

## Illegal