

# Neuse River Basin Hearings Clarify Many Problems

Hearing held last week at Goldsboro and New Bern helped clarify at least a part of the questions that municipal and industrial officials have on the pollution problem in the Neuse River Basin.

J. V. Whitfield of Borgaw, chairman of the State Stream Sanitation Committee, which held these hearings emphasized that his group was one that believed in friendly cooperation in seeking solutions to the complex problems in such a large watershed. But he has been reduced only slightly by the also emphasized that when cooperation is not extended by municipal or industrial organizations

there is plenty of law to back up and enforce the recommendations made by the commission.

E. C. Hubbard, executive secretary of the commission, outlined some of the complex problems that confront such a survey, and he emphasized that the problems of making such a survey were small when compared to making the recommendations for correcting the many pollution problems.

The Neuse River watershed has 86 major sources of pollution from its headwaters to Pamlico Sound. Seven of these are stone quarries and the other 81 are outlets for raw or treated domestic and in-

dustrial sewage.

The major reason for the Goldsboro and New Bern hearings was to permit interested groups to appeal for reclassification of waters in their locale.

The Commission after examining the data compiled in a four-year study of Neuse River and its tributaries has classified all these waterways for their major usage, and this classification determines what kind of pollution control must be done by those agencies who contribute to the pollution of the river above these many points of classification.

The fresh waters of the river

basin are divided into six categories and the tidal salt waters are divided into four classifications.

The fresh water classification are:

A-1, Water supply from uninhabited watersheds requiring only approved disinfection.

A-2, Water supply with approved complete treatment.

B, Bathing and recreation uses.

C, Fish and wildlife propagation.

D, Agriculture, including irrigation and livestock watering, drainage and industrial cooling and process water supply.

E, Navigation and disposal of

sewage, industrial waste and other wastes with the provision that such disposal will not create an offensive condition.

The salt water classifications are:

SA, Shellfishing for market purposes.

SB, Bathing and recreation.

SC, Fish and wildlife propagation.

SD, Navigation and disposal of sewage, industrial waste and other wastes with the provision that such disposal not create an offensive condition.

In the Kinston area the river itself is classified "C" but nearly all tributaries are in classification "D".

Exceptions are: Walters Millpond creek, Southwest Creek from NC Highway 58 Bridge to its mouth, Stonyton Creek from Jericho Branch to Neuse River, Moseley Creek from NC Highway 55 to Neuse River which waters are also classified "C".

To reduce the pollution problem in the segment of the river—between the mouth of Little River and the mouth of Contentnea the State Hospital at Goldsboro, the North Carolina Consolidated Hide Company at Goldsboro, Seymour Johnson Air Base, Kennedy Memorial Home, the Town of La Grange, Frosty Morn Packing Company, the Caswell Training School, The Dobbs Farm, The Coca Cola and Pepsi Cola Bottling Companies, the City of Kinston, Burkette's Slaughter House, Stallings Air Base and the Du Pont Company's Daeron plant will all have to install basic sewage disposal plants, or vastly improve the systems they are currently using. At present only the Air Base at Goldsboro and Du Pont's plant, the Dobbs Farm and Stallings Air Base have sewage treatment of any kind.

All of Contentnea Creek, Swift Creek and Trent River are classified "C".

A majority of the tributaries of Trent River above Deep Gully are classified "D" but exceptions that are classified "C" include: Tuckahoe Creek, Beaver Creek, Crooked Run, Mill Creek, and Mill Run.

Speaking on the upper portion of Trent River the following recommendation is made:

"The Town of Trenton has a sewage system that serves a population of 240. The sewage from this system, which contains no industrial waste, is discharged into Trent River untreated. The outfall is above the surface, and during periods of low flow, there is an undesirable odor in the water and from the solids collected on the banks and debris along the river. The dissolved oxygen in the water, at a point approximately 500 feet below this outfall, has sewage, but the coliform bacteria content has been increased from an average of 7,400 per million to 36,000 per million. Although this condition is only local in nature, the town should begin to plan for necessary treatment."

Speaking in part to the Kinston area, the report says, "There are five separate significant sources of waste in this area." And further, "It becomes apparent from this discussion, and as we noted previously that all of these wastes must be treated effectively if Neuse River is to be protected for its essential uses."

Still on the Kinston problem the report says, "The fact that the city outfalls encompass a water frontage of 4.2 miles indicates that the solution of the city's problem is no small matter; however it does appear probable that a joint pooling of resources by all of the polluters, who are so situated as to end themselves to such an endeavor, for the construction of a common interceptor and treat-

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## Trenton Native Killed By Jealous Husband in Richmond Friday Night

Preston Bender Mercer, 35 year-old native of Trenton, was instantly killed shortly before midnight last Friday night at a Richmond, Va. filling station.

Richmond police indicted Bely M. Langley of New Bern on an open charge of murder. Reports indicate that Mercer had until recently been employed at the garage and salvage yard of Langley on the Morehead City road just east of New Bern. When Mercer left for Virginia Mrs. Langley also moved to Richmond.

Langley reportedly went to Richmond to "talk to Mercer" about this domestic situation. However, when Langley walked up to the filling station where Mercer was working Friday night there was very little conversation.

Langley fired one bullet from a .25 caliber automatic pistol which struck Mercer in the head, killing him instantly.

Mercer and his Richmond employer were in the act of closing up for the night when Langley approached and fired the single shot that broke the domestic triangle into very small pieces.

