causeway, has taken new elevation with the building of two supports for the high-level structure. The northern approach from the mainland had appeared to be far ahead in construction; it does not appear at this time that the bridge will be ready for use during the peak tourist season. But as one island resident put it, "The one-lane bridge will take care of all the traffic we'll have this summer," what with gas shortages what they are.

Yaupon Hassle Develops

Murphy Stays, Bill Paid, Rees Is Asked To Resign

By BOBBY HILL
Shocking controversy erupted Monday after Yaupon Beach Mayor Clarence Murphy withdrew his proposed resignation. Often at the forefront of the conflict, town attorney Thomas Horne attended his first town meeting in over a year. The commissioners voted three to two to hold a hearing in about a month to consider dismissing election board chairman Ernest Rees. Commissioner Marvin Watson charged Rees should be dismissed for his "general attitude" and for cursing in the last town meeting. The finance and street committees were abolished, after being termed illegal by Horne. Also, the commissioners voted to pay a \$100 bill submitted by Horne, which was rejected unanimously at their last regular meeting. Contrary to his statement February 4, Murphy declined to resign. He said he will finish the last two years of his four-year term. **KEY RESIGNATIONS** Murphy stated he had changed his mind after saying he would step down. "My decision is to stay here and ride the horse across the finish line," he declared. The small town has been wracked with several acrimonious resignations and departures in the past months of people in key positions. Planning board chairman Gerald Whitehurst recently resigned. Last month, water and fire department head Bill Laster departed his post. Lucille Laster, former town clerk, left her position

several months ago. The commissioners skirmished openly before Mrs. Laster was replaced by Mrs. Ernest Rees. Other personnel subjects have been the topic of reportedly heated executive sessions recently. Commissioner Watson ignited the Monday fireworks by declaring that two town committees are illegal. After first stating that no abstaining votes are allowed by the town charter, Watson asked Horne to "fill us in" on the legality of the finance

committee. Horne said state law requires one finance officer and one budget officer for the purpose of town expenditures and drawing up a budget. He said one person could fill the two posts. **"WHO'S IN CHARGE?"** Finance committee members are Mrs. William Smalley, Commissioners G.V. Barbee, Jr., and William Smalley, and Mayor Murphy. Murphy asked Horne, "Who's in charge of employees?" He further

Lawyer Decision Expected

Long Beach Looks For Water; Finds Manager

Long Beach councilmen Thursday heard engineer Troy Doby explain that the town must hold another bond referendum to take advantage of the county water system. At the end of the meeting, Mayor E.W. Morgan announced the council "has found a person who will be a town manager for Long Beach." He said the applicant is "very qualified" and will accept the job. Morgan said the town manager will be at Long Beach within three weeks. The prospective manager does not want his name released because of work he presently is finishing, Morgan said. He said a

meeting will be held soon to "discuss and hire" the administrator. Engineer Doby, with the consulting firm of Pierson and Whitman of Raleigh, **New Town?** A bill to incorporate Shady Forest, a development outside Calabash, has been introduced in both legislative houses in Raleigh by Rep. Tommy Harrelson and Sen. Arthur W. Williamson. According to a news release by Williamson, the legislation is "coming along well, and (Shady Forest) ought to be incorporated, as the bill provides."

questioned, "what the function of the town is." Horne said, "Primarily, the mayor is the head of the city." However, he said appointees and employees are retained or dismissed on a majority vote of the commissioners. Answering a Watson question, Horne said the committees should be abolished and officers appointed. He said the officers would have to be bonded for a minimum of \$10,000. Mrs. Rees, town clerk, said (Continued on page 16)

Landfill Plans Slowed

Second-Phase Water Supply For Leland, Shallotte Areas

By BOBBY HILL
The county commissioners proceeded Monday with plans for the second phase of the county water system. However, the commissioners slowed plans to purchase sanitary landfill equipment. The commissioners voted to advertise and receive bids April 10 for the second phase of the water project. Troy Doby, consulting engineer of Pierson and Whitman of Raleigh, placed the estimated cost of the project at \$2.2 million. A budget for this amount was adopted by the board. The system will serve communities of Leland, Belville and Thomasboro Crossroads and towns of Shallotte, Holden Beach, Sunset Beach and Calabash. At Doby's suggestion, the commissioners petitioned the Department of Transportation to use existing NC 133 for water main access to Oak Island across marsh and the Intracoastal Waterway. Doby said the highway department presently plans to remove the existing road and detour to marsh level. Doby said the cost of constructing a 12-inch water main across the marsh "would just be out of this world." He said the contractor for the Oak Island bridge is "unaware" his contract calls for the existing

