

Tasteful Diversions

Dining and entertainment supplement included in this issue.

Reeling In

Landing Brunswick County's first electronics-based industry—and up to 500 new jobs—took eight months of effort. For an inside look at how Exide and Brunswick got together, see the Business Page, 14-B.

Island Living

Supplement included in this issue.

THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

HOAG & SONS BOOK BINDERY
PO BOX 1231/99
SPRINGPORT MI 49284

Twenty-seventh Year, Number 43 ©1989 THE BRUNSWICK BEACON Shallotte, North Carolina, Thursday, August 31, 1989 25¢ Per Copy 108 Pages, 3 Sections, 2 Supplements, 1 Insert

SIMMONS TO RUN FOR MAYOR

Four From Carolina Shores File For Calabash Council

BY DOUG RUTTER

Four Carolina Shores residents had filed for commission seats in the enlarged Town of Calabash as of Tuesday afternoon, and the current mayor said he will seek reelection this fall.

An emergency filing period for Calabash opened last Friday following a referendum last Tuesday in which voters from Calabash proper and Carolina Shores both approved a plan to consolidate the two communities.

By virtue of last week's vote, the Calabash town limits were expanded to include all of Carolina Shores effective today (Thursday). A new seven-member board of commissioners will replace the existing five-member town council after this year's general municipal election.

On Nov. 7, five residents from Carolina Shores (District II) and two from Calabash (District I) will be elected to the commission. The

mayor can run from either district. Residents from both areas will be able to vote for candidates in both districts.

Those filing from Carolina Shores as of Tuesday were Jon B. Sanborn, Stuart B. Thorn, James A. Nay and George L. Taubel, according to the Brunswick County Board of Elections office.

Calabash Mayor Doug Simmons said Tuesday a number of Carolina Shores residents have asked him to run for mayor and that he plans to file this week. He had indicated earlier that he had not planned to run for the post.

"I didn't want the people to think that I was leaving them flat," he said. "I want to help out with the changeover as much as I can."

Simmons said he didn't know if any of the current town council members planned to run for office. The present mayor and council will run the town through the end of

November. The new board will take over in December.

At the other end of Brunswick County, two men have filed for town council at Navassa since a special filing period opened there last Friday.

Roosevelt Toomer and Leon Bowman have filed for seats on the town board. They join council candidate Jimmy Lewis, who declared his candidacy during the regular filing period which ended Aug. 4. There are two council seats up for election this year.

The filing period was reopened last week in Navassa after William White withdrew as a candidate. That move left the town without a full slate of officers.

Navassa Mayor Louis "Bobby" Brown is unopposed in his bid for re-election this fall.

The filing period for both towns continues through Friday, Sept. 8. The filing fee is \$5, payable at the county elections office in Bolivia.

SAYS ENGINEER:

Shallotte Needs Plan For Future

BY DOUG RUTTER

Shallotte needs to develop a master plan and generate more revenue to ensure the town has enough sewage capacity to handle future growth.

That was the advice the town's consulting engineer gave officials last Thursday during a special meeting called to discuss the annexation of about 800 acres into Shallotte.

Present for the 90-minute informal session were Mayor Jerry Jones, town aldermen Paul Wayne Reeves, Jody Simmons and David Gause and planning board member Art Clawson.

Landowners have requested annexation of about 400 acres off the U.S. 17 bypass at the south end of town and 400 acres off Forest Drive north of town. Before acting on the requests, officials wanted input from the town's sewer plant engineer, J. Finley Boney of Raleigh.

After discussing the town's present sewer capacity and future needs at length, Boney recommended the town not annex all of the land until it has a master plan guiding expansion of the town limits. "I don't see how you can take the whole thing," he said.

In the master plan, he said officials could map out how they want the town to grow over the next 20 years. Also, he suggested the town

"They need you more than you need them."

—J. Finley Boney
Consulting Engineer

increase its impact fees and create another fee to generate funds for a new sewer plant.

Boney also endorsed extraterritorial jurisdiction as a means of keeping tabs on growth. The planning board recently recommended the town establish a jurisdictional area within one mile of the corporate limits where the town could enforce its zoning and subdivisions ordinances. Aldermen are studying the proposal.

From an engineering standpoint, Boney said annexation of the north-end property is more feasible than taking in the 400 acres south of town. "Your easiest bet is the north end because your sitting on top of the sewer plant," he said.

