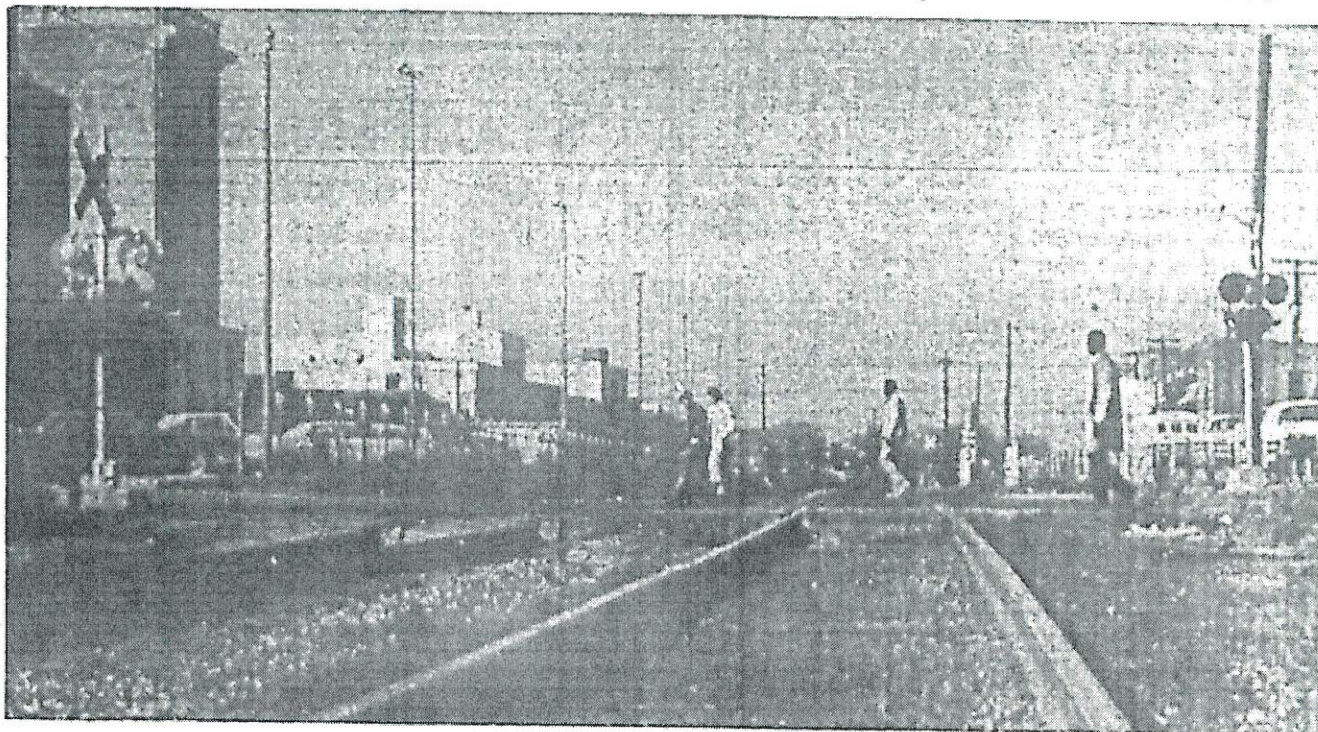


some phases of the program in the possibility and Dr. Sugg At present Lincoln is legally gy in India.



THESE TWO COULD BE ELIMINATED

These two railway crossings, Marietta St. in the foreground and South St., are but two of the 36 such crossings now under

study by the city and a private engineering firm for possible elimination, raising or lowering for safety purposes.

To Eliminate Crossing Hazards

Rail Study Past Half-Way Mark

A study to determine if it is feasible to raise or lower the railway tracks that run through the downtown area in Gastonia is 65 per cent complete.

The study is being made by Ralph Whitehead and Associates and the city engineering department.

Although the engineers concerned with the study say there may still be changes, it appears that the plan to be submitted will call for Southern's main tracks to be shifted to the north of the tracks' present location.

Survey data has been obtained for alignment and profiles on Southern's and C and NW's main tracks, spur tracks, and streets in the central business district.

The data will be used to make plans and cost estimates for eliminating the most dangerous grade crossings in the central business district, according to Whitehead.

Preliminary alignment and a profile drawing have been prepared. Also plans for track changes and grade separation structures are being prepared and checked.

No cost figures are available

at this time, but the estimates are being computed.

Sam Wilkins, the city's director of public works, says it is premature to say exactly which crossings will be eliminated or which will possibly have bridges built over them.

He pointed out that the study, when finished, must first be presented to the city council. If it is approved there, Southern Railway Co. must then be approached.

Some members of the present city council have said the project will be too costly for the city at this time.

Costs for the project have been estimated to run as high as \$4 to \$5 million dollars.

One councilman said there is little doubt that the tracks can be lowered or raised. The big questions are, How much will it cost, Will the railroad approve and, if so, Where would the city get the money to undertake a project of this size?

The study involves 36 grade crossings within the city limits of Gastonia.

The cost of the study is pro-

jected at \$36,000 with the city paying for half through in-kind services by using the city engineering department.

The cash money to be paid Whitehead came in the form of

an \$18,000 grant from the U. S. Department of Transportation.

Wilkins said he expects to have the final study plans and cost estimates in hand sometime in May to present to the city council.

Man Robbed, Then Burned

A 64-year-old Gastonia man told city police Monday that he was robbed of \$25 and pushed into a fire five weeks ago.

City Police Sgt. C. E. Abernathy said he interviewed Ernest Adams, of 505 W. Bradley Ave., in the hospital.

Abernathy said Adams told him he was visiting a house on

N. Morris St. and had been drinking. He said that someone pushed his knees into an open fireplace at the house and then robbed him, police said.

Abernathy said Adams had been in the hospital since the incident reportedly occurred and his legs, about the knees, were severely burned.

Activities In Our Area

TUESDAY

- 6:15 p.m.—Toastmasters Club, Elks Club.
- 7 p.m.—Evening Lions Club, Masonic Temple.
- 7:30 p.m.—Parents Night, Arlington Junior High School.
- 7:30 p.m.—King Solomon Lodge, No. 704, second degree, Masonic Temple.
- 7:30 p.m.—Humphrey School PTA will meet.

4/4/70 P. 31

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light-traffic, short line railroads." "clock."

In this connection, the engineer said that a problem facing many railroads today is a scarce-

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Track Study Being Made

City, Railroad Confer

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City officials Friday met with a representative of Southern Railway Co. at city hall and advised the company of the upcoming railroad study.

Interim City Manager Dan Eller said E. K. Ratliff, superintendent of Southern Railway's eastern lines, was presented with a set of preliminary plans of the feasibility study to determine if the company's tracks through the city can be raised or lowered.

Eller said Ratliff didn't make the major portion of its study to complete.

However, the preliminary plans are reportedly complete enough to give cost estimates and the major changes to accomplish re-location of the tracks.

The railway official met with Mayor M. E. Woody Jr.; Sam Wilkins, the city's public works director; Eller, and James Gar-

land, the city's attorney. The plans are expected to be revealed to the public Monday.

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Plans Revealed At Meeting Today

By GARY MARTIN
Gazette Staff Reporter

Costs for lowering the railroad tracks that run through the downtown business district are estimated at \$3.5 million, according to preliminary cost figures by Ralph Whitehead and Associates of Charlotte.

The preliminary plans for relocating and lowering Southern's tracks were revealed this morning at city hall.

The plan calls for digging a ditch from 23 to 30 feet deep from Aven St. to Hill St. and moving the tracks from the present location to the north, from 22 feet in some places to 164 feet in others.

In effect the relocation of the tracks would run just behind Airline Ave. but not all the way to Long Ave.

The railroad at its new location would be bridged at Broad, Oakland, Marietta, York, and Chester Streets.

There is the possibility of an underpass between Hill and King Streets to the west of Gastonia, and a pedestrian overwalk at South St.

How the railroad project will be financed has still not been determined.

Sam Wilkins, the city's public works director, said today that four of the streets to be bridged, Chester, York, Marietta, and Broad Streets, are state-maintained roads.

He pointed out the possibility of the state bearing the costs for these proposed projects.

Wilkins said if the tracks are relocated, parking spaces for an additional 350 cars would be provided at the rear of the main business district, according to Whitehead's plans.

Jim Greer, executive director of the Gastonia Redevelopment Commission, said the railroad project and downtown redevelopment no doubt would be tied in together.

GREEN SAYS he has been in contact with the N.C. Highway Commission and was told unofficially that the city would probably get help from the state in bridging the roads that cross the railroad tracks that fall within the state system.

A spokesman at the meeting said the city was going to have to spend \$1.2 million of the total cost of \$3.5 million to revitalize the downtown section of Gastonia if the council approves.

Charles Gray III, attorney for the redevelopment commission, said the two projects could be put together.

He speculated as a result of combining the projects the city might be able to get the tracks relocated and rebuild the downtown area, all for \$1.2 million.

He broke the cost estimates down like this:

"The string of buildings that would have to be purchased to relocate the tracks are to be bought through urban renewal

and this would account for about 30 per cent of the costs of downtown renewal.

"Figure what it will cost the state to bridge the streets in question and you have another 20 per cent," Gray said. "The road will probably participate from 10 to 20 per cent if they do as they have in other cities," Gray said.

Gray said if the above figures are reasonable the city would have to come up with 25 to 30 per cent of the costs of relocating the tracks.

He figures the city's total share would be just over \$1 million, and the additional \$200,000 to meet the urban renewal share could be spent elsewhere in the project.

THE RAILROAD tracks will be at the lowest point where they pass Southern's depot just west of the main business district.

Wilkins said that a ramp down to the tracks from the depot is proposed, and an elevator would be built from the tracks to the depot.

Wilkins said that soil drillings had been completed and there is no sign of excessive water or rock.

Had rock or excessive water been found, the costs estimates ranged as high as \$4.2 million.

Greer said if the tracks were relocated, it appeared to him that the need for a tri-level parking garage would be eliminated.

The garage was to be the city's major expense in the urban renewal project. It was pegged at \$770,000 and was to be financed over a 40-year period through revenue bonds sold by the city.

The distance the tracks would be relocated is 1 1/2 miles. The tracks at the western edge of the business district would have to be raised to meet existing grade levels further down the tracks.

Wilkins said that the plans are preliminary. He said that detailed plans are expected to be drawn soon. He said the city council will have to approve the railroad project; then Southern's okay will be sought.

The first contact with Southern officials was made last Friday. The railway company officials didn't formally accept the plan.

In fact, city officials said that the railroad official didn't make any comment one way or the other.

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SAL GU'S, patrolmen Sunday night reports showing guns mountain h Sheriff's search for as they did entered a th a father ha The man the more it rounding t said.

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→ Railroad Is Asked

To Relocate

Plans Sent To Southern

By GARY MARTIN
Gazette Staff Reporter

The City of Gastonia today made an official request of Southern Railway Co. that the railroad tracks in downtown Gastonia be moved and put under ground.

Copies of the railroad relocation feasibility study conducted by Ralph Whitehead and Assoc. of Charlotte, today were mailed to Southern Railway Co. officials in Washington, D. C., where the company is headquartered.

The preliminary plans, formulated through a joint study between the city engineering department and Whitehead, include detailed drawings of the tracks and cost estimates.

The plans call for the tracks to be relocated from 92 to 164 feet to the north of the present location, from Avon St. on the east to Hill St. on the west.

Whitehead's cost estimates for an expenditure of \$2 million for the whole project.

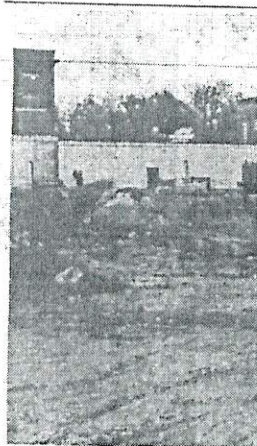
This is the first official contact city officials have attempted to make with the railroad.

The city council accepted the plans Tuesday for information, study and negotiation with the railroad company.

The railroad company must first give its approval for the city to embark on the project. Once railway engineers examine the plans they will advise the city if the plans are feasible from the railroad's point of view.

Whitehead reported to the council that the plans are much more feasible than first expected.

Councilman Roosevelt Parks, chairman of the mayor's railroad safety committee, has been named to continue in this position and act as liaison between the railroad and the city.



Construction has begun on the city's new three million gallon clean water storage at the Long Ave. filter plant. The new structure will cost the city \$225,000 and

3 Million Tank Being

A new three million gallon ground-level clean water storage tank is being constructed by the city's utility department at its Long Ave. filter plant.

Completion of the project is expected to take eight months, said Graham Wilson, the city's director of utilities.

The additional three million gallons of water will bring the city's total storage capacity to nine million gallons of filtered

water." Within 36 elevated in gallons completed in in

The ground on the south Ave. filter

will be elevated \$265,000. Wilson pointed out much more

Gaston Sch To Help Clean

7/13/70



BEATING THE HEAT — Trisha Thrower, 10-year-old Belmont girl, makes a ghostly image in the water while taking a dip at a local pool. Trisha's head is above water, the rest of her body below the surface.

thus the unusual camera effects. An all-around athlete, Miss Thrower swims, bowls, plays basketball, and enjoys water skiing. She is a student at South Point High School.

Stepp Suffers Attack

Capt. John Stepp, head of the Gaston Life Saving Crew, is a patient at Garrison General Hospital with a possible heart attack.

Stepp was taken to the hospital Sunday morning complaining of pains in his chest. Monday morning he was reported to be resting well.

His wife, Jenny, said Stepp's doctor had made X-rays and given him a complete examination, but hasn't said exactly what the trouble is.

She said more tests would be made today.

It. Hutch King said Saturday night Stepp answered a wreck call and then a fire attack call involving a patient weighing about 300 pounds.

Following the latter call Stepp went home to rest, but was called out for more rescue work. He got home at 5:30 a.m. Sunday and later went to the hospital.

Stepp is also a member of the Gastonia Fire Department where he is a lieutenant in charge of a shift of men at Station No. 2.

Fireworks Sale Brings Loud Blast

CLOVER, S.C. — A representation to a local used car dealer's complaint to the town council regulating fireworks sales inside the city limits came up in mayor's court Saturday.

Bob Kaler, head used car dealer, brought the suspended violation to the town board's attention last week. He operates a fireworks business just outside of town in the county.

"I asked the town board several years ago for a license to operate inside the city limits but was turned down," he told councilmen.

Mayor John M. Wright read the 1955 town law which prohibits fireworks sales in town. "The only type of fireworks that is legal for sale here is Roman candles," said Wright.

On advice of his attorney, Snow requested a jury trial that has been set for August 5.

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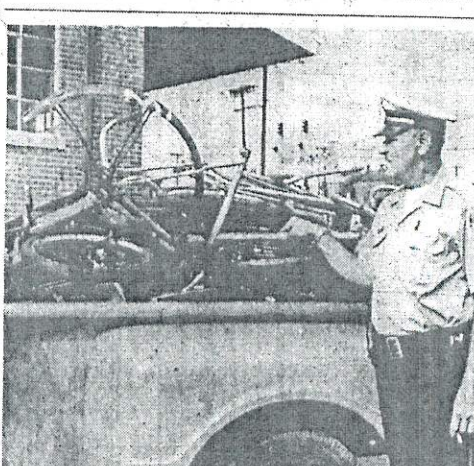
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Constables Plan To Fight For Their Jobs



MANY (BUT NOT MIND) BIKES—City Police say the bikes had been stolen. Some more bikes and parts police recovered have been stored.

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Bill Being Rea For Legislat

North Carolina's constables are going to fight for their existence and some local legislators will help them.

The post of constable is abolished at the end of the current two-year term under the 1969 court reform act.

Rep. Jack Rhyme of Belmont has drafted a bill to reinstate the constables under a for-fee system. The bill will go in the 1971 state legislative session and Rhyme anticipates "some tough sledding."

The North Carolina Constables Association will meet in Stanley, at the Community Center, next Sunday, July 19, for the purpose of raising the bill.

Enthusiastic support for the measure is predicted by South Point Township Constable Lee A. Perkins, who said, "The people want the constables."

"The constable," he said, "is sometimes the only lawman who can be reached for help. When police can't get to an emergency, the constable can be called in."

Perkins feels that the move abolishing the constables was "illegal" since the people did not vote specifically to abolish the post.

Rhyme said the constables are probably right from a technical point of view.

"In a day where we've got so much lawlessness as we've got now," he said, "and crime increasing more than 4 per cent a year, in like any other law enforcement agency is an absolute necessity, especially one that pays its own way."

Rhyme said the measure he would introduce would not "mean more arrests" because the fees for constables will be based on convictions and not on arrests.

He said that under the bill "a portion of court costs in guilty cases will go to constables to pay their salaries."

In the past, he noted, the constables received fees based on the number of arrests. "The more arrests he made, the more money he made. This wouldn't be the case under this bill—the more convictions in court, the more money he'll make. This is the way it should have been all along."

Perkins said wiping out the constables "just took about 600 law enforcement men from the state, and in some rural areas, they were needed; they were the only law."

Rhyme said respondents of his bill would be Rep. Carl Stewart of Gastonia, Sen. Marshall Branch of Gastonia, Rep. Thomas Strickland of Wayne County, and Rep. Robert Jones of Rutherford County.

Demos Sticking Their C

Gaston Dems have a full 60-40 Rabinch tomorrow Democratic ex local delegation George Jenkins the Gaston Co executive conven

Local Democ by their guns state ruling on which delegates "We are gam everybody who ant ty convention," and let the e manre in Haling

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Gaston County votes at the sta "If we have there," said det prorate their ve if we have a people in the de everyone who at ion County shoul as a delegate."

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Railroad Relocation To Be Given Eye Tuesday

Members of the Gastonia city council and Highway Commissioner Charlie Maxwell will meet Wednesday evening to discuss relocation of the railway tracks in downtown Gastonia.

The 7 p.m. dinner meeting at the Holiday Inn will give council members and city officials an opportunity to determine how much help they can expect from the state.

The city and the Gastonia Redevelopment Commission are awaiting word from the U.S. Department of Housing and

Urban Development (HUD) to begin \$3.5 million redevelopment of the downtown area of Gastonia.

If Gastonia does rebuild its business district, it will be a project covering a period of five years. There are tracts of land to be acquired, buildings to be constructed, and utilities to be installed. Two blocks of Main Ave. would be closed to traffic and converted to a shopping mall.

The council would like to move the railroad tracks at the

some time the business district is being rebuilt. The two projects go hand in hand, city officials say.

A study of the railroad tracks indicated that it would be feasible to move the tracks 50 feet to the north, and bury them under the ground in the business district. The cost is estimated at \$3 million.

The local cost of downtown redevelopment is estimated at \$1.5 million. The two projects together would cost the city \$4.5 million.

The major cost of relocating the tracks would be the construction of five bridges.

If the tracks were relocated, surface parking would be provided for automobiles where the tracks are now located.

Council members have said that the surface parking would eliminate the necessity of building a tri-level parking garage in the downtown area.

The total cost of the two projects will hinge on a lot of "ifs."

If the Southern Railway Co. will allow the relocation of the tracks and if they will participate in the cost.

If the Highway Commission will participate in the project, how much will they pay?

If the railroad and Highway Commission participate, will the change in plans be approved by HUD?

This Sport Got Suited

These broke into a trailer and fled almost \$4,000 worth of clothes and other merchandise during the weekend, according to city police.

Sheriff Lackey of Travelers Court told police early Sunday morning that someone entered his trailer while it was parked at the court by prying open the front door.

Lackey said he was missing 20 sport coats, 12 suits, 65 shirts, 72 new shirts, 10 pairs of shoes, one woman's long length milk coat, one portable TV, one clock radio and one table cloth.

Total value of the missing items was placed at \$3,500.

Mrs. Addie Inman of the Travelers Motel Office reported that someone entered the un-

locked trailer of another mo-

Mrs. Walter Spear Named Home Agent

Mrs. Walter Spear has been named home economics agent for Gaston County.

Mrs. Morris Kourington, who resigned last May.

Couther totals 11 years.

Chairman of the Agricultural Extension Service of N.C. State University at Raleigh.

Her employment becomes effective Aug. 1.

20 Bikes In Boy's Yard Did Look A Little Fishy

Gastonia police went to the home of a 12-year-old boy Sunday and found 20 bicycles to open a bicycle store.

Believing the bicycles to be stolen property, they hauled them one a truck and hauled them down to the police station to be held as evidence. The police made a second trip back and picked up the boy, along with three other juvenile suspects.

Officer R. M. Kiser said it is "very unusual" for one boy to have 20 to 25 bicycles in his back yard. That's enough for him to suspect thieves, he said.

The three others who were arrested had complained that the first boy was stealing parts off their bicycles. When Kiser went to talk to them, he spotted six bicycles in the back yard of one boy. So he picked up these bicycles and charged all three boys.

They will get hearings in juvenile court.

County Auditor Mack Davis Monday said X-rays have turned up a fractured hip which doctors did not previously find.

He has been transferred from the intensive care unit of the hospital to a private room, Davis said, which could also be

County Manager Is Some Better

County Manager Duke England was reported feeling better at Charlotte Memorial Hospital Sunday. He is recuperating from injuries received in a traffic accident last Wednesday night.

County Auditor Mack Davis Monday said X-rays have turned up a fractured hip which doctors did not previously find.

