

OPINION

District zoning Residents deserve action

The watchword around the Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District seems to be "all in good time." That may be appropriate if the only thing you're doing is waiting for federal money to roll in, but there is more work for the district board and they should get on with it.

On July 1, 1993, county zoning will take effect, which zoning will include the northern part of the sanitary district. That will leave the bottom half unzoned unless the district does it; and there "all in good time" seems to be the prevailing mood.

The district was formed primarily to put in water and sewer and manage the systems, but its board is also charged with ordering the lives of constituents in ways that bring them up to contemporary standards.

The contemporary standard these days is orderly growth through zoning. The board has been shown this by the county commissioners, told this by its advisers, and now it is up to these officials to act.

Action on district zoning seems to be planned for January. We would suggest that it be promised, with an assurance of implementation concurrent with county zoning. The people of the district deserve this consideration, and the hard work it will take.

Her 'Dream' is real

We have not yet had time to read *Joshua's Dream*. Susan Sellers Carson's story of a town with two names, so this is not a book review. It simply affords us the pleasure of thanking her for something which had needed doing for a long time: Writing a history of Smithville/Southport.

There was a special focus on this need during the year-long celebration of our 200th anniversary. All of us were made aware of our interesting heritage and the men and women who helped create it. It was Susie alone who was willing to assume the responsibility to write a book about it.

Actually, she was the most logical person we know to undertake this ambitious assignment. As a girl growing up in Southport she had a curiosity about the history of this area. Her first job was as legal secretary of C. Ed Taylor, who had a lifelong interest in local history. She also had an aunt, Mrs. Berlyn Lancaster, who made significant contributions to preservation of facts pertaining to Brunswick County history.

All of these factors helped lay the groundwork for her classes in Southport history conducted by Brunswick Community College on the Southport campus. She had to engage in continuous reading and research to stay ahead of her students, all of which helped provide material for her book.

Local officials of Carolina Power & Light Co. recognized the need for a history and the resources to get it written. They approached Susie with the proposition that if she would write the history, they would underwrite its publication.

On Monday evening a small gathering of her friends and neighbors attended a dinner in her honor at the CP&L visitors center, where first copies of her book were on display. She heard expressions of appreciation for her work and was gracious in acknowledgement of many sources of help and encouragement which made possible the successful completion of this assignment.

Now we can't wait to read the book, and we hope you will too.

