

**COUNTY REPORT**

By **DAVID STICK**  
Dare County Commissioner,  
Atlantic Township

When our Board took office four and a half months ago we had what I considered a mandate from the people to seek out and eliminate inefficiency and unnecessary spending, to make changes in procedures when we found them not in accord with the laws and regulations set down by the State, and to make sure that all citizens and taxpayers were being treated fairly in all areas in which the county government is involved.

Have we successfully followed this mandate? In order to find out I have gone back through the minutes of our meetings and have made an attempt to evaluate what the Board has done since taking office. Here is what I find on the credit side:

1.—At a cost of less than \$300, we have secured for each member of the Board a complete set of all laws specifically dealing with Dare County. So far as can be determined these laws had never been compiled before.

2.—In order to save the Board's time and give every property owner equal opportunity to have a full and fair hearing when he feels he is being overtaxed, we have set up a new procedure in which all such complaints are referred to the Tax Supervisor, who is required to investigate each one fully and make a complete report to the Board. With this information the Board is then in a position to make an intelligent decision on each individual tax complaint case.

3.—We found that some county employees handling public funds were improperly bonded, and others were not bonded at all, and have now arranged for the proper bonding of all such employees.

4.—Because the County was badly in debt when we took office, and because there was no way to determine whether or not we were going further in debt each month, the Board has set up an accounting system in which the County Accountant each month presents us with a detailed breakdown showing whether expenditures are over or below the budgeted amount in every category of government.

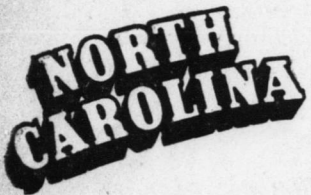
5.—We have attempted to organize our meetings by preparing an agenda in advance, and attend-

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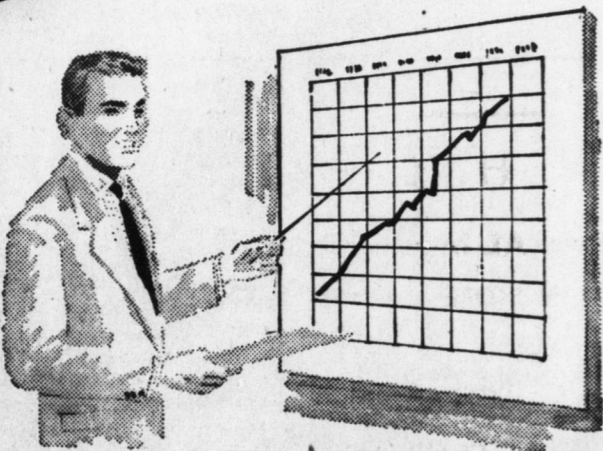
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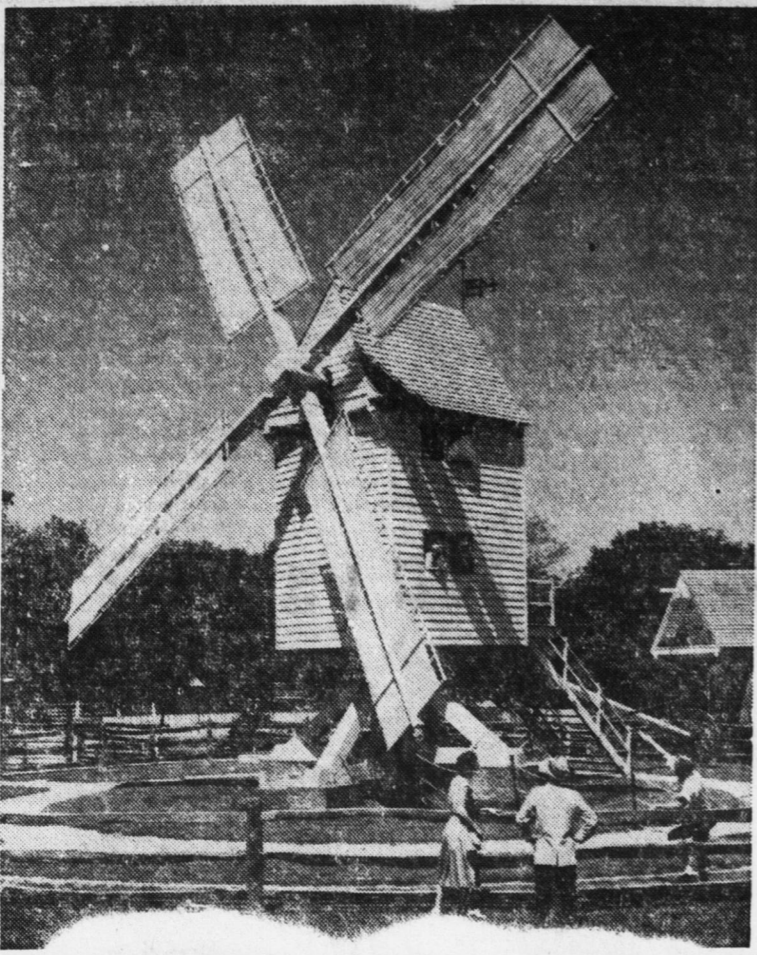
Markets are people with money to spend. Each year the market areas in North Carolina are growing in spending power. This spending power attracts business of all kinds, which in turn makes more jobs, higher wages, better living. But, some areas are growing faster than others.

