

OPINION

Foundation for the future

The *Pilot* supports countywide zoning as an intelligent and necessary means of assuring that county growth is also county progress. Far too long have we grown in haphazard and hodgepodge fashion, and zoning is an appropriate method of assuring that we grow with a plan as well as a purpose. We applaud the county board of commissioners and their instinct for constructive legislation, and hope that a good zoning ordinance is adopted by the time the board membership rolls over. It would be a fine legacy, to leave the county on solid footing as it moves into the future.

Solid footing is, of course, the question as the days when the board can act dwindle down to a precious few, and we hope that the measure they approve will be the solid one they take to public hearing next week.

The board can anticipate assaults in Tuesday's hearing (7 p.m., public assembly building, county government center) on grounds that zoning is meddling with individual property rights. And they can expect private entreaties yet for altering the measure to suit private needs.

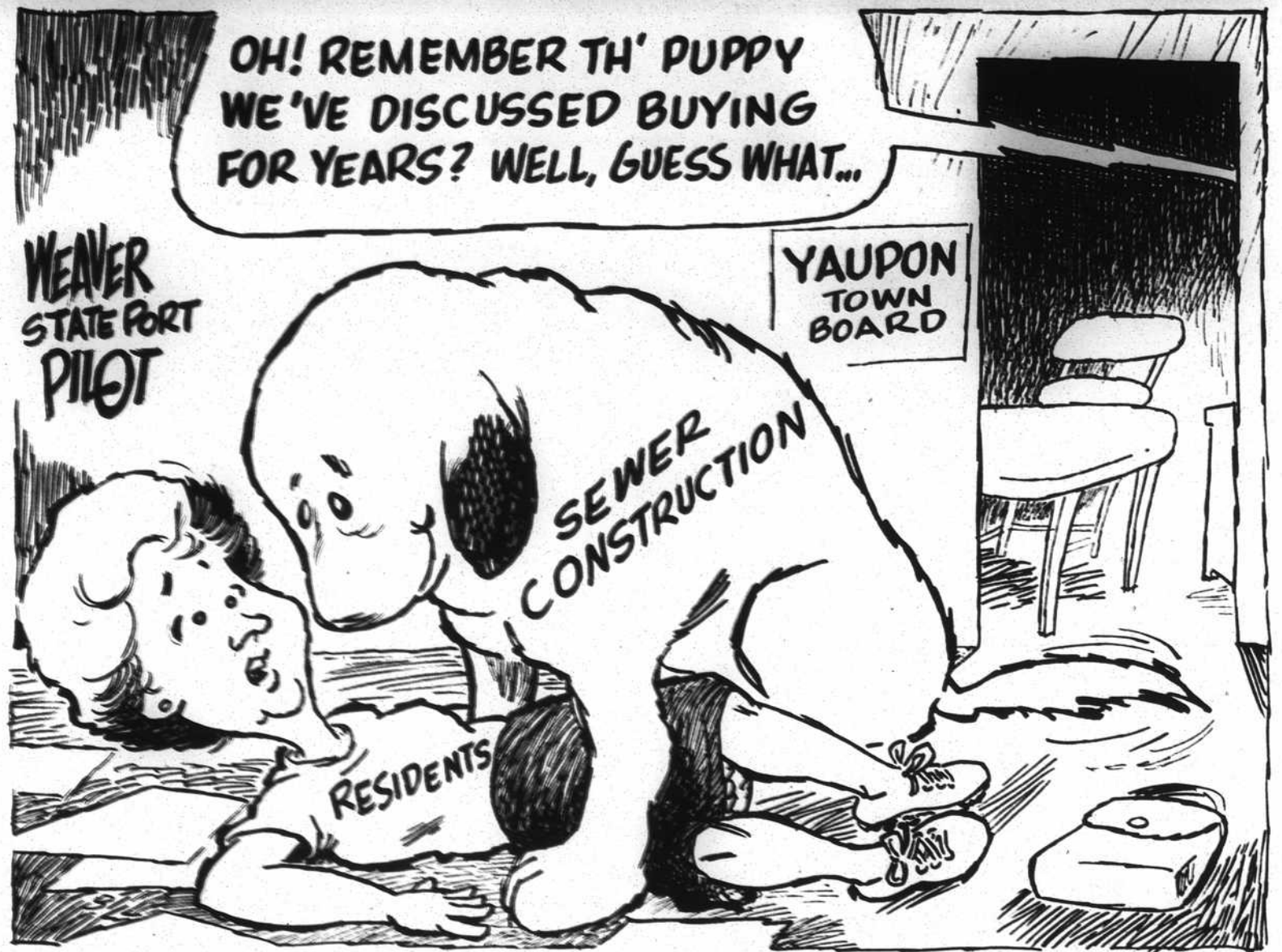
What the board does not expect, and what we'd like to encourage, is a good turnout of people who are neither frightened nor threatened by the measure but who have legitimate interest in passage of a strong ordinance that has been thoroughly examined and proven strong. This includes not only individuals but representatives of business, government and special groups and organizations whose operations will be influenced by what the county board decides.

