



## Transportation Plan Hits Roadblock

By JACK GROVE  
The news from Raleigh concerning Gov. James G.

Martin's \$8.6 billion highway construction program has not been encouraging for the ad-

ministration.  
The intrastate road improvement program was de-

vised by a study commission that included First District Sen. Marc Basnight, D-Dare. It would affect some 10,000 miles of roads, four-laning many east-west, north-south connector highways and paving many rural secondary roads.

Legislators from eastern North Carolina have said for several years that they would not vote for any transportation appropriation bills that would not give this area its fair share of road money. In a recent interview, Senator Basnight indicated that the House-passed \$8.6 billion package was fair and specifically included the four-laning of area highways such as U.S. 17, 158, 168 and 64.

The plan got off track last month, however, when Sen. Marshall Rauch, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, sponsored a \$195 million tax bill for increasing state employee salaries, including

teachers. The bill was adopted by the Senate.

The measure provides that part of the funding would come from an increase in the state sales tax on motor vehicles from two to three per cent. Supporters claim that money would be taken away from the highway program for only two years and then restored to highways. They also said that the 12-year program would be extended to 15 years and that all roads improvements would be fully funded.

That motor vehicle tax was part of the funding for the transportation bill passed by the House. Last week the House rejected the Senate bill but had previously balked at the governor's proposal to raise the state income tax by one per cent for the state employee pay raise.

At the recent opening of the new visitor center on U.S. 17 in Camden County and at last

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QUESTIONED--Governor James G. Martin talks to a reporter at a reception after last week's Albemarle Sound Bridge dedication. Chowan County Commission Board Chairman Alton Elmore waits patiently to have a word with the governor.

### Tax On A Surtax

Critics of the General Assembly are wont to say the right hand doesn't know what the left hand is doing. A description that comes nearer the mark with respect to the current legislature says that what the right hand gives, the left hand takes away.

For months now the lawmakers have been wrestling with the problem of treating all pensioners alike at income tax time, a policy made necessary by a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling.

But no sooner had they reached an agreement on treating all pensioners alike than the senate turned around and passed an income tax revision bill levying an entirely new state tax on the principal pension of senior citizens 65 and older.

This comes about by reason of the proposal, approved by the senate, to piggyback state income tax policy on top of the federal form. In the interest of "fairness" and "brevity," they would make the tax owed by a state income taxpayer simply a percentage of his federal tax.

That's the soul of brevity, all right, but it's a long way from fairness because it overlooks the fact that Social Security beneficiaries with an outside income of \$25,000 or more must pay a federal income tax on half their benefits. In addition, their federal tax liability is increased by the catastrophic health care surtax, which amounts to 15 per cent of the federal tax due for 1989, 20 per cent for 1990.

It is not unusual for a couple who have worked all their adult lives to have annual Social Security benefits of as much as \$20,000, \$10,000 of which is subject to the income tax. At 28 per cent, that comes to a tax of \$2,800. Add to that the 15 per cent surtax of \$420 and you come up with a total of \$3,220, which is a tax only

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## Shower Doesn't Dampen July Fourth Celebration

Threatening weather may have been a factor in reduced crowds during the celebration of the Fourth of July in Edenton. A 20 minute downpour in the evening sent people scurrying for cover as the crowd gathered for the annual fireworks display.

The rain ceased for the most part, however, in time for the night time show. Only a light intermittent drizzle came down with the fireworks.

The size of the crowd for the all-day event at the foot of Broad Street and on the Courthouse Green was variously estimated as smaller or the same as last year's event.

Edenton Police Sergeant Joe Norman said that he

thought the number of people in attendance was about a third of last year's. On the other hand, Michael (Danny) Stallings said that he believed the crowd to be comparable with the last Fourth of July. Stallings based his estimate on the volume of soft drink sales at the Chowan-Edenton Optimist Club refreshment tent. He has dispensed beverages there for the past five years.

The Green was lined with arts and crafts booths selling items ranging from stuffed animals to baskets to wood crafts. One resident commented that the quality and variety of crafts displayed was the best that she had seen in years.

At Waterfront Park, children were kept busy with rope jumping, watermelon seed spitting and other contests. As in previous years, puppies were displayed for adoption by the Edenton-Chowan SPCA along with the plea for pet owners to have their animals spayed or neutered.

The mighty roar of a replica of an 1861 Parrot Gun punctuated the activities every hour. The gun's crew, dressed as Union soldiers, are from Portsmouth and Chesapeake, Virginia. Their gun was set up next to the Barker House and fired out across Edenton Bay.

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AIRBURST--A rocket blossoms over Edenton Bay during the fireworks show put on by the Chowan-Edenton Optimists Club Tuesday night.

### Fireworks Displays To Continue

## Rising Costs Won't Affect Shows

By MARGUERITE MCCALL

would have cost \$800.

"Since the money comes from our recreation fund," Fauver said, "it made more sense to have a free barbecue for all residents. This will take place in mid-afternoon. People can still go to a neighboring town and view the fireworks."

Sarah Winslow, president of the Hertford Jaycees, remarked, "We raise our money by conducting a pig picking and by receiving donations from businesses and individuals."

"Our expenses this year are pretty much the same as last year."

