

Time and tide

50 years ago

Fifty years ago this week a Wilmington taxi driver was fatally burned in a mysterious explosion at The Pines near Leland. The blaze apparently was caused by a faulty gas jet. His female companion remained in serious condition at the local hospital.

Charles Newton, a Southport man, escaped death when he survived the crash of a bus in which 11 other lives were lost near Lumberton. The guns of Fort Fisher that were never surrendered had been given to the United States government; 5,917 surgical bandages were made by 76 Southport women putting in a total of 594 work-hours during the month of September.

40 years ago

Forty years ago this week bids for dredging at Sunny Point were scheduled to be accepted. The project depth was 35 feet and involved the moving of 18 million cubic yards of sand, mud and marl.

Fishermen were happy about the fine catches brought in here during the preceding week. Good weather prevailed and seemed to have an effect on the fishing. Several boats reported 150 bluefish, while almost every member of the fishing fleet had in excess of 100. Also caught was a 7'6" sailfish.

The Etheridge family of Hickman's Crossroads had been rudely awakened as a speeding automobile plunged into the side of their house, causing considerable damage. Jack Brown had been appointed county tax collector, and the swingbridge to be located at Holden Beach was being constructed on a dry strip of land near the waterway and was to be permanently installed after completion.

30 years ago

Thirty years ago this week Harry L. Mintz, Jr., had been re-elected president of Atlantic Telephone Membership Corporation at a meeting of members held in the Shallotte High School auditorium. This was reported in the issue for October 3, 1962. The public hearing on the Southport-Fort Fisher ferry held in Raleigh the previous week had run into more stalling tactics by the State Highway Commission.

Fall fishing had moved into high gear, with catches ranging all the way from sailfish to king mackerel; plans were being made to organize a Jaycees chapter at Leland; and large-scale military maneuvers were in progress on Bald Head Island.

25 years ago

An aerial photo on the front page of the *Pilot* 25 years ago showed a dredge "enlarging Battery Island" as it pumped material from the Cape Fear River, deepening the channel to 40 feet. Another photo showed oyster shells being loaded on a barge for planting in oyster management areas in Brunswick County.

A lemon tree owned by W. F. Ferrell of Long Beach had borne fruit; a contract had been awarded for construction of a new post office in Shallotte; and the president of the company that developed Boiling Spring Lakes took his pen in hand to answer an editorial in *The Charlotte Observer* that criticized the large allocation of Powell Bill funds to the Brunswick County community.

20 years ago

Front-page stories in the *Pilot* for October 4, 1972, reported that Jim Gardner had come to Long Beach to speak to a gathering of Brunswick County Republicans, urging them to work hard for Jim Holsouser, his erstwhile opponent for nomination to that office. Herman Strong had been named chief of police of Southport for the third time; a huge ice-making facility had opened on Beach Road; and it appeared that 13,000 Brunswick County persons would be eligible to vote in the forthcoming general election.

The editor wrote a piece explaining why the *Pilot* had increased its newsstand price from five cents to ten cents per copy; he also wondered why the Democrats had not made political capital of a break-in of their Washington, D. C., headquarters by thieves who had connections with the GOP high command.

15 years ago

Mosquito Precinct was removed from Smithville Township and added to Lockwood Folly Township by action of the board of commissioners on the Monday before our edition for October 5, 1977. Enrollment at Brunswick County public schools for the first ten days had averaged 7,847 students, compared to 7,906 the previous year.

The temperature had dropped into the low 40s on the day before publication; headlines in red ink heralded the victory of South Brunswick over West Brunswick in a 34-31 football thriller; and we had a full page devoted to recognition of 4-H activities in Brunswick County during the past year.

10 years ago

The fourth annual U. S. Open King Mackerel Tournament was underway when our October 6, 1982, edition hit the street. Top prize for the \$50,000 tournament that year was a fully equipped sportfishing boat and organizers were hoping, then as now, for a 500-boat field.

Sen. R. C. Soles was pictured on the front page of the *Pilot* that week enjoying an oyster at the annual Dixon Chapel oyster roast, and South Brunswick Middle School PTO president Baxter Stirling was pictured presiding at an open house. And in yet another photo, Doshier Memorial Hospital board chairman Gene Hart, Dr. Robert Zukoski, Dr. James Adams and administrator Marshall Nero were engaged in ribbon-cutting ceremonies at physician offices recently opened in the old hospital wing.

5 years ago

The primary for the Long Beach municipal election was scheduled for Tuesday following our edition for September 30, 1987, and the *Pilot* that week was filled with news accounts and political advertising pertaining to that event. Groundbreaking ceremonies for the Indigo Marina had been held the previous weekend and we had a photo of that occasion.

The ninth U. S. Open King Mackerel Tournament was to begin the next day and all was in readiness for this event; "Buddy", a dog specially trained to sniff-out hidden drugs, had been added to the law enforcement staff for Brunswick County; and a total of 80 boys and girls had competed in the annual Capt. Charlie's Fishing Tournament.

