

(Sunday News photo by Ken Davis)

BRIDGE RUNS INTO DEAD END
... NE 15th Ave. Span Leads to Mangrove Wilderness

Northern Approach Road Not Ready

NE 15th Ave. Bridge Is Almost Completed

Ft. Lauderdale, which has its problems getting bridges needed to handle bustling traffic, has a spanking new bridge nearing completion at NE 15th Ave. leading across the south fork of Middle River smack into nothing but wilderness.

The State Road Department is putting the finishing touches to the \$34,630.40 span, fulfilling its part of the bargain, but Broward County is way behind in its obligation to provide an approach road from the north.

The bridge was launched by Dave Turner, Wilton Manors resident, while he was a member of the State Road Board last year.

It is intended to open up NE

15th Ave., Ft. Lauderdale, and provide a new access road northward towards Wilton Manors and Coral Ridge as alternate routes to N. Federal Hwy. and the Old Dixie Hwy.

The Broward County engineer's office said the approach road was being held up because necessary rights-of-way have not been obtained.

ONE PARCEL TO GO

County Attorney John U. Lloyd reported that all of the rights-of-way parcels except one had been acquired. Negotiations are under way, and the county should know shortly whether an agreement can be reached or it will be necessary to condemn the land, he said.

Indications at the engineer's

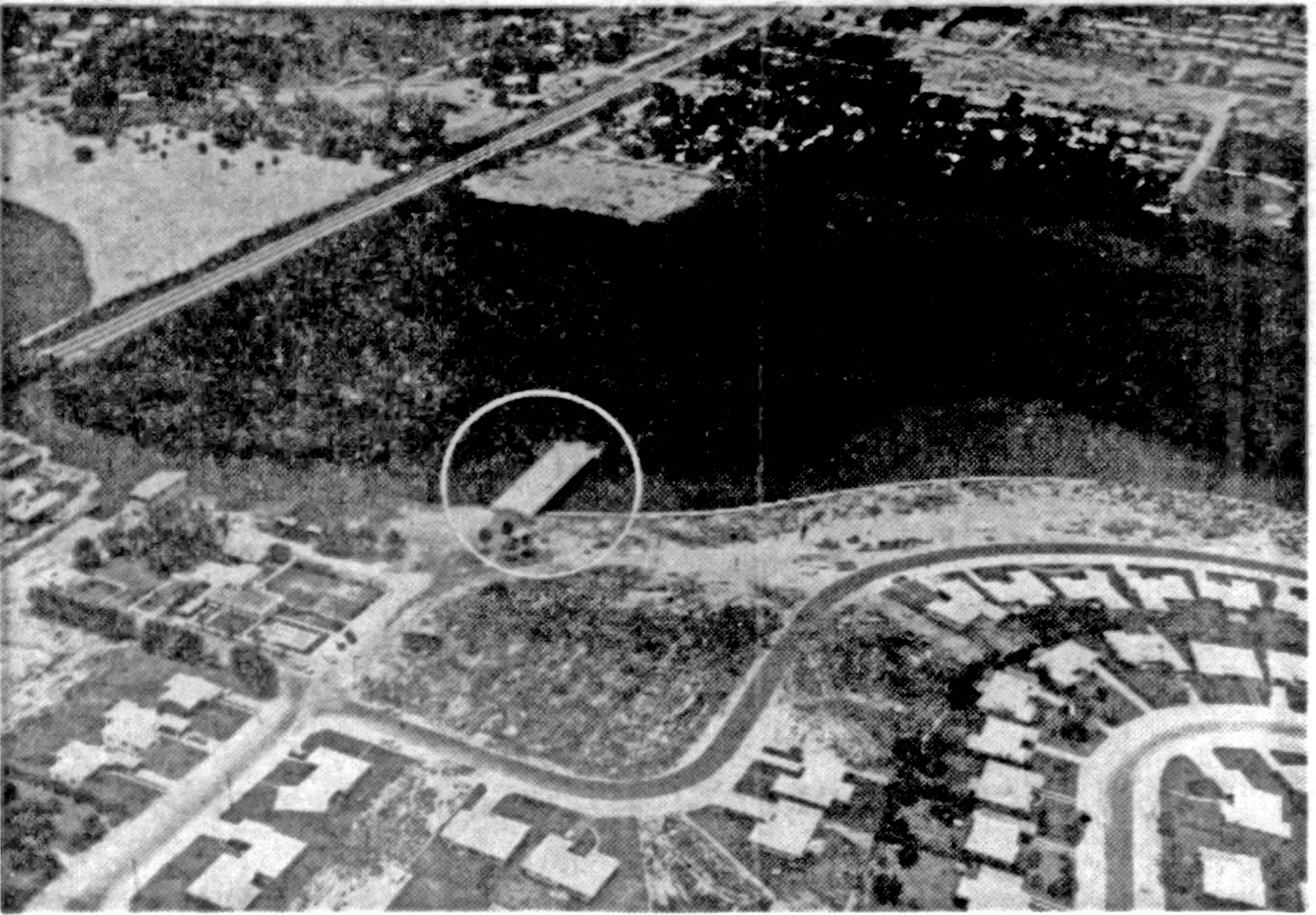
office, however, were that there is grave doubt the road can be undertaken this year even if the rights are obtained.

