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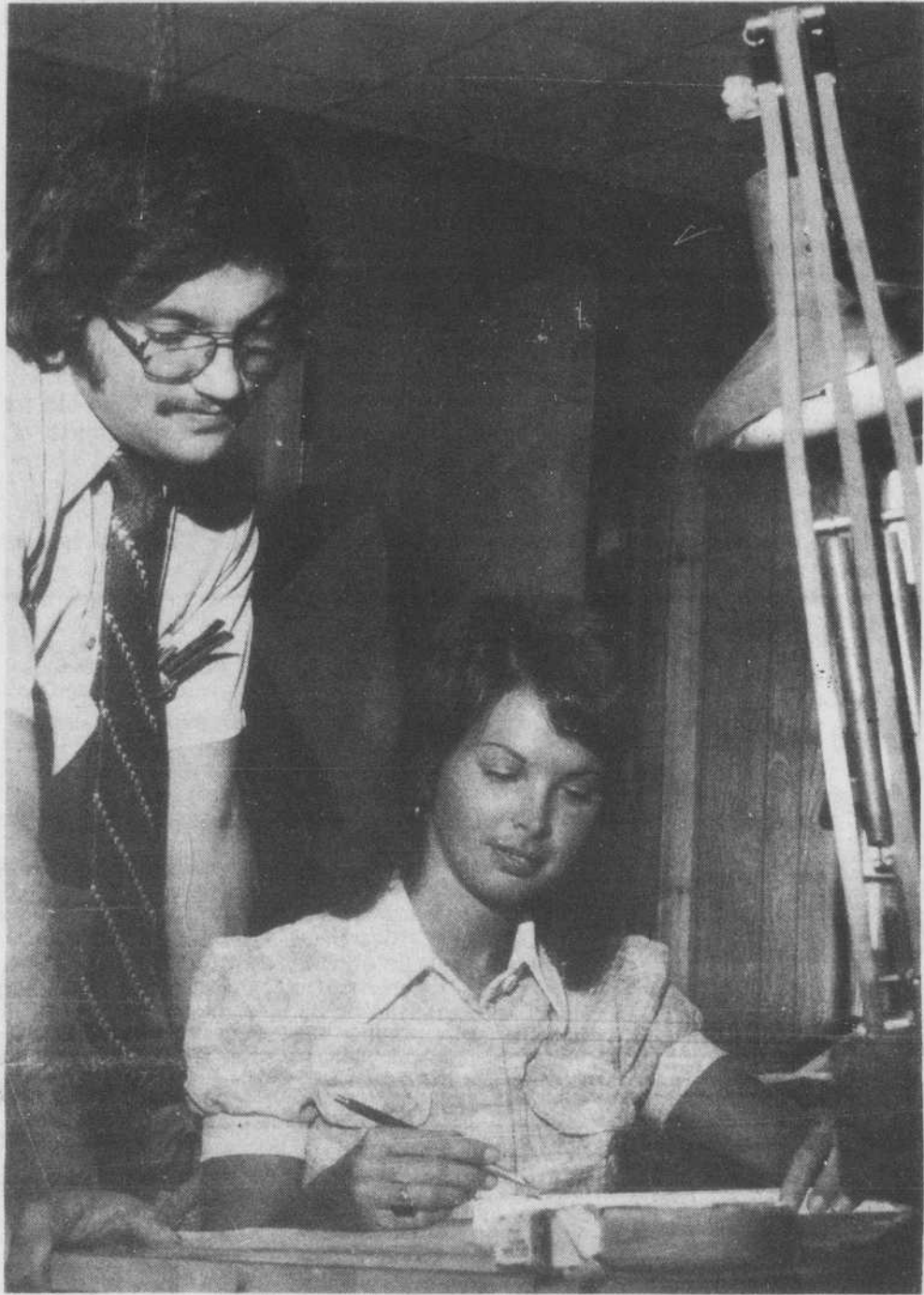
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Work Should End In November

Appraisal To Put Tax-Paying On An Equal Basis



ALLIED APPRAISAL employees Floyd Ayers, mapping supervisor, and cartographer, Melba Thompson are busy at work helping complete the mapping of Brunswick County property for tax purposes. The revaluation is expected to be finished by the end of 1974, to be applied to county taxes next fiscal year.