road to be removed. **MORE FOR LELAND** The commissioners voted to add sufficient water supply to Leland for fire protection use. The additional cost will be about \$150,000, according to Doby. The engineer said he will present the commissioners with a schedule for completion of the project in two or three months. The commissioners also voted to authorize Pierson and Whitman and County Manager Neil Mallory to secure bonds and grants for the system. Doby said he anticipates receiving about \$1.5 million in grants. The county's share of the project will be about \$750,000, he said. Present for the water discussion were Long Beach councilmen Ellis Dudley, Nancy Leggett and Virginia Christenbury and Mayor E.W. Morgan. They expressed interest in participating in Phase I of the project. Doby said the town must hold another referendum to proceed with water plans. Long Beach voters in January defeated a \$2.5 million water system proposal. Doby asked the Long Beach delegation for a resolution of intent to participate in the county water system. He also asked the councilmen to indicate a willingness to cooperate in planning for an elevated water tank on the island. Doby dodged councilmen attempts to hire him for the water project while the town has an engineer. Engineer Henry Von Ossen is presently employed by the town for this purpose. **MORE LEGAL\$\$\$** In other business, the commissioners approved several budget transfers. Accountant Regina

McKeithan said the change should last the budget through the rest of the fiscal year, which ends in July. The commissioners transferred \$85,000 from the sanitary landfill account to the planned hospital. This leaves a hospital balance of \$127,940 and landfill funds remaining of \$72,674.40. The legal account was increased by \$5,000, which will allow payment of the January bill of county attorney Thomas Horne. Horne has spent \$11,231.79 thus far this fiscal year, with seven months of the fiscal year passed. This is the second

\$5,000 added to Horne's budget section, with \$8,000 allotted originally for legal fees. The commissioners instructed Emergency Preparedness Officer Col. James E. Gordon to report at the next meeting on the energy shortage. **CRISIS TO CHAOS** Commissioner J.T. Clemmons requested the fuel study, saying he does not want "one extra drop" of petrol for his Texaco station near Shallotte. Clemmons said the energy situation went from a "shortage" in December to a "crisis" in January and to "chaos" in February. Both Clemmons and Chairman W.A. Kopp, Jr., agreed Gov. James E. Holshouser's voluntary gas plan is not working. Holshouser suggested cars with license plates ending in even numbers buy gasoline on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. He said cars with odd numbers should purchase the fuel on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Clemmons said the governor's plan "cannot work unless there is gas for it to work with." He charged that "Brunswick County is receiving less than its fair share of gas, I believe." The commissioners passed (Continued on page 16)

School Hours Are Changed

Effective March 18, Brunswick County schools will open one-half hour earlier — at 8:30 a.m. — because of "sufficient daylight to accommodate the busing of children." Supt. Ralph King said that school starting time had been changed to 9 a.m. on Jan. 6 because of Daylight Savings Time. The Board of Education agreed Monday night that it was getting light earlier now, and the switch back to regular scheduling would be practical. School will end at 3:15 p.m. — a half-hour earlier. Teachers and principals will report to school one-half hour earlier also — at 8 and 7:30 a.m., respectively. The central office hours (8:30 — 5) are unchanged. In a short Monday night business session the Board of Education approved the (Continued on page 16)

First-Of-Month Supply Only Drop In The Bucket

By BOBBY HILL
The first week of the month was supposed to bring a ready supply of gasoline once again to the Southport - Oak Island area.

However, a telephone survey Tuesday afternoon found over half of the area stations out of gas. Lines were shorter at those places selling petrol, but the first of

the month has not yet brought about a gasoline bonanza. What about the rest of March? If gas was supposed to be available the first week, what is it going to be like as March winds give way to April showers? Gasoline retailers are markedly divided in their predictions, leaving only the conclusion that no one really knows what the future holds for the gas pump.

The county commissioners are also trying to gauge the future. Civil Preparedness Officer James E. Gordon has been asked to report to the commissioners on the county fuel situation. The report should come within the next two weeks, according to Commissioner J.T. Clemmons. He urged citizens not to take any unnecessary trips.

In the meantime, most station operators say their distributors do not inform them of what to expect. "I never know when I'll get it," said Frank Aman of Yaupon Beach.

Other station operators talk vaguely of dealers hinting that fuel supplies will get better "later in the month." Only two stations were even mildly optimistic about their chances of a steady petroleum supply. The next best attitude was: "It can't" (Continued on page 16)

Sasser Gets WB&T Post

E. Rhone Sasser, executive vice-president of Waccamaw Bank and Trust Company, has assumed full responsibility of Branch Administration for the 18 offices of Waccamaw Bank. Cecil Register, vice-president of Waccamaw Bank in Shallotte, will succeed Sasser as the executive in charge of that branch.



COMING SOON for travelers between Southport and upstate will be a lengthy detour as work is done on NC 211 between Midway and Supply. Signs have been erected for several weeks but have been turned away from the road so as not to confuse motorists. All traffic will be routed by Bolivia, with heavy truck traffic required to use NC 87 to Winnabow.