

Commissioners At Convention

Two Brunswick County commissioners returned home last week after a five-day junket to attend a national convention in Utah.

Vice-Chairman Willie Sloan and Commissioner Franky Thomas represented the county at the National Association of Counties (NACO) annual convention in Utah at taxpayers' expense.

It is not known how much the trip will cost taxpayers since Sloan and Thomas have not turned in their bills to the county yet. The county paid \$352 each to purchase airline tickets before the two commissioners left.

The national convention was held in Salt Lake City from Monday, June 26, until Wednesday, June 30.

Neither Sloan nor Thomas gave the other commissioners a report about what they learned at the national convention during the regular county board meeting on Tuesday. In fact, the national convention was not even mentioned at the meeting.

Sloan and Thomas left the county on Saturday, June 24, to fly to the Utah convention. They returned to the Wilmington airport shortly before midnight on July 1.

Mrs. Sloan accompanied her husband to the Utah national convention. But Sloan said no county funds were used for his wife's trip since he paid her expenses.

Sloan said he and his wife left the convention one day early. He said he used his Utah-Chicago ticket to fly back to Chicago. After spending the night in Chicago, he caught the airplane he would have been on if he had left Utah with the other convention members.

"It was a good thing I had my airline reservation or I could have been stuck in Chicago," he pointed out. "The airplanes in Chicago were full because it was a holiday weekend."

Last year, Thomas and Sloan also attended the convention, which was held in Hawaii. Mrs. Thomas accompanied her husband at the expense of the taxpayers. The trip ended up costing taxpayers about \$4,000 last year.

Mrs. Morgan Is On Board

The wife of a former mayor has been appointed to serve on the Long Beach Board of Commissioners.

Mrs. Pauline Morgan was unanimously appointed to serve on the town board during a special meeting Saturday morning. She replaces Commissioner Nancy Leggett, who resigned.

Mrs. Morgan, who has been active on local government committees for years, finished third in the race for two seats on the board during the last town election. She is the wife of former mayor Ed

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THE RAIN DIDN'T STOP these two youngsters from enjoying — and participating in — Monday's parade. While some events would have been cancelled by the inclement weather, at least 5,000 spectators and most of the parade units braved the torrential downpour.

Cobb 'Best In Show' In Junior Art Display

Donald Cobb of Ocracoke won Best in Show at the Junior Woman's Club Art Show, held during the N.C. Fourth of July Festival.

In Junior Division I age ages 6 to 12, John Barbee, Jr., of Caswell Beach won first prize for "Small Watercolor." David Warren of Long Beach won second prize for "Playground." Gregg Costin won third for "Sunset" and John Barbee won honorable mention for "Crewel."

Mimi Smith of Greensboro won first prize in Junior Division II for "Tennessee Walking Horse." Other prize winners in this division, for ages 13 to 18, were Eric

Simpson of Long Beach, second for "Water Spout;" and Grant Watkins of Wilmington, third for "Abandoned." Mimi Smith and Bruce Shepherd of Long Beach won honorable mention for "Clayhouse" and "Craft," respectively.

In the Craft division, Sally Jackson won first prize for "Bicentennial Afghan." Second prize was won by John Richardson for "Owl," third prize by Ann Evry of Long Beach for "Warrior" and Louise Heffner of Reidsville received honorable mention for "Stoneware Jar."

First prize in the Graphics

division was won by Allen Evry of Long Beach for "Proud Guardian." Other prize winners were Pauline Flowers of Jacksonville, second for "Dietrich," Doretta Smith of Jacksonville, third for "Profile," and John Taylor of Wilmington, honorable mention.

Photography division winners were Randy Whitesides of Caswell Beach, first for "Buddy Brown;" Frosty Frazier of Wilmington, second for "Serenity;" and William R. Henderson, Jr., of Wilmington, third for "Dawn

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Spirits Not Dampened As Rains Hit Festival

Rain dampened the heads but not the spirits of celebrators Monday at Southport's N.C. Fourth of July Festival.

