

THE STATE PORT PILOT

A Good Newspaper In A Good Community

VOLUME 46 NUMBER 19

18 PAGES TODAY

SOUTHPORT, NORTH CAROLINA

NOVEMBER 27, 1974

10 CENTS A COPY

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY

Second Body Missing

Drowning In Bridge Mishap

By BILL ALLEN

One man was killed and another is missing after their car ran off the narrow Oak Island bridge early Tuesday morning.

Cau Chyen Fey, 30, of San Jose, Calif., drowned in the Intracoastal Waterway after the car hit the water and sank.

Chen Kee-Heng, 30, of Long Beach was pulled from the cold waters and taken to Doshier Memorial Hospital in Southport. Hospital officials

said he was treated for exposure. He is being held for observation.

The body of a third man, believed to be H.S. Hsia, had not been recovered at presstime. Dragging operations were being conducted to find the body.

The three men were from Taiwan and reported for work at the Carolina Power and Light Company nuclear plant outside Southport Oct. 30. They lived at Long Beach and commuted to work

together in the same car.

They were engineers here in a training program under contract with the General Electric Service Company. They were to have worked at the plant outside Southport for the next 18 months to gain experience for similar duties in their home country.

Highway Patrolman Larry Davis, who is investigating the accident, said preliminary reports show that the car hit an icy spot on the narrow, one-lane bridge and plunged into the water.

No signs warning about icy conditions are located at the two approaches to the temporary bridge. A 10-mile-per-hour speed limit is posted on the bridge.

Observers said they believed the car was traveling at a speed "much

(Continued On Page 14)



Photo by Bill Allen

A VEHICLE THAT carried at least one person to his drowning Tuesday morning at the Oak Island bridge is hoisted from the water. Highway Patrolman Larry Davis stated that

icy conditions caused the vehicle to go out of control off the narrow, one-lane bridge, which soon will be replaced by a high-level structure leading to Oak Island.

At Bald Head

Injunction Off, Channel Open

Construction of the marina access channel at Bald Head Island was commenced Thursday after the lifting of the injunction.

U.S. Federal Judge John D. Larkins, Jr., dissolved the injunction blocking the marina access channel in a ruling announced Thursday. But another issue in the lawsuit will not be decided until next month.

The ruling means that Carolina Cape Fear Corporation, developers of the island, can construct the access channel from the 10-acre marina, which has been under construction since summer, to the Cape Fear River. The work to construct

the channel and a basic marina is expected to take about three months to complete.

John A. Messick, corporation general manager, said the elimination of the injunction will free more capital for the development of Bald Head Island. "This does make it easier for us," he added.

Judge Larkins announced his ruling one day after holding a short 30-minute hearing on the question last Wednesday in New Bern. Attorneys representing the corporation, the environmental groups and the government were present.

(Continued On Page 18)

Medical Care Report

Official Claims Dual Hospitals Not Appropriate

Brunswick County has no "appropriate need for two general hospitals," a state official has reported.

"Accordingly," continued I.O. Wilkerson of the Department of Facility Services, "resources of the Medical Care Commission, the state and the county can best be utilized in the development of a proposal that would result in a single, modern, well-equipped and staffed hospital for Brunswick County."

Wilkerson said the county does not need two hospitals because of the Brunswick population, other surrounding hospitals and the adequacy of rescue squads, highways and other factors.

"Based on an acute awareness of exceedingly high costs of construction and operation of hospitals and the scarcity of medical and paramedical manpower, it is the continued opinion of the commission that duplication should be avoided whenever possible," he stated.

Wilkerson's remarks were contained in a letter he wrote Chairman Mason Anderson of the Brunswick County

Hospital Authority, Chairman William Kopp, Jr., of the Brunswick Board of Commissioners, Southport Mayor E.B. Tomlinson, Jr., and Larry Burwell of the Health Planning Division. The remarks were made concerning a meeting held in Raleigh Nov. 11 to discuss hospital needs in Brunswick County.

He said he had been instructed by the executive committee of the Medical Care Commission to "outline conclusions reached at the meeting for your in-

Happy Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving will be for staying at home, because almost nobody in Brunswick County will be open for business Thursday.

All banks and savings institutions will be closed that day, along with the clerk of court's office and the post office, which will offer only box service.

Brunswick County schools and all county offices will be closed Thursday and Friday.

Happy Thanksgiving from The State Port Pilot!

What Kind Of Town, Long Beach?

What kind of town do Long Beach residents want?

That is the question beach folks should ask themselves prior to formal land-use planning, according to representatives of Design Cooperative of Raleigh. Larry Chasak and Charles Elam said Design Cooperative would be "advocates of the residents" if the firm were employed as planner for the Oak Island community.

"We want to find out (what residents want)," said Elam.

"We don't want to plan something the people don't want."

Elam, a planner, and registered surveyor Chasak met with the Long Beach board of commissioners during a special meeting Thursday night. Other business discussed during the 2½-hour meeting included calling a public hearing on adoption of a subdivision ordinance, applying for LEAA grants for street lighting and additional personnel, and considering a grant application for a community swimming pool.

Commissioners — except Mayor Ed Morgan who was absent for the second meeting in a row — joined the small audience for the presentation by Design Cooperative. Mayor Pro - Tem Ellis Dudley presided in Morgan's absence; all other board members were present.

The Raleigh firm was called for a preliminary presentation after the town council voted unanimously to do its own land-use planning as required by the Coastal Management Act. Southport also will do its own planning, while all other Brunswick municipalities will use county services.

Elam noted his firm has "investigated the history of Long Beach" and found "touchy environmental situations." "All of these can be lived with" in land-use planning, he said.

