



LARRY ANDREWS
... assistant wants job

Democrats Get To Nominate Coroner

BY SUSAN USHER

Members of the Brunswick County Democratic Executive Committee have 30 days from Monday in which to nominate a county coroner following a decision by commissioners to retain the post.

Following the resignation last week of Coroner Tommy Gilbert, Brunswick County Commissioners briefly considered not filling the job and having it abolished by the General Assembly. The county would then use medical examiners to perform autopsies and determine cause of death. The system is used by all but four or five counties statewide.

"It's an antiquated system," Com-

missioner James Poole said when the coroner's job first came up last Wednesday. "We couldn't hardly do it when the man in office was elected. But we have the ideal situation here where we can abolish it."

Monday night, though, the board voted to fill the vacancy—at least for now—after getting support from four existing medical examiners, four rescue squads, and Assistant/Acting Coroner Larry Andrews.

That means the county will essentially continue operating under a "dual" system in which Andrews said the coroner does legwork for the examiners, all of whom are physicians.

"You're not going to find one who

will go to the scene," he said, warning that if the coroner's job were abolished, some of the medical examiners would resign before assuming the rotation.

Still, Chairman Chris Chappell said later, "It will definitely be coming back to this board at budget time." He acknowledged, however, that it would probably be more difficult to abolish the position once it is filled again.

Commissioners voted 3-2 to fill the unexpired term. Commissioners Frankie Rabon, Grace Beasley and Chris Chappell voted yes, while Commissioners James Poole and Herman Love voted no. Love said he could have voted to keep the position tem-

porarily, but not as the motion was phrased.

Beasley said she wanted Gilbert's political party to have a say before any board vote, but was warned of time restraints.

A second vote, to request a nomination from the committee, was unanimous.

In the absence of a coroner, the clerk of superior court, Greg Bellamy, can appoint one on a case-by-case basis when needed, Clegg said.

A spokesman for the State Medical Examiner's office at N.C. Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill said that office "frowns" upon a dual system (See DEMOCRATS, Page 14-A)



TOMMY GILBERT
... resigns as coroner

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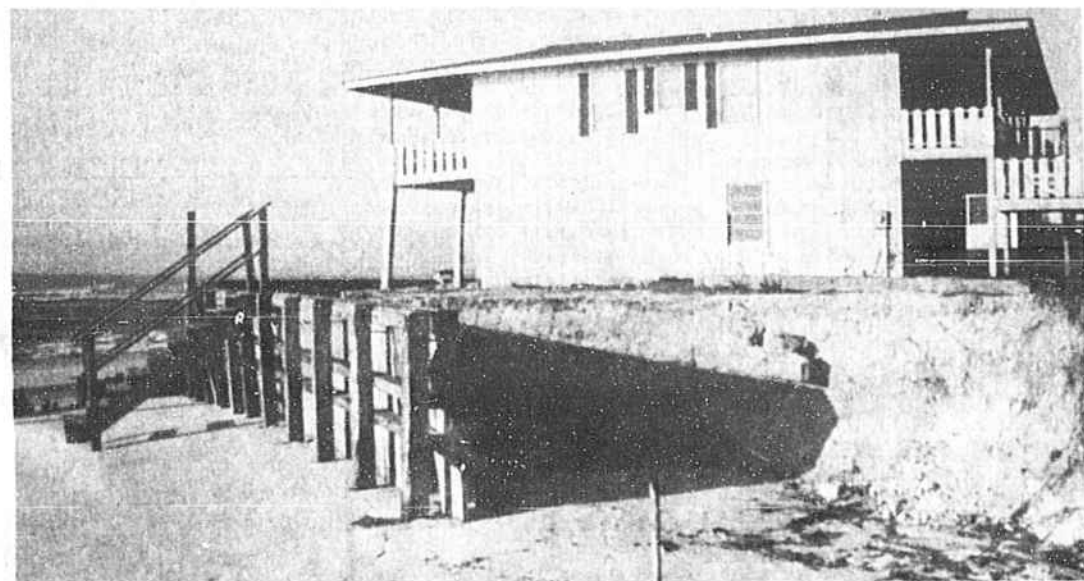
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THIS HOUSE on the oceanfront at the east end of Holden Beach is about to wash into the ocean, its owner

told Holden Beach commissioners Monday night. A request was made to relocate the house across the street.

Emergency House Moving Policy Passes At Holden

BY DAWN ELLEN BOYD

By a 3-1 vote, Holden Beach commissioners agreed Monday night on a policy to regulate temporary relocation of dwellings in an emergency.

When they applied the strict policy to three situations, two were turned down after it was determined they are not emergencies and one was turned over to the building inspector.

Confusion reigned as commissioners discussed the policy at a special meeting set to conduct a public hearing on the town's land use plan update.

