

Amid Nationwide Increase

'79 Highway Fatalities Decreased

RALEIGH — Preliminary figures indicate a decline in the number of persons killed on North Carolina highways during 1979, according to N. C. Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Sec. Tom Bradshaw. "While all fatality figures are grim, we are encouraged that although fatalities nationally are higher than they were in 1979, we have had a decrease of 27 deaths."

In 1979, 1,526 persons were killed as a result of traffic accidents on North Carolina roadways. So far, 1,499 fatalities have been reported for 1980.

Bradshaw said the 1980 figures are tentative because there is a 90-day waiting period in case someone injured in a crash dies later.

"While we won't know for sure until the end of March, our traffic records people tell us that they do not expect 1980 traffic fatality figures to catch up with the 1979 figures," he added.

The secretary cited several factors highway safety officials feel contributed to the decline in fatalities, including reduced driving and increased compliance with the 55 mph speed limit.

"For the first time since 55 became the maximum legal speed on North Carolina's highways, more than half the vehicle speeds are being measured at, or below, that speed limit," he said.

The average speed on North Carolina's highways is calculated to be 54.2 miles per hour, a decline of 1.5 miles per hour from 1979.

"I have shared these figures with Governor Hunt and he joins me in congratulating the people of North Carolina for their spirit of cooperation in keeping our highways safe," Bradshaw said.

Bradshaw attributed the increased compliance to the efforts of the State Highway Patrol and to the "55 I Believe" campaign conducted by the Governor's Highway Safety Program (GHSP) of NCDOT.

"We know from our surveys that since the beginning of the campaign, the number of people expressing the belief that 55 saves lives, reduces injuries and saves gasoline has increased substantially," he said.

He added that the state has continued to stress highway safety.

"We know that as the average size of cars on our highways decreases, the risk of death and injury in every accident greatly increases. If we don't want to see fatalities increase in the next few years, motorists must be more conscious of the need for safety while driving on the streets and highways of our state," Bradshaw said.

He noted that the use of safety belts is declining even though it is known that the use of these devices decreases the risk of death and injury fourfold.

Drivers who have been drinking alcoholic beverages continue to contribute to half the fatal accidents in the state.

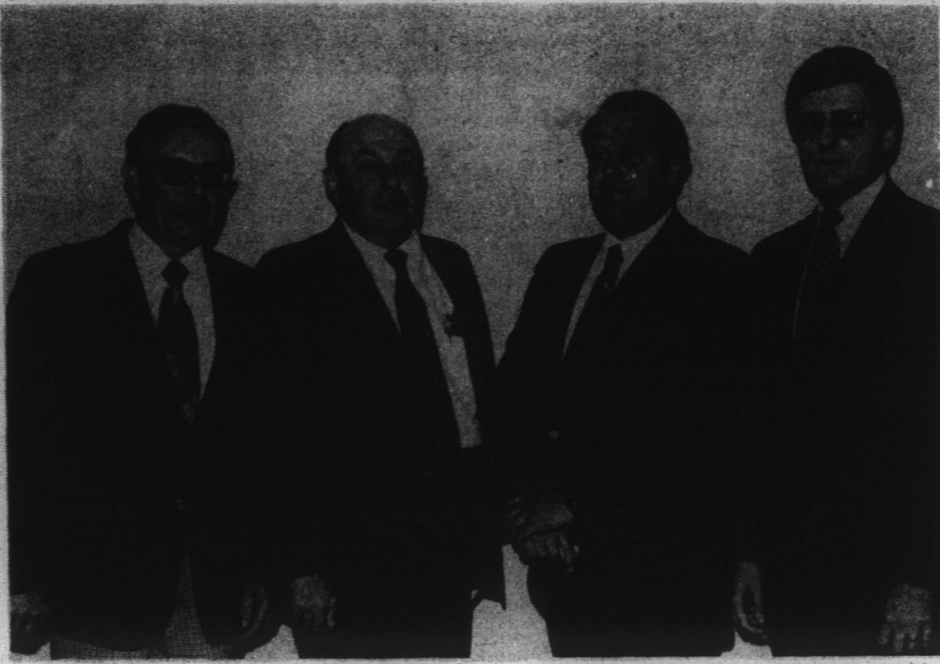
"We have been and will continue to be active in pursuing solutions to the problems as a matter of public health, because traffic accidents are the leading cause of death and injury for persons under 40 years of age in North Carolina," he concluded.

Proposals Sought

The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation of the N. C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development is looking for proposals for innovative recreation projects which provide public access to the waterfront. More than \$3-million has been set aside by the U. S. Department of Interior for model projects which will cost between \$500,000 and \$1.2-million.

State BOR Director Lavonne A. Meads has invited municipal and county officials in the coastal area to submit applications to the department before March 20.

For more information contact the NCRD recreation consultants in the Washington or Wilmington regional offices. From Pamlico County north, call Steve Moler at 946-6481. From Carteret County south, call Jack Frauson at 256-4161.



OFFICERS—Two of the major seed organizations recently elected officers at an annual joint meeting in Raleigh. Left to right: Marvin Godfrey, Raleigh, is president of the N. C. Foundation Seed Producers, and Garland (Mutt) Barnes, Severn, is vice president; Lawrence Davenport, Greenville, is new president of the N. C. Crop Improvement Assn., and John Gilliam III, Edenton, is vice president. (N. C. State University Photo by Ralph Mills)

Va. Beach Hosting Boat Show

The 28th Mid-Atlantic Sports and Boat Show, one of the oldest continuous boat shows in the nation, will open February 21. It will be the first in the new Virginia Beach Convention Center, Pavilion, located on 19th Street, just off the Norfolk-Virginia Beach Expressway.

