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A NEW MISS N.C. FOURTH OF JULY will be selected next Saturday night from among these seven young ladies from Smithville Township. Standing, left to right, are Sue Sunder, Dyan Ratcliffe, Jennifer Rayburn and Lynn Flowers; seated, left to right, are Cindy Harrington, Mary Dee Swan and Theresa Long. Theme of the pageant will be Fort Caswell; the June 29 affair will be held at Hatch Memorial Auditorium at the Baptist Assembly; and the old fort provides the backdrop for this photograph.

Secret Session Held

Yaupon Faces Prospect Of 2-Cent Budget Hike

Yaupon Beach Town Council members moved to the brink of either finding funds for the fire department needs or increasing the tax rate during a public hearing on the proposed \$45,225 budget Monday night.

Early in the meeting, Commissioner Gib Barbee made a motion to find the funds to help the fire

department purchase needed equipment or raise the tax rate to cover the costs. The motion was quickly seconded by Commissioner Jack Allen.

After a long and heated discussion about the proposal, the council adjourned the meeting without voting. Instead, the council will hold a special meeting June 28 at 10 a.m. to take final

action on the motion.

After Mayor C.E. Murphy called the meeting to order, Commissioner Barbee said funds to purchase needed equipment for the fire department should be placed in the proposed budget.

"I don't think our firemen should have to fight fires and raise money to buy equip-

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Marina Suit Hearing Set

A hearing on the Bald Head Island marina suit filed by the Conservation Council of North Carolina will be held Friday at the federal building in New Bern.

Judge John D. Larkins, Jr., will preside when the CCNC tries to stop construction of the marina, charging that no environment impact statement was required to obtain the permit.

CCNC officials have charged that the State of North Carolina, the U.S.

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For Smithville Township

New Hospital District Proposed By Petition

Telling other aldermen it was "either full steam ahead or stop where we are," Southport Mayor Eugene B. Tomlinson Thursday night introduced a petition calling for a separate hospital district for Smithville Township.

The mayor said interested citizens are being "as open and above board and honest as we can be" in the petition which will be presented to the Brunswick County board of commissioners.

The petition asks permission for Smithville Township residents to vote on whether or not to financially support a separate hospital facility in the township.

The petition states: "We are aware that if the Hospital

District is established that the listed taxpayers in Smithville Township ... may be assessed an ad valorem tax for the purpose of supporting and maintaining any hospital that the District may decide

to establish." Tomlinson said the township has "reached the point of no return on the hospital," and must either take the separate district approach or lose hospital

facilities here. The petition that reads "any hospital the District may choose to establish" does not preclude the construction of an entirely new facility if the state requires.

The Oak Island communities of Long Beach and Yaupon Beach have approved resolutions in support of continued hospital service in the immediate area. The Boiling Spring Lakes town board voted against such a resolution; however, Lakes residents who live in the Township have given verbal assurance they would support a facility here in addition to the proposed Brunswick County Memorial Hospital at Supply.

The Township effort was initiated last summer, after passage of the county hospital bond issue, when the closing of Doshier hospital became an apparent part of

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Rabon Selected GOP Chairman

A Winnabow man who is a "born Republican" has been elected party chairman of the GOP in Brunswick County.

Frankie Rabon, 26, was unanimously elected party chairman during a Republican executive committee meeting at Bolivia school Monday night. He succeeds Jerry Lewis, who resigned the chairmanship during the spring.

Virgil Roberts of Holden

Beach was elected to replace Chairman Rabon as treasurer of the Republican Party at the same meeting. Chairman Rabon said Tuesday afternoon he plans to start work immediately to "unify the Brunswick County Republican Party and win the election this November."

He announced that the executive committee will

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Trawling Ends In Area Waters

The Atlantic Ocean from Fryling Pan Shoals to the South Carolina line has been closed to all trawling to protect small brown shrimp, Director Arthur W. Cooper of the Department of Conservation and Development has announced.

Director Cooper said he was taking the action to close the waters to trawling upon the recommendation of Ed McCoy, commissioner of fisheries.

Brunswick and New Hanover county areas closed to trawling include all coastal fishing waters west and south of IWW Channel Marker (flasher) 163 at Snow's Cut to the South Carolina line. The closed waters include the Cape Fear River and its tributaries.

The order to close the waters took effect Sunday.

Bray Resignation Accepted

School Bond Plan Dropped For Year

By BILL ALLEN
Brunswick County commissioners accepted board member John Bray's resignation and postponed the proposed \$6 million school improvement bond issue during their regular Monday meeting in Southport.

Chairman William Kopp, Jr., read Bray's short letter of resignation before the board voted unanimously to accept it. The letter was dated June 10 and received June 13.

"It has been a pleasure to serve with you for these past three years; however, due to the pressure of business, I find it impossible to serve any longer in this position, please accept this letter as my resignation this date," Bray said in his letter.

"John Bray has served the county well and faithfully for 3½ years," Vice-Chairman J.T. Clemmons said. "His resignation will be a loss for Brunswick County."

The other commissioners said they agreed that Com-

missioner Bray will be "missed" because of his service to the county while on the board.

Chairman Kopp told The Pilot that the Brunswick County Republican executive committee will recommend the name of a person from Smithville Township to succeed Bray and the final selection will be made by the board of commissioners.

The board is not required by law to select the person recommended by the executive committee. The board can select another person to fillout Bray's unexpired term; however, the name of the person named by the executive committee will appear on the

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Key To Foster Home Success Is "Caring"

By BILL ALLEN
Since Brunswick County has been growing at a rapid rate in recent years and more people have been coming here to work and live, the Department of Social Services is facing the problem of finding more foster parents for children and teenagers.

In fact, Mrs. Janet Shew, a child welfare worker with the department, said there is a "critical need" for foster homes in Brunswick County at the present time.

