

KINSTON'S 'LOCH NESS MONSTER' DEAD, BURIAL LIKELY TO BE EXPENSIVE AND EMBARRASSING

by Jack Rider

Kinston's ugly, odiferous "Loch Ness Monster" which rose from the murky depths of the city's sewage treatment plant even before the project was complete has now passed from this veil of tears after considerable therapy by an assortment of engineers and sanitation experts.

All the mourners are pointing at each other and asking quietly who is going to pay the multi-thousand dollar bill involved in the monster's burial.

What the monster was was a patented "Uniroyal" rubber lining for the aeration chamber — the first treatment unit of the city's brand new multi-million dollar sewage treatment plant.

It was guaranteed to be far better and to last much longer than the original asphalt lining that had been designed for this seven-million-gallon tank into which all of the city's sewage

first must pass in the process of treatment which makes it legally acceptable for return to Neuse River.

The city's consultant engineer, in a moment of weakness for which he is now butting his head against the wall, permitted the "Uniroyal" salesman to sell him on this "improvement," at an additional cost of \$6600 to the taxpayers of the city.

The consultant having been sold, in turn sold the city and then went to Raleigh, perhaps with the "Uniroyal" persuader and there persuaded the State Stream Sanitation Commission to also approve the "improvement" and, as with all things, the "improvement" had to then be cleared with federal anti-pollution officials in Washington, D. C.

Nearly a year ago the monster began arriving at the sewage treatment plant site in huge rolls, which were to be glued

together to make a 20-year-guaranteed liner for a tank that really didn't need a liner in the first instance except along the water line to control erosion caused by wave action.

After tediously long grading of the bottom and tapered walls of the aeration chamber the job of sticking the monster together began. A collection of inexperienced, all-thumbs experts was collected several times for this project, which was interrupted a dozen or more times by rains which flooded the chamber and halted the work until the water could be withdrawn.

Then while the general contractor tore his hair and blasphemed his soul into torment commenting on new gadgets and new materials and new junk approved by gullible engineers and "experts" a lengthy series of tests were begun on this hem-stitched rubberized monster.

Someone wisely suggested that

it might be the better part of wisdom to fill the tank first with some of Kinston's wonderfully pure artesian well water, so if the monster leaked and had to be vulcanized in a spot or two it would be a little less messy than if the leak-test had been conducted with standard you-know-what.

And the monster leaked. So seven million gallons of Kinston's precious water was drained off and a repair team went into action. This time filled with every confidence they decided to fill the chamber for the second test with seven million gallons of what goes down the sink, commode, bath tub and lavatory.

And for a brief moment it looked as if all was well in Southeast Kinston, but a maintenance worker was something more than shocked on reporting to work a few mornings later to see the monster rising to the surface and bubbling with foul-breathed menace in the fresh morning air.

Experts were summoned and the diagnosis was that swamp gas was collecting beneath the rubber bottom and converting it into an altogether unwanted rubber top.

And so; back to the drawing boards.

Uniroyal suggested sandbagging the monster to hold it to the bottom. Others suggested that a few well placed harpoon blows in the tough hide of the monster might also be worth consideration, and so the bewitched, bothered and bebooted representative of the consultant engineer waded across the budding expanse armed with a gig and jabbed eight-penny-nail holes everywhere a bubble buzzed to the top.

And so with sandbags in place and hundreds of holes jabbed at random in its hide the floodgates were once more opened and for a brief interval it would seem that the Monster had been

brought to heel.

But the sealing action of the sewage quickly closed those laboriously inflicted wounds in the animal's hide and the excessive heat of the summer sun sent vastly increased amounts of swamp gas into the atmosphere, and there she was — risen again from the dead, haunting experts and causing aldermen and mayor and city manager to utter a discouraging word, or two.

And there she lies, inert, filthy, rotting, damned by all and none willing to confess their illicit part in its birth.

