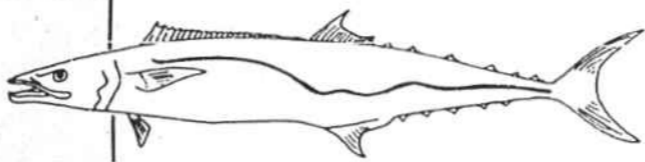


King Classic A First

Come Labor Day, the South Brunswick Islands will host its first major king mackerel tournament, an all-cash event. Registration details are on Page 16-C.



Bonjour, Frederic!

Say hello to Frederic, a young Frenchman on a four-week visit to the U.S.A. This exchange student's story is on Page 5-B.

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Carolina Shores To Request State Bill For Incorporation

BY DOUG RUTTER

Following a recent survey of its registered voters, Carolina Shores will seek state legislation next year to allow residents to vote on incorporation.

Two-thirds of the community's registered voters who responded to the survey said they were in favor of looking further into incorporation.

About 70 percent of the 800 registered voters responded to the survey, which was sent out in May. A total of 372 of the 555 respondents said they favored proceeding with incorporation.

Despite the survey, a formal referendum must be held sometime next year to determine if the golf course community on the outskirts of Calabash will become a

municipality.

"Any incorporation bill I introduce, no matter where or when, will require a referendum," said State Rep. David Redwine, who will introduce the local bill to the N.C. General Assembly.

He said the bill cannot be introduced until at least next February, adding that a referendum date will have to be worked out with the local board of elections.

According to Carolina Shores Property Owners Association Manager Robert Noe, introduction of the bill and the referendum will follow two or three meetings later this year with representatives of the Institute of Government in Chapel Hill.

Those meetings, he said, will be held in October or

November "to get the facts presented to the people" about the pros and cons of incorporation.

Although a referendum may be a year or more away, Noe said there is a lot to do before the community can request state legislation.

The major item is development of a town charter, which will include the name and boundaries of the incorporated area, the system of government and how the town will be set up. Also, a slate of town officials will have to be appointed to serve until the first election.

"It's not one of those things where you just pull a rabbit out of a hat," said Noe. "We've got some work to do before all of this can happen."

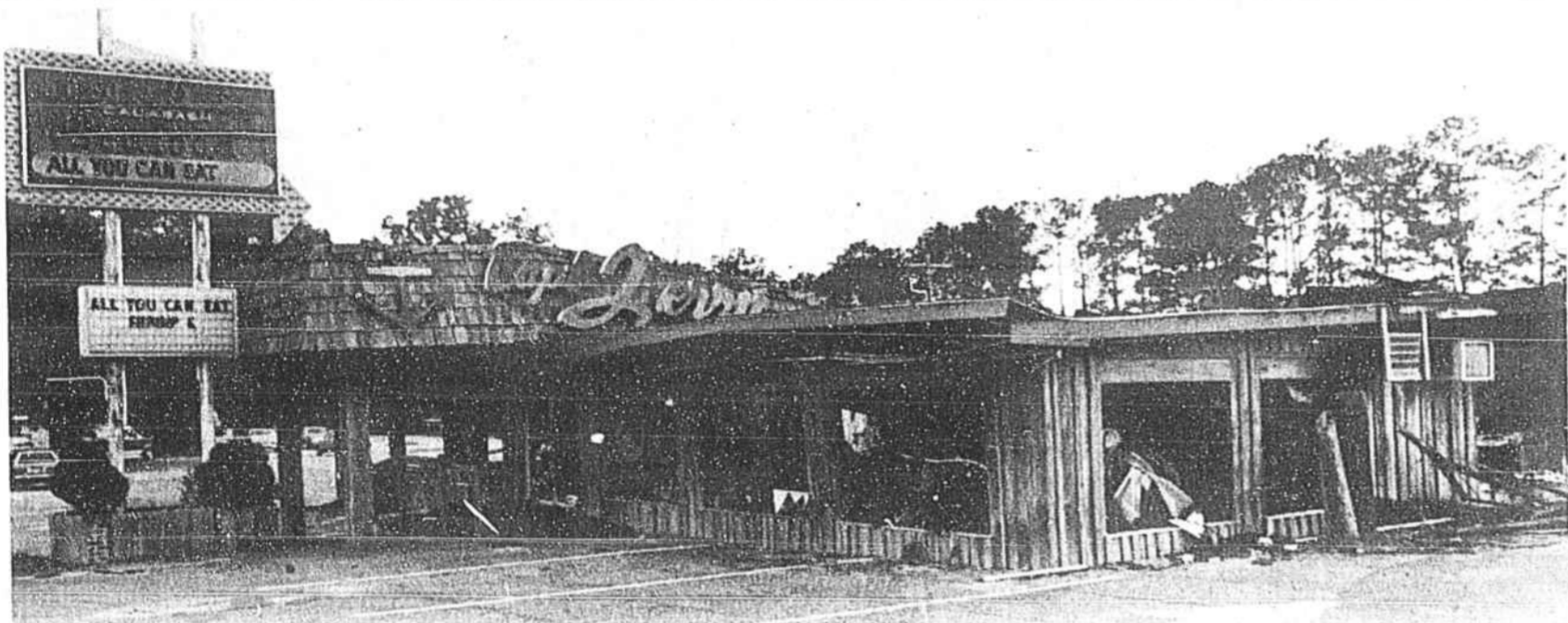
Despite the survey, Noe said it is difficult to tell

