

# Brunswick-Columbus County Site Not On Transpark Short List

BY MARJORIE MEGIVERN

After a flurry of interest and activity on behalf of a Brunswick-Columbus County site proposed for the multi-million dollar Global Air Cargo Industrial Complex, the 11 proposals finally under study do not include this one.

Russell Baldwin, former Leland mayor, touted a site straddling northern Brunswick and Columbus counties that would offer the proposed complex plenty of space and proximity to air, land and water transportation.

However, Paul Shumaker, chief assistant secretary with the state Department of Economics and Community Development said last week that 11 of 13 bidders for the project were invited to make presentations April 27 and 28 to the N.C. Air Cargo Airport Authority. The Brunswick-Columbus site was not among them.

"This does not mean the Authority might not later on take another look at that site," Shumaker said.

Baldwin wrote to Governor James G. Martin in early April, describing the advantages of the location, but county officials declined to prepare

a formal proposal, with expense a major deterrent.

Kelly Holden, chairman of the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners said, "We'd welcome it, but we're not ready to put up the money to entice it here."

According to the county's Resources and Development Director Thomas Monks, the cost of a formal proposal would have been about \$50,000.

"It involved a survey and investigative studies of geo-technical and environmental concerns, with 20 copies of everything," he said.

He explained that the Authority's request for proposals came with only five to six weeks notice, but committees of 100 from Southport and Shallotte had met and investigated the possibilities.

"I tried to get Columbus and Bladen counties to go together in an effort, but they weren't interested," he said. "Now, I don't give us much of a chance; however, any location for the facility will benefit people in a 75-mile radius, so a Duplin County site, for instance, could mean jobs for Brunswick County people."

Duplin County's oral proposal is among those to be heard by the

Authority, as are ones from Bladen and New Hanover counties.

Monks pointed out that not everyone in Brunswick County supported locating the complex here.

"We didn't have that much support from the movers and shakers, and we would have needed manpower as much as money to make a proposal," he said. "Everybody's not behind it. The reason a lot of people live here is because of the quiet quality of life here and this would disrupt the whole county."

County Manager David Clegg was one of those who was not supportive. "There are certainly quality of life issues," he explained. "There would be noise and congestion and it would inhibit other kinds of development."

There are three options considered by the Authority for an air cargo facility. Construction of a completely new facility would cost about \$552 million, while a joint-use facility could be developed with an existing military airfield for only \$281 million. Even less costly would be the development at an existing commercial airport, estimated at \$156 million.

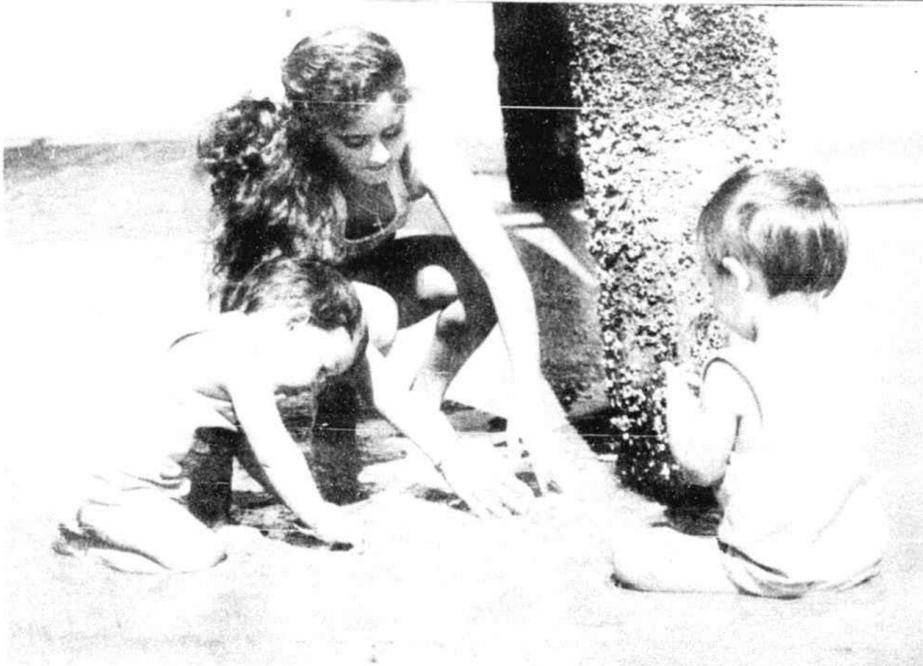
The chief advantage of the Brunswick-Columbus site is the un-

developed land available. Baldwin pointed out in his letter to Governor Martin that this location could attract a BMW assembly plant, with New Hanover International Airport as interim air cargo facility, the

nearby state port in Wilmington capable of receiving bulky components by ship, and distribution of assembled cars by ship, barge, air, rail and truck a possibility.

the state offering this unique combination of advantages," he wrote.