Funeral services for Mercer were held Monday afternoon from Gar-

## Five Arrested for Craven Robberies

Three young men and two teen-aged girls—all white—were arrested in and around Kinston Tuesday night by officers of the Lenoir County Sheriff Department, working with Craven County authorities. The five are charged with breaking in to filling stations in the Dover area over the past weekend and stealing about \$400 worth of merchandise and a considerable number of tools.

The girls, both of Kinston, were listed as Joyce Warlick of 1011 Desmond Street and Eleanor Howard, whose street address was not listed.

The men are Ray Linwood Spear of Kinston route two, James Floyd Brown of Kinston route five and Zeigler J. Thomas, a Camp Lejeune Marine.

A majority of the materials stolen was recovered, Deputy Sheriff Kirby Hardy Jr. says, and much of it was still in the trunk of the car used in the thievery.

Funeral services for Mercer were held Monday afternoon from Gar-

## Kinston Woman Beaten by Burglars

Kinston police assisted by the State Bureau of Investigation and the Highway Patrol are continuing this week their investigation of a most unusual crime that resulted in the beating of Mrs. Charles Felton last Thursday night by two white men who broke into their home at 2201 Greenbriar Road in northwest Kinston.

Mrs. Felton, her mother, Mrs. Carole Barkley, and an infant child were in the home when just after 9 p. m. two white men—one masked and both wearing large sunshades entered a rear door of the home.

Mrs. Barkley, who was in the process of locking the house when the men entered, was ordered to lie down on the living room floor. One of the men entered the bedroom where Mrs. Felton was in bed, reading a newspaper.

Mrs. Felton began screaming and was knocked unconscious by the man who came into her room. A next-door-neighbor, Mrs. Johnnie Kassouf, heard the screams and saw the man strike Mrs. Felton over the head. She called the police.

Mrs. Felton said she regained consciousness but remained still and could tell that both men were in the room with her and the baby and both were talking to the baby.

The second of the men, so Mrs. Barkley told police, went in the bedroom when Mrs. Felton began screaming. Then Mrs. Barkley jumped up and after having to unlock both the front door and front

## Auto Damage Suit Filed in Jones Court

M. B. Jenkins of Jones County this week filed a suit in Jones County Superior Court against Will Ormond Aldridge and the Greenville Packing Company asking a total of \$1,713.63.

The suit grew out of an accident on February 5th of this year just west of Trenton on the Kinston road. The suit alleges that Aldridge, driving a truck for the Pitt County concern made an improper turn off the highway at Hargett's Super Market, causing a collision between the truck and Jenkins' car which was being driven by Jenkins' daughter.

Actual damages asked are \$713.63 and punitive damages of \$1,000 are being asked.

screen ran into the yard and began screaming for help.

Dr. R. E. Hartsell, another neighbor, came out at about that time to see the men driving away in a late model Ford and got a look at the license number but either got it mixed up in the excitement or failed to write it down correctly. He carried Mrs. Felton to the hospital for treatment of head injuries and shock.

Mr. Felton and another child who had been to a movie returned at about the time Mrs. Felton was being rushed to the hospital.

The two men, so Mrs. Felton believed, had gotten in the wrong house. Her pocketbook was on a dresser in her bedroom and it was not touched, nor was anything else bothered. Officers feel the two burglars were looking someone and failed to find that person and struck Mrs. Felton simply in panic when she began to scream.

Attending physicians say that Mrs. Felton would quite possibly have suffered a skull fracture but for the fact that she has a heavy head of hair, which absorbed much of the force of the blow she received.

## Eight Years of Bookkeeping Tabulate Trent River Doings

Since January of 1951 a recording gauge has been located on Trent River on the left bank about 50 feet downstream from the Free Bridge which is several miles upstream (by water) from Trenton.

The records the river made before 1951 will have to be left to the vagrant memory of older folks and the legends that spring up about "high water" and "low water".

But the record books for the past eight years show that Trent River at that point has an average flow of 287 cubic feet per second. This amounts to 2,152 gallons per second, 129,120 gallons per minute, 7,747,200 gallons per hour or 185,932,800 gallons per day. Which is a goodly spray of water.

The high level hit in this eight-year period was reached on September 21, 1955 after the twin hurricanes, Connie and Diane had watered Eastern Carolina rather profusely.

That day the gauge indicated the flow at Free Bridge to be 8,580 cubic feet per second. That's 64,560 gallons per second, 3,871,200

gallons per minute, 231,660,000 gallons per hour or 5,559,840,000—five billion, 559 million, 640 thousand gallons per day.

Things were quite different from this in the 3-day period, October 12-15 of 1954 when the eight-year low was recorded at this spot on Trent River. The tiny trickle—at least tiny by comparison was 1.3 cubic feet per second.

When you apply arithmetic to that small sounding flow, however, it proves to be right much water—9.7 gallons per second, 582 gallons per minute, 34,920 gallons per hour or 838,080 gallons in a day.

How is this measuring done?

The depth of the flow, the speed at various depths, the width of the flow and the speed at 3-foot intervals across this width are measured with special instruments and from there on in it's just a matter of multiplication.

Of course, there's a chance that the measurements may be off a few pints, one way or the other, but they're fairly accurate for such king-sized work.

## Scene of Fire in Trenton Last Friday



This shows a small part of the crowd that gathered last Friday afternoon when fire struck the home of Mr. and Mrs. Eldridge Sumrell in Trenton, doing considerable damage in the attic and causing water damage to much of the rest of the home. Cause of the

fire was not determined, but it was believed to have been either faulty wiring or spontaneous combustion in a closet. The Trenton Volunteer Fire Department arrived in time to prevent the house becoming a total loss and quickly brought the fire under control.