

Phone Company Maintains Record Of Consistently Seeking Higher Rates

Carolina Telephone and Telegraph has been most consistent in recent years in trotting to the State Utilities Commission for rate increases.

In January 1949 the telephone company asked for a rate raise that would increase revenue by \$700,000.

In May of that year the utilities commission granted a rate raise that cost customers \$603,958, or a return of 6.14 per cent on an investment of \$16,233,338.

Those increases ranged from 25 cents to \$1.75 a month on business phones and 25 cents to a dollar on residential phones.

On Dec. 11, 1950 the phone company again was given the privilege to increase rates by \$750,000 annually.

Member Dissents

Joshua James, a member of the State Utilities Commission, disagreed with other members of the commission who were in favor of the raise.

Mr. James said the increase was at least \$100.00 in excess of what would be "fair, just and reasonable" to both the applicant and the public. He added that records showed the company's stockholders "have been realizing enviable earnings on their investments".

That was in December 1950.

In less than a year and a half, on May 14, 1952, the utilities commission authorized a raise in rates that cost eastern North Carolina \$1,072,000 annually. This raise allowed the phone company a 6 1/2 per cent return on its investment and

constituted the fifth increase since 1947.

At this time the pay-station call rate was upped from a nickel to a dime.

Wanted 7 1/2 Per Cent!

FOUR MONTHS LATER, in September 1952, Carolina Telephone and Telegraph, recognizing that it had a real sugar daddy in the utilities commission, applied again for permission to raise rates that would net them a 7 1/2 per cent return on their investments.

The phone company claimed that the raise was needed to provide "a fair return on its investment and to allow the company to maintain its wage and salary scales on an equitable level".

It took a long time, but finally the phone users of eastern Carolina came to. Led by the city of Wilson, the eastern Carolina towns banded together and fought the rate raise — just as they are doing now.

The utilities commission approved a rate raise that increased rates by \$537,210. The phone company had requested a raise of \$2,150,000. If the phone users hadn't fought the raise, the phone company probably would have gotten its \$2,150,000!

In several weeks, however, the attorney general's office filed a petition stating that no increase should have been allowed because "the record shows that the company was already earning a fair return on its investment."

The increases went into effect, however.

On the Beaufort-Morehead City

exchanges the residential rates went up in August 1953 as follows: residential — one-party line, from \$4.50 to \$5.25; two-party, from \$4 to \$4.50; four-party, from \$3.50 to \$4.15; and multi-party, from \$3.50 to \$4.40.

Sky's the Limit

Business phones—one-party, from \$9.50 to \$10.75; two-party, from \$8.50 to \$9.25; four-party, from \$7.75 to \$8.50; and multi-party, from \$5.75 to \$7.00.

NOW the present request for an increase would raise even those rates! As a matter of fact, those rates are already in effect. They went into effect in November after the phone company posted a \$750,000 bond to guarantee rebate to the customer if the new rates are not approved.

Carolina Telephone and Telegraph wants an increase in gross revenue of one and a half million dollars.

