

THE STATE PORT PILOT

A Good Newspaper In A Good Community

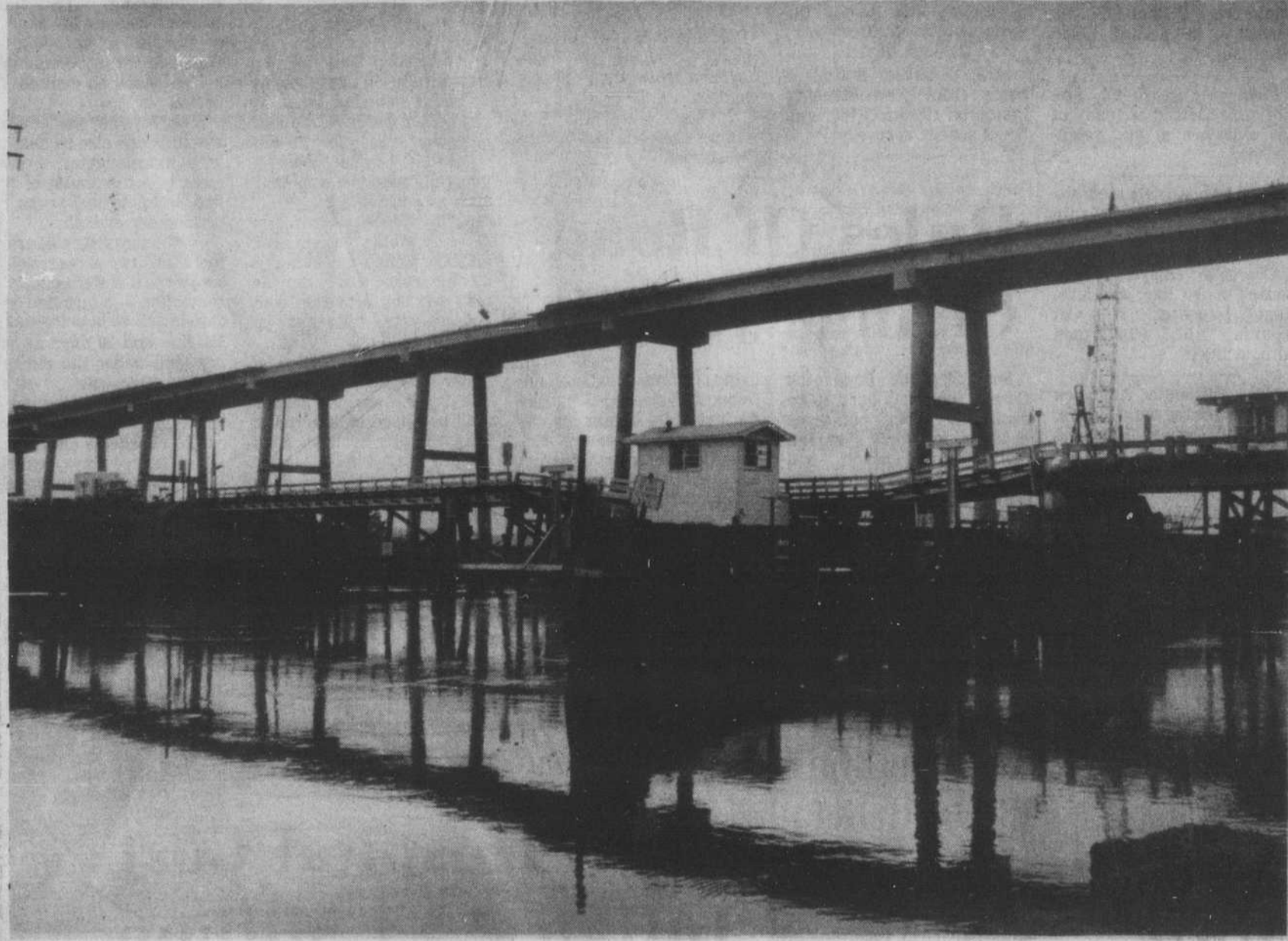
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AMONG THE TOP 10 stories of the year in Brunswick County is the Oak Island Bridge, which last week passed a milestone when the segments north and south of the waterway were joined. The opening to vehicular traffic is expected in a

few months, ending three years of headache for the Oak Island communities. In the foreground is the one-lane bridge that has seen numerous traffic jams, and finally two fatalities.

