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'Freedom To Operate'

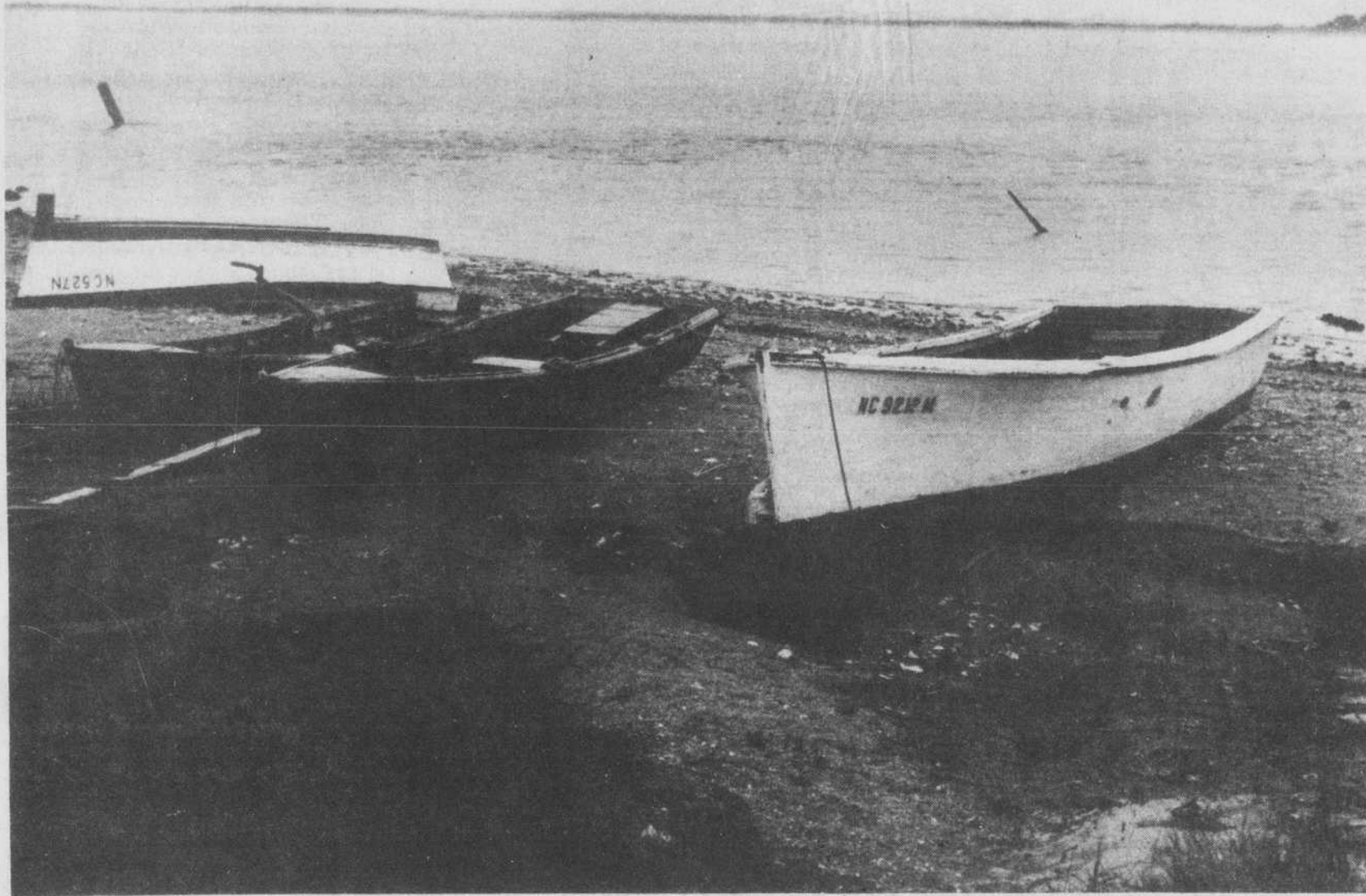
Hospital Trustees Request 'Authority'

