

THE STATE PORT PILOT

A Good Newspaper In A Good Community

VOLUME 46 NUMBER 22 20 PAGES TODAY

SOUTHPORT, NORTH CAROLINA

DECEMBER 18, 1974

10 CENTS A COPY

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY



SOUTHPORT CUB SCOUT Pack 238, Den 1 spent Friday afternoon working on a community project to help Doshier Memorial Hospital. With the help of city employees Bill King, Sam Sebes and James Splawn, the Cubs gathered mistletoe from a downtown tree and made traditional "Kissing Rings" for sale, the proceeds going to the hospital. Scouts in the foreground are Charles Sherrod, Jamie Huggins, Randy Aldridge, Joey Huggins, Glen Trunnell and Gene Hart. High above in the lift with King is Cub John Mullerweiss.

Doshier Verdict Due In January

The Brunswick County board of commissioners has indicated that a decision will be made regarding the hospital question next month after hearing the Smithville Township side during a special meeting at the Courtroom Thursday afternoon.

Southport Mayor E.B. Tomlinson, Jr., speaking for the Smithville Township forces, recommended that the county "arrive at a unified position supporting two acute care 40-bed hospitals for the county."

He said the recommendation should include the suggestion that the western area hospital be located in the

"immediate vicinity of Shallotte in order that it might have the same municipal benefits" that are available at Doshier.

"A two-hospital concept could operate under a hospital board subject to the county commissioners comprised of seven members named by the involved governing bodies," Mayor Tomlinson declared.

"Combined administration, purchasing, etc., for both hospital operating under such a single board would provide uniformity and economy in operation."

In answer to questions asked by Commission Willie Sloan, Mayor Tomlinson

estimated that the two 40-bed acute care hospitals could be built for \$2.5 million each or a total of \$5 million.

Funds could come from the \$2.5 million bond issue, the promise of \$1 million and the \$1.5 million from other funds.

Mayor Tomlinson said it would be better for all the people of Brunswick County to build two 40-bed hospitals at a cost of \$5 million rather than the 60-bed hospital at a cost of \$4 million. "We can afford two hospitals," he declared.

He said the county could build two 30-bed hospitals if the state would allow Brunswick only 50 beds. The

(Continued On Page 14)

Nifty Profit Realized From Beach Lot Sale

By BILL ALLEN

A Thomasville couple made a nice profit on land they sold to Brunswick County for the elevated storage tank at Long Beach, The Pilot has learned.

Mr. and Mrs. Everette Pierce purchased three lots — 31, 32 and 33, Block 246, Section N-2 — for about \$4,000 in late 1972. They sold two of the lots to the county for \$14,000 in late November.

A group of Oak Island residents have charged that the county paid "a greatly inflated price" for the two lots. They said no one should be allowed to make "a fast buck" on it at the expense of

the taxpayers of Brunswick County. (The State Port Pilot, December 11, 1974, Page 1)

Records in the Brunswick County Register of Deeds office show that Mr. and Mrs. Pierce purchased the three lots from National Development Corporation on October 6, 1972. Revenue stamps attached to the deed indicate that they paid about \$4,000 for the three lots.

Mr. and Mrs. Pierce first offered to sell the county the two lots in a letter sent to County Manager Neil Mallory on July 17, 1974.

They said that Long Beach Town Manager Frank Kivett,

Long Beach Mayor E.W. Morgan and James Wilson of Pierson and Whitman, consulting engineers for both the county and Long Beach, had spoken to them on July 12 concerning the purchase of two lots in Long Beach for the location of the elevated water storage tank.

"We hereby agree to sell these lots to Brunswick County for the sum of \$7,000 each, totalling \$14,000 for the two, and further, prior to purchase, we authorize Brunswick County and Pierson and Whitman to take soil test borings and to survey

(Continued On Page 4)

Reports Show Apparent Violation

'Behind-Closed-Doors' Action In County Commission Meeting

By BILL ALLEN

The Brunswick County Board of Commissioners talked about one unrelated matter during a closed executive session called to discuss "personnel" at a Monday meeting. The Pilot has been informed.

The water treatment plant, accumulated leave time for former members of the Sheriff's Department, appointment of a county accountant and compensation

for the county attorney were discussed during the 76-minute closed executive meeting.

When the doors were re-opened, Chairman Franky Thomas, acting on the advice of County Attorney James Prevatte, asked County Manager Neil Mallory to tell the public and the press what the board did at the closed meeting. Mallory told the press about three of the matters discussed, but said

nothing about the water treatment plant.

A source inside the meeting, however, informed The Pilot about what the commissioners discussed. The source cannot be identified for obvious reasons.

The fact that board members heard about the water treatment plant during a closed executive session called to discuss "personnel" is an apparent violation of the North Carolina Open Meetings law.

The discussion about accumulated leave for the former members of the Sheriff's department also is an apparent violation of the Open Meetings law, according to officials familiar with the statute.

Under the law, a board can hold a closed executive meeting to discuss

"negotiations between public employers and their employees or representatives thereof as to employment."

Persons familiar with the law say that a board could hold "personnel" meetings to discuss employees of the Sheriff's Department since they cannot hire or fire them. The only thing the board can do with Sheriff Department personnel is pay positions.

County Attorney Prevatte said it was his opinion that the board could discuss Sheriff Department employees since they were county employees.

Chairman Thomas said the board was "depending strictly on our attorney for legal advice" regarding the closed meeting. He said he was not familiar with the Open Meeting law.

After the meeting was re-opened to the public and the press and Mallory said what happened, the board voted unanimously to pay accumulated checks to former members of the Sheriff's Department under Harold Willetts. The vote means that 11 former employees will be paid a total of \$3,364.79.