The three north-end tracts included in the annexation proposal are close to the sewer plant. The area includes the partially-developed Green Bay Village subdivision.

Boney said a force main leading back to the sewer plant would be needed to annex the land south of Shallotte. But officials agreed last week that the acreage south of town will be more valuable in terms of tax base than the land north of

town. There are already 26 residential units in the area, including 24 in the Parkview Apartments complex.

Shallotte officials also talked about annexing the developed land of both areas and leaving out the undeveloped property for now. Landowners requested annexation of the two areas in order to get sewer service.

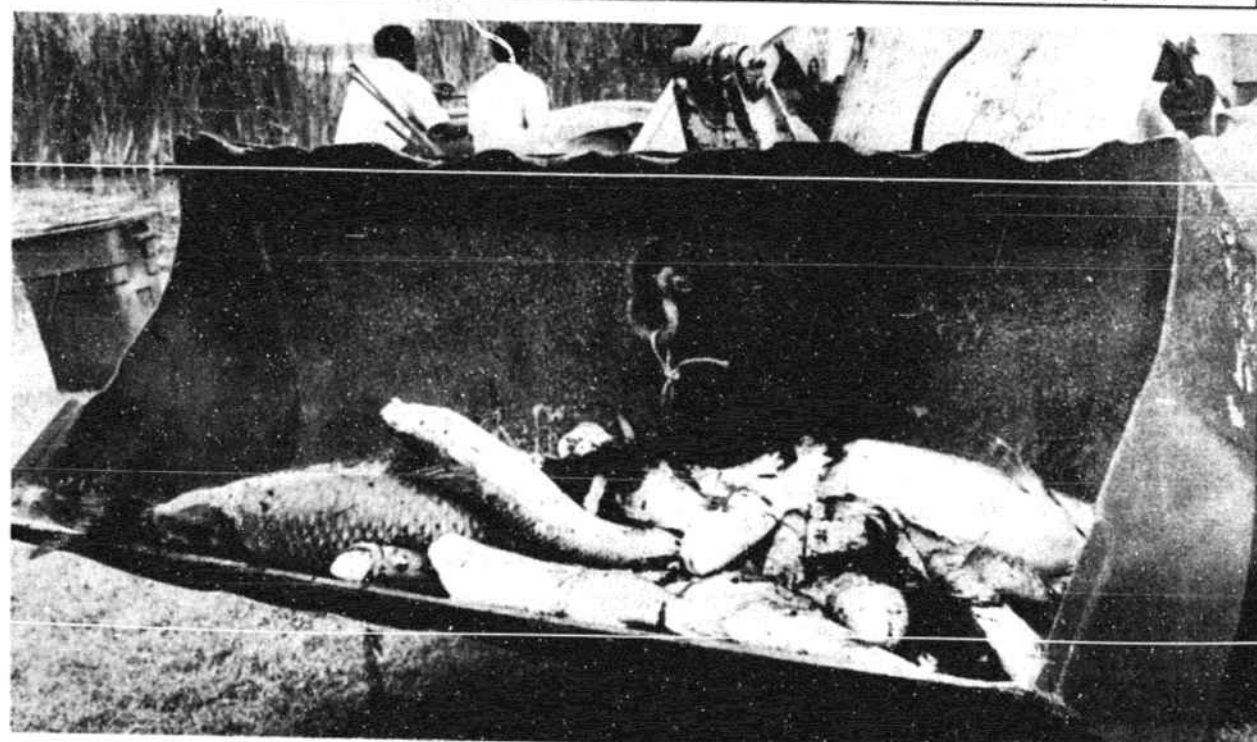
Whatever areas are annexed, Boney stressed that the town make sure the property owners fund all utility connections. "They need you more than you need them," he said. "They got a tiger by the tail."

Shallotte is now treating about 90,000 gallons of wastewater per day. After completing an ongoing expansion of its system, the town will have the capacity for 206,100 gallons per day.

With that capacity, Boney said the town will be able to handle all building within the present town limits, where a lot of land is still undeveloped. "We can just about double our size in town," he said.

Once all of that capacity is used up, however, Boney said the town won't be able to expand its system again. Shallotte will have to build another sewer plant at a cost of at least \$1 million, he said.

