

## Boat Owner Faces Possible Fine

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pumps could handle, Norris said, and he asked Charleston to send a rescue boat to help pump so the boat could be freed from the shoal. However, the boat was outside Charleston's jurisdiction.

This radio conversation was later overheard by at the Oak Island Coast Guard station, which is responsible for the Sunset Beach area, according to Petty Officer Paul Bufford.

Bufford said the Oak Island station did not hear the initial call because of a dead zone which exists near the Little River and Sunset Beach coasts.

He said the Oak Island Coast Guard called Charleston at 5:40 a.m. and sent a boat to check out the incident later Friday.

According to Sunset Beach Town Administrator Linda Fluegel, "They (the Coast Guard) let them sit out there until the surf beat the boat to pieces."

She said the Coast Guard did not respond until after both she and Police Chief William Hill called the Oak Island station.

Fluegel said the Coast Guard first advised the town that it doesn't handle boat salvage, but didn't indicate where Norris could get assistance. However, she said the officer did indicate the owner should contact the Coast Guard regarding the incident.

"What good is that with all this oil spilling out on the beach?" she asked rhetorically Friday at the town hall.

She continued, "I just kept screaming and hollering at the guy, but later I apologized to him for yelling."

Finally, the Oak Island station agreed to contact its Wilmington headquarters. At approximately 11 a.m. Fluegel she was advised by telephone that the Coast Guard would be responding.

According to Bufford, when the Coast Guard boat arrived Friday, there were no lives in danger and everyone had deserted the scene.

Norris said he and his three-man crew tried to move the boat from the sandbar shortly after the grounding but were unsuccessful and left the boat at about 8 a.m. By that time, the boat had already started breaking up.

He spent much of the remainder of the day driving the strand in his pick-up truck, picking up debris from the disintegrating boat.

He said, "I hold the Coast Guard fully responsible for this whole mess. If they would have acted when they were supposed to, the surf wouldn't have beaten it to death."

Bufford said the Coast Guard does not get involved with salvage operations. He said it is up to the owner to remove the boat from the water and do all clean-up resulting from the beaching.

He said the Coast Guard will occasionally get involved with a beached boat if its condition is not too bad, but will rarely pull one from the sand because of the possibility of liability suits if the boat should receive further damage.

Wreckage from the "Longshot" was cleaned up Friday and Saturday with the help of area residents and the Sunset Beach Maintenance Department.

Remains of the bow were pulled from the water Sunday with the assistance of Hegget Construction and tractor operator Sam Somersett who was hired by the town maintenance department.

Crew members of the "Longshot" included Keith Jackson, who was in charge of the boat at the time of its beaching, and two unidentified deck hands from Little River, S.C.

Norris said, "We were doing exceptionally well with it, but it's my own fault. It was dark, and I lost my sense of direction."

He said he had owned the boat for only three months and did not have it insured. He does plan to buy another shrimp boat soon and said, "We're just hoping for better luck with the next one."



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

### It's Not Just Child's Play

Building sand castles isn't for kids only. Last Friday morning, Ben Tillotson and Dave J. Rogers, both Charlotte businessmen, brought their buckets, rakes and shovels to Sunset Beach for some serious fun.

## Man Drowns At Holden Beach

BY RAHN ADAMS

A New Jersey man drowned last Wednesday afternoon at Holden Beach as he attempted to aid a woman stranded offshore on a flotation device.

The victim, Eugene Swanson, 58, of

Rockaway, N.J., was the second person to drown in the South Brunswick Islands in less than a week. A two-year-old Burlington girl drowned Aug. 21 in a canal at Ocean Isle Beach.

According to Holden Beach Police Officer K. S. Darr, the drowning was reported Aug. 26 at 1:19 p.m. off 1249 Ocean Boulevard West.

Witnesses told Darr that Swanson was walking on the beach when bystanders asked him to help rescue Sheila Gerner, 50, of Phoenixville, Pa.

Darr said Gerner's raft had drifted approximately 300 feet from shore in ocean currents off the western end of Holden Beach before she called for help.

According to Darr, Swanson swam out to Gerner, stayed with her about 15 minutes and had begun swimming back to shore when he encountered difficulty.

When he arrived on the scene Darr said he observed Swanson face down in the water 200 feet to 300 feet out, and he saw bystanders assisting Gerner approximately 100 feet from shore.

Darr credited Robert Tyndall of Shallotte Point with doing the most to rescue Gerner.

The officer and Arnold Potter of Supply then were able to reach Swanson, who appeared to be unconscious, said Darr.

Coastline Volunteer Rescue Squad transported Swanson and Gerner to The Brunswick Hospital, where Swanson was pronounced dead on arrival.