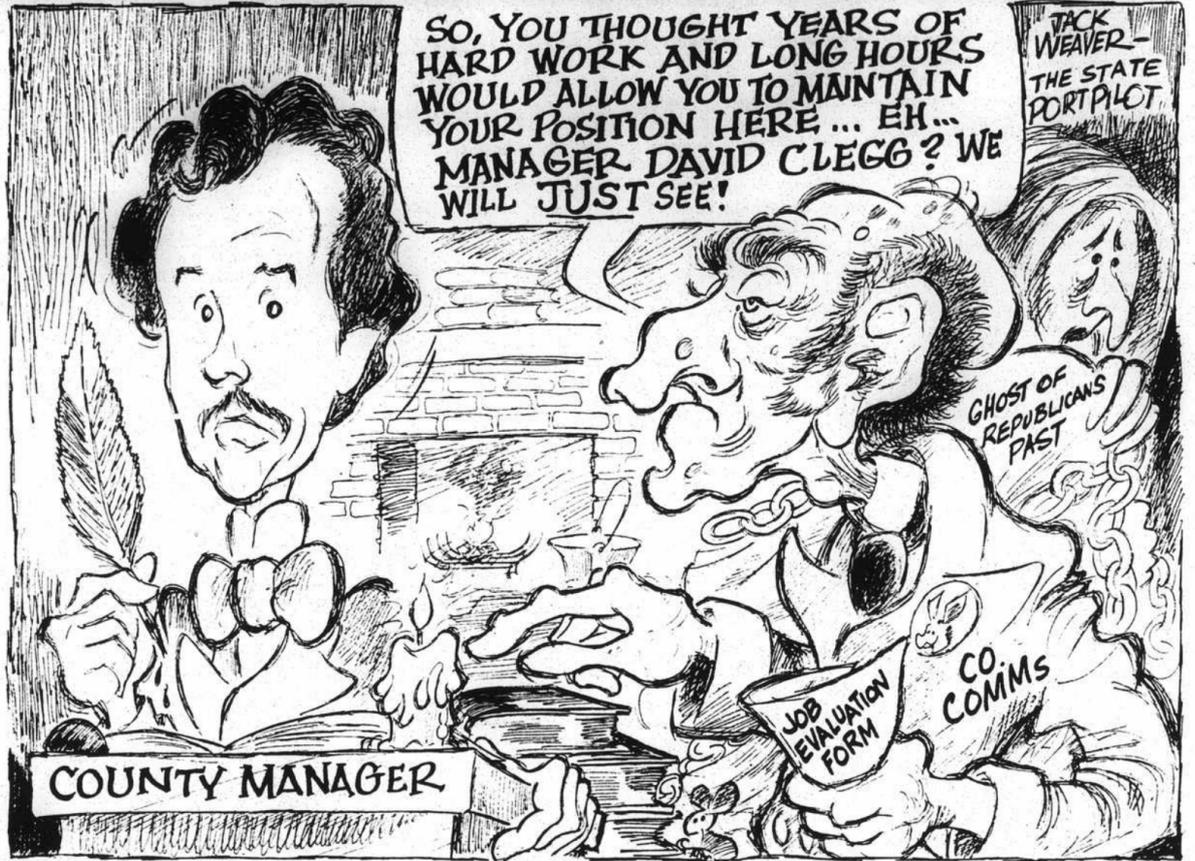
Mission of mercy

Our military commitment to ensure delivery and distribution of food to millions of starving human beings in Somalia poses the possibility for serious complications, but we are proud to be a citizen of a country willing to accept these risks as part of a great humanitarian effort.

The expense will be a drop in the bucket compared to the cost of our participation in the Persian Gulf War, and there is a great difference in staging a campaign of destruction and a mission of mercy.

We cannot undertake the responsibility of being all things to all people on the face of this Earth who are in need, but this is a situation which begs for the compassionate intervention of a nation with a conscience and resources to help relieve a desperate need of starving human beings.

If we are going to make a mistake, let it be in an effort to deliver the necessities of life to men, women and children who are dying by the thousands each day we delay.



Not exactly news

The road company of "Cats", successful Broadway and London stage show, was in Raleigh last week and we went to see it. We confess that we went with considerable misgivings, having no idea what to expect. The "cats", of course, were people, and there were no "people" in it. Early on we were bored, what with the ever-changing cat population we have seen in our own backyard over the years, but gradually the performance got to us, and finally we were convinced that this was a skillful and imaginative treatment of an improbable theme based upon a poem by unsuspecting author T. S. Eliot, who has become more famous for this than for all the other things he ever wrote... If you have a chance maybe you should go see it but if you don't like it, don't blame us.

The show was in Memorial Auditorium, for many years the entertainment Mecca of North Carolina. Starting in the early 1930s, we have spent many enjoyable evenings in that magnificent building whose opulence has been enhanced by a new foyer and facade. In retrospect it seems that fully half of all the good things we ever saw were at that location... To give you an idea, for years it was the site of the old Southern Conference Basketball Tournament, covering teams from universities from Maryland to Louisiana, 20 in

all. It was there we first heard Fred Waring and Guy Lombardo and several other big name orchestras of lesser note. Political conventions, too, and inaugural balls. It was -- and still is -- some place.

Regular unleaded gasoline for less than a dollar a gallon! We thought we never would see it again, but it came down to that last week. We just hope it holds for the benefit of upcoming holiday travels... Last Wednesday a member of our family visited Springmore, a retirement community near Raleigh, and had a visit with William and Elizabeth Hughes, former residents of Southport, who now make their home there... We are interested that at one time the developers of that prestigious facility were interested in the possibility of expansion to a nearby location on the Cape Fear River.