what the results of the referendum will be. "There's no way to really forecast what will happen," he said. "I think most of the people want to take a good, hard look at it."

Carolina Shores, which includes more than 1,200 lots, is included in an area being considered for annexation by the Town of Calabash. However, the town governing council has given no indication that the subdivision is a specific area of interest.

Said Noe, "Most people are beginning to realize that if they want some control over what's going on around here they're going to have to incorporate."

"Unless something startling happens at these meetings, I think they'll go ahead with it."



JERRY'S CALABASH SEAFOOD on Ivey High Street, Calabash, was destroyed late Saturday night in what authorities have termed a

"suspicious" fire. Firemen from five local volunteer fire departments were on the scene of the blaze for about 7½ hours.

Fire Destroys Restaurant 2 Weeks Before Auction

BY RAHN ADAMS

A padlocked Calabash restaurant was destroyed by fire Saturday two weeks before it was to be auctioned by the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department to recover unpaid state taxes.

SBI agents said Monday that the blaze at Jerry's Calabash Seafood on Ivey High Street was under investigation as a "suspicious" fire.

"Preliminary indications are that it was accidentally or intentionally set," said Supervising Agent Dave Marshall of the regional SBI office in Jacksonville.

Marshall declined further comment on the investigation, saying the SBI was waiting for samples taken from the fire scene to be analyzed. Test results should be available in

three to four weeks, he said.

Brunswick County Sheriff John C. Davis said that no arrests were made in the case and "no known suspects" were identified as of Tuesday morning.

The property, which was seized by the sheriff's department June 21, is owned by Jerry and Cheryl High.

Some 50 firemen and 11 trucks from the Calabash, Grissetown-Longwood, Sunset Beach, Ocean Isle Beach and Waccamaw volunteer fire departments were dispatched to the restaurant Saturday at 11:07 p.m., according to Brunswick County Emergency Management Coordinator Cecil Logan.

By the time firemen arrived, the frame structure was fully involved in flames, with the fire having already

burned through the roof, Logan said. Firemen were on the scene until 6:30 a.m. Sunday.

Logan said no injuries were reported in the fire. He added that the blaze did not threaten any nearby businesses or homes.

Although the restaurant had not been occupied for 3½ weeks, the building's electrical service was still turned on at the time of the fire, Logan said.

He said the blaze appeared to have started inside the restaurant between the kitchen and dining area.

Logan estimated damage to the building and its contents at \$150,000. The structure was completely gutted, with only the shell of the building left standing.

According to Brunswick County

Sheriff's Department Chief Civil Deputy Liston Hawes, the tax value of the building and land was \$240,000 prior to the weekend fire.

Hawes said Tuesday that the property will be offered at public auction as scheduled. "It's going to be sold on July 29... I'm just missing a restaurant," he said.

A legal action by the N.C. Department of Revenue determined that the Highs owed \$55,705.52 in unpaid individual income taxes and sales taxes, including interest and penalties through June 15, Hawes said.

He added that the delinquent income taxes were for the four-year period from 1982 to 1985. Also, warrants for the unpaid sales taxes were dated from October 1979 to May 1987.

State Office Begins 'Submerged Land' Claims Review

BY SUSAN USHER

A majority of the 333 remaining "205" submerged land claims filed 18 or more years ago by Brunswick County property owners could be denied under a June 30 ruling by the N.C. Supreme Court following a state review.

"We will get to them as quickly as we can," P.A. Wojciechowski said Tuesday. "If people have questions we'll be glad to help them, we'll get them answers as fast as we can. But we have a small office."

Wojciechowski is the director of the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries' new submerged lands office. The office has been assigned the task of reviewing "case by case" all—approximately 6,500 in 25 counties—pending submerged land claims.

A staff of five paralegals has begun searching local court records to update title information for the tracts involved, he said, since the original number of claimants has most likely increased through division of the tracts by sales or estate activity.

