

## Air quality

Continued from page 1

still concerned that the measures will not entirely solve the problem which may be compounded by other factors including pesticides and outdoor air pollution from local industry.

An industrial hygiene consultant with the N. C. Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources looked at air quality at Lincoln Primary School and two other county schools, and reported last month that a lack of outdoor ventilation caused students to breathe the same mold-contaminated air over and over again, causing allergic reactions.

Suggestions he made to correct the problems are in the process of being carried out, assistant superintendent Bill Turner told the board Monday night. A majority of the work will be done during the Christmas break.

Turner said the seven-year-old carpeting in ten classrooms in the second grade pod, where air quality was the worst, has been removed and will be replaced with tile. Carpeting in other classrooms will be professionally cleaned.

The inadequate air flow has already been corrected in the third grade pod and will be fixed in other classroom areas before January 4, Turner said. Filters in the air-handling systems will be replaced with heavy-duty industrial filters that can be washed, and Quality Air Tech of Raleigh will fog the ductwork to kill bacteria and mold in the insulation. Heat exchange coils will also be cleaned and disinfected.

A leak in a condensate collection pan on an air-handling unit serving the kindergarten pod cannot be repaired so the entire unit will have to be replaced. Because of a delay in shipping the unit, it will not be replaced during the two-week break.

Turner said the state consultant will return to the school in late January to do more testing of the air quality at Lincoln and other schools where the problem has not yet been addressed.

School custodians across the county will gather on January 22 for a mandated workshop where they will be instructed by company representatives on the correct ways to use cleaning chemicals and equipment.

Superintendent Ralph Johnston said a January 6 meeting has been set up with Dr. Robert Powell of North Carolina A&T University to discuss the possibility of obtaining an Environmental Protection Agency grant to further study the problem.

"We need to be looking at all the avenues. We will not be content to take just one approach to it. We are intent on pursuing this to get the problem resolved," he said.

Crawford thanked the board for the action taken so far to improve the air quality.

"The odor that greeted us every morning is now gone," she said, but noted that students still have problems with glassy and burning eyes, and that on rainy days the allergic reactions seem to worsen.

She asked the board to increase its efforts by seeking out specialists who can test for formaldehyde and other chemicals, especially pesticides which are sprayed regularly in the school.

"We're putting toxins in these schools," she said.

Pointing out that there are no guidelines for indoor air quality, Crawford asked the board to research and implement standards for schools. She also asked that they set higher standards for cleanliness and extend their monitoring to outdoor air samples if the problem continues after January 4, when school is back in session.

"We're looking forward to coming back to a safe building," she concluded.