The existing plant was funded with a federal grant. But Boney said there is very little federal money (See SHALLOTTE, Page 2-A)



DEAD FISH scooped from Eastern Lake at Sunset Beach morning were piled into this front-end loader. Scientists were expected to take water samples from the lake Wednesday to help determine the cause of the fish kill.

Scientists To Sample Twin Lake To Determine Cause Of Fish Kill

BY DOUG RUTTER

Scientists were expected to sample waters in Eastern Lake at Sunset Beach Wednesday with the hope of finding out what caused the sudden death of dozens of fish over the weekend.

Eastern Lake, a bird sanctuary also known as a home to fresh water bass and alligators, is located north of N.C. 179 near the Oyster Bay Golf Links property. Prior to the fish kill, the concerns of local residents had grown to the point that they recently incorporated a conservation group to protect the natural habitat.

Larry Young, owner of Oyster Bay, said most of the fish that died over the weekend were a special breed of grass-eating carp that were put into the lake to control weed and algae growth. There were also a few dead mullet.

Golf course maintenance workers used small nets to pull the dead fish out of the lake Monday morning. As golfers pulled on a nearby green, workers pulled between 75 and 100 fish into the bucket of a front-end loader. A few more dead fish were pulled out of the lake Tuesday morning.

Young said the first dead fish—some as much as three feet long—were noticed Saturday. "We couldn't figure out what in the world could have caused it."

He said a fungicide had been applied to the golf course greens last week. But he said the treatment should not have caused any harm to the fish. He added that maintenance crews haven't sprayed insecticide in weeks.

An engineer who treats the weeds and algae that grow along the lake shoreline for the golf course be-

lieves a quick change in environmental conditions is the most likely reason for the fish kill.

Randy Mills, an engineer with National Aquatics of Columbia, S.C., said, "That right there is simply an environmental fish kill due to a quick change in the water temperature. It's all part of nature."

Because the shallow Eastern Lake is particularly warm at the end of the summer, he said the shock of a cold rain can kill the fish by depleting oxygen in the water. The lake is between two feet and three feet deep in most areas and is thick with plant life.

"It's not something that happens every day," said Mills. "But it happens often enough that it's not something that should cause a panic."

To control weeds, Mills said he treats sections of the bank of the lake every 30 days with a herbicide approved for aquatic use. Also, he uses copper sulfate to reduce algal growth along the edge of the lake.

Mills said he doubts the fish kill was caused by the use of any chemical. He said the dead fish would have been confined to a small area if chemicals were to blame.

He and another scientist, who is working on behalf of a local citizens conservation group, planned to test waters of Eastern Lake for oxygen levels on Wednesday.

Gordon Wills, president of the recently-formed Twin Lakes Residents Conservation Association, said a biology professor from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington was expected to sample the water Wednesday morning.

The conservation group, which began organizing a year ago, re-

ceived its charter in February. Since then, Wills said members have been negotiating with golf course management to cut down on the use of lake water for golf course irrigation and to reduce weed and algal growth in the lakes.

"They have promised verbally to do a great deal about solving this problem," said Wills, who lives on Western Lake which adjoins Eastern Lake.

He said he suspects that low oxygen levels in the water caused the fish to die. A number of live fish appeared to be gasping for oxygen at the surface of the water Monday morning.

Wills said association members are concerned about low water levels in the lakes and the growth of weeds and algae. The use of herbicides and fertilizers on the golf course also concerns members of the group, he said.

This week's fish kill is not the first to occur at Eastern Lake. Wills said a fish kill several years ago was blamed on using too much water from the lake to irrigate the golf course. Low water levels promote the growth of weeds and algae, he said, which deplete the oxygen level in the water.

Both Eastern and Western Lakes, known as the "Twin Lakes," are owned by Sunset Beach developer Edward Gore Sr. He could not be reached for comment Monday or Tuesday. Oyster Bay's owner said the golf course leases some sections of the lakes from Gore.

Residents and people who have fished in the lakes said the water has some salt content. There is at least one culvert that allows the lake water to mix with water from the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway.

Pigott Convicted Of Murder; Sentenced To Life In Prison

BY RAHN ADAMS

Two days after he was convicted of killing his former employer over \$120 in cash, Henry Levi Pigott Jr. of Shallotte was sentenced Friday afternoon to be imprisoned "for the remainder of his natural life," in the words of Judge Donald Stephens.