City Manager Jim Blue says an "eyeball-to-eyeball" conference is being lined up to thrash the matter out at the earliest possible moment.

State stream sanitation officials are sympathetic but haunted by two huge fish kills in the Yaddin River recently because inadequately treated sewage was dumped into that stream by the City of Winston-Salem, they tell Kinston officials to get with it, and reminded that the city will still be held responsible if any major fish kills in Neuse River because of the malfunction of the city's brand new plant. However, they cannot holler overly loud since their official signature of approval was given for the installation of this "improvement."

Each person involved seems to have a new solution, but off the record the majority agree on two things: The whole damned mess should be dragged off and buried or burned and the job done as it was originally designated.

And second, off the record, they all agree that the taxpayers of Kinston will be taxed with the cost of this experimentation that backfire so badly.

There was some surprise in some expert circles that swamp gas was found in such huge quantities in, of all places, a swamp!

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Federal Budget Increases Mighty Small When Local Budget Increases Are Given Casual Consideration

A favorite topic of criticism is the federal budget and the loose-handed use of taxpayer's money by this largest branch of assorted governments that seek their livelihood from Old John Q. Taxpayer.

But the average taxpayer little notes not long considers that the rate of budget increase at the local level is also a matter that reaches very deeply into the pocketbooks of everyone.

For instance: This month the Lenoir County Board of Commissioners has adopted a budget totalling \$4,270,048.41, which like all other recent budgets is an "all-time high."

To balance that all-time high budget the commissioners have levied an ad valorem tax of \$2,607,000, which involves a tax rate of \$1.65 on the \$100 valuation with an estimated tax listed valuation of \$158,000,000.

Ten years ago Lenoir County ad valorem tax levy was \$1,062,626, so it doesn't take too long to appreciate that the Lenoir County ad valorem levy has gone up by \$1,154,374 in this brief period and that is slightly better than an increase of 145 per cent!

And how, one may wonder, has the acceleration in the cost of county government come about?

The school levy has risen in this ten-year period from \$569,196 in fiscal 1958-59 to \$1,461,500, which represent an increase of \$892,304 for the period or 156 per cent.

During this period the county ad valorem levy for all other county functions has risen from \$506,601 to \$1,145,500, representing an increase of \$638,899 or 125 per cent.

By law city, county and state governments must operate within their budgets and are not permitted to run in the red. Unfortunately this is not true with the federal budget, which has not operated in the black but in two years since World War Two.

For the ten-year period 1958-68 the federal income rose from \$67,915,348,624 to \$153,485,067,000, which is an increase of \$85,

569,718,376, but only an increase of 126 per cent, which gives Lenoir County the dubious distinction of having an increase of 145 per cent compared to 126 per cent for the federal budget in a roughly comparable period.

Lenoir County is not alone in this.

The City of Kinston in 1958-59 had a total ad valorem levy of just \$521,854 and in the budget now under study by the city council an ad valorem levy of \$795,515 has been recommended by City Manager Jim Blue.

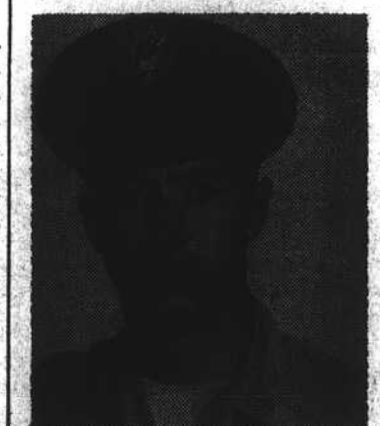
When it is taken into consideration that both the budget of Lenoir County and the City of

Kinston are anticipating considerable incomes from the newly installed additional one-cent sales tax (\$500,000 for the county and \$224,689 for the city) the proportions of the increased ad valorem levy becomes even larger.

A brief analysis such as this cannot possibly show the full proportions of increase since city and county governments have incomes from a long list of sources.