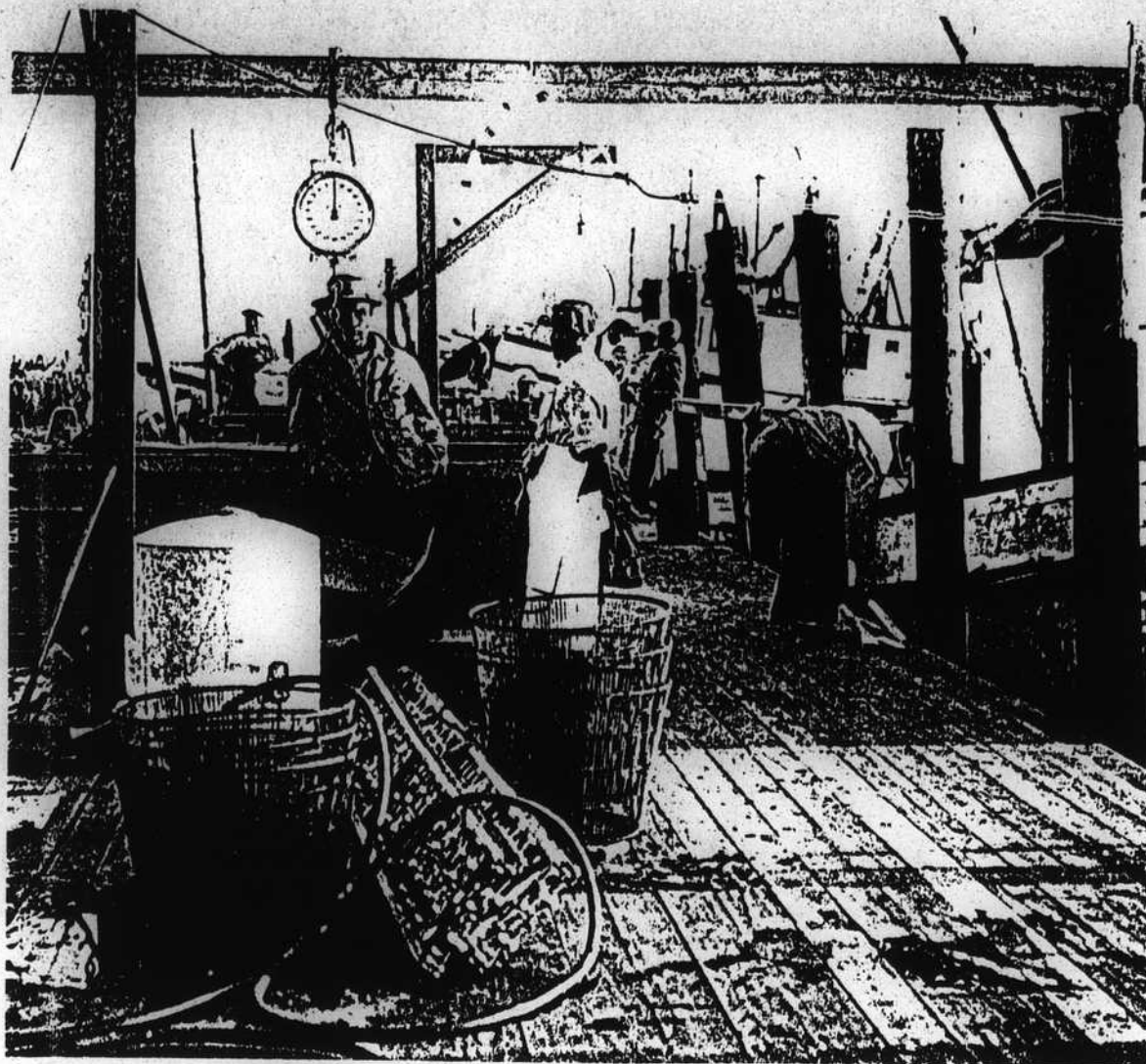
Speight said she did not think the board was taking the air quality problem seriously, pointing out that fogging the ducts won't eliminate problems with heating and air vents and lights where dust and mildew collect.

"Why waste money with just a quick fix?" she asked the board.

When she asked where the money would come from to pay for the improvements, she said she was told if the county commissioners did not appropriate additional funds it would be taken from curriculum supplies, which she said is not the place to cut. She suggested the board hold off on plans to build a new central office and replace gym floors and lights so classrooms will be safer for students.

Speight said her son's problems started soon after he began attending kindergarten classes at Lincoln Primary. His first visit to the doctor was September 15, and since then he's been on antibiotics all but ten days.

