

Warsaw Withholding \$30,000 Payment

The town of Warsaw will continue to withhold a \$30,000 payment from Miller Construction Co. of Wilmington, pending settlement of a suit against the company by one of its suppliers.

Miller Construction Co. built the town's sewage treatment plant.

The town board last week assessed the company a

penalty of \$5,250 for late completion of the project.

The town had held back \$60,000 while officials determined the amount of damages to assess for late completion of the \$2 million project. The contract called for completion on Nov. 22, 1982, but the project was not finished until 70 days later. The contract provided for a

penalty of up to \$350 a day for late completion.

Gene Miller of the company called the assessment fair.

The board decided to reduce the amount held back to \$30,000 and pay the company \$24,750 immediately.

The town will hold the other \$30,000, either until the suit is settled or until the

Miller company's surety bond holder assures the town any settlement will cost the town nothing.

Miller Construction is being sued for \$30,000 in principal and interest by United Pipe Co., which claims it is owed that amount for pipe sold to the construction firm for the treatment plant. The Miller firm contends the pipe was delivered late and this contributed to construction delays.

In other business, the board decided to hold a public hearing during its Sept. 12 meeting on the request of Tom Rabon of Warsaw for annexation of a 13-acre tract adjacent to the northeast city limits. Rabon plans to build multi-family dwellings on the property.

He also asked the town to

install water and sewer lines. If a sewer lift station is required he would have to pay the town for its cost.

Also at the Sept. 12 meeting, the board will hold a hearing on rezoning an area off Chelly and Yancey streets, adjacent to the Stewart Creek apartments.

Billy Kennedy, a board member, owns the 2.5-acre tract and wants to place 15 mobile homes on it. Present zoning bars mobile homes.

The board plans to hold a special meeting this month to select a recreation director. It is reviewing 20 applications for the post. Three applicants live in Warsaw.

A second-round bid opening for 1,200 cubic yards of paving material will be conducted at 10 a.m. Sept. 18 at the town hall. The board was forced to readvertise for bids

because only two companies submitted offers by the deadline.

Town employees will be placed under the state retirement program starting Oct. 1 at an initial cost to the town of \$25,000. Employees will contribute 6 percent of their salaries and the town 7.34 percent to the retirement fund.

In other action, the board:

- Voted to have Les Anderson and Wade Carlton repair the roof of the gymnasium at the recreation site at a cost of \$4,200.
- Reappointed Everett Westbrook to the board of adjustments and Marvin Sutton to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board.
- Appointed Donald Blackburn to the recreation commission to succeed Carla Quinn, who resigned.



FAIR ENTRY - Andrew and Melba Keathley, owners of Bar K, Route 1, Albertson, will enter this Limousin heifer in the second annual Duplin County Agribusiness Fair. Keathley, left, exhibited this heifer along

with her mother at the fair last year. Showing the heifer in competition will be Tommy Millard, right, an 8th grade student at B.F. Grady Elementary School.

Limousin Returns To Fair To Duplin Fair

Andrew and Melba Jean Keathley, Route 1, Albertson, breeders of registered Limousin cattle, are grooming a heifer for the second annual Duplin County Agribusiness Fair to be held in Kenansville at the old Kenansville Elementary School Oct. 3-8, 1983.

The Limousin breed of cattle is probably less well-known than many other breeds, but has a potential of becoming very popular as Limousin is known as "the carcass breed." Limousin crossed with commercial herds will produce calves that will have a higher cut-

ability rate with a better yield grade.

Keathley stated that he is 34 years old and has been farming all his life. However, he did admit he took time out to obtain a degree from North Carolina State University in Raleigh. That is where he became interested in the Limousin breed and he now maintains a herd of 22 breeding cows.

The cattle business is a joint venture with Andy and Melba, however they both pursue other interests. Andy tends a 150-acre farm — corn, soybeans and alfalfa hay. His lovely wife, Melba,

is also a "school marm" and is an instructor at nearby Mount Olive College, where she teaches accounting, economics and data processing.

Interestingly, this will be the second time this animal will attend the Duplin County Agribusiness Fair. Last year at fairtime this heifer was about one month old and she, along with her mother, were exhibited.

The size of the adult Limousin attracted much attention last year. This year's entry will be smaller because of the age of the animal, but she will surely prove to be of much interest to fairgoers.

Tobacco Workers Are Excused From School

Duplin County public schools will excuse from school attendance students involved in tobacco production work at the request of their parents.

The students will be allowed to make up missed work when they return to classes.

The Board of Education took this action last week as a result of numerous requests from farmers.

The board also approved a \$1 increase in the annual premium for student health and accident insurance during the school year. The new rate will be \$10. The \$39 annual premium for 24-hour, 365-day student coverage remains unchanged.

The board also hired June Ellen Davis as a vocational agriculture teacher at Wallace-Rose Hill High School. The first woman to teach vocational agriculture classes in Duplin County, she has a bachelor's degree in agriculture and animal science from N.C. State University. She has been teaching in Onslow County.

During the discussion of the need for students in the

tobacco fields during the harvest, Board Chairman Jimmy Strickland moved to delay the school opening for a week beyond the scheduled date, Aug. 22. The motion died for lack of a second.

Strickland said the tobacco crop is as much as three weeks later than usual and the harvest is the latest he can remember.

"We don't need 500 people to come by and tell us we have a problem. Some things you can see for yourself," Strickland said.

Boardmember Carl Pate said, "Some people are three weeks into their tobacco harvest and others have just knocked the bottom leaves off and haven't even started harvesting."

"This is a farming community and people will take it for granted that we'll do something," Strickland said.

Supt. L.S. Guy protested the proposal by Strickland to delay the school opening.

"The school calendar is a good calendar and schools are big business," Guy said.

"In the past we have excused students for harvest work and allowed them to make up

missed school work."

Last fall students who worked in the harvest registered on the first day of classes and then were excused. Parents will be required to verify that their student children are needed in the harvest.

Guy said the schools need to register on the opening day all students, including those to be excused for harvest work. Otherwise, he said, the county system could lose some teachers.

Byrd-Hilsinger Engagement

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert J. Hilsinger of Grifton, Route 2, announce the engagement and plans for the forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Mary Catherine Hilsinger, to Airman John W. Byrd, son of Marlene S. Hill of Pink Hill and Billy McCoy Byrd of Beulaville. A September 10 wedding is planned at the Bible Missionary Church in Kinston.

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