He has been transferred from the intensive care unit of the hospital to a private room, Davis said, which could also be

construed as a sign that his condition has improved.

England and Commission Chairman C. Olier beam were returning to Gastonia Wednesday night after attending a meeting in Charlotte when the county car England was driving went out of control and struck an abandoned metal building on Wilkinson Boulevard at the Grammeron Crossroads.

The wreck was attributed to England suffering a spasm of coughing. He had been ill recently and had visited a doctor a few days earlier where he had reportedly been told that he was suffering from bronchitis.

England, who suffered apparently minor injuries in the accident, missed the commission meeting. He is at home recovering from his injuries.

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Report On Probe Of Court Cases Scheduled Today

District Court Judge John Friday is expected to receive today the results of a city police investigation concerning 26 criminal cases that had been stricken from the sci fa docket.

Each of the cases had orders signed by Judge Friday or Judge Lewis Bulwinkle to the effect that the cases had been disposed of.

A sci fa is an order issued by the court placing the bondsman on notice that a bond posted in a particular case is about to be confiscated by the court.

City Police Maj. Charles Ferguson has been investigating the cases. He will report his findings to the judge at 2 p.m. today.

Three of the cases in question have already been disposed of by Judge Bulwinkle. He called Bondsman Ray Smith before him for an explanation concerning the orders presented to him (the judge) for signature.

The judge ruled that in two of the cases he found no reason for punitive action at this time. A third case was continued for further investigation by the judge.

Judge Friday called Smith and his attorney, Steve Dolley, before him June 11 and asked for an explanation.

This is when he asked the city police to investigate.

Prior the June 11 hearing, on three cases, the judge ordered Smith to jail for contempt of court. Smith served 13 days of a 14-day sentence.

The cases in question were called to the attention of the court by Mrs. Betty Jenkins, administrative assistant to the Clerk of Superior Court.

She told the court the cases had orders signed by Judge Friday and Judge Bulwinkle stipulating that the cases were disposed of or that the defendants were deceased.

Mrs. Jenkins said the records in her office indicated that the cases were not disposed of.

Investigation of at least two

cases where orders were signed stipulating that the defendants were dead, revealed that the defendants were not dead.

At the time the judge ordered city police to investigate, Smith said he welcomed the investigation.

"This will give me ample time to present my side of this situation to the court," he said.

City To Seek State's Help With Railroad

The Gastonia city council tonight will try to get some idea of how much help they can get from the state if the railway tracks in downtown Gastonia are relocated.

Members of the city council, city officials, and Highway Commissioner Charlie Maxwell will meet with Ken Mauney, division engineer; Charles Edger-ton, state hydrographic engineer; and Richard Smith who is with the state advance planning department.

The dinner meeting at the Holiday Inn will give city officials an opportunity to ask questions concerning the state's policy on projects such as relocating the tracks.

The city and the Gastonia Redevelopment Commission are awaiting word now from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to begin a \$3.9 million redevelopment of the downtown area.

If the redevelopment of the downtown area is approved by HUD, as expected, the council wants to tie in a plan to move the railway tracks to the north some 90 feet



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ea.
All first quality!
and elastic. Sizes
L-XL

7/16/70

SECTION B

FOUNDED 1880

State Railroad

Highway Plan Officials Like Plan

By GARY MARTIN
Graphic Arts Reporter

A Madison street—there's what city officials are calling their road-building effort.

Mayor Gene Woods arranged the meeting to talk about the city's plan to relocate the Southern Railway tracks and bury them underground in the business district.

The railroad project is estimated to cost \$1 million. The mayor and city council wanted to find out how much help they can expect from the State Highway Commission.

The highway officials were non-committal. They want the city to give a commitment first from Southern Railway Co. City officials said, however, that the railroad wants the city to get a commitment from the highway people first.

As a result of the meeting, several decisions were made to contact railway officials and get a commitment one way or the other.

Charles Erickson, state highway commission, said he likes the plan to relocate the tracks.

"It is an improvement over plans we have studied to improve the grade crossing at York St.," he said.

Erickson, at one point in the discussion, told council members that the state highway staff would participate in the project in the extent their rules would allow.

However, Highway Commissioner Charles Maxwell of Charleston said he would not make it clear that he wasn't making any firm commitment.

After considerable discussion, Maxwell finally did say that the project looked good.

Ken Marney, state highway division engineer, said he liked the plan. "It appears that the improvements would not only benefit the highway commission, but the railroad and city as well," he said.

Richard Smith, who is with the state highway planning department, told the council that he liked the plan.

Erickson said the state highway commission has an ordinance which requires the railroad to participate in such projects up to 10 per cent of the cost.

"However, this doesn't mean that the railroad will have to pay this amount in some cases the railroad has already agreed to do the work," he said.

He also pointed out that before the commission would approve the relocation, the proposed project would have to improve the railway's tracks.

Ralph Waldman of Ralph Waldman and Assoc. of Charleston, the engineer who developed the plan to relocate the tracks, said, "I think the railroad wants this project."

He said that putting the tracks underground would not only improve the grade, but would also eliminate five dangerous crossings. He said that seven people have been killed at the grade crossings during the last two years.

The plan calls for the railroad tracks to be moved 10 feet to the north. A trench would be dug 10 feet deep through the business district. The tracks would be buried in the trench, putting the trains under the ground in the business district.

Maxwell said that \$1 million probably won't be enough to pay the cost of moving the tracks. "I've never seen an estimate that came up recently that the cost would be less than \$1 million," he said.

Erickson said he wanted the council to make a formal request to the state highway commission for participation in the project.

He said once this is decided, they can begin to move.

However, he said, at this point he couldn't give any firm plan. He said money the state would not pay.

The council wanted a letter from Maxwell asking how he felt about the project.

Maxwell said he would give a letter. He said he would be able to give a letter by the end of the month.



CHARLES ERICKSON, state highway commission, said he likes the plan to relocate the tracks.

Gate Local

Some Garden City business men thought being closed out of town jobs may be only to be shown the

On the City of Garden City county records, giving their names and addresses of the city and county commissioners.

Prank Parker, owner of Packer Co. here, was one of the Garden City men who were listed.

Why aren't local business men getting an opportunity to be listed as those authorized by the county?

Parker said he was for his own company, Robert Curvey's C. & Co. and for Carroll Gannon here.

He also listed the fencing contractor, the local school property jobs and said that "We are going to bid on the job that is being let to the people who are in the county."

"We can furnish more than our own county in the county here and give other local men a chance to bid on the job," he said.

Other local men listed in the county records include C. G. Erickson, C. G. Erickson, they had no complaints about the list.

Judge Sci Fi

A hearing before Court Judge John F. ... concerning an criminal ...

The judge received a ... report on it from City ...

A ... is so ... by the ...

After looking at ... report ...

He ... will be given an opportunity ...

He ... will be given an opportunity ...

He ... will be given an opportunity ...

—Coming Here To H

Frankie-San-A P

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church of Gastonia begins Sunday a four week emphasis on the "ministry to the imprisoned" in support of the Dallas Prison Chapel Project.

Kyuzo Miyahara, an instructor at the South Carolina Institution of corrections, will deliver the message during the Sunday morning 11 o'clock worship service.

He will speak to the prisoners at the Dallas Prison Camp at 7:30 p.m. Friday; and then to a public-wide "Youth Rally" at 7 p.m. Sunday at Holy Trinity. Better known as "Frankie



PRISONERS PASTOR—Frankie San (left), an instructor at the South Carolina Federal Penitentiary, talks it over with an inmate during one phase of his prison ministry.

Failed To Get Job Got Jail Instead

—More About—
RR

(Begins On Front Page)

Failing to remain "diligently employed" put a Gastonia man behind bars Wednesday for violence placed on probation.

The suspended six-month prison sentence of John Robert Starnes, 32, convicted in January of trespassing, was ordered invoked by District Court Judge John C. Friday.

A probation report read in open court said the youth "had not gotten any type job" since his conviction.

Starnes told the court he had worked on two jobs since that time, one for two weeks and another for "about" three weeks. With Starnes was his father, who told the court his son had "behaved" since being placed on probation.

"I hate like the dickens to send you to prison," said the judge. "but, I declare, you're just not trying." Friday directed the youthful defendant be placed on work release. "to help get him started with some good work habits."

In another case, Tommy Rick, 11, was allowed to plead guilty to a lesser charge of assault on a female in a case in which he was charged with rape.

He was sentenced to six months in prison, suspended on condition that he violate no laws for a period of two years, and pay court costs. A charge of improper equipment on his automobile was not pressed.

Donnie Emmett Hollifield, 17, of Lowell, adjudged guilty of two motor vehicle offenses, received a suspended 120-day sentence and \$50 fine for reckless driving and 30 days suspended and a \$25 fine for driving with no operator's license. Charges of speeding 75 in a 35 MPH zone on a motorcycle and of failing to stop for a blue light and siren were not pressed.

Thomas Eugene Forester, charged with reckless driving, was fined \$30 for improper equipment and received a 30-day suspended jail term.

Bobby Eugene Perkins received 30 days suspended and a \$25 fine for speeding 75 in a 35 MPH zone, and a \$75 fine and four-month suspended sentence for reckless driving.

John Robert Sanders, charged in two warrants with assault with a deadly weapon resulting in serious injury, and in one with trespassing, received a two-year suspended prison sentence.

Sanders was accused of shooting Clifford McCleave in the stomach with a .22 caliber pistol, and of shooting his brother James Howard, wounding him slightly.

Judge Friday directed Sanders to pay \$100 for the hospital bill of Clifford McCleave, plus \$150 for loss of wages, and \$15 for treatment for his brother's wound. He was also ordered to pay \$125 in attorney fees and any additional doctor's expenses incurred by the plaintiffs.

have been neglected, and I am going to see that each one of them get some money for roads," he said.

Mayor Woody said all the rate things are going, everybody concerned wants to "wait on the other fellow before a move is made."

"This is a project we have dreamed about for the last 40 years," he said.

The council's idea is to tie the relocation of the railway tracks in with the \$5.9 million redevelopment project of the downtown area.

The city and the Gastonia Redevelopment Commission are awaiting final word from the U. S. Department of Housing and Development on redevelopment now.

The city is committed to pay \$1.3 million of the total costs of redevelopment.

The plan now calls for construction of a tri-level parking garage in downtown Gastonia.

If the tracks are relocated it would provide surface parking for about 330 cars. This would eliminate the need for the garage.

The area to be redeveloped contains about 45 acres in the prime business district of the city.

The relocation of the tracks involves a strip between Kings St. on the west to Oakland St. on the east.

Five bridges would be constructed to cross the relocated tracks. The bridges would be four lanes each with sidewalks on each bridge for pedestrians.

Assistant Post Will Be Filled

ool Hunts Successor To Brown

in like a position as assistant superintendent.

The search for a successor to Superintendent W. L. Brown is expected to be completed by the end of the school year.

The other job to be filled is the position of assistant superintendent for industrial arts and vocational education.

Paul Burns, who has held the post, resigned to go back to classroom teaching at Mount Perry High School.

Henry has been directed at the central school staff by a group of the county commissioners who has been serving as many "advisors."

Commission Chairman Crier says he is looking for a successor, "unless we find something to the contrary."

His salary, \$13,500, was paid to him from local county funds.

State and federal funds help pay the salary of the other six superintendents.

W. L. Brown, although admittedly displeased with some of the criticism directed at the central staff, has stated that his resignation was prompted by his "wife" or "other difficulties."

Superintendent Brown said the schools were going ahead with plans to find a successor, "unless we find something to the contrary."

The name of an elementary school principal in Cassopolis has been mentioned as one possible successor.

Superintendent said the staff "hopefully" would have a name for the next school board meeting, although "we can't say with any degree of certainty at this point."

The superintendent said he felt a "personal" and most profound appreciation for William L. for his exemplary and most profound leadership here on the central staff.

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vo Escape Fire Death



PAULLETTE JACKSON

TAJUANA FALLS

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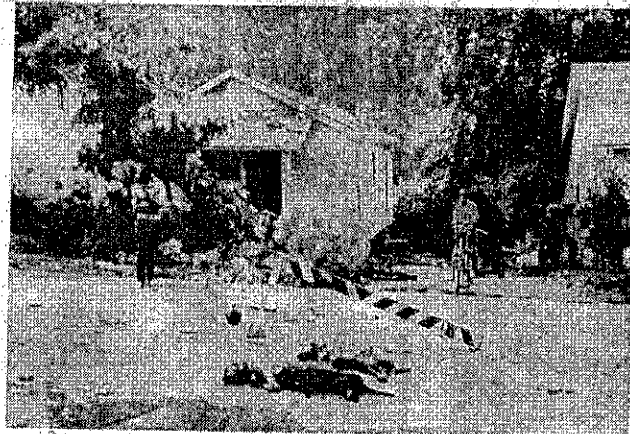
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QUICK DEATH — Three dogs that ran into a stream of water on N. Morris St. met quick death by electrocution. A hot wire had fallen into the street.

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rest. "They
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arently run
of water
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to Wednesday.

No one was seriously injured,
police say, but the operator of
the motorcycle was taken to
Gambel Memorial hospital with
minor injuries.

Essex struck the cycle from

Stock Car Racer Involved In Wreck With Motorcycle

Railroad's Men Hear City Side

Stock Car Racer Champion Buddy Baker was involved in an automobile and motorcycle accident at 142 1/2 on Monday.

The operator of the motorcycle, identified as David William Harmon, 19, Danville, Va., suffered neck lacerations and compound of leg fracture.

Sgt. D. J. King and Patrolman R. C. Thomas did not

charge either man because of conflicting stories and the lack of witnesses.

"According to King, both were traveling in the northbound lane when Baker's 1970 Dodge struck the cycle."

"The Baker's car struck the motorcycle in a kind of side-swiping motion, even though it was from the rear," Sergeant King said.

Baker, 29 and a Charlotte resident, said the motorcycle was riding along the shoulder of the highway and suddenly pulled into his path, causing the collision.

The two vehicles collided near the 142 1/2 on N.C. 271.

Harmon told Sergeant King and Officer Thomas that he had been riding in a straight path when he was struck.

Officer Thomas said that some witnesses did not see. The only witness who did see a truck driver who saw the actual collision but didn't stop.

Harmon's motorcycle was heavily damaged, Baker's car received minor damage, police said.

The first step has been taken by city officials and representatives of Southern Railway Co. concerning relocation of downtown railroad tracks.

Mayor R. E. Woody Jr. said the meeting was with H. H. Moore, general manager of the Southern Lines, J. A. Bush, east engineer, and R. E. Ruffin, railroad superintendent of this area.

The mayor said the railroad people had several questions of an engineering nature to ask.

"The meeting was simply to clarify several general points," he said.

There were no commitments and the discussion was general, he said.

"However, the railroad people did say they would get back in touch with us in the near future," the mayor said.

Woody said this is the first face-to-face discussion city officials have had with the railroad people. "I feel this is a step in the right direction," he said.

The city hopes to move the railroad tracks in the downtown business district to its feet to the north of the present location, and bury the tracks.

City officials hope to complete relocation of the tracks with initial removal of the some 45 acres in the downtown area.

The estimated project will cost about \$10 million dollars. The city's share on redevelopment would be \$1.5 million.

The unknown factors in the city's total cost is how much help can they get from the railroad and the N. C. State Highway Commission.

Meet The Contestants

Kathy Will Sing, Dance In Pageant



Kathy Ann Spencer, 16-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Taylor of 2204 Howard Rd. is contestant No. 7 for the "Miss Cassopolis" pageant set for August at Cass High auditorium.

A graduate of Ashley High School, she will attend Orono College this fall. She plans to study sociological studies. Her ultimate goal after college is to work with underprivileged children.

In high school, Miss Spencer was a member of the Spanish Club for two years, honorarium president her senior year, a member of the school chorus, and participated in the senior class play.

She has had five years training in dancing and plans to sing and dance in her senior presentation at the pageant.

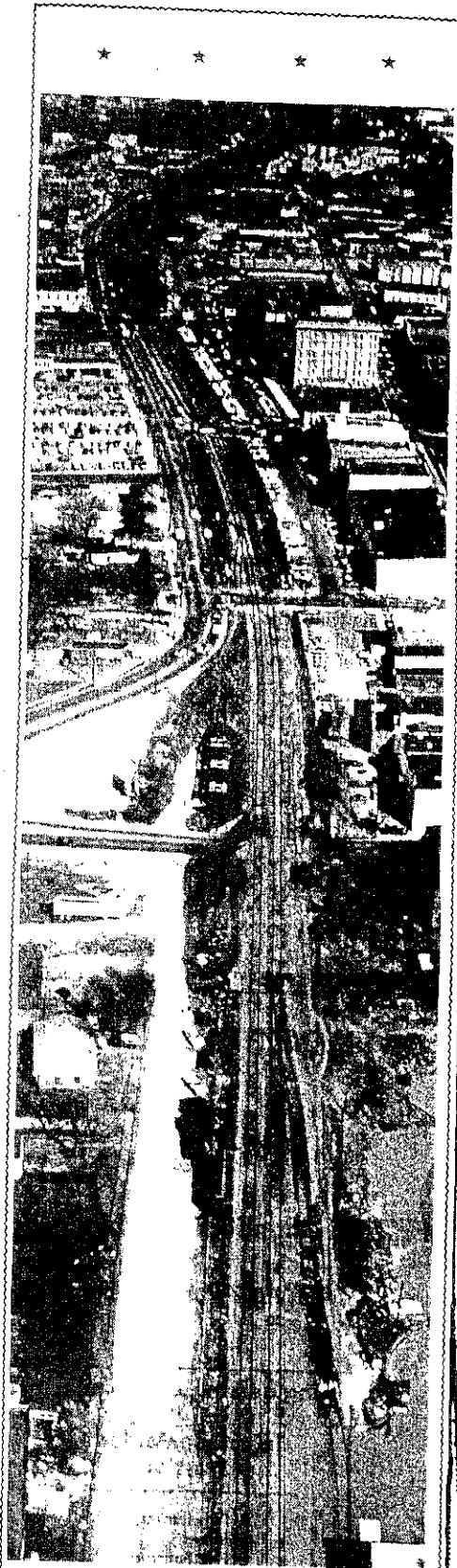
Miss Spencer's hobbies include swimming, horseback riding, reading, painting and working with children.



BUDDY BAKER

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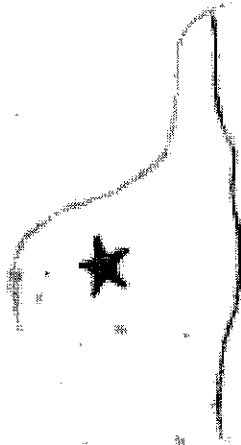
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Railroad splits city

Railroad splits city

The Southern Railroad tracks that split the city of Gastonia down the center are shown in this aerial photograph looking east. The intersection of York St. and Airline is shown at the upper center of the picture. The upper left portion shows parking lots created by the removal of buildings by the Gastonia Redevelopment Commission. If this commission's plan works out the railroad will be buried in a trench in the span shown in this photograph.



Gastonia nearing its 100th

Gastonia has a birthday coming in less than three years. The city was incorporated by an act of the General Assembly on Jan. 26, 1877.

That means that in two years and 10 months from now, the city will celebrate its 100th birthday.

Since centennial celebrations are generally mammoth occasions, planning for them sometimes takes years.

Gastonia has done nothing as the historic date approaches.

Chances are, though, that sooner or later the city fathers and the Chamber of Commerce will put their heads together and appoint a committee to begin making plans for what should turn out to be the biggest birthday party this area had ever had.

The last such occasion, on a large scale, was in 1946 when the County of Gaston celebrated its 100th birthday. It featured a gigantic parade and many special activities, extending over a period of a week.

Gary Hicks, acting city manager, doesn't think it's too early to begin planning for Gastonia's centennial celebration.

Definitely not. It should be started soon. I suppose the city council ought to take the ball and I certainly think the Historical Society should be included.

Chances are that a great many groups will be represented when the city does get down to serious thinking on

how to celebrate the occasion. As was the case with the county back in 1946, there will probably be a spectacular parade down Main Avenue.

From the start, it was officially the "Town of Gastonia" but in 1910 the charter was completely revised and the word "town" was changed to "city," thus making Gastonia the county's first bona-fide city.

It appears that the old cliché that history repeats itself is

true, judging by current events. The city council, as the century mark fast approaches, is in the process of revising the city charter again.

Just how the occasion will be marked is still to be decided but within the next year or so, a centennial committee will be appointed to make plans for the big party.

Otherwise, the event could go by unnoticed and that isn't likely to happen.

