

Bald Head Conference Cancelled

A news conference Monday at which "plans for the Development of Bald Head island" were to be discussed was called off Friday. The conference was to have been held at 10 a.m. in the Albert Pick Motel near Greensboro.

Word of the cancellation came from Bennett Advertising Co. of High Point. It was unable to give a reason for the cancellation.

The news conference was called Friday by W. R. Henderson, who heads Bennett Advertising Co. at High Point, and E. E. Mendenhall, a High Point realtor.

Mendenhall would not comment on the news conference announcement in advance and Henderson could not be reached immediately.

It was learned, meanwhile,

that a conservation organization, Nature Conservancy Foundation, has told the North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development it may be able to contribute \$1 million in matching funds to the state for purchase of the semi-tropical island near Southport in the mouth of Cape Fear River.

"It's a tentative thing that needs further exploration and that we are doing," said Adrian King, assistant to the director of the state Department of Conservation and Development.

Henderson and two other men conferred with Gov. Bob Scott Thursday about another matter, but it was learned that Henderson mentioned the subject of Bald Head Island during the meeting.

Henderson is chairman of the board and Mendenhall president of Carolinas Cape Fear Corp., a Charlotte-based firm in whose behalf the Monday news conference was called.

Scott last year stifled plans of a wealthy South Carolina real estate developer, Charles Fraser, to develop the semi-tropical island into a swank resort similar to Hilton Head Island, which Fraser developed.

At the urging of conservationists, the governor declared that the state should acquire that 12,000-acre island, which Frank Sherrill of Charlotte wishes to sell for \$5.5 million.

Scott noted that the state presently has no funds

available to purchase the island and said the 1971 General Assembly should decide whether to put up the money.

Sherrill said Friday that he has given an option to a group for the purchase of the island, but he declined to identify the group.

North Carolina conservationists want to see the uninhabited island preserved in its natural state.

Directors of the Carolinas Cape Fear Corp., which incorporated last August, are William Delbert Boyd and W. Lemon Todd, of Myrtle Beach, S. C.; H. Lewis Montgomery, Robert E. Brackett, both of Lancaster, S. C., and Logan Robertson of Asheville.

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