Commissioner Hal Stanley motioned to continue the moratorium on relocation of buildings from one location to another on the island except in emergency situations. The building inspector, with guidance from the town commission, will determine what constitutes an emergency situation, Stanley proposed.

Dwellings moved in an emergency could stay on the island until 30 days after the new high rise bridge is opened, Stanley's motion continued. The only exception to the moratorium would be when an owner wants to

move an erosion-threatened house to another lot he owns adjacent to or across the street from its present location, according to Stanley's motion.

Voting for the motion, in addition to Stanley, were Commissioners Graham King and Gloria Barrett. Commissioner Lyn Holden voted against it and Commissioner Jim Griffin was absent.

The moratorium on house moving was imposed last year when complaints were received from a neighborhood into which an older house had been moved from the oceanfront.

Following adoption of the new policy, a request for temporary relocation of a house at 319 Ocean Boulevard West next door to 317 Ocean Boulevard West, was heard. Stanley moved to refer the matter to the building inspector as provided for in the policy.

David Wilson, owner, asked if that meant he can't move his house.

"If that's it, that's it. It's not an emergency situation," Stanley replied.

Again, Commissioner Lyn Holden's was the only vote against Stanley's motion.

Also referred to the building inspector was a request from Mrs. Ralph Inman, owner of the last house on the oceanfront at the east end of the island, to move her house at 330 Ocean Boulevard East across the street to 331 Ocean Boulevard East to a lot she owns.

She told commissioners her house is about to be washed into the ocean. "I have two flashlights you can borrow if you want to go see for yourself," she added.

Town Administrator Bob Buck told commissioners he thought the Inman house should be exempted from the moratorium. "If not, we can't give her a permit to put down pilings," he explained.

Stanley's motion to follow the new policy by referring this case to the building inspector was again opposed only by Commissioner Holden.

"What exactly does that mean? Can we move it or not?" Mrs. Inman asked.

(See MOVING, Page 2-A)

Bridge Dedication Ceremony Set

Ready or not, the new Odell Williamson Bridge to Ocean Isle Beach will be dedicated in a 3 p.m. ceremony Wednesday, Nov. 27.

Those on the invitation list range from Gov. James Martin to local municipal officials and all Ocean Isle Beach property owners, according to Town Clerk Alberta Tatum.

Town officials are gambling that the .85-mile bridge will be ready for public use by Thursday, but will hold the dedication whether it is or not. Earlier this month, Police Chief Jerry Gurgus said the bridge would open the first week of December.

Tentative plans call for a ribbon-cutting ceremony on the mainland side of the span, followed by a motorcade of dignitaries across to the island. Leading the way will be the structure's namesake, developer Odell Williamson, a former state senator and the father of longtime mayor LaDane Bullington.

Town officials planned to contact the Ocean Isle Beach Property Owners Association for help with a proposed "refreshment stand" on the island for those in the motorcade.

"It's hard to schedule an opening ceremony when you don't know when the bridge will be open," noted Jim Sughrue, N.C. Department of Transportation spokesman. Normally you try to schedule it for a day you know will be safe, even if it means keeping the road

closed for an extra day or two.

"But in this case, the other half of the project is taking down the old bridge, so we don't want to hold the contractor up."

The bridge was named by the previous State Board of Transportation at its September 1984 meeting. Louis Sewell of Jacksonville, then Division 3 member, made the motion, which was seconded by Brad Wilson.

"I understand it was very controversial," said Sughrue. "It was done by the previous board, not the current one."

The name proposed by the Ocean Isle Beach Board of Commissioners—"The Odell Williamson Bridge"—was the only request for naming the structure received by the state, said Sughrue.

Sughrue said the \$5.76 million span was one of numerous bridges and roads named for individual persons over the past eight years.

"This board wants to reduce that number," said Sughrue.

Under a policy adopted at the board's most recent meeting, before a bridge can be named for a specific individual everything about that person's contributions to transportation should be listed.

Continued Sughrue, "The board wants to name them for people who have contributed specifically to transportation."

Landslide Vote Approves Funds To Build College

BY DAWN ELLEN BOYD

"The people won a great victory tonight!" exclaimed Brunswick Technical College President Joe Carter when the votes were counted in Tuesday's bond referendum.

Brunswick County voters okayed the \$8 million bond referendum 2,687 to 910 to finance construction of technical and vocational classrooms, an administration building, library, student center and a 1,200 seat auditorium at the college's Supply main campus.

Only sixteen percent of the registered voters in the county cast their ballots in the election. Every precinct in the county supported the referendum, except Hood Creek precinct in the northwest of the county, which split 35-35 on the issue.

The new buildings will allow the school to consolidate programs now scattered across three campuses. The college presently uses the former county extension office in Supply, the old Southport elementary school on Lord Street, and one new building and several trailers discarded by the public school system at the Supply main campus.

Carter estimates the building program will take approximately five years. The first construction will be a technical classroom building which should be open in two years.