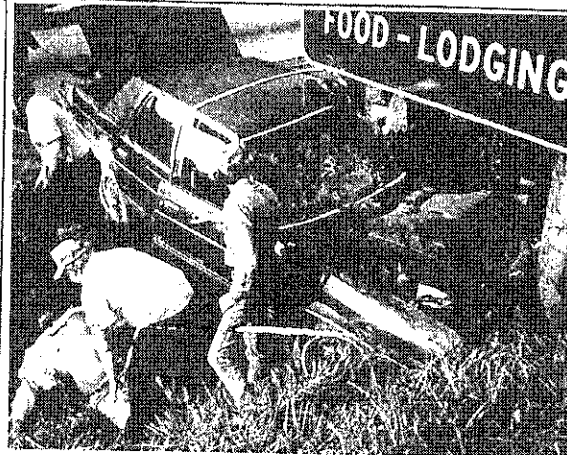
Dog-law fines cause headache

enter
Report:
city where the leash law is in
on \$25 to \$66.
municipalities heard its first
was adopted in July, from a
side Lane, a street in an
where the law is in effect.
the dog catchers were in har
or allowing her dog to leave
neighbors weren't at home
only cost them \$25.
dy neighbor's dog runs loose
n there and pay \$25. That's
ome."
Sands' neighbors could have
charged both a fine and a
trying to bring the law into

force gradually, it wants to avoid charging the maximum amount.
For violating the leash ordinance, animal wardens can write a \$41
ticket — \$31 court costs and a \$10 fine. In addition, commissioners
adopted a \$25 fee for residents who must retrieve their dogs from the
animal shelter.
"We don't do both, even though the law says to," Hinely said.
"Technically, we should take the dog to the pound and give you a
ticket."
Hinely said wardens currently are choosing between the two coats at
his instruction instead of issuing each violator an \$41 ticket.
"Since it's such a sensitive subject with a lot of people, we give them
a choice," he said. "The two together would be quite expensive."
If the dog wardens find violators at home, they give them these
options:
• The warden can take the dog to the shelter and allow the violator to
retrieve the dog by paying the \$25 redemption fee.
• Or the warden can leave the dog at home, as it did in Mrs. Simes
case, and issue the \$41 ticket.
If the violator isn't at home, the animal wardens will take the dog
and allow the owner to pick it up for the \$25 fee.

The Sands contended that the leash law would
county's animal control ordinance was enforce
brought a petition bearing 104 signatures that re
the leash law.
"I'd like to know why it's only in the Gaston
said. "If you're going to try it out, why not try it
Commissioner Porter McKelvey said most
Gastonia Township who attended earlier public
leash law. And since then, commissioners said, it
from residents asking for the leash law in other to
The clarity of the fine discrepancy, commis
committee to review and possibly to revise the law
are following.
Commissioner Harley Gaston said he was
charging some people more than others.
"I have some trouble with taking two dogs
charging one person with a semi-criminal violation
another person with a recovering law," he said.
is violating the leash law, the other is violating
both ought to be cited."

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Graphic photo by Kenneth...

Interstate crackup

Two men went to Gaston Memorial
Hospital this morning after the car they
were in struck a sign on Interstate-85
just inside the Gaston County
line. Rescue workers attend to
Darius Joseph Woodward, 24, of
Alexandria, Va. who was in stable
condition this morning with internal
injuries, police said. Also injured was
Woodward's passenger, Carroll
Townsend Smith, 24, of Washington,
D.C. who was in stable condition with
rib injuries, according to Troop 1001
Putman of the state Highway Patrol.
Putman said the men had been traveling
all night on their way from Washington to
Alabama when Woodward lost control of
the wheel about 4 1/2 today. He said the
car ran off the right side of the road
traveled about 115 feet and struck a
sign. The 1981 Ford was a total loss,
Putman said.

Man not suspect then di

By Karen Ba
Gastonia Staff

A Gastonia man who went
attempted break-in at a nei
Thursday night of an app
suffered while he was talking it
to Cauthen, 45 of 329 N
died on route to Gaston
according to Gastonia Police.
Before Cauthen's death, he
Myrtle School Road called poli
in attempt. When officers ar
youths, a talking along North
about 150 feet from Ms. Sime
Police lost the youths in Ms
where Cauthen identified
suspects.
While Cauthen was talking
overcome by an attack and he
The Gaston Life-saving Crew
Memorial Hospital, but fast
arrived there.
Charged with attempted bre
were Troy Lutz, 18, of 839 Brow
Charles Rocky Carringer, 18,
City. Carringer also was charged
a knife and syringe with un
controlled substance. Both were
of \$700 and were scheduled for a
court today.

Commis files ans to jail su

By Cheryl Corpe
Gastonia Staff

Lawyers for the Gaston
Commissioners filed an action
law suit contesting jail condit
denies the allegations in the suit.
The next step in the conten
between U.S. District Court
McMillan and the county pri
another hearing in federal court,
an attorney for the county's law fi
Because of a lawsuit former an
Sheriff C.L. Waldrep, McMillan
provide recreational facilities at
materials for jail prisoners. A pl
improvements was to be submitte
Waldrep didn't file the plan in
because he contended he had
appropriate money for the imp
weeks ago, the county received
unpaid attorneys had named th
as defendants.
On Thursday, the board held
session to talk about the results of
week between Waldrep and the
building and grounds committee.
That meeting also was closed by
the state's open meetings law allow
to discuss pending litigation in clas
Commissioner Robert Beau
chairman, said nothing about
session. But he said the answer fil
be self-explanatory.

Adopted golden eagles doing great on their own

By Sally Griffin
Gastonia Staff Reporter

PIGAL NATIONAL FOREST
— Two golden eagles raised under
human supervision seem to be
doing fine after their release to
the wild, despite a tense moment
last Saturday when one was found
standing near a road shortly after
it was freed.
The release of the male and
female siblings was part of an
attempt by the Schiele Museum in
Gastonia to repopulate the North
Carolina mountain area with
golden eagles, according to
education curator David Cone.
"Both birds doing fine," Cone
said. "They are flying and in very
good shape with no problems
whatsoever. The birds are well off
and flying free."

But the female eagle gave
museum officials and collectors
something of a scare shortly after
her release.
"The female was found
standing by the side of the
highway," Cone said. "A passing
motorist took her in a game
warden who took her to an animal
shelter."
Cone said the eagle quickly was
retrieved by biologist Dan
Hamer who then released her
again.
"This incident has been
reported by some of the media as
that the eagles are not doing
well," Cone said. "The thing we
are trying to point out to people is
that the birds are only 90 days old.
They are teenagers."
In many instances, Cone said,
golden eagles are killed or
seriously injured in their first
landing attempts.
"The fact that they are flying
means that they are doing better
than was expected," he said.
"They haven't had any injuries in
landings or takeoffs."
Museum volunteers are
continuing to monitor and keep
fresh food on the mountain ledge
where the birds were raised.
But Cone said Thursday there
was no evidence the birds had
returned to their former home
since their release.
"They are able to take off from
the ground," he said. "Most
golden eagles have to have an
updraft to take off, so we know
our birds are well-developed. We
don't know what they are doing
for food right now but they
haven't returned to the ledge."

Railroad project stalled

By Sally Griffin
Gastonia Staff Reporter

Work on a railroad relocation project on
Gastonia's Airline Avenue is not likely to begin until
late in 1982.
Public Works Director Sam Wilkins said
contracts for the \$10.4-million project are
circulating among the N.C. Department of
Transportation, Southern Railway Co. and the city.
Some of the contracts have been circulating for as
long as eight months, he said.
All three must agree on and sign the contracts
before work can begin, he said. Wilkins said he
hoped the contracts would be signed within the next
10 months.
Planning Director Ed Munn said the state has
began acquisition discussions with property
owners, but that all the rights-of-way needed have
not been purchased. He said the city and state
would need at least 16 months to move the
businesses and residences which will be in the
construction path. That won't begin until the rights-

of-way are acquired, he said.
"Our engineers also are designing the utility
movements inside and outside the project," Munn
said. "That should be completed by the first of the
year."
Munn said sewer, water and electric lines would
have to be moved before the project could be
completed.
According to Munn, the project includes
improvements to York Street and Long Avenue.
The main line of Southern Railway tracks parallel
to Airline Avenue will be moved 260 feet north.
The relocation also will put the tracks below the streets
and eliminate grade crossings in the downtown
area, Munn said. The project is designed to
improve traffic flow and increase parking space
downtown.
"The project has been somewhat delayed
because of funding from the Department of
Transportation which was held until we could
resolve these contracts," Wilkins said. "We did
have a few design problems but they are resolved."

Got a Story?
Call
us!

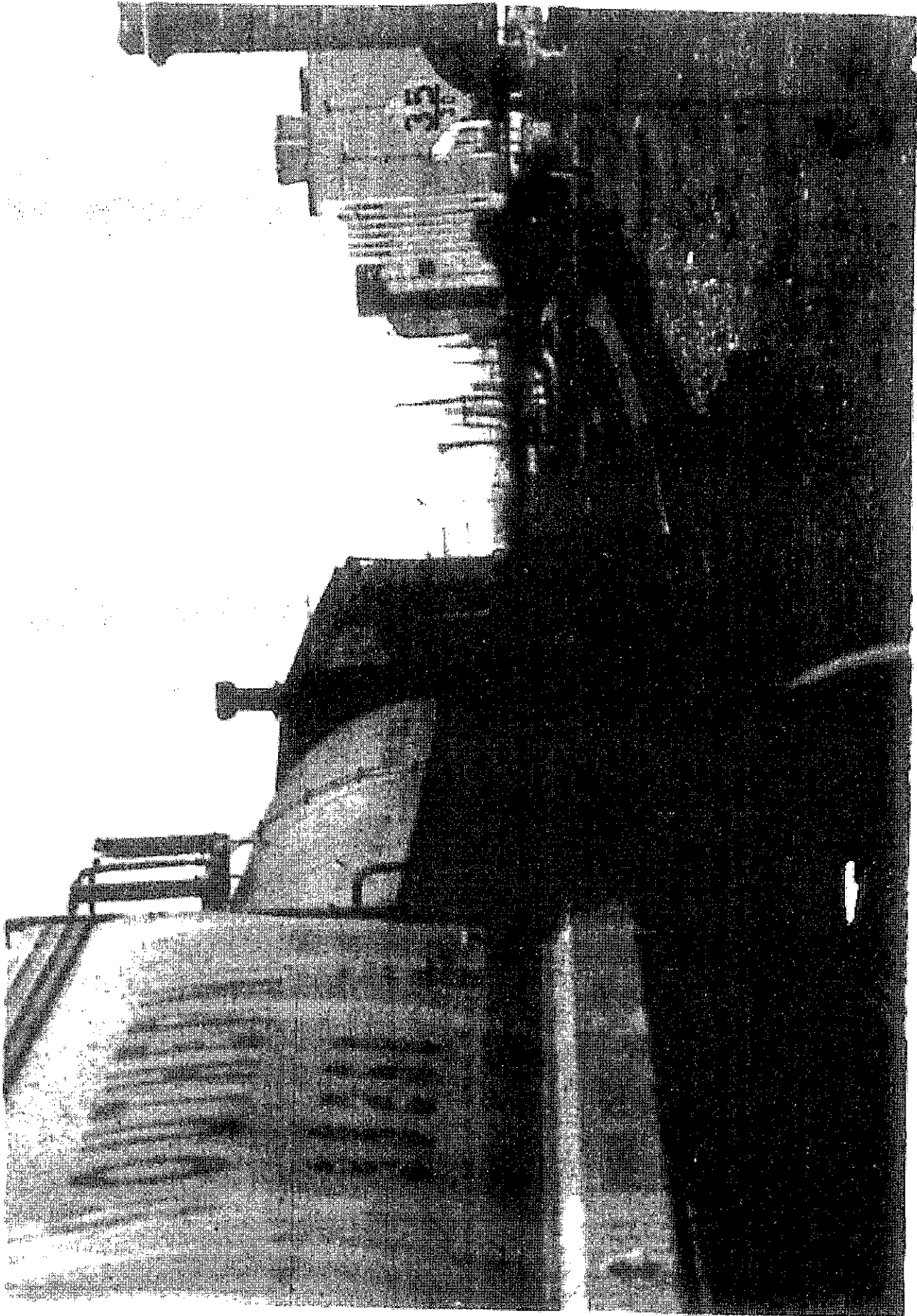
STORY
864.

But preventive detention withholding bond in cases like these is not permitted under the North

Carolina's Institute of Government

But Clark said the statute's available since the frequency is slight

The issue of how to determine whether a person is a danger to himself or others is a



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THE GASTONIA GAZETTE

Gazette, 1933

Thursday, Feb. 16, 1933

Gastonia, North Carolina

Single Copy 25¢ Daily, 50¢ Sunday

... laws make bond denial difficult

Charles Craig
Crime Staff Reporter

... laws, at least three men have committed violent crimes while their alleged act of violence in

... bond was set. And in one posted bond the second time, and charged with yet a third

... denation — withholding bond in not permitted under the North

Carolina laws governing pre-trial release of a suspect.

Under state law, almost every accused person is entitled to some form pre-trial release — a secured bond, unsecured bond, written promise to appear or released into another person's custody. The only exception comes when the suspect is accused of first-degree murder.

Few statistics have been compiled on the frequency of crimes committed by persons out on bond, said Steve Clark of the University of North Carolina's Institute of Government.

But Clark said the statistics available show the frequency is slight.

Last month, 34-year-old Winfred Wayne Jenkins of Gastonia was released on \$10,000 bond after being charged with first-degree murder. He was arrested and charged Monday with knifing another man.

The incident that led to the murder charge occurred while Jenkins was out on bond for assault and kidnaping. He is now in jail "where he belongs," according to District Attorney Joe Brown, although he has not been convicted of anything.

The issue of how to determine whether a person is dangerous and whether he will commit another

crime while out on bond has been addressed in other states.

Clark said 17 have written preventive detention into their laws. So far, when challenged, the federal appeals courts have upheld the constitutionality of the law, Clark said. The U. S. Supreme Court has never ruled on it.

Currently in North Carolina Gov. Jim Hunt's Crime Commission is trying to convince the state legislature that preventive detention should be made an option for judges considering bond.

Tom Havener, courts specialist for the crime commission, said the governor's "Agenda in

Please see Bonds, P. 9-A. Cols. 3-6.

City railroad project nears start — again

By Pam Hildebran
Gazette Staff Reporter

Construction on Gastonia's long-awaited railroad relocation project, on the drawing boards since 1923 and postponed time after time because of a shortage of funds, has been scheduled one more time.

City officials say construction will begin in 1934 and will take two years to finish. But David Hoyle of Dallas, who serves on the N.C. Board of Transportation, said the project faces one more hurdle before any definite date can be set.

The city council is expected to approve an agreement with the state at its Tuesday meeting, said Sam Wilkins, public works director. The agreement will allow the state department of transportation to begin acquiring street rights-of-way.

Acquisition of the property.

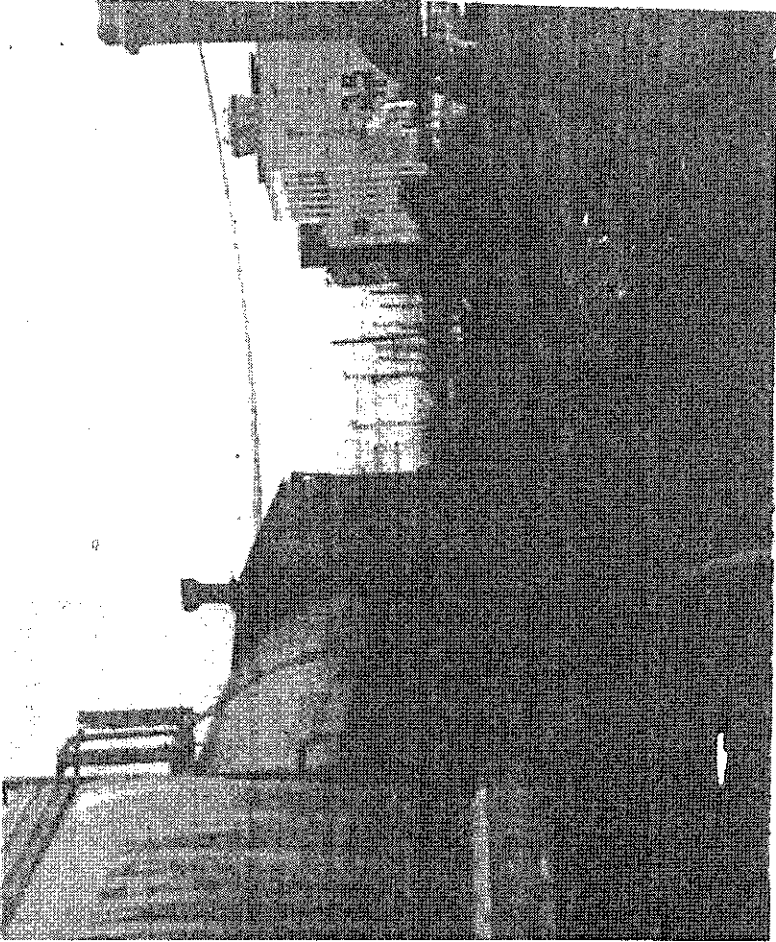
U. S. 323 will take 12 to 18 months, Wilkins said.

The \$16-million project has been delayed because of a shortage of state money. Wilkins said, but it is included in the DOT's Highway Improvement Program that runs through 1931.

The state schedule calls for rights-of-way to be purchased this year. But Hoyle said the final hurdle comes this weekend when the transportation board meets in Raleigh to review highway projects already scheduled. He said priorities on some projects should change but that he won't know until after the meeting which projects, if any, will be affected.

The Gastonia project includes moving the main line of Southern Railway tracks, now parallel to Airline and Long Avenues, 200 feet north.

The tracks will be moved from



Gazette photo by Ferni staff

A Southern Railway train moves along tracks in downtown Gastonia ... area will change with railroad relocation project

small they caught him and it They called the Highway Patrol.

Railroad

Continued from P. 1-A

their present alignment at Trenton Street and run 3.4 miles in a northerly direction. The relocation also will put the tracks below the streets and eliminate grade crossings in the downtown area, according to Jack Kiser, community development director. Overpasses will be constructed at York, Chester, Marietta and Broad streets, he said.

Improvements also will be made to York Street and Long Avenue. York Street will be straightened between Long Avenue and its new intersection with U.S. 321 near Rankin Avenue.

Long Avenue will become a five-lane thoroughfare east from Ozark Avenue at Saunders Thread Co. to the ABC store at the corner of York Street and Long.

The project is designed to improve the traffic flow and increase parking space downtown.

"All of the bottleneck will be eliminated with this project," Kiser said.

Engineering work for the project is about 96 percent completed, Wilkins said.

Money for the project is coming primarily from the state, Wilkins said. The state DOT has budgeted \$12,766,000 to put the railroad tracks below street level and to acquire rights-of-way. The city will pay About \$500,000 — 50 percent — for street rights-of-way, Wilkins said. The city already is in the process of buying railroad rights-of-way, he said.

In addition, the city will pay about \$210,000 to move sewer, water and electric lines. Kiser said some of the city's share will be paid for community development grants from the federal government.

Wilkins said the U.S. Department of Transportation and Southern Railway will pay the remaining costs, although details are handled by the state, not the city.

Some of the street projects —

businesses and homes — have been completed, using community development money that was first granted under the federal government's old urban renewal program.

Kiser said there is about \$535,000 left in the old urban renewal account for the street projects. The money, he said, could be used to offset the cost to the city.

He said the contract for the Long Avenue improvements should be awarded in several months.

Wilkins said that "quite an involved detour" has been drawn up to divert traffic around the construction. Railroad traffic will be maintained on one of the tracks, and temporary detours will have to be constructed for parts of the railroad, he said.

Allowances also will have to be made for emergency vehicles, Wilkins said.

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Railroad

Continued from P. 1-B

because of a shortage of money. But Sam Wilkins, public works and utilities director, said the N.C. Department of Transportation has included the project in its Highway Improvement Program that runs through 1991 and that money has been budgeted for the railroad relocation.

The project involves moving the main line of the Southern Railway tracks, now parallel to Airline and Long avenues, 200 feet north.

The tracks will be moved from their present alignment at Trenton Street and run 3.4 miles in an easterly direction. The relocation also will put the tracks below the streets and eliminate grade crossings in the downtown area. Pedestrian and vehicular overpasses will be constructed at York, Chester, Marietta and Broad streets and later at Trenton Street.

Improvements also will be made to York Street and Long Avenue. York Street will be straightened between Long Avenue and its new intersection with U.S. 321 near Rankin Avenue.

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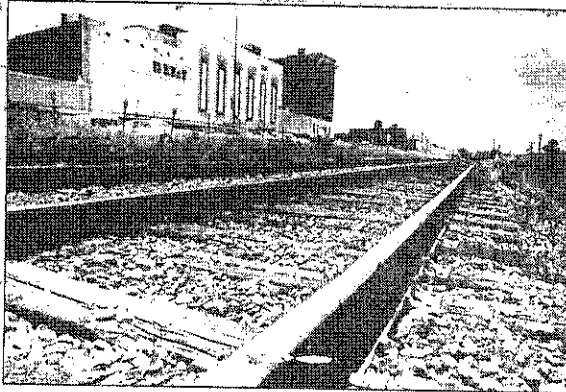
Officials say the U.S. Department of Transportation and Southern Railway will pay the remaining costs, although details are handled by the state, not the city.

Officials hope the contract for the Long Avenue improvements will be awarded in several months.

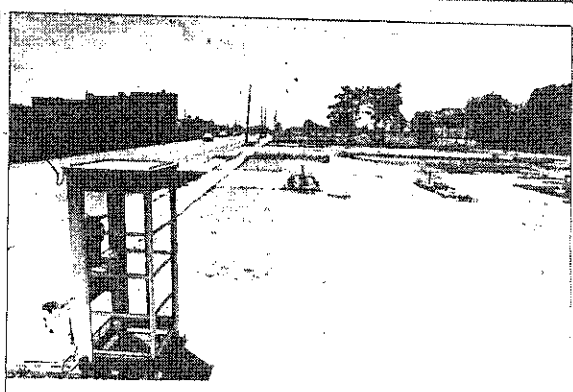
City officials plan an extensive detour to divert traffic around the construction. Railroad traffic will be maintained on one of the tracks, and temporary detours will have to be constructed for parts of the railroad.

