

The Foothills View

"We See It Your Way"

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Grassy Pond Pipeline On Hold?

BY TOM RABON
VIEW STAFF

Dale Blanton remembers the dry summer of 1981.

Blanton, a farmer in the No. 1 Township, saw his crop yield of soybeans, cotton, and grain sorghum cut in half because of drought last summer in Cleveland County. The well that supplied water for his cattle also dried up, and Blanton began hauling water in a mobile 1000 gallon tank for livestock belonging to him and his neighbor, Billy Joe McCraw, whose own farm pond had dried up.

"I got desperate," said McCraw, who sustained pasture damage and had to have his well dug deeper.

Farmers in No. 1 and other communities may see some more dry summers before a proposed hook-up is begun to the Grassy Pond water line located in

Cherokee County, South Carolina.

Last fall about 300 people solicited taps and paid deposits to the privately-owned Grassy Pond Water Company to extend its water line into the No. 1 Township in Cleveland County and into the Stateline community in Rutherford County. Now the status of the proposed extension is unclear due to:

crossing state lines;
financing by Farmers Home Administration (FHMA).

People running short of water solicited the taps last fall in No. 1, Stateline, Camps Creek, Lavonia, and Prospect communities. According to Mrs. Virginia Scruggs, who canvassed her own community of Stateline, applicants paid a deposit fee of \$150 for a residential tap and \$300 for a

commercial tap to the Grassy Pond company.

"They turned to us because they think they'll never get any help from Boiling Springs," Smith Wood, former president of the company, said at the time.

According to Miles Gettys, present head of the company, the deposits have been pooled together and are currently being held in escrow for the applicants.

Grassy Pond Co. at the time planned to get approval from both North and South Carolina to extend the pipeline across the state line and then apply to the FHMA for a loan to complete the project.

Apparently the loan application has not been made.

Don Wilkins, assistant director of the FHMA in Greenville, S.C., said that he met with represen-

tatives of the Grassy Pond water board about a year ago, but as of May 7 no formal application for a loan had been submitted.

"Grassy Pond is in the process of completing preliminary engineering work," Wilkins said.

The present engineer for the Grassy Pond company, Edgar Williams, Jr., of Rock Hill S.C., says the FHMA loan is the reason for the uncertainty.

"Most of it (beginning the project) is a matter of federal financing which has changed a lot in the last six months," Williams said.

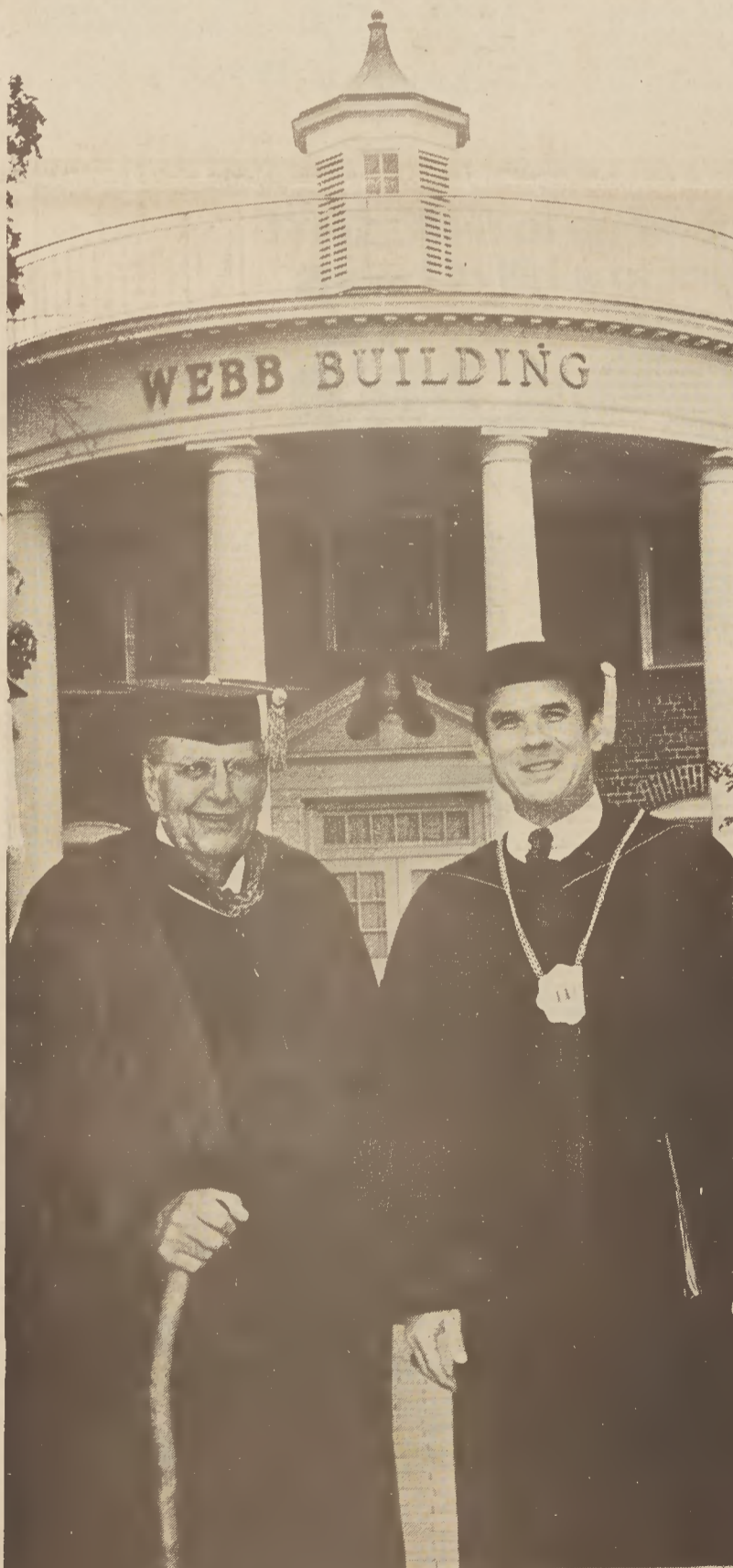
If the project is ever completed, it would be unique in its size

