

400 Miles Of Lines Planned For Duplin Water System

By Emily Killette

The Chowan County water system involves 208 miles of waterlines, said Chowan Water Director Graham Farless, and will be half the size of the proposed Duplin County water system.

According to Engineer Bob Pittman of Rivers and Associates in Greenville, the Duplin water system will involve over 400 miles of waterlines and will have about 350 fire hydrants. The system will also involve six deep-water wells and four 300,000-gallon storage tanks, said the project's engineer.

Chowan County Water Director Farless said Chowan County was one of the first counties in the state to install a county-wide water system which began operation in 1976. And today the county is ready to begin a second phase, Farless said. With the completion of the second phase, 140 more customers will be added to the present service of 2,015. According to Farless, the county water system is presently serving 75 percent of the Chowan citizens. And, in phase one of the Chowan water system, Farless said, 208 miles of waterlines, 120 fire hydrants at one mile distances, three water treatment plants, five deep-water wells, and four 200,000-gallon storage tanks were installed.

Upon the completion of the water system, Farless said, six employees were hired to run the operation — a secretary, four men and himself. And, the county water department started with just a minimum amount of equipment and has purchased some equipment since operation began, Farless said.

"When we first started, we only had some tapping equipment, hand tools, a van, two trucks, and a tractor with a front-end loader and digger," Farless said. "And, we inherited some radios from the sheriff's department for communication."

Since then, Farless said, the water department has bought a trencher for installing new meters and several other pieces of equipment. Farless said the trencher had paid for itself through the money the department had saved by hooking up new customers themselves. According to Farless, the department installs about 10 new customers each month.

"New customers who refused service when the operation of the water system began are charged \$150 to connect to the system," Farless said. "We try to keep the hook-up cost as low as possible in order to encourage new customers."

According to Duplin Water System Coordinator Alfred Dixon, Duplin will require a sign-up fee of \$10, with a \$10 deposit, and a \$15 charge to turn the water on for each customer, making a total of \$35. Persons who refuse service but decide to connect to the water system later will be charged about \$250 to hook up, Dixon said.

When the system was designed and a sign-up campaign underway, Chowan citizens were charged a \$25 deposit for future water service, Farless said. When hook-up-time came, Farless said, less than one percent of those who signed up refused service, and most of those people had either died or moved.

The average water bill in Chowan County is \$9.60.

Farless said, and the minimum is \$7. Engineer Bob Pittman said the average water bill in Duplin is expected to be about \$10.50, with the minimum of \$7.50. In Chowan, Farless said, meters are read each month by men from his department. "It takes three men four days to read all the water meters in the county, and last year it cost \$6,000 to do all the meter-reading," Farless said. "And, to save money, I proposed a plan to read water meters on a quarterly basis and the plan was approved by the county commissioners."

Under Farless' plan, water meters will be read every three months, and during the two months between, an average of the past six months' water use is billed the customer. And, on the third month, the over- or under-charge is balanced out and billed to the customer. Farless says he expects to save his department about \$8,000 each year by using the quarterly meter-reading plan.

Farless said he divided Chowan County into eight sections with about 300 water meters in each section to help eliminate back-tracking while reading meters. Each

customer has an account number according to the section number and sign-up number, Farless said, and these account numbers are used for billing and records.

According to Farless, the Chowan water system is self-supporting and phase two of the water system will receive \$120,000 from the water system funds. Farless said the water system makes \$30,000 to \$35,000 each year and has an average monthly billing of \$26,000. Of each month's receipts, Farless said, 40 percent is paid for maintenance and salaries, and 60 percent for the loan repayment.

Bonds Needed To Continue Board Of Education Building Program

Duplin County presented the state Department of Public Instruction a shopping list of \$14 million worth of needed school capital outlay projects recently, but would receive only \$4.9 million from the proposed \$600 million school bond issue if the issue were approved by voters.

However, the Duplin system now has engineers preparing a study of the system's anticipated needs for the next 10 years. Completion of the study, which will take into account population trends, building facility need and priorities, is expected in March.

Meanwhile, board of education members expressed hope the proposed school bond position will be put to a vote of the state in November and win voter approval.