Other redevelopment plans include widening U.S. 321, a project also on the state DOT's list of highway improvement projects and improving gas, water, sewer and electrical lines.

Downtown redevelopment and the railroad relocation were originally planned to eliminate traffic hazards for pedestrians, stimulate business development in the northern section of the city, provide more parking and beautify the area.



The tracks of Southern Railway in downtown Gastonia ... destined to be moved 200 ft. north in a trench



Businesses once occupied this barren strip of Airline Avenue ... railroad's new path will be to right of phone booth

Railroad project gets back on track

A-whoo-ee...
...A-whoo-ee

Almost \$4 million dollars have been spent relocating 67 businesses and 77 homes for "the railroad project" and downtown urban renewal. Now, almost 20 years after that idea was hatched, the last piece of property finally has been acquired. That clears the way for relocating the tracks, a \$16 million undertaking scheduled to begin in 1984. Will it?

By Pam Hildebron
Gastonia Staff Reporter

The railroad project and urban renewal — for years it appeared that it was all talk and no action. But took around downtown Gastonia today. The scenery is changing.

City officials, past and present, have talked about the railroad project since the early 1960s. Construction has been scheduled and postponed so many times that after a while, the project seemed doomed to live forever on the drawing boards.

But once again, the railroad project is back in the spotlight. Along Airline and Long avenues and around the Southern Railway tracks, the once flourishing business district has dwindled to almost nil. All in the name of progress.

State officials say they are eager to proceed with the project. And city officials cleared one of the biggest hurdles last week with the completion of the city's property acquisitions.

Superior Plastics, which since 1973 has been located at 306 N. Commerce St., is in the process of moving to 333 N. Broad St. Jack Kiser, the city's community development director, said the company's relocation "is the last of what we have to do."

Construction of the \$18-million project is expected to begin in 1984 and will take two years to finish, officials say.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation has begun talks with city officials and soon will start its property and right-of-way acquisitions, which will take about 18 months to complete, Kiser said.

Sam Wilkins, public works and utilities director, said state officials hope to let the construction contracts within 18 months as of April 1 — by Oct. 1, 1984.

Since 1976, when the city's "urban renewal" project became a "community development" project as the names of the funding programs changed, the city has relocated 67 businesses and 77 homes through grants from the federal government. Eleven of the homes and 26 of the businesses were located directly in the path of the railroad relocation and Long Avenue improvements.

The going has been good for some people, not so good for some others. Many of the businesses that had to relocate had been at their old locations for years, and most of them were family-owned.

"There were some problems," said Tom McSwain, sales manager of Superior Plastics. "It was difficult to find another location where we could adjust financially. Most of the buildings we found were too expensive."

Lytton's, a trimmer and locksmith, one of the more famous landmarks in the area, moved in September, 1982 after 100 years at its former location, 122 N. Trenton St. Although the company now operates at 318 S. Willow St., the owners say they still haven't found a permanent home.

"Before we're still looking for a permanent location," said Nell Hunt, co-owner of Lytton's with her husband, Oly.

Although Mrs. Hunt said the move "has not adversely affected our business," she said her brother and the former owner of the company, Charles (Bud) Lytton, took the relocation news very hard. Lytton died in 1980, before the company was actually moved.

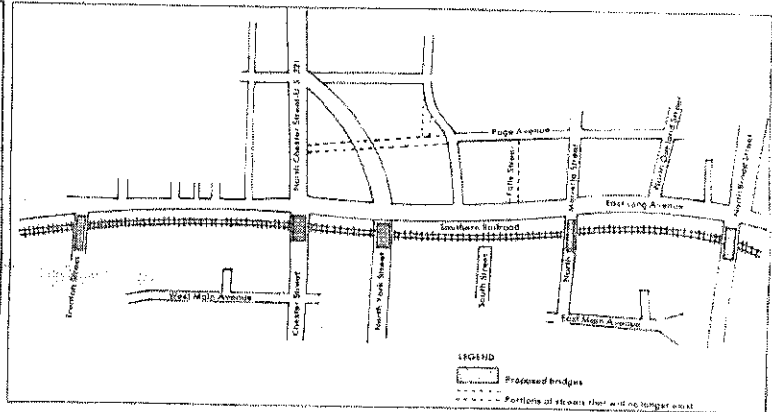
"We finally had a nervous breakdown," Mrs. Hunt said. "Of course, it was very upsetting."

She and her husband are in the process of selling the company to Ed and Mary Martin, but the Hunts will continue to take some part in running the business.

The street of the city located since 1966 at 222 E. Airline Ave. and now moved to 125 W. Franklin Blvd., said they had a lot of trouble finding a new location and enough financing.

Stable, Lewis, bookkeeper and daughter of the owner, Glenn Burgh, said they had to go into debt and were turned down for a low-interest, government loan. It took them three years to find a suitable location.

"We did lose business," she said. "It hurt us in the long run."



Map shows railroad path and five bridges that will cross it. Long Avenue will be widened and York Street will take new turn

Another Gastonia institution, the A&L Shoe Shop, also stood in the way of the railroad project. But Fats Adams, who moved the store from East Airline Avenue to 125 W. Franklin Blvd., said he hasn't had any problems, although he did sell out the bicycle sales portion of the business.

"I (business) is as good as I'd like it to be," he said. "There were no problems that amounted to anything."

Acquiesces the officials say they did have problems in finding a new home, but business has been about the same. After 20 years at 118 E. Airline Ave., the company moved in 1972 to its present location at 400 W. Main Ave. But their problems aren't over yet, said N. B. Chestnut, president of the company.

"We're going to have to move again when they widen (U.S.) 321," Chestnut said. "Isn't that something?"

So while A&L's store is still trying to orient its regular customers to its new location, they'll face the same problem again in a few years, he said.

The owners of Lighter Cab Co. had to move their business and lost a boarding house to the railroad relocation. Rosetta Lighter and her husband, Leslie, didn't have "too much trouble" finding a new location for the cab company. But they didn't replace the building where they rented out 13 rooms, Mrs. Lighter said.

"It (moving) didn't affect the cab business," she said. "It's been about the same."

The Lighters moved the cab company from 366 W. Page Ave. to 40 N. York St.

All told, the city has spent more than \$284,000 in relocation costs for the railroad and downtown urban renewal projects since the city took over the old urban renewal program in 1976 and created the community development division, Kiser said.

In addition, more than \$3,400,000 has been spent in property acquisitions for the various projects, which includes prior to 1976. Money for the relocations and property acquisitions came from federal grants, Kiser said.

Kiser said it would be difficult to determine the tax valuation of the property because many of the appraisals on the various parcels are too old. Values also change when buildings are torn down or when businesses and homes are moved.

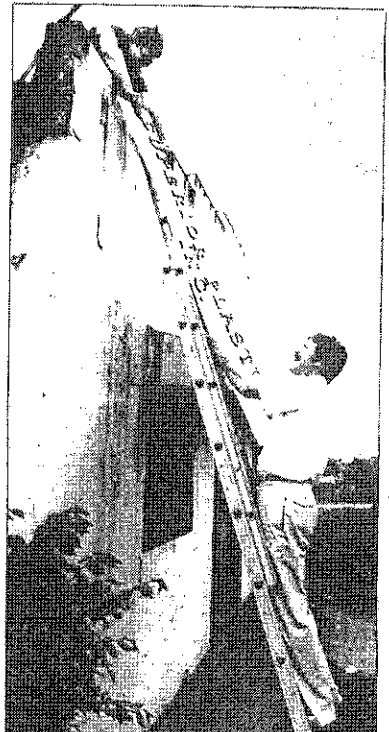
"But a project like this should have a positive effect on the long run," he said.

The empty land downtown currently is used for parking and the seasonal farmer's market. But after construction on the railroad relocation begins, a new, hopefully, permanent, home for the market will have to be found.

In 1981, the city's Downtown Development Corp., a group of local merchants organized to promote downtown revitalization, raised thousands of dollars to pay for economic, land use and architectural studies for downtown renewal.

Enhanced by nearly \$3 million in federal redevelopment money, Gastonia's Main Avenue started to take on a new look in the mid-1970s, despite court-ordered delays and declining business due to the opening of Eastridge Mall in 1978 and the growth of shopping areas in the eastern section of the city.

The \$18-million railroad project has been delayed in the past



Chip Looper (top), Tom McSwain remove sign ... Superior Plastics Inc. is last to go

ronist bombing in Lebanon.
please turn to Page 2-A.

Liberation Organization loyalists
continued battling Syrian-backed
guerrilla mutineers in camps

of Israel," and vowed, "We will
hit back and we will hit back very
hard."

City finally to start work for relocation of railroad

By Jim Wrinn
Gazette Staff Reporter

Preliminary work for Gastonia's long-awaited railroad project begins later this month with the relocation of a stretch of North York Street, city officials said this morning.

The \$157,875 road project, authorized by the Gastonia City Council Thursday, includes closing North York behind the Boys Club between Airline Avenue and Page Avenue, rebuilding Rankin Avenue between North York and U.S. 321 and closing Page Avenue between North York and U.S. 321. Dallas Street will be realigned to connect with North York between Page and Long Avenues and will be made into a two-way street.

"This all relates to the overall railroad relocation project," said Jack Kiser, community development director. "There will be no change in the present jog in North York that takes it back to North Chester along Airline until the state lets the contract for that work in about 18 months. All the city's work is being done north of Long Avenue."

The work, slated for completion within 240 days, should begin about Nov. 18 and will prepare the area for the railroad relocation, he said. Funds are coming from urban renewal money funneled into the city's community development project.

The state plans to begin railroad relocation in 1985, placing the tracks in a trench, eliminating

The Gastonia railroad relocation project is causing a property dispute between a landowner and the city. The issue came up at Thursday's city council meeting. For details, please turn to Page 2-C.

crossings at York, Marietta and Broad streets with overpasses. A new parking lot would be constructed along the existing Southern Railway tracks, Kiser said.

Long Avenue would also be rebuilt into a five-lane east-west thoroughfare between the North York ABC store and Ozark Avenue at Saunders Thread Co.

During the next 18 months the state will continue to purchase property for the relocation project that's been on the drawing boards since 1968.

Ultimately, North York will run east of the ABC store located at the corner of Airline and 321. York will intersect with 321 near Shaw's Cleaners at Rankin.

"Picture the railroad tracks running along where Airline does now and a little to the north," Kiser said. "North York will come back with 321 at a five-pronged intersection; that's the way it's going to look."

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Hometown

"It is better to debate an important matter without settling it than to settle it without debating it." — Anonymously

Wednesday, Nov. 23, 1960—1-B

First lots acquired for rail relocation

By Jim Wriam
Gazette Staff Reporter

Gastonia's 15-year-old railroad relocation project has a green signal from the state.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation has acquired seven tiny parcels of land adjoining Long and Airlie avenues, DOT officials said Tuesday, as the initial phase of the relocation project scheduled for construction in 1965 and 1966.

"We're getting the first small chunks of land out of the way because they're the easiest to appraise and purchase," said Dean Bridges, who is handling the property acquisition for the state. "We

figure we'll have the rest of the right-of-way within 18 months or sometime in the spring or middle of 1965."

The parcels, acquired within the last month at a cost of \$30,575, are the first of 77 the state must buy at a cost of several hundred thousand dollars, he said. Most were vacant lots, although the state purchased one house.

The property will be used to relocate the Southern Railway tracks that bisect the city. The railroad will be moved north about 200 feet and placed in a trench; bridges will be built over the tracks.

As a part of the plan, Long Avenue will be rebuilt into a four-lane thoroughfare to carry east-west traffic on a route

similar to Garrison Boulevard, and U.S. 321 and Airlie Avenue will be relocated.

Community Development Administrator Jack Kiser said the project will eliminate several dangerous railroad crossings downtown.

He said motorists will have better access to the downtown area via Long Avenue. A parking lot which will be easier to get to will be located where the railroad tracks are now.

"This is coming along right on schedule," said Mayor T. Jeffers. "It's going to get rolling just about the time we hope our downtown plans do, so it's most welcome news."

The city's recently established

downtown redevelopment task force will consider the long-term effects of the railroad project as well as the problems the massive construction effort could pose.

"We'll need a lot of citizen participation on this," Kiser said. "There'll be a lot of disruption with traffic and we'll have to go through a careful planning process."

The project was proposed in the late 1950s, but was placed on the back burner when the state ran short of funds, and rescheduled several times during the late 1970s.

"It had been placed on the schedule for fiscal 1964 (which began July 1, 1963),"

said Ray Spangler, DOT division engineer in Shelby. "The only reason it was slid back was to gather the right-of-way land for the project."

Last week, the state Board of Transportation allocated \$10 million for work to start in fiscal 1965. The work will be done in two phases, Spangler said.

First, \$7.5 million will be used in fiscal 1965 for construction, and another \$2.5 million has been set aside for the paving work the following year.

"The officials I've talked to in Raleigh say this is a hot project," said Ray Spangler, division engineer in Shelby. "Everything is subject to change; but things are definitely go for now."

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se Funding freeze /s decision delayed

From staff reports

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Whether Gastonia's railroad relocation project, scheduled to begin in early 1986, will be derailed by a freeze in highway funds won't be known for at least a month, state officials say.

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The N.C. Board of Transportation will meet July 12 to discuss ways to deal with a freeze on federal funds announced earlier this week by James E. Harrington, transportation secretary.

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The board will consider a number of options, including establishing a project priority list and seeking new funding sources, said DOT spokesman Bill Jones.

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The freeze on funds might delay the Gastonia railraod project, which involves moving Southern Railway's tracks 200 feet north, building bridges over the rail line and rebuilding Long Avenue into a five-lane thoroughfare connector to I-85.

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Cost of the project is estimated at \$14.3 million.

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The freeze also could affect a \$30 million project on N.C. 16 in northeastern Gaston County. That project calls for grading and construction of a bridge for the widening of the two-lane highway.

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Railroad meeting scheduled

Gastonia officials and attorneys with Norfolk Southern Corp. were scheduled to meet in Atlanta today to detail an agreement for transferring rights-of-way for a railroad relocation project.

The meeting is expected to lead to a final agreement with the railroad in about three months, said Sam Wilkins, assistant public works and utilities director.

City attorney Henry Whitesides and Wilkins last met in April with officials of Norfolk Southern, the parent company of Southern Railway.

The \$10 million state railroad relocation project will see Southern's tracks in the downtown area moved about 200 feet north and placed in a trench to eliminate grade crossings.

The area occupied by the tracks along Airline Avenue will become parking spaces. As part of the project, Long Avenue will be expanded into a five-lane thoroughfare between I-85 and the downtown.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
AND DEBTORS OF
MINNIE DOWELL, DECEASED
NORTH CAROLINA
GASTON COUNTY
All persons known and

Ministry provides clothing

By Susan ...
Gazette Staff Reporter

DALLAS — No child at Carr Elementary School in Dallas has to do without socks, underwear, shoes and warm clothes because of the Dallas Christian Social Ministry.

For the past 15 years, the organization has given the clothing to needy children in Dallas and the surrounding area through the schools.

"It's been great for our program," said Carr Principal Peggie Ferguson.

"Our children come from varied economic backgrounds. They (the ministry) supplies us with some items. Say a child comes in on a cold morning without socks, we have some for him," she said.

"If a child in this school has a need, we have some place to go," Mrs. Ferguson said.

The socks, underwear and us-

Rail-line meeting fruitful

A meeting Wednesday between Gastonia and Norfolk Southern Corp. officials eased the 1985 rail line relocation project forward, and the city's public works and utilities director said today.

"We met with them about three hours and resolved lots of the little questions," said Sam Wilkins, one of three Gastonia officials who are negotiating a crucial land swap with the railroad. "We're shooting for a final agreement in January or February."

The negotiations are over the exact terms for the exchange of the right-of-way for the present downtown rail line and the new right-of-way, which will be about 200 feet north of the existing one.

In the \$10 million project, scheduled to begin next August, the land presently used for Southern's tracks in the downtown will become parking spaces, and nearby Long Avenue will be rebuilt into a five-lane thoroughfare between I-85 and downtown.

Hiring



Gazette photo by Robert Lahser

Carr Elementary Principal Peggie Ferguson, right

The Gastonia Gazette

King Richard

Richard Petty, the racingest and winningest stock-car driver ever, deals with the crush of fans and media every day. But for the king, it's all part of the sport he loves.
Page 1D

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3, 1986

Today's headlines

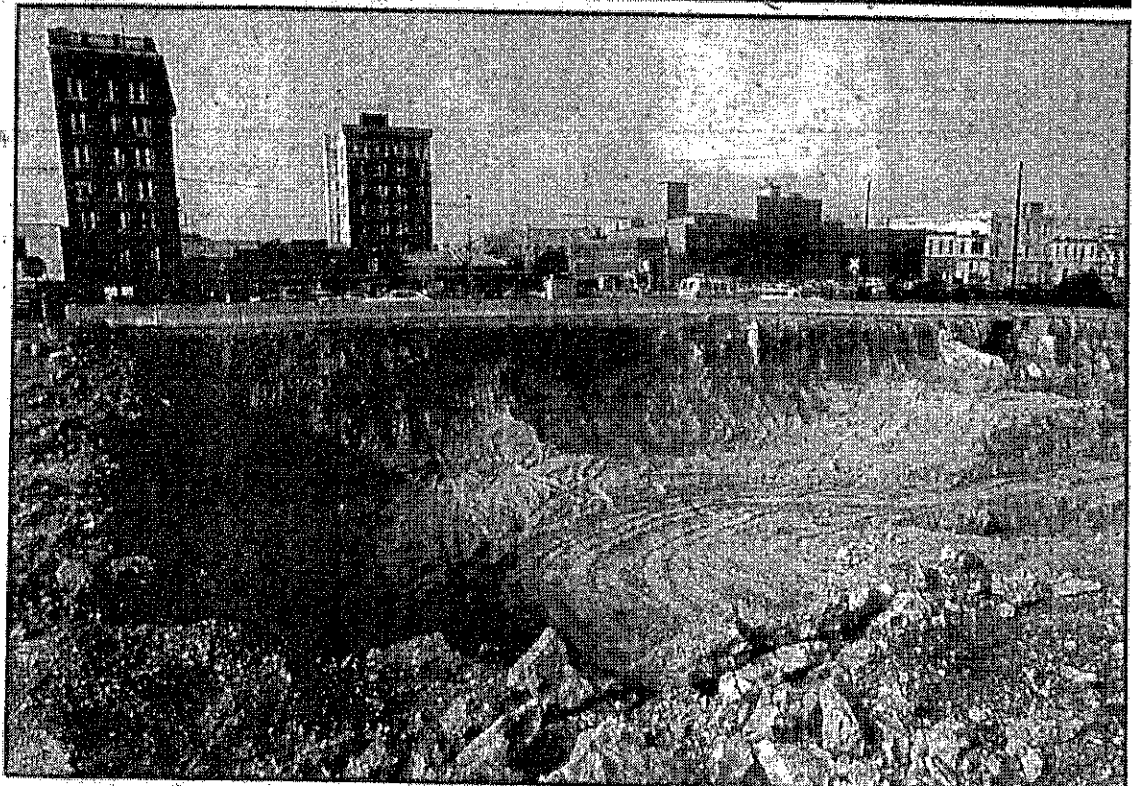
HOME After 19 months of captivity in Lebanon, former hostage the Rev. Lawrence Jenko returned to his hometown of Joliet, Ill., Saturday to a greeting of yellow balloons, roses and welcome-home signs. The Roman Catholic priest, released a week ago by Moslem extremists, also met Saturday with the sister of one of the four remaining American hostages.
Page 2A

COHN Roy Cohn, the flamboyant New York lawyer and former aide to Sen. Joseph McCarthy, died Saturday at the age of 59. Cohn, who was indicted three times and never convicted but who was disbarred just six weeks ago, died at 6 a.m. The official cause of his death was listed as cardiopulmonary arrest, with "dementia" and "underlying HTLV III infections" listed as secondary causes. The HTLV-III virus is believed to cause AIDS.
Page 5A

TRADE Bills setting new import quotas on textiles, copper and shoes are pending in Congress, but President Reagan, speaking in his weekly radio address, said Saturday that if the measures pass, "you can bet there would be retaliation."
Page 5A

TAXES Legislatures nationwide raised taxes a modest \$600 million in 1986, with tax changes in any one state generally depending on the condition of that state's economy. The annual survey by the National Conference of State Legislatures showed that the most common tax increase was in excise taxes on cigarettes and gasoline.
Page 7A

BIKE It's normally a four-hour drive to Myrtle Beach, but Todd Davis takes 13 hours. But Davis doesn't drive — he bikes. Davis, who got into bicycling for his health, now makes it part of his business and pleasure, biking 35 miles four days a week to stay healthy while he owns and runs a bicycle shop. He'll be one of an expected 500 people taking part in the Gazette Star Ride at 11 p.m. Friday.
Page 1B



Excavation off Airline Avenue near South Street is part of Gastonia's railroad relocation project.

