

**Station Work On Schedule**

The Oak Island Lighthouse towers above the new U.S. Coast Guard Station under construction at Caswell Beach. Work is on schedule for completion next spring, but the fate of the old station is still uncertain. Cmdr. Dale Ward, planning officer for the 5th District, Portsmouth, Va., says demolition was cut from the project budget due to lack of funding, but that the money may be found elsewhere in the district's operating budget next year. Meanwhile, a local non-profit group has run into obstacles in its effort to salvage the station.

STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

**Rose Sending Team To Hear Update On Maritime Museum**

A team representing Rep. Charlie Rose's Washington, D.C., office is coming to Southport next Wednesday, Aug. 14, to assess the progress made to date in establishing a Southport Maritime Museum.

Pamela Cumbee, a member and past president of Southport Maritime Museum Inc., said the group is to meet for a continental breakfast and briefing at the building that has been secured to house the museum, the former Harrelson's Appliance Store on North Howe Street.

As part of its community relations and fundraising efforts, the museum board has made county, state and U.S. officials "aware of what we're trying to do here, our hopes," she said. "We think this visit is paramount to our future success," said Ms. Cumbee. She was not certain who the delegation might include.

Afterwards the delegation will tour Southport and hear additional reports on the museum project and

related downtown revitalization efforts. The group will be joined at lunch by various city and county officials.

The museum would house artifacts and exhibits relating to Southport and Brunswick's counties ties to the sea, such as commercial fishing, and would help draw visitors to Southport's waterfront and downtown area. It is expected to complement other attractions in the county.

The museum board of directors had explored the possibility of acquiring the Oak Island Coast Guard Station at Caswell Beach as a facility for the museum.

However, it ran into what appear to be "momentous" problems, she said. The station has two above-ground levels plus a basement. Estimates for moving it from the island to the mainland came in at \$100,000 to \$200,000.

"They would have to truck it, then load it on a barge," said Ms.

Cumbee. Even then, the lower part of the building would be lost.

A new foundation would have to be provided along with a lot. The cheapest waterfront property the board could find would have cost another \$200,000.

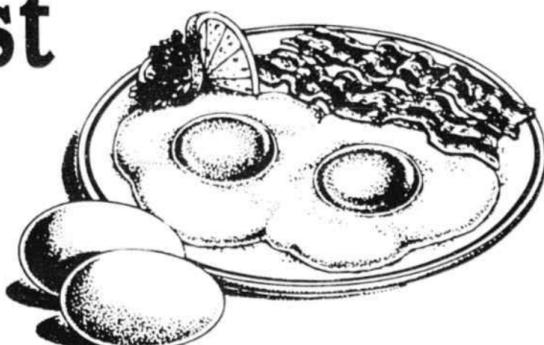
"There's a lot of public sentiment behind that old building," said Ms. Cumbee, "but people don't realize the cost that would be involved."

The museum is operating with a combination of city, county and private funding. Representatives have been speaking to civic groups in the area and plans are developing for a corporate campaign.

Meanwhile, the board has hired its first staff member, Simon Spalding. The Wilmington resident has background well suited to his new post, she said, including experience as an educator, curator, historian and entertainer.

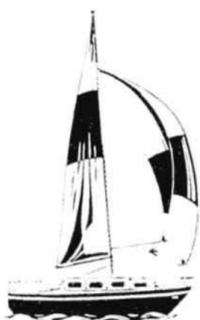
"He sings the old chanteys," she added.

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