The Year In Review

'74's Top News: Hospital, Election

What were the biggest news stories in Brunswick County during the year 1974?

The question is a matter of opinion, and to undertake to select any number of stories from the action-packed year is a difficult task at best. It goes without saying that some readers will not agree with the selections and will have some of their own to add.

State Port Pilot staff members sat down earlier this week and selected their top ten news stories in Brunswick County during 1974. The votes were tallied to determine the top ten stories.

HOSPITAL STORY

Without a doubt, the hospital story, consisting of both Doshier Memorial and Brunswick County Memorial, dominated the news in Brunswick County during the entire year. It made headlines from January until December.

The story involved efforts to build the proposed Brunswick County Memorial Hospital in the Supply area and to close down Doshier Memorial Hospital in Southport—but not without a fight.

After numerous meetings on the hospital question in the county, in Raleigh and even in Wrightsville Beach, state officials ruled in late November that Brunswick needed only "a single modern well-equipped and staffed hospital."

Newly-elected members of the board of commissioners held a hearing in December to hear the Smithville Township side of the hospital issue. Commissioners indicated later that they hope to resolve the question early in the new year.

DEMOCRATIC SWEEP

The Democratic party sweep of the general election in November ranked as the second most important news story in Brunswick County.

After being out of most major offices in the county for almost four years, the Democrats bounced back to win all five seats on the board of commissioners, elect Sheriff Herman Strong and Rep. Allen Ward, and re-elect Clerk of Court Jack Brown

and Coroner Lowell Bennett. The Republican party was left with only one county office, Register of Deeds

Arthur Knox, who did not run. OPEN MEETINGS The granting of the Open (Continued On Page 4)

Year's Top Stories

1. The year-long battle to establish a new Brunswick County Memorial Hospital, and Smithville Township efforts to keep Doshier open.

2. Democrats sweep all available county and district offices, ending a four-year domination by Republicans. It was a landslide victory.

3. The N.C. Open Meetings law was applied to the Brunswick County commissioners, calling their hand on secret board meetings.

4. The Bald Head Island marina was okayed by the state, then tied-up in court for months while the developers lost money.

5. (tie) The county commissioners approved the controversial purchase of 14 vehicles for the Sheriff's Department; numerous candidates who won their party's nomination to office dropped out.

7. The Oak Island Bridge will soon be open to vehicular traffic, ending the three- and one-half-year headache of a one-lane bridge.

8. George McCracken was named Chief of Police in Southport, the first black chief in a predominantly white North Carolina city.

9. (tie) Two Taiwan engineers working at the CP&L plant here drowned when their vehicle ran off the bridge into the Intracoastal Waterway; and a county-wide water system was funded, bid, and commenced.

Survey Shows

More Dentists Needed Locally

Brunswick County has a critical need for dentists, according to a survey conducted by the National Health Service Corps.

The survey shows that each dentist in Brunswick County serves 6,056 patients. The county ranks 68th in the state in the dentist-patient ratio.

Brunswick County is one of 59 counties in North Carolina which have been designated

as "critical shortage areas" for dentists, a spokesman for the NHSC reported.

The survey shows that Brunswick County has a much better doctor-patient ratio, where it ranks 47th in the state. Each doctor in the county serves 3,028 patients, according to the survey.

The survey is based on data furnished by the N.C. Board of Medical Examiners, the N.C. Board of Dental Examiners and the N.C. Area Health Education Center two years ago and released last week.

The spokesman said counties designated as critical have dentist-patient or doctor-patient ratios of 1 to 4,000 or worse, or have areas within them with such ratios. He reported that the information was compiled to notify critical counties throughout the nation that they are eligible for medical manpower help from the NHSC.

The corps will help recruit doctors and dentists at the request of eligible areas. The salaries begin at about \$17,500 and are paid primarily through patient fees. The main purpose of the program is to encourage doctors, dentists and other health personnel to remain permanently in the areas.

The NHSC helped recruit six doctors to serve in counties in the state last year, the spokesman reported.

Jaime L. Monzano, interim deputy director of the NHSC, said requests for help can be made by "any responsible leadership, even a private group."

Although 12 states have worse ratios than North Carolina, only two have a higher percentage of "critical areas," according to the national survey.

