

COMMISSIONERS MEETING, FEBRUARY 14 --

First, a Valentine to almost all of us. 92% of us have paid our PKS town taxes. The other 8% are reminded that under North Carolina law, delinquents are advertised beginning May 10, and the tax lien sale is held the second Monday in June.

Colonel Dennison, formerly with the Corps of Engineers, explained a proposed marsh grass experiment along the Sound. Grass is a natural stabilizer and will help retard erosion which could occur all along the south shore of Bogue Sound. Funds are now available for experimental work through the North Carolina University Dept. of Soil Service. Colonel Dennison recommended that the Town or the home owners association accept the offer. The Commissioners will consider the proposal and make a decision before March first.

The Commissioners discussed a garbage ordinance.

Police Chief Overman reported on activities of the police during the preceding month. Among crimes solved this month were two cases of gas larceny, and he warned that attempts to steal gasoline could be expected during the current gas shortage. He also reported on an opportunity for the town to purchase a communication system for the police with a Government subsidy covering 90% of the cost. It was pointed out that the cost of the full communication system, with the help of the subsidy, would be less than the cost of replacing the walkie-talkie which our police are now using on a loan basis. The Commissioners voted to purchase the communication system. And, congratulations to Officer Lewis who completed a 30 day police course and graduated at the top of his class.

Mr. Crumley reported that the Planning Board is now making a study on slips, docks, and bulkheads on the Sound and in the canals.

Venture Management presented a request to the Board of Adjustment for a variance to allow them a population density of 15 units per acre instead of 10. In connection with this request, Mrs. Bray read a "special use" ordinance allowing exceptions for group housing, with architectural limitations. The Planning Board was asked to restudy the present density clause. They were also asked to study and give their recommendations concerning the "special use" suggestion.

RESTAURANTS -- Even in these days of gas shortage, some of us may have to go to Kinston to take a plane or tend to some business. If you do, be sure to have dinner at the "Beef Barn" on Highway 70 just beyond the turn to the airport on the left. They broil your steak over charcoal while you assemble a salad at their salad bar. A steak for two is cut extra thick. Not too expensive, either, and the service is fast and friendly. And be sure to try the green tomato pickle slices. It is extra touches like the special assortment of salad makings that make the "Beef Barn" not just a good restaurant but a very, very good one.

ECOLOGY NOTE: In Beaufort at the Senior Citizens' shop on Front Street, newspapers can be dropped off and will be RE-CYCLED! And if you do carry a load over, take a look at the little shop there which sells handmade articles created by Senior Citizens (no one "under age" may sell his things there!) Thelma Vaughan says there are lovely afghans, slippers, even paintings. Check it out. Don't forget your old papers.

Bill and Ellen Ford are back in their home overlooking the ocean after four months in Brussels. Bill was there working with IMS, a firm which wanted some American know-how to improve its operation. Ellen found it enthralling to be a resident, not a tourist in Brussels. There was so much to do -- markets, concerts, museums. The language barrier bothered her (no English TV programs, no English newspaper) but she did well with sign language and was beginning to learn the language when they left. The Fords found that the gasoline shortage allowed them little chance to travel. They had four days in Paris but canceled their planned trip to London for Christmas. Food was wonderful, particularly the pastries, fresh vegetables and fruit; weather was dismal, cold, and dank. Ellen says Pine Knoll Shores looks wonderful to them, and they are so glad to be back even though their four months in Brussels was a wonderful experience.

Have you been using the BICYCLE RACK at the Mimosa ocean park? It is a cooperative effort -- wood provided by the Pine Knoll Association and work by volunteers under Fred Mehlin's supervision. Yes, Fred worked too. With so many of us riding bicycles, the rack is a real help.