

THE STATE PORT PILOT

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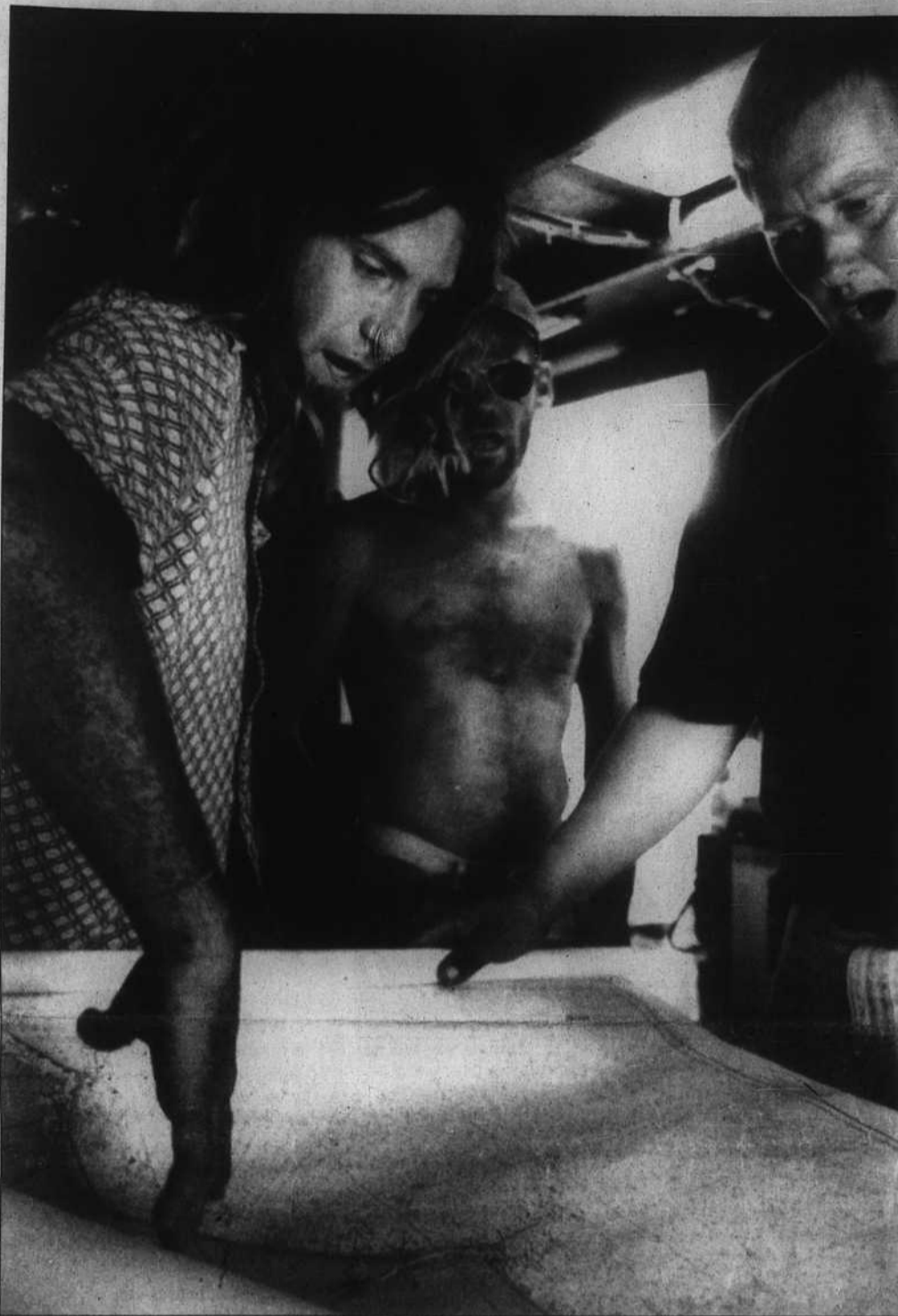


Cougs top
South evened its record
Wilmington teams
win over New Hanover

Labor Day
Oak Island Art Gallery
hosted a successful



Two lost, one survives at sea



McKeithan shows fellow fishermen where the *Skipper* sank. (Photos by Jim Harper)

Heavy wind, waves sink fishing boat

By Jim Harper
Staff Writer

Two Southport seamen perished, but one was miraculously spared, when their fishing boat sank in 17-foot waves 55 miles offshore last Thursday night.

Captain Dickie Skipper, 42, and Rodger Goewey, 43, died and Charlie McKeithan, 26, was nearly killed by wind and high seas from Hurricane Earl which swept out of the Gulf of Mexico and into North Carolina on Thursday.

The midnight distress of the longliner *Skipper* was signaled by an emergency electronic device called an EPIRB, and Coast Guard aircraft located and rescued McKeithan clinging to a piece of wreckage around noon Friday.

He was flown to Wilmington, treated at New Hanover Regional Medical Center for the effects of exposure and released on Sunday.

The bodies of Skipper and Goewey were found by aircraft on Saturday as Southport fishermen placed a wreath at dockside and draped pilings with white ribbons in their memory. Scores of seamen, family and friends gathered at funeral services for the two here Monday.