The county coroner's report listed Swanson's cause of death as "drowning from saltwater immersion."

According to a hospital spokesperson, Gerner was kept overnight for observation and was released Thursday morning.

## Shell Point Residents Fear Loss Of Homes

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lots had been used as collateral for two separate loans of \$35,000 and \$55,000 acquired in December 1983 and February 1985 respectively.

Even though the bank is looking into the problem, bank officials are hesitant to comment on it.

"I do not want anything published out of context," said UCB City Executive Al Laughinghouse, adding only that Anderson had been retained "to look into the total situation."

At least 30 residents waited in a yard on Shell Point Road for more than two hours last Wednesday morning, after asking bank officials and the subdivision's developer to meet with them to explain the foreclosure notices.

Another group met individually with Anderson at his Shallotte office Friday morning, but many of the residents said they were still unclear about their situations.

The property owners also are con-

tacting local and state officials to find what can be done to save their lots.

Assistant District Attorney Napoleon Barefoot Jr. said Friday that his office had received calls from Shell Point Recreational Village residents; however, he said he did not talk to them personally and had no detailed knowledge of the matter.

State Rep. David Redwine said Tuesday he contacted the state at-

torney general's office this week and talked with Senior Deputy Attorney General Andrew A. Vanore Jr. about the Shell Point Recreational Village situation.

Redwine said Vanore plans to look into the matter and relay information on it to the Justice Department's consumer protection division.

"We've got the wheels moving to see if we can't find out what's going on and what we might do to correct the situation," Redwine said.

## Brunswick Tech Trustees Appoint Interim President

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Ward said, "I have never had any desire not to work. I love my job here. I hope I am working here when I die."

He said he will have to be reclassified as a part-time employee and will therefore lose his annual leave, sick leave and state hospitalization plan. He said the state disability plan does cover his hospitalization insurance.

In a brief speech before the board, Ward said, "I have been in this system for 21 years. I don't want to stay at home now. Even though the college would no longer be paying my full salary, nothing would change as far as I'm concerned. Nothing would

fall short or be left undone."

Also Monday, the board approved a motion by Finance Committee Chairman Kelly Holden to add the names of Ward and Reaves to the list of those having authorization to sign checks for the Brunswick Tech accounts of special funds, county funds and state funds. The names of Carter and former business manager Leo Hunt were deleted from the list.

Other discussion at the meeting focused on a possible new position of purchasing equipment coordinator, which is to be reported on by the personnel committee at the Sept. 16 meeting.

The personnel committee is also

expected to recommend at that meeting a procedure for conducting the search for a permanent president.

Kelly also announced that he will discuss the position of dean of instruction with Reaves during the next few weeks.

Carter had been acting dean of instruction since the fall of 1986 when the former dean of instruction, Jesse Clemmons, was named dean of continuing education.

Board members Durwood Clark Sr. and Clarkie Munn, both of Leland, were absent from Monday's meeting.

## Drier Weather Is Expected

Average daily temperatures were one degree above normal in the Shallotte area during the period Aug. 25-31, according to Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady.

Canady recorded an average daily high of 89 degrees and an average daily low of 72 degrees.

The maximum high temperature was 93 degrees on the 26th and 29th;

the minimum low was 69 degrees on the 26th and 31st.

Rainfall at Shallotte Point during the period measured 3.17 inches.

Canady said that over the next few days, the area can expect normal temperatures and rainfall.

Daytime highs in the upper 80s are expected along with overnight lows in the upper 60s.

## Bellamy Resigns

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"I feel it would be inappropriate to attempt to continue to perform the duties of my office while this allegation is hanging over me," Bellamy's prepared statement read.

Bellamy then notified Judge Clark and state court officials that Ms. Morgan would "perform all duties as clerk" in his absence.

But according to Franklin E. Freeman, director of the Administrative Office of the Courts, Bellamy's "leave of absence" was, in effect, a paid vacation.

In July, Freeman told The Brunswick Beacon: "Technically a clerk can't take a leave of absence unless he applies to the governor and the governor grants it—and then it is without pay."

Freeman said Tuesday that Bellamy did not seek the governor's approval for an official leave of absence.

"He is elected for a term of four years," Freeman said, "and he draws his salary so long as he holds office, unless the law provides otherwise."

He added that a clerk's salary may be suspended in only two instances: while a clerk is on an official leave of absence approved by the governor, or while a clerk is appealing his formal removal from office in the state courts.

When contacted Tuesday at his Shallotte office, Bellamy's local attorney, Roy Trest, declined comment on the case.

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