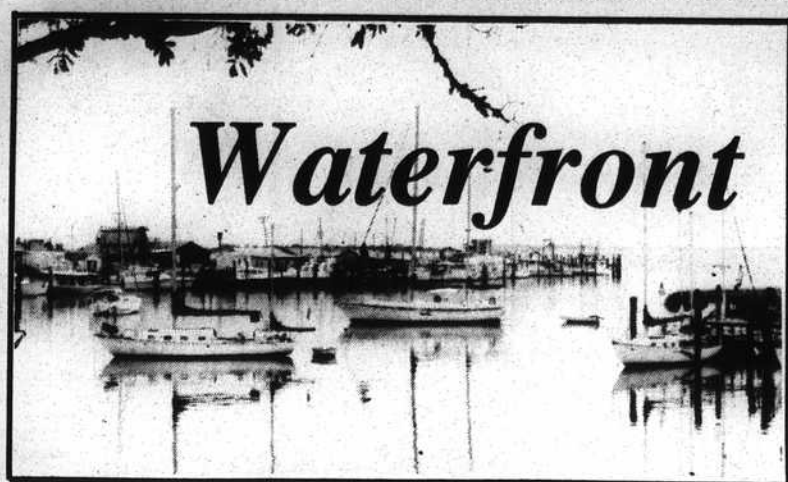
Believing that her son's problems



## THE WAY IT WAS

A few senior citizens of Southport remember scenes like this which were enacted each afternoon on the shrimp docks at the waterfront. The trawlers are shown in the background to be un-

loaded in wire baskets like those in the foreground. The shrimp were weighed and delivered to the heading house, to be iced and packed for shipment by trucks to northern markets.



## Waterfront

Gene Fuss, still fishing like crazy and tagging up a storm at the Bald Head Marina mouth, reports the most recent episode in the puppy drum catch-recatch saga there.

Near the end of the jetty one recent day Fuss hooked, landed, tagged and released a couple of drum, then hooked another but lost it when his line was cut on a piling barnacle. Thereafter Fuss sighted his broken-off float cruising nearby, but he couldn't snag it with another bare hook, as hard as he tried. The Bald Head ferry came by and the bobber scooted away and out of sight.

Not the end of the story.

For later in the day Fuss had another taker, and as his bobber went under he set into something solid and reeled in his old float and leader, with a previously tagged fish hooked thereon. But before he could land the fish it became detached, and again disappeared.

Still not the end of story.

For next day Mark Mitchell was fishing in roughly the same spot and again landed the fish that had been caught between one and two times the day before -- depending on how you score it.

Still not the end, in all likelihood, for Mitchell released the fish yet again.

Tag number 305902 is what you look for if you happen to be fishing around Bald Head Marina this weekend.

Incidentally, drum are not the only hook-and-line saltwater fish available these winter days, though they are normally the most obliging. Specialists have been doing well on speckled trout in Walden Creek on recent moonlit nights. And it's certain that by now trout have started finding the anglers lining the banks of the Davis Canal at Long Beach.

The other evening driving south through Pender County on I-40 we were first shocked, then excited, and finally pleased by the discovery of palms growing along the roadside.

For about a mile on the west side of the highway, perhaps two or three miles up from the Northeast Cape Fear River bridge, scrub palms grew in great profusion, as thick as bracken but apparently the same low-standing growth common on Bald Head Island.

Back home we asked plant specialist Vickie Burton what palms they were likely to be. She said the common palms hereabouts, the ones we call palmettos, are technically "sabal palms", and that the tall variety and the smaller, shrub-like plants are essentially the same breed.

And so were those shrub-like plants in Pender County sabal palms?

The investigation is ongoing.

Spinoff from the Coastal Resources Commission decision Monday to permit a protective seawall at Fort Fisher is that structures may also be permitted to protect "commercial navigation channels of regional significance." No doubt that the Cape Fear entrance channel qualifies under that description, but don't look for any jetty work here. Jettying is something never discussed, obviously because it would alleviate no local problem.

What is considered the chief problem with the Cape Fear bar is lack of channel depth, and the only cure seen for that is cutting -- or blasting -- away at the rocky bottom.

## COUNTY BRIEFS

### Belville to get riverside park

Brunswick County commissioners voted unanimously Thursday to contribute \$50,000 towards construction of a boat ramp and park near Belville along the Brunswick River.

The four-acre park eventually will include picnic shelters, viewing and fishing platforms, a volleyball court and a tennis court, said county parks and recreation director Bobby Jones, who will supervise the project.

Jones indicated he will spend the next several months planning for the park, and that it would be spring at the earliest before any construction begins.

