

Time and Tide

55 years ago

It was March 24, 1943, and the county was in danger of falling short of its quota in the current Red Cross fund drive. A group of local citizens had been to Charleston, SC, in an effort to secure a naval air base for the county; Southport mayor John Eriksen had announced that he would not run again for that office; and principal W. R. Lingle and a group of high school boys had assisted in moving equipment to the new ration board location.

Our "Not Exactly News" editor had noted with approval the regular Sunday night songfest at the local USO. He had noted the irony in that the sailors seemed to sing the "Marine Hymn" better than "Anchors Aweigh." Though we've heard several opinions as to what "W.B.&S." supposedly stood for, we'll have to go along with Wilmington, Brunswick and Southern, for that is how the old bus line was advertised in that issue of the *Pilot*.

45 years ago

It was Wednesday, March 25, 1953, and the front-page picture of the *Pilot* of that date was of the Shallotte High School band on the march. This same band had been invited to appear in the Lions International parade in Chicago during the summer as a representative of eastern North Carolina. Free-floating shad nets had created a hazard to navigation on the river, and a shoal was causing the same difficulty at Lockwood Folly Inlet.

35 years ago

In our edition for March 27, 1963, there was a front-page picture of mayor E. F. Middleton and members of the town board at Long Beach at the site of a proposed bridge across Davis Creek. Nancy Malone was to be the Azalea Festival queen that year.

Bob Spence, pro at Oak Island Golf Club, was entered in the Azalea Open Golf Tournament; Brunswick County representatives were cooperating in the organization of "Historyland Trail," a tourist promotion for eastern North Carolina; and spring was bringing out the girls -- 400 of them -- to the Girl Scout camp at Pretty Pond for the coming weekend.

25 years ago

A couple of front-page pictures in the *Pilot* for March 21, 1973, caught our eye. One showed an airborne seagull dropping a clam on the pavement below in hopes it would shatter and expose a tasty morsel, and the other showed three local youngsters down on the beach flying their kites. On a more serious note, there was a front-page announcement that Jerry Lewis was resigning as county manager.

The editor had written a piece about Taylor Field and its multiple uses; another photo showed workmen painting the Southport water tank; and the Miss Brunswick County pageant was scheduled for the following Saturday night.

20 years ago

The developers of Bald Head Island had delivered a deed to approximately 10,000 acres of the island property to a representative of the N. C. Nature Conservancy, who had then handed the deed to Gov. Jim Hunt, who accepted on behalf of the State of North Carolina. That story was on the front page of the *Pilot* for March 2, 1978. The Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce was to open a welcome center at Live Oak Village Shopping Center before the Easter weekend.

Building permits representing \$405,285 in value had been issued during February at Long Beach; Mrs. Josephine Slade, Southport's eldest resident, had died at 101; and sunrise services had been planned both in Southport and on Oak Island for the coming Easter weekend.

15 years ago

Vandalism had cost the Brunswick County school system \$7,259 since the beginning of the fall term and these figures were included in a news story appearing in the *Pilot* for March 23, 1983. A schedule of extra ferry trips had been announced by DOT to accommodate Easter weekend traffic.

The "Hee Haw Revue" was scheduled for presentation during a two-night stand Friday and Saturday of that week in the City Hall auditorium; we had an editorial commending district attorney Mike Easley for his good work in the successful prosecution of the big drug trial just completed in Southport; and an out-of-season thunderstorm on the previous Sunday night had been scary, for in addition to thunder and lightning there had been winds of almost hurricane force.

10 years ago

Discussions were being held between Yaupon Beach officials and DOT about a project to three-lane Yaupon Drive, using the center as a turning lane. That was a story in the *Pilot* for March 16, 1988. David L. Batten, general manager of Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation, had been elected president of the N. C. Association of Electric Cooperatives.

Also in the news was the fact that BEMC had received national recognition for its safety record for the third consecutive year; the Brunswick County Board of Education gradually was phasing-out student bus drivers; and Denny Breese, Southport deep-sea diver, was heading a project to locate the sunken hull of a Civil War submarine said to be located in the harbor at Wilmington.