Board Chairman E. L. Boyette says without help of the proposed bonds, the county won't be able to maintain its building program.

During the past decade the system has spent \$10 million on school buildings with one-third of the total coming from county funds. The county provided the money without resorting to a bond issue. The remaining construction money came from

state and federal funds.

During that period, the county built the Rose Hill-Magnolia Elementary, North Duplin Elementary, Wallace Elementary and Warsaw Elementary schools. It is now completing the Kenansville Elementary School which will open in September. It has added a fine arts building and some classrooms to East Duplin High School at Beulaville, ninth-grade classrooms to East Duplin High School at Beulaville, ninth-grade classrooms at Wallace-Rose Hill High School and canopies, lockers and paved driveways at several schools.

School board member Patricia Broadrick insists counties such as Duplin, a rural, non-industrial county, should receive more money under the state bond issue than the richer counties, due to the greater ability of those counties to provide school facilities.

County Commissioner D.J. Fussell, a board member for much of the largest construction period of the Duplin system, believes the county has acted intelligently in putting most of its federal revenue sharing and some county money into the building program.

"I think we're the envy of

most of the state and we've done it without going into debt," he says, "but I'll support the proposed bond issue too. We still need more facilities."

Duplin County is providing its school system \$2,812,652 from county funds during the current school year. While the county pays all or part of the salaries of some teachers it does not provide an across-the-board teacher supplement.

The Department of Public Instruction reported the county is providing \$209.68 per pupil in current expense from county funds. The state is providing \$885.45 per pupil and the federal government, \$207.97.

The state report indicates the per pupil expenditure of \$1,403.10 in Duplin is \$83.75 under the state average of \$1,486.85.

The capital outlay needs of the Duplin system that were included in a report from Superintendent C.H. Yelverton to the state recently, included:

An addition to James Kenan High School for the ninth grade and an athletic facility and fine arts auditorium; athletic facilities and auditorium for Wallace-Rose Hill High School; addition to North Duplin High School to replace eight mobile classrooms; extensive remodeling of B.F. Grady School; new Beulaville Elementary School; new Chinquapin Elementary School; expanded central maintenance facilities; and improved waste water disposal systems.

The system is now negotiating with Warsaw to extend water and sewer lines seven miles from the city to James Kenan High School. The board believes such an extension will be more economical than upgrading the school facility to meet new federal Environmental Protection Agency standards.

Hunter is a graduate of Chinquapin High School. She is married to Mac Donald Hunter, a pipefitter at Camp Lejeune, and they have two sons, Donald Eric, 20, and Hugh Mac, 13.

She is a member of Bethel Presbyterian Church, Lyman, and its Presbyterian Women's organization. She is also a member of the Lyman Volunteer Fire Department Ladies' Auxiliary.

Hunter Files For Register Of Deeds

Campaigning on a platform to make the office of the register of deeds self-supporting, Ann A. Hunter, 39, of Route 1, Chinquapin, has filed her candidacy for Duplin County Register of Deeds.

Ann says, "In many counties the office is self-supporting. In Duplin County revenue for the office has totaled over \$435,000 and it has taken an additional \$199,946 in tax dollars to supplement that cost."

Hunter, a computer technician employed by the county, is challenging incumbent Christine W. Williams, who has been register of deeds for the last 28 years.

"I feel like the people of Duplin County are ready for a change. If you give the people a choice, I think it makes for better politics. Mrs. Williams has only had opposition in two elections in 28 years — once in 1968 and again in 1976."



KENANSVILLE-WARSAW ROTARY STUDENT OF THE MONTH - Mike Summerlin, a James Kenan High School senior, is pictured with Rotary member, John Aycock. Mike was named Rotary Student of the Month for February.

Rotary Student Of The Month

Mike Summerlin, a student at James Kenan High School, was selected as the Kenansville-Warsaw Rotary Student of the Month of February.

Mike is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy O. Summerlin of Kenansville, and a senior at James Kenan. After graduation Mike plans to attend N.C. State University and major in engineering.

