

## CALABASH RESCUE SQUAD

# Dedication Is Their Middle Name

BY MARJORIE MEGIVERN

You're tooling along U.S. 17, air conditioner shielding you from the blazing heat, when suddenly a siren blares behind you. A look in the rear-view mirror tells you another heart attack or accident victim is on his/her way to the hospital.

Morgan Riedinger implores you, at this point, to pull over to the shoulder of the road and let a rescue vehicle proceed in its race to save a life.

Riedinger, president of the Calabash Volunteer Rescue Squad, gets explosively angry over the many drivers who ignore such sirens and the crises they signal. "Sometimes you can see people looking in their rear-view mirror and you know they see you, but they just don't respond," he says.

That's his pet peeve in rescue work, where he serves with 26 others in the Calabash squad. Organized in 1982, it's almost the newest of Brunswick County's ten volunteer rescue units.

It's one of the most visible, too, serving an area in which a large number of retired people means plenty of emergency runs to the hospital with cardiac cases.

"That accounts for most of our calls," said Barbara Ruby, squad chief. "That and respiratory problems."

Total calls have more than doubled in the past year, according to Riedinger. "A year ago we went out on an average of once a day; now it's two to five calls daily," he said.

In many ways this squad is fortunate. It has an attractive, spacious metal building on Hwy. 179, three vehicles (one spanking new), and a larger active membership than most of its counterparts. Fund-raising is pretty successful, too, in this area of relatively greater affluence.

"Maryn Hall at Carolina Shores does a tremendous job of getting money in the subdivisions," Ruby said. "She's our angel, as far as I'm concerned," Riedinger put in, "along

with our treasurer, Pat Klein."

Yet, while 80 percent of subdivision residents respond to Hall's pleas, Ruby said only ten percent of the overall population gives to this effort.

"We shake buckets, have raffles and a golf tournament," she said, "and we hand-deliver flyers saying, 'Some day you could be the patient.'"

The result of a general apathy in the area is that the squad received \$62,000 last year toward a \$67,000 budget. Only \$10,000 of that comes from the county, but \$500 was added for the new budget year.

(See DEDICATION, Page 14)

### Calabash Information

Town Hall.....	579-6747
Town Clerk.....	Janet Thomas
Building Inspector.....	Bill Dunker
Mayor, Douglas Simmons.....	579-7522
Commissioners:	
Robert Welch	
Pati Lewellyn	
Sonya Stevens	
Suzy Moore	
Linda Roberts	
Fire Department.....	579-2123
Rescue Squad.....	579-7474

### Calabash Regulations

The Town of Calabash has few "Dos and Don'ts" aside from state laws, such as a prohibition against fireworks.

Visitors are asked to refrain from solicitation, keep dogs fenced, caged or on leashes, and observe the 35 miles per hour speed limit.

## Calabash

Calabash, formerly called Pea Landing, was a thriving community in the 1800s, when peanuts dominated the economy.

It began a decline in the 20th century, but the first seafood restaurant opened in 1940, followed by at least 20 others in the next 40 years, making the town a "seafood capital."

A first council and mayor were elected in the 60s, but the town was not incorporated until 1973.

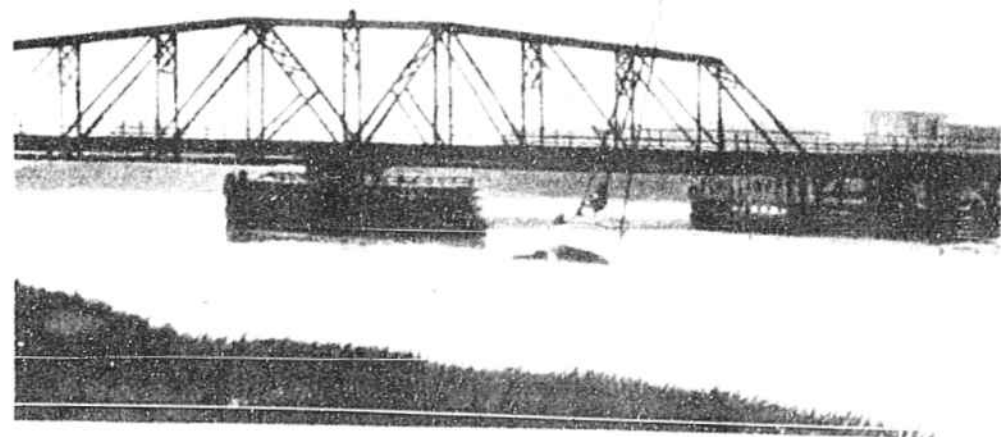
Now, in 1987, it is building a water system and a town hall, and has a population of 201, with 109 permanent housing units.



CALABASH RESCUE SQUAD members Debra Somersett and Morgan Riedinger load a back board into their new ambulance.

## THE CALABASH GALLERY

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