The 41-foot, glass-hulled *Skipper* was a bottom longliner, routinely employed in fishing for tilefish in the waters where she sank.

Skipper and McKeithan regularly fished together, but a third crewman, Brian Kincaide, had chosen to take the week off and Goewey signed on for the voyage in his stead.

The three, all experienced commercial fishermen, sailed last Wednesday for a week-long sojourn on the tilefish grounds off the hundred-fathom curve, where Thursday they set seven-mile lines with

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'I was saved'

By Jim Harper
Staff Writer

"We left Wednesday about 10:30 in the morning," Charlie McKeithan recalled, "and steamed south about 65 miles, and when we got out there we lay to for the night and started fishing Thursday morning."

"The weather report kept getting nastier, but it was still calling for the storm (remains of Hurricane Earl, which had come ashore in northwestern Florida on Wednesday night) to pass through northeastern North Carolina and Virginia."

"We did pretty good on the first set, catching grouper and gray tile, and made the second set, then started to make a third but Dickie heard the weather report and steamed up into the wind (southward) to make sure we didn't drift down on the 'bandit' boats anchored inshore."

"Dickie was an excellent fisherman. One of the best down there."

"The best down there," McKeithan corrected, after a pause.

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Friends, some of them survivors of sinkings, console Helen Skipper.

Martin Marietta Decision puts mine case back in judge's court

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Scissors, paper, rock.

On paper, the county's battle to keep a 1,000-acre rock quarry from opening north of Southport is considered by residents to be pretty much cut and dried.

The N. C. Court of Appeals last week upheld a Brunswick County ordinance which bans mining within five miles of the Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point ammunition depot and Carolina Power and Light Co.'s Brunswick Nuclear Plant. Paper is stronger than rock.

But the battle over the right to mine along the sensitive corridor bordered by Walden Creek shellfish nursery waters and the White Springs Creek natural limesink ponds is not over.

More hearings are expected in Brunswick County Superior Court, where the case began two years ago after Martin Marietta Materials Inc. filed a lawsuit in an effort to have the county's regulation declared illegal. There have been few victories for the county and Southport-

'I'm not knocking the judge, I'm praising the system. Everybody is saying there are facts to look at here, and I think it is all going the right way.'

Bob Quinn
BMAC spokesman

Oak Island area residents opposed to the quarry until now. It is just a minor victory.

"It is in terms of time," said county attorney Huey Marshall. "It gives the county time to reconsider what

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Fragile area Long Beach cuts back Point plan

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Words acceptable when Long Beach Town Council discussed its Fragile Area Management Plan for The Point Tuesday night included "low impact," "unobtrusive," "natural," "traditional."

Words definitely not acceptable when discussing the access plan for The Point were "classroom," "environmental education center," "programming," "park."

In fact, council put off discussion of much of the Fragile Area Management Plan (FAMP), developed by consulting planner Bill Farris, altogether at a workshop session.

Instead, council opted to focus its attention on what "low impact, unobtrusive, natural and traditional" pursuits the Town of Long Beach could encourage at The

Point, the westernmost section of land on the strand, with property the town already owns or has access to.

The larger FAMP -- a plan that envisions a number of structures and amenities that have become the subject of some controversy -- will be discussed later, council said, when it is known if the town will have funds to purchase the entire 40 acres covered by the plan. Town manager Jerry Walters said the town now has but \$100,000 in-hand for land acquisition. Long Beach officials should know by late October if another \$200,000 grant has been awarded it for land acquisition.

Improvements with existing resources will be discussed by a committee council will form to include a representative from the town's erosion control committee.

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South Brunswick High Students hurt in three-bus wreck

By Terry Pope
County Editor

School officials worry when a bus is involved in any accident. When three buses are involved in the same wreck, it becomes fear.

That was the case Tuesday afternoon when three South Brunswick High School buses collided along Cougar Drive in Boiling Spring Lakes shortly after school was released.

Rescue crews transported about 15 students and one driver to Doshier Memorial Hospital in Southport for minor injuries and complaints.

No one appeared to be seriously hurt, but damage to the buses indicates students on board took a pretty bumpy hit, especially in

'Before we could turn around, the EMTs were here. It was very well-organized. They did an excellent job.'

Sue Sellers
School principal

trailing bus 133, which appeared to initiate the chain reaction. Two buses were dis-

abled following the collision and had to be towed from the scene.

"It was bad," said Jamila Joyner of Bolivia, who was sitting in the second seat from the front in bus 133. "It made everybody hit the seats."

The students were leaving South Brunswick High around 3:15 p.m. when a pair of buses in front of bus 133 slowed to stop at a stop sign at Cougar Drive and N. C. 87 in front of South Brunswick Middle School. Driver Linda Piner in bus 133, the Bolivia and Midway route, failed to stop in time and slammed into the rear of bus 30, driven by Helen Smith and transporting students who live in the Winnabow area.

That impact caused bus 30 to strike the rear of bus 159, driven by Brenda Palmore

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A three-bus accident on Cougar Drive Tuesday afternoon sent 15 students to Doshier Memorial Hospital under emergency medical service care.

Photo by Jim Harper