



CONSTRUCTION of the CP&L drainage canal is progressing more rapidly than many would expect. Not only has the canal been dug near Highways 211 and 87, but dredges have made their way inland as much as a mile from the Intracoastal Waterway. Here, equipment works

in the waterway, completing the pipeline underneath the channel. The discharge water will be funneled from the canal through the pipeline, then through a series of pumping stations and other pipelines 2,000 feet of Caswell Beach for discharge.

## Fiscal Year Report

# County Spent Less Than It Received, Says Auditor

Brunswick County ended fiscal year 1971-72 in good financial condition, according to the audit report submitted to the board of commissioners on Monday by Cherry, Bekaert and Holland.

A fair statement, said a spokesman for the Wilmington certified public accounting firm, would be that the county "lived within its budget." During the past fiscal year, he noted, the county took in \$118,000 more than it spent — excluding the board of education and the county Resources Development Commission budgets for which separate audits are maintained.

The audit showed June 30 assets of \$562,627, including \$447,660 in bank accounts for the various county agencies and \$114,592 in certificates on deposit. Taxes still receivable from 1971 and before totaled \$116,656.

Total revenue during last fiscal year was \$587,519, compared with expenditures of \$469,267. Much of the difference was realized through the one-cent sales tax, slightly over \$100,000 of the funds being received in time for the budget report.

Collection of ad valorem taxes during 1971-72 exceeded the budgeted figure by approximately \$55,000, and register of deeds fees topped the expected total by about \$20,000.

The unappropriated balance in county funds as of June 30 was \$307,849, the audit report stated.

The general fund budget included a \$19,300 item for general government (county commissioners), but the audit showed that only \$16,937 was used during the fiscal year. Included in this total was \$6,453 (\$8,000 budgeted) for the commissioners; special trips \$923 (\$2,000 budgeted); and miscellaneous, \$2,897 (\$3,000 budgeted).

The expense for listing of property exceeded the anticipated \$43,000 by \$3,446. Higher-than-expected salaries for tax listers and appraisers

accounted for approximately this much difference, while the only other expense that was far out of line was "printing and binding," which cost about \$1,200 less than budgeted. Advertising of taxes due cost about \$700 more than was budgeted and "miscellaneous" exceeded the budgeted amount by approximately \$400.

The total cost of tax collection was \$31,257, more than \$2,000 under the budgeted total. Foreclosures and survey tax suits cost nothing, although \$2,000 and \$500 amounts were budgeted for these two items. Advertising of land sales cost \$788 more than anticipated; this figure was largely offset, though, by lower-than-expected costs for office equipment (only \$78 of a budgeted \$500) and printing and binding (\$446 although \$700 was allotted).

In the sheriff's department, the \$84,453 budgeted figure was exceeded by \$3,641. Salaries were less than the budget allotted, but fees for serving civil suits (\$2,603) extra radios, uniforms and equipment (\$2,988) and travel outside the county (\$573 over the budget) pushed the figure over the top. The telephone

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## Cyclist Dies After Mishap

A motorcyclist from Newport News, Va., died early Sunday morning at New Hanover Memorial Hospital after a one-vehicle wreck near Southport shortly after midnight.

Benjamin Alfred Stover, 30, was taken to the Wilmington hospital by the Long Beach Rescue Squad after the 12:10 a.m. Sunday mishap.

Investigating Highway Patrol Troopers G. C. Howell of Bolivia and S. J. Coggins of Southport said road conditions were dry, and the motorcycle driven by Stover was traveling about 30 miles per hour.

Patrolman Howell said marks indicated Stover ran off NC 133 about two miles west of Southport on a low shoulder, and when he attempted to return to the highway he fell from the motorcycle.

## Largest Ever

The greatest one-month collection of the penny sales and use tax in Brunswick County was made during September, according to the N.C. Department of Revenue.

Last month's collection totaled \$66,771, three and one-third times the amount collected during October, 1971, the first month the levy was imposed here. The total will be added to the August collection of \$59,969 (the previous high) and the \$47,724 collected in July, to be distributed to the county and the nine municipalities in Brunswick.

## Annual Meeting Held Friday

# Telephone Co-op Expects Expansion, Better Service

The phenomenal growth of Atlantic Telephone Membership Corporation was reflected in reports made at the 15th annual membership meeting Friday night at Shallotte by President Harry L. Mintz, Jr., and Earl Bellamy, general manager.

From a beginning in 1955 with a membership slightly over the required 500, this role had grown to 4,452 at the end of the last fiscal year. President Mintz estimates that 75 percent of the households within the area served by the co-op now make use of this telephone service.

The telephone cooperative serves all of Brunswick County except the Southport-Long Beach and Leland areas.

The immediate goal of one-party service to all subscribers now is within reach, according to Bellamy's report. He indicated this phase of upgraded service will be completed by early next year. He outlined plans for continued expansion of telephone service, including the possible construction of a new telephone exchange at Boiling Spring Lakes.

The annual election of

officers resulted in the re-election of three members of the original board of directors: Mintz, who also was re-elected president; Joe C. Stanaland, who was re-elected secretary; and Elbert L. Pigott.

Reports made to the membership show that the cooperative has borrowed a total of 15,710,000 from the Rural Electrification Administration and that to date it has repaid \$474,560 of this loan, with additional payments of \$516,965 in interest. Advance payments of

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# All For The Fun Of Bicycle Riding

Only one person threw a beer can at Don Miller and Charles Caldwell as they rode their bicycles over the mountains and to the coast — a 545-mile trip in five days. At least 200 dogs chased them, Miller said, but none took a bite at the two

men steered away from trouble pretty well as they rode their bicycles over the mountains and to the coast — a 545-mile trip in five days. At least 200 dogs chased them, Miller said, but none took a bite at the two

travelers. "If it was easy riding," Miller explained, "sometimes we'd just speed up and leave them."