Because homes have not been found in Brunswick County, four children and teenagers have had to be placed with foster parents in other counties. Foster homes in the county are taking care of seven other children and teenagers at the present time. "The number of foster homes we need in Brunswick

County varies from time to time," Mrs. Shew pointed out. "We want to have homes available in every section of the county in order to be prepared when the need arises."

There was very little need for foster homes in the past because children and teenagers from broken homes could always live with a relative. But because of the economic opportunities available, new families are moving here. When the homes break up or the families have "problem teenagers," the children don't have a relative they can live with in the county.

Mr. and Mrs. M.R. Thompson, Sr., of 2nd Street East, Long Beach, head one of the foster homes in the county. They have been acting as foster parents for 12

years in both Brunswick and Randolph counties.

Mr. and Mrs. Thompson have cared for between 25 and 30 children in their foster homes. Some of the children and teenagers have lived in foster homes for a couple of days while others have stayed for years.

"It has been a rewarding experience for us since we feel we are doing something good for the counties where we have lived," Mrs. Thompson stated. "If you can help one child in 50, you have done a good job and your time has not been lost."

The Thompsons started keeping foster children in their home when they lived in Randolph County. When they moved to Long Beach in 1967, they brought three foster children with them. They have continued to keep foster

children since moving to Brunswick County.

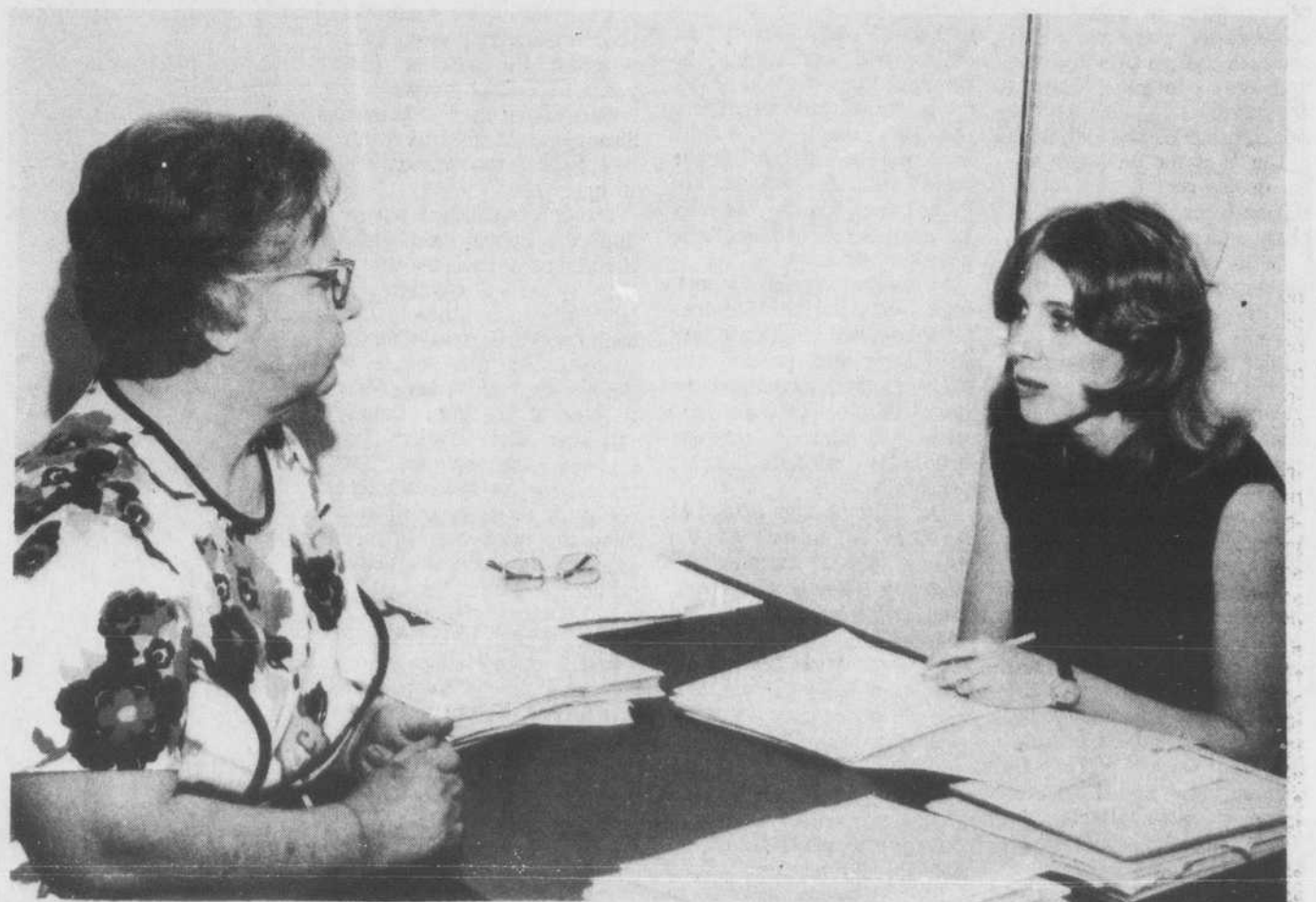
"We are just temporary mothers and fathers in most instances," Mrs. Thompson reported. "But when foster children stay for any length of time, you feel like they are your own children."

Mr. and Mrs. Thompson said they would recommend that other parents consider taking foster children into their homes.

"Even parents with their own children should consider becoming foster parents," Mrs. Thompson said. "Their own children can serve as models for the foster children."

Because of their years of experience, the Thompsons are the first to admit that the foster care program is not

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MRS. JANET SHEW (right) confers with Mrs. Thompson concerning the need for additional foster homes in Brunswick County.