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Kinston Utility Revenues in First 6 Months Better Than Expected; Some Customers Say, "And No Wonder"

Last summer when City Manager Bill Heard presented the best thinking of his department heads and himself to the city council on the overhaul subject of the 1953-54 budget his affable Irish feelings were a little miffed when Mayor Guy Elliott termed this combined thinking "just a little too liberal in the expected utility revenues".

Heard is not the type that goes around patting himself on the back and saying "I told you so", but nevertheless he is something more than a little pleased with the six-month report on these specific items.

In spite of Green Acres and Greenmeade residents hollering "We wuz robbed" at the city because of what they term "exorbitant utility rates". Heard feels that the climb in utility revenues rates increased consumption of power and not from "any malicious juggling of the rates aimed at soaking the rural subscribers."

Heard and his "crystal ball" had predicted \$1,200,000 income from the power plant and another \$155,000 from sale of water. Elliott and some members of the city council felt these figures to be "a little high".

With the half year passed and with the end of December the sale of electricity had brought the city \$626,027.92 and water sales had done even better - percentage wise - with \$92,284.49 income in those first six months.

Thus giving a \$26,027.82 surplus above the expected in electricity and \$14,784.49 over in the sale of water. A total of \$40,812.31 with six more months to go, including several of the largest electric months.

So far the sales of power and

Skylight Burglar Adds 3 More Stores to Local 'Shopping List'

As Kinston businesses began opening for business last Saturday morning the phone at police headquarters began to ring and when it quit ringing three new names had been added to the list of visitations by the "Skylight Burglar" who is currently giving local cops the run around.

Dixon's hardware store, The Sportsman's Grill and Jay Dee's shop were all entered and police believe by the same lone-wolf who has "dropped in" on a goodly list of other business establishments in the Kinston business area.

With an aluminum ladder obtained from a storage yard back of Dixon's the thief entered a third-floor rear window of the Dixon building and there took a piece of rope that he anchored to the wall. Then he stepped onto the roof where he went to the skylight of the Sportsman's Grill and with the anchored rope lowered himself into the Grill where he took about \$300 from the cash till and left by the rear door, leaving the rope still dangling and the skylight

water in the present fiscal year run like this:

Month	Electricity	Water
July	\$7,293.21	\$15,653.64
August	104,296.74	15,284.12
September	106,246.59	16,492.79
October	107,577.82	15,265.50
November	101,142.61	14,196.09
December	109,471.45	15,392.35
Total	\$626,027.82	\$92,284.49
Estimate	600,000.00	77,500.00
Surplus	26,027.82	14,784.49
Total Surplus		\$40,812.31

Appeals Once More

Evans Pickett Boney of Wallace last February was convicted of drunken driving in the Moseley Hall Township Recorder's Court in LaGrange and ordered to pay a \$200 fine but took appeal of this decision and on Monday finally came for trial in the Superior Court of Lenoir, where no defense was offered and no rebuttal was attempted to the testimony of arresting officer Arthur Fields. A jury found Boney guilty in a matter of minutes and he was ordered to pay the minimum \$100 fine and court costs, but Boney gave notice of appeal to the Supreme Court; apparently not satisfied even with that reduced sentence.

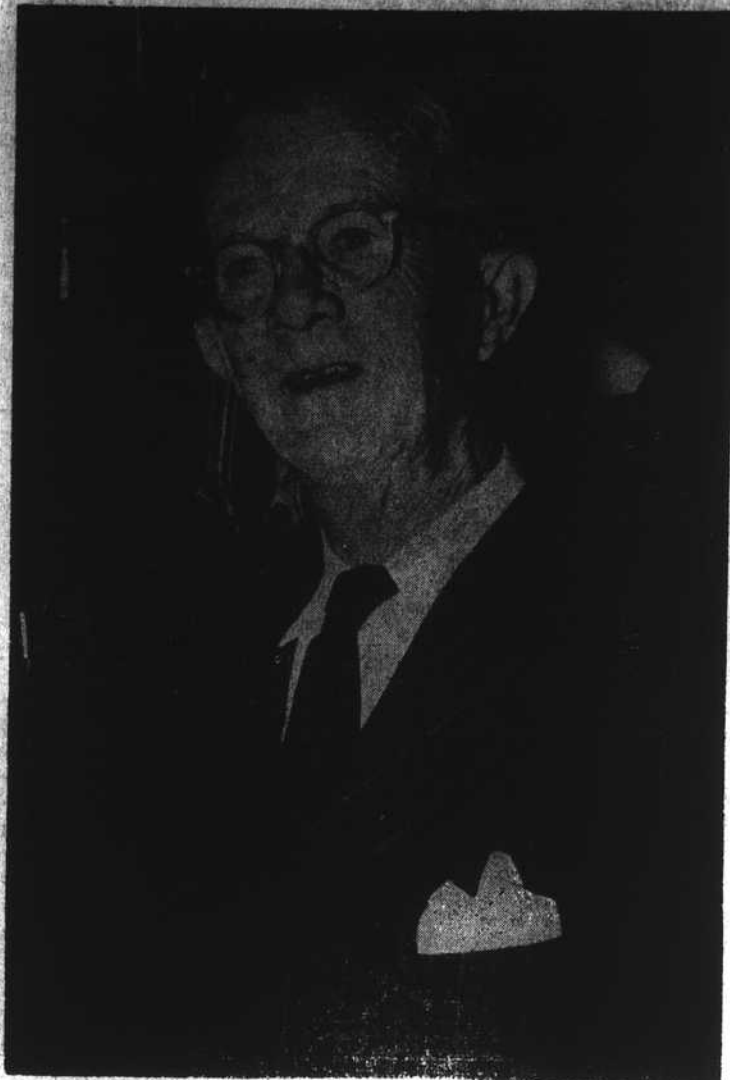
still ajar.