Miller, a South Charleston, W. Va., fellow employed as a planning technician for the state Department of Highways, made it sound like fun. Why else would he and Caldwell, a farmer from Frazier's Bottom, W. Va., ever start out on such a journey?

Caldwell got his bicycle only six weeks ago; Miller got his last month. "The first one I've had since junior high school." The most he'd traveled on his bike before in one day was 48 miles.

"But we have done a lot of running," he noted. "That probably helped us endure the pain."

But why, except the fun? "It is something we knew not too many people could do," Miller added in a matter-of-fact sort of way, "so we decided we'd do it."

Caldwell's family is building a house at Long Beach, which explains their presence here, and his mother is from Dunbar, W. Va. Miller said they expect to ride back with her.

"I have to go to work Wednesday (today), and we figure we are only good for one way."

The first day of travel the two 30-year-old riders made 101 miles, then followed with daily rides of 87, 107, 127 and 122 miles. "We got better

mileage as the roads leveled out," Miller commented.

The two rode 10-speed bikes about 10 to 12 hours each day, stopping each night at motels. They were forced off the road numerous times but had only the one can-throwing incident. "And I want to say that was back in West Virginia," the spokesman added.

Miller and Caldwell stayed on secondary roads most of the time, but did use the Interstate for one ten-mile stretch because it saved them about two hours peddling. They arrived here last Wednesday evening, pretty much fatigued by their own admission, but Caldwell immediately began fishing.

A cause of the fatigue, Miller said, was the mountains. "Sometimes we'd go up two and three-mile grades in the lowest gear, and sometimes we'd have to get off and walk the bikes. It would take too much out of you to ride."

Tops of mountains are nice, Miller acknowledged: "We always looked forward to them."

Headwinds also caused problems at times, and Miller and Caldwell would take turns leading, the second rider drafting the first to cut down on wind resistance. They would stop five to ten minutes each hour for liquids and snacks. Never, Miller insisted, did the two novice bike riders think about giving up.

"A couple of times, though, we wondered what we were doing."

Working through the study halls which contain 50 to 75 students each hour, consultants, film presentations and demonstrations are being planned for every hour of the day. This effort is being spread over the entire week

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## Letter From CP&L

# City Assured Of Safeguard

Carolina Power and Light Company has promised Southport city officials that any adverse effects on their fresh water supply resulting from the discharge canal at the Brunswick nuclear power plant will be immediately corrected.

Mayor Dorothy Gilbert read a letter from CP&L stating that adequate steps would be taken to insure that any contamination of fresh water supplies would not be left unattended.

In other action, City Manager Alvin Kornegay reported that he has been notified by the Department of Housing and Urban Development that funds for the present fiscal year have been received by the Greensboro area office and that Southport can expect positive action on its fund-request in the near future.

The city has requested the federal funds for the construction of a municipal water and sewer system.

Kornegay also announced that the Southport police department now has almost a full complement of personnel. Chief Herman Strong has a full staff of dispatchers and two patrolmen are being accepted, Kornegay stated.

The board commended Kornegay for his handling of matters following a recent police walkout and noted that similar congratulations should be offered all those who volunteered their efforts.

Alderman Harold Davis reported to the board that the city's request for a \$4,000 grant for a city recreation program had been processed by the Lower Cape Fear Planning Unit and would be either affirmed or denied in the coming month.

# Pine Beetle Activity In County

A recent aerial survey of Brunswick County by North Carolina Forest Service personnel revealed over 30 spots of Southern Pine Beetle activity.

County Forest Ranger Kenneth Johnson and the Forest Service employees are in the process now of checking each of these spots on the ground and advising landowners of control techniques.

"The Southern Pine Beetle poses a serious threat to Brunswick County woodlands in that it attacks all pines native to Brunswick County and kills pine trees in patches off from a few trees to areas of many acres in size," Johnson

said. A reddish brown or black beetle, about 1-8th to 3-16ths of an inch long, the insect attacks living trees by boring through the bark and constructing galleries in the inner bark where eggs are laid.

The eggs hatch into small "C" shaped "grubs" or larvae which feed in the cambium layer of the tree. When the grubs complete their development, they become adult beetles which emerge and, in turn, infest other pines. The entire life cycle takes from 30 to 40 days to complete under favorable conditions and may be repeated three to five times a year.

Trees attacked by the Southern Pine Beetle are girdled as the beetle constructs its egg galleries. In addition, wood staining fungi invade the tree which hasten its death.

Pine needles turn yellow or straw-colored over the entire crown about two to three weeks after the tree has been attacked, and finally turn a reddish-brown color, usually after the new generation of beetles has left the tree. Upon close examination of dead and dying trees, reddish-brown particles of boring dust that have been pushed out of the entrance holes made by the beetles can be found.

The boring dust accumulates in the crevices of the bark and sometimes at the base of the tree. Small, light yellow or white pitch tubes may be seen on the bark surface in the middle and upper sections of the tree. These pitch tubes often resemble popcorn in size, shape and color.

It is necessary to peel off a section of bark from a dying tree to make sure it has been attacked by the Southern Pine Beetle. The section should be examined on the inner side for winding, S-shaped egg galleries. This is a definite indication that a Southern Pine Beetle has

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THE LITTLE MINT chain of hamburger and chicken drive-ins is constructing a facility near Southport at the intersection on NC 211 and 87. The chain has several other modern operations in

southeastern North Carolina. This facility is the first construction in a shopping center complex planned in the Sawdust Trail area.