



STAFF PHOTOS BY SUSAN USHER  
**THE GOVERNOR RUSSELL** is the first of three 180-class ferries proposed for the Southport-Fort Fisher run in the Transportation Improvement Program.

## Ferry Bears Name Of Last Governor From Brunswick

A new ferry plying the waters of the Cape Fear River between Southport and Fort Fisher bears the name of perhaps the county's most influential Republican, the Daniel Lindsay Russell Jr.

The N.C. Department of Transportation dedicated the new 180-foot class ferry, *Governor Daniel Russell* Friday with much fanfare at the line's Southport terminal. A bevy of state and local officials joined members of the Russell family on board for the celebration. During the ceremonies, Southport Mayor Norman Holden presented Secretary of Transportation Thomas Harrelson, a Southport native, with a city bicentennial flag.

Harrelson noted the state's ferry system's importance to tourism. The Southport-Fort Fisher line, for instance, in the last five years has seen a 22 percent increase in ridership, he said, reaching 300,000 this past year.

Built at just under \$3.5 million, the new ferry came in at within three-tenths of a percent of its budgeted price. It is the first of three 180-class ferries proposed in the Transportation Improvement Program for the Southport-Fort Fisher run.

The *Russell* will replace the 136-foot *Emmett Winslow*, which will be placed on back-up duty. The new ferry will work alongside the 128-

*"Daniel Russell would have been proud to have his name attached to this vessel."*

—Kelly Holden, Chairman  
 Board of Commissioners

foot *Sea Level*.

The 180-foot *Russell* can carry 225 passengers or 40 vehicles, approximately twice the capacity of the *Sea Level*.

This is only the second tribute paid to Russell, who was the last governor from Brunswick County. An historical marker locating Russell's birthplace, Winnabow Plantation, was erected Oct. 27, 1990, on U.S. 17 at Winnabow.

"Daniel Russell would have been proud to have his name attached to this vessel," said Brunswick County Board of Commissioners Chairman Kelly Holden, noting Russell's lifelong interest in providing opportunities.

Holden praised the state for transportation-related improvements made in the county and their enhancement of Brunswick County as

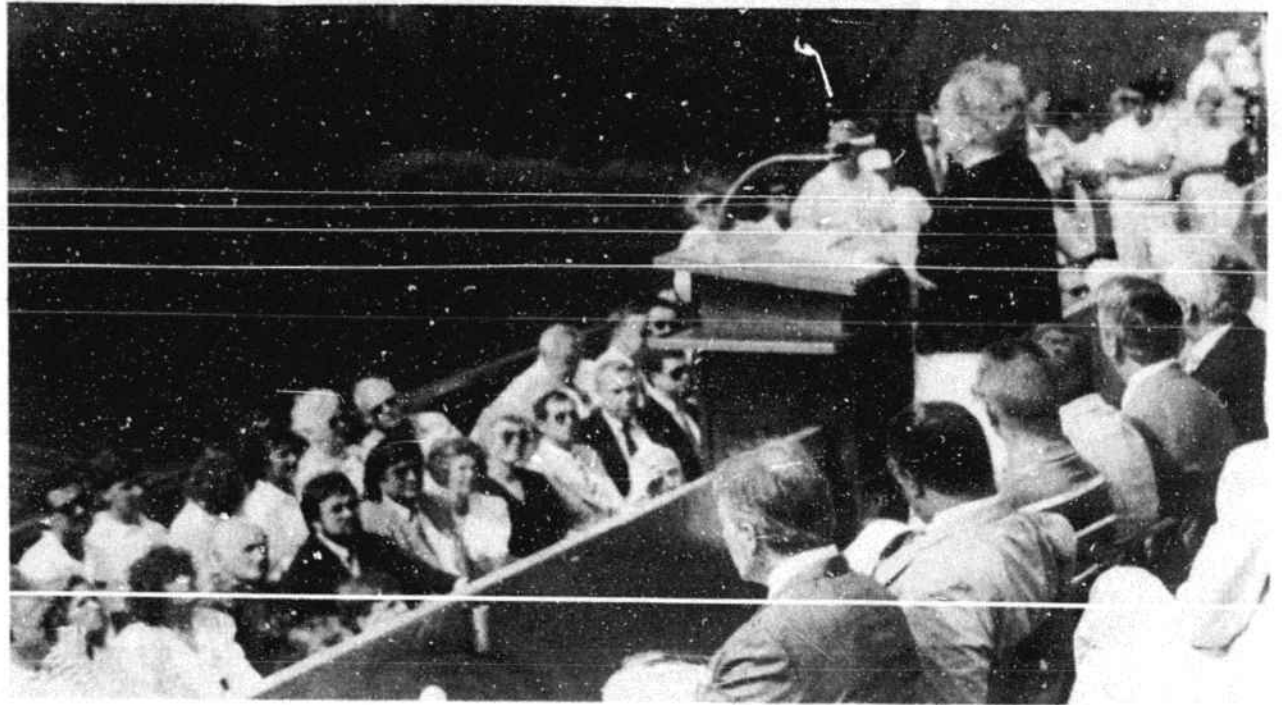
a destination, saying, "We've never seen progress like we've seen in the past eight years in terms of transportation."

