

# Principal Transfers Questioned By NAACP And Citizens League

BY MARGORIE MEGIVERN  
Three hopes of principals were read and submitted to the Brunswick County Board of Education and Superintendent Monday night, all related to the July 14 transfers of principals and other administrators.

Ms. Herring, president of the Brunswick County Citizens League, presented in questions on behalf of his organization and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). The complaints were also signed by Jesse Bryant and Wes Winston Brown, presidents of the Cedar Grove and Southport branches of NAACP respectively.

Principally the questions centered

on the recent transfer of Freeman Causey, former principal of Union Primary School, to the Alternative Education Center in Bolivia, as head of programs involving 100 students. "We consider it a demotion pure and simple for him to be assigned to the Alternative School," the complaint read. "How do you explain the reference made that Causey is needed there because there will be exceptional children and he is a Baptist minister? Is he employed as an educator or a minister?"

Herring, Bryant and Brown also demanded proof that the transfers would improve education in the county and that they would mean a savings of \$100,000 as claimed by

Superintendent Gene Yarbrough. Yarbrough showed figures at the last meeting demonstrating that amount in savings by virtue of moving locally-paid administrators Ed Lemon and Bill Shewmaker to state-paid positions as principals.

Also questioned was the proposed model school consortium, to be headed by Lemon and involving Bolivia, Union, Warsaw and Leland Middle schools. "Who determined for the citizens that there would be four schools involved? How were they chosen? What is the purpose?" the complaint asked.

Herring's document held that the recommendations of July 14 were passed without discussion by the board as Yarbrough's decision.

Nevertheless, "only one board member was unaware of the plan before the meeting," it read, referring to James Clements, who objected to the recommendations and voted against them.

The citizen groups rebuffed the assertion of the school administration that county schools are faculty balanced and asked for a list of the professional certified staff identified by race. "We also refute the explanation that there are no qualified blacks applying for positions," the complaints went on.

Some of the questions raised were answered immediately by a four-page personnel report prepared for the board by Assistant Superintendent

Stephanne Tewey. This showed that minorities held 31 percent of the administrative positions in the school system, 25 percent of certified teaching positions, and 19 percent of non-certified positions. This makes a total of 25 percent minority employment.

Statistics on the student population in the county showed that out of a total enrollment of 8,429, 30 percent are minorities. As a sidelight, Mrs. Tewey quoted from census figures that the minority population of the county has dropped from 30.3 percent in 1970 to 21.1 percent in 1980.

Other facts presented the current employment picture, showing that the board approved the following positions during 1983-84: 68 white and

11 black certified personnel, and 24 white and 19 black non-certified personnel.

Current applications for employment include 34 from white applicants and 21 from blacks, according to Mrs. Tewey's figures.

She offered to submit an updated report each month to the board.

Herring's presentation was supported by the presence of 16 other black men attending the meeting.

Yarbrough said he would study the list of questions carefully and address them later. However, he denied saying or implying that Causey was transferred to the Alternative Education Center because of his ministerial qualifications.

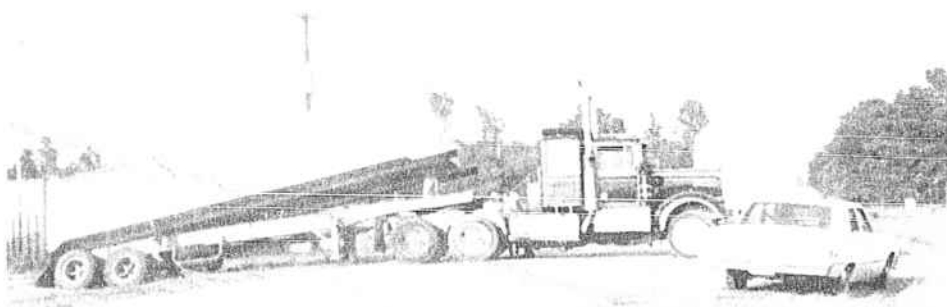
## THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

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One Way, One More Time

Local motorists traveling U.S. 17 north of Shalotte have come to expect one-way traffic because of county water main construction. But Monday evening, the delay was of a different sort. A large dump truck backing up for a

delivery at Ballenter Corp. north of Shalotte didn't quite make the driveway Monday evening and ended up blocking the roadway of U.S. 17, temporarily slowing traffic to a familiar one-way crawl.

