



MADISON COUNTY LIBRARY  
GENERAL DELIVERY  
MARSHALL NC 28753

## Capitola Dam, Marshall Sewer Projects Collide

By ROBERT KOENIG

The two major projects currently under construction in Marshall are presently on a collision course that centers around the parking lot of the Marshall Glove Co. factory.

Work on the Marshall sewer project should proceed to the parking lot later this week according to schedule. However, sewer construction at the site would delay work on the Capitola Dam project being built by the French Broad Electric Membership Corporation.

Marshall mayor Betty Wild brought representatives of both sides together last week at a special called meeting of the town board of aldermen in an attempt to work out a schedule agreeable to both parties.

Caught in the middle of all this construction is the glove plant and its employees. Marshall Fisher of the Marshall Glove Co. also attended Friday's meeting. Fisher told the meeting that he faces problems at the plant because the construction projects will make freight deliveries difficult.

Fisher said, "I don't have any idea when Taylor and Murphy is coming through, I'd like to think we can work around the situation, but it will make getting freight in and out difficult and be an inconvenience to our employees."

The problems with the Capitola Dam project stem from an agreement between FBEMC and the glove company for the use of the factory's parking lot for the construction of giant draft tubes needed in the dam's turbines. FBEMC representative Rick Thomason said that welding the large tubes together requires a flat space near the construction site and that the parking lot is the only suitable location available. He said that work on the tubes will take at least 45 days.

Thomason added that work on welding the tubes together is scheduled to begin later this week.

Work on the sewer project is expected to proceed into the parking lot later this week. Taylor and Murphy Construction supervisor Alex Keith attended the Friday meeting.

Keith said he could not give an exact date as to when the sewer project will arrive at the parking lot. He said, "There's no way I can give you a definite date because we might hit rock." The project is currently installing a line from the treatment plant on Blannahasset Island to the parking lot. From there, plans call for the project to proceed up Cotton Mill Hill.

Bill Lapsley, the engineer on the sewer project said, "Concern about the parking lot was

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DAFFODILS such as these in the yard of a Hot Springs home are signalling the arrival of spring throughout Madison County. Mild temperatures and showers have accompanied the arrival of the flowers.

## Unemployment Down Statewide

The statewide unemployment picture improved slightly in February according to figure released last week by the N.C. Employment Security Commission (ESC).

Figures released last week show that statewide joblessness decreased by half a percentage point during the month, to 7.6 percent of the work force. The January ESC figures showed North Carolina unemployment at 8.1 percent. The 7.6 percent figure for the month represents some 222,100 unemployed workers.

ESC chairman Glenn Jernigan said that nonmanufacturing jobs lead the way in February, with an increase of 12,400 jobs across the state.

Jernigan also reported that jobs in tobacco manufacturing decreased during the month due to seasonal influences. Textiles also reported a loss of some 600 jobs during the

month. The report also states that the average hourly wage for manufacturing production workers was \$6.92, an increase of two cents over the previous month and 33 cents above the Feb. 1983 figure. The average weekly hours worked by manufacturing production workers remained unchanged in Feb. at 39.7 hours.

The ESC chairman expressed optimism that the decreased unemployment figures would continue in the months ahead. In releasing the figures, Jernigan noted, "In the coming months we expect unemployment rates to decline. Historically, rates go down as weather conditions improve and tourism-related activities increase. These, of course, affect both manufacturing and non-manufacturing jobs."

## Food Stamp Program Change To Take Effect May 1

Madison County food stamp recipients should be aware that changes in the system will take effect next month. According to Elizabeth Roberts, Madison County food stamp supervisor, the county program will become a part of the Food Stamp Information System (FSIS) on May 1. The system is a computerized system that will connect the county office with food stamp computers in Raleigh.

Although the application process remains virtually unchanged, the information gathered during the application interview will be

transmitted to the computer base in Raleigh which will in turn issue an allotment and expiration notice or a denial notice.

The blue card food stamp recipients have received in the past will no longer be used. The new cards to be issued look like a bill, according to Roberts. Food stamp recipients should be aware of the change and not destroy the card when it arrives in the mail. A copy of the new card, as well as copies of the Notice of Eligibility and Notice of Expiration are posted on the bulletin board at the food stamp office.

The day the cards will be received has also been changed effective May 1. The change may result in a two-week delay for some recipients. Cards will be mailed on May 5 for persons whose Social Security number ends with the number "1". Recipients with a Social Security number ending with "2" will have their cards mailed out on May 6. Persons with a Social Security number ending with zero will not have their cards mailed out until May 14.

Roberts recently attended a five-day training session in Raleigh on the new system along with eligibility

specialist Carol Massey and data management clerk Novella Sams.

Roberts said that all Madison County certified households must have the proper forms completed and entered in the computer by April 10 to insure that May allotments are received on time. She added that information on the new system will be sent along with authorization cards in April and asks that food stamp recipients with questions on the new system wait until after April 10 to call the office so that the necessary entries can be made in the computer.