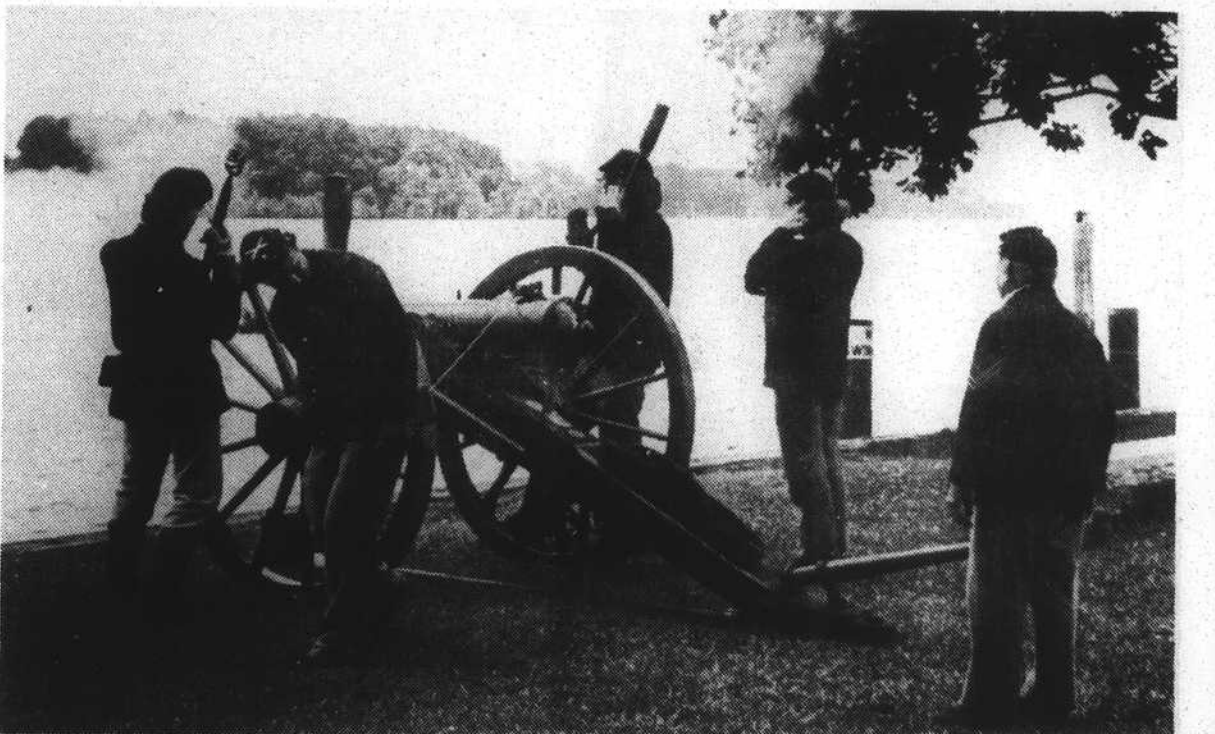
Mrs. Winslow added that their fireworks personnel attended a pyrotechnic seminar held in Rock Hill, S.C.

"Our only costs for that were motel and travel expenses," she said.

Hertford Fourth of July chairman Chris Peckham anticipates larger and better shows each year. He was also excited about a 12 inch diameter shell to be shot in this year's finale.

Elizabeth City Jaycee event chairman T.L. Newell, III said that their expenses this year barely exceeded last year's outlay.

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FIRE!--A Civil War reenactment team from Virginia fires their 1860's Parrott Gun during Edenton's Fourth of July festivities. The booming cannon fire reverberated around the downtown area every hour from the morning until the beginning of the fireworks display at 9 p.m.

## Accident Takes Life Of County Man

Two single vehicle accidents marred the weekend, one of which took the life of a Chowan County man on Saturday evening. Killed in one accident on Rocky Hock Rd. was Lloyd Marcus Peele, 72, of Route 3, Edenton.

According to a Highway Patrol report filed by Trooper C.S. Adams, Peele's 1988 Ford pickup was traveling west on the road 9.4 miles northwest of Edenton at 7:50 p.m. when it went on to the right shoulder. It traveled down the shoulder for 303 feet, struck a ditch and veered across the road.

It went off the side of the road, turned over and came to rest in a field 25 feet off the

roadway. Peele was thrown clear and his body came to rest 20 feet from the truck.

The trooper's report said that Peele was not wearing a seat belt at the time. Wallace Craddock, Jr. witnessed the accident. Damage to the truck was estimated at \$12,000.

The second accident took place at 9:15 p.m. on Dillard Mill Rd. According to a report filed by Trooper W.D. Shepherd, a 1985 Nissan driven by David Roy Saunders, 24, of 200 Coventry Rd., Virginia Beach, was traveling south.

The car entered a sharp curve to the left, ran off the road on the right and, as the driver jerked the steering wheel to the left, his vehicle

darted across the road and ran off the road on the left, rolled over on its top and came to rest in the ditch."

Saunders was accompanied by two passengers, Jean Saunders, 29 and Ricky Stokes, 45, also from Virginia Beach. All three were transported to Chowan Hospital for treatment of minor injuries. None were wearing seat belts.

Trooper Shepherd charged Saunders with exceeding a safe speed. Damage to the car was estimated to be \$5,000.

Lieutenant James White of the Chowan Sheriff's Dept. was at the scene of both accidents and assisted with traffic control.



CARE--The N.C. Highway Patrol joined police agencies across the nation this weekend in Operation C.A.R.E. (Combined Action Reduction Effort) in a move to reduce holiday highway accidents. The patrol stopped cars on U.S. 17 Business South to remind motorists to drive safely. Here, Sergeant F.M. Lemmon, Jr. talks to a driver while Trooper D.C. Garriss looks over the trailered boat.