Kenneth Hight/The Gazette

Work crews begin digging in

Excavation marks beginning of city's railroad relocation

By Mike Foley
Gazette Staff Reporter

Street closings and the beginning of excavation for a railroad trench are tangible evidence of the massive railroad relocation project under way in downtown Gastonia. But bulldozers and steam shovels are just barely scratching the surface of the three-year project.

Rumors have circulated that the project is already a month behind — after only two months of work — but those rumors appear unsubstantiated.

Jim Warren, an engineer for the North Carolina Department of Transportation,

said it is too early to worry about schedules with a project of such magnitude.

"I wouldn't exactly say it's behind schedule," Warren said. "There may be certain things the contractor has wanted to do but hasn't been able to do yet. He might have wanted to lay some pipe earlier than he has, but it's not going to affect the project."

"There have been some delays, but it's nothing to worry about."

City Engineer Don Carmichael said the city is involved only with utility relocation and the laying of water and sewer pipes. He said he has not heard of any delays on the project.

Don Lowe, city traffic engineer, said there have been minor delays.

"From what I've learned, they haven't been able to get the 54-inch drainage pipe they need for the project," Lowe said.

Calls to the contractor were unanswered last week.

Whatever headaches the contractor may be suffering over unavailable materials are offset by the lack of problems the project is causing for Gastonians.

City council member Robert Caldwell said he has not noticed any problems in the area.

"I must drive by there two or three times a day. My office is about a block away and I haven't seen the first traffic jam yet," Caldwell said. "It could have been a real nightmare."

Page Avenue between U.S. 321 and North York Street has been closed permanently because of the project and so has North York Street between Airline and Long avenues. North Falls Street between Airline and Long avenues will be

Please see RAILROAD/2A

What's the reason for the drought

Charlotte Motor Speedway in North Carolina and volunteers worked until 2:30 a.m. Saturday, under lights provided by the Madison County Fire Department, a local business and television crews.

The main parking lot of the Countrymark Grain Terminal, which provided its property as a drop-off site for hay donations from around the state, was filled with trucks, hay and volunteers.

Ohio Farm Bureau spokesman Kirby Hidy said trucks, vans and pickups arrived with hay at a rate of one every five minutes.

Among the volunteers toting the

in Columbus.

Bob Evans, owner of the Bob Evans Restaurant chain and Bob Evans Farms in Rio Grande, Ohio, went to the site early Saturday to supervise distribution of food he donated to feed the volunteers and drivers.

"I just have not seen as much cooperation in my life," Evans said. "When the going gets tough, Americans work together."

The drought in the Southeast has withered crops and pastures and left farmers without enough hay to feed their cattle. Some farmers have had to sell cattle early and at reduced prices.

consideration because he maintains a residence in Lowell.

"Technically, I'm still in it," Clark said Saturday.

The Gaston County judicial district has operated with three judges since Ramseur's retirement. The General Assembly created a fifth district court judgeship for the county in 1985. The new seat will be filled in the Nov. 4 election between Daniel J. Walton, an attorney from Gastonia, and Harley B. Gaston Jr., an attorney from Belmont.

Legislation introduced by Sen. Helen Marvin, D-Gastonia, to force the governor to fill District Court vacancies within 60 days of the local bar association nominations received approval in the Legislature's short session.

The bill must be approved by the U.S. Justice Department before it can take effect. Gaston County is one of 40 state counties that fall under the scrutiny of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Changes in election laws must be reviewed by the Justice Department within 60 days of their submission for review.

JUDGE

FROM 1A

judge.

"We're real happy, but we're not celebrating," said W.J. (Jim) Allran III, a Cherryville attorney and one of three men nominated by the county bar association to fill the seat vacated by Ramseur.

Allran said appeals to the U.S. Court of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court could prolong the vacancy.

"It's gone beyond the trials and tribulations of individuals to the point where the Gaston County court system is falling behind," Allran said.

Tim Patti, an assistant public defender also nominated for the seat, echoed Allran's caution.

"Basically, from what I've heard, the door is open for the appointment," Patti said, "but I just don't know."

Robert Clark, a former Gaston County assistant district attorney who now is assistant DA in Buncombe County, said his current job does not eliminate him from

RAILROAD

FROM 1A

permanently closed soon.

Temporary road closings will be announced by the contractors as they become imminent.

Other work currently underway is relocation of utilities in the area. Carmichael said plenty of warning should be given before any service is lost.

"One thing we've made very clear to the contractors is that we need advance warnings when utilities will be disrupted," Carmichael said.

He said the advance warnings are especially crucial when companies using data processing

equipment are affected.

Also underway is excavation of the railroad trench from York Street to Falls Street. Eventually the trench will extend from Trenton Street on the west to Avon Street on the east with a maximum depth of 30 feet.

And clearing and construction of the embankment for the temporary detour railroad tracks on the west end of the project between Trenton Street and Firestone Street has begun.

The total project, expected to cost \$12 million, is designed to eliminate six railroad crossings downtown in an effort to halt fatalities at the crossings and facilitate traffic patterns.

the late U.S. Rep. George O'Brien, R-Ill., who had worked for Jenco's release; and Peggy Saly, sister of reporter Terry Anderson, one of four American hostages still miss-

wishing Father Martz said Saturday.

"The town is jump Jeff Jenco, 21, one of nephews.

Tornado touches down in Detroit

DETROIT (AP) — A tornado touched down Saturday in downtown Detroit, overturning two cars on an interstate highway and injuring three people, authorities said.

Two other tornadoes were reported in Macomb County, just north of Detroit, where trees were damaged but no one was injured, state police at Romeo said.

The Detroit twister touched down about 3:30 p.m. near Interstate 96, flipping two cars and damaging an abandoned vehicle, said state police Sgt. Kim Kaikala.

Three people were treated at Mount Carmel Mercy Hospital for minor injuries, hospital spokeswoman Rose Dill said.

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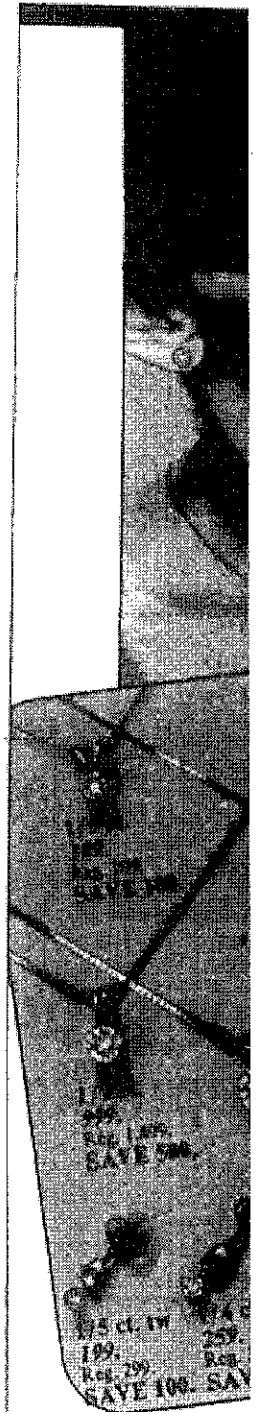
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Eas

Use one of our charge plans.

DA's race pits Hamrick and Brown

By Stephen Witmer
Gastonia Staff Reporter

Calvin Hamrick rejoiced in his victory over incumbent district attorney Joe Brown in the Democratic primary election in May, but he continued to campaign through the summer and fall in anticipation of the Nov. 4 election.

Hamrick is unopposed on the ballot, but Brown's supporters have mounted a write-in campaign to keep him in office.

Candidates in primary elections make pledges not to enter write-in campaigns. Brown said he is living up to the pledge by not actively participating in the campaign, but that he cannot prevent supporters

ELECTION '86: DA

Democrat Republican



Brown Hamrick

He has practiced law in Gaston County since leaving the DA's office in 1982. He holds a law degree from Golden Gate University in San Francisco.

"Basically, what I've been doing in addition to campaigning is working on what I would do in office," Hamrick said. He said he would revise the procedure of presenting cases to superior court, with emphasis placed on an effort to get more guilty pleas in arraignments and on assigning cases to specific assistant district attorneys.

By assigning cases to specific assistants, Hamrick said, attorneys and defendants would have more continuity in dealing

Relocation project taken in stride

By Mike Foley
Gastonia Staff Reporter

The consequences of the railroad relocation project underway in downtown Gastonia have not been as dire as some predicted.

Construction, which began in June and is expected to last three years, has not affected sales, downtown businessmen say.

Ernest Klutz, owner of the Mr. K stores, said he actually had his biggest volume of sales ever last weekend during the Fish Camp

"It wasn't the biggest in terms of dollars, but it was the largest number," Klutz said.

Despite that record, Klutz said there are problems.

"We've been hurt on parking, particularly on Thursday afternoons and Fridays," he said. "We've had quite a few customers complain."

Klutz said he thinks that pro-

blems might have been solved last week when city crews resurfaced some temporary lots downtown.

"Last Friday was good — I think that might have solved the problem," he said.

Charlie Funderbuck, owner of Mr. Nobody, 210 E. Long Ave., has tried to meet the construction problems with humor. He has sponsored a pun contest about the railroad relocation, and weekly runs advertisements poking fun at the situation.

"I'm trying to make lemonade out of a lemon," he said. "I'm hoping our customers are loyal enough to see us through this thing."

Funderbuck said several problems have occurred as construction continues.

"We're getting an awful lot of dust, then they broke a gas line and we were afraid to strike a match down here," he said. "We also had a couple of interruptions

of electrical service, but they've been pretty good about that."

Robert Caldwell, a city council member and owner of Caldwell Insurance Agency at 235 E. Main Ave., said he has had only one complaint from his customers.

"She was mad because she got a \$5 fine," Caldwell said. "People will park all day for a \$1 fine, but they won't for \$5."

City council approved the parking fine hike in an attempt to force long-term parking away from the immediate downtown area. Most of the business owners think it has worked.

"I haven't had any complaints about the parking fine," Klutz said. "They had to do it or the employees would use all the convenient parking. The \$5 fine gets the message across."

Jim Warren, of the state department of transportation's Shelby office, said the project is progress-

In exchange, Freightliner will pay \$75,000 to the city by Jan. 5, 1989 and an additional \$100,000 by Jan. 5, 1990.

The agreement pleased council members. Although the city will have to wait on the estimated \$347,000 in tax revenues from Freightliner, city officials say the promise of the money gives them a blueprint for future planning.

"Annexation is one of the few ways a city can grow," said Mayor Charles Black. "A lot of our ability to extend services to areas that need it depends on this money."

The possibility of an appeal weighed heavily in the council's decision to accept the agreement, said council member Faye Little. Regardless of the outcome, the losing side would have appealed, Mrs. Little said.

"It could have taken three to five years to get this done," Little said.

Please see DA/12B

Please see OFFICIAL S-125



Jerry Ruppe (from left), Fred Garger and Robert Spangler go over plans for waterline replacement for the railway relocation.

Robert Labear/The Gastonia

Fifty attend meeting

By Michael Schwartz

Gazette Staff Reporter

More than 50 people turned out for a meeting at the Oak Tree Plaza Saturday morning to hear whether or not a high-stakes game they are playing is illegal.

They were concerned that the game in which many of them are participants — an "airplane" pyramid scheme — were concerned over rumors that the game would be grounded.

The identity of the person who called the meeting could not be learned.

Gastonia Police Detective Steve Lynch said the game is part of the classic pyramid scheme.

Anyone caught playing the game faces a \$2,000 fine and six months in jail.

But participants in the game

say they are confused because they have heard that game is not illegal. "I read what was in the newspaper and heard the news on television, but I still have not heard anyone say why the game is illegal," said one woman.

But local police said the woman is wrong. They point that state law says that "Any person who shall establish, promote, operate or participate in any pyramid distribution plan, whereby a participant offers valuable consideration for the chance to receive a fee or compensation upon introduction of other participants shall be deemed to have participated."

The plane has a pilot, two copilots, four crew members and eight passengers. Each passenger pays \$500 for a ticket, and each passenger is expected to recruit one person.

RACE

FROM 1B

slowly," she said.

McAteer said government consolidation is not a feast to a dilemma of high said municipal-county union is essential to progress.

"City and county should work and help each other to serve the people more efficiently," he said that's happening now."

McAteer said in addition to collecting proper all municipalities in county officials have emergency 911 telephone and formed a console enforcement unit.

Both candidates say interested in helping provide with a more diverse base, but offered perspectives.

Mrs. Knowles said at Gaston takes industry to provide utility service improvements are needed in private sector to improve "livability."

McAteer said a politician is one who actively industry.

DA

FROM 1B

open to the office," Hamrick said.

Hamrick defeated Brown in the May primary by taking 53 percent of the 13,718 votes cast in the DA race. Hamrick backers mounted an unsuccessful write-in campaign in 1982. Hamrick took 22

percent of the votes in that election.

Brown, 57, was appointed district attorney in 1975, when the Gaston County judicial district was created. He has been re-elected in 1976, 1978 and 1982.

Brown is a native of Belmont and resides in eastern Gaston County, and he holds a law degree from the University of North Carolina.

RAILROAD

FROM 1B

ing well.

"We're right on schedule. We might even be a tad ahead of schedule," Warren said.

Officials say there will be no more additional street closings in the immediate future as work is centering on continued excavation of the railroad trench.

The project is designed to sink the downtown railroad tracks

below ground level and bridge streets which cross the tracks in an effort to eliminate at-grade crossings.

The project, expected to be completed in the spring of 1989, is viewed differently by those it might affect.

"The work itself isn't affecting business, in fact, it's drawing attention downtown," Klutz said.

"What I'd like to see is 20 people who think this is a good idea," Funderbark said. "I hate to look forward to two more years of this."

OFFICIALS

FROM 1B

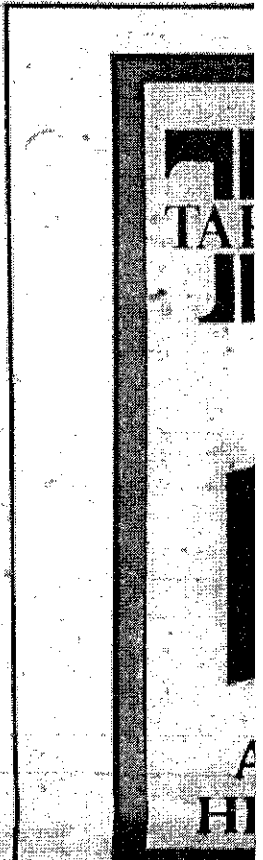
five years to settle this thing," Mrs. Little said. "I think we would have won if it had gone to a verdict, but it would have been tied up in court for years."

One key proponent of the agree-

county taxes are paid by the fiscal year, which begins July 1.

Because the effective date of annexation is June 30, 1990, Freightliner will pay taxes for fiscal year 1990-91.

Ironically, the Freightliner annexation was Mount Holly's first attempt at enlarging the city since 1963. Many council members admitted their dislike of the project with a



HomeTown

The Gastonia Gazette

Sunday, April 10, 1988
 ■ Opinion/2-3B
 ■ Business/4-7B
 ■ Obituaries/8B

TOWN BRIEFS

CHARLESTON

Town leases park from developer

Developer E. Graham Bell has again leased the 14th Street ballpark to the town.

The town approved a one-year, \$1 lease.

Bell also said he would regrade the park using his own crew and equipment. The town is seeking to re-establish a softball league, and Powell Field, recreation center, is near.

The town board also accepted Monday a federal contract to provide meals at the Senior Citizens Center on the lower floor of the community building. Meals are provided by the Gaston County Nutrition program.

GASTONIA

Downtown project nears midpoint

Work on the railroad relocation project downtown is nearing the halfway point, Gastonia's City Engineer Don Carmichael said, with the project close to being on schedule.

The project is "40 to 45 percent" complete, Carmichael said with the contractor on schedule for the project's June 1989 completion date. Carmichael also said the project should not cause any new detours within the next 30 days.

The \$11.5 million railroad relocation project began in September 1986 and will sink a 1.4 mile section of downtown railroad tracks onto a 35-foot trench and move them 160-180 feet north. The project will eliminate hazardous at-grade intersections.

Turning neglect into shrines

Couple preserves old tombstones

By Bruce Shuman

Special to the Gazette

DALLAS — It took L. F. Hoffman, a retired professor and attorney, 15 years of horse and buggy visits in the early 1960s to trace the genealogy of 17 Gaston and Lincoln county families back five generations.

The result was *Our Kin*, and without it, Rean Coringer Rhyne, 41, and her husband, Paul, 39, would have been lost to their own research of family histories.

"I call it my Second Bible," said Mrs. Rhyne, who along with her husband and several collaborators has documented family histories from thousands of tombstones.

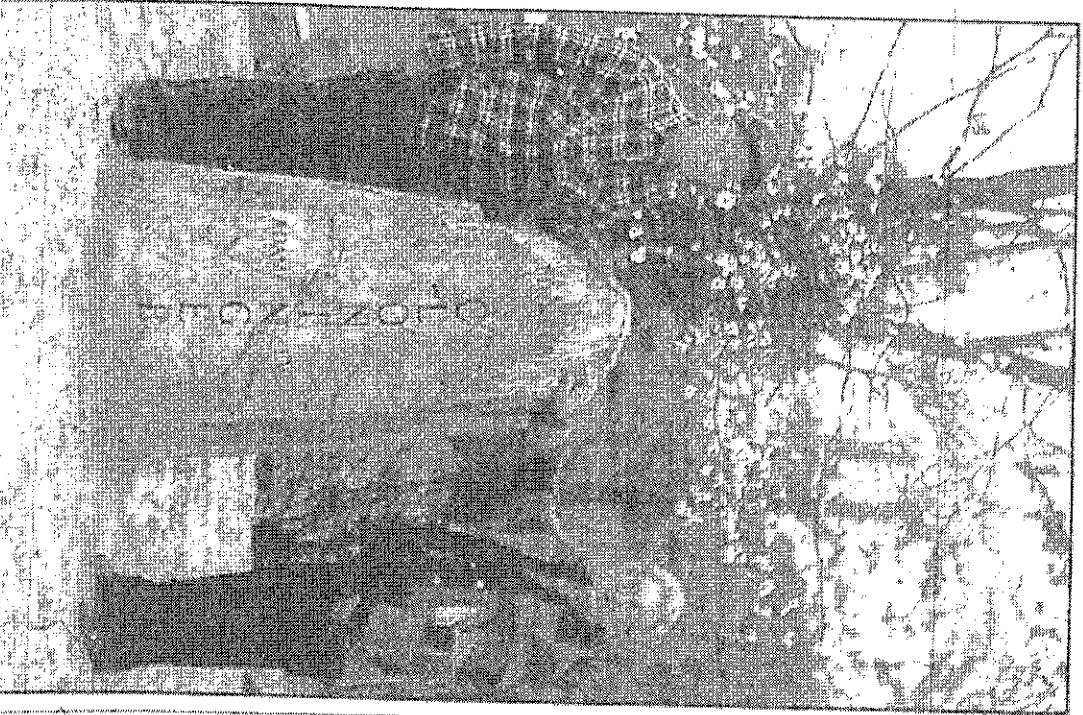
The Dalhas couple collected names, locations, dates of birth and death from 222 family graves dating back to the 1700s in Gaston and Lincoln. Their work is contained in five books, two of which are included at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

In addition, the Rhynes have restored tombstones ravaged by both vandals and the elements. They've poured new foundations for some and even recruited a monument company to clean others.

"We're trying to get people interested in preserving old family graveyards," Mrs. Rhyne said. "There has been a realization that we need to preserve these old sites."

Mrs. Rhyne got interested in the subject by chance. It started in 1973, when she visited a school to tell ghost stories to students, one of whom mentioned that there was a graveyard behind his family's home.

Curious, Mrs. Rhyne decided to follow up the lead, discovering that the gravesite contained the remains of her own ancestors. With the help of a few friends and family members, the Rhynes tore



Officers offered gratuities

Police policies prohibit gifts

By Mike Foley

Continued on page 7B

There's no such thing as a free lunch for Gastonia and Gaston County police, but free coffee, soft drinks and discounts on food are readily offered and accepted.

A survey of local restaurants, fast food outlets and convenience stores found that freebies are given to officers in uniform although both the county and city police departments have policies against accepting gratuities of any kind.

County Chief Thomas McCarthy said he strictly prohibits gifts of any kind. "The main thing that we want to do is establish that we're a professional organization and that accepting gratuities is not part of our game plan," McCarthy said. The problem occurs when someone gives you something and then turns around and wants a favor for what they've given you.

Mal Rodney Parrham, Gastonia's head of patrol officers, said the city's policy states officers cannot solicit gifts of any kind.

And for that reason they shouldn't accept them either," Parrham said. Parrham said some establishments expect officers to accept free food or drinks.

"I've seen some people get right upset when you try and pay full price," he said. Most local establishments say they prefer to make discounted food or drinks available to officers as a way of thanking them for their service. Foley's list of what some local restaurants and convenience stores offer or don't offer is on page 7B.

HomeTown

Wednesday, June 29, 1988
Business/2B
Regional Stocks/2B
Police news/3B

Section B

Railroad project late, over budget

By Mike Foley

Gastonia Staff Reporter

Gastonia's downtown railroad relocation project is behind schedule and over budget.

Project engineer Jerry Ruppe said work on the railroad relocation is running about 9 percent behind schedule and 2 percent over budget. Instead of being finished by June 1989, as scheduled, the project probably will not be finished until fall of 1989, Ruppe said.

But the North Carolina Department of Transportation engineer said figures like that are normal for such a large-scale project.

