

THE WAY IT WAS

It was a rainy day when the Brunswick Town State Historic Site visitors center was dedicated on April 23, 1967, and umbrellas were in great demand, even on the speakers stand. Seated, left to right, were William Faulk, site superintendent; Sen. Ray Walton; Mrs. Margaret

Harper, who introduced the speaker; Mrs. Dan K. Moore; the Rev. Fred Fordham, who had the invocation; and the Rev. William Davenport, who said the benediction. Dr. C. C. Critendon, director of the N. C. Department of Archives and History, is at the speaker's stand.

Health board, realtors meet on septic overuse

A compromise is in the works between local real estate agents and health officials upset with overused septic tank systems found along the coast.

The Brunswick County Health Department had planned to cite property owners this summer for exceeding their occupancy limits on county-issued septic permits.

A grace period was issued instead for the remainder of the tourist season until the two sides can talk and find other ways to solve the problem.

The first of two meetings will be held this week to hammer out a solution, said Andrew Robinson, environmental health supervisor.

Members of the South Brunswick Islands Board of Realtors will meet with the health staff and representatives of the Brunswick County Board of Health on Thursday, June 17, 6:30 p.m., in the conference room at the health department at Bolivia.

A second meeting will be held later with members of the Brunswick County Board of Realtors, said Robinson. That group includes members from the Southport-Oak Island area. A date has not been set.

Overuse of septic tanks where there is no public sewer system is blamed for groundwater contamination and pollution of estuarine waters and shellfish nursery areas.

Health employees recently took printed rental brochures and vacation guides listing homes along Brunswick County's beaches and compared them with actual septic tank permits on file.

An estimated 75 percent of homes advertised exceed the permitted occupancy, said Robinson.

Homes are usually permitted for two occupants per bedroom. However, some beach homes listed in local rental brochures are permitted for six people but list accommodations for up to 12.

Long Beach

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resident Lou Erway told the council it should raise water rates according to water usage, rather than across the board, to encourage residents to use less water.

Town manager Tim Johnson indicated that both the trash collection and water funds are by law supposed to be self-supporting, but have been running at a deficit for the past two years. He said that in order to make both funds truly proprietary, and to ensure safe drinking water for everybody, the increases were necessary. He explained that the additional revenue will help pay for a more aggressive water-line flushing program, and for a larger water storage tank.

"I believe very few people in the Town of Long Beach will object to paying an extra \$12 per year for water if they know they'll have fresh drinking water and enough water in reserve if there's ever an emergency," Johnson said.

A last-minute savings of about \$86,000 was created when council members agreed to switch the town's medical insurance carrier. Initially, Johnson said he expected to pay \$107,000 more this year than last due to an increase in medical claims.

About \$34,000 of this savings was immediately slated for employee bonuses and salary increases. The original proposal called for no cost-of-living increase and a top merit increase of four percent. In the end, however, council members agreed to give all town employees a \$500 Christmas bonus, and to increase the possible merit increase to five percent.

However, some citizens objected to any salary increases for town employees.

"Let's relate facts to reality and not go off the deep end," resident Helen Cashwell said during the public hearing. "The majority of the

Lombardi hearing is continued

Former Long Beach maintenance garage supervisor Frank Lombardi's probable cause hearing has been continued until Thursday, July 8.

Lombardi is scheduled to appear in Brunswick County District Court on a charge of larceny from an employer, a felony carrying a maximum penalty of ten years in prison. He is accused of removing the engine block from a 1989 Chevrolet Caprice used by Long Beach police and putting it into his personal vehicle, a Monte Carlo.

people are in the \$25,000 bracket, and only two are in the \$14,000 range."

Resident Frances Allen added, "We are really supporting these folks in the style they've become accustomed. And \$1,500 for a Christmas party is a real nice party."

Only one resident spoke in favor of the salary increases.

"I've seen you in action and I've seen your work, and I think you do a hell of a job," said resident Chris Scott.

Council member Jeff Ensminger called a \$14,000 annual salary in Long Beach a "pittance."

Mayor Joan Altman said she was pleased with the budget, and with the town improvements it called for, including a new fire station, a new ambulance, a new generator for Town Hall, a befed-up street paving program and funding for more tree plantings.