By BILL ALLEN

Brunswick has more parcels of land than most counties, Project Supervisor Monty Blackmon of Allied Appraisal said this week.

Blackmon estimated that the county has between 40,000 and 45,000 individual parcels or pieces of land. The average county usually has from 20,000 to 30,000.

"We have been surprised to find so many parcels of land in Brunswick County," Blackmon stated. "Old records had indicated there were about 25,000 parcels here."

Blackmon is heading Allied Appraisal's efforts to re-evaluate and map property in Brunswick County for tax purposes. The work must be done every eight years, according to state law.

"The purpose of our work is to put each taxpayer on an equal basis proportionately to the value of his property," the project supervisor declared.

After the survey is completed, property will be taxed at 100-percent value, as required by state law, in 1975. But Blackmon said the tax rate will be adjusted downward to take into account the re-evaluation.

"I don't think the property

of anyone will be taxed so high that it will be unprofitable to own the land," Blackmon said.

He estimated that about 80 percent of the listing and measuring has been done. He hopes to complete the work in two to three months.

"The beach property, including the first three rows, has been completed," the project supervisor reported.

Blackmon believes the mapping is about 50 percent complete at this time. He expects the work to be finished in November.

According to the contract Allied is working under, the project must be completed by December 1. The company will have until March 1, 1975, to add new construction and up-date land transfers.

"We should have no trouble meeting the deadlines if no major problems develop," he added.

The South Carolina native took over the Brunswick County project May 13. He replaced Robert Girdeman, who resigned after getting the project off the ground. Blackmon, who has been with

Allied about three years, has a 20-member staff working with him on the Brunswick County project.

He said that Allied workers have found that most Brunswick County property owners have cooperated with the survey teams. The only complaint heard from property owners here has been about the company using out-of-state appraisers.

"Our appraisers have all had several years' experience and are trying to do a good job," Blackmon noted. "Since they don't know the

people, we feel their appraisals will be as accurate as humanly possible. They are trying to make sure that all property will be appraised fairly."

A rural land guide, which will cover about 50 percent of the county, was approved at a meeting of the county board of commissioners July 1. The guide is based on four road locations and five classifications. Each classification has prices for good, average and poor grades based on the con-

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Special Long Beach Meeting

Kivett Stays; Modular Home Question Arises

By BOBBY HILL

The Long Beach town council Tuesday gave an 18-month contract to town manager Frank Kivett. The group also remanded to

building inspector Boyd Phillips a decision on granting a permit for a modular home in a residential section.

Kivett's contract was approved after a half-hour executive session behind closed doors. The agreement lasts from July of 1974 to December of 1975, and it provides for a 90-day termination notice by either party.

Kivett secured a \$75 monthly transportation allotment in the contract. The agreement also calls for a five-percent salary increase this October and for a cost-of-living raise at the end of the contract. The town manager will also be allowed to submit vouchers for expenses incurred on town business.

The council returned the modular home building permit question to the building inspector after receiving legal advice that the permit must be issued.

At the outset of the meeting, Kivett said he was placing the permit issue before the council because of

its "sensitive nature." The town was formerly involved in a half-year legal battle over issuing a building

permit to a modular home. Judge Coy Brewer in

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Lee's Hit In Monday Theft

The Brunswick County sheriff's department and the Southport police department are both investigating a robbery at Lee's Grocery outside Southport early Monday morning.

According to reports from both departments, a black

male, dressed in construction clothes, pulled out a shotgun and robbed the proprietor, W.P. Lee, of about \$120. Law enforcement officers estimate that the man was about 50-years old.

Investigating officers said they believe that the man was familiar with operations at the grocery store since he went straight to the money box.

Lee, who was alone in the store at the time, had a pistol under the counter but made no effort to use the weapon. "Lee did the right thing since the robber had a shotgun," a

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Petition Deadline

Mrs. Dallas Pigott, in charge of collecting signatures on petitions for the establishment of a special hospital district in Smithville Township, has set August 1 as the date for having these documents returned to her. Already she has more than 1,000 signatures of persons who are willing to be taxed extra in order to continue hospital services in this section of Brunswick County.