## East End Project Must Get Sunset's Approval, Again

BY TERRY POPE

Sunset Beach officials have discovered that final plans for several subdivisions approved by the town last year are not really final.

Several projects now under development have never received final approval from the town, the council learned Monday night, including 14 lots at the east end of the island being developed by the Sea Trail Corporation.

Council members adopted a resolution Monday that will retroactively make the Sea Trail project legal provided a final plat is presented and approved by the town planning board and council. The east end project received preliminary approval from the town last year, but a final plat was never adopted, although one was filed by the developers.

For a subdivision to be legal, the town must approve a preliminary plat proposal from the developer and no sooner than 30 days later, a final plat showing all revisions.

Council member Mimmie Hunt said since she joined the council last year several subdivisions have been approved by the town only on first viewing, without a final plat presented.

Ms. Hunt said the town would have to go back and "check them all out" to make sure they were legal.

Councilman Ed Gore, a partner in the Sea Trail Corp., said there is nothing to be gained by going back and applying an ordinance retroactively to the projects in question. "What purpose will it all serve?" he asked the board.

"Because this one goes into an area that has no zoning," Ms. Hunt replied while raising a copy of the preliminary plat for the Sea Trail project. "It's an area the town classified as conservation and it has not been dealt with."

"It doesn't go into any areas that are not zoned," Gore said.

Gore said the two-step process in approving plats has never been followed by the town. He added that developers should be allowed to present only a final plat to avoid the 30-day delay.

The delay, Ms. Hunt said, is a "built in check to protect the developer, the town and the planning

board." It gives the town time, she said, "so the council is not pressured into making a decision."

When asked how other towns approve subdivisions, Town Attorney Mike Isenberg stated, "Every one I've ever looked at requires the preliminary and then the final."

Under the ordinance adopted Monday, all deed transactions that have taken place since the east end project received preliminary approval last year will become legal.

The east end project took five large lots and subdivided them into 11 smaller lots, Town Administrator Linda Finesel said.

Mayor James Gordon said he did not see why the town had to approve the same plans twice, but Ms. Hunt said that wasn't the case. She said the final plats often show changes, that "final ones come in with 10 more lots" in some cases.

The council agreed Monday to provide residents of the mainland Sea Trail subdivision east of S.C. 175 with information on ways to be annexed, either voluntarily by resident petition or involuntarily by the town.

A council member will attend the Sea Trail property owners' meeting in September to discuss with residents if they want to petition the town for voluntary annexation.

"It all comes down to one answer, which is annexation, or they can form a town of their own," Gore said, "which would be redundant and ridiculous."

Gore said the Sea Trail community has "no mechanism to provide for services. They want water and they don't have that mechanism, but the town does," he said. "I'm reluctant to make the proposal anymore."

Ms. Hunt said for the town to consider annexing Sea Trail it would first have to check finances to make sure it would not be a burden on the town's budget.

**Other Business**  
In other business Monday, the council:

• Agreed to seek bids for constructing a sidewalk along Main Street and the sale of a 1979 Chevrolet police car. The town has budgeted \$35,000. (See OTHER, Page 2-A)

## Meeting Called On Postal Complaints

Concerns about the required use of Shalotte as a return address on mail will be discussed at a special meeting August 14 at 1 p.m. in the Sunset Beach volunteer fire station.

Pat O'Brien of the Sunset Beach town hall said letters were received there last week from Delon H. Bullback Jr., sectional center manager and postmaster in Fayetteville. "The letter says represen-

tatives from the regional office in Fayetteville and the division office in Columbia, S.C., will be at the meeting to answer any questions about addressing from postal customers served by Shalotte," she said.

These same postal customers received a letter from Homer Andrews, Shalotte postmaster, several weeks ago, explaining that Shalotte

must be used in the last line of their address. Computerized equipment, it is explained, reads the last line, and if town and zip code don't match, the mail is thrown aside. The postmaster pointed out their community, subdivision and town name could be above that of Shalotte.