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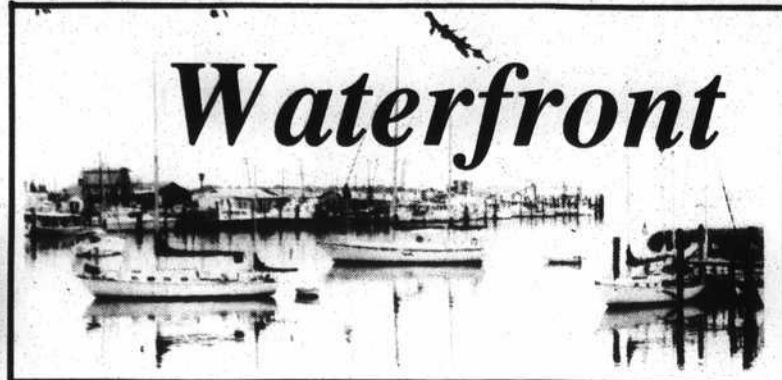


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Waterfront

"Just a squid?" said Chris Walker, coming out of the freezer at Southport Fish Company. "It's not just a squid."

And indeed it was not. The thing he held in his hand, orange and really big, was certainly not "just a squid." It was the largest squid Walker had ever seen, largest anybody else around the dock had ever seen, perhaps the largest ever brought into port here.

On the dock the squid measured 45 inches in length, 26 inches across and six inches deep, and it weighed 37.8 pounds on the fish house scale.

"I've been fishing 17 years," Walker said, "and the largest one I'd seen before was only half that size."

Walker, skipper of the top-water longliner *Amanda Kay*, said the creature took a hook baited with a six-inch squid and came to the boat just like the 3,000 pounds of swordfish he and his crew landed during a recent trip 100 miles southeast of Southport.

Well, not exactly the same way. "He was alive and propelling water 12 or 14 feet behind him -- toward us. It was like being squirted down by a garden hose."

Walker, who has caught small, bait-size squid using a special jig, was not surprised to be hosed down. He was surprised not to get doused with black ink as well, but this squid did not release a charge of black liquid as many squid (as well as their cousins, the octopuses) do.

These mollusks are not uncommon around here. Shrimpers occasionally find them in their nets and cast-netters capture them occasionally in the river, though in sizes so small that they may first notice the translucent squid in their nets by the squirting sound they make.

And big squid are not uncommon either in their worldwide range. Literature has not lied to us about giant squid, for scientists have recorded them up to 60 feet in length. At that size, one of them might find the squid the *Amanda Kay* brought in last week just a mouthful.

"Davey's Locker", which anglers may remember as the fishing column written here several years ago by Randy Davey, is now a regular feature of *Max* magazine, a supplement to the Jacksonville *Daily News*. Randy Davey is a staff photographer with that newspaper, and now an angling pundit for them as well.

The initial "Locker" in the May 27 edition was about Davey's adventures in the 1991 U. S. Open King Mackerel Tournament, when he fished with Lewis Riddle aboard the *R & R*.

The cover photo is of Riddle throwing a cast net for bait during that event.

A group of youngsters sponsored by the New Hanover County Department of Social Services will be guests of the Bald Head Island management and hosted for an island outing Thursday by the Bald Head Island Conservancy.



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 - 26th Street NE, two lots with owner financing, \$10,500 each.
 - 14th Street NE, two lots, \$9,500 each.
 - 12th Street NE, one lot, \$9,500.
 - 11th Street NE, two lots with owner financing, \$9,450 each.
 - 24th Street NW, 1 1/2 lots with owner financing, \$14,000.
 - Oak Island Drive, corner of 78th SE, walk to beach, \$25,000 each.
 - 2nd Street SE, two lots, \$22,000.
 - 22nd Street SE, one oversized lot, \$11,500.
 - 30th Street NE, two lots, \$20,000.
 - Oak Island Drive, corner of 10th Street NW, two lots, \$20,000.
 - 39th Street NE, two lots, \$20,000.
 - 19th Street SE, one lot, \$12,500; one block from scenic walkover.
 - 4th Street NW, two lots with owner financing, \$18,000.

OFF THE ISLAND

- Airport Road. One-half acre cleared on Skyview Lane, no city taxes, has septic tank in place, quiet area. Only \$11,000. Owner/Broker.
- Thorpe Landing Road near Ocean Island Beach, 482x110', \$50,000.

BEACH SIDE

- West Dolphin near Middleton. 4-bedroom perk; owner will finance. 50x150', \$29,000.

COMMERCIAL

- E. Beach Drive, corner at 40th. Nice ocean view and beach access. \$55,000.
- 48th Street SE, six lots measuring 20x108.5' each. Low pressure system needed. Owner will finance. \$72,000.
- INVESTOR'S DREAM on this large tract of land on Hwy. 904, just off Hwy. 17 near Ocean Isle Beach. 159.89 acres suitable for golf course, townhouses, shopping center -- you name it! **Prime Property** at \$1,250,000.00. Call for survey and information.

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