

# State Has Paid \$160,000 In Owner Refunds, Boyles Says

RALEIGH—Four-hundred-seventy-six owners of unclaimed and abandoned property have now received refunds totaling \$160,000, State Treasurer Harlan Boyles said today, in reporting on the concerted effort mounted by his office and North Carolina's newspapers to locate the property owners.

Noting that locating owners of abandoned property is not an easy task, Boyles praised

the many newspapers in the state which published lists of the property's owners without making any charge for the service. The procedure provided by law, Boyles said, is for his office to provide lists of escheated property owners to each Clerk of Court in the state, for posting in local courthouses. This action has typically resulted in very few claims from the property's lawful owners.

Unclaimed or abandoned property, the Treasurer explained, must first be retained by the bank, corporation, or other holding institution, for at least five years. During this time, the institution is charged with the responsibility of locating the rightful owner. If all attempts to do this fail, the property must then be submitted to the Escheat Fund, which is under the authority of the

Treasurer's Department. It is at this point that the Treasurer seeks to locate the owner.

Until the rightful owner is located, the money is invested

by the Treasurer, and the interest is remitted to the North Carolina Education Assistance Authority to be used for loans to worthy and needy North Carolina

students in institutions of higher learning within the state. Last year, the interest earned on escheated property was in excess of two million dollars. Though this money

served a worthwhile education purpose, the Treasurer continues to emphasize that his first concern is that it be returned to its lawful owners. Toward this end, he instituted

the current return program, in the course of which the Department of the Treasurer has received substantial assistance from the state's newspapers.



**THE BIRDS**—Is Alfred Hitchcock's movie of seagulls attacking man coming true in Edenton? Could it be that at the end of Broad Street, the vicious birds are lining up on poles, ready to attack an innocent by-stander? (Photo by Clay Roberts)

## Phone Co. Offers Aid

TARBORO—Carolina Telephone has established a "Tel-Aid Customer Assistance Program" to assist customers who find it difficult or impossible to make timely payment of their telephone bill due to serious financial hardship.

Wayne Peterson, Carolina Telephone president, said, "The monthly telephone bill may be far from the biggest item in the family budget, but I want our company to go a step or two beyond the norm to help customers avoid service disconnection for nonpayment."

As outlined by Peterson, the Tel-Aid program encourages Carolina Telephone customers "having a real problem in paying their telephone bill" to call their local business office or a special toll-free number, 1-800-682-7007, to request assistance. Specially trained telephone company personnel will attempt to work out suitable payment arrangements, provide advice on how to reduce future bills and offer to assist the customer in contacting an appropriate social agency for possible help with other critical needs.

Peterson said, "We recognize the critical role telephone service plays in the lives of many of our customers. With today's

unemployment and the high cost of winter heating bills, some people on a fixed income or faced with an unexpected financial crisis have to make some difficult decisions when it comes to paying bills. We want to be certain that our customers, when faced with such decisions, are made aware of any arrangements we may be able to offer, as well as the services which may be available to them through various social agencies to help meet their other needs.

"Like any other business, we can't say 'pay us when you get the money,' but as we've found through our own employee counseling program, there are times when people need help, financial or otherwise. Often, they just need to know where to turn. What we're trying to do is get people to call us when they've got a serious situation. We may be able to help with telephone payment problems or an offer to refer them elsewhere for appropriate assistance."



Hang handbags and belts from large shower curtain hooks on closet rods.

## Applications Being Taken

The N.C. Arts Council of the Department of Cultural Resources is now accepting applications for summer internships in arts administration.

Internships will be awarded to three people, each of whom will spend a total of three months at two community arts councils of different sizes and four days at the N.C. Arts Council in Raleigh.

The intern program, now in its 10th year, is designed to advance arts administration professionalism in North Carolina through instruction and work experience. The program is conducted to help prepare participants for permanent employment in the field and to assist them in finding that employment.

Of 31 participants in the program since 1974, 25 have been placed in arts administration jobs of some kind.

Qualifications for interns include a four-year college degree, strong administration and business abilities and wide knowledge and appreciation of the arts.

The ability to accept employment in September, if positions should become available, is desirable. However, people still attending graduate school are invited to apply if they have committed themselves to a career in arts administration.

Applications are available from: Summer Intern Program, N.C. Arts Council, Department of Cultural Resources, Raleigh, N.C., 27611.

Deadline for application is March 1, 1983.



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