



WORK IS PROGRESSING, but slowly, on a playground for children at Southport Primary School because volunteer labor has been in short supply. But two faithful workers, Faith Birkhead and Bob Phillips, were on hand Saturday morning to lend their help to the project. Ms. Birkhead said anyone interested in helping should be at the site behind the primary school Saturday morning at 10 o'clock.

Some For, Some Against City Annexation Scheme

By ED HARPER

There was a variety of opinion expressed during a Monday night public hearing about Southport annexation, but the most forceful was from Pfizer, Inc., which said it would oppose the city plan "to the full extent available." Plant Manager Stanley Ensminger said that if Southport attempts to annex Pfizer, corporation lawyers "will file the necessary petitions in court to set it aside."

While Pfizer's objection was the most strongly worded, most other individuals and businesses outside the city limits made it clear they did not want to be a part of Southport property. The exceptions were Wilson's Supermarket and Waccamaw Bank, Sawdust Trail businesses that indicated they would benefit from annexation.

Several residents from inside the present city limits favored expansion of Southport boundaries, but not all supported the annexation of the CP&L and Pfizer plants. Mayor Eugene B. Tomlinson, Jr., who

moderated the public hearing, told the packed Aldermen meeting room audience and others in the hallway that annexation has been considered by city administrations since 1968. He said a committee was appointed in early 1975 and their work "has not been kept a secret." The committee gave its report in October, recommending the annexation of about 4,000 acres of land that would include the two plants, values of which

total approximately \$600,000,000.

"At this state, all the Board of Aldermen has done is call a public hearing," said Mayor Tomlinson, explaining that the city could annex less area than proposed, but not more. He said a decision would be made in early January and he was sure board members would display "a high degree of personal integrity" in the matter. "This is not a public debate

session," the mayor said of the hearing. "It is for input, and input only."

Tomlinson was the first to speak, outlining cost benefits to residents who would be annexed. A resident with \$25,000 property and \$20,000 insurance coverage on that property would pay \$293.80 outside town for the same services that would cost \$259.40 inside the city limits, even if the tax rate stayed at its present 50-cent level. Businesses would benefit

from lower insurance rates, the mayor noted.

Ensminger, who pointed out that the Pfizer plant was located "near Southport," said the property contains 1,300 acres but only 134 is used for industrial purposes. He said "the courts have held" that land must be used

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Youth Bitten By Rabid Bat

A confirmed case of rabies has been reported at Southport Primary School.

Col Marion Burn, the principal, told The Pilot that a five-year-old youngster was playing near a wooded area and was "scratched all over his arm" by a bat. Other children killed the bat, and the injured boy was taken to the emergency room of Doshier Memorial Hospital.

Burn said the bat was sent to the Brunswick County Dog Pound, and from there to Raleigh for examination. Monday, the results were returned and indicated rabies. The child must undergo a 14-shot treatment to combat the effect of the disease.

Burn said he has been unable to determine exactly how the child was bitten, but said the bat apparently was on the ground and was easily approached.

The principal said animals carrying rabies act "just like a man when he's drunk" — doing things it would not ordinarily do.

Burn said employees of the county animal control section are at the school and will remain for ten days to inspect the area.

Long Beach System Receives State Okay

The proposed Long Beach water system has been approved by the state.

Chief L.P. Benton, Jr., of the Water Quality Section of the Department of Natural and Economic Resources made the announcement in a letter sent to Long Beach Town Manager John Berry.

Benton said he could provide the required "certification of compliance since the Quarter Quality Section has been provided with adequate assurance that the proposed project will not result in the addition of significant quantities of pollution to the surface waters of the area.

"The Water Quality Section, therefore, certifies to any appropriate federal agency that the project will not result in the

discharge of pollution to the surface waters of the state in such quantities as to violate water quality standards provided that the ordinance, entitled 'An Ordinance to Establish Preventive Measures of the Pollution of Surface Waters by Septic Tank Systems in the Town of Long Beach,' remains in full force and effect and so long as the town continues to pursue the construction of wastewater collection and disposal facilities through the 201 or other planning processes," Benton stated.

The Long Beach Board of Commissioners was expected to discuss the next step to construct the water system, which was approved by voters last summer, during the regular monthly meeting Wed-

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Stephenson Tells Chamber

Cooperation By Groups Would Increase Tourism

A working relationship between the Southport-Oak Island and Western Brunswick County areas was the keynote of an address Tuesday night to the Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce.

Jackie Stephenson, executive director of the Resources Development Commission for Brunswick County, noted that "competition is great, but cooperation is better."

Stephenson, guest speaker at the Southport-Oak Island chamber's first annual dinner meeting, urged that the chambers "investigate the possibility of periodic joint meetings" of the two groups. Tony McGowan, executive director of the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce, was a special guest at the Tuesday night meeting, held at the Harbour House Restaurant in Long Beach.

Morris Ferrell, a Long Beach realtor, was recognized as new president, replacing John Barbee, who

served in the chamber's first year of operation. Named to the board of directors were James Broadway, Inez Shannon and Troy Davis from Oak Island; and Ben

Blake and Mike Page from Southport.