Around 50 Brunswick Tech supporters gathered in the public assembly building Tuesday night to

await election results. As the first results were posted, supporters clapped and yelled as "yes" votes took a two to one lead.

Supporter Herbert Williams Jr. clapped loudly and said, "I can't whistle. I want to whistle so bad!" College employees and supporters

had spent most of the day at the polls urging voters to support the referendum. Recruitment Coordinator Velma Williams worked at the polls in Town Creek all day.

"People were very positive," she said. "There was a slow influx of people going to vote, but they were all friendly. I left feeling like we'd won."

Bond referendum opponent Eileen Kellagher of Oak Island said Carter cost the taxpayers money by not allowing voters to decide the issue on Nov. 5 along with the municipal elections.

"He was counting on the low voter turnout," said Kellagher.

Kellagher also contends the decision will raise taxes in the county. "When people vote for additional debts they shouldn't complain about increased taxes. The people are the county, and when they mortgage it, people pay."

Tech Student Government Association president Nancy Nord of Shallotte spoke on behalf of the student body. "It means a lot to students to have a more central location. They way it is, there is too much competition between schools," she explained.

College President Carter said, "I sincerely appreciate the vote of confidence by the people. I'm positive the board of trustees and the administration will use good judgement in planning and utilizing the monies received from the bond referendum."

Here's How The Precincts Voted

Precinct	YES	NO
Hood Creek	35	35
Leland	60	21
Woodburn	22	8
Belville	21	8
Town Creek	91	24
Bolivia	112	42
Southport I	174	79
Southport II	107	42
Oak Island	261	174
Mosquito	127	10
Supply	233	10
Secession	301	55
Shallotte	121	63
Frying Pan	183	68
Grissetown	188	61
Shingletree	237	80
Longwood	75	13
Ash	65	47
Waccamaw	69	22
Exum	53	8
Bolling Spring Lakes	129	40
Absentee Votes	3	0
TOTALS	2687	910

Harrelson Starts Year-Long Campaign For Rose's Seat

BY SUSAN USHER

A Southport Republican launched his race for U.S. Congressman Charles G. Rose's seat with brief stops at five locations Tuesday, winding up the day before television cameras in Wilmington.

Stopping briefly at the Brunswick County Courthouse at 4 p.m. with about 40 well-wishers, Tommy Harrelson confirmed plans to file for the 7th District seat in January, campaigning on his experience in government and business.

"I feel we have a lot of support," he said. "If we get to work early, I feel we have a good chance of winning this thing."

Area GOP leaders were encouraged in 1984 by Thomas Rhodes' campaign against Rose, who Harrelson said hasn't faced serious campaign opposition since first elected.

"Rhodes' campaign was good, it was just too short," Harrelson said. "With a longer campaign we hope to present the choices better."

"We will be on the attack occasionally, but our overall campaign will be positive. But if he (Rose) has a voting record against the wishes of this district, we'll be pointing that out."

In Harrelson's year-long campaign begun Monday, the GOP plans to invest up to \$200,000 in its effort to unseat Rose.

Among his top priorities are working out a solution to the problem-

plagued tobacco program and other farmers' concerns.

"That's the most important thing," he said. "The world needs our farm products."

Harrelson said he had the ability to work with members of both political parties. Specifically he said he felt he and Sen. Jesse Helms could reach a compromise on the tobacco program, whereas Rose and Helms appear to be adversaries.

"It looks to me like there's so much

bad blood there it's hard for them to sit down together," he said.

Harrelson also said he wants to boost the economy of the district's rural areas by encouraging industry to locate in rural western Brunswick and Robeson and Columbus counties.

He described himself as a "conservative, traditional Republican," "hawkish" on defense issues and against abortion except in specific instances such as a rape or where the mother's life is endangered.

He also has a master's in business administration in international trade from the University of Pennsylvania—a background he said would be useful in dealing with the very current concerns relating to balance of trade and balance of payments.

Party Backing

While a political party traditionally doesn't throw its support behind a single candidate until after the primary, Harrelson says his situation is a little different since he was recruited by the GOP.

"When you ask somebody to run, you're kind of obligated to support them," he said.

Seventh District GOP Chairman Bill Shell is his campaign manager. Coolidge Murrow, a member of the State Ports Authority board of directors, is chairman of Harrelson's finance committee.

Rose is serving his 13th year (See HARRELSON, Page 2-A)

Beacon Publishes Early Next Week

The Brunswick Beacon will publish one day early next week since there will be no mail delivery on the Thanksgiving holiday, Thursday, Nov. 28.

Mail subscribers should receive their paper on Wednesday. Papers will be available from racks and dealers beginning Tuesday.

Deadline for news and advertising will be one day earlier next week because of the early publishing schedule. Deadline for regular advertising will be noon Monday. Real estate advertising should be placed by 5 p.m. this Friday for next week's issue.

The Beacon business office will be closed Thursday.