



LOOKING AROUND

Looking around Colleton County you wouldn't believe this is the same place it was a few years ago. A few years ago we were a small community and now we are on our way to becoming a large town. The population has increased by over 10,000 people in a ten year span. The 1970 census showed that 27,622 people lived in Colleton County at that time and in 1980 the population had increased to 31,238.

New industries have been springing up all over Walterboro, such as K-mart, Eckers, Western Sizzlin', Peppermart, and several new small businesses in the downtown area. Several business have moved or expanded. There are about 19 manufacturing and labor industries in Walterboro and Colleton County that employ about 2,634.

The Mayor and City Council have several projects completed such as the upgrading of the police and fire departments and opening the city government to the people so that they may voice their views about some of the changes in their community. They are also trying to decrease the number of traffic jams by constructing a beltline road for all the tractortrailors and logging trucks to keep them out of the downtown traffic area. A historic building that has been preserved is the "Nullification House" which was built by Robert Barnwell Rhett in 1824. The Hargo House which was destroyed by fire and has been recently torn down had been a hotel for 50 years known as the Hayne Hotel. Some of the people of Colleton County do not be-

lieve that the county is doing enough to preserve the historical sites of Walterboro, such as **Mrs. Laura Hughes**, U.S. History and local Heritage teacher, states her feelings on the subject, "The sad fact is often times people do not appreciate historical sites until they have been destroyed. Then there is nothing that can be done. I truly hope that through our Local Heritage program we can interest young people in protecting our architecturally and historically significant buildings and who knows, one day, even restore some of them to their former beauty." But some people feel that the county is doing its best, as **Mrs. Helen Bodison** states, "I think that Colleton County is trying its best to preserve the historical sites of Walterboro according to the funds available." **Mrs. Amanda Smith** feels that people should try to help preserve these sites also, as she proves by saying, "With the economy the way it is today, I think most people are not able to contribute to the preservation of historical sites. Those who have the financial means should by all means do so."

Colleton County is changing very rapidly to meet the changes of the people. It is changing population-wise and industrial-wise, and in the way that it is governed. The people are also trying to preserve some of the historical sites of our community. You could say Colleton County is an ever changing community.

Constructing the beltline will cut down the number of traffic jams in the downtown area.