Residents in Calabash complained last month about not being able to use their town's name as the address,

and initiated moves to acquire their own post office. Petitions are circulating now to be sent to the Washington office of Congressman Charlie Rose, requesting such a facility.

Janet Thomas, Calabash town clerk, said rural postal patrons there had also received the letters regarding the meeting.

The public is invited.

## Tobacco Markets Open To Cautious Optimism

BY MARGORIE MEGIVERN

There was good news in tobacco land Tuesday as markets opened to brisk business and opening bids promised some profits to area growers.

J. J. Smith said 90,000 pounds were sold Tuesday at his Whiteville warehouse, with bids up to \$1.50 per pound. "The best part is that only 1500 pounds of that were bought by the stabilization cooperative. The companies are buying a lot more than last year," Smith said tobacco companies bought only 75 percent of last year's production last year, compared with today's 90 percent.

Foreign competition, brought threats of higher cigarette taxes and growing sentiment against smoking have caused fear and trembling among some tobacco farmers. However, Brunswick County growers prepared for this week's markets with optimism.

Early bidding confirmed their hopes, partly because a new arrangement forces companies to purchase more, but also because Brunswick and Columbia tobacco may be the best quality available. Other growing areas were much harder hit by the drought.

Last week hopes were high despite a crop slightly inferior to that of last year. "The drought has tobacco come," admitted Hara, Pelham, whose farm is near Leland, "but I hope to get at least \$1.50 a pound, that's what I need to break even."

Lyle King, who planted 25 acres in tobacco this year, agreed the early summer drought had hurt, but said the excessive rain that followed it was worse.

With his production even at about \$1 per pound, King said he had to get at least \$1.25 for his crop. "I grow some on leased land, so I have to pay 25 cents a pound for that," he ex-

plained. King's government-set quota this year is 320,000 pounds, and he is optimistic about selling that much.

A price of at least \$1.50 is what Wadell Clemmons of Supply was looking for as he prepared his tobacco Friday for a Whiteville warehouse. "I already have some on the floor here," he said, and echoed the complaint that summer weather had "hurt bad." "The rains almost drowned my tobacco. I'd rather have dry weather tobacco than wet weather tobacco," he declared.

Health issues involved in raising tobacco presented no problem to

Clemmons, who farms 17.5 acres. "It's up to the individual if he wants to smoke," he said. "It's no worse than people drinking and killing themselves on the highway."

Agriculture Extension Agent Milton Coleman answered the anti-smoking arguments another way: "They never talk about the plagues of tobacco, how it relieves tension and helps folks get rid of their frustrations."

Clay Milligan who farms 150 acres of tobacco in Ash said he's concerned about tobacco and health, but "I'm not down and out. Criticism of tobacco has been going on a long time, but

we're still going to have it. It's still the main stable source of income in the state."

Milligan believes the tobacco program is more stable today than in several years. "We now have a program that will work. What has hurt us was export buyers, like Japan and England, buying less than they used to. Our tobacco was overpriced, but now it's down 25 cents, and it's more competitive."

He had strong words for the quality of local crops. "From what I gather from buyers, the U.S. has the best tobacco grown in the world," he said.

(See TOBACCO, Page 2-A)



WADDELL CLEMMONS displays golden tobacco leaves, nearly ready to go to market, in his barn near Supply.

## Small 'Funnel Cloud' Causes Brief Stir At Sunset Beach

A sand twister, a tornado, a funnel cloud.

Whatever it was, the funnel-shaped rotating cloud took a short stroll along the shore at Sunset Beach after noon on Monday, picking up beach blankets and children's plastic floats and tossing them into the nearby dunes.

Accompanied by high winds and rain, the dark cloud was visible from homes on the mainland side of the Intracoastal Waterway.

"It started down the beach toward Calabash and then turned around. It came back and then went out to sea and dispersed," said Smith. "I called it a little sand twister. It was a small tornado, that's what it was."

Beachgoers' reactions to the incident varied, he noted. "Some of 'em were excited and some weren't. Some of them you can't excite."

The lookout at the National Weather Service office in Wilmington simply lists the 12:48 p.m. event as a "public report of a funnel cloud." A spokesman added, "We're not saying anything more than that."