By **BOBBY HILL**
Brunswick County Memorial Hospital trustees opened an old wound with the county commissioners Thursday by asking for a new structure for their board. The trustees in a "report to the press" asked the commissioners to change the trustees to a "Hospital Authority." The change, the report says, "would remove the hospital's future from the political arena." The trustees asked to meet with the commissioners on this subject. The authority would be a more autonomous group than the present trustee board. The commissioners presently hold the power to appoint trustees and to approve their budget. The hospital board

organization reportedly was one of the subjects of an alleged illegal meeting July 22, 1973 in the office of county attorney Thomas Horne. At meetings July 2 and July 16, commissioners argued over the formation of a governing body for the hospital. The conflict was postponed July 2 when Horne recommended the commissioners delay a decision. He advised the commissioners to create the body after selection of a hospital site and final construction plans were in motion. Chairman W.A. Kopp, Jr., and Commissioner J.T. Clemmons were in conflict July 16 over the governing board question. Clemmons made a motion to establish a board of trustees, although

the motion died for lack of a second. Included in Clemmons' motion was a measure not to turn over any "decision-making authority" until the hospital is almost complete. The commissioners voted August 6 to establish a board of trustees. However, Kopp and Clemmons again clashed on the subject. Kopp favored a hospital authority. According to an account in the August 8 issue of The State Port Pilot, Clemmons "was strongly against this form of governing body (hospital authority)." The trustee system includes an eight-man board appointed by the commissioners. The group is also "accountable" to the com-

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A GLOOMY DAY, Monday was, certainly no time to use these small boats beached on the Southport waterfront near the Garrison. The rain and 40 - degree temperature was to be expected from March. (photo by Ed Harper)

Local Attorney Hired, Too

Beach Employs Manager, Liggett Controversy Ends

By **BOBBY HILL**
The Long Beach town council Thursday hired a town manager and a new lawyer, and moved to join the county water system. With six unanimous motions on key questions, the meeting proceeded smoothly before a quieter and smaller audience than usual. About 40 spectators viewed one of the

shortest meetings recently — less than an hour and a half. Naming Frank M. Kivett the new town manager, Mayor E.W. Morgan said the administrator from Charlotte would start work April 8. Hiring Kivett apparently ends a controversy since November over Acting Town Manager Ed Liggett. Morgan and Councilman Russ

Morrison have repeatedly attempted to fire Liggett "on the spot." They claimed the Winnabow resident does not meet town charter stipulations that the town administrator be a resident of Long Beach.

However, the four remaining councilmen consistently voted to retain Liggett until a qualified replacement could be found. The four included Ellis Dudley, Virginia Christenbury, Herman Joyce and Nancy Leggett. Liggett has stated several times he will "vacate the premises promptly" when a replacement is found. Liggett declined to move to the beach community.

Morgan said Thursday that Kivett is a "well-qualified city manager for any city in this state."

Kivett's salary was listed at \$21,000, substantially less than he is making now, Morgan said.

Kivett, 36, is presently executive director of Centralina Council of Governments in Charlotte, an organization which includes 31 city and county governments.

Kivett was executive director of the Mid-East Economic Development Commission from at Washington from 1968 to 1970. He also served as executive director of the Sandhills Area

Development Program in Carthage from 1965 to 1968.

The administrator was willing to take a salary cut because he wants to "live and work in coastal North Carolina," according to his resume.

Kivett also expressed a desire to "represent the interests of local governments when the Coastal Zone Management Bill becomes law."

The administrator is married to Brenda Holt Kivett. The couple has five children: Sybol, Kimberly, Brian, Charles and Mon-

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Pageant This Saturday Nite

Three new contestants have entered the Miss Brunswick County pageant, bringing the total to seven.

The pageant will be held Saturday at 8 p.m. at Shallotte Middle School.

New contestants include Cheryl Holden, 18, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E.D. Holden of Shallotte. A senior at West Brunswick High School, Cheryl plans to attend

Scholar Award Competition Set

High school seniors in Brunswick County are preparing for local school competition in the third annual "Virginia and Odell Williamson Declaration Scholarship Award" on April 12.

This year, the Williamson Declaration Scholarship Fund will provide \$5,000 to be awarded in the county. From this amount \$1,800 scholarships will be awarded to the senior boy and girl who are winners in the county declamation competition, which is to be held at North Brunswick High School on May 5. Cash awards of \$100 each will be made to the two senior boys and the two senior girls who are finalists from each of the county's three high schools.

The purpose of the Williamson scholarships is to create renewed interest in writing (composition) and public speaking (declamation) for effect among high school students.

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Gas Prices High But Long Lines Uncommon

The local octane rating has picked up since February's gasoline drought, but those with the most fuel are the higher-priced independent stations.

A Monday poll of a dozen local stations found the gas situation divided between six haves and six have-nots.

However, lines of cars waiting for gasoline have practically disappeared this month. Station operators report that "panic-buying" has subsided. Drivers now make larger purchases, they say.

Furthermore, several stations now sell fuel on Sundays. Only one station was found with a purchase limit.

The six have-nots were all major gasoline companies. The haves were composed of five independents and one major.