5 years ago

It was March 17, 1993, and four days earlier Southport-Oak Island, and indeed the entire Eastern Seaboard, had been wracked by a raging lion of a storm. Locally it was to be remembered at the No-Name Hurricane, due to its 100-plus-mile-per-hour winds, and we had many stories and photos of the tempest that week. Two hundred houses on Long Beach were at least temporarily uninhabitable from the effects of high wind and water, and some would have to be razed; boats were sunk, grounded and damaged throughout the community; and falling trees and branches had caused widespread damage to vehicles, buildings and utility lines.

County manager David Clegg's resignation was the only story that week which shared page one with news of the storm; the movie "Spies," filmed here the previous summer, would be shown in the Community Building on Friday evening; and South Brunswick boys and girls basketball teams were proceeding through the state championship playoffs.

Letters

Continued from page 4

Ride." Kountry Kitchen, Russell's Place, Western Sizzlin', Express Stop, Burger King, McDonald's, Jiffy Bait and Tackle, KFC, Hardee's of Southport, Hughes Gas and Grocerv. N. C. Baptist Assembly, Peacock-Newnam, VFW, Long Beach Town Hall staff, Long Beach Police Department, Long Beach Rescue Squad.

Lu Wilson (for Long Beach Volunteer Fire Department and Auxiliary)

Phone fraud

To the Editor: After checking my phone bill last week I noticed a \$10.25 charge for a calling card. I checked past bills and found I was also charged for December and January.

I have never had a calling card, never wanted one and never authorized anyone to give me one.

I contacted BellSouth and was told that "BellSouth has no authority to regulate these charges." Why not? I was also told to contact ITA -- International Telemedia

Associates -- who made the charges and were listed on the top of the page of my bill. There I talked to someone who finally agreed to remove the charges after I reminded her that they had never been authorized to make these charges and this was plain fraud.

With my bill to BellSouth I wrote a letter and deducted \$30.75 (three months) from my bill. You should check your phone bill and do the same. This is the scam referred to by Tom Brokaw several weeks ago in his "Fleeing of America" -- and it's hit North Carolina.

Nancy Crummett
Southport

Permit

Continued from page 1 Ocean Terminal Sunny Point access road. The company wants to expand the territory, but residents say land disturbance in the area could disrupt the underground aquifer and cause sinkholes that threaten the Carolina Power and Light Co. Brunswick nuclear plant and the munitions depot at Sunny Point.

"There are a couple of issues brought to our attention that, if issued, the mining permit can be amended at any time without another hearing before the county," said Ms. Collier. "I think it is important that the county be present for the hearing and make a statement as an entity."

Ms. Collier said she will clear her comments through the county attorney prior to the hearing to avoid any legal conflicts. Martin Marietta has a lawsuit pending before the N. C. Supreme Court over an anti-mining ordinance the county enacted to prevent mining with dewatering techniques and blasting within five miles of CP&L's twin nuclear reactors and the Sunny Point facility. The ordinance would prevent mining for limestone on all of Martin Marietta's tract.

Martin Marietta won a Brunswick County Superior Court decision which ruled the company has a vested and constitutional right to mine on the property since county zoning supports the heavy industry, and activity on the land began prior to the anti-mining ordinance. County officials have appealed that decision to the state Supreme Court.

Arguments were heard last week before Supreme Court justices in Raleigh, but a decision could be months away. Both sides have argued the N. C. Court of Appeals was in error when it ruled the issue was not ripe to be heard because Martin Marietta does not hold a

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Leslie Collier
District 3 commissioner

state permit to operate a deep mine. The permit application was withdrawn after the company missed a state deadline to submit more data.

Commissioners unanimously supported Ms. Collier's request Monday that the board speak as a county entity to oppose the permit modification. According to the application, the company cannot do anything that would adversely affect potable groundwater supply, wildlife, fresh water, estuarine or marine fisheries. However, residents are concerned because the area lies adjacent to the White Springs Branch and Walden Creek estuaries.

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