

Volunteers Help

(Continued From Page 1-A)

on" the brakes. The bus came to a halt 148 feet later.

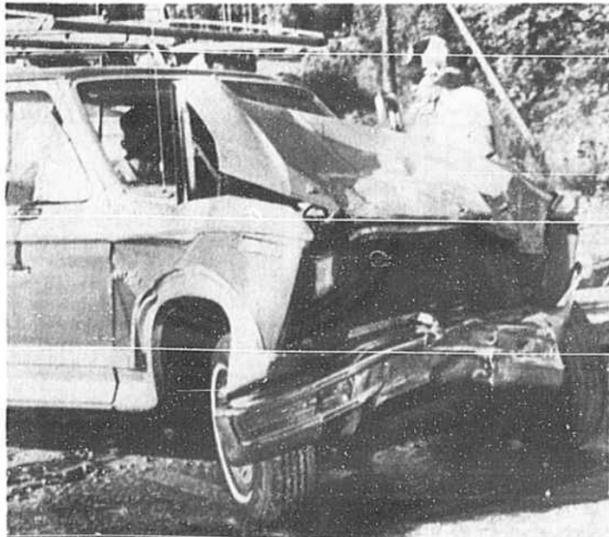
"Randy did a tremendous job with those children," Evans said of the regular driver's handling of the emergency. "For a boy his age, he showed a lot of maturity. It's a shame I had to cite him."

A number of volunteers also helped at the wreck, including Chief Deputy John Marlow, who county landfill director Major White said, "took the bull by the horns" during the crisis. White and Buddy Evans, who operates a nearby barber shop, helped open the doors to the bus to reach the children.

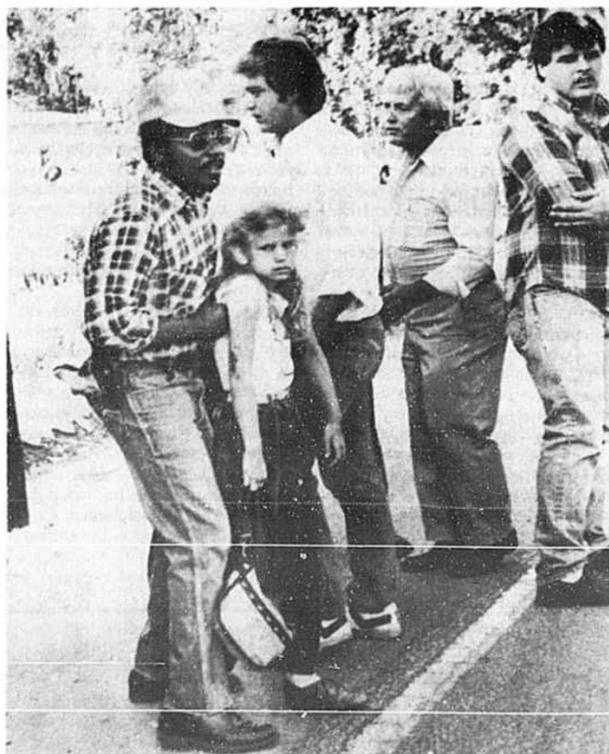
"They were just sitting there looking so innocent," White said. "They wanted reassurance more than anything else, someone to touch them, to hold them."

According to School Transportation Supervisor Turner, the accident was the 11th involving a school bus in the county this school year. Most were small fender-benders that resulted in no injuries. A bus accident with injuries has not occurred in Brunswick County in at least 10 years, he said.

Officer Evans said the accident she investigated is the only bus accident listed in Charlotte police files dating back to 1980.



THE TRUCK DRIVEN by Jason Lee Smith of Whiteville was declared a total loss. Both Smith and a passenger were injured.



AN UNIDENTIFIED VOLUNTEER helps injured second-grader Lesley Holden, 9, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lyn Holden of Holden Beach, from the bus. She was treated at Brunswick Hospital for a fractured arm. In the background (from the left) are Randy Hair, the regular driver of the bus; Doug Simmons, one of the many people who stopped to help; and Chris Hargis, who was driving the bus.



CHRIS IVEY was one of 42 Union Primary School students who were checked by physicians at The Brunswick Hospital following Monday morning's school bus accident in Charlotte.

Speedy Resurfacing Job Said Strong Possibility

U.S. 17 through downtown Charlotte may get resurfaced within the next two to three weeks, an optimistic Jerry Jones told fellow Charlotte aldermen last Wednesday night.

"I just found out this afternoon that the resurfacing is a good possibility. It's not official, but I think it will be done within the next two to three weeks. They think they've found the money for it."

Using money left over from another contract, the district transportation office ground the three-fourths mile section of U.S. 17 in mid-March. But the money for resurfacing it was included in the 1985-86 budget request, which meant the paving might not begin until after the end of the tourist season, District Engineer T.E. Funderburk explained at a recent meeting at which he fielded complaints about the delay.

Wednesday, Alderman Wilton Harrelson noted, "I've heard more complaints about that than anything else."

Jones wouldn't reveal the source of his unofficial information, but said he expected Transportation Secretary James Harrington to make a return visit to the area before a May 23 Division 3 hearing in Jacksonville to discuss road funding priorities. Town officials said they hope to know more about funding prospects for the Charlotte bypass on or before that meeting.

