

Clegg

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board's decision, and called county government a "personal commitment" for him. During the past few weeks, he said the public has given him an "outpouring" of support -- calling him on the phone, yelling out to him during the Oak Island Christmas-by-the-Sea parade, shaking his hand at the gas station.

"I have had phone call after phone call after phone call from both Democrats and Republicans," Clegg said. "The show of support has been so humbling. It's a good feeling to know there are good, decent people who care about having a stable, accountable and functional government in Brunswick County."

At a Democratic party meeting held last Thursday night, Stanley urged the new Democratic commissioners to ask for Clegg's resignation immediately. Stanley said he had no personal vendetta against Clegg, but that the people of Brunswick County had voted for change. And in order to bring about change, he added, not only Clegg but all county department heads should be replaced.

"It would be stupid for the new commissioners to go in and make such a radical change," Stanley admitted. "But, they can start at the top. They can let the people know they are the group that will make a change in Brunswick County. You cannot change anything and keep the status quo."

In other business Monday, the board agreed to defer a vote on the proposed leash ordinance until its December 21 meeting.

Baxter

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ship with the administration."

Baxter said she did not campaign for the position and was not certain she'd get the job, although there was some indication she would.

"In politics you don't ever count on it until it happens," she said. "I had hoped in my heart it would go that way."

Nominations for chairman and vice-chairman were made by the two newest members on the board of education, Thurman Gause and Bill Fairley, and the vote was unanimous on both counts. Yvonne Bright was re-elected vice-chairman. If the vote for chairman had been split, Baxter said she would have withdrawn her name from consideration.

"My dreams and hopes for this board are to move forward. As a team we can do this. Put aside politics. The main reason we ran ... is for the children. Whatever we can do to work together, that is what I'm for," Baxter had said earlier in the meeting.

Her agenda for the next year includes completing the policy update, reviewing salaries for the secretarial staff, monitoring the new end-of-course testing, and strengthening staff development, site-based management and the effective schools process.

As he vacated his seat on the board, Bob Slockett said he's seen a lot of progress during his four-year term but he's concerned there's no one on the school board or administrative staff with a science background. He also expressed concern about the influence of politics in education.

"Politics pollutes the educational process in Brunswick County. I resent and despise that," Slockett said. If the county hopes to rise above mediocrity, he said, "We must make decisions to benefit children."

Slockett did not seek re-election to the school board. He was an unsuccessful candidate for the county board of commissioners from District 3.

There is a base on which to build a school system of excellence, the superintendent Ralph Johnston said.

"I believe Brunswick County has a board of education (where) the focus is children first, and nothing less than equity and excellence in education."

The next meeting of the board of education will be at 6:30 p.m. Monday, December 14, at Lincoln Primary School.

Manager

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leave Southport soon.

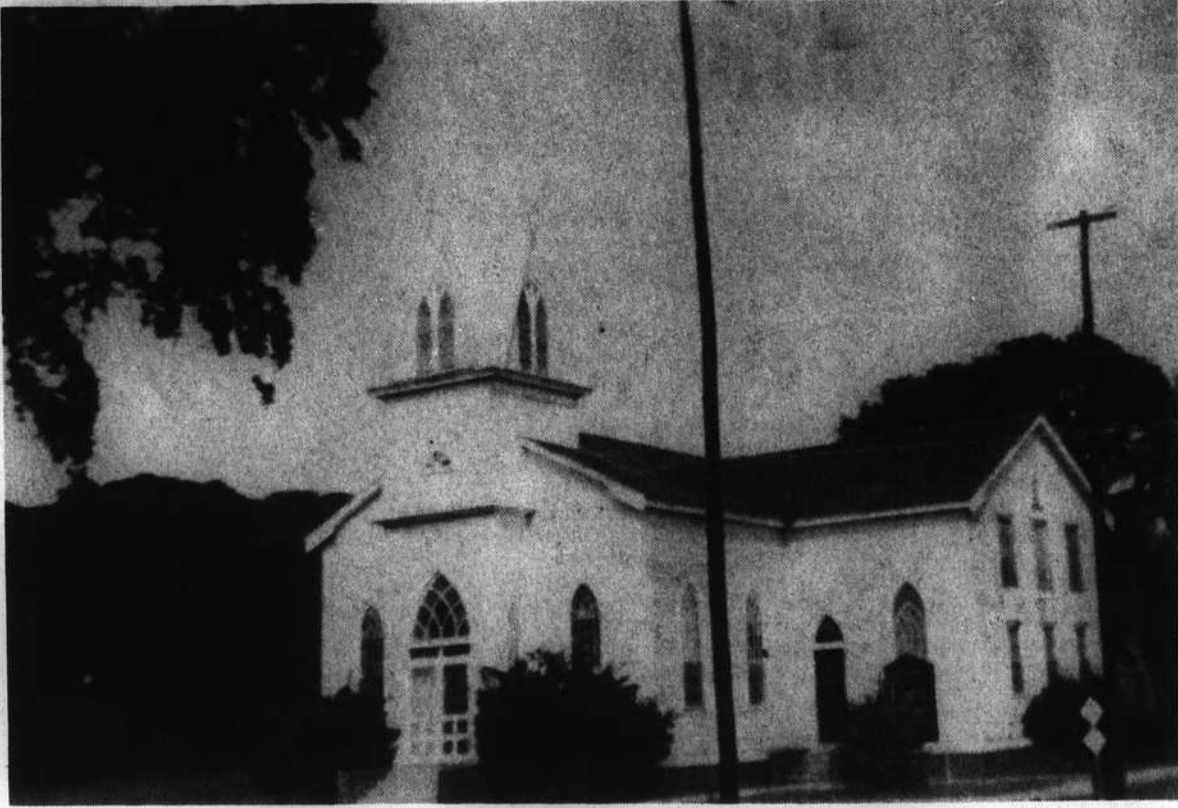
"I want somebody who can establish roots here," Delaney said.