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ing to the monthly routine in our morning sessions, and new business in the afternoons.

6.—We have appointed a new ABC Board—for the first time since the ABC law was passed—with representation from different parts of the county, and note that receipts have shown an increase since the appointments were made.

7.—We have set up a system for the payment of bills whereby, apparently for the first time, each member of the Board has a complete list of all bills for payment and can check on everyone before payment is made.

8.—We have appointed a new County Attorney who shares with the Board a fresh outlook on county affairs.

9.—In order to simplify the coordination of tax listing between the county and the two incorporated towns within its boundaries, we have set up separate tax listing districts for Manteo and Kill Devil Hills.

10.—We have made a number of changes in the method of handling the minutes of the Board. A stenographer now takes the minutes; the name of each member present is recorded as voting for or against each and every motion; copies of the minutes are sent to each Board member following the meeting, while his memory is fresh; the routine lists and reports are separated from the main body of the minutes; and the minutes themselves are catalogued, with each different subject being given a number and a subject heading.

11.—We have instituted a forceful program for the collection of all delinquent taxes owed the county, or the foreclosure or attachment of all property on which

delinquent taxes are owed. We have named a new Delinquent Tax Collector, who will be able to go out through the county to collect back taxes.

12.—We have taken steps to plainly mark all streets within the county, to remove existing obstructions from them and prevent other obstructions from being built, and to establish rules and standards for the grading or paving of such streets by private parties.

13.—We have changed our meeting day to the first Monday in the month, in line with the method used throughout the State.

These are some of the specific things I feel we have accomplished. There are others I do not have time to detail here, and in addition we have made preliminary investigations, as a Board, of the operations of most county departments, and are in the process of making other changes designed to improve efficiency.

On the other hand, there are some things we haven't had much success with as yet, including the following:

(A)—We have appointed a special committee to work for the bridging of Oregon Inlet, and despite the terrible condition of the ferry service, have seen our arguments fall on deaf ears to date.

(B)—We have spent considerable time investigating the law enforcement system now in effect, have agreed that additional improved law enforcement is essential, but have been unable to reach final agreement on the best method for accomplishing this aim with the limited funds now available.

(C)—We have decided to institute a county-wide mosquito control program, but have been unable to work out certain important details.

(D)—We have neither the authorization nor the money to spend for community harbor and channel projects throughout the county, and have been unable to date to find a way for the county to share in the cost of such essential projects without asking for special taxation.

(E)—We have not yet been able to keep spending of all departments within the amount budgeted, with the result that the county accounts for this fiscal year still are not in the black.

And finally, because of limitations of time, we have been unable to familiarize ourselves with the details of several important county operations, including the management of the Dare County Airport. It takes a lot of time and a lot of work to become familiar with the many phases of county government, and to make carefully planned changes for their improvement. But every member of the Board is working at it, day in and day out.

**ENGELHARD NATIVE IS NOW ASHEVILLE STORE MANAGER**

Chas. L. Burrus, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Burrus of Engelhard is manager of the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company store in Asheville. He is a graduate of Engelhard High School, served 3 years in the Navy, then attended Elon College and received his A. B. degree in business administration and was employed by the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company in Greensboro, receiving his basic training. He is married to the former Fannie Sutton of Burlington and they have two children Patricia Lynne and Cherry Ann, ages 6 and 4 years. They live in the Haw Creek section of Asheville.

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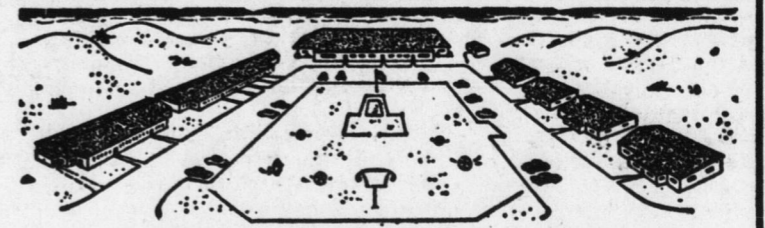
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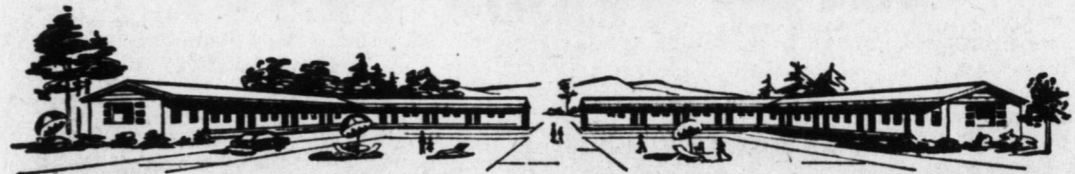
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