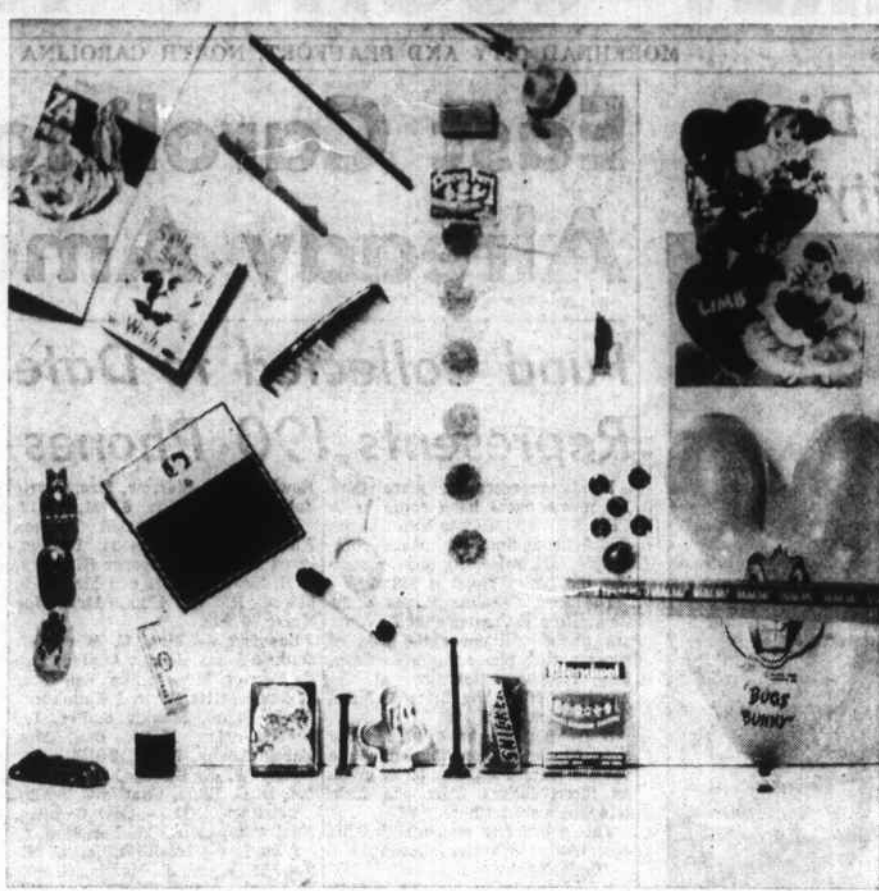
To get that, the rates are now at \$6.50 for a one-party residential phone; \$5.50 for a two-party; \$4.90 for a four-party, and \$4.90 for multiple party.

The rate of increase is the same for business phones: a raise of \$1.25 for one-party service; raise of \$1 for two-party; raise of 75 cents for four-party and raise of 50 cents for multi-party.

All rates quoted are on a monthly basis.

This maintains telephone service in eastern Carolina at the infamous status of being the most expensive utility furnished (spasmodically) to residents of the Carolina Telephone and Telegraph territory.

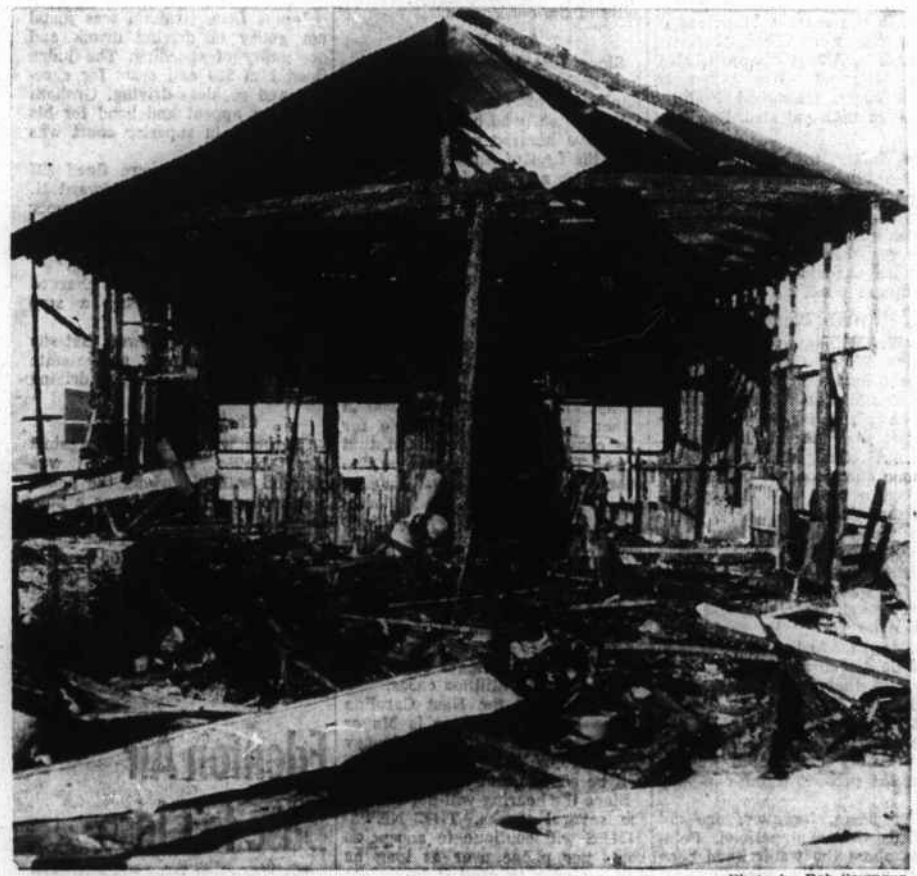
What Will a Nickel Buy?