Because what the board does do will stretch to the county limit, and further into the future than any of us can see.

Questions can be raised about certain shortfalls and thin spots in the plan. In a county where we are naturally blessed the ordinance proposes no special zoning for conservation, no special protection of environmentally sensitive areas. It also anticipates most of the county being in a "rural" district, which may prove to be so loosely defined as to provide no controls at all.

On the other hand the measure is blessedly uncomplicated; it seeks to reflect existing development, living and working patterns; it provides for orderly placement of things people don't want anywhere, but we all must have; and it will hopefully prevent overwhelming concentration of population and industrial development -- or to put it more positively, arrange for their healthy distribution.

In this issue of the *Pilot* we have included a county zoning map, along with explanations and suggestions where citizens might go for help in understanding the zoning matter fully. We hope this will lead to a full turnout at the hearing next Tuesday, of both opponents and proponents, so that the board will go into final deliberation fully advised and empowered by how their constituents feel, and how they think.



Not exactly news

Great expectations

We keep hearing criticism of the public schools of Brunswick County, particularly when they come up short in tabulations and tests which place us in competition with educational institutions in other sections of North Carolina and the nation. Usually we do not fare so well.

But every year graduates from our three consolidated high schools enter colleges and universities and manage to stay in school and make good grades. Some of them develop skills and achievements that are outstanding.

Bernard Flythe is an example of what we are talking about. At South Brunswick he was a member of the band and became an outstanding tuba player. After winning awards on the district and state level he was chosen as a member of the McDonald's All-American High School Band. He spent a year as a member of this elite musical organization and continued his college education during the school term, always with focus on development of his skills as a musician.

Last week he accepted a position as a member of the North Carolina Symphony, a goal which he had set several years before. He will be one of the youngest members of this prestigious musical organization, and it will involve some measure of sacrifice.

He will have to drop out of school, where he is a member of the senior class at UNC-Greensboro. But the good news is that he lacks only 19 hours to earn his degree, and he has another long-range goal: To earn enough credit hours to graduate.

He will achieve that milestone, and will do his family, school and community proud.

David Clegg, Brunswick's county manager and county attorney, is a qualified beauty pageant judge. When he returned home earlier this year from Florida, where he had been one of the officials at the state pageant, he told Ted Holth, "I have just helped judge the girl who will be the next Miss America." Saturday night his prediction came true. Miss Florida, Leanza Cornett, won that title... Spider lilies, which grow in great beauty and profusion in Southport, just now are making their fall appearance.

The flag at Fort Johnston was flying at half-mast last Wednesday when the U. S. Army declared a day of mourning for retired Gen. William DuPoy... The flag at Waterfront Park was flying at half-lantern last weekend because of storm damage sustained last week.

If you are a Braves baseball fan and plan to watch them on TV this week, you will have to stay up late to do it. They are on a West Coast tour and games will start at 10:30 EDT... Two Southport couples have returned from a ten-day trip to Hawaii, where they managed to stay just out of the path of Hurricane Iniki. They are Bobby Lynn and

Diane McKeithan and Lee and Sharon Aldridge. They were in Honolulu where high winds and flood waters caused considerable damage, but from there they went to Maui, which escaped the brunt of the storm. Kauai was Iniki's prime target, where it caused damages estimated at more than a billion dollars.

Congratulations to Bald Head Island developers on their new billboards featuring a picture of their impressive big ferry, the *Sans Souci*. The ones we saw for the first time last week were in I-40 and U.S. 17 and they project a first-class image of this Brunswick County resort... The thought occurs to us that what once was our best-kept secret has been discovered by an increasing number of visitors during the past few years.

There is an attractive photo of Roberta Doshier in the current issue of *Encore*, a regional magazine published in Wilmington. It shows the Southport resident displaying a fish caught during last year's Wrightsville Beach King Mackerel Tournament... The next big special event here in Southport will be the U. S. Open King Mackerel Tournament October 1-4.

The Heritage Festival observed here during the past weekend was another highlight in the celebration of the 200th anniversary of Smithville/Southport. Moving indoors to the Community Building to escape the threat of rain on Saturday turned out to be a good idea, and on Sunday the sun came out to provide a beautiful setting for outdoor activities connected with the burial of a time capsule in front of City Hall... There's little likelihood that anyone present for Sunday's ceremony will be here for the reopening of the capsule in the year 2092, but we surely would like to see the reaction of members of that crowd when they see some of the things they will dig up.

