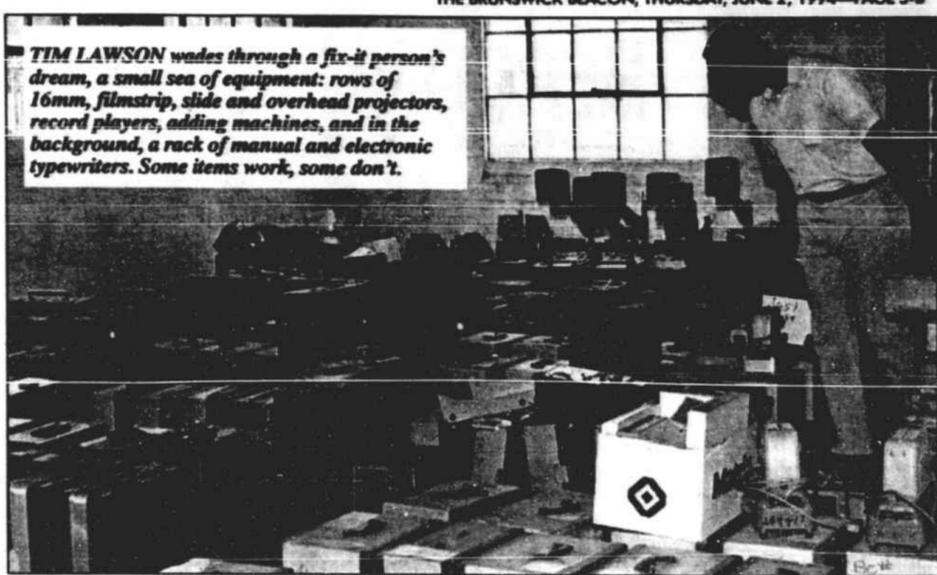


STAFF PHOTOS BY SUSAN USHER

**PSST!** Want to buy a computer? Say, a very used Radio Shack TRS-80 with black and white or color monitor...or maybe an Apple IIe minus software and operating manual. All will be sold as is.



**TIM LAWSON** wades through a fix-it person's dream, a small sea of equipment: rows of 16mm, filmstrip, slide and overhead projectors, record players, adding machines, and in the background, a rack of manual and electronic typewriters. Some items work, some don't.

# TRASH OR TREASURE?

## Auction-Goers Will Pick Through Schools' Discards

BY SUSAN USHER

When an entire school system cleans out its closets for the first time in years, it's amazing what comes to light.

Rows of 16mm filmstrip, overhead and slide projectors, old Radio Shack TRS-80s and other, larger computers. Manual and electronic adding machines and typewriters, as well as duplicating machines and laminating machines. Record players. Seven televisions. Three pianos. An upholstery machine lacking an OSHA-mandated safety cover for its belt.

Odds and ends of toys. Outdated wall maps and globes. Boxes of beige, no-gimmicks touch-tone phones and small switchboard systems. Legless conference tables. Desks. Chairs, including a comfy office type minus one odd-size wheel and approximately 100 student chairs.

Cafeteria equipment (pots and pans and the big items too). A child-size raised potty seat. A microscope or two. Books, whole and partial filmstrip sets and training materials.

Get the idea?

Virtually any object that can be found inside a schoolhouse goes on sale Saturday, June 4, when the Brunswick County Board of Education auctions off its excess inventory. Most of the items either can no longer be used, don't work or have missing parts. Some are suitable for salvage.

More than 1,000 items will be auctioned off "as is" starting at 9 a.m. at the old Willets Ford dealership building in downtown Bolivia. Merchandise will be available for inspection at 8 a.m.

After expenses that include the auctioneer's fee and \$1,000 building rental, proceeds will go to the school system's general fund.

"We expect to see stuff coming in right up until the day before the auction," said Pam Dean, hired as a tem-

porary last fall to update the school systems' fixed assets inventory. "We still haven't picked up items from three schools and we have to go back to one school."

"Storage is a problem in all the schools," she said. "We need to get these old things out of the way so they'll have room for newer equipment."

Of the items brought in thus far, she expects the cafeteria equipment to net the most money for the schools. Some of the is in good condition, but cannot be used in the schools because it isn't made of stainless steel.

Two pedal-operated sewing machines in their original wooden cabinets are also expected to fetch good prices under the coaxing and cajoling of professional auctioneer Douglas Pate of Southport.

Her favorite item is an avocado-colored upright piano with a carved front and the musty smell of old leather.

As an enticement for auction-goers to linger, concessions will be available from band booster clubs from West Brunswick and South Brunswick high schools and possibly North Brunswick. Proceeds will go to the band boosters.

Several high school students have been helping haul equipment to the sale site and will help the day of the auction, she said.

Other school system departments have pitched in to help prepare for the auction, with food service providing use of its truck and school system employees putting in extra hours to help pick up goods being discarded by individual schools and departments. Before the auction every item will have been checked against the fixed inventory list and tagged.

"The auctioneer says we have some very saleable goods," said Dean. "He anticipates a good day."

"Who knows? If it goes well, we will probably do it again."

**THIS BATTERED GREEN** upright piano from South Brunswick Middle School is Pam Dean's favorite item destined for auction thus far. More goodies, including two antique, pedal-operated sewing machines, will be coming in from county schools up until the day before the auction.



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