

The Pamlico County News

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Home of the Oldest and Largest Holly Tree in America

Thursday, August 18, 1977



SECRETARY HOWARD N. LEE and fishermen meet on the docks at Atlantic.

[Photo by Jim Page]

Howard N. Lee Pledges Support To Coastal Fishermen

Meeting with coastal fishermen, Howard N. Lee, Secretary of Natural Resources and Community Development promised his support to their efforts and said that assisting them would be one of the department's highest priorities.

Lee visited with fishermen in the central coastal area on August 5. He met with northern coastal fishermen on August 12 and is scheduled to travel to the southern coast on September 2.

At Atlantic, Broad Creek and during a public meeting at the state's Marine Resources Center near Pine Knolls Shore, Lee heard a variety of problems and suggestions from the fishermen. Approximately 100 persons attended the public meeting and another 40 fishermen met with Lee on the docks.

Topics included the need for a study of Pamlico Sound to determine the extent it's being fished, and to consider the way of limiting fishing in the sound.

Several recommended that a limit be put on the number of crab pots that could be put out.

Bob Simpson of Carteret County urged Lee to regain the unclaimed gas tax funds formerly used for the artificial reefs program, which has been eliminated by the General Assembly. He urged that the funds be used for support of recreational fishing, a reduced reef program and marking or removal of snags.

Other fishermen asked him to consider a license or an increased level of fines for those



SECRETARY HOWARD N. LEE and fishermen meet at fish house on Broad Creek.

[Photo by Jim Page]

fishing in closed areas. They also asked him to study the impacts of part-time sports fishermen were having on the full-time commercial fishing industry.

One complaint Lee heard on the docks and at the public meeting was that there should be more representation of the commercial fishermen on the state's fisheries commission and fisheries committee.

Lee said he hadn't felt or heard of such strong concerns until the meetings with the fish-

ermen. He said he would pass those concerns on to the Governor. Appointments to those agencies are made by Governor Hunt, and will be made in the near future.

Another fisherman asked Lee to keep the politics out of the fisheries program. "If a biologist gives the go ahead to opening an area then nobody—not even the Governor—should be able to change that," he said.

To a round of applause, Earl Ogelsby of the Newport River area said, "You've got to close

areas and put limitations on crab potting, permanently close certain shrimp areas, increase fines, and we've got to do something about the pollution."

At the end of the August 5 public meeting, Lee said that he had learned more in that one day meeting with the fishermen than on any other day since he had become secretary.

Lee said that he intended to appoint a roving ambassador to travel up and down the coast meeting with fishermen and reporting back directly to the Secretary.

Coastal Area Management Act Passes First Reading

Protect yourself. Protect your neighbor. Protect your environment. This seems to be the intent of the Coastal Management Area Act.

The public hearing on implementation and enforcement of the act was held on Monday night, Aug. 8, in the Pamlico County Courthouse, having been duly advertised for three successive weeks in area newspapers. It was due to begin at 8 p.m. but the three County Commissioners waited until 8:35 to see if some area citizens would attend. Present were Chairman Robert Paul and Commissioners Jim Spencer and John Bond. County Auditor John Priester and Civil Preparedness Agency Coordinator Derrill Quigley was also present. There were no members of the public, present.

The act was discussed briefly and was passed on first reading. Since the act has the force and effect of an ordinance and the full commission was not present, there must be a second reading, at which time, if approved, it will become part of the county's body of land use regulations.

The Pamlico County was drawn up by the Neuse River Council of Governments. Each of the 20 counties involved under the Coastal Resources Commission has been charged with presenting such a plan.

The implementation date is tentatively set for January 1, 1978. At this time there are a

number of procedures yet to be clarified. The areas of environmental concern that are covered by this act are lands 75 feet landward of mean high-water or the normal water level; coastal wetlands; estuarine waters, and public trust areas. The mean highwater level has not been established county-wide and it is not now known who will establish this base.

It is understood that the Department of Natural and Economic Resources will fund a percent of the work done by the Building Inspection Permit Officer, but it is not yet known how much time will be required for the tasks of inspection and record keeping.

The applications for permits for minor development have not been received, and the Building Inspection Permit Officer has not been notified of the time for attending a required two week course to be developed by the Department of Natural and Economic Resources.

However, the guidelines for implementation enforcement are set forth in the plan discussed on August 8. They will cover the issuing of minor development permits in areas of environmental concern in coordinating with the issuing of other local permits, such as plumbing, electric, building, septic tank, and zoning permits, and other requests that do not require permits from DNER or

the Army Corps of Engineers, for example.

The permits will be approved or disapproved county wide in the designated areas of environmental concern by Eugene Broughton, who is the Building Permit Inspector. He will also be available in an advisory capacity and as a liaison between major permit applicants and the Coastal Resources Commission in facilitating disposition of major permit applications, i. e. DNER permits or Army Corps of Engineers Permits.

The Permit Officer will also keep records of all transactions related to minor development permit requests (applications, grants, denials, other dispositions) and shall maintain such records so long as any part of the structure or entity to which it relates remains in existence; or, in the case of denials or other instances, for a period of ten years.