"It's still a little early to tell about the

final cost, but it looks like we'll end up over," he said. "Projects do normally overrun, especially when they're this large."

The delays, Ruppe said, were partly lost one thing that's caused the rest of the delay.

Gastonia officials say the delays do not affect the city's work. City Engineer Don Carmichael said all of the work on the project is being done by state contractors, including relocating city utility lines.

"All we're involved in is general site observation of the utility relocations," Carmichael said.

The next work to be done on the project,

Carmichael said, will be the hanging of two 24-inch water lines under the York Street bridge. He said the new lines will be connected during the week of July 4 when there is less water demand. Water will be cut off for a short time during the connection.

Carmichael said he is not surprised the project is lagging behind.

"We certainly want to see the project on schedule, but for a project of that size to be behind isn't too terribly out of the ordinary," he said.

Construction of the railroad project began in September 1986 after years of discussion and planning. Construction was expected to take about three years.

The project will sink a 1.4-mile section of railroad tracks through downtown into a trench at depths of as much as 30 feet. The project will also move the tracks 100 to 150 feet north. The project was designed to eliminate hazardous intersections and make rerouting of emergency vehicles safer.

Also included in the project is the widening of Long Avenue between Morris and Moderna streets and the elimination of Airline Avenue between Chester and Avon streets.

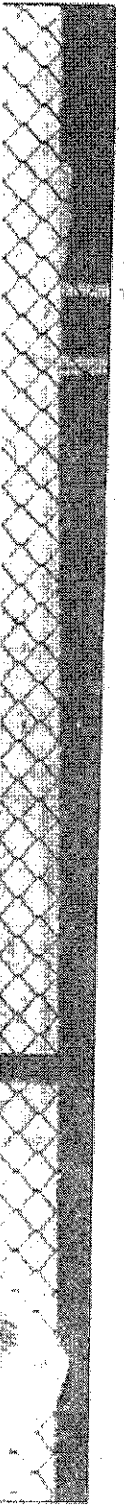
The project's total cost is estimated at \$1.5 million with the city paying about \$1.2 million and the state paying the remainder.

TOWN CHIEFS

ighted, it found

sighted by several the Cherryville area by wandered back to an area, said Steve Perry, enforcement officer reported seeing a big, about 4 p.m. on Foster than Road. Several people it with guns. Perry ned residents not to near, because they and a \$500 fine. If the manded, it could also erious, he said. o reason to kill it." "It didn't appear to do It's moved into an im-

The life of an easy rider



Today's headlines



Hornets' nest

TONIGHT'S GAME: The Charlotte Hornets (1-4) take on the New Jersey Nets (3-3) at the Charlotte Coliseum
TIPOFF: 7:35 p.m.
TV: None.
RADIO: WCCB (1270 AM) and WBT (1110 AM)
DETAILS: Page 1C

Haulers must take dru

WASHINGTON (AP) — Millions of transportation workers including pilots and truckers will be subject to random drug tests under a new federal directive that goes into effect in December 1989.

The Transportation Department announced the broad-ranging drug testing requirements Monday, and immediately the head of the airline pilots' union promised to fight the regulation both in Congress and in the courts.

The testing requirements cover all

types of transportation, including airlines, long-distance trucks and urban transit systems.

"The American people demand and expect a drug-free transportation system. These new rules will take us as far as practically possible toward that goal," Transportation Secretary Jim Burnley said at a news conference.

He acknowledged the tests likely will be challenged in the courts. The Supreme

Please see TESTS/2A

Gaston compan

By Bob Hallman
Gazette Business Editor

A federal directive calling for random drug testing of truck and bus drivers is being welcomed by Gaston County industries affected by it.

Included in the broad order from

BUSH After four days in the sun and surf, George Bush is racking the more serious business of assembling his White House team, meeting with the chancellor of West Germany and trying to calm nervous world financial markets.
Page 2A

SPACE The Soviet space shuttle Buran orbited the Earth twice today, ending with a flawless precision its unmanned hour, 25-minute maiden flight. The successful flight puts the Soviets into the shuttle program alongside the United States.
Page 2A

'AXES The incoming chairman of the House Budget Committee says tax increases will be needed next year to pay the legally required cuts in the federal deficit, despite President-elect George Bush's anti-tax stance.
Page 2A

RAVERY A 12-year-old girl who survived by playing dead after she was shot, beaten and left in a burning house is one of the bravest, strongest girls I know," a Okanogan sheriff says.
Page 3A

IMPLANTS A long-term study of women with breast implants shows no support for newly expressed concerns about a cancer risk, and years of experience also show implants are safe, plastic surgeons say.
Page 2B

ETH Dentures might be a thing of the past if tooth replacement techniques take root in America.
Page 2B

.1 Most college athletic coaches shun the rivalry associated with being ranked No. 1, but not Duke's Krzyzewski, whose Blue Devils are top-ranked.
Page 1C

ELS After having his ears try to work the ball into J.R. Reid most of last season, North Carolina basketball coach Dean Smith decided it was time for the Tar Heels to use their tactics. Now, he's done it.
Page 1C



State Rep. David Bumgardner joins others in crossing the new Marietta Street bridge.

Kermit Hull/The Gazette

Railroad relocation chugs on

New Marietta Street bridge now open

By Heidi Flick
Gazette Staff Reporter

Marietta's open. Trenton's not. Rankin's re-opened and Broad is closed.

The railroad relocation project downtown continues, changing traffic patterns along the way.

The first bridge over the lowered tracks opened Monday, when two-way traffic was allowed on Marietta Street. The construction of temporary tracks at Trenton Street means Trenton will remain closed between Main and Airline avenues for at least another week, said Filip Bombardier, a civil engineer with the city.

State Rep. David Bumgardner, Mayor Dick Garland and public works director Sam Wilkens, who attended opening ceremonies for the street Monday, were among a delegation in 1963 which first pushed state transportation officials for the project. Garland was then city attorney.

The three-year relocation project to sink the train tracks 30 feet and build four bridges to carry traffic downtown is still on schedule for completion next fall, said traffic engineer Don Lowe.

The warm temperatures that have lasted through the fall have helped keep the project on schedule and may make up for any delays caused by harsh winter weather, Lowe said.

Traffic was heavy the first day the Marietta bridge opened, Lowe said.

The subsequent closing of Broad Street did not tie up traffic.

The portion of Broad between Main and Long avenues will remain closed for about a year, while construction crews dig a trench for the tracks and construct the bridge.

A second bridge at York Street should open the first week of December and, at the same time, Ogden Street will be permanently closed, Lowe said.

When the one-way York Street bridge opens, Chester Street will be closed over the tracks until a bridge is constructed there, Bombardier said.

The newly constructed detour of Long Avenue, between Rhyme Street and Ozark Avenue, will be opened to traffic by December 1.

Welcome to the new D.C.

HomeTown

The Gaston Gazette

Friday, March 31, 1989
 ■ Business/2-3B
 ■ Stocks/2-3B
 ■ Opinion/4B

Section B

TOWN BRIEFS

GASTONIA

New bridge opens today

A new bridge will open today allowing Gastonia motorists to travel east and west on the new Long Avenue and N. C. 7 without being diverted at Modena Street, city officials said.

The new bridge is related to the railroad relocation project, which has prompted detours along the way.

Motorists driving west on N.C. 7 have been forced to turn right or left at Modena Street, but with the bridge opening they'll be able to drive through to Long Avenue.

A ribbon cutting ceremony was set for 8:30 a.m. today.

The project involves sinking a 1+ mile section of railroad tracks 30 feet below ground level.

The relocation is expected to cost \$1.2 million, with the city paying relocating utility lines.

LINCOLNTON

Fund-raiser won't benefit Gaston

By Heidi Flick
 and Bo Petersen
 Gazette Staff Reporters

GASTONIA — A charity fund-raiser soliciting donations from local businesses won't leave any of the money in Gaston County.

The organizers of a circus fund-raiser closed down an American Handicapped Association phone bank on Clay Street this week after soliciting donations and mailing appeals to local businesses under the heading "Greater Gastonia Area Campaign."

The AHA has no local chapter or North Carolina office. Money raised will go to the Chicago office, which has a staff of three. The AHA raised money here this month

through ticket sales for a circus booked at Hunter-Hess High School, and through an appeal letter worked to sound as if donations would be used to send children or handicapped adults to the performance.

The letter, signed by AHA Director Richard Guerra, says, "As you may know, it takes a great deal of preparation and coordination to properly arrange for the distribution of 1,000 tickets to the area's children and elderly."

But donations do not pay for children's tickets, Guerra said from his Chicago office. The money will be used to start a computer network, he said.

AHA is sponsoring the International All-Star Circus in two shows at 3 and 6 p.m. Sunday, said Ann Elmore of Events Inter-

national, a Sarasota, Fla., a booking agent.

It is one of several Florida companies which book acts such as circuses through charity sponsors.

"We will donate part of our door take to the American Handicapped Association," she said. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$8. The circus organization hands out 1,000 free tickets to children under 13 and handicapped adults, she said.

Most of the free tickets were sent to Gaston County Schools and distributed to students, said Dean Brown, a Missions counselor.

Guerra said his organization often uses a show such as the circus to introduce itself to the community.

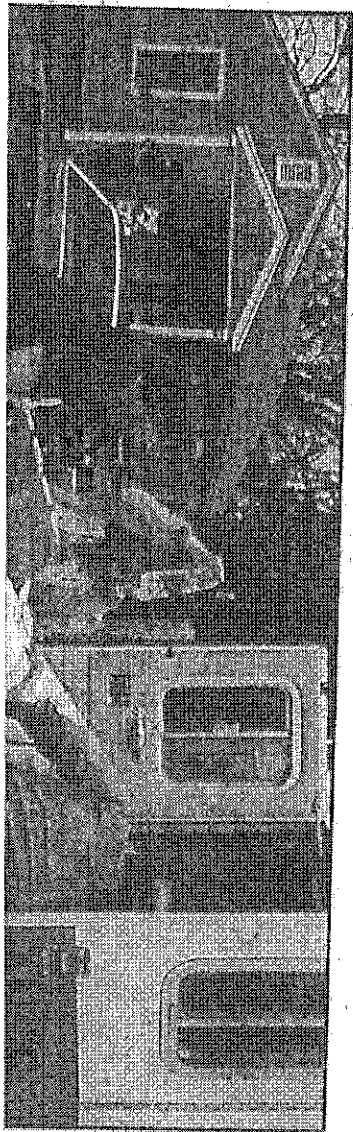
Once costs are covered, the booking agent splits the ticket money raised 50-50 with AHA, Guerra said. "That means we receive about 10 to 15 percent of the total ticket sales," he said.

A paid money-raiser, Tom Hammond, was hired to handle the local appeal, as a three-way thing," said El president Jim Normark. Hammond is paid 35 percent of any money raised.

That 50-50 split also applies to any other money Hammond raised, Normark said. "There are expenses in conjunction with it, like any other money-raising project," Normark said.

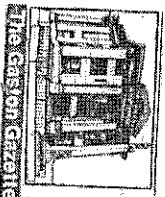
Guerra said he started AHA in 1985. It is a non-profit, tax free organization whose

Please see CIRCUS/8B



Dredging project drifts along

By Bo Petersen
 Gazette Staff Reporter
 CHAMBERLON — An 11-year-old project to dredge the South Fork River



HomeTown

Monday, April 17, 1989
Business/2B
Editorial/4-5B
Comics/6-7B

TOWN BRIEFS

DELMONT

Special Olympics games planned

This year's Gaston County Special Olympics competition will begin with an opening ceremony featuring two basketball games on April 23 at Belmont Abbey College's Wheeler Center.

As part of the ceremony, a team made up of area celebrities will face the Belmont Abbey men's basketball team in a preliminary contest to a game between Special Olympic teams from Gaston Mills and West Street School.

Clare Boozer, the popular matriarch personally on WMIX radio in Charlotte, will serve as master of ceremonies when the opening ceremony begins at 7 p.m.

The celebrity basketball team will include Mark DeBorty, Jerry Peterson and Les Dodson, all three of whom played at the University of North Carolina. Also scheduled to participate are former N.C. State star Tommy Hartson and ex-professional football player Roman Gabriel.

Henry the Charlotte Hornets' mascot, will also be on hand to cheer on as well as Hanner, the new mascot for the Charlotte Knights baseball team.

Following the two games, many of the celebrities will be available to sign autographs for spectators. After the Tuesday night activities, about 100 Special Olympians will gather at the field adjacent to Wheeler Center for the remaining events in the annual competition.

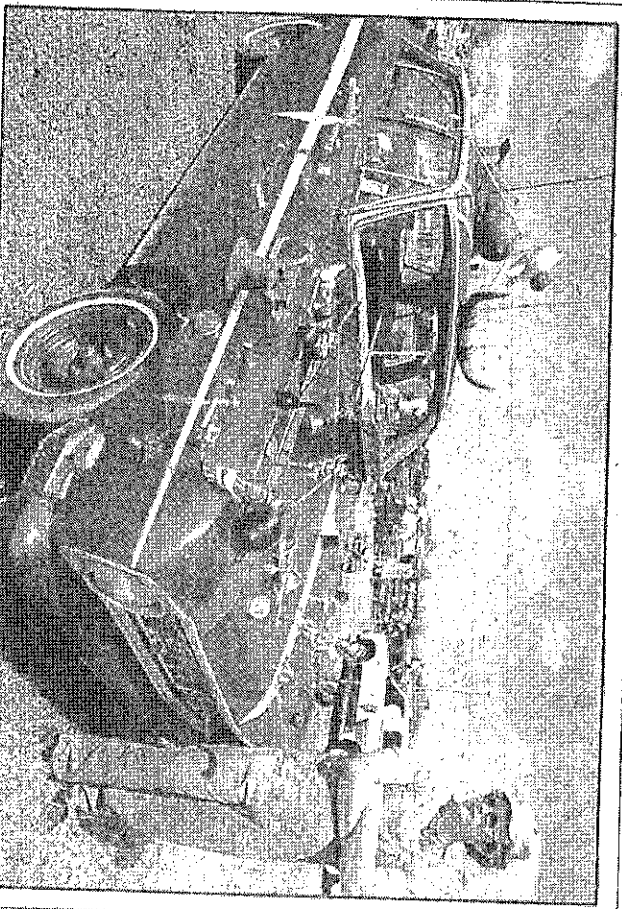
GASTONIA

Part of city street to be closed

Beginning Tuesday morning, motorists won't be able to use part of Oakland Street, which workers will close in the railroad reconstruction project.

It will close permanently between the new Long Avenue and the existing railroad tracks, city and state officials said. Motorists can use either routes, including Marnera Street, which allows for north-south travel.

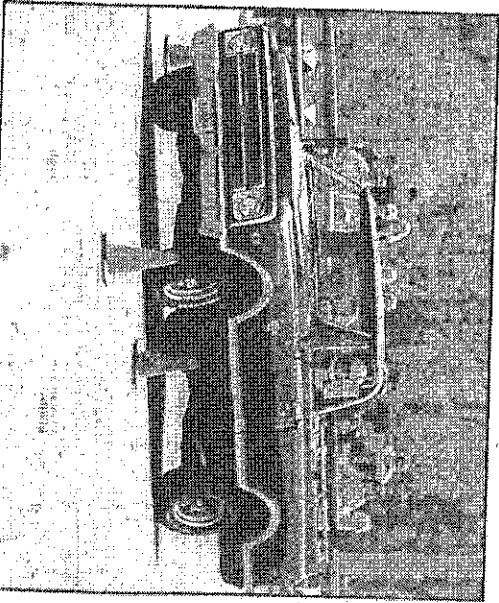
The project, which has been planned for more than 20 years, involves staking a 1.4-mile section of railroad



Get your motor running

Gaston County teens got a chance Sunday to show off their wheels in a controlled setting — and not on Franklin Boulevard — at the first annual Gaston County Teen Autofest. Reggie Stone (above) of Stanley shows off his somewhat customized Ford Falcon. Andy Ritter, 18, (right) of Gastonia maneuvers his Chevrolet pickup through the obstacle course.

John Clark/The Gazette



Police seeking shooting suspect

By Mark Ippolito
Gastonia Staff Reporter

"We first thought the child had been shot. (Adriano) was charged with both of

SECTION 3

Garage study proposed

Gastonia, county looking to combine common services

By Michael M. Murray
Gastonia Staff Reporter

GASTONIA — Gaston County must pay for an independent study if it wants to consolidate its maintenance garage with the city, officials say.

City Central Services Director Keith Davis said the city staff can't have time to conduct an in-house study.

"Everyone is so busy right now with day-to-day operations," Davis said. "I personally don't know if we have a lot of time to stop what we're doing and conduct an in-house garage consolidation study."

It might be better if the county hired a consultant to study the possible consolidation, Davis said.

A consultant would help determine whether existing buildings could be used for a new building is needed.

Staffing, shifts and other matters would be reviewed, he explained.

County Manager Phil Henny said the county will gather some estimates for a study and incorporate the amount in budget discussions.

The next budget takes effect July 1.

"It's our request," he said.

"It (consolidation) certainly seems like a good idea."

Just asking to combine services at one location is the easy part, Davis said.

It will get more difficult when officials try to sort out priorities for maintaining trucks and other vehicles, he added.

Details would be worked out between County Manager Gary Hicks, Henny and the separate staffs.

"I think that would be a tough one," Davis said.

"You can't just go to the city manager and say, 'Which vehicle do you want to fix — the city or county's?'"

Merging services is a recurrent topic for county and city officials. Most recently, it was discussed at a joint meeting of the Gaston County commissioners and the City Council.

The idea was brought up by committee chairman David Ward, who said it could save taxpayers' money and reduce

Development

Gaston weaves way through traffic woes

By Heidi Flick

Gastonia Staff Reporter

GASTONIA — As Gaston County continues to grow, traffic problems weigh heavy on officials.

Getting traffic to and from Mecklenburg County is the primary concern of planners and no improvements to I-85 and U.S. 79 will be enough to handle commuters.

Traffic within Gaston County also causes worries, but one solution is in the works.

After 31 years of discussion and negotiations, the city has received \$13.9 million for Hudson Boulevard, an east-west route will connect both sides of the city.

City planners say Hudson will relieve the burden of traffic on Garrison and Franklin boulevards. Construction should start in 1991 and be completed in 1995.

Hudson will be designated as a limited access highway with a median and two interchanges. Residents will have 10 neighborhoods along Hudson, so city officials are already petitioning the city council to adopt their names. Uncertainty, saying interchanges would be their streets as shortcuts to Garrison or Franklin boulevards.

Two more southern lanes around Gastonia have been proposed.

One runs through northern York County, South Carolina, and will connect U.S. 29 in the west to I-77 in the east. S.C. 161 will be widened.

Downtown railroad relocation project running behind schedule

Project not likely to be finished until June 1990

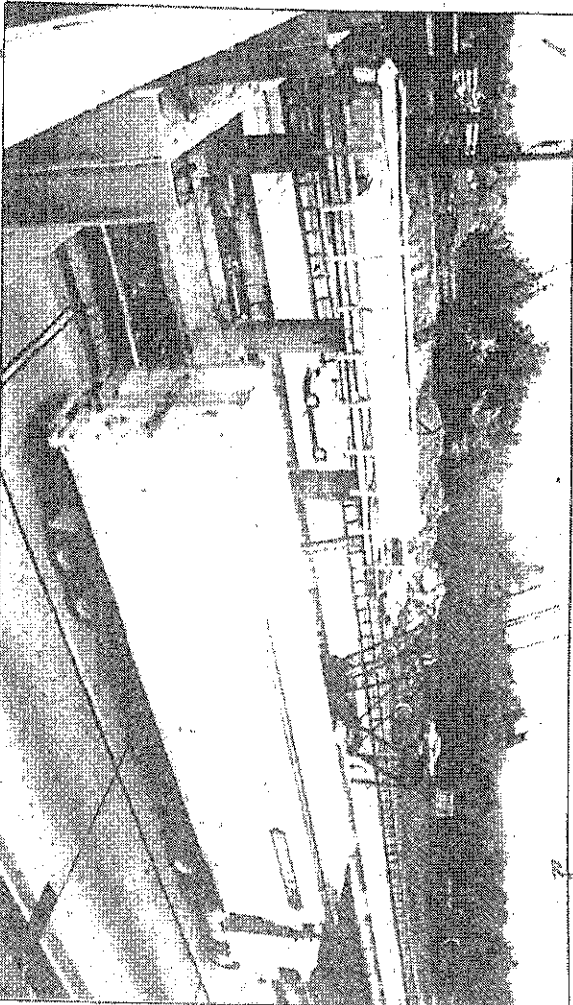
By Mitchell M. Murray

Gastonia Staff Reporter

GASTONIA — The railroad relocation project, which began in 1988, is a year behind schedule.

Jerry Buppe, resident engineer for the North Carolina Department of Transportation, said there has been less than anticipated progress on the project among the state, utilities, the city and Southern Railway.

The project, which has been planned for more than 20 years, involves starting a 1.5-mile section of railroad tracks 30 feet below



Improvements to I-85 is one of the top road construction projects in Greater Gaston.

ed from two to four or five lanes. Construction is still six years away.

The newest proposal for a saghorn loop to connect Gaston and Mecklenburg counties would build a four or five lane road south

ground level. It's expected to cost \$11.3 million, with the city paying \$1.2 million of that initially for relocating utility lines. Buppe said the project may not be finished until June 1990.