Sitting on the short end of a five-cent ruler (lower right above) is one well-worn nickel. Twenty-seven nickels just like this one were used to buy the items pictured above. They are notebook paper, child's book, noise makers, tiny car, thread, chewing gum, straight pins, comb, emory boards, pencil, small box of raisins, stove bolt, cookie cutter, dart for a spring gun, candy bar, crayons, balloon, buttons, whistle, six suckers, eraser, party favor, shoe laces, plastic glass coaster, measuring spoon and a valentine. A newsstory on page 6 section 2 reveals what one little girl thought about the value of a nickel.

Photo by Bob Seymour

Fire Destroys House



Fire razed this six-room house at 305 N. 11th St., Morehead City, early Wednesday morning. James and Mary Harvey of Harlowe owned the building. They plan to rebuild as soon as possible.

Cattle Conference

A beef cattlemen's conference is being conducted in Raleigh today. This is the seventh annual conference that has been held at State College.

Nogales, Ariz. (AP)—The auto agency's newspaper ad made no claims about the cars on sale and no promises of the best deal in town. It proclaimed simply: "We cash soil bank checks."

Fire destroyed a house at 305 N. 11th St., Morehead City, early Wednesday morning. The wooden structure was owned by James and Mary Harvey of Harlowe. Living in the house at the time it burned were Margaret Davis, Janie Holmes and Henry Barker.

The fire, of unknown origin, was not discovered until Margaret Davis woke up about 2 a.m. and saw flames leaping in her bedroom door.

The Morehead City Fire Department

ment was called but it was too late to save the house. The firemen did save a building next door that was in serious danger of catching fire. A high southwest wind whipped flames and sparks northward over other homes.

Firemen left a standby hose at the house all night. They went back at 10:50 a.m. Wednesday to put out a fire that had been smoldering in a mattress.

Mr. Harvey says that the house was covered by insurance that should take care of the loss.

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Ruth Gray Godette Wins Spelling Title

Durham—Ruth Gray Godette, a junior of Queen Street High School, recently won the title of school champion speller of her school in first round eliminations of a statewide spelling contest.

The contest is being sponsored by the Durham Business College of Durham. Ruth Gray will compete against other school champions of Carteret County for the title of County Champion Speller.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Willie Godette, route 1, box 62, Havelock.

Rotarian Roberts Has Club Program

Walter D. Roberts discussed types and uses of cement blocks at the Newport Rotary Club meeting. Rotarian Roberts is employed by a local block manufacturer.

He said that blocks were the cheapest way to build a straight wall in this part of the country. His company manufactures 104 different sizes and types of blocks.

Vice-president Junius Creech presided in the absence of president C. H. Lockey, who was out of town. Elbert Weeks of Morehead City was the only visitor.

Pet Corner

Mrs. Silas Thorne, Morehead City, has a small brown and white dog she would like to give away. He is about a year old and would make a nice pet for children. Her phone number is 6-5013.

The Pet Corner is available to anyone who would like to find homes for pets or who would like to advertise the fact that they would like to have a certain pet. Just phone THE NEWS-TIMES, 6-4175.