\$\$ Per Student Tops

Brunswick County ranks number one in the state in appraised property valuation per student, Supt. Ralph King has announced.

The county's appraised property valuation per student in 1973-74 is \$77,441.00, according to a recent survey.

Brunswick ranks number one in the state because the county has an appraised valuation of \$556,415,240 and 7,185 students in grades 1 through 12.

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro city school unit ranks second in the state with an appraised per student of \$69,800.

"The survey reflects the relative ability of a governing unit to provide financial support for public education," Supt. King pointed out.

Shot Through Walls

Freak Mishap Claims Woman

A Winnabow man accidentally discharged his rifle while cleaning it Monday night and the bullet killed his wife in the next room, Sheriff Herman Strong has reported. Mrs. Elaine Sullivan Lanier, about 40, was killed instantly after being hit in the head with a bullet from a rifle her husband, George Henry Lanier, about 40, was cleaning in the next room. Sheriff Strong said a preliminary investigation indicated that Lanier was trying to dislodge a bullet from the 30-30 rifle when the accident happened at their Winnabow area home about 9 p.m. Monday.

The sheriff said reports indicate that the bullet exploded and fragments hit Lanier in the right shoulder and left arm. Powder burns were left on Lanier's chest.

RDC MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the Resources Development Commission for Brunswick County will be held Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the office of the Commission.

AIRPORT MEETING

There will be a special called meeting of the Brunswick County Airport Commission on Friday at 12:30 p.m. in the office of the Resources Development Commission.

Lanier was taken to a Wilmington hospital after the accident. He was in "good" condition Tuesday morning.

Sheriff Strong said the head of the bullet passed through two walls and hit Mrs. Lanier, who was in the next room, in the head. The bullet passed through Mrs. Lanier's head, he reported.

According to unofficial reports, Lanier got up and walked to the bathroom after the bullet exploded. He called out to his wife, but she did not answer. When he went looking for her, he found her dead.

Sunken Boat Towed Home

The boat that sank with two Southport area youths aboard was pulled into the Southport Boat Harbor early Tuesday morning.

Tommy McGlamery, Randy Stuart and others spent about two or three days working to bring the Blue Claw to the harbor, it was reported. Air bags were used to help float the vessel.

The boat sank outside Southport Dec. 17. McGlamery and Stuart spent more than 16 hours floating in a fishbox before being rescued.

Early Development Failed

Former Island Owner Doesn't Like Project

By BILL ALLEN

A son of the first man who tried to develop Bald Head said he would like to own the island again and live on it—alone.

"I don't think Bald Head should be developed because I like the peaceful atmosphere it had when we owned it," said Dick Boyd of Hamlet. "If I still owned Bald Head—and I would not mind the prospect one bit—I would just have one house on the entire island. Mine."

Boyd, however, admitted his views concerning development of the island might be prejudicial because of his family's association with Bald Head. "I found it could not have been a better place to live when I spent the summers of my boyhood on the island," he pointed out. "I know I can't go back to my boyhood again, but I would like to try by living on the island once more."

Boyd, who is 67-years old and retired, reminisced about Bald Head Island while in Southport to pay taxes on a summer cottage in the Shallotte Point area.

Boyd's father, the late T.F. Boyd, Sr., of Hamlet, purchased the Bald Head Island complex in 1913 from heirs who were delinquent on the taxes.

Boyd, Sr., who paid between \$40,000 and \$60,000 for the island, spent the next 20 years trying to develop Bald Head before he died. His family sold their last remaining interest in the complex to Frank Sherill in 1938 after deeding Bald Head to the county.

Boyd estimated that his father spent over \$100,000 trying to develop the island without much success until the Big Depression starting in 1931-32 ended the dream. Boyd's mother and eight brothers and sisters inherited Bald Head when his father died in 1934. "We were not interested in developing the island because money was tight during the depression," he stated. "Besides, there were too many of us to agree

on anything concerning the development my father started."