But even such a brief glance as this reveals that local budgets have suffered an inflation in many senses even worse than the federal budget.

Maysville Girl's Husband Gets Air Force Commission



Wayne G. Lynch, son of McGahan Lynch Jr. of Coward, S. C., has been commissioned a second lieutenant in the Air Force upon graduation from Office Training School (OTS) at Lackland AFB, Texas.

The lieutenant, selected for OTS through competitive examination, is being assigned to Williams AFB, Ariz., for pilot training.

Lieutenant Lynch, a 1965 graduate of J. Paul Truluck High School, Lake City, S. C., received a B.B.A. degree from the University of Mississippi and is a member of Kappa Sigma.

His wife, Susan, is the daughter of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs. John C. Bell of Maysville.

Orbit in Orbit

Monday night Charlie Hill of the Black Swamp Road east of Maysville called the sheriff to report someone was trying to break into his home. He said he had fired a shotgun out the window and the prowler had disappeared, but officers soon found the wandering midnight rambler. He was Orbit Lee Wetherington of Stella route 1 and he had broken a window out of Hill's filling station, climbed in and when found he was soundly drunk, nursing a half-emptied can of beer in one hand and a can of insect spray in the other. He is charged with breaking and entering.

Land Transfers

Jones County Register of Deeds Bill Parker's office (he's in Europe) reports recording the following land transfers in his office during the past week:

From Norman and Rachel Eubanks to John Cleveland Eubank and to Brenda Eubank Horne tracts of land each in White Oak Township.

From John and Myrtle Gooding to Thomas L. Jones and John R. Hughes 2.8 acres in Trenton Township.

From William and Annie Heath to Alton and Linda Jarman a tract in Trenton Township.

New Jersey Pair Held Under \$50,000 Bond on Heroin Possession Charges

T. E. Blanton Trying Collect \$3300 from Lindsey V. Maness

A suit was filed in Jones courts this week by T. E. Blanton in an effort to collect \$3300 from Lindsey V. Maness of Tuckahoe Township.

Blanton alleges that he has a contract with Maness for exploitation of lime deposits on land Maness had in the western end of the county and under this contract Blanton alleges that Maness was supposed to pay him 20 per cent of all the revenues he obtained from the sale of this lime.

The allegation is that Maness is \$3300 behind in these payments, and Blanton is asking the court's help in collecting.

DAUGHERTY IN VIETNAM

Air Force Airman First Class Glenn P. Daugherty, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Heath of Route 1, Trenton, a security policeman, is assigned to a unit of the Pacific Air Forces, headquarters for air operations in Southeast Asia, the Far East and the Pacific area. Before his arrival in Vietnam, he served at Holloman AFB, N. M. The airman is a 1968 graduate of Jones Central High School. His wife is the former Brenda L. Keech.

A pair of New Jersey Negroes, who formerly lived in Kinston, were placed under \$50,000 bond by local authorities following their arrest late Saturday night in South Kinston with a considerable quantity of heroin on their person.

The pair includes James Allen Powell, whose mother lives at 14-C Carver Courts, and Bobby Roach.

ABC Officers Paul Young and Tom Taylor conducted the investigation that led to the capture of the pair and the confiscation of their car on the 100 block of West Shine Street just before midnight Saturday. They were assisted in the arrest by Deputy Sheriff Leo Harper, Police Captains David Broadway and Walter Thomas, Police Sergeant A. L. Whaley and Policemen Paul Noble and M. T. Vernon.

The 51 individual heroin packages were found in a hidden compartment in the waist band of the trousers of one of the defendants and in the sock of the other. The waist-band hideaway had 32 packages and the sock storage has 10 similar "fixes".

Captain Thomas made the preliminary analysis Saturday night of the dope but a more detailed analysis and weighing of the contraband is being done in the laboratories of the State Bureau of Investigation in Raleigh.