

Ocean Isle Board Hears Plea For Turtle Sanctuary

BY MARJORIE MEGIVERN
A plea for Ocean Isle Beach (OIB) to become a sanctuary for sea turtles was made at Tuesday's OIB Town Board meeting by Gloria Hillenburg, turtle coordinator for the island.

The action would require adoption of a local bill by the state legislature.

"If you don't take this step, we're in trouble," Hillenburg said. "People don't understand that turtles must be undisturbed when they're ready to hatch. I need volunteers to adopt a nest and protect them."

Hillenburg said the OIB police have helped her, but more assistance is needed in watching nests for 55 days.

It's against the law to disturb turtles, she noted, and she is constantly reminding people of this. "I've taken them out of people's hands and said to someone, 'Put that turtle back!'" she said.

"We had a rare leatherback turtle come in last year," she related. "We watched it for 60 days and it never hatched. Finally, I found out the eggs had been taken. I know it was done by a guy whose family eats turtle eggs."

Mayor Betty Williamson said the board would take Hillenburg's request under advisement.

The board approved a request to the

North Carolina Department of Transportation that the Sunset Beach bridge be open on every hour and half-hour to waterway traffic. Williamson said she expects the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce to join in that request.

Bids were opened for gasoline storage space that would provide a new location when the town's underground storage tank is removed on April 20. Ocean Isle Party Mart, Ocean Isle Service Center, Sheffield's and Ocean Isle Grocery submitted sealed bids, which were referred to Town Attorney Elva Jess, as there was incomplete information on two of the bids.

The board approved a resolution that the Brunswick County Alcohol Beverage Control Board not be permitted to open outlets within seven miles of a municipality with an existing ABC Board of its own.

In an executive session, personnel matters were discussed.

In business after the session, the town's billboard contract was renewed for 12 months and the garbage contract with Chambers was renewed for two-and-a-half years at a 3 percent increase in price. The town now will pay an annual \$133,000 for garbage pick-up.

Aquaculture Teacher Puts School On Scientific Map

BY MARJORIE MEGIVERN
If the whole country doesn't know about South Brunswick High School (SBHS), it won't be the fault of Barry Bey.

This aquaculture teacher has designed a program that agriscience teachers from 50 states will come to study this summer; he has also led a student team to ninth place in the state Superquest competition with a creative computer program related to his field.

On Aug. 3, teachers will gather in Brunswick County to tour SBHS and learn from Bey how to set up a teaching operation on aquaculture. The National Council for Agricultural Education has designed and tested a national curriculum on the subject and will provide inservice training during the summer to high school teachers. One group will observe cold water operations at an Asheville school; another will see warm water operations at Carolina Classics. Bay and SBHS will host the third group.

"They said we were best," Bey said, a note of exultation in his voice. "Now I hope it will mean getting grant money for our program."

He was somewhat disappointed that another achievement did not quite reach his expectations. A four-

student team launched a computer research project in early February to compete in NC SuperQuest, a contest sponsored by the N.C. Supercomputing Center at MCNC (Microelectronics Communications Supercomputing) in Research Triangle Park.

"We only learned about this in January," Bey said. "I had to find an idea quickly, so I came up with 'Managerial Approaches to Resuscitating Osteichthyes Gene Pool.'"

The title translates into a system of managing bony fish reproduction genetically. In fish farms, Bey said, there has been success with throwing back the biggest and best fish, resulting in a maximizing of the pool. "I wondered if this concept could be transferred to ocean fishing, so eventually fisheries could feed the world's population at a projected time."

With the help of math teacher Cindy Daniels, Bey put his quartet of students to work on this question. Those participating were Tanica Stanley, Thomas Fritchey, Mike Wescott and David Brown.

Out of 25 entries in NC SuperQuest, this team came in ninth. Bey hoped for at least fifth place, because that would have meant a trip to Research Triangle Park and a super-computer hookup at SBHS to continue the project.

"We spent at least 80 to 100 hours on this," he said, "I may try to find funding to pursue it anyway."

Bey's aquaculture program is the only one of its kind in the nation, he said.



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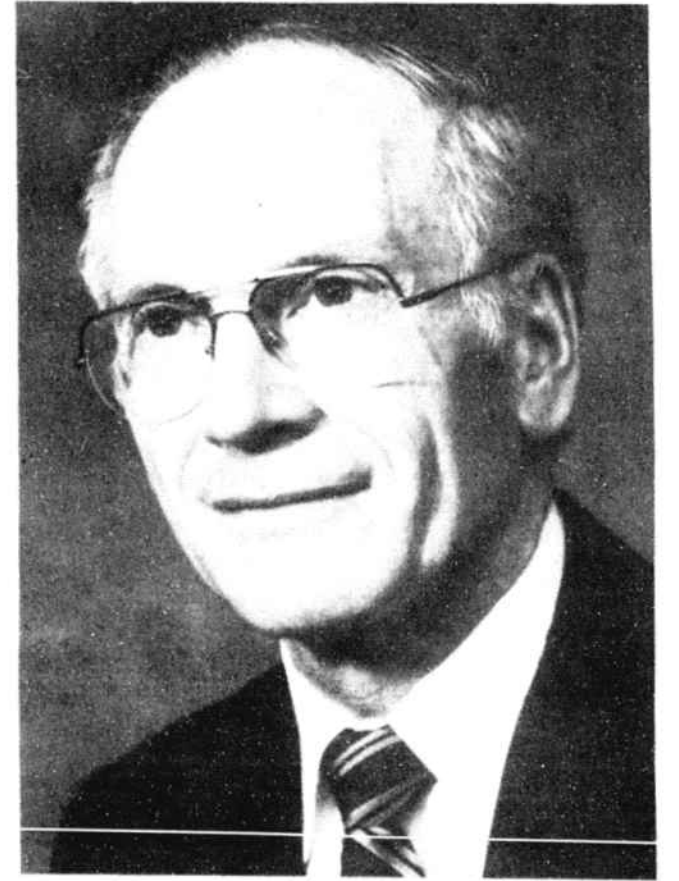
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