## 3 Plead Innocent In Bid Rigging

Three men charged in connection with bid-rigging on the U.S. 25-70 projects from Marshall to Weaverville pleaded innocent during their arraignment before the U.S. Magistrate in Asheville Thursday. The three will be bound over to the U.S. District Court for trial on May 7.

William Albert Ricker of Mars Hill, a Department of

Transportation maintenance crew chief, entered not guilty pleas to two charges of extortion. Ricker has been suspended without pay from his DOT position.

Edward Hume Paschall of Black Mountain, a retired DOT engineer, pleaded not guilty to three counts of extortion to affect commerce. Both Ricker and Paschall are

charged with accepting non-reimbursed accommodations at a Hilton Head Island, S.C. resort and Texas hunting lodge. Paschall is also charged with accepting a 1981 Cadillac from the third man charged in the bid-rigging probe, Baxter A. Taylor, president of the Asheville Contracting Co.

Taylor also entered not guilty pleas during his arraignment. He is charged with three counts of mail fraud, one count of conspiracy and a count of violating the Sherman Anti-Trust Act.

All three men remain free on \$2,500 unsecured bonds. They were indicted by a federal grand jury in Asheville on March 9.

## Democratic Candidates' Positions Outlined

By Rob Christensen  
The News and Observer

Ed. Note: This is the second in a two-part series detailing the major Democratic gubernatorial candidates' positions. The article was based on interviews with the candidates published in The Raleigh News and Observer.

On social issues, Green was the only major Democratic candidate to oppose state ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment should Congress resubmit it to the states.

"I don't want to turn it over to the (U.S.) Supreme Court to make those determinations," Green said. "I think we can do it at the local level."

Ingram said that the ERA had consumed too much of the legislature's time and that he would submit the issue to the voters in a referendum if the issue reappeared.

Knox, Edmisten, Gilmore and Faircloth said they would work for passage of the ERA should it come before the legislature again.

North Carolina is one of the few states that provides funding of abortions for low-income women.

While all of the candidates expressed strong personal reservations about abortion, Knox, Gilmore, Edmisten and Faircloth said they would support continued state funding of abortions for poor women as a matter of equity, because the U.S. Supreme Court had legalized abortions.

But Green and Ingram disagreed.

"It is against my morals, and I would never support tax-funded abortions," Green said. "I don't believe the taxpayers of North Carolina should pay for abortions."

Of the six major candidates, only Edmisten voiced opposition to capital punishment.



INGRAM



GREEN



GILMORE



FAIRCLOTH



KNOX



EDMISTEN

"I favor a lifetime sentence absolutely without parole, working at hard labor with restitution back to the victim's family," Gilmore said. "What we have today is a lottery to decide which person is sentenced to death," he said. "It has not acted as a deterrent."

All the candidates said they supported the principle that women working in state government should be paid equally with men for doing jobs of comparable worth.

But most said they would wait for a state government job classification study on the issue to be completed before offering specifics.

On another issue, which he has made a major campaign theme, Ingram was the only candidate to support a change in the way members of the State Utilities Commission are selected.

Ingram argued that commission members should be elected rather than appointed by the governor—a move he says will result in lower consumer energy bills.

"An elected utilities commission would be more responsive to the people of North Carolina and would remove bad laws which made this cruel heat possible," he said, referring to customers' paying for the cost of abandoned

nuclear power plants. But the other major candidates argued that a utilities commission election probably would be an obscure contest, in which many candidates would be financed by the utility companies.

"I think it is a bad idea from beginning to end," Faircloth said.

On environmental issues, the candidates expressed broad agreement.

They all praised the Coastal Area Management Act and promised in general terms to protect the state's watersheds.

The candidates said they would work to protect the state from hazardous waste. They suggested recycling hazardous waste and looking to industry to come up with new technology to deal with the problem.

Green noted that discussions were under way on a compact with South Carolina, under which North Carolina would incinerate hazardous waste from both states and the residue would be buried in a South Carolina landfill.

Edmisten said he favored creation of a state "superfund," supported by industries, to pay for cleanup of hazardous waste spills and landfills.

Gilmore was the only candidate who said during The N&O interviews that he supported efforts to require companies to notify their workers when they are dealing with hazardous wastes—a major goal of organized labor.

All the candidates voiced support for opening up more state government meetings to the public.

Edmisten, Knox, Green and Gilmore said meetings of the Advisory Budget Commission and the Council of State should be opened, except when dealing with such sensitive issues as personnel, real estate or legal matters.

"Public business should be discussed in public," said Gilmore, who has made the issue of opening up state government meetings a major campaign plank.

Faircloth and Ingram, without being specific, said they generally supported more open government.

The candidates displayed little enthusiasm for bond issues for schools, roads or water and sewer facilities.

They also said they would be willing to