A new section of Long Avenue, rebounded by the project, opened last month between 13th and 14th streets. New west-bound traffic on North Carolina 7 can now be diverted being directed at Medina Street.

Work is progressing on the Chester Street bridge and other aspects of the project, including slopes, city traffic engineer Don Love said.

When open, it will allow for one-way traffic moving south. One-way north-bound traffic uses the York Street bridge, which opened

subcommittee to work with Mecklenburg on building the road. "This is just the first, small step in a very long process," said George Cobb, a state planner who works in Gaston County.

Meanwhile, work on Interstate 85 near Belmont continues. Crews are carrying out two interchange along the stretch and connecting the Belmont-Mount Holly exit into a full interchange. Work should continue for two more years.

Gaston legislators have worked to clear the way for the project. The chairman of the project, from Ironville to Hickory, is scheduled for completion after 1996. It will include 17.9 miles and cost \$60 million.

Gaston County Commissioners Chairman David Ward and vice-chairman Joe Carpenter have taken active roles in working for regional transportation problem solving. The two are part of the Carolina's Growth Coalition, a group of commissioners chairman from 14 counties surrounding Charlotte.

Carpenter was named chairman of a transportation task force that will set the agenda for a regional transportation committee. The task force has to decide what forms of transit the region needs to develop. Alternatives include a light rail system, airports, highways and a push for carpools or other forms of mass transit.

The coalition already has taken plans for another east-west thoroughfare that will be north of Gastonia.

late last year.

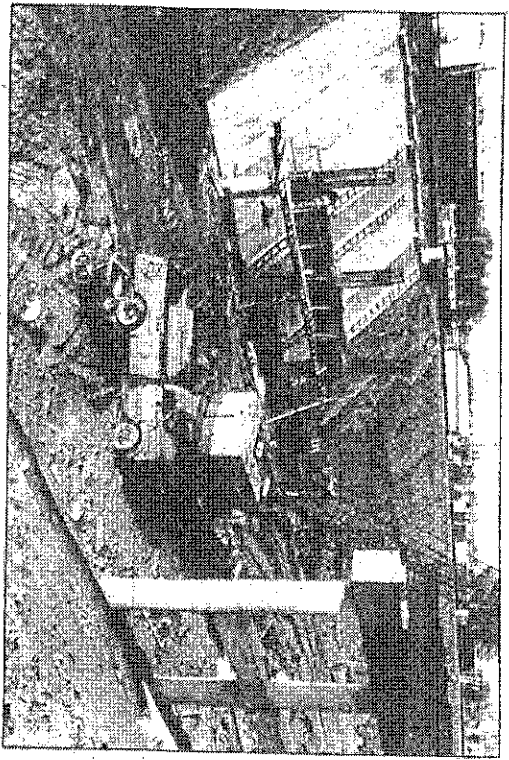
The Chester Street bridge will be closed to downtown traffic, Love said.

"The major (project) impact is right now, especially with north-south traffic flow. We're really at our worst point right now," Love said.

Clarkland Avenue was left open as long as possible, city and local officials said, and the contractor needed to dig in that direction.

Love said the only remaining traffic signal at the corner of Main Street and East Franklin Boulevard to make it easier for southbound motorists to turn left from Moravia Street to East Franklin Boulevard.

"It has more traffic than it can handle efficiently," Love said. "It (was) just a matter of getting everything tied together."



The railroad relocation project is behind schedule.



Hometown

Sunday, October 15, 1989
■ Opinion /2-3B
■ Business /4-7B
■ Obituaries /8B

The Gaston Gazette

Section

TOWN BRIEFS

GASTONIA

Police find suspect in three robberies

A man described as polite and clean-cut was charged with committing three armed robberies after he was arrested Saturday following a convenience store holdup.

Ray Sherrill Goins, 24, of 808 Casawba St., Belmont, was charged by the Gastonia Police Department for robbing three stores at gunpoint.

The first charge is for a Sept. 16 robbery at the Gate Station at 2529 Bessemer City Road.

According to police, a robber threatened clerk Judy Bebbler with a sawed-off shotgun and took \$3,600.

On Sept. 30, Diana M. Lowery reported a polite man holding a .25-caliber pistol robbed her of \$30 from the Singer Sewing Center in Akeps Shopping Center.

Goins also was charged with using a .25-caliber pistol to rob Handy Pantry at 1448 W. Garrison Blvd. of food stamps and \$111 cash Saturday.

Police pulled Goins' car over on Garrison after the robbery. Officers reported finding a .25-caliber pistol under the front seat.

Goins was held at Gaston County Jail on a \$10,000 secured bond.

KINGS MOUNTAIN

Injured cutter out on a limb

An unidentified man had to be rescued Saturday afternoon from 30 feet up in a pine tree at a residence on 1881 Jackson Street by members of the Kings Mountain Rescue Squad.

The man was injured while cutting a 10-foot section out of the top of a tree that had been damaged by Hurricane Hugo.

When he cut through the trunk with a chain saw, his cut section swung into him, knocking him onto a nearby branch, said Lt. R.S. McDaniel of the squad.

Held on the tree by a make-shift safety rope, the man could not climb down because of injuries to his right arm, McDaniel said.

Two rescue workers scaled the tree, tied a rescue harness around the injured man and lowered him halfway down through the branches. Two city electric workers arrived with a bucket truck and hauled the man the rest of the way to the ground.

He was taken to Gaston Memorial Hospital.

GASTONIA

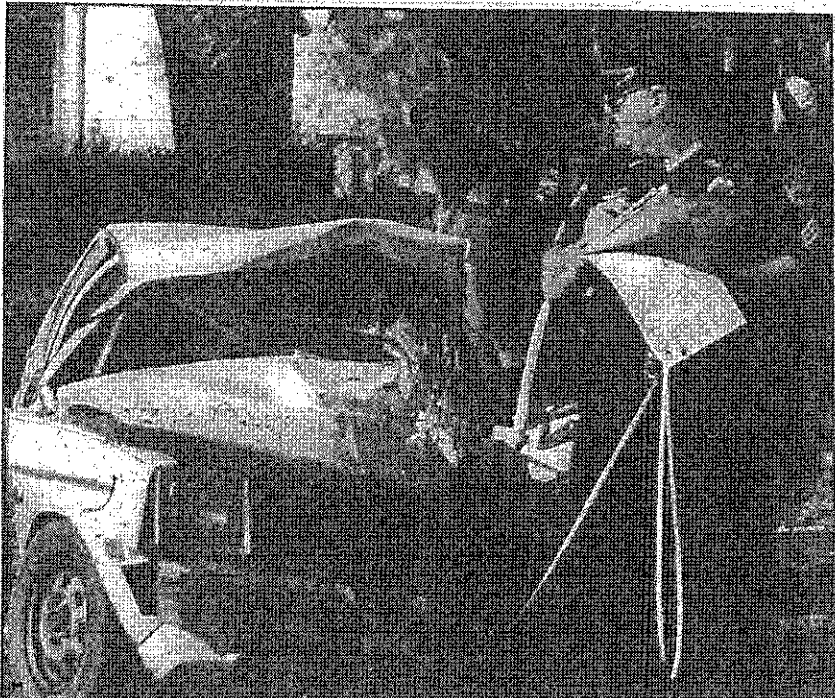
Bridge to close for three weeks

Motorists who pass through the intersection at Long Avenue and U.S. 221 will have to use alternative routes beginning Monday morning.

Crews will block the entire intersection so work can continue on the Chester Street bridge as part of the railroad relocation project.

The intersection will be closed to traffic for about three weeks, said Ralph Queen of the N.C. Division of Highways.

The railroad relocation project, which is scheduled to be finished late next year, will sink the railroad in a 30-foot trench that will be about 14 miles long.



Sgt. R.B. Monaco of the Bessemer City Police Department could not find the cause of a fatal car crash.

Mother killed in car crash

Police can't explain the reason two cars met head-on in street

By Heidi Flick
Gastonia Staff Reporter

BESSEMER CITY — A 21-year-old woman was killed in a head-on car crash on a residential street Saturday afternoon.

Investigators were puzzled at the cause of the wreck.

Martha Harris Street, who lived on Chum Street in Bessemer City, died at the scene of the two-car wreck on Maine Avenue at 3:45 p.m. Saturday, said Sgt. R.B. Monaco of the Bessemer City Police Department.

Mrs. Street's 13-year-old stepdaughter, Tammy Marie Street, was riding in the front seat. The girl was injured in the wreck and was admitted to Gaston Memorial Hospital, where she was listed Saturday night in stable condition.

The driver of the other car, La Mia Howell Patterson, 29, of 1256 Bough Street, Gastonia, also was taken to GMH with injuries to her face and arms. She was in stable condition Saturday, a spokeswoman said.

Mrs. Street apparently died of chest injuries sustained when she hit the steering wheel, Monaco said. She was not wearing a seat belt, but her stepdaughter was.

Residents along the street said as many as five drivers saw the wreck, but none stayed to give police an account, Monaco said.

The 1981 Chevrolet driven by Mrs. Street and the 1978 Monte Carlo driven by Ms. Patterson hit head-on on a straight stretch of the two-lane road, Monaco said.

Neither driver was going over the 35 mph speed limit, Monaco said.

"There appeared to be no outside distractions, no one was avoiding any hazards, and there were no skid marks," Monaco said. "One of the cars just crossed the center line."

No charges have been filed in the wreck.

Crew members from the Gaston Emergency Services, Dulles Rescue Squad and the Bessemer City Fire Department helped at the scene.

Food fraud causes call for agents

Commissioner wants Social Services action

By Will Macdonald
Gastonia Staff Reporter

GASTONIA — Following the arrest of three area residents on charges of lying to get more than \$5,000 worth of free food, county commissioners are considering hiring more welfare fraud workers.

Commissioner Porter McAtear said the arrests show the need for more Department of Social Services investigators to look into fraud by welfare recipients.

The department now has only one investigator.

On Thursday, three Gastonia



Cramerton celebrates tall tale of wrestling

By Will Macdonald
Gastonia Staff Reporter

CRAMERTON — It started so innocently.

Attorney Michael Lands, accustomed to proving things in the courtroom, wanted to disprove wrestling.

But as he tried to debunk those grunts and groans that come with head locks and over-the-shoulder body tosses, he began to realize that he envied the likes of Hulk Hogan.

Soon he was addicted.

Wrestling became his life, in and out of the courtroom. He searched jurys with his wrestling progress into acquitting his clients.

But finally he decided to stop. His life was being consumed by wrestling.

He founded Wrestling Anonymous.

With that story, Lands stepped into the ring at the bullshooters contest, part of the Celebrate Cramerton festival Saturday.

Four others also shot the bull. But in the end, it was Land's tall tale of wres-

Day care too loud for some

By Michael M. Murray
Gastonia Staff Reporter

GASTONIA — The noise children make at day-care centers may prompt the city to limit the size of new centers in residential neighborhoods.

City officials have considered restricting centers before, and recent plans to build a new center on Redford Drive have kindled interest.

Sunshine Pre-School plans to relocate to a new 4,000-square-foot building behind St. Paul's Lutheran Church at 24 Redford Drive.

However, city planner John Demay and a church official said people have questioned how a day-care center fits open in their neighborhood.

Demay said centers are permitted on church lots in residential zones and single-family homes, but that could change.

Lamar Fleming, church property committee chairman, wonders why there's any fuss.

"We feel like we're doing something that's good," he said. "We've got property that's not being used."

The Gastonia Planning Commission will discuss the issue with Demay, who said no existing centers would be affected, including the planned center at the church.

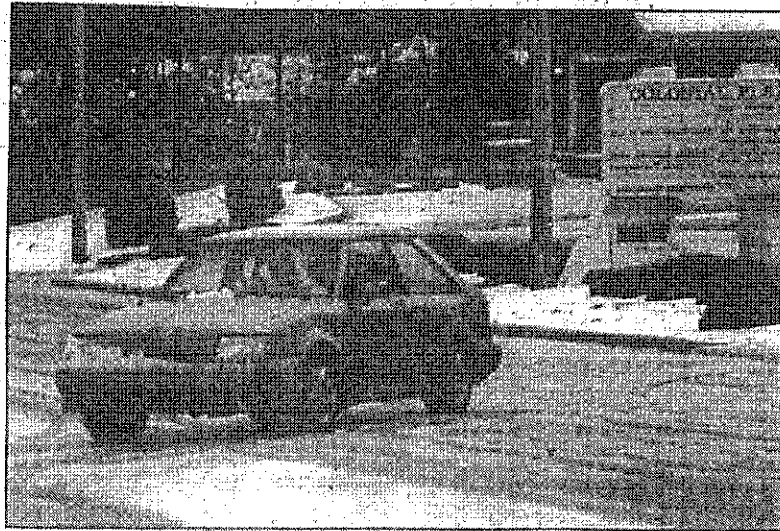
Demay said Gastonia may model other cities that adopted regulations to prohibit large centers in residential neighborhoods.

It may not be a good idea to build one for 50 kids, but it probably wouldn't hurt to open a much smaller center, Demay said.

Although some people don't appreciate the noise, "some people like to have them near their homes," Demay said.

The city may insist on minimum lot sizes, buffers and set a maximum number of children in a center within a residential neighborhood, he said.

Sunshine Pre-School, which has 7 children, had leased space at St. Andrew A.R. Presbyterian Church at 3131 Erskin Drive. It temporarily leases rooms from Covenant Baptist Church at the same location but must relocate because the church needs the space, center official said.



One driver could not negotiate a hill on Pembroke Road in Gastonia, sliding to the shoulder.

Jeff Mathon/The Gazette

W I E O

By Will Denise
Gazette Staff Reporter

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Miko Mays found his windshield ice-coated Saturday.

Jeff Mathon/The Gazette

Storm puts fi

By Will Macdonald
Gazette Staff Reporter

GASTONIA — Santa sat alone at Gaston Mall on Saturday morning as slick roads kept parents and their children at home.

What was supposed to be a blockbuster sales day turned out to be a fizz for Gaston merchants, who said the cold, wet weather sent shivers down to their pocketbooks.

Every day between Thanksgiving and Christmas, especially Saturdays, new

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Most of North C

By The Associated Press

At least six people died on icy roads during a winter storm that dumped snow and ice over most of North Carolina, officials said.

Winter weather advisories were issued Saturday for the state east of the mountains except the Outer Banks.

"It's a madhouse out there with all these wrecks," Mecklenburg County police Sgt. K.N. Helms said. "These people can't drive when it's dry."

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No preaching in prison for newest janitor Bakker

ROCHESTER, Minn. (AP) — Former television evangelist Jim Bakker will do "absolutely no" pastoral work at the Federal Medical Center, where he has been assigned to do janitorial work at 11 cents an hour, says a prison spokesman.

The PTL Club founder, who is serving a 45-year sentence after being convicted of fraud, is among 20 "resident hall orderlies" in charge of cleaning the residency hall in which Bakker and other general population prisoners live, said the prison spokesman, John Chreno.

The assignment became permanent Thursday after Bakker had worked temporarily in the position for about 2½ weeks, Chreno said.

Bakker works from 7:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Monday through Friday with a 20-minute lunch break. The 37½-hour work week is standard at the Rochester facility, as is the 11-cent-per-hour wage, Chreno said.

Bakker was assigned the position because of a need for janitorial work. Bakker has not commented on his assignment, Chreno said.

Chreno said he could not comment on whether Bakker has attended religious services at the facility since his arrival.

Bakker was convicted of 24 counts of fraud and conspiracy in federal court in Charlotte in October for defrauding followers of the former PTL Club ministry of \$3.7 million.

East German

Struggling Communists to become Socialists

From wire reports

EAST BERLIN — After a turbulent, all-night meeting marked by bitterness over abuses of power and privilege by its former leaders, the East German Communist Party on Saturday elected Gysi.

Gregor Gysi, a 41-year-old lawyer and reformer known for defending the rights of the opposition, to the new post of chairman.

The extraordinary party congress has



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Gastonia expects big leap forward

Planning to bear fruit as city looks to 1990

By Michael M. Murray
Gazette Staff Reporter

GASTONIA — As 1989 nears an end, the city is immersed in projects that reflect progress and signify how former "pacesetters" fared.

The city proudly kicked off a \$80,000 land-use study in October. It will, in part, focus on utilities, annexation, transportation, vacant land and the potential for new jobs.

Similar studies have been contemplated for years but no one followed through.

One attempt in the late 1960s loosely

Analysis

touched on the city and county.

"I talked about growth and development in a very broad brush," city Planning Director Ed Mann said.

"To wait 20 years to have another one seems to be a long time," Mayor James H. "Nick" Garland said.

THE RAILROAD RELOCATION project, which is a year from completion, also endured a political struggle. Another victim is the idle plan to replace the outdated Union Road airport.

But there aren't direct penalties for procrastination.

A citizen's committee spent the year assembling a whopping \$35 million road package that the council may decide on in January and voters could face in a May referendum.

"We're 18 years behind," said Ed Stowe, chairman of the committee. "There was just little support for it over the years."

As the committee prepared for a \$5 million road package that voters approved in 1960, it was stymied by the amount of other road work the city needed.

"We've been stuck ever since," Stowe said.

WHILE THE ROAD COMMITTEE was at work, the city fueled an idea for

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GASTONIA: A leap forward

GASTONIA FROM 1A

a civic center with a \$38,500 study. It was an idea others had refused to explore since it surfaced in the 1950s.

"It's late in coming," Garland said.

Maybe the city found itself taking the lead because the private sector didn't, he said.

While the study is incomplete, a consultant already has seen the need. The tough part is figuring out what kind to build and how to pay for it.

Officials estimate a new airport will cost more than \$15 million. About seven years ago, the figure was \$11 million. Perhaps the city and taxpayers would have saved millions if the airport and other construction projects were finished, or at least started, years ago.

City planners say they don't spend enough time planning. Instead, they grapple with a flood of zoning issues.

"Maybe we were caught up in major day-to-day crisis or priorities. That's where the focus was, the here and now," Munn said.

OFFICIALS TALK about creating a long-term planning position. They may even hire someone someday.

Early next year, a city committee will consider a request for a planner to work on annexations, developments and other assignments.

The Gastonia Planning Commission may even devote more meetings to planning, departing from the abundance of zoning matters.

"I hope the (current council and the new one) lay the groundwork others can build on, augment and improve," Garland said.

He also said planning won't be limited to the city but will involve regional concerns.

Officials didn't simply concentrate on long-range projects or issues in 1989. The city's agenda included a busy year of routine business as well as controversy, such as when the council infuriated the dry contingent by approving alcohol sales at Sims Park.

In balancing its budget, the council cut the 42-cent property tax rate by 10 cents to counter property revaluation.

THE COUNCIL ALSO lowered electricity rates, approved bills for a \$20 million sewer plant, raised utility rates and endorsed an electronic message sign at C&K Federal Savings Bank.

Last spring the city unveiled new utility bills that people can actually read. Previously, information was crammed onto bills not larger than postcards.

Frank Rundle, utility accounts administrator, said staff had proposed the new bills for at least five years, but the item hadn't survived budget cuts.

At times, the city has been decisive and showed forthrightly.

It acquired more than 150 acres near Lowland Dairy Road to prepare for a water treatment plant that will handle water needs late into the next century.

"I don't know how much it would save," said public works director Sam Wilkins, adding that savings would probably be in the thousands.

Through tough negotiations, the city also avoided paying about \$700,000 in garbage-dumping penalties Gaston County sought when the city previously refused to sign a now-satisfied incinerator agreement.

In addition, it pledged ahead with the much anticipated computerized traffic signal system. At one point, the city could have paid for the entire \$1.4 million project and put it together sooner. But it saved \$700,000 by waiting for the state to chip in.

AMID THE SMART moves, the city has avoided or simply waited too long to act on others.

City Manager Gary Hicks didn't realize job vacancies and other factors had created a \$1.3 million salary lag in the personnel fund by mid-1988. Councilman

Roger Keyler pointed out the oversight for the final budget.

Assistant City Attorney Melissa Mages left in October 1988, but the city council didn't bother to fill the vacancy until October.

Former Staff Attorney Gaynell Hussey, who got the job, still does the work of two until the city fills the staff attorney post.

"I think it could have been handled more effectively and efficiently," Garland said.

Throughout the year, the city always seemed strapped for money, especially when capital projects grossly outweighed projected income in March.

The budget Hicks put together didn't allow for new workers, and requests for 75 new employees are pending.

LAST SUMMER the City Council dipped into a \$500,000 insurance reserve and withdrew \$280,000, primarily to bury power lines behind downtown buildings. The Central City Association literally begged the city for the money.

One cost-saving measure, which for months seemed dead, might surface early next year as the council considers reducing back-door garbage collections from two times a week to one.

In 1990 the city will follow through with the civic center proposal, the seemingly endless airport issue, the bond referendum, work with the land-use study consultant and pass another budget.

Again, it's likely the city also will continue to struggle with a pay plan that's been revised so many times that efforts to pacify one person sometimes creates another inequity for someone else.