The northerly approach to the bridge will wind through an undeveloped area to tie in with NE 26th St., a connecting road between Wilton Manors and Coral Ridge.

Meanwhile, the SRD has issued March progress reports on other projects it has under way in the county.

The new drawbridge at Oakland Park Blvd. and its approaches are 6 per cent complete. The detour bridge there is 74 per cent complete.

Bridge To Nowhere



(Daily News photo by Dick Dillon)

RIDE NOT TO YON MANGROVE—

The State Road Department's new \$34,634.40 bridge at NE 15th Ave., crossing the south fork of Middle River, ends up at mangrove barrier while Broward County dallies over obtaining

rights-of-way and constructing a northerly road for an additional access to Wilton Manors and Coral Ridge. The bridge has been complete for a month but remains unused.

Idle 15th Ave. Span Facing Long Delay

By HARVEY CALL
[Daily News Staff Reporter]

At least several months will elapse before any use can be made of the new NE 15th Ave. bridge, recently completed by the State Road Department, county officials reported today. The failure of the county to mesh its plans with the SRD construction schedule has resulted in a beautiful bridge, the likes of which Ft. Lauderdale has been pleading for in other locations, running nowhere.

The SRD authorized the project while Dave Turner of Wilton Manors was a member of the board.

The completed span, at the present northerly terminus of NE 15th Ave., crosses the south fork of Middle River and dead heads into a thick mangrove in Wilton Manors.

Plans are for the county to construct a road winding northward to NE 26th St., providing a new access route to Wilton Manors and Coral Ridge.

LAST ROAD BLOCK

The stumbling block has been the acquisition of rights-of-way for the connecting road. For the past several weeks, the county has been negotiating for one parcel necessary to complete the route.

County Attorney John U. Lloyd said negotiations are continuing but that he had nothing new to report.

The county engineer's office reported that no definite plans have been made to start work on the connecting link and that the county has made no appropriation of funds as yet for clearing and paving work.

Currently, it appears unlikely that the project can be completed and use of the bridge begun until towards the end of the year, officials said.

'Nowhere' Span Going 'Somewhere'

FORT LAUDERDALE —

The final right-of-way deed for the north approach to the newly built NE 15th ave. "bridge to nowhere" has been obtained, County Attorney John U. Lloyd said Saturday.

The recorded deed from Paul Yawt to the county indicated a purchase price of \$3,600, according to tax stamps.

The way is now cleared for building a 250-foot approach from the foot of 15th ave. in Wilton Manors to the north end of the bridge.

About 700 feet of new road will have to be laid from the south end to link up with Fort Lauderdale's NE 15th ave.

H. C. Davis, county engineer, and E. L. Patterson, city engineer, said no work orders have been prepared for construction of the roads.

Both said work awaits starting action by county commissioners and city commissioners.

Construction of the new bridge ran ahead of county plans for acquiring necessary rights of way in Wilton Manors because of a rush order placed on construction of the span by former Acting Gov. Charley Johns' road board before it left office.

Politicos Slated To Be Present At Span Ceremony

WILTON MANORS — Sens. Spessard Holland and George Smathers and Rep. Paul G. Rogers will be among an imposing array of guests on hand March 17 for dedication of the new 15th Ave. bridge linking Wilton Manors and Ft. Lauderdale.

A St. Patrick's day parade will precede the bridge program slated for 2 p.m.

Besides the members of Florida's Congressional delegation, other dignitaries attending the fete will include Rep. Jack Muselman, Sen. Ted Cabot, Speaker Ted David, members of the Ft. Lauderdale City Commission and mayors of Ft. Lauderdale, Oakland Park, Pompano Beach, Dania, Margate, Plantation, Hallandale, Hollywood, Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, Deerfield Beach.

