



**WEATHER UNSETTLED**—The roses pictured above have blossomed because of the unseasonably warm weather during the day only to find their pedals wilting during the cold nights. Flowers are expected to return to their dormant state soon, however, as the weatherman predicts a return of the cold weather.

## North Carolina Minimum Wage To Increase First Of The Year

On New Year's Day, thousands of North Carolina workers earning the state minimum wage will begin to see a 25 cents-an-hour increase in their pay as the wage moves up to

\$3.35 an hour.

"Workers affected will be those primarily in smaller retail, food service, wholesale trade and service industry establishments," State Labor Commissioner John C. Brooks said today.

"These include retail sales clerks, janitors, stock clerks, as well as workers who often receive tips as a portion of their wages such as waitresses and waiters, beauticians and barbers.

"State and local government employees are also covered," Brooks added.

With the 8.1 per cent increase from \$3.10, the state wage will match the federal minimum for the first time since December 1977. In an average 40-hour workweek, the pay boost will mean an additional \$10 in a worker's paycheck.

In general, state coverage is primarily of employees in enterprises having at least three workers and not covered by the federal wage. In many cases, federal coverage is determined by the gross income of an enterprise, which must exceed \$362,500.

"While we have no way of estimating either how many workers are covered by the state minimum wage at present or how many of those earn less than \$3.35 an hour now, we know that the increase will provide significant relief to many workers who are now earning the lowest wages in North Carolina," Brooks said.

North Carolina has had a state minimum wage since action by the 1959 General Assembly which established a 75 cents-an-hour base.

The present increase was authorized by the 1981 General Assembly, which also extended the jurisdiction of the state law last year when it reduced the number of workers per enterprise.

Since 1979, the state has had a special sub-minimum wage for full-time students, which also increases on Jan. 1, to \$3.00.

There is no change in the state's overtime provision, which continues to require pay of time-and-a-half the regular rate of pay after 45 hours in any workweek.

## Livestock Numbers Up

All hogs and pigs on North Carolina farms December 1, totaled 2,050,000 head, up four per cent from a year earlier and three per cent above September 1, 1982 according to the N.C. Crop and Livestock Reporting Service.

Breeding stock at 290,000 was up five per cent and market hogs at 1,760,000 were three per cent above a year ago. North Carolina ranks seventh nationally in the total number of hogs and pigs.

The state's pig crop during the September-November period totaled 862,000 head, fifteen per cent above the same months last year.

North Carolina producers intend to farrow 115,000 sows during each of the next two quarters — December 1982-February 1983 and March-May 1983. If these expectations are realized, ten per cent more sows will farrow during these periods than a year earlier.

## Edmisten Releases Report: Robberies & Assaults Up

Attorney General Rufus L. Edmisten (December 21) announced the release of the state's Police Information Network nine-month crime report for 1982 which shows a total index increase of two per cent over the same reporting period in 1981, with violent crimes up six per cent and property crimes up two per cent.

"We all must take heed of the developing trend in robberies and aggravated assaults," Edmisten said about respective increases of ten per cent and six per cent in those two categories of violent crimes.

Also included in the violent crime index are murder, down two per cent and rape, which showed no

percentage change for the period.

"Robberies that occur in service stations, convenience stores and on our highways led the way," Edmisten said. "The major factor in these situations, as well as in aggravated assaults, seems to be attributable to the high rate of unemployment and the depressed nature of the economy."

Larceny, a property crime including shoplifting, rose four per cent overall during the first nine months of 1982.

Shoplifting, specifically, jumped twenty-three per cent and, Edmisten said, "It will continue to get worse as the holiday crowds in stores make it even more difficult for merchants to deal with this in-

creasingly popular type of theft."

Burglary, down one per cent and motor vehicle theft, down six per cent over the previous year, make up the remaining categories of property crimes reported to the Police Information Network (PIN), a division of Edmisten's office.

Edmisten said the types of crimes on the increase indicate the pressures of outside influences beyond the control of law enforcement, such as the economy and unemployment.

"However," he said, "those of us in the criminal justice community are confident that in spite of these trends, the decreasing rate of some crimes tells us that if our citizens will continue to become involved we

can bring down the total crime rate in North Carolina."

The crime index report, released periodically through the PIN, is a compilation of violent and property crimes reported by law enforcement agencies statewide.

"These statistics should not be viewed in isolation," Edmisten said. "They should be considered for comparisons of the status of criminal activity in our state and should be put into proper perspective for a better understanding of how we are progressing or where we need to improve our fight against crime."

Edmisten ascribed a ten per cent drop in arson—not an index crime—to a reinforcement of the SBI's arson unit this year.

## State Unemployment Rate Rises To 9.5 Percent High In November

RALEIGH—The statewide total unemployment rate rose slightly to 9.5 per cent in November according to figures released by Glenn R. Jernigan, chairman of the N.C. Employment Security Commission. The rate in October was 9.3 per cent.

The November rate of 9.5 per cent represented 278,700 jobless workers, an increase of 2,500 from the previous month. The national unadjusted rate in November was 10.4 per cent (11,476,000 unemployed).

Jernigan said, "Further seasonal employment losses in agriculture (-15,700), manufacturing (-5,300), and in the self employed group (-2,200) continued to outweigh minor gains in some nonmanufacturing divisions for a net job loss over some 21,100 workers between October and November."