The state also has promised an undisclosed amount of money for the project and, once the boat ramp is completed, the Town of Belville has agreed to assume all costs of maintaining the park.

"I hope the park will be a big interest and heavily used," said Jones. "It's an ideal location to have access to the Cape Fear River."

Jones said Belville residents currently have to drive to Navassa or Southport to access the river.

### ALS program back in service

Brunswick County's Advanced Life Support (ALS) program was brought back on line effective November 30, enabling county rescue workers to once again use advanced lifesaving techniques such as administering intravenous medications and using electronic defibrillators on heart attack victims, county emergency medical services (EMS) director Doug Ledgett announced this week.

County medical director H. L. Johnson suspended the program in August due to apparent deficiencies in the ALS training program. Since then, all county rescue workers have updated their ALS training in cooperation with the state EMS office. Most rescue workers have been back at the defibrillator level since October.

### Register of Deeds files report

The Brunswick County Register of Deeds office reported total revenues of \$53,069.25 for the month of October.

Registrar Robert J. Robinson's report said 528 deeds were recorded for \$4,520; 417 deeds of trust were recorded for \$5,568; 37 plats were recorded for \$740; 92 financial statements were recorded for \$736; 302 deeds of trust were canceled for fees totaling \$1,510; 387 miscellaneous recordings were issued for \$3,282; 28 marriage licenses were issued for \$1,120; \$33,117 was received in excise taxes; and \$2,476.25 was derived from miscellaneous services.

Reported office expenditures for the month totaled \$4,837.

The registrar's office also reported total revenues of \$48,883 for the month of November.

The report said 459 deeds were recorded for \$3,866; 389 deeds of trust were recorded for \$5,194; 42 plats were recorded for \$839; 93 financial statements were recorded for \$744; 363 deeds of trust were canceled for \$1,858; 344 miscellaneous recordings were issued for \$3,077; 15 marriage licenses were issued for \$600; \$30,563 was received in excise taxes; and \$2,142 was derived from miscellaneous services.

Reported office expenditures for November totaled \$2,932.

are more than just the normal illnesses children experience when they first attend school, Speight said, "I'm not saying that's what made him sick, but it's not letting him get well."

Whether or not she sues the board of education for her son's illnesses "depends on what the board does, more than a Band-Aid approach. They haven't done anything. They've done a lot of talking," she said.

### Jordan named officer of year

Officer Gregory Jordan was named Long Beach policeman of the year in a ceremony held Saturday at the Long Beach public safety building.

Officer Samuel Massey was given a commendation for lifesaving while chief Danny Laughren, major Johnny Freeman, sergeant William Sisk and officers Richard Gainey and Thomas Vernon received advanced certifications from the state.

Sisk was recognized for 30 years of police service while Freeman was recognized for serving 20 years.

Laughren, Gainey and officer Marvin Sharpe were recognized for being on the force 15 years, Vernon for being with the police ten years while investigator Barbara Harvell, sergeant Janet Allen and officer Dennis Hedricks were cited for five years of service.

### College holiday

Brunswick Community College will be closed to the public from Wednesday, December 23, through Monday, January 4.

The main campus at Supply and the two satellite campuses in Southport and Leland will be closed during that time.

BCC faculty and students will begin their holiday on Monday, December 21, and return to class on January 4.

### Meeting canceled

The regular meeting of the Brunswick Community College Board of Trustees, scheduled for Wednesday, December 16, has been canceled.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, January 20.



### Boating Skills & Seamanship

A course presented by U.S. Coast Guard Aux. Flotilla 10-05. Registration Jan. 4, 1993 at the U.S. Coast Guard Station Oak Island at 7:00 p.m. \$20.00 materials fee.

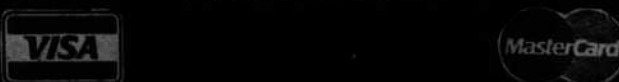
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