Russell was born Aug. 7, 1845, at Winnabow, and was reared by his maternal grandparents in Onslow County after his mother's death. He returned to Brunswick County in 1862, organizing a local unit to serve in the Confederacy. Impatient to see action, he set out to take his men to the front against orders and was let off with a reprimand.

His second court martial dealt with Russell more harshly after he struck another officer, but he received a full pardon at the end of the war from President Andrew Johnson.

In 1864, at age 19, Russell was elected to the state legislature; in 1866, he was admitted to the bar; in 1868 he was elected as a Republican judge of the Superior Court; in 1878 he was elected to Congress; and in 1898 he was elected governor of North Carolina. He died in 1908 at his home at Belville in Brunswick County.

Ms. Taylor said her mother, Alice Johnson Taylor, who lived with the Russells in the governor's mansion, described Russell as a man 50 years ahead of his time. She loved and admired him "for his brilliant mind, compassion, honesty and dedication to his principles."



**THE FORMER GOVERNOR'S** grandniece, Helen Taylor of Winnabow, recalls Russell's contributions in military, legal and political fields for those attending the dedication.

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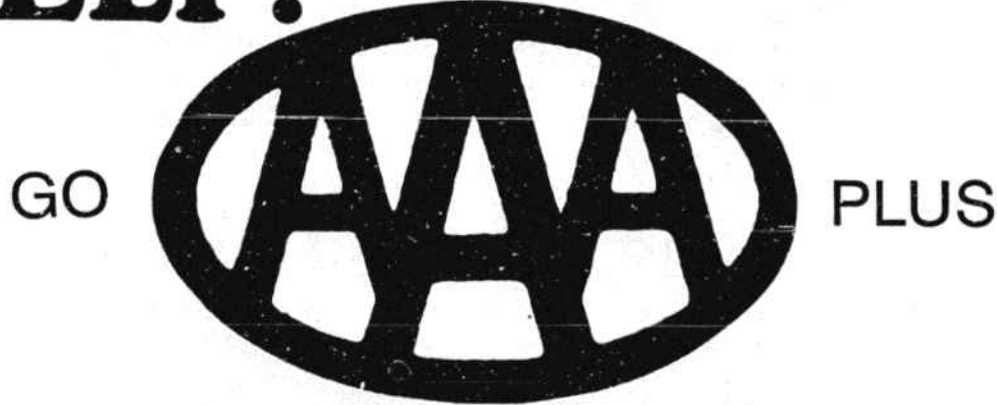
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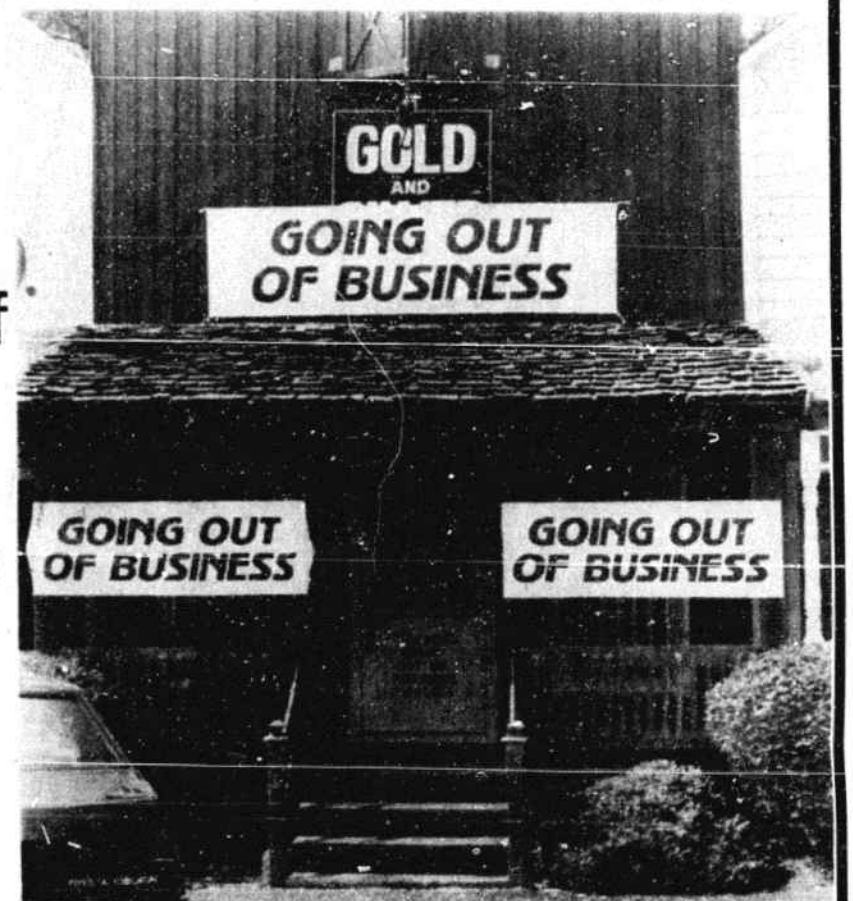


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