Elam said there is "some good and some bad" at Long Beach, and that the community must re-evaluate itself prior to land-use planning. "What do we want?" he asked members of the audience. "What are the goals and objectives" of the beach community?

He stressed the involvement of the public in community planning.

Elam, suggesting alternatives in question form, asked, "Can you exist as a bedroom community? Do you need industry? Do you need offices?" And about the tourist trade: "Do you want summer only? Or what?"

Using slides and wall maps, Elam reviewed previous Design Cooperative work in the Cary, N.C., area. He spoke favorably of "Open Space" owned by the people — "an oldtime cooperative."

He also favored clustered development ("less utilities, less linear feet of streets") as

an innovative way to arrange a neighborhood. But spectator Lucy Ford saw a problem.

"You're too late," she said, repeating the same later and citing street after street of lots cut up and sold. Elam suggested it may not be too late: if certain areas are not suited for what they now are zoned, then changes can be made in the Master Plan of land-use.

He noted that all lots in the Tranquil Harbour area have utility easements in the rear, a plus factor. Referring to the problem of zoning, Elam said, "Towns couldn't say 'no' before because they didn't have good reasons."

Spot zoning, he added, "kills land-use." He suggested taking requests for rezoning once a year as "an update to the Master Plan." Elam said the burden would be on the individual to show why the rezoning would be an improvement.

The Design Cooperative planner also advocated a

master recreation plan for Long Beach, again based on what the residents want. But recreation, planning just as redevelopment, would take time.

"It is virtually impossible to do something like this all at once," Elam said. "You don't need to." A five- or six-year program was mentioned.

He suggested a "very thorough study — environmentally and socially — to see what Long Beach can support and what the people want to support."

Dudley asked Elam and Chasak to use Coastal Management Act guidelines and inform the town how much a land-use plan would cost. The plan must be finalized about one year from now. "We can meet that deadline," Elam told the commissioners.

Estimated cost would be between \$8,000 and \$10,000.

SUBDIVISIONS
Part Two of the Thursday night meeting was concerned with "Subdivision

Regulations," which will be the subject of a public hearing Dec. 5 at Town Hall prior to the regular meeting of that date. The 47-page document is taken "practically verbatim" from the N.C. model and is one of three prerequisites for funding land use planning (along with a zoning ordinance and building code regulations). The hearing is advertised in this issue of The State Port Pilot and copies will be available in the town hall.

STREET LIGHTS
An earlier LEAA grant application, reportedly turned down because of the inclusion of "equipment," will be submitted. The application asks \$10,452; local share would be \$522.

The street light request is based on the theory that lighted places are "less susceptible to crime." Town Manager Frank Kivett has prepared documentation of where this year's breaking and enterings have occurred. Of the 56 reported, 27 have

been between 40th and 77th streets East. "But they are scattered," the town manager noted.

Local matching funds would be only 5 percent, and Kivett anticipated a request in the neighborhood of \$2,500. The town has budgeted \$5,000 for street lighting; none has been spent except for replacement of damaged lights.

An earlier request was rejected Kivett said, because of funds and priorities of LEAA. "They now have more funds and we think we can document a need," Kivett said of the request being resubmitted.

SWIMMING POOL
A swimming pool for the Town of Long Beach was discussed by the commissioners Thursday night but no action was taken. A competition - size 45' by 75' pool would cost about \$60,000, Kivett told the board, and up to 50-percent funding is possible. Approximately

(Continued On Page 2)

New Commissioners Briefed

Regional Water Plans Depending On County?

By BILL ALLEN

Commissioners - elect were briefed on the water system and other county programs during two special meetings last Wednesday.

Jimmy Wilson of Pierson and Whitman, consulting engineers from Raleigh, told the commissioners-elect about the county water system during a dinner meeting at Long Beach.

The system, Wilson said, is designed to allow the county to become wholesale supplier of water in the county. The county is expected to start pumping water under Phase I next summer.

He reported that Phase I — involving Long Beach, Yaupon Beach, Southport and Pfizer Inc., is a \$4.5-million project. A total of \$2.1 million in contracts already has been

awarded for the elevated water tank foundation, the million-gallon elevated tank, and water main extensions.

Contracts for the second part of Phase I of the water system were awarded this week. (See related story in this edition of The Pilot.)

Wilson pointed out that the present board will award the contracts for the second part of Phase I. But he said the contracts will have to be signed by the new board since the present board will be out of office at the time.

The water system will have a capability of providing 5 million gallons of water each day. The water will come from 15 wells pumping a half-million gallons a day.

Money to pay for the water project will come from the state Clean Water grant, an

Economic Development grant and the Farmers Home Administration, thanks to the "generous cooperation" of Pfizer, he noted.

The \$2.5 million Phase II system is expected to be in operation within one to three years. It will include water systems for the Shallotte - Holden Beach - Ocean Isle Beach area, the Calabash - Sunset Beach area and the Leland area.

"We can't apply for funds for the Leland system until the people form a sanitary district since there is no municipality," Wilson pointed out. "If they don't form the district, the county might have to go into the retail water business to supply the area."

He said the county system should serve the needs of

Brunswick for the next five to seven years. But he said the county would need another supply of water within seven years, based on growth projections.

Wilson suggested that the county could obtain additional water in future years from the Lower Cape Fear Water Authority, which has been making plans for seven years to serve area counties.

He said the Authority has run into problems obtaining funds to finance the system because of the nature of the type of water to be pumped.

Wilson said it was a "golden opportunity" for Brunswick County to help the Authority on the county's term. "Brunswick County can provide original input

(Continued On Page 18)