Delaney cited the example of the previous city manager, Rob Hites, saying that Southport was just a "stepping stone for him." He said that if Hites had a family and children in the school system then he wouldn't have been so hasty about finding another job.

"The continuity is important," Delaney said. "I don't think a good job can be done in a year or two."

Delaney said there are professional considerations as well.

"We need somebody with experience in running municipal govern-



THE WAY IT WAS

Several significant changes have taken place at Southport Baptist Church since this photo was taken in the mid-1930s. The sanctuary was brick veneered and the Sunday school area was enlarged. The steeple was removed and a belfry was erected in the side yard. And the most dramatic change was when the new sanctuary was erected. All of these changes took place at the same location.

ment," he said. "The legalities of running a town are so complex that otherwise we can get into trouble fast."

Holden, who has worked with three city managers and two acting managers, said his experience with all has been very satisfying.

"All three managers were professionals and contributed to the growth of the city," he said.

Gore said he had been satisfied with Nelson Smith, the city manager before Hites, and had been "very satisfied" with Hites whom, he said, will be "hard to replace."

Brown, Adams and Childs also expressed their satisfaction with the last two city managers.

Delaney said he had been satisfied with Hites, but not with Smith, although he had worked only with Hites as an alderman.

Crowe said he was "sorry to see Hites leave" although he couldn't blame him because of the higher salary he was offered by the City of Lumberton.

None of the board members this week saw anything of overriding importance that required immediate attention of a new city manager.

"We've got problems with increasing electrical rates," Holden said. "We have to continue the downtown rehabilitation that we have started."

Gore said the boardwalk and the waterfront needed attention but there is nothing he could see that could be termed a problem.

Delaney said specifications for the boardwalk required consideration.

"Rob left at a bad time," he said. "(Public works director Ed) Honeycutt had to take over at a critical moment."

Adams said downtown revitalization, community development block grants and waterfront access were some of the ongoing projects that need attention.

Brown said the Community Building needs attention, as do recreation facilities for young people.

Childs said there are a number of small projects that require attention, although she could not identify any major problem at the moment.

"If there are any problems, I won't discuss it readily except with the rest of the board and the new city manager," Crowe said. "As for projects, there are things like the riverfront walk and new grants for housing which should be everyday affairs for a person with experience."

Holden said he has reviewed some of the applications and they look promising. He said acting manager Sylvia Butterworth knows some of the applicants, so additional information on them should be easy to obtain.

Delaney said he doubted there is an ideal person for the job, saying that in Southport "it is hard to please everybody."

Brown said he does not know whether it would be possible to find an ideal person for the job, but said

there is someone out there with the qualities the board is looking for.

Childs said she hoped the manager who is selected will be better than Hites although, she added, Hites had done a good job too.

"I have seen the applications and there are qualified people," Crowe said. "There are good candidates for the post."

Holden said the board hopes to interview its top candidates by the end of the month. A new manager could assume the post in January, he suggested.

Gore estimated that it might be the end of February or March before a new manager begins work, while Delaney and Crowe said it might be at least the end of January.

Brown said the process might take as long as two or three months and said he hopes the appointment would be made in time for budget hearings.

Bacteria

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may have told her not to notify everybody.

What everybody would have received, had the utility company chosen, is a letter saying, "COLIFORM BACTERIA FOUND IN WATER SAMPLES DURING OCTOBER, 1992," and including a description of what health problems coliform bacteria might cause and an invitation to call Britt at the utility company office for further information.

What Britt would have told them is she took a regular monthly water sample at Lighthouse Landing unit 12 on October 9, and later she was notified by Law and Company laboratories that coliform bacteria were found in the sample.

Britt said she then took a sample on October 22 at Lighthouse Landing unit 12, as well as at the utility company office, at Harbour Village and in Ibis Roost.