The board also voted unanimously to re-name Mrs. Ressie Whatley county accountant at a salary of \$13,116. She has been making \$11,000-plus.

Mrs. Whatley has been being reappointed each year by the state treasurer. The General Assembly changed the law last year to require the board of commissioners to make the appointment.

In addition, the board voted unanimously to pay Prevatte \$500 - a - month retainer.

(Continued On Page 12)

Overnight At Sea

Two Rescued After Ordeal

Two Southport men, who spent more than sixteen hours floating in a fish box after their boat went down 12 miles north of the sea buoy were rescued Wednesday morning.

Tommy McGlamery of Southport and Randy Stuart of Boiling Spring Lakes were pulled from the water by crew members of the U.S. Coast Guard ship "The Alert". A Coast Guard helicopter transported the 2 men to the city pier area at the foot of Howe Street in Southport. They arrived in at 11:41 A.M.

McGlamery said to be in excellent condition stepped off the helicopter under his own power. Stuart had to be placed on a stretcher.

Both men were transported to Doshier Memorial Hospital in a Gilbert's ambulance. They were both said to be suffering from exposure and shock.

The 2 men were found shortly after 10 A.M. floating inside a fish box, 10 miles north of the Tower. The site is about forty miles from Southport. The fish box was about 4 X 8 X 3 feet.

"I have heard Tommy say many times that if anything happened to his boat, he would ride home in a fish box," said his happy father,

G. W. McGlamery, owner of Mack's Restaurant in Southport.

It is believed that McGlamery's boat "hit something in the water" and went down quickly, shortly after 6 P.M. Tuesday night.

After the May Day call was received 8 helicopters, 3 airplanes and 3 boats joined the search for the 2 men.

Crew members of "The Alert", which was making its way back to its home port in New Jersey after a southern cruise, spotted the 2 men in a fish box. The boat had been in Miami Florida early Monday morning.

The first thing McGlamery said, when pulled onto the Coast Guard boat was that he was hungry for breakfast, it was reported.

McGlamery's father said one of the things that enabled the 2 men to survive the ordeal at sea was the warm water. Water temperature in

(Continued On Page 8)

Strong Wants To Use Old Jail

Supply Area Location Is Possible For Sheriff

By BILL ALLEN

The Brunswick County board of commissioners took no action on a request to allow the Sheriff's Department to establish its headquarters at the C.I.D. building during a regular meeting.

Sheriff Herman Strong ask the board to allow him to renovate and use the C.I.D. building in Southport for the Sheriff's Department.

"We need to put the department under one roof to give efficient service," Strong told the board. "This

is the only way to do it — put it all together."

The sheriff estimated that it would cost about \$3,500 to renovate the building, which served as the jail before the new one was built. "The building will provide us with adequate space," he told the board.

Although the building was constructed in 1929, Sheriff Strong said he does not believe the facility will require any major repairs in the future once the renovation is done.

Strong said the C.I.D. building could house most department facilities since the "Supply office is not safe or adequate."

After touring the building with Sheriff Strong, the commissioners returned to their meeting room at the

Hood Building and "tabled" the request.

Commissioner Steve Varnam, Jr., suggested that the board take no action until an audit is taken "to determine what kind of financial shape Brunswick County is in as far as money is concerned. Until we know where we stand, we should not obligate ourselves."

Varnam also said that there is a building available in the Supply area which "perhaps may be more feasible" for the Sheriff's Department. He said the board should at least look at the building.

Commissioner Willie Sloan said the Supply area might be used more and more for county facilities. Chairman Franky Thomas said the

(Continued On Page 2)

Bolivia Official Says

Misrepresents School Group

Acquittal In School Case

A Bolivia school teacher was acquitted of a charge of assault and battery on a student in District Court in Shallotte this week.

Van Galloway had been charged with assaulting a 13-year-old student by striking him with a board about the thighs and buttocks on Nov. 25.

Vera Ellis of the Bolivia Motor Lodge filed the complaint against Galloway with the Sheriff's Department. Galloway teaches the seventh and eighth grades at the school.

The three men who complained about problems at Bolivia school during a recent Board of Education meeting did not represent the PTA, Mrs. Betty Rose, PTA president, said this week.

"The Bolivia PTA does not have a grievance committee; therefore, the Bolivia PTA was misrepresented at the Dec. 2 board meeting by three men — Everette Hess, James Woods and Charles Brown," Mrs. Rose declared.

Hess, Woods and Brown said they were representing the Grievance Committee of the Bolivia PTA when they complained about heating and discipline problems at

the school at the Dec. 2 meeting.

Mrs. Rose said the Bolivia PTA is affiliated with the state and national organization and is striving to follow the objectives.

Two of the objectives the school PTA is following are "to bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth; and, to develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social, and spiritual education," she noted.

Mrs. Rose said the executive committee of the PTA is aware of the proper procedure to meet with the county board. "If problems exist, we trust that our local school committee will speak for us," she continued. "But if any communications need to be made, the committee would be headed by the president of the PTA."

"STRONG LEGS RUN that weak legs might walk" was the theme Saturday for annual N. C. - S. C. Shrine Bowl football game in Charlotte, and reigning over the affair was 11-year-old John Paul Bray of Southport. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Bray. By the way, North Carolina beat the visitors 38-12 before approximately 26,000 fans.



Early Edition

The Christmas edition of The State Port Pilot will be published this year on Monday, Dec. 23. Distribution of counter-sale newspapers will be on Tuesday; Pilots will be placed in the post office Tuesday afternoon for distribution.

Because of the early publication date, all advertising copy must be received by The Pilot by closing time Friday. Printers' deadline prevents us from taking ANY advertising material past that time; news copy will be received at The Pilot office until noon Saturday.