According to Shumaker, a decision on a site could be made next month. The item is on the agenda of the Authority's meeting on May 19.



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

## How Time Flies

Eighteen-month-old twins Kristian (left) and Pierson Tedeschi and their big sister Kristina (center) occupied themselves for more than an hour sifting for clams in the wet sand around a piling at the Sunset Beach Pier last week. With their mother, Katherine, and au pair, Jessica Englund, the youngsters were visiting an uncle, Richard Borrelli of Sunset Beach.

## 1994 TAX REVALUATION

# Decision Expected Monday On Property Tax Proposal

Brunswick County Commissioners will decide Monday how to conduct the 1994 property tax revaluation.

The county has accepted bids for contracting the job to a private firm, but some commissioners feel the job should be done in-house using tax department employees.

Bids were opened April 17, said Brunswick County Tax Administrator Boyd Williamson. Five firms submitted bids under four scenarios.

Commissioners will decide whether to: 1) hire a contractor that uses the county's computer hardware programs; 2) allow tax employees and an outside supervisor to do the job; or 3) hire a firm to do a complete "turn key" package independently.

Quotes range from a high of \$852,000 for a complete "turn key"

job to a low of \$140,000 to hire a supervisor.

Firms submitting bids were Cole, Layer and Trumble Co. of Norcross, Ga.; Cott Systems of Charlotte; Pearson's Appraisals of Richmond, Va.; Specialized Data Systems Inc. of Greenville; and Tax Management Associates of Charlotte.

Williamson told commissioners that his office would review the proposals and visit projects where the contractors have performed work. He will make a recommendation to the board at its regular meeting Monday, May 4, at 6:30 p.m. in the commissioners' chambers at the Brunswick County Government Center in Bolivia.

Every eight years counties are required by law to revalue property to obtain fair market values. Such val-

ues are used to determine the amount of property taxes that are due to the county. The current county tax rate is 68.5 cents per \$100 of valuation.

Plans are to begin appraisals in May with new tax notices mailed in November 1993. Commissioners must approve the new tax listings by June 30, 1994. The last revaluation, performed by W.P. Ferris Co., was conducted in 1986.

Counties can conduct revaluations every two or four years if they wish. Doing the 1994 job in-house would give the county that option in the future, said Kelly Holden, chairman of the board of commissioners.

Elect

Republican Candidate

# Steve Foster

Brunswick County Commissioner

- \* Best Qualified Candidate
- \* B.A., M.A. - Public Administration
- \* Career in Local Govt. Management
- \* Management Consul.- Council of Govt.- Research Triangle Park, NC
- \* Concern for the Future of Brunswick Co.



Please vote for me on Tuesday, May 5

Elect

## Janet Pope School Board

"A change for the better, not more of the same"



- A Christian by God's grace
- Wife, mother, grandmother
- Pro-Life leader
- Served as Missionary in Mexico
- Served on Brunswick County Drug Challenge Committee
- Parent Activist involved 5 years in school reform
- Student Advocate concerned for our children's welfare and success
- A Jesse Helms conservative
- Only delegate from Brunswick County to attend Republican National Convention in August.

I am NOT a politician nor an "educrat" (professional educator/bureaucrat). Are you pleased with the quality of education they have given our children these past 25-30 yrs.? Why are there between 50-75 million illiterates in our nation today and more each year? Why can't "Johnny" read? I am NOT part of the problem but I want to be part of the solution. Having been labeled a "dangerous" and controversial woman, I want to assure you it is true—Dangerous to those in our school system who put their own self-interests ahead of the welfare of our children and are more concerned with protecting an image or appearance than with the fact that Brunswick County schools remain almost dead last in the nation and our kids keep on being sent out to face their futures academically handicapped for life! Controversial to those who would teach our precious children that there is no right and wrong, that whatever they "decide" for themselves is right for them is right for them; to those who say they cannot teach character-building moral instruction in the schools. Not so! Most states have laws requiring these values be taught. "As the twig is bent, so grows the tree."

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- A. Accountability**—Those responsible must be held accountable.
- B. Basics**—How did America become the most literate, best educated nation in the world with coal oil lamps, pot-bellied stoves and one-room schoolhouses? Simple—a commitment to moral and academic excellence!
- C. Competent**—Administrators competent to manage, teachers competent to teach—result—young people competent to face the challenges of their futures.

This will then restore the 3 Rs—  
Right – Reason – Responsibility

I pledge with the Lord God as my help and witness to represent ALL the children of Brunswick County, not just my district, to be available and accountable to ALL parents and citizens of our county and to conduct the business of our school system in an open, honest and equitable manner.

Janet Pope VOTE MAY 5 School Board

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