While an individual who receives a life sentence for first-degree murder alone may be eligible for parole in 20 years, the 34-year-old Pigott could very well spend the rest of his life behind bars for the September 1988 kidnapping, robbery and murder of Anchor Lumber Company owner Darwin Kingsley "King" Freeman.

Assistant District Attorney Thomas Hicks, who served as prosecutor in the two-week Brunswick County Superior Court trial, noted afterwards that Pigott probably will not be eligible for parole for about 60 years, based on the life plus 130-year sentence he received on charges of first-degree murder, armed robbery, first-degree kidnapping and first-degree arson.

The nine-woman, three-man jury returned its verdict on the murder sentence Friday at 3 p.m., after four hours of deliberations. Although jurors found that Pigott shot Freeman after tying up the 74-year-old man

and robbing him, they also decided that those aggravating factors did not call for imposition of the death penalty.

The jury found two mitigating circumstances from a list of at least 10 that were offered by court-appointed defense attorneys Steve Yount and Rex Gore. The two factors were that Pigott was addicted to drugs at the time of the slaying and that he had a good work history prior to his involvement with drugs.

"The court cannot help but be impressed by the wisdom of the jury in some of the findings here," Stephens said before handing down sentences on the kidnapping, armed robbery and arson convictions.

Then, after asking Pigott if he wished to speak and seeing the defendant shake his head "no," the judge commented, "You can thank 12 members of your community for sparing your life. As far as mercy and leniency are concerned in this case, you've already received it."

Stephens sentenced Pigott to consecutive, maximum prison terms on the three charges: 40 years for robbery, 40 years for kidnapping and 50 years for arson. The maximum term for arson is either 50 years or life.

According to testimony in the trial, Pigott—who was an Anchor Lumber employee at the time of the murder—went to Freeman's efficiency apartment at the lumber yard south of Shallotte late on Sept. 24, 1988,

and asked Freeman for a small loan. When his employer refused, Pigott went back to his Airport Road home, got a .22-caliber rifle and returned to Anchor Lumber, where he tied Freeman up and robbed him of about \$120 before shooting him once in the temple.

Pigott attempted to burn the combination apartment and office building, using kerosene he got from a storage shed. When he was unsuccessful, he went back to his home and picked up his girlfriend—Carol Jeanette Moore, 20, of Bolton—and returned to Anchor Lumber with gasoline to set fire to the building again. The early morning fire was spotted from U.S. 17 by a newspaper carrier. Freeman's body was found by firefighters.

After a five-month investigation, the SBI and Brunswick County Sheriff's Department arrested Pigott and Ms. Moore. The day after their Feb. 21 arrests, Pigott signed a 13-page confession, admitting that he had killed Freeman. He also led lawmen to a creek in Columbus County where they recovered the murder weapon.

The jury found Pigott guilty of murder, kidnapping, armed robbery and arson after three hours of deliberations last Wednesday. He was acquitted of a second-degree burglary charge.

On Aug. 14, Ms. Moore pleaded guilty to being an accessory after the fact to murder, robbery, kidnapping and two counts of arson. Judge Stephens consolidated

the charges and sentenced her Friday to a 10-year prison term.

During Pigott's two-week trial—which included four days of jury selection—defense attorneys maintained that Pigott's actions resulted from his addiction to crack cocaine and other drugs which he had been using heavily since 1986.

The defense also noted that for several years prior to the murder, Pigott worked as a drug informant for the Brunswick County Narcotics Division. Yount questioned inconsistencies in the "system," in that Pigott was, in effect, paid to be involved in drug activity.

"I want you to consider whether that person (Pigott) was born that way or whether we made him that way," Yount told jurors.

In his closing argument during the sentencing phase of the trial, Gore added, "Levi will live or die with your decision. Lives should not be taken without great thought and great consideration...There's got to be some room in your minds that death is not the answer."

The prosecution, however, pressed for the death penalty. "He wrote out his death warrant when he went to Anchor Lumber Company and killed King Freeman for \$120," Hicks argued.

The assistant district attorney closed his remarks to jurors by saying, "King Freeman's gone, and the Lord's taken care of him. It's up to you to take care of Levi Pigott."



PIGOTT