Grassy Pond Co. currently serves about 700 taps in South Carolina, and the additional 300 taps in North Carolina would create one of the largest rural water districts in the two states.

The North Carolina residents could either form their own water district and purchase water from Grassy Pond or join the company.

Grassy Pond Water Company buys its water directly from the city of Gaffney, S.C. Last summer's drought caused Lake Whelchel, the city's only source of water, to drop below its normal level, and the Gaffney Board of Public Works decided to increase the flow into the lake this summer by laying a 30-inch pipe from the Broad River to Lake Whelchel.

Caps And Gowns



"There is nothing quite like the charged atmosphere of a small college on commencement day," college president Dr. Craven Williams told 270 candidates awaiting associate, bachelor, and master degrees Saturday at Gardner-Webb College.

This is the first time that graduate degrees have been awarded by the college, and the first deaf students received bachelor degrees.

Dr. Williams, above right, is pictured with Dr. Ben Fisher, former executive director of the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Fire At Bedrock Road

Six trucks from Shanghai and Boiling Springs Rural fire departments answered the call about 8:30 Saturday morning to this blaze in a tool shed belonging to James Hickman on Bedrock Road. Firechief Dennis Hamrick of the Shanghai department said both the shed and the tools inside were destroyed, for a total loss of approximately \$1000. The Shanghai department with an assist from Boiling Springs put out the fire in about ten minutes. Cause of the blaze is still under investigation, Hamrick said.

City fire reported a quiet week with one grass fire May 11 extinguished at South Main.

Boiling Springs city police reported the recovery May 17 of an air conditioner reported stolen from G.T. McSwain's store



after a repairman working on the appliance called police.

Officer James Clary questioned a Boiling Springs resident who had

brought the conditioner in for repair

No charges were filed.

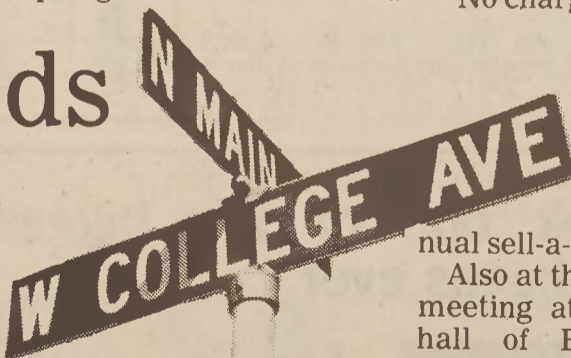
At The Crossroads

Barbara Dover called to remind townspeople of two conservation meetings. The first regular meeting of the new Cleveland County area Sierra Club will be held May 25, she said, at 7:30 p.m. upstairs at the Cleveland County Historical Museum. This Thursday, May 20, the Cleveland League of Conservation (CLOC) will meet at John Knox Presbyterian Church at 7:30 p.m. for a program on the new South Mountain State Park.

Bob Blackburn wants to remind students about cardiovascular health and treatment. Bob tells us that Cleveland County school teachers and students will

devote class time May 19-21 to help the American Heart Association find out what students know about cardiovascular disease and its prevention. The students will take a test designed to let the Association know what it needs to tell the kids to avoid heart trouble as adults.

Did you ever play a prank as a child? Rutherford County native and humorist Jim Henson recounts on our "Commentary" page how a country prank involving a lighted beesmoker and some water poured between the floor cracks created an episode that at least two of the three participants are willing to remember.



Kathleen Hunt called to let us know that although the Flint Hills Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution held their last meeting for this spring and summer, plans are already underway for the DAR's celebrated quilt making.

Mrs. Joe Kendrick distributed quilt squares to members at the May 11 meeting for the Cathedral Window Quilt to be made by the chapter for its an-

nual sell-a-thon this fall.

Also at the Tuesday night meeting at the fellowship hall of Boiling Springs United Methodist, Miss Betty Hamrick, chaplain, conducted an installation service for one new member, Mrs. Angelia Griffin Goode.

Mrs. Robert Sweezy, regent, presided over the meeting, and Mrs. James L. Padgett gave an account of the 82nd state conference held in Pinehurst March 9-11.

Treasurer's report was given by Mrs. Brooks Piery.

Hostesses for the meeting were Mrs. Kendrick, Mrs. Nancy Griffin, Mrs. Austin Anthony, and Mrs. Goode.