Church Observes Youth Week

Youth Emphasis Week will be observed at the First Free Will Baptist Church, Morehead City, beginning Sunday morning. The week will end at 7:30 p.m. Friday with a banquet in the basement of the church, announces the Rev. Seldon Bullard, pastor.

The purpose of the week, he explains, is to train the youth of the church through participation in work of the Sunday School and all phases of the church program.

At each of Sunday's services, the Rev. Mr. Bullard will speak to the young people. At 7:30 p.m. Monday through Friday he will speak on the work of the different departments in the Free Will Baptist Church.

The primary children will make up the choir at the Sunday morning service and the juniors will sing at the evening service.

Young people taking part in the program Sunday will be Junior Pospisil, Gloria Pittman, Johnny Morris, Frances Gaskins, Phillip Brinson, Ruth Luckham.

Barbara Saratowski, Mary Lou Long, Claudia Saratowski, Johnnie Doshier, Ruby Eubanks, Marie Piner, Phillip Brinson, Sandra McElmon.

David Marks, Bobby McIntosh, Murry Scripture and Jack Simpson.

Monday's theme will be Workers Together in Our Church, Tuesday's, Workers Together in Our Community; Wednesday, Workers Together with Our Denomination; Thursday, Workers Together in the World; and Friday, Workers Together with Him.

Fireman Pension Fund Ruling Taken to Court

The N. C. Fire Insurance Rating Bureau has appealed to Wake Superior Court from a decision of State Insurance Commissioner Charles F. Gold in connection with the Firemen's Pension Fund.

Gold ruled that the companies would have to pay into the pension fund one per cent of gross premiums earned from the effective date of the act Aug. 15.

The insurance companies want the agents to collect the one per cent on fire and lightning coverage rates in protected areas, and account for the pension fund collections separately from the premium.

The agents want the companies to take care of collecting and accounting for the pension fund monies.

Dead Cow Met Fate on City Dump

Shelby, N. C. (AP)—A cow of the Ora Mill farm herd died recently. The mill dump is near the pasture.

Farm Superintendent Vetus Queen said a post-mortem disclosed the following in the cow's stomach:

Three razor blades, four nails one to five inches long, a 14-inch chain from a pocket watch, a clothes pin spring, two large pieces of glass, a swivel and part of a gear from a fishing reel, pieces of wire of various lengths and thicknesses, plugs and several travelers, which are metal objects of textile machines.

Geographical Differences

Leslie Golden, identified in Tuesday's paper as being from Otway, is from Bettie, and a reader informed the newspaper yesterday that the still found on the Crow Hill Road was in "Straits territory." People in "Straits territory" say the still was located in the area where people get their mail "Beaufort RFD" which makes it Otway!

Women Attend All-Day Session

Thirty Home Demonstration Club women attended the morning session of an all-day meeting Tuesday at the home agent's office, Beaufort. Thirty-eight attended the afternoon session.

Miss Verna Stanton, assistant state Home Demonstration agent, conducted the officer training school in the morning.

She told the women that the importance of presiding successfully lies in planning the meeting. She stressed the importance of pleasant appearance, tact, and full familiarity with the subject at hand.

Miss Ruth Cox, district home agent, also spoke. She said the expertness with which they carried out a job was directly proportionate to their willingness to give of themselves.

Each woman was asked to consider the meaning of the club collect, and not just mouth the words.

Mrs. Dyon Simpson, president of the county council, Home Demonstration Clubs, presided at the afternoon session. Mrs. G. T. Spivey, health chairman, reported on health goals for the year.

She said a large number of adults had not yet gotten polio shots, adding that many parents do not see that babies get all the shots they should when they are little. Getting tetanus shots is extremely important, she pointed out.

Booster shots in everything, she added, are important. The women were told that they should have a physical check-up once a year.

The group discussed the meeting Feb. 6 where plans will be made for the annual district federation meeting in April. The Feb. 6 meeting, at Trenton, will be attended by Mrs. Simpson, Mrs. Stanley Gillikin, Mrs. D. R. Arnold, all county council officers; Mrs. Luther Salter, and Mrs. Floy Garner, home agent.