We are pleased to note progress on the DOT project to widen Highway 133 between Southport and Wilmington, a route which carries heavy traffic each day as CP&L and ADM employees travel back and forth to work... Seems to us we never before saw such a proliferation of political signs as are strung along the highways and byways of Brunswick County hoping to stir interest in the November 3 General Election.

Public opinion

Fond memory

To the Editor:
This letter is late but the thoughts are still with me.

It has been a year since I left the Southport-Oak Island area. I was stationed at Sunny Point for nine months with the 1205th TRSU of Middletown, Conn., during the Persian Gulf crisis. I would like to take this opportunity to look back at some of the pleasant memories I have of people and places.

To the VFW and American Legion posts of Oak Island and Boiling Spring Lakes for opening their doors to us and making us feel welcome. To all the local businesses that made the effort to extend themselves above and beyond what was required.

I would like to thank the churches of the area for the baked goods that were given to us at the N. C. Baptist Assembly when we first arrived. Also to the local schools -- Southport Elementary for the Valentines, and the middle school for asking us to help as proctors and coaches during their field day activities. I would also like to thank Brunswick Community College for its help to unit members in studying for their GEDs. I thank the people of Southport for including us in the

dinner during the 1991 N. C. Fourth of July celebration. Thanks to *The State Port Pilot* for complimentary copies of the newspaper.

I have been back to the area twice since September, 1991, and the people have been as nice both times. I have to say the term "southern hospitality" really means something special. I know others in the unit feel the same.

I am sure I have left someone out in my thanks, and for this I am sorry. Again, thanks for the memories you, the people and your towns, provided for me during a trying time.

James R. Brandt
Middletown, Conn.

CP&L hurrah

To the Editor:
I have read a number of articles critical of Carolina Power and Light

Co. recently, especially as it relates to the Brunswick Nuclear Plant and the problems which have arisen as an outgrowth of construction.

I am not familiar with any of the details and hope that these deficiencies can be promptly handled and the improvements made in order that the plant can be restored to service.

I would offer a different voice. In recent weeks there was a power failure in the downtown area. It was a very hot day, and I expect it was occasioned by the abnormally high load that the switches and transformers were subjected to.

In this crisis, our own business operation was brought to a standstill. I was suddenly reminded of our almost complete reliance on CP&L for their vital service. I soon saw their crews out checking the lines and transformers with their cherry-pickers. Power was swiftly restored and we relaxed and took it

for granted that our power needs would be there when needed.

This experience reminded me again how the men and women who drive the blue, green and white trucks come to our assistance at all hours of the day and night, through rain and storm, and keep the region operating.

Carolina Power and Light Co. is a good corporate citizen and helps our community, not only with its financial support of worthy causes, but also through the vital personal leadership of its staff.

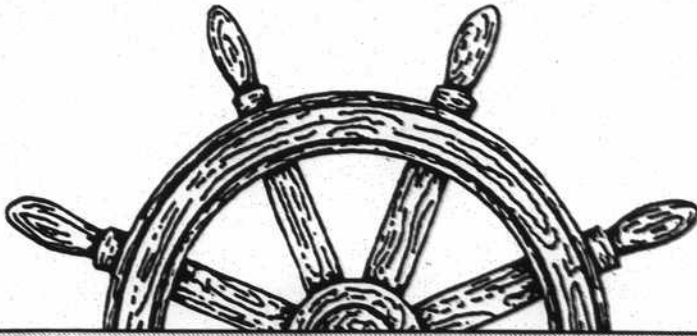
Sincerely,
Leslie N. Boney, Jr.
Wilmington

Island library

To the Editor:
The architects have been hired, and the building committee is in place. What a proud day for Oak Island and Brunswick County! Soon the old building will come down and, if not before next year then at the beginning of 1993, construction will begin on the library.

A library on Oak Island has been made possible, in part, by Baxter Stirling and United Carolina Bank through the gift of property. The people of Oak Island through the

See Opinion, next page



The State Port Pilot

USPS 520-280

Published Every Wednesday

James M. Harper, Jr. Publisher
Ed Harper Editor
Diane McKeithan Business Manager
Marybeth Bianchi Feature Editor
Holly Edwards County Editor
Amitabh Pal Municipal Editor
Debora McKellar Graphic Artist
Kim Adams Advertising Sales
Cindy Leverette Advertising Sales
Sue Parker Classified Advertising

Subscription rates (including postage):
\$10.80 a year in Brunswick County
\$16.40 elsewhere in North Carolina
\$19.00 outside of North Carolina

105 South Howe Street, Southport, N.C. 28461-3817
Second class postage paid at Southport & additional mailing offices.
Postmaster: Send address changes to:
P.O. Box 10548, Southport, N.C. 28461-0548
Phone: 457-4568/Fax #: 4579427