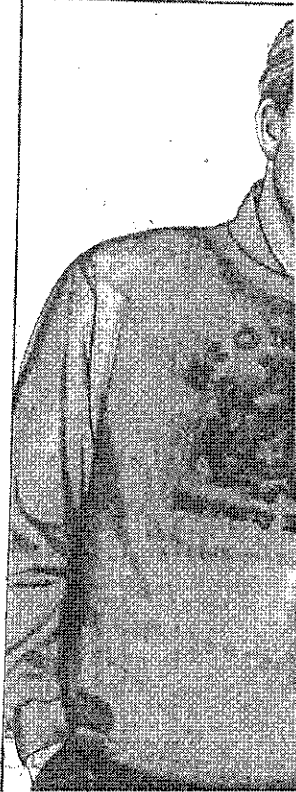
For now, Gastonia seems poised to plow ahead. But like most any government, the pace might look sluggish and the city will have trouble edging past even the slowest snail.

Time and action will reveal what type of speed Gastonia travels in 1990.

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TOMETOWN

Track opening expected in fall

By Michael M. Murray
Gastonia Staff Reporter

GASTONIA — The railroad relocation construction schedule says the project will be done in June, but Ralph Queen knows it won't happen.

Queen, a project engineer, said next November is more realistic.

Other completion dates have come and gone, but Queen said the fall prediction should hold up.

"That should be a good estimate," Queen said. "I really think we're over the hurdle."

A 1.4-mile stretch of track will be placed in a 30-foot trench. It's expected to cost about \$11.5 million, including about \$1.2 million to relocate utilities.

John Houser, president of the Central City Association, said the delay is troubling.

"I wish it could be done tomorrow. I wish we could go forward," he said. But he added he remains optimistic the



Karmel Hall/The Gazette
Trench project faces further delay.

661 really think we're over the hurdle. **59**

Ralph Queen
Project engineer

project ultimately will help revitalize downtown.

City officials also said bridges spanning the trench will offer relief to motorists who get delayed by trains that pass just north of Main Avenue.

Next month, crews may begin laying Southern-Norfolk tracks. Trains might use the western end of the trench by next summer, Queen said.

Traffic flows north and south on Marjetta Street, but the project shut down Broad Street and Oakland Avenue south of Long Avenue, which opened to east and west traffic last spring.

Northbound motorists rely on the York

Street bridge by next June, the adjacent Chester Street bridge will accommodate southbound traffic, Queen said.

This fall, the Chester Street and Long Avenue intersection was blocked for nearly a month while workers began connecting the bridge to Long Avenue.

Queen said the new Broad Street bridge won't open until the project is completed.

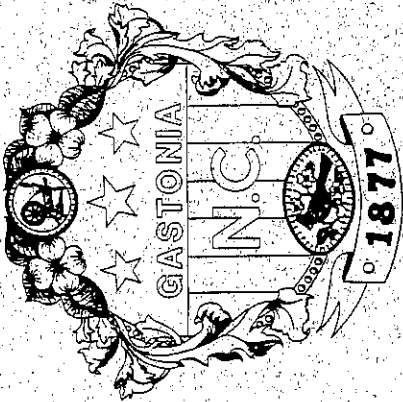
Since it started in mid-1986, the project has been plagued by a series of delays, often related to scheduling problems.

For example, a severe drought in 1987 prevented crews from doing utility work, Queen said. The project was postponed another time when railroad work conflicted with a city project at its water plant north of downtown, Queen added.

In addition, workers have encountered technical problems when they excavated near a water table, Queen said.

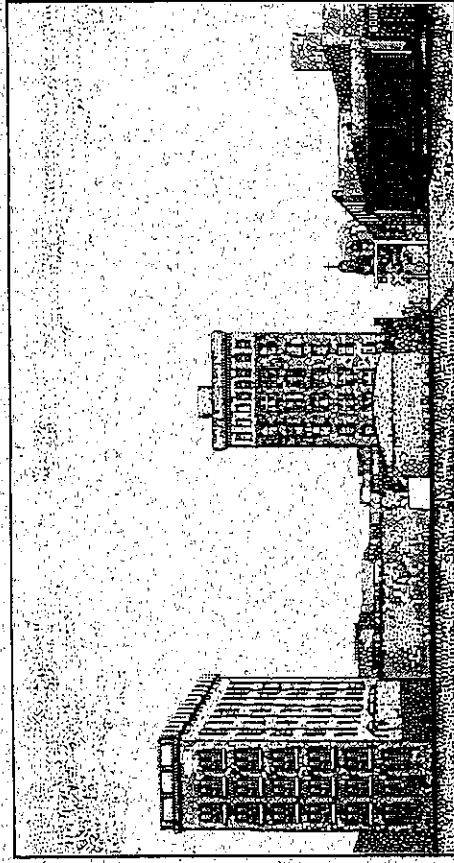
Student

Don't tangle with a prince



DEDICATION

LONG AVENUE - RAILROAD RELOCATION



"This project illustrates the exciting results when federal, state and local governments work in cooperation with private industry."

— Thomas J. Harrelson
Secretary of Transportation

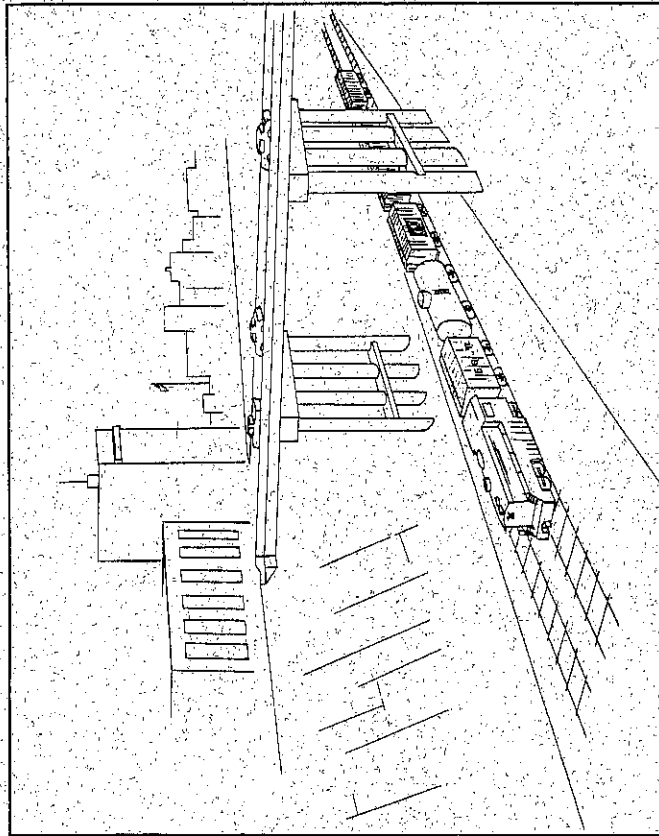
"PASSING OF THE TRAIN"

GASTONIA, NC

FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 1992

10:00 AM

.... *Tracking a New Course*



Long Avenue - Railroad Relocation

Prelude East Gaston High School Band

Master of Ceremonies James B. "Jick" Garland
Mayor of Gastonia

Invocation Dr. Larry D. Wilkinson
Pastor
First United Methodist Church
Gastonia

Pledge of Allegiance W.B. "Dub" Brooks
Chairman
City Council Transportation Committee

National Anthem East Gaston High School Band
and audience

Welcome J. Edward Stowe
Chairman
Citizen's Advisory Committee on Transportation

Introduction of Platform Mayor Garland

Introduction of Speaker Robert W. Williams
President
Central City Association

Remarks Arnold B. McKinnon
Chairman, Chief Executive Officer, and Director
Norfolk Southern Corporation

Introduction of Keynote Thomas J. Harrelson
Secretary
N.C. Department of Transportation

Keynote James G. Martin
Governor

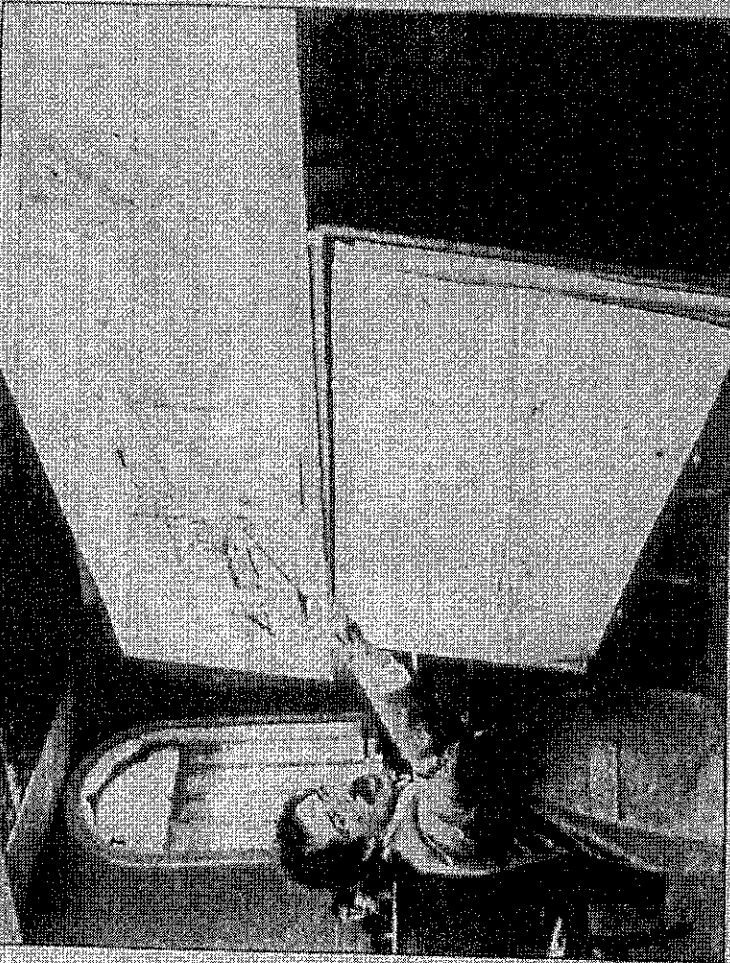
Special Presentations J.A. Dalpiaz
N.C. Board of Transportation

Unveiling Governor Martin, Secretary Harrelson
Mayor Garland, Mr. McKinnon and
platform guests

*There will be a reception at First United Methodist Church
Family Life Center immediately following the ceremony*

- 11/20/85 A) - City's Railroad Contract Signed
- 11/23/85 B) City Plans Detours for Railroad Project
- 12/20/85 C) Downtown Work Being Slowed by Discussions with Railroad
- 12/26/85 B) City Scrambles for parking spaces

Railroad



Gastonia official Don Chermichael shows route new tracks will take during meeting on railroad relocation Thursday night

Downtown work being slowed by discussions with railroad

By David Sorenson
Special Staff Reporter

Construction on Gastonia's long-awaited downtown railroad relocation project, originally set to begin in April, has been delayed at least two months, state officials said Thursday.

Contracts for the \$16-million project were scheduled to begin in February but that has been pushed back to April, said Don Chermichael, said Earl Willis, an architect with the A.C. Department of Transportation.

Contracts are for a April work would start in June, he said. The project will take at least three years to complete.

Negotiations with Southern Railway are holding up the start of the project, said Willis. The plan calls for construction of a bridge over a Seaboard line between Columbia and Madison streets.

"We hope to get an agreement soon, but it's hard to say," he said.

Most of the negotiations have involved Southern Railway Co., which owns the main line running downtown. Southern has agreed to terms, but no final contract has been signed, Willis said.

Willis announced the delay at a meeting at City Hall for downtown business and property owners to bring them on the same terms and discuss that will come with the project.

"You are going to be disrupted, there's no getting around it," Willis said.

You are going to be disrupted, there's no getting around it. Police and fire protection will be somewhat hampered.

Earl Willis
State DOT

Police and fire protection will be somewhat hampered, although not extensively, because of traffic delays, he said.

The cost estimate for the project also has risen 10 percent since the Gastonia City Council signed a contract Nov. 19 for the city's share of the project.

Part of that increase comes from a revised estimate — from \$10.6 million to \$12.2 million — for the cost of moving and upgrading utility lines. The city will pay for the entire cost for utilities.

The DOT will pay for most of the project. In addition to utility costs, the DOT will pay the DOT \$200,000 already for 10 years to reimburse the DOT for part of the cost of right of way.

The project calls for moving the tracks downtown about 100 feet north from Broad Street to about 300 feet west of Vernon Street. The line will be placed in a trench where Air Line Avenue currently sits.

To compensate for the loss of Air Line downtown, Long Avenue will be upgraded to a five-lane thoroughfare.

Hometown

Saturday, Nov. 23, 1968, p. 6

A *Kojaks* man always finds more than he looks for. — *Madeleine de Swaters, French writer, 1897*

City plans detours for railroad project

By David Sorensen
Creative Staff Reporter

Although the start of Gastonia's \$15 million railroad relocation project is five months away, city officials already are bracing for snarled traffic and impatient drivers.

City and state officials have developed a plan of detours and road rerouting that, in theory, will keep cars moving downtown.

"We think it's vital to keep east-west and north-south routes open," said Don Lowe, city traffic engineer. "People have to be able to get to stores downtown and move around."

Lowe added only half jokingly, though, that "it might be better to stay away from downtown for three years."

Construction is expected to begin in April and last at least 2 1/2 to 3 years. "I think it will be more like 3 1/2 years," Lowe said.

When completed, the Southern Railway tracks from Broad Street to Fyenton Street will be moved 200 feet north, wiping out Airline Avenue downtown. Also, Long Avenue will be changed to a five-lane thoroughfare and four bridges will be built connecting Main Avenue and Long.

The N. C. Department of Transportation will pay for most of the cost. The city will pay about \$900,000 to reroute and upgrade water and sewer lines and \$78,000 annually for 10 years to reimburse the state for right-of-way costs.

Because the DOT and the railroad likely will use different contractors, the chance of delays and glitches during construction will be increased, Lowe said.

"Anything you have ten contractors, it's harder to schedule work," he said.

The project will be completed in four phases. Major detours planned include:

- Southbound traffic on U.S. 321 will be detoured onto I-85 at Hankin Lake Road from the start of construction. Traffic will be directed to the Bessemer City Road exit, then onto Franklin Boulevard. The detour will last the entire project.

- Northbound traffic on U.S. 321 will be detoured to Franklin, then north along Chester Street. This will last until the start of the project's final phase.

- During the second phase, bridges will be built at York and Marietta Streets crossing both roads downtown. Traffic will be diverted to Broad and other streets.

- During the fourth phase, bridges will be constructed at Chester and Broad. Traffic will be detoured along Oakland and Marietta.

The start of construction also will eliminate 400 parking spaces. City planners have identified more than 500 spaces that could be used during construction, including private spaces that could be leased as well as vacant land that could be converted into parking lots.

Once the project is completed, the city will regain permanent parking spaces on land being vacated by the railroad.

Despite the inevitable headaches the project will bring, Lowe said it will benefit the city.

"This project has been on the books for 20 years," Lowe said. "I think in the long run this will be worth it."

brought over a bag of goodies — soap, shampoo, toothpaste. "I haven't eaten in three days," said the middle-aged man. "I'm basically like family — people who had big dinners and wanted to give the Salvation Army the leftovers."

City scrambles for parking spaces

By David Sorenson
Contributing Reporter

Gastonia's upcoming railroad relocation project will wipe out hundreds of downtown parking spaces, but city officials believe they have found alternatives.

City planners have identified 688 possible parking spaces that could be used during construction, expected to begin in June and last at least three years.

The project will eliminate about 400 spaces, mostly lots located south of the tracks.

That will give the city a net gain of 188 spaces despite the construction — but in this case more could mean less.

The new parking will be dispersed

throughout seven blocks downtown, some of them a short walk from City Hall, the Gaston County Courthouse and the county offices.

"I'm confident we'll get through this. There will be parking. It just might not be the most convenient," said George Cobb, city planner.

"Some of the parking will be scattered. Most of the replacement parking would be leased from private owners," he said.

The city has held a few discussions with property owners about leasing, and the response has been positive, Cobb said.

"This is somewhat unpredictable, but I'm not worried about getting leases," he said. "We're offering people a chance to make money on land that for the most part is just sitting there."

It will cost the city an estimated \$25,000 to

lease the spaces for four years — according to project drafts at that time.

Another 10 spaces could be added by carshare parking. The city could grade land it owns north of Airline.

Cobb also recommends that the city promote car and van pooling, both to reduce traffic congestion and cut down on parking demand.

The \$10-million project will bring numerous detours downtown. The Southern Railway tracks downtown will be moved about 100 feet north and placed into a trench.

The move will eliminate Airline Avenue downtown. To compensate, Lomb Avenue will be upgraded to a five-lane thoroughfare.

The city council is reviewing the parking proposal and is expected to vote on it next month.

Kings Mountain looks for...

Work may begin in April

City's railroad contract signed

By David Sorenson

General Staff Reporter

Gastonia's long-awaited \$15 million railroad relocation plan took a major step forward Tuesday when the city council approved a contract with Southern Railway Co.

"This is it," said Henry Whitesides, city attorney, as he held the contract before the Gastonia City Council. "The railroad is like a giant bureaucracy and it was like pulling teeth negotiating with them. This is a monumental project."

The contract will be sent to Southern Railway for formal signing. Railroad officials also must sign an agreement with the N.C. Department of Transportation, but that is expected to be completed soon, said W.S. Cox, a DOT engineer.

The DOT will pay the bulk of the project cost from a combination of state and federal funds.

The transportation department expects to let the bids for the project in February. Construction is

expected to begin by April and will take 2 1/2 to 3 years.

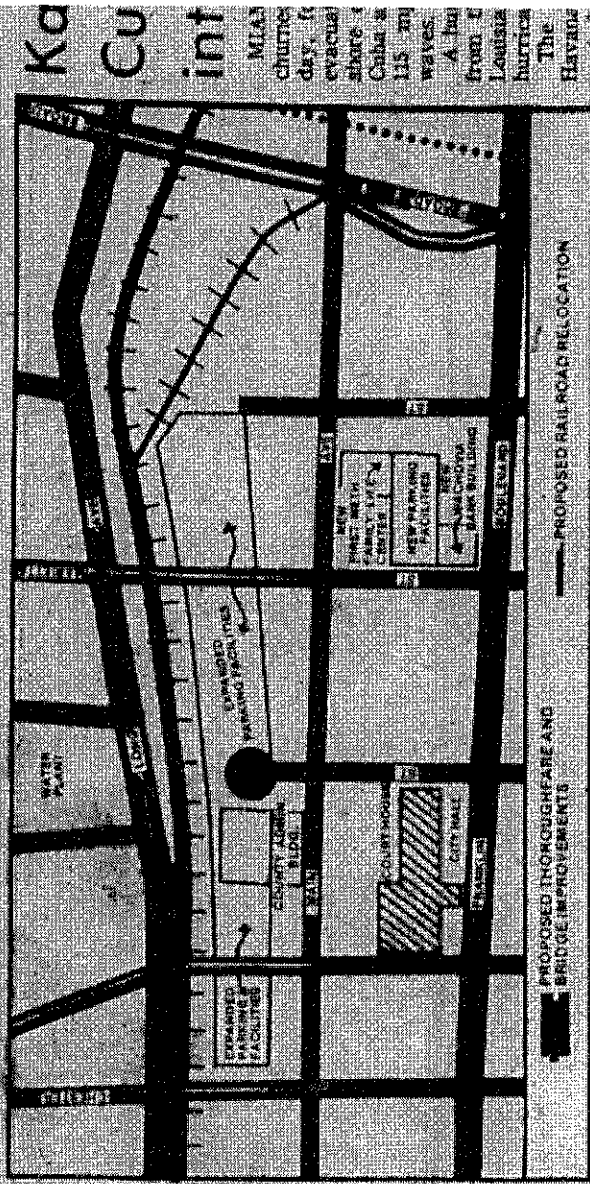
The contract approved Tuesday spells out details of a land swap between the city and Southern Railway as well as the split of responsibility for different parts of the project.

The railroad will give the city most of the land now occupied by its tracks south of Airline Avenue in downtown Gastonia from Broad Street to about 500 feet west of Trenton Street.

The city, in turn, will give the right of way for a new railroad line about 200 feet north of the present site. The new line would eliminate Airline Avenue, a state-owned road, in the downtown area.

To make room for a bridge and the widening of U.S. 321, the state purchased the Auctioneers Inc. building at the northwest corner of Main Avenue and Chester Street and the Gaines Furniture Store building at the northeast corner of Main and Chester. Both buildings recently were torn down.

Under the contract signed Tues-



Graphic map by Deborah Blavin

Map shows how construction will affect downtown

... work will involve moving railroad tracks

Gastonia would reimburse the state \$70,000 annually for 10 years for the part of the cost of right of way.

Gastonia also would pay the cost of rerouting and upgrading water and sewer lines, estimated at \$300,000, said Sam Wilkins, director of public works and utilities.

As part of the project, Long Avenue will be upgraded to a five-lane thoroughfare and four bridges will be built across the railroad connecting Long and Main Avenues.

The project is designed to eliminate dangerous railroad crossings and speed downtown traffic. The city first proposed the track relocation in the 1960s after a series of wrecks and deaths along the tracks.

Although city officials say the project is long overdue, they warn that construction will cause massive traffic congestion.

"There are going to be a lot of problems with traffic," Wilkins said. "It may take a long time for people to realize its benefits. A lot of the project."

In addition to traffic tie-ups, 200 parking spaces north of the tracks will be eliminated during construction. Wilkins said the city is looking for alternative spaces.

A meeting will be held at the city council chambers Dec. 19, at 3 p.m. to inform the public about the rerouting of traffic during construction and other aspects of the project.

Living together trend declines

The danger of