



OCTOBER AUCTION — Light Construction students at College of The Albemarle completed this three - bedroom, 960 - square foot dwelling late this summer. On October 16, the college will sell the house at public auction. (COA Photo)

Adrian Backus Gains Recognition

BOSTON, MA. — Adrian Backus, native of Edenton, N.C. and graduate of the University of North Carolina, is presently

serving as corporate counsel in Boston for Input Output Computer Services.

On September 12 the Voices of Women Victorious and Reverend Leroy Attles of St. Paul AME Church of Cambridge, Mass., presented Backus with an award of recognition for his tremendous contribution to the church and community in the domain of gospel music. Backus is an affiliated song writer with Broadcast Music In-

corporated of New York City.

Backus presented his music, both recorded and non - recorded, to the Edenton community in July at the Swain Auditorium with an effort to raise money for scholarships for needy students. He presently is preparing for gospel concerts and workshops in Boston, Washington, D.C. and tentatively the University of Virginia at Charlottesville.



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N.C. Watermelon Queen Chosen

Eddie Bunch, Secretary - Treasurer of the North Carolina Watermelon Association is pleased to announce that the 1983 Watermelon Queen, Kim McGee of Laurinburg, N.C. will be in Edenton Saturday October 2 for the Peanut Festival Parade and the festivities for the weekend.

She was crowned July 30 at Raleigh and March 1, 1983 she will be representing North Carolina in the National Contest to be held in New Orleans, La. Joe Hollowell of Edenton was chairman of the N.C. Watermelon Association.

Chowan County in the N.C. pageant was Susan Downum daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Allen F. Downum, Jr.

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Light Construction At C.O.A.

At high noon, on October 16, a dozen former College of The Albemarle students may lose a friend. For them, it was the kind of friendship that started from scratch, and as one recalled, "sort of grew from the ground up." Although the friendship lasted only a year, most admitted they had learned a great deal from the relationship.

The students were enrolled in the Light Construction program at COA. Their "friend" is the three-bedroom home they built on campus as a class project.

On Saturday, October 16, it will be offered for sale at public auction by the college. The 960 - square foot structure was built so it can be removed easily from its present site.

It is described as "semi-finished," a term which may be somewhat misleading. Not much remains to be done to bring it to the "finished" state.

The house is complete in the respect that wall and ceiling insulation is in place; custom - built cabinets are in the kitchen; electrical wiring and rough plumbing have been installed; doors are hung; and inside trim is up.

What remains to be done is nominal. It will require interior painting and finishing the pine floors. A fiberglass tub and shower are in place in the bathroom. The buyer will have to install the lavatory and commode that are included, but not in place.

How much is the building

worth? The answer to that question lies in the "willing buyer, willing seller" rule of thumb realtors use as one method to establish true market value.

Dennis Burgess, COA occupational education director, estimates that the market value of the structure in its current state of completion is somewhere in the neighborhood of \$26,000 to \$28,000. "Present material and labor costs would indicate a selling price in that range," he said.

College officials do not anticipate making a profit from the sale, Dr. Gerald W. Bray, dean of administrative services, said. "We do want to regain the cost of the materials we have invested in the building, however," he said.

Bray explained that the proceeds from the sale will be used to perpetuate the training project. "By doing this, the new class of Light Construction students will have an opportunity to learn by doing," the administrator said.

Prior to the October 16 sale date, prospective bidders are encouraged to inspect the house any time between 9 A.M. until 4 P.M. each week day. Burgess said they can contact him by calling 335 - 0821, Extension 232.

The porcupine fish is covered with protective spines. For added protection it fills itself with water so that it resembles a prickly balloon.

Social Security Report

Lee E. Wallio
Field Representative
The Social Security Administration (SSA) has announced plans for upgrading its computer operations.

The agency's computer capability impacts on almost everyone in the Albemarle area.

SSA's automatic date processing operation maintains records on 240 million workers, 36 million Social Security beneficiaries, and 4.1 million Supplemental Security Income recipients.

Each year it processes about 380 million wage reports from employers and 19 million transactions for persons already on the Social Security rolls.

The computer network handles 7.5 million new applications for benefits and 10 million requests for Social Security cards each year.

A modernized system will

not only increase productivity but also reduce the number of erroneous payments and other actions.

In the past, efforts to improve the agency's date processing system have emphasized the purchase of more computers and the employment of more people.

One result has been a patch - work affair that is now being strained to the limit.

Once computer modernization is complete, SSA will be able to keep individual earnings records more current.

One example illustrates the potential benefits of the modernization plan:

Implementing the annual cost - of - living adjustment now requires 20,000 hours of processing over a 4 - month period; once the upgraded system is in place, the job should be completed in a matter of days.

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