Stephenson, in his speech to approximately 50 persons at the dinner, said he is pleased thus far with cooperation

between the two chambers. One major project is recommending use for \$10,000 in advertising money (\$5,000 from the state in the form of a grant, \$5,000 in local matching funds paid by the county Resources Development Commission).

The RDC director said billboards are favored, probably along US 17 to attract the north-south traffic.

The two greatest "needs" of the area to attract tourists, Stephenson said, are a major clean-up effort involving roadside debris, junkyards and unattractive billboards or signs; and a major improvement in accommodations, including restaurants.

He outlined development of Brunswick County tourism into a \$7.5 million a year business, but said he was disappointed that the county only spent \$5,000 last year in advertising.

"We should have spent \$50,000," he said, even as much as one percent, which would have been \$75,000.

In his speech, Stephenson said travel has remained basically the same through history, the major change being "mobility" of the traveler. He said travel had always been "accepted rather nonchalantly," and only in recent years has it been looked on as a business.

He said North Carolina shows a net gain in tourism (more coming to the state than leaving), but there is net loss in business and convention trade because these tourists are attracted

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'Miss Brunswick County' Pageant Slated Feb. 5

The Miss Brunswick County Pageant, sponsored by the Shallotte Jaycees, will be held February 5 in the auditorium of Shallotte Middle School.

An added attraction this year will be a "Little Miss" pageant for young ladies 6, 7 and 8 years of age. For further information concerning this feature of the program, parents should contact Pageant Chairman Malcolm Long at 287-6360, Shallotte.

Applications now are being received, and this week Chairman Long has visited the high schools of Brunswick County to issue an invitation for eligible girls to enter this year's event.

Entrants must comply with the following regulations of eligibility:

Each entrant must be single and never married, divorced or had a marriage annulled. The entrant must be a high school graduate by September 1, 1977. The entrant's age on September 1 shall not be less than 18 nor more than 28 years.

The entrant must be of good character and possess poise, personality, intelligence, charm and beauty of face and figure. The entrant must perform a three-minute talent routine. This talent may be singing, dancing, playing a musical instrument, dramatic reading, art display, dress designing, etc., or she may give a three-minute talk on the career she wishes to pursue.

Power Off

Electric power to the City of Southport will be off Sunday from 6:30 a.m. until approximately 9 a.m.

"This interruption is necessary due to maintenance required at the CP&L and city sub-station," a notice from City Manager Alvin Kornegay, Jr., read.

Court Will Decide If Appeal 'Timely Made'

By ED HARPER

Brunswick County and other defendants will ask the court to dismiss the appeal of Judge Henry McKinnon's decision in the Smithville Township hospital tax lawsuit.

The defendants claim that time expired before notice of appeal was filed, but one man in apparent disagreement is Judge McKinnon himself, who signed a statement on the bottom of the appeal that it was "timely made."

James R. Prevatte, Jr., since replaced as county attorney but retained to defend this lawsuit, said the plaintiffs' appeal was not filed according to the requirements of Rule 3 of the North Carolina Rules of Appellate Procedure. He said Judge McKinnon entered judgment on November 24 and since the plaintiffs did not give an oral notice of appeal they had only ten days to file an appeal with the Clerk of Superior Court of Brunswick County.

The time expired at 5 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 6, Prevatte said.

According to the motion to dismiss the appeal filed

Thursday by Prevatte, arguments by the plaintiffs and defendants were heard November 22, and Judge

McKinnon announced he would render a decision on Wednesday, Nov. 24. On November 24 in open

court, Judge McKinnon granted the defendants' (Brunswick County) and the intervenor defendants' (Doshier trustees, the City of Southport and individuals) motion for summary judgment and denied all the plaintiffs' claims for relief.

Pursuant to Rule 58 of the North Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure, Prevatte said, Judge McKinnon directed the defense attorney to prepare the judgement for submission to him for approval of its form. "Pursuant to Rule 58 of the North Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure, entry of judgement took place on November 24, 1976, in open court, ... plaintiffs did not give oral notice of appeal as allowed by Rule 3(a)(1) of the North Carolina Rules of Appellate Procedure."

According to Prevatte's motion, "as plaintiffs did not give oral notice of appeal at trial as allowed by Rule 3(a)(1), plaintiffs, according to Rule 3(a)(2) of the North Carolina Rules of Appellate Procedure, then only had ten days from the entry of judgement on November 24, 1976, to file an appeal herein

Bank Robber Is At-Large

Sheriff Strong called The Pilot just before presstime and identified the suspect as Curt Galloway of Southport. Positive identification has been made, he said, and officers are searching for Galloway and an un-named accomplice.

Law enforcement officers are busy following leads after a 9:40 a.m. Tuesday robbery of the Waccamaw Bank office in Bolivia.

Sheriff Herman Strong said officers are searching for a black male with light complexion, about 26 years of age, six-foot, four-inches tall

and weighing 200 pounds. The suspect was wearing a denim material jacket designed in squares, green fatigue-type trousers and dirty, gold-colored basketball shoes.

"He's an athlete," Strong said after describing how the suspect leaped over the tellers' counter, and the lengthy strides he took while fleeing the scene.

The suspect was carrying an automatic pistol in the hold-up, the sheriff noted.

Strong said law officers reviewed films of the masked robber Tuesday afternoon during a staff conference in Southport, then left to trace

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