

Time and tide

50 years ago

Fifty years ago this week the *John M. Morehead* and *W. P. Anderson*, two local menhaden boats, went into active duty for the U. S. Navy. The two boats of the fleet maintained by the Brunswick Navigation Company were requested by the Navy for patrol duty along the coastline. The crews, however, were not to remain aboard. This action ended speculation about possible menhaden catches during the winter.

The Navy was still recruiting men and boys even though they were not subject to the draft laws. It was then not mandatory that the enlistee be 18 years of age.

45 years ago

Forty-five years ago this week O. P. Bellamy killed the largest hog of the year in Brunswick County. Dressed out, it weighed 755 pounds. The giant measured six feet in length and stood 37 inches high. Four stands of lard were taken from the fat. Bellamy also butchered another hog weighing 400 pounds.

Fire destroyed the living quarters of the Waccamaw teachers. All residents' personal belongings and furnishings were destroyed. The loss was estimated at \$50,000. The fire could possibly have been extinguished, but the Whiteville fire truck on the way to the scene sidwiped another vehicle, preventing its chances of arriving on time.

35 years ago

Thirty-five years ago this week the county courthouse in Southport was damaged by fire with the loss amounting to \$60,000. The cause of the pre-dawn blaze was undetermined at the time. Insurance covered the loss of everything except valuable papers. The assistance of the fire department from Sunny Point Army Terminal was a great help in bringing the fire under control.

On the line of firefighting, steps had been taken to make the Sunny Point terminal a safe place for handling high explosives. The terminal facilities already were the finest to be found and further improvement was being strived for.

30 years ago

Thirty years ago this week there was a front-page picture of tax collector Douglas Hawes and the tax listers taking their oath of office before judge Edward Clark, who was conducting Superior Court here. This was our issue for December 12, 1962, and on the front page there also was a picture of the carol choir at Southport Presbyterian Church.

Three members of Southport's state championship eight-man football team had made all-state -- C. E. Murphy, quarterback; Earl Clewis, guard; and Donald Dixon, end.

20 years ago

A front-page picture in the *Pilot* for December 13, 1972, showed officials of the Frying Pan Lightship Commission accepting a check for \$200 from the Brunswick County Historical Society to help pay costs of converting the vessel into a nautical museum. The State Highway Commission had rejected the low bid for construction of the new bridge to Oak Island due to an error made by the bidder. The project was to be re-advertised.

Following a public hearing concerning Dasher Memorial Hospital, the editor had come forward with the conclusion that there would be no problem if people would pay their hospital bills. In other words, accounts receivable at the hospital exceeded the total outstanding indebtedness. A new container-loading facility was to be constructed at Sunny Point Army Terminal and bids were being advertised for this project.

15 years ago

Mrs. Mae Bamber, former mayor of Southport, England, was a visitor in our city and we had a front-page picture of her assisting Mayor E. B. Tomlinson, Jr., in a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the opening of Holiday House. That was in the *Pilot* for December 14, 1977, which also had accounts of other activities in which our English visitor had participated during the preceding weekend. There was even an editorial praising her grace and charm.

The developers of Bald Head Island had received a permit to erect an office building on Moore Street in Southport; we had a picture of Bill McDougle accepting a framed letter from mayor Louise Corbett upon his retirement as a member of the town board of Yaupon Beach; and the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department had participated in the seizure of 17 1/2 tons of marijuana from a shrimp trawler in the Brunswick River. The operator was a Virginia resident.

10 years ago

Christmas was the theme in advertising, news and photos in the *Pilot* for December 15, 1982, with a variety of programs and special celebrations listed as coming attractions. Predictably an article on recipes focused heavily upon Christmas dinner and holiday desserts.

Ten years ago when we went down to Caroon Crab Co. headquarters everybody was busy filleting flounders; now they have to buy them by the pound; we had a picture of Bruce Raynor, manager at Winn-Dixie, presenting a check for \$1,000 to a Long Beach resident, Mrs. R. G. Jones, winner in a store contest; and the weather tower at the southwest corner of the Garrison had been pronounced the most spectacular Christmas decoration in town.

5 years ago

"Christmas-By-the-Sea", the first full-scale organized holiday promotion on Oak Island, had turned out to be an unqualified success and we had photo coverage and story in the *Pilot* for December 2, 1987. The second Holiday Flotilla in Southport had grown from five entries the previous year to a total of 13 lighted vessels parading along the waterfront.

Jean Rhudy had been elected president of Southport Woman's Club and we had a photo of the installation ceremonies; Grace Beasley had been reelected chairman of the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners; and Quinton McCracken was in Charlotte practicing as a member of the North Carolina squad for the annual Shrine Bowl football game on Saturday of that week.

Opinion

Continued from page 4

excellent promotion of this event. I feel this event can be summed up by a comment made by one of the bidders: "A good deal was had by all."

Anne Watson
Chairman, Silent Auction
Committee

Hardy souls

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Christmas-By-the-Sea Festival Parade Committee we would like to thank all those hardy souls who participated in, and the spectators of, the sixth annual festival parade.

A special thanks to our parade marshal, superintendent of Brunswick County schools Dr. Ralph Johnston, and his wife Sonia.

Thanks go out to parade helpers Hank and Millie Zimmerman, Bill Sphar, Hank Repscha, Marsha Cochran, Mary Tomlinson, Jason Griffith, Mike Brogan, Jimmy Moore, Laurel Payne, Erica Wozniak, Wyatt and Madeleine Gordon, Irene Webb, Tom Gray, Woody Woodward -- and Santa.