In the landmark Hyde County case, the court ruled in a 17-page opinion that a person cannot claim submerged property merely by prescription ("squatter's right's"), that is, continuous private use while excluding the public.

It said that ownership of submerged lands based on grants by the state are null and void.

"It reaffirms the law that the state doesn't have a right to grant submerged lands (which includes lands below the high water mark)," said J. Allen Jernigan, assistant attorney general. "We think it is the most significant public trust opinion in 85 years and maybe the most significant ever in North Carolina."

The impact of the ruling on local claims is uncertain. However, at a May 8, 1985, hearing on legislation regarding submerged land claims, Ocean Isle Beach developer Odell Williamson estimated that as many as "99.66 percent" of the Brunswick County land claims were based on such early grants such as those in the 1600s from King Charles to the Lords Proprietors. "People rely on these in establishing title," he said.

And, according to Jernigan, "The opinion tends to say those are not valid."

Williamson and other local landowners who have filed major claims could not be reached for comment Monday or Tuesday.

State Upheld

The test case was a suit filed by the state to determine ownership of a 640-acre tract of Swan Quarter Bay in Hyde County. Sidney Arthur Credle of Swan Quarter had claimed approximately 85 acres under G.S.115-205, saying his family had harvested oysters there exclusively for many years.

The state argued that a private individual's right to claim land by adverse possession applied only to vacant and unappropriated land, not to public trust lands under navigable waters.

The court agreed. In the opinion, Associate Justice Louis B. Meyer traced the English common law principle in which the sovereign owned the sea and lands, subject to the rights of people to fish and navigate.

Meyer noted that a 1972 amendment to the state constitution mandates the conservation and protection of submerged lands.

(See CLAIMS, Page 2-A)

Brunswick Farmers Cope With Dry Growing Season

BY RAHN ADAMS

While farmers in other sections of the state and nation are thirsting for rain to break the current drought, Brunswick County agriculture is holding its own, thanks to a wet spring and timely rainfall this summer.

"We haven't had that much of a problem yet," Brunswick County Agricultural Extension Chairman Milton Coleman said, one day after thundershowers drenched the Shallotte area with more than 1½-inches of rain.

In general, Brunswick County farmers are in "fairly good shape," even though the current growing season has included extended dry spells, Coleman said.

"Even though we're in a (rainfall) deficit, the rain we've gotten has come on a timely basis," he said.

According to Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady, the Shallotte area received 21.22 inches of rain this year through June 30. That amount was slightly higher than the long-term average of 20.94 inches for the same six-month period.

Canady noted that although June and July have been drier than normal, an usually wet spring increased the overall rainfall total.

"We're really faring quite well, compared to a lot of people in the na-

tion," Canady said. "We had a wet spring. That made all the difference in the world."

From June 1 until July 11, the Shallotte area received only about 2.2 inches of rain, which was about an inch below the expected seasonal level for the same period. An additional 1.71 inches of rain during the period of July 12 through 18 narrowed the deficit to .10 of an inch.

Coleman said most crops in the county have survived the dry periods that have occurred over the past couple of months. In fact, wheat yields are reported above normal. And he added that tobacco can tolerate hot, dry weather better than most other crops.

However, Coleman said last Thursday that rainfall over the next seven to 10 days would be crucial for the county's field corn crop because it is in the tassling stage and requires moisture to survive. Also, he noted that it was "too early to tell" how the local soybean crop will turn out.

"Some of these fields that were suffering could have been revived due to the moisture we've received over the past few days," he said.

According to Coleman, the eastern half of the county has received more rainfall than the western half. An area from Hickman's Crossroads to

Columbus County along the Waccamaw River has been especially hard-hit by dry conditions.

O. Kendall Bellamy of Hickman's

Crossroads said last Thursday that he has lost about half of his 200-acre field corn crop, which is used to feed livestock.

"Things in general, it (rain) will help a lot, but for the field crop—like corn—it won't make much difference," he said.

(See FARMERS, Page 2-A)



FARMER O. KENDALL BELLAMY (right) and worker Iva Dean Grissett load bushel baskets of green beans at Indigo Farms in the Hickman's Crossroads

area. Bellamy said irrigation is helping most of his crops survive a dry summer, although he has lost half of his field corn crop this year.

Council Lacks Quorum Again

Calabash Town Council couldn't meet officially Tuesday evening because it once again lacked a quorum.

However, the two council members and mayor who did show up chatted for more than an hour with planning consultant Ken Weeden about policy statements to be included in the town's first land use plan.

Present for the hour-long informal session were Councilmen Landis High and Keith Hardee and Mayor Doug Simmons.

However, the board will try again to have an official meeting; another meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 26, at 5:30 p.m. at the town hall.