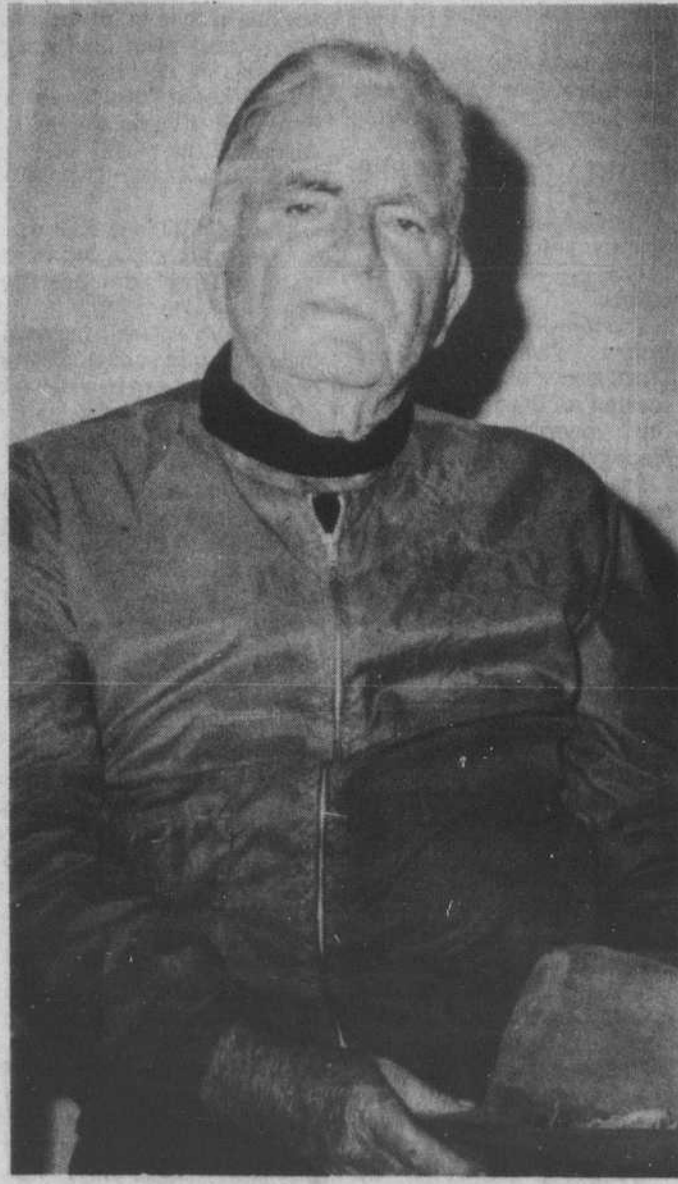
Unable to find a buyer, the family deeded most of the Bald Head Island complex to Brunswick County in 1938 because of unpaid taxes. Under the arrangement, the family kept one of the small islands tax-free.

"The deal with the county was a mistake," Boyd stated. "The large taxes were being charged to Bald Head Island itself. But what could we do since money was tight? We were getting out of it the best

way we could under the circumstances."

The family sold its last interest in the Bald Head complex to Sherill for about \$12,000. All improvements made by his father were left on the island when it was sold.

After purchasing the complex in 1913, Boyd said his father planned to turn Bald Head into a resort development. The old Coast Guard station and lighthouse were the only facilities on the island at the time of purchase. (Continued On Page 6)



DICK BOYD—Father owned Bald Head Island

Drowning Victim

Second Body Found Friday

The body of the second man killed when a car ran off the narrow Oak Island bridge last month was recovered Friday, according to Sheriff Herman Strong.

The body of H.S. Hsia of Long Beach and San Jose, Calif., was found in the marshes near Standard Products Company on the Intracoastal Waterway around 4:30 p.m. Friday.

It was first spotted by Freddie Joseph of Laurinburg, who was fishing from his boat at the time. He contacted the Sheriff's Department.

Sheriff Strong, department deputies, Coroner Lowell Bennett and Gilbert Funeral Home employees, using a boat borrowed from Carolina Cape Fear Corporation, recovered the body. It was taken to Gilbert's funeral home.

Coroner Bennett said he did

not believe the body had been up to the surface for more than 24 hours before it was spotted. He said the body was in "good" condition considering it had been in the water exactly one month.

Hsia and Cau Chyen Fey drowned in the Intracoastal Waterway after their car ran off the bridge November 27. Chen Kee-Heng, the other man in the car at the time, was pulled from the cold waters and survived.

The three men, all from Taiwan, worked at Carolina Power and Light Company's nuclear plant outside Southport. They were engineers here in a training program under contract with the General Electric Service Company.

The car is believed to have hit an icy spot on the narrow, one-lane bridge and plunged into the water.