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County to Take Part in Polio TV Telethon

Carteret County will participate in the WITN March of Dimes telethon starting at 11 p.m. tomorrow night and continuing until noon Sunday.

Persons who wish to contribute to the March of Dimes may phone Loftin's Shell Service Station, Beaufort, 2-9121, or 6-5047 in Morehead City during the telethon hours.

From those numbers, the contributor's name and the amount he gives will be phoned to WITN, and the contributor's name will be announced over the tv station.

During the telethon, talent from eastern North Carolina counties will appear. Anyone from Carteret County who would like to appear on the show should phone Hal Wilson at WITN. The number is Whitney 6-3131.

Clint Faris will emcee the show and plans are being made for Carl Caudill to return from Washington, D. C., for the telethon.

Much of the talent will be professional performers from Camp Lejeune, Cherry Point and Edenton marine bases, according to J. R. Hooks, who is planning the program.

Money pledged during the telethon will be picked up when the pledge is made. Should some contributors not be called on that night, they are asked to send their pledges to Mrs. Clem Johnson, March of Dimes treasurer, Morehead City.



Jan. 22 — Mrs. Rena Hall of Morehead City and Mr. and Mrs. Otis Meekins of Norfolk spent last Friday with Mr. and Mrs. John Wallace.

Mrs. Lula Banks and daughters, Mamie and Bessie Mae of Goose Creek spent Sunday afternoon with her sister, Mrs. Linzie Cannon.

Mrs. Gladys Hardy and Mrs. Calvin Mason and son, Gerald, spent Thursday with Mrs. Ivey Pittman.

Mrs. Mary Tosto spent Sunday with Mrs. Nannie J. Pittman.

Mr. and Mrs. Monnie Norman visited Mrs. Mary Willis at Stacy Wednesday.

Mrs. Gaston Hill and Mrs. Elijah Dixon visited at Atlantic Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Tinker Wallace and baby Barbara Ann, spent the weekend with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Luke Lewis.

Mrs. Ruth Eubanks spent the weekend at North River with her daughter, Mrs. Joe Blake.

Mrs. Luke Lewis and son, Paul, visited Mr. and Mrs. Levi Hardy Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Eubanks and daughter Betty of Bridgeton, came Sunday to see his mother, Mrs. Ruth Eubanks.

Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Wallace of Beaufort spent Sunday with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Rone Wallace and Mr. and Mrs. William Cannon.

Mrs. Dick Carraway and daughters, Catherine and Anna Lou of Merrimon spent Thursday with her mother, Mrs. Ruth Eubanks.

Mr. and Mrs. Lem Hardy went to Morehead City Sunday afternoon to see the Rev. William Anderson. He is in the hospital. We hope he will soon be better.

— Mary Tosto

O&R to Release 103 Workers Soon

Due to a reduction in funds for the fourth quarter, April, May, June, 103 civilian employees will be released from the Overhaul and Repair Department, Cherry Point, by March 31.

The announcement was made this week by the Cherry Point public information office.

Col. Guy Morrow, who is in charge of O&R, said that the number to be discharged may dwindle by March 31. If some employees quit between now and then, replacements will not be hired.

The payroll for April, May and June has been reduced by \$94,000 by the Bureau of Aeronautics. The number of employees remaining after the cut will be 1,650.

Persons Attending Course Will Learn by Doing

Persons attending the aluminum etching school next week at the home agent's office, courthouse annex, Beaufort, will learn by doing.

The aluminum and other necessary supplies are on hand. The craft will be taught by Mrs. Floy Garner, home agent. The first session will be at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday and the second at 1:30 p.m. Thursday.

Although it is preferable that persons attend both sessions, some may attend only the second if they wish.

New Building Goes Up

Jasper Bell and Gerald Mitchell, Morehead City, are putting up a brick building, which will house two stores, next to E. W. Downum Department Store, Morehead City.

Jesse Lynch Williams won the first Pulitzer Prize for a theatrical play, "Why Marry?" in 1918.



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