Either just before or after this the daring young man went to the roof of Jay Dee's place and then entering an elevator shaft proceeded down to the shop office where he took an estimated \$50 and again left by the back door.

Nothing was missing from Dixon's except the borrowed rope.

Also Friday night an "amateur thief" broke open a side window of the Hines Brothers Lumber Co. commissary and took about \$25 in change before leaving by way of the back door. Police feel that this thief was not the "Skylight Burglar" who was busy downtown.

Meet The Dean



Dean of Merchants George T. Skinner

George T. Skinner may not be the "Dean of Kinston Businessmen" for he admits that it is pretty close between Leonard Oettinger and himself. Both began working in the stores of their father while in knee pants.

Skinner reluctantly admits, however, that he believes he is a "little older" than the well known furniture man.

Both represent Kinston business families that have been a part of the local scene for a great many years.

Skinner's father, the late John Travis Skinner, began his first business on the western side of Queen Street about where Kinney's Shoe Store is now in 1880 and stayed there until the "Kinston Fire of 1898" wiped out every thing on that side

of Queen Street. After that fire the elder Skinner occupied a store at the same spot where Marston's Drug Store is today and remained there for 17 years, when in 1914 he purchased the present Skinner building where Jack and Ernest Skinner, brother of the "Dean," today operate an appliance store.

It was in that spot on the site of Marston's that George Skinner first began "clerking" for his father.

Born October 26, 1890, George was in his early teens but still short enough that he needed a "box to stand on to reach the faucets" in his father's fountain.

Skinner does not remember the exact date he began "full time work with his father" but

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Legal Whisky Sales Drop, Prices Boom Bootlegging



Pictured here are 13 jars of stumphole whisky that are not too greatly different from other brew of this same nature, except in one respect. Each nestles cozily in an individually tailored flannel sack. These 13 jars of "headache medicine" were found by Lenoir County ABC officers Clarence Bland, Paul Young and Charlie Barwick Saturday morning in the home of Mamie Jones at 715 South Davis Street. Officers, who found this in a cleverly built hidden compartment back of

the mantle, point out that the flannel sacks were a precaution against the jars rattling against each other, since a normal procedure of officers when searching a house is to slap against walls to see if any "swamp dew" is hidden between the walls. Miss Jones was bound over under \$500 bond to the April term of Federal Court in Washington by United States Commissioner Bill Thomas when she was given a hearing Saturday morning. (Polaroid photo in a minute by Jack Rider).

For the quarter ending December 31, 1953, there was a considerable drop in the liquor store profits of Lenoir County compared with the same quarter in 1952. The drop, to be exact, was \$9,926.95.

The last quarter of 1952 had a profit to the county and the three towns that share in the profit (Kinston, LaGrange, Pink Hill) of \$101,488.87. The profit in the period just completed was \$91,551.92.

County officials have no ready explanation of this shrinking from drinking of legal brew that is, but one has expressed the view that a drop in the number of construction workers in this vicinity has had something to do with this drop. Which is slanderous to construction workers as individuals but which is probably true, broadly speaking.

Another official admits that in spite of intense efforts by County ABC officers to stop the flow of illegal whisky there is still a tremendous flood of stumphole whisky in this area.

The high federal tax on whisky (\$10.50 per gallon) plus the slice that the state and county take from the legal cup that cheereth have forced the price of legal whisky so high that there

is great profit now in bootleg brew.

An analysis of legal whisky costs reveals that something like \$13 is added to the cost of each gallon by the three taxes upon it. Which means among other things, that the legal distiller is potting the backwoods boys \$13 in the gallon when competition for the customer begins.

Price is still the principal determining factor in whisky purchases. Most who drink want the most they can get for the money. The stumphole distiller and distributor caters to this greedy nature.

Viewed from the taxpayers' angle each gallon of bootleg whisky that is sold robs the taxpayer of approximately \$13.

From the drinkers' angle each gallon of stumphole whisky consumed is a saving of about \$8, since a gallon of stumphole brew costs from \$10 to \$12 while the legal stuff, even at the cheapest level costs around \$20.

When a gallon of stumphole is dispensed "by the shooter," as so much of it is locally, an amazing profit comes to the dispenser, which explains why so many people run the risk of jail and public embarrassment to en-

gage in this business.

A three-ounce shooter sells for 50 to 75 cents, which gives about 42 drinks from the gallon, at a minimum. This brings the dispenser not less than \$21 for an item he may have purchased for \$8 to \$10. Actually this is an extremely conservative estimate.

Need Tax Help?

Many will need "help" of one kind or another between now and March 15th with their income tax filing and paying. At least the Internal Revenue Department is considerate enough to offer help with the filing, if not with the paying. Agents of the department will assist, without charge, any tax payer who is bewildered by the forms he must fill out. From 8:30 a. m. until 5 p. m. Monday through Friday in the Post Office in Kinston and New Bern an agent will be available until March 15th and on February 11th from 9 a. m. until 4 p. m. an agent will be in the court house in Trenton.