Duplex Proposed

A public hearing will be held May 15 on a proposal to locate a duplex—a two household residence—on two Pender Street lots in an area zoned R-15, single family dwellings only.

Duplexes are a form of multifamily housing, which means the board of aldermen must issue a special use permit before construction can take place.

The area was posted last week and all adjoining property owners will be contacted for comment, Building Inspector Albert Hughes told the board.

"It would set precedent for us to allow a multifamily residence in an area zoned single-family. Where are

you going to draw the line?" asked Alderman Wilton Harrelson of the board.

Several multifamily projects are either under construction or planned near Pender Street—condominiums are under construction at Briewood Golf Course and a combination townhouse and single-family subdivision has been proposed nearby by developer Buddy Milliken. Pender Street would serve as the outlet to N.C. 179 for that project.

Hughes said the man who proposes to build the low-country or ranch-style duplex plans to live in one side and rent the other.

"Everything is in order except it is not zoned for what he wants to do," he added. The owner had already installed driveway tiles before contacting the town. Hughes said the realtor who sold the property had assured the buyer that it was zoned correctly for the type of construction he had planned.

In other business, the board:

- Annexed by petition a Briewood Estates lot owned by Larry Shreve.

- Noted that thus far five applications had been received for the vacant post of police chief and six for the patrol officer vacancy.

- Delayed action on a request to appoint a Charlotte resident to the Brunswick County Council on the Status of Women until nominations could be sought. The appointment will be made at the May 15 meeting. Interested persons, male or female, should contact a board member or the town hall.

- Agreed to begin submitting items for the proposed 1985-1986 budget immediately. If the miscellaneous funds can be found, the town wants to purchase some new Christmas lights, extend sidewalks along U.S. 17 through town and purchase flags and a flagpole. Mayor Beamon Hewett also said that unless board members object, he proposes to eliminate a tag fee as such. When residents pay their property taxes, they would receive a tag under his proposal.

Holden Beach Asks Jury To Rule In Fire Lawsuit

Holden Beach officials are denying the town was negligent in a fire that destroyed an oceanfront cottage last year while an adjacent fire hydrant was turned off.

Edith Chance of Fayetteville filed a lawsuit in Brunswick County District Court against the town in February for more than \$44,000, claiming fire fighters could not battle the blaze that destroyed her home because the nearest fire hydrant was not working.

In an answer to the suit filed April 23, Holden Beach officials deny the town was negligent in the incident and ask for a jury to decide the case. The town is represented by Benton H. Walton of the Whiteville firm, Williamson and Walton.

"By way of further answer," the town states in its answer, "this defendant says that it was not negligent in any respect and is not liable to the plaintiff in any sum whatsoever."

The town is asking that the suit be dismissed without delay and that it recover costs of court. It is also asking for a trial by jury "on all issues of fact raised by the pleadings."

Ms. Chance stated in her lawsuit that Tri-Beach Volunteer firemen could not extinguish the fire because the town had turned off "the water supply to the hydrant below ground level so that firefighters could not obtain water." She is represented by Wilmington attorney Lonnie B. Williams.

The fire at 707 Ocean Blvd. West broke out on Feb. 28, 1984, and was "contained in a small area of the dwelling" when firefighters arrived, the lawsuit states. However, flames were quickly spread by wind gusts estimated at 25 mph to 30 mph which also scorched the paint on an adjacent home. The fire was extinguished within two hours.

Ms. Chance is asking for \$40,000 to replace the home and an additional \$4,164 as a result of clearing the debris and surveying damages to the home, plus interest and court costs.

Although Williams' office sent Holden Beach officials a list of interrogatories concerning the case, the town has not responded to the questions in the lawsuit.

Boards To Meet On Orrock Case

Brunswick County commissioners plan to meet Monday with members of the Brunswick County Board of Social Services at that board's request.

Social services board members had asked to jointly discuss personnel matters and pending litigation relating to former DSS employees Jamie Orrock and Alinda Meares since resolution of either may involved county funds.

At County Attorney David Clegg's recommendation, the board set a 5 p.m. meeting to discuss the Orrock matter only. Business relating to the Meares case is to be communicated attorney-to-attorney, they agreed.

"I have a problem with us meeting to discuss anything relating to the Alinda Meares case at this point since we are the adverse party," Clegg said in proposing that arrangement. "With the other I see no problem since we are not in an adverse situation at all."

Both individuals are seeking reinstatement to their previous jobs with the department—Meares as administrative secretary, Orrock as director.

Earlier this month the State Personnel Commission recommended the social services board reinstate Orrock to his position, paying him back pay and attorney's fees. That recommendation is not binding upon the board.

Ms. Meares has suits pending in Brunswick County Superior Court and U.S. District Court. The county-level suit asks the court to enforce an settlement agreement reached between the social services board and Ms. Meares. The federal suit names the county commissioners, social

services board, the county and the social services department and Orrock as defendants. It seeks her reinstatement as well as compensation for lost professional opportunities, mental anguish and loss of constitutional rights.

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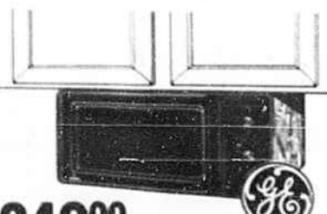
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