



## AH, I REMEMBER IT WELL

**INTRODUCTION:** *Frankie Suman, a resident here since 1995 was asked to reminisce about “the early days” at Porters Neck. Here are some of his thoughts:*

For those who moved to North Carolina from “other places” you might not be familiar with the name of Thad Eure. Mr. Eure, having been a State Legislator, became North Carolina’s Secretary of State, serving in that position for 53 years. Ronald Reagan recognized Eure’s 64 years as the longest continuous public service by any individual in the nation. Eure was a proud historian and often described himself as the “oldest rat in North Carolina’s political barn”.

Having been asked to provide an historical perspective on PN’s earlier days as a resident and former board member of the PNHOA, I find myself feeling somewhat like that “oldest rat”.

That said, here are a few things you might find of interest. Did you know:

- That there was a time when no homes (or paved roads) existed on the back nine of the golf course across Fazio Drive.
- There was a farm house located behind the #15th tee which PN Company used primarily for storage.
- Literally herds of deer could be seen wandering the golf course and several families of fox made their dens in the bunkers on #12 & #15.
- The PN Sales Office was located in a model home which is now next to the Club House on Vintage Club Circle.
- The Construction Office was a double-wide located on Porters Neck Rd. at a point opposite the tee box on #9.

- The front gate was manned by individuals (hired and supervised by the HOA) who worked for basically a minimum wage, PN sweater and most importantly - golf privileges.
- There was no Community Management Association and HOA dues were sent in to the Sales Office where they were appropriately kept in a metal cash box until someone went to the bank.
- Fran, Bonnie, Bertha and Floyd were all significant hurricanes early in our history. Every tree bordering the 18th fairway along Porters Neck Road was lost in Fran. The replacements you see now were transplanted from the land the company owned across the street (now Eagle Point). When you saw the Weather Channel broadcasting from Wrightsville Beach you knew it was not going to be a good day.
- No fire hydrants existed and special filtered coupling pipes were installed by the HOA on several golf course drainage ponds. This allowed the fire department to directly refill their tanker trucks in case of a major fire.
- HOA annual meetings were held in the auditorium at Plantation Village (we didn't have a clubhouse at the time).
- In the early days, the HOA and Country Club were both controlled by the developer. They enjoyed many common associations not the least being subsidized parties frequently held on the patio of the Sports Center (again no clubhouse yet). These events were catered by The Bridgetender, featured an open bar and live music. Cost was \$15/per person.
- Lastly, the back gate seemed to break a lot.

*Editor's note: Not much has changed since this last one. We welcome similar commentaries and unique experiences others may be willing to share and will be delighted to publish them. Also, anyone who has pictures of Porters Neck from "the old days" who would be willing to share them online, please let us know.*