Wilton Manors

Topics

By Virginia Rogers



One of this city's most respected mayors, well-known for his varied community service projects, will be honored March 17 when the NE 15th Ave. bridge is officially re-named the Perry Mickel Bridge. Ex-Mayor Mickel was the unanimous choice of City Council last night following a joint conference with the Ft. Lauderdale city commission.

ROGERS PLANS BRIDGE TALK

Congressman Paul Rogers will attend the formal opening ceremonies of the NE 15th Ave. bridge over the South Fork of Middle River, next Saturday, Wilton Manors Councilman Fred Stevens announced today.

Stevens said that Rogers plans to make a dedicatory speech prior to the traditional ribbon cutting.

Rogers will be in Ft. Lauderdale primarily as part of a congressional subcommittee delving into matters concerning the Central and South Florida Flood Control District.

The bridge, which connects Ft. Lauderdale and Wilton Manor, is to be officially named the Perry Mickel bridge. Mickel is former mayor of Wilton Manors.

Wilton Manors Topics

By VIRGINIA ROGERS

Concerning the bridge dedication ceremony slated Saturday, Mayor Frank Starling said, "We wish to pay tribute to all those men who were instrumental in bringing about this vital improvement. The opening of the new bridge marks an important milestone in Wilton Manors' development."

Starting at 2 p.m., a motorcycle escort will lead the parade from Hagen Pavilion to the Ft. Lauderdale side of the 15th Ave. bridge where distinguished guests will be seated on a rostrum. Following a welcome by Mayor Frank Starling, Congressman Paul Rogers will give the dedication speech and Mrs. Perry Mickel will cut the ribbons officially opening the bridge named in her husband's honor.

The motorcade will then cross the new span and move on to Mickel Field for a baseball game and barbecue.

TWO-DAY CELEBRATION

Two full days of special events geared for young and old are planned around the St. Patrick's Day dedication. First event is the Friday afternoon "big league game," according to local standards, when Memphis meets Miami University at 2:30 at Mickel Field. The Wilton Swingers will pick up the ball again Friday night with a special St. Patrick's Eve square and round dance, Hagen pavilion, 8-11 p.m. The public is invited.

to Mickel Field for a Little League game and barbecue climaxed by the awarding of a 1956 car. All proceeds from the two-day sports program will go towards much-needed Mickel Field stadium lights.

LEPRECHAUN BALL

"Come stag or drag" to the Leprechaun Ball Saturday night, 7:30 to 11 p.m., say the teenagers who have planned and executed every detail of their semi-formal dance under the supervision of Junior Woman's Club sponsors Mrs. Earl Rickel, Mrs. Arnold Budlong and Mrs. Frank Gastright, Jr. Ball highlights will be the choosing of a teen-age queen from five elected candidates, a dance contest and surprise emcee. Tickets are 50 cents.

To Condemn Tract

Park Land Suit Action Approved

WILTON MANORS — City Atty. William Miller will move this week to condemn the Yawt family property in northeast Wilton Manors, the only open space for recreation left in the city.

City officials have been haggling for nearly a decade with the owners of the six-acre plus swampland area, on the North Fork of Middle River at the NE 15th Ave. bridge.

Price of the land, which the city intends to make into a park, has soared since negotiations began from \$70,000 to more than twice that amount.

Miller was instructed by the council last night to proceed with condemnation proceedings in Broward County Circuit Court, where legal action has been stalled for six months. The reason, Miller explains, is because property owners have repeatedly agreed with the city on a price for the land, then backed out.

\$14,000 APART

The city appraised the property, which is split into two parcels on either side of the bridge, at \$171,400. The owners are asking \$185,000.

The Yawt property is "the last piece of open space in the city," according to Miller, and will provide land for the only park area in Wilton Manors east of the Florida East Coast Railway tracks.

Broward cities in a class action defense suit on legality of occupational license fees.

Richey has told the Broward League of Cities he will carry the suit for \$10,000, but Wilton Manors councilmen last night instructed Miller to obtain clarification as to what that fee will cover.

1980

NAMED

THE PERRY MICKEL BRIDGE

AS A PERMANENT EXPRESSION
OF OUR ADMIRATION FOR
HIS CIVIC LEADERSHIP AND
UNSELFISH REGARD FOR THE
BETTERMENT OF THE
CITY OF WILTON MANORS

MARCH 17, 1956