Thank you to those who donated the use of convertibles: Alpha Auto Sales; Rene Ward, Jones Ford, David Hirst, Edna Crouch, Bill Sizemore, Carolyn Hedricks, Peg Aten, Randy Fullwood, Donna Coleman and Shirley Howe.

Thank you to parade judges Joan Altman, Bill Dearman, Sabrina Hodges and David Clegg.

Thank you to Southport Marine Mart for loaning boats for parade floats, Oak Island Golf and Country Club for loaning the committee a golf cart, the Town of Yaupon Beach for hosting the VIP reception and the Yaupon Beach, Long Beach and Caswell Beach police departments and Brunswick County Sheriff's Department for crowd control.

And a special thanks to the towns of Yaupon Beach and Long Beach and their residents for their support.

Lynne Repscha
Nancy Sphar
Parade co-chairman

Cloggers float

To the Editor:

I would like to thank the following people for making the Christmas-By-the-Sea parade a very successful event for the Southport Seacoast Cloggers:

Joe Medlin and the City of Southport; Steve Mealy, city maintenance supervisor, and Rufus King, city mechanic, for their time and support; Jim and David Knight for the generator; Ray Spencer for tools and materials; Carl Carter's Shuttle and Landscaping Service for the generous loan of the tractor and trailer; Oscar Smith for his skillful driving; Sue Kaufman for being a super Santa; and the cloggers and their families for their untiring labor of love.

David Spencer

Pocketbooks

To the Editor:

The Long Beach town fathers have accomplished a great deal in 1992. They have managed more assaults upon the taxpayers' pockets.

No time was lost in presenting the citizens with their quarterly charges for trash pickup. I would prefer to deliver my own trash to the dump but I am not given this option. This charge arrived with the water bill. The water bill lists a basic charge of \$18.69, plus the charge for gallons used.

The newspaper recently advised that there would be a charge for a \$5 decal per car for the permanent residents starting in 1993. The report also noted that those citizens delinquent in this duty would be prosecuted (persecuted). When I first moved to Long Beach, I was informed by an employee of City Hall that the decal was for my protection as a homeowner. In case of an evacuation from an approaching hurricane, only the cars with decals would be allowed back on the island after the storm had passed. One of the commissioners informed me he had never heard of such a thing. He said the reason for the \$5 charge was because it was time-consuming to hand out the stickers. How much time is involved here? I drive by Town Hall each day and I have never seen a line formed waiting to be served.

This doesn't sound like much money but each year we keep adding and adding. Retirees don't get raises in their income.

Gerald A. Marsh
Long Beach

Stuart resigns Caswell seat; Terry is selected

By Amitabh Pal
Municipal Editor

Bob Terry was appointed Thursday to the Caswell Beach Board of Commissioners to replace Duncan Stuart, who resigned last week for health reasons.

"Bob Terry has been on the planning board and has worked with development areas," mayor Jack Cook said in making the appointment. "These are things that are challenging us now and will continue to challenge us in the future."

Terry will complete Stuart's term, which expires in November, 1993.

An immediate appointment was necessary because with Stuart's resignation and the continued illness of commissioner Esten Gillis the board would have been without a quorum.

Gillis, who has been unable to attend meetings for the past few months, has also submitted her verbal resignation but is expected to be reappointed when she recovers.

After the quorum was established, the board approved the OceanGreens Phase IV final site plan after a brief public hearing.

Dave LaFave, general manager of the project, gave an overview of the project consisting of 28 four-plex "oceanfront" units and 18 duplex golf course villa units.

"I feel the development will be an asset to the town," he said. "It has generated positive interest from folks elsewhere."

Walter Schneider, a resident of The Arboretum, expressed concern that all of the planned units are not on an even grade.

LaFave said this was done deliberately to give the development a single-family, rather than a multi-family, residential feel and said

Post office to extend hours

The Southport post office will be open until 2 p.m. on Saturdays during the Christmas mailing season, postmaster James Hardy has announced.

Saturday hours will be from 9 a.m. until two o'clock "in an effort to make it easier for our customers to do business with us," Hardy said.

"Our aim is to make our services available with as little inconvenience to our customers as possible."

there would be a provision in the contract warning occupants of homes at lower elevations of their vulnerability in a storm or hurricane.

Billy Coleman, on behalf of the planning board, recommended that the plan be approved with changes to reduce structure density and to provide more parking.

The board also appointed building inspector Roger Parks as a part-time town employee. Parks had been under contract to the town since 1975.

"We've been encouraged by our (insurance advisers) to make him an employee of the town," Cook said. "Since we cannot make him a full-time employee because of the hours that he works, we're making him a part-time employee."

The board also:

- Tabled the operating budget report for November in the absence of necessary receipts.
- Announced that garbage will not be picked up on December 22 and December 24, as scheduled.
- Received a report from commissioner Bill Boyd that he is still

investigating a proposed town maintenance schedule for conventional septic systems. He said he has received one "encouraging" response from Dr. Michael Hoover of North Carolina State University.

• Received Boyd's report that the town had received a CAMA permit for enlarging the public parking lot near the CP&L pumping station and expects CAMA permission to locate a beach access between 329 and 401 Caswell Beach Road.

• Received Boyd's report on the three properties that the town is scrutinizing for various reasons. Boyd said town attorney Elva Jess has contacted the owners of the Heinz property, which allegedly is in violation of local building codes.

A demolition permit for the dilapidated Rogers property has been issued, Boyd said, and "before long we'll see the wrecking ball on 110 Caswell Beach Road." Boyd said the Bell property, which is said to be in a deteriorated condition, is not on "top of the (town's priority) list."

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