Monday was Pearl Harbor Day and it passed with little or no attention on the local scene. In retrospect, we can recall where we were and what we were doing on that memorable day in history... Les Gruber, our nominee for being the best roving reporter the *Star-News* ever had in Brunswick County, now writes a column of reminiscences each Sunday in that newspaper, and this week he had the following item: "A Southport

sailor, veteran of Pearl Harbor, Lt. (jg) Jack Garrett, is co-writer of a new Navy song, 'Eight Bells', soon to be on music shelves of the nation."

Crisp, cold and crowded. That pretty well describes the scene at the Southport flotilla Saturday night. The waterfront was lined with spectators and several of the entries were spectacular. There just weren't enough of them. Maybe more next year... The lighted holly trees in downtown Southport give a double-take effect from their store-front plate glass background and reflections.

Katherine Carson is the daughter of Mrs. Susie Carson of Southport and lives in Salisbury, Md. She has a black and white cat named "Zoe" which is featured in the "Page-A-Day-365 Cats Calendar" for November 16, 1993... Duke is right back where it belonged at the beginning of the season, in first place in the national basketball poll. The Blue Devils looked great Saturday night as they defeated Michigan, the pretenders to their throne. UNC didn't look too shabby in Charlotte, swamping South Carolina and Texas, and are now ranked sixth. Maybe North Carolina should lend Duke some bench players. The Tar Heels have too many and Duke has too few.

Public opinion

Little theater

To the Editor:

I would like to express my thanks to the Brunswick Little Theater for providing wonderful entertainment for my family and guests over the Thanksgiving holiday.

The purpose of my letter is to let others know of this great source of entertainment right here in Brunswick County. The performance of "Noises Off" had the audience in stitches through all three acts. This was the second play we had attended. The first was "45 minutes from Broadway", which was a delightful musical with music by the Brunswick Concert Band.

You don't have to go to Wilmington or New York for cultural entertainment -- we have it right here in our own backyard. The little theater needs support from all areas of the county so they can further enhance their ability to provide quality entertainment to all the people of the county. At this time, productions are staged at the renovated Centennial Center in Southport. Presumably some plays will be performed at the new Odell

Williamson Auditorium after it opens in early 1993.

It would be a big boost for Brunswick Little Theater, and a plus for Brunswick County, if all folks who enjoy this type of entertainment will support them by their attendance and encouragement.

Sincerely,
Leon Elwood Cheers

Notable dates

To the Editor:

I was impressed with your tribute to veterans in the November 18, 1992, issue. The letters from the students was definitely a different approach.

The meaning behind Veterans

Day is being lost along with other notable dates of our time, such as V. E. Day, V. J. Day, the attack on Pearl Harbor, Doolittle's raid, the invasion of Normandy and the atomic bombs dropped on Japan.

The page in tribute to veterans would have been complete if the picture of the veterans saluting had not been printed backwards.

Rex R. Amos
Morgantown, W. Va.

Respect won

To the Editor:

Re. your report of November 18, "Veterans winning battle for respect".

As a World War II veteran, I was touched by that report and I wish to

thank all those who contributed to it.

Only one thing -- the picture with the salute was put wrong.

Sincerely,
Silvio Chavez
Fort Worth, Texas

Silent auction

To the Editor:

I would like to thank all the people that helped make the first annual Christmas-By-the-Sea silent auction so successful.

First, there was the committee that consisted of Gary and Judy Cannan, Bill Collin and Fran Broome. Secondly, there were the 62 merchants that donated wonderful items for bidding.

On the day of the auction additional help came from Allen Burgess, Mary Collin, Dorothy Essey, Woody Woodward and the Long Beach Parks and Recreation Department. A special thanks also goes to Karen Hope at the chamber for preparation of the certificates and *The State Port Pilot* for the

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