The average local price for gasoline is about 56 cents per gallon for regular and about 59.5 cents for premium. This contrasts with a national average of "slightly" over 50 cents per gallon, according to federal energy administrator William E. Simon.

The lowest local price was 52 cents per gallon for regular and 54 cents for premium. The most expensive petrol had a sale tag of 69 cents for regular and 72 cents for premium.

Word of expected fuel increases for April have not yet reached local stations. However, federal administrator Simon said Sunday gasoline allocations will be increased five percent next month.

Most station operators are kept in the dark by their dealers. "They haven't told me a word," said Shorty Hufham of his fuel distributor.

The major-independent contrast is viewed skeptically by representatives from both sides. Paul Cochran of E-Z-Way Grocery said it is "mighty fishy" that fuel became available only after independent prices rose above those for major companies.

James Cochran of Harbor Grocery said the independents use the more expensive foreign oil, whereas the major companies use cheaper domestic petroleum.

Some station operators have begun selling gas on Sundays, since the sabbath ban was lifted last week by President Nixon. Still more operators say they plan to sell fuel on Sundays if they have the commodity that day.

However, a few stations found the day off pleasurable. "You just can't work all the time," said Wayland Vereen of Vereen's Gulf.

David Simmons was also against the Sunday sales. "I have one free day a week, and I need one day off," he said.

But Not Enough Yet

Corncake Inlet Water Cleaner

Buzzard Bay is still closed to shellfish taking, but state officials report the water quality there has improved since the opening of Corncake Inlet.

Future water checks are planned, and Rep. Tommy Harrelson expressed hope the area will be opened next fall.

Harrelson reported the results of the state tests in a letter to O.R. ("Pappy") Stubbs. "Unfortunately the test did not prove to be safe enough to open it (Buzzard Bay) this year," he said. However, he added that "the quality of the water has improved markedly since the opening of Corncake Inlet."

Harrelson also said he would urge the state Division of Commercial and Sports Fisheries "to have the waters tested on a continuing basis."

The area water quality was checked January 31, February 4 and February 11 this year. Robert G. Benton, supervisor of the Shellfish Sanitation Unit, said the tests showed Buzzard Bay water "did not meet the minimum standards for shellfish growing waters."

However, Benton said he plans "to continue periodic checks in this area." He said he would recommend a

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Sneed, Inc., of Wilmington placed the low plumbing bid at \$91,530.

Supt. Ralph King said Monday the board "anticipates no problem" in awarding the bid and starting construction. He said the board is "very pleased... that bids came in within the resources designated." King said the bids "came in right on projections."

While receiving the bids at

South Brunswick High School, education board chairman Wilbur E. Rabon said the board's "main concern" is finishing the school in 365 days. "We're not going to waste much time awarding it (the bids)," he said.

Present plans are to have the school occupied by fall of 1975.

Prior to opening bids, county commission chairman

W.A. Kopp, Jr., said the primary school would "be built entirely by county funds." He praised Southport commissioner John Bray for "playing an active part in helping to secure necessary funds."

Also during preliminary activities Rabon said construction of a Southport Primary School is "overdue." He mentioned the destruction by fire of South-

port High School in 1969.

The educational facility will house kindergarten through grade four. An enrollment of 600 is projected when the school opens, according to board of education plans.

The school will be located on the Cottage Tract, just inside the western city limits of Southport.

Other bids received by the

board for the general contract were J.O. Baldwin Construction of Myrtle Beach, S.C., for \$899,717 at 420 days; Smith Construction of Whiteville for \$940,000 at 500 days; Miller Building Corporation of Wilmington for \$984,682 at 425 days; Dixie General Contractors of Wallace at \$961,450 at 540 days; and Luther T. Rogers, Inc., of Wilmington for \$989,000 with no deadline date

submitted.

Bidders on the electrical contract were Watson Electrical Construction of Wilson for \$178,438, Graves Electric of Wilmington for \$152,890, Bryant-Durham Electric of Wilmington for \$159,486, Electricon, Inc. of Lumberton for \$182,717, and Hodges Electric Company of Wilmington for \$158,750.

Primary School Bids Within \$1.4 Million Limit

The board of education received bids Thursday for the Southport Primary School.

With bids to be officially awarded Wednesday, the total of the low bids successfully ducked the \$1.4 million limit placed on the project by the county commissioners. School architect Jack Croft said the total project cost would be \$1,306,809, including a six-

percent architect fee.

Chauncey & Ray of Whiteville was low bidder on the general contract at \$882,000 with a 365-day time limit.

Other low bidders included Cape Fear Electric of Wilmington for the electrical contract at \$136,485. H.V. Allen Company, Inc., of Greensboro was low bidder on the heating and air conditioning contract at \$199,000.