

*Carroll
to the Deal*

The SHORE LINE

Published by The Town of Pine Knoll Shores In The Interests Of Its Citizens

Post Office Box 757, Atlantic Beach, N. C. 28512

Volume V - Number 2

February, 1984

Noel Yancey - Editor

PKS residents should be prepared for a shock when they get their next water bills. The North Carolina Utilities Commission has given Carolina Water Service permission to hike its rates.

WATER RATES Pat O'Brien, the company treasurer, said the new rate schedule was effective February 1. For a residential customer the new **SKYROCKET** rate is \$1.70 per 1,000 gallons plus \$5 per month. O'Brien said that the charge to an average customer using 6,000 gallons per month would increase from \$11.50 to \$15.20. Since the company bills on a quarterly basis the average bill would rise from \$34.30 to \$45.60, or 33 percent. O'Brien conceded that the percentage increase for customers using less than 6,000 gallons a month would be even greater.

Take one PKS family as an example. During the quarter ending December 31, this family used 10,810 gallons, and the bill was \$23.72. Under the new rates, the bill would have been \$33.38. For the quarter ending March 31 of last year, it used 30,690 gallons and got a bill for \$53.54. Under the new schedule, the charge would have been \$67.17.

O'Brien said the Utilities Commission granted the increase because the company had established that its "rate of return was too low." He said that in 1982 Carolina lost \$10,000 on its North Carolina operations, and has requested rates that would bring in a profit of \$133,000 on an investment of \$3.4 million.

Rudy Shaw, engineer for the water division of the Utilities Commission's public staff which is supposed to represent the public, said his office had conceded that Carolina Water Service "can justify the rates they are asking for." He noted that Carolina water Service, a subsidiary of Utilities, Inc., of Northbrook, Ill., operates water systems in 45 North Carolina communities ranging from Sugar Mountain to Pine Knoll Shores. He said the Utilities Commission had held six hearings on the company's rate request and that the

TOWN OF PINE KNOLL SHORES
Route 1 - Pine Knoll Blvd.
Morehead City - Pine Knoll Shores,
North Carolina, 28557

Bulk Rate
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit #22
Morehead City, NC
28557

M/M JACK GOLDSTEIN
R-3/125 LOBLOLLY DR

MOREHEAD CITY NC 28557
AA