Manufacturing jobs overall showed a net loss of 5,300 with the most pronounced declines led by Tobacco Manufactures (-2,300) and Textile Mill Products (-2,100) in the nondurable goods sector. Some minimal improvement was recorded in Machinery, Transportation Equipment, Apparel & Related Products, and Printing, Publishing, & Allied.

Nonmanufacturing jobs posted a weak increase (0.1 per cent) most which occurred in Trade (+1,000) and Government (+4,600) jobs. The categories of Trade, Government, and Service & Miscellaneous have the largest numbers of workers.

## EPA Grants Edenton Construction Funding

The congressional delegation from North Carolina, Walter B. Jones, Jesse Helms and John East have notified the Town of Edenton that it will receive funding from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the construction of its waste water facility.

The EPA will fund 85 per cent of the project or in money terms \$5,455,100. The monies represent Step II and Step III grants from the EPA's "Innovative and Alternative Project-Grants". Step II and Step III grants are to be used for the design and construction of the waste water facility.

Sam Noble, Town Administrator, commented that, "The significant thing is that the Council acted as quickly as it did on land application (of waste water)."

Noble also stated that it would be doubtful if there would be funding at the 85 per cent level by the EPA in the coming years. In 1983 funding for such Innovative and Alternative projects is scheduled to be only 75 per cent from the EPA because of the Reagan cut back in federally funded projects.

The project is especially significant because in February of 1982 the Town of Edenton was denied extension of their present waste water capabilities thus preventing any new construction.

Sam Noble praised both the efforts of the North Carolina Department of Environmental Management and the Town Council. He said of the first, "Without the Department of Environmental Management we would not have been able to fund this project."

Noble took particular pride in recognizing the contribution of the Town Council saying, "The Council ought to be commended for their working together to receive this funding. They all pulled together behind the land application and worked as a team."

Jernigan pointed out that while Trade was up over the previous month, it was down 4,100 jobs from a year ago. "In a season when trade is expected to be the highest, it is discouraging to realize how many jobs have been lost in this sector."

In contrast, Service & Miscellaneous workers declined (-3,100) from October to November, yet from 1981 to November 1982 there was an increase of 8,300 workers. Jernigan said, "As our industrial base becomes more and more diversified, the Service industry is becoming increasingly important. It's interesting to note that we have almost 144,000 more workers in service jobs than we have in textile production."

The average weekly hours by production workers in manufacturing rose to 38.6 in mid-November from 38.5 in mid-October. In mid-November 1981, workers averaged 38.7 hours per week.

## Peter J. Long Assumes Post

TARBORO—Peter J. Long, assistant vice president-human resources, has been appointed by company president Wayne Peterson to direct the company's efforts to assist communities in its service area in economic development.

As director of economic development beginning January 1, 1983, Long will be responsible for supporting and helping to improve results of existing industrial and economic development groups. Special attention will be given to those counties and towns that do not have organized development groups or that need assistance in their efforts.

Long will work closely with the executive director of Economic Development for the North Carolina Department of Commerce; with the five division directors of the Department of Commerce who are strategically located in Carolina Telephone's operating area; and with local industrial development professionals.

Long will report directly to Peterson, who said, "Carolina Telephone recognizes that its financial health is to a great extent dependent upon the economic well-being of the area it serves. In order to help improve the economic health of the area and to maintain a strong economy, Carolina Telephone is expanding its involvement in industrial growth and economic development throughout its operating area."

An employee of Carolina Telephone since 1946, Long has held a number of management positions, with extensive experience in personnel administration, human resources and labor relations. He is past secretary and past president of the North Carolina Independent Telephone Association.

His work with civic and church organizations includes 31 years of volunteer service with the Boy Scouts of America. He is vice president of Area 7, B.S.A., and a holder of the Silver Beaver and the St. George awards.

Long served in the U.S. Army during World War II and the Korean War. He retired from the U.S. Army Reserve with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Born in England and raised in Virginia, Long is married to the former Jane Logan of Harrisonburg, Va., and they have two sons.

## Contaminated Cans Recalled

RALEIGH—Several lots of contaminated brunswick stew have been recalled by their Georgia manufacturer, announced Leonard Blanton, director of the Food and Drug Protection Division of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture.

Poss brand canned brunswick stew in 23-ounce cans, and Mask and Gay brand stew packed in 106-ounce cans have been recalled, due to possible contamination from underprocessing. The stew was manufactured by Mask and Gay Food Products of Georgia, Inc., Brooks, Georgia, and is suspected of containing clostridia, a food spoilage organism.

The suspected 23-ounce cans can be identified by the Poss label and the codes BK 042, BK 052, BK 082 and BK 092. The 106-ounce cans can be identified through the label and the code AK 2 B04.

"We encourage consumers who have purchased brunswick stew under these brand names to check the labels and cans closely for the suspected codes," stresses Blanton.

"If anyone finds any of the suspected material, he should return it to the store or distributor where it was purchased."

USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service personnel believe the clostridia may have resulted from underprocessing. Although they point out that in many cases, the clostridia organisms are not harmful, the presence of the organisms indicates more serious food poisons may exist. Testing of the recalled product has yet to uncover any serious health threats, however.

Approximately 68,000 pounds of the brunswick stew are suspected in the recall move, but most has already been accounted for by the company or has been destroyed. The contaminated product was distributed in North Carolina, Alabama, Florida and Georgia.

Field inspectors for the Food and Drug Protection Division of the NCDCA will conduct spot checks to make sure retailers have removed the contaminated products from their shelves in the following weeks.

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