While a student at James Kenan, Mike has been active in the Pep Club, Teen Democrats Club, National Honor Society, and a bus driver

each year. Mike also played the lead role in the school musical "Scrooge," and is a member of the JK chorus. And, Mike was the 1979 rural Electric Youth Tour winner, DAR Good Citizen, and was selected to Who's Who Among American High School Students. Mike also served as a marshal his junior year.

In the community, Mike is a member of the Wesley United Methodist Church and is presently serving as a member of the pastor-parish relations committee.

Announcing The Candidacy Of Ann A. Hunter For Duplin County Register Of Deeds



I believe the Register of Deeds office should be self-supporting.

From 1972 through 1979 revenue for that office has totaled over \$435,000.00. In that same period of time it has taken an additional \$199,946.00 tax dollars to supplement that office operational costs.

As Register of Deeds I would reduce operational costs so that added tax monies would not be needed.

As your Register of Deeds I can serve the public effectively and efficiently on the fees derived from providing that service.

I also believe that 36 years of public service (of which 28 years has been served as Register of Deeds) is indicative of the need for a change.

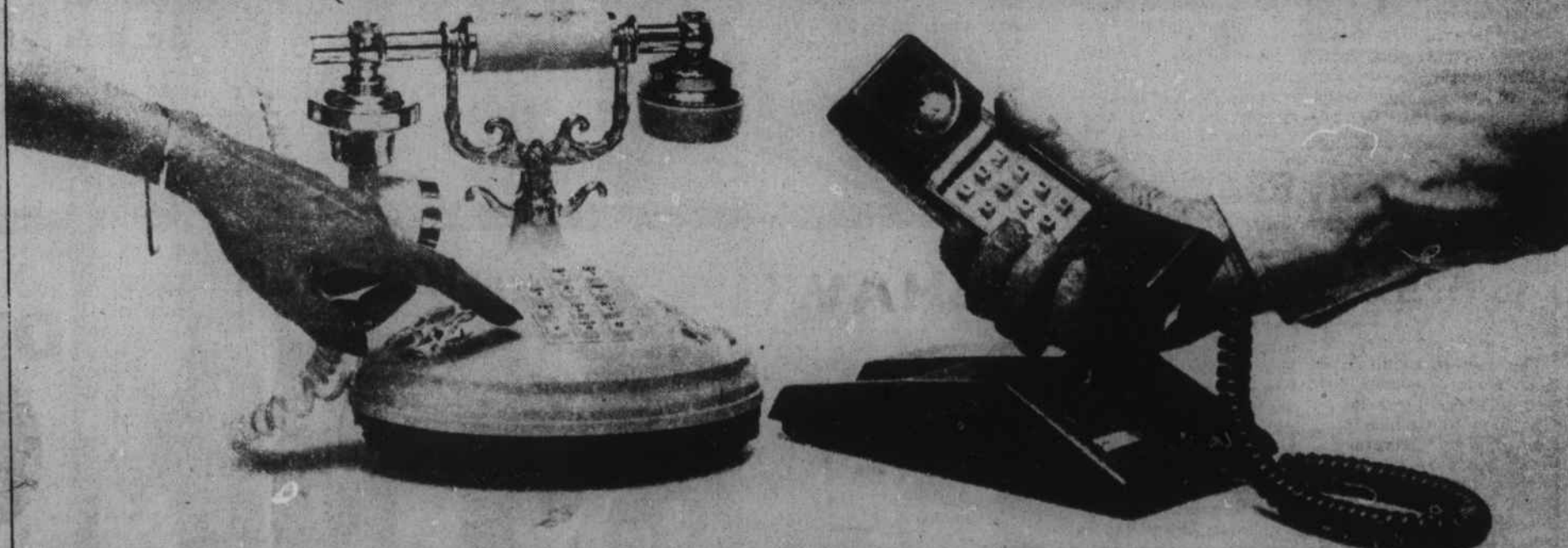
The people of Duplin County built and maintain this office. It should and must at all times be theirs to enjoy as they are served in an atmosphere that speaks that very truth.

I ask for your vote in the Democratic Primary election on May 6, 1980.

Ann A. Hunter
Candidate for Register of Deeds

[Paid for by Ann A. Hunter]

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