Page 8-A THE CHOWAN HERALD Thursday, March 11, 1976

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Home Sewage **System Plans** Show Promise

(Editor's Note: The following article by Tom Byrd appeared in the Autumn-Summer edition of "Research and Farming" which is produced at N. C. State University. It should be of interest to landowners to our circulation area.)

Promising results have been obtained at the **Tidewater Research Station** near Plymouth on two new systems for handling home sewage.

Dr. Bobby L. Carlile, a soil scientists from N. C. State University, says the new systems may help thousands of home owners who are having problems with conventional septic tanks. After a year of testing, Dr. Carlile reports encouraging results from his "septic renovation levee" and his "low pressure, shallow pipe system."

"Both of these systems appear to have possibilities for soil with shallow bedrock, high water table or low permeability," he said. A third system being

tested, known as the "Case system," has no place in a high water table area but may have a place in areas with slowly permeable soils, he added.

Dr. Carlile's work is being supported by the N. C. Agricultural Experiment Station and the N. C. Agricultural Extension Service. His field tests were located at the Tidewater **Research Station because of** high water table and the widespread problems with septic tanks in the area. Also working on the project is Dr. Keith Cassel, an NCSU soil physicist.

Over 80 per cent of the land in one nearby county is estimated to be unsuitable for conventional home septic systems. Another survey reveals that septic tank failures are the major environmental health problem in 85 of North Carolina's 100 counties.

"Our research shows it is possible to build a septic field in areas where the soil is unsuitable for a conventional home disposal system," the NCSU soil scientist explained.

The septic renovation levee is simply a mound of sand and other soil ls lace mate with pipe through which sewage effluent is pumped. Treatment takes place within the mound instead of below ground, as is the case with a conventional system. Carlile's experimental mound is about 15 feet wide, 50 feet long and about four feet high. A smaller mound might be used where a shallow layer of natural soil is available to help with the treatment. The low pressure, shallow pipe system is designed especially for areas with shallow soil. This system features a network of small perforated pipe buried 12 to 14 inches instead of the usual 36 inches.



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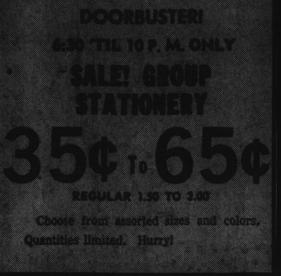
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Dr. Carlile estimates that both systems will be more expensive to install and they each require an electric pump to operate.

However, he feels they are a satisfacotry alternative in vast areas of the state where the soil is unsuitable for conventional "on-site" sewage treatment.

County sanitarians and health officials are being kept up-to-date on the progress on his research.

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