Although events went on all weekend, Monday was the big day. People filled the streets to see the parade, to visit the exhibits and to see the fireworks.

Rain interrupted and delayed the festivities throughout the day. The weather forced cancellation of the street dance and curtailment of other activities.

But poor weather didn't stop the parade. Halfway through, a cloudburst began. Those on the streets scrambled for cover, but most float riders and marchers smiled and carried on bravely in spite of the rain.

The crowds oohed, aahed and applauded as Navy parachute jumpers leaped from a helicopter thousands of feet up, each time landing right on target on the Garrison lawn.

After the afternoon parachute jump, nearly everyone walked over to the "Happy Birthday, America" ice cream party held in front of the Trinity United Methodist Church. Servers dished red, white and blue ice cream out of a wading-

pool sized tub into cups to be passed out.

Many visitors toured Heritage House, the Junior Woman's Club Art Show and the sidewalk art show in front of Leggett's.

Also of interest were the Brunswick County Extension Homemakers Club art and craft show and the craftsmen's booths set up along the Moore Street sidewalk.

People filled the deck of the USS Fortify, the ocean-going minesweeper tied up at the municipal pier, and climbed aboard the Frying Pan Lightship.

But those perhaps most in the spirit of celebrating America's 200th birthday were the children. They climbed all over the jeeps, trucks and other equipment the Army had parked on the waterfront. They ate cotton candy and drank soda pop.

They were fascinated by the Indian dancers and the magic show. They lost their parents and then found them again.

But although they were very tired and wet, they still thrilled to the fireworks that zoomed up into the sky over the river and exploded to form brilliant, colorful patterns.

Jaycee Boat Ends Festival

A Yaupon Beach woman won the boat given away at the conclusion of the N.C. Fourth of July Festival on Monday night at the waterfront in Southport.

Mrs. Vera Davis, whose name was drawn out of the drum, picked up the boat Tuesday. She is the first local winner in four or five years.

Mrs. Davis' name was drawn by Festival Queen Patty Pawlak and announced publicly by Actor Peter Breck, who assisted at the last official ceremonies to end the festival.

Breck, who plays Nick Barkley on "The Big Valley," which is seen on a Wilmington television station, was a surprise guest at the festival Monday night.

"Breck put a little sunshine in a rain-soaked festival," said Southport Jaycee President Bill Coring.

Coring, who heard that Breck was in town on Monday, invited him to the festival and he accepted "on the spot."

"Joseph O'Neil, who works on the Southport-Fort Fisher ferry, told me Breck came across Monday evening," Coring stated. "I went to his motel and invited him to attend the festival. He could not have been nicer and really appreciated the invitation."

Breck was visiting the North Carolina coast when he happened to be in Southport on Monday. He made the trip because he had three days off from appearing in the drama,

"The Rainmaker," at the Fort Bragg Playhouse in Fayetteville.

Coring took Breck on a tour of Southport on Tuesday morning. The Jaycee president said Breck wanted to attend a performance of "Revolution!" Tuesday night if he did not have to go back to Fayetteville.

After leaving Fayetteville, Breck will appear in the "Old West Pageant" at the Utah

State Festival. The show will be produced by Actor Robert Redford, and President Gerald Ford is expected to attend.

Breck plans to produce his own movie, "Charlie Goodnight," in August. The \$2.5-million movie will be released in December.

Coring said he wanted to "single out" a number of Southport Jaycees for their hard work during the festival

this year. They included Skeeter Trot, John Richards and Billy Blake, float; Ritchie Fullwood, Ben Blake, Lucious Vick and David Johnson, boat tickets; Randy Ellis and John Halls, "all-around run-arounds;" and Bill Ezzell, donkey ball game.

The Southport Jaycees

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Shrimp Boat Sprints Held

Winners in the shrimp boat races held during the N.C. Fourth of July Festival have been announced.

In the 343 V-12 class, "Drag Net," owned by Arthur Thompson of Holden Beach, took first place. "Miss Chanavana," belonging to Nicky Varnum of Holden Beach, won second place, and Leroy Potter's "Robin Lee" took third.