Hites

Continued from page 1
as an offer of this type doesn't come along very often," Hites said. "So I did."

Hites has been city manager here for two-and-a-half years. He submitted his resignation to the board of aldermen on Friday.

"I have always felt that if there is an opportunity for career advancement then one should accept the challenge," mayor Norman Holden said Tuesday. "I certainly wish him success."

"I always enjoyed working with Rob and thought him to be a thorough professional," Holden added. "The fact that Southport was chosen a top-ten all-American city was largely due to Rob Hites."

Holden said he has asked Hites to file notices in newspapers and publications indicating that Southport is looking for a city manager. He said he does not know how long the process will take, and said that once a list of candidates is compiled the board of aldermen will begin deliberations on a replacement for Hites.

The mayor said the board of aldermen will name a member of the city staff as acting city manager on October 8.

"We will go forward from there," Holden said.

U.S. Open

Continued from page 1

Open looks like this:

THURSDAY

Registration open from 10 a.m. to midnight at Southport Marina.

Captains meetings at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Entertainment by Diversion, a top-40 band, from 4 to 8 p.m.

Food will include hotdogs and soft drinks sold by the Elks.

FRIDAY

Checkout begins at Caswell, Masonboro and Lockwood Folly at 7 a.m. (Checkout after 9 a.m. from Southport Marina tournament headquarters.)

Competition ends at 5 p.m.

In-line for weigh-in by 5:30 p.m.

SATURDAY

Same schedule as Friday

SUNDAY

Fish fry by Shriners begins at noon.

Entertainment by disc jockey Tommy Robbins begins at noon.

Awards ceremony begins at 1 p.m.

Chairman of this year's U. S. Open is Marty Folding. Weighmaster is again Wayne Berry.

Junked cars

The Long Beach Rescue Squad has asked for donation of junk cars from the public. The cars will be used for vehicle extrication classes which are to begin the first week of November.

Those interested in donating vehicles should contact rescue squad chief Donna Sharpe through the Long Beach Police Department, 278-6190.



Work was underway this week on the drainage projects on West 8th Street and at the corner of Lord and West 9th streets. The work is expected to be completed within 60 days.

West-side drainage projects are underway after long wait

By Amitabh Pal
Municipal Editor

A long-awaited drainage project is underway in northwest Southport to lessen the chances of rainwater flooding in the area.

The project involves setting up two drainage systems, one on Lord and West 9th streets and one on West 8th Street. The main contractor for the project is McLamb and Son.

"This is a pretty big project for Southport although we have had bigger projects in the past," said Ed Honeycutt, Southport public services director.

A major part of the construction involves the building of drain inlets. The project also includes the digging of a wide, shallow ditch on the corner of West 8th Street and Clarendon Avenue which will serve as a basin to let the water settle as much as possible in case of a storm.

Nine drain inlets are being constructed on West 8th Street to connect to Clarendon Avenue and four inlets are being constructed on 9th and Lord streets, which

will connect to Burrington Street. Fifteen-inch reinforced concrete pipes are being used as connectors. The shoulders of the streets are being regraded to channel the water.

The project is budgeted at \$92,000, of which \$75,000 has come from the city. The rest is from a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), a state-sponsored, matching fund program to rehabilitate low-income neighborhoods.

The drainage project was not started earlier because the city applied for the CDBG grant over the past three years but failed to get it the first two years. "We have recognized the problem for a long time," said Honeycutt.

The project has meant some discomfort for neighborhood residents.

"We have had to shut off the water supply a few times, but we haven't received any complaints from the residents so far," said Honeycutt.

"The contract time is 60 days but I imagine they'll finish before that," Honeycutt said. "Right now everybody is busy relocating water and sewer pipes."

Monday last day for voter registration

The last day to register to vote in the November 3 general election will be Monday, October 5, said supervisor of elections Linda Britt. Absentee ballot applications will be accepted through October 27, she added, and the last day for one-stop absentee ballot applications is October 31.

To be eligible to vote in Brunswick County, Britt said, a person must turn 18 on or before election day, must have lived in the county for 30 days by November 3, and must have never been convicted of a felony.

Eligible persons may register to vote at the board of elections

office in the county government center Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Persons may also register to vote at the N. C. Department of Motor Vehicles, county libraries or with a local precinct official or special registration commissioner.

In the Southport-Oak Island area the following precinct officials with authority to accept voter registration applications are available:

- Southport I -- Glenda Caylor, Stephanie King, Gerald Derr.
- Southport II -- Ellen Dorsett, Harriet Davis, Irene Hankins.
- Oak Island I -- Claire Rees, Lyman Clark, Carlton Sligh.
- Oak Island II -- Helen Buchman, Louis Erway, Dave Werner.

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GOP meeting

A Republican meeting and cookout will be held Saturday, October 3, at 6 p.m. at Middleton Park in Long Beach.

Guest speaker will be Robert Anderson, a candidate for Congress from the 7th District.