Previously, the show has been held in Norfolk's Scope and Arena.

The 1981 show has been expanded to include two weekends to provide a generous amount of "family shopping time" for out of town enthusiasts. Low rates prevail at beach hotels and motels at this season.

The show will bring together, under one roof, the largest display of boats and marine gear ever assembled in the southeast. The \$1-million plus exhibits will feature boats up to 36 feet long and include fishing boats, cruising yachts, power boats, sailboats, outboard and stern drives and specialty craft.

Numerous public service exhibits will feature

displays of interest on fishing, boating, sailing, navigation, weather and water safety.

Show Director, John Taylor, says a new extra this year will be the availability of special sporting personalities to demonstrate their skills and answer questions about boating and fishing.

Also over \$1,000 in door prizes will be awarded.

The 1981 attendance is

expected to break all records. Admission prices will remain unchanged - \$2 for adults and \$1 for those 12 years and younger.

Show hours will be 12 noon to 1 P.M. on Saturdays, 12 noon to 8 P.M. on Sundays and 6 P.M. to 9:30 P.M. during the week.

The show is sponsored by The Virginian-Pilot and The Ledger-Star and the Norfolk Chapter of the Izaak Walton League.

ESC Recovers Overpayments

RALEIGH—The N. C. Employment Security Commission recovered

Disaster Loans

Continued From Page 4-B

drought," Cherry said. If losses were severe and credit is not available to the farmers, the SBA will make loans at five percent interest. If credit is available, the loans carry an interest rate of eight and one-quarter per cent (8 1/4 per cent).

The normal maximum term is expected to be 10 years with most loans ranging five to seven years. Drought disaster loans may not exceed 30 years.

Economic injury as well as physical damage loans are available to farmers and farm-related small businesses.

Chosen For Grant

Continued From Page 4-B

As representatives of the Alternative School, Mrs. Boswell and Ken Branch, language arts teacher, attended a November training workshop in Washington, D.C. There they were provided techniques for teaching reluctant readers and systematic means of assessing student performance. "Each Alternative School student was tested, using Project Read instruments, prior to the program's beginning," Mrs. Boswell noted, "and will be re-tested for progress after twelve weeks participation."

While at the national workshop, the local representatives were also provided the opportunity of working with performing artists to learn techniques that would better enable them to integrate the arts into their own educational program. Project Read has developed a demonstration project to show that theater and the arts can be effective in motivating troubled youth to learn those skills necessary to achieving independency and for leading productive lives.

Chowan's Alternative School has also been selected as one of ten participating Read sites to receive "follow-up" training and assistance. Dr. Jane Carsette, Read director, Katherine Pierce, assistant director and Kathy Schwartz, teaching assistant, will be in Edenton on March 9 and 10. While here they will monitor and work with the alternative school teachers on integrating the arts. They will also meet with the Curriculum Study's Cultural Arts committee to offer help on tying in with the basics.

Chowan College President

Named NAICU Director

MURFREESBORO — Chowan College President Bruce E. Whitaker has been elected to the board of directors of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU).

Dr. Whitaker was selected during the annual meeting of the NAICU, which boasts a membership of 830 private institutions of higher education. The National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities was established in February, 1976, by representatives of independent colleges and universities, to meet the need for an organization that would provide a unified national voice for the shaping of public policy.

Chowan's president is also presently a member of the board of directors of the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges.

He has also served as president of the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools, Association of Eastern North Carolina Colleges, N. C. Foundation

of Church Related Colleges, N. C. Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, and National Council of Independent Junior Colleges.

Whitaker also participates in the work of civic groups related to mental health, family life, area development, and cultural heritage.

During his 24-year tenure as Chowan's president, the college has received recognition as one of the nation's finest two-year, independent colleges. The enrollment has climbed from under 300 to over 1,000 men and women. The campus master plan, which was begun under his administration and called for the construction of 18 buildings, has been completed with the recent opening of the new \$2.75-million gymnasium-physical education center.



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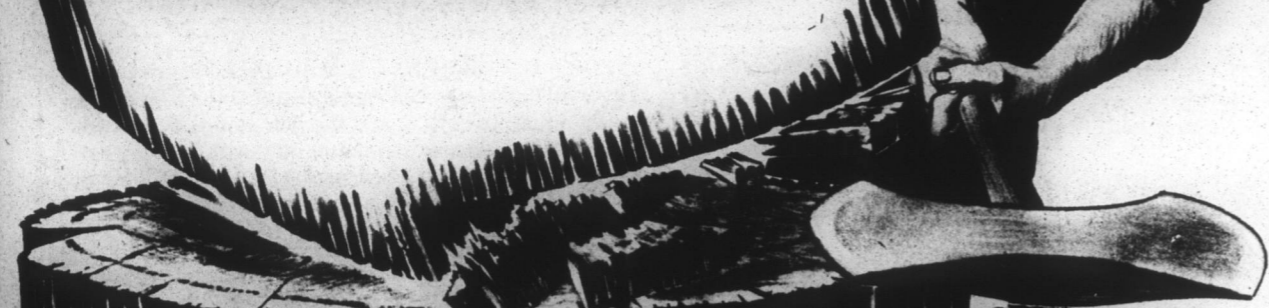
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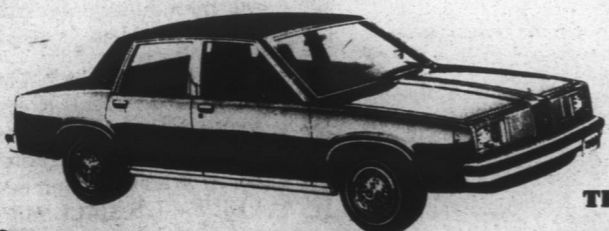
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