In the V-8 race, first place went to Danny Earman's "Kathy." Competing in a higher class, Danny Galloway of Holden Beach received second second place in "The Scraps."

Other results were first place, Vander McCall of Howell's Point in "H&W II;" and second place, Colon Hickman of Winnabow in "Gemini II." Merritt Moore Seafood supplied the boat used to start the race.

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'76 Tobacco Season Opens

The 1976 marketing season for flue-cured tobacco soon will be underway.

As farmers market their 1976 crop, there are certain precautions they need to observe to assure that their tobacco is properly identified, according to the Brunswick County ASCS office.

"When farmers use their marketing cards correctly, they can save time, trouble and possible payment of penalties," a spokesman noted.

"When the marketing card is issued to the farmer, we suggest that he use the following simple guides to

assure proper handling of his tobacco:"

1. Upon receiving the card examine it carefully to see that it is correct. Check to see that the name, address, farm serial number and quota are correct. (The poundage will be 110 per cent of the 1976 quota adjusted for under-over - marketings in previous years.)

2. Take the card of the warehouse when tobacco is to be weighed in. The card is to be left with the warehouseman until the check is issued to the farmer. Do not leave the card at the

County Complex Work To Begin November 1

By BILL ALLEN
Staff Writer

A November 1 target date for groundbreaking and contract awarding for Phase I construction of the new county courthouse complex outside Bolivia was established during the regular monthly meeting of the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday morning.

The board voted unanimously to approve the county complex schedule, which includes the November

1 date, after it was presented by County Manager Don Flowers, Jr.

The board also voted unanimously to have Chairman Steve Varnam, Jr., sign a "notice to proceed" with LBC&W, architects and engineers on the project. The notice authorizes LBC&W to proceed with the "total project design" and construction documents for Phase I of the complex.

"We are to carry all facilities, including Groups I through VII and the assembly center and visitors center,

through the design development stage, which represents 35-percent completion, and then proceed with full construction documents on Groups I, V, and VI and the site work for Phase I, which includes the major roads and utilities for the complex," John Boudreaux told the board in a letter.

Boudreaux said he wanted to assure the commissioners that "the design will receive our priority attention and dedication."

The board voted

unanimously to pay Surveyor Patrick Allen a total of \$7,958 for making the topographical survey required at the complex.

Chairman Varnam said that County Planner Johnny Sutton had approved Allen's survey document upon the conditions that "minor changes" are made.

Allen's bill for the work included \$7,148 for "total field time" and \$810 for "mapping and related office work."

Flowers told the board that he and LBC&W officials worked out the complex

schedule of work. "It is a tight schedule with a lot of work to be done," he pointed out.

Under the schedule, LBC&W officials will be in Southport on Monday and Tuesday to discuss construction needs with department heads included in Phase I work.

The firm will present the design development drawings for each office to the board for approval on August 9.

The bid package will be received by the county on September 21. After ad-

vertising for 30 days, the bids will be opened on October 21. The board will break ground and award contracts on November 1, which is one day before the November general election.

In other business, the board voted unanimously to re-appoint Homer McKeithan to serve another one-year term as county tax collector. It will be the tenth year he has held the post.

McKeithan presented the board with the "Settlement Report of Collections for 1975-76," which showed that tax

collections reached only 95.80 percent last year.

McKeithan told the board he was "unhappy" with the percentage, which includes \$218,558.24 in uncollected 1975 taxes. "Overall we did pretty good, everything considered, but it was not what we wished for this year," he stated.

Usually, McKeithan said, the department collects about 98 percent of the taxes and has no more than \$40,000 to \$50,000 outstanding to collect at the end of the year.

He said one of the major reasons the collection per-

centage was down this year was because the department received \$67,984.47 in "discovery taxes" to collect on May 28.

McKeithan said his department had accounted for \$4,983,462.09 of the \$5,202,020.33 in the 1975 levy.

The board voted unanimously to change the package and re-advertise for radio equipment because of high prices.

County Purchasing Director David Swain and Civil Preparedness Director

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