"Please urge everyone who has not signed a petition to do so this week," Mrs. Pigott said Tuesday. She was calling from Doshier Memorial Hospital where she has been a patient since Monday night. "I need to have this information in hand by August 1," she added, "so tell those who are circulating them to complete their job this week."

ICE Largest Plant In Carolinas Making Cool Bundle Here

By BILL ALLEN

Red, white and blue ten-pound clear plastic bags of "Sparkling Party Ice" have become familiar items in households across almost half of Eastern North Carolina in recent years.

The individual bags of ice, produced and distributed by East Coast Ice and Fisheries on the Long Beach Road, are sold by over 400 merchants within a 100-mile radius of Brunswick County. Mer-

chants sell the individual bags in locations as far away from the plant as Goldsboro.

Bobby Willis, vice-president and operations head of the Long Beach Road facility, said East Coast Ice derives more sales from the ten-pound bags than from any other method of selling ice. But he said he could not reveal the average number of daily sales because of the intense competition in the ice business.

East Coast Ice, which expanded its capacity last month from 30 to 70 tons a day, is currently the largest turbo-equipped ice plant in both North and South Carolina.

The second largest plant in the two states is located in Charleston, S.C. The South Carolina plant reportedly has a capacity of only 40 tons a day.

Despite the large sales, the familiar ten-pound packages

represent only one segment of the ice business at East Coast Ice, Willis reported.

Another important part of the business is producing and providing ice to shrimp boats that dock at the Yacht Basin in Southport. The company has supplied between 225,000 and 900,000 pounds of ice a day to shrimp boat during the season.

In addition to the individual bag and shrimp boat business, East Coast Ice sells pre-packaged construction ice for use in water coolers at building sites.

Brown and Root, builders of the Carolina Power and Light Company's nuclear plant here, and Daniels Construction company, which is building the Pfizer plant, also purchase bulk ice to cool concrete during the pouring process.

Although the plant just expanded last month, Willis said East Coast is already considering increasing tonnage in the future to meet the growing demand for ice.

"We have expansion plans in mind," he noted. "We are watching demand to see how the situation develops. Any plans to expand will depend on how much new industry moves into the area."

Generally, Willis said the company has found that the weather has a tremendous influence on ice sales. "The weather, especially real hot weather, governs how much ice you sell," he explained.

During the hot Fourth of July week, he pointed out, the company could not produce

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Multiple Assault Reported

Rape Suspects Nabbed, Now In Separate Jails

Two Leland area men are being held in Brunswick County jails on multiple rape and other charges, Sheriff Harold Willetts said Tuesday.

Clarence Lewis, 24, and James Williams, 22, face charges of raping a 19-year-old girl four times in Brunswick County during a three-hour period early Monday morning.

In addition, the two men are charged with automobile larceny, arson and gasoline larceny.

No bond has been set for the two men because rape is a capital crime punishable by the death penalty. They will be given a preliminary hearing in District Court on

August 5.

Williams is being held in jail in Southport and Lewis in the jail in Shallotte. The two men were placed in separate jails for security purposes, Willetts reported.

"This is just as bad a crime as we have ever had in Brunswick County during the almost eight years I have been sheriff," Willetts declared. "Quick action on the part of deputies in this department resulted in the two men being arrested shortly after the crime was committed."

According to reports the girl, who Willetts would not identify, left New Hanover County after 1 a.m. Monday

morning en route to Columbia, S.C.

The girl stopped her automobile at a self-service gas pump on Highway 17 in the Supply area about 2 a.m. Monday morning. While filling her car with gas, Lewis and Williams — reportedly driving a stolen car — stopped their car at the pump, the sheriff reported.

The two men forced the girl into their car and drove to a wooded section near Supply. The girl was raped by the two men while in the car, he said.

The two men drove the girl back to the self-service pump. One of the men got out of the car and started driving (Continued on page 2)



NO ONE WAS INJURED Monday afternoon when a car plowed through the side of the first dwelling on the left outside Southport on Howe

Street. The driver was charged with reckless driving.