The Implementation and Enforcement Plan also stipulates that Pamlico County shall post

at the Courthouse the following:

1. A description of all of the AECs within the jurisdiction that is sufficiently clear to provide notice to all property owners within those AECs that a permit must be secured before any development may proceed on that property.

2. A copy of the standards for development adopted by the commission for each type of AEC found in the jurisdiction and the statutory grounds on which a permit application may be denied or conditioned.

3. The statutory definition of development as found in the General Statutes pertaining to CAMA.

4. A copy of the approved permit application form for both major and minor development in AECs.

5. The name and office address of the Permit Officer.

6. A copy of this plan.

A map showing areas of environmental concern and a copy of this plan are available for viewing in the Permit Officer's office in the courthouse.



Children Give Two Programs

"Mother Goose Carousel" and "You Need Help, Charlie Brown" were the two offerings of the Children's Little Theatre in Bayboro and Oriental during the weekend. The group was directed by Mrs. Nefferrite F. Harper. The production staff included Sarah Alice Harris, coordinator; Dixie Gatlin, music; Minda Harris, costumes; Matilda Jones, food; and

Frances Nethercutt, set designs.

Characters in "The Mother Goose Carousel" included: Kim Gatlin, emcee, and Renee Ragan, mother. The children were Marcel Bell, Sonji Bell, George Bennett, Lisa Edwards, Sherry Edwards, Heath Fulcher, Clifton Gaskill Jr., Curtis Gatlin, Wendy Hill, Willy (Continued on page two)

Reelsboro Fire Dept. Now Rated Class 9A

The North Carolina Department of Insurance, has notified Robert Paul, chairman of the Pamlico County Board of Commissioners, that the Reelsboro Fire Department has been rated as Class 9A by the North Carolina Fire Insurance Rating Bureau. The 9A rating makes

the department eligible to be certified for the Firemen's Pension Fund and the \$25,000 in line of duty death benefits as provided by the state.

Due to the new rating, residents living within a four-mile radius of the Reelsboro Fire Department are entitled to a reduction on their fire protection insurance rates. All citizens of Reelsboro should contact their insurance agent immediately to determine changes in their fire insurance premium.

Crop News Is Good!

I. L. Whorton of the local ASCS office told The Pamlico County News that there was not much crop damage in the county in spite of the drought that caused extensive damage to crops in other parts of the state. "Some were hurt a little," he said, "but we have just turned in our report to our office and no federal aid is needed here."

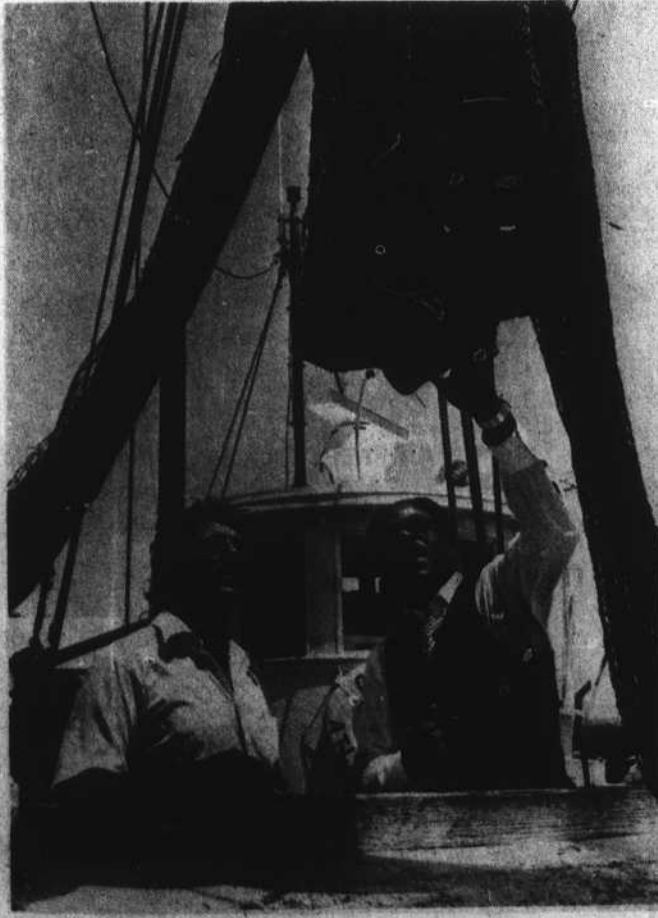
He said the tobacco crop is good and that about 15% of the corn crop was lost. "We are still coming up with a good corn crop though," Mr. Whorton said. The soybean crop is the biggest cash crop in the county at the present he said, adding that rain is needed, but that it is still too early to tell about the soybeans, that the outcome of this crop will depend upon the rainfall in August.

Applications Being Accepted For Postal Clerk

Applications for a postal clerk examination may be obtained at the Alliance post office from now through August 26. Postmaster Perry McCotter Sr. says the position to be filled is for four hours only on Saturdays and that it pays \$6.11 per hour to start. Whenever the postmaster must be out, the part time clerk will fill his position until he returns.



SECRETARY HOWARD N. LEE arriving by sea plane for meeting with fishermen at Atlantic. [Photo by Jim Page]



CAPTAIN CHARLIE GOODWIN of Atlantic and Secretary Howard N. Lee discuss Goodwin's equipment. [Photo by Jim Page]