The utility office sample showed coliform bacteria to be present, thereby triggering a programmed response that is supposed to notify every customer of the contamination problem.

Britt said she later tested water from two taps in the utility company office and no coliform bacteria was found to be present.

She said regular November testing at Ibis Roost, Royal James Landing and the dockmaster office, as well as at Lighthouse Landing and the utility company office, showed no contamination.

That is generally the case with Bald Head water.

State records indicate no coliform bacteria presence in Bald Head Island Utilities water samples as far back as early 1991, though Britt said she recalled contamination in the past.

She said she attributed the "present"

finding to dirty sample bottles provided by the testing lab, and David Edwards, manager of the utility company, seconded the suspicion.

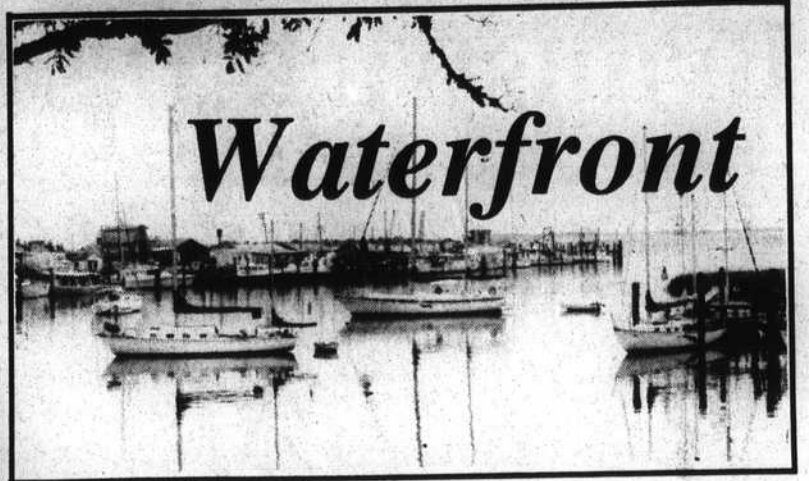
"Once in a while we've had a bottle that was bad and we had to resample," Edwards said Monday, "but we never had to notify the public before."

Cross explained there is no requirement that coliform bacteria be counted in the sampling overseen by his department (unlike shellfish sanitation requirements, where 43 bacteria per three ounces of water is a danger point). The laboratory merely finds coliform bacteria "present" or "absent".

Britt said she considered the contamination of island water to be an anomaly.

"If I had tested the same location and it had come back bad, I'd have trouble," she said. "The state would be down on us here, hot and heavy." And in Raleigh, Cross agreed.

"From my perspective," he said, "it's not much of a problem out there."



Waterfront

Bald Head Creek is closed to shellfishing and is likely to remain so until someone cares enough to try and change that.

At the insistence of the federal Food and Drug Administration, the creek was closed to shellfishing before Thanksgiving. Excessive amounts of coliform bacteria had been found in creek water samples, and in October testing they continued to be present.

November testing produced a lower bacteria count, but by state -- and shellfishing industry -- standards a long history of cleanliness is going to be required before the creek reopens to commercial and recreational shellfishing.

The likelihood of the state shellfish sanitation agency mounting a special effort to find that Bald Head Creek is actually wholesome, or to determine and correct the source of pollution, is not good. There are too many closed creeks all along the coast, and too few workers, for individual state attention.

It would seem possible for local initiative to produce a program of intensified testing to find that the creek is in reality safe, or pinpoint what has gone awry. Some Bald Head islanders have been discussing this in the wake of their creek closure, but no organized activity has developed.

Action by either the Bald Head village council or property owners group is unlikely. One will meet December 19 to take up a special matter; thereafter neither will meet until late January.

The problem of polluted shellfish waters is not unique even in this area. Some oystering and clamming waters were closed in the western end of the county in November, and the Lockwood Folly shellfishery chronically suffers from the vagaries of coliform bacteria.

That particular bacteria, though not a major danger in itself, is a standard indicator of pollution in fishing waters as well as in potable water supplies.

A major problem in assessing this pollution is that coliform bacteria are produced by animals and birds, as well as by humans. An initial reaction may be to question our waste disposal habits and standards, but the question may really be what has increased water pollution by sources other than human.

This was suggested by one of the state shellfish supervisors last week. The creek was more likely to have been contaminated by rainwater runoff from cleared lands than by mismanaged sewage treatment or septic tank systems, he said.

What he was describing suggests a question, an enquiry, a surveillance and study that some Bald Head Islanders have been discussing: Look at the creek intensively, see where the pollution is coming from, determine what is the likely source of that pollution -- distinguishing between human and animal pollution, if possible -- and then arrive at a conclusion and a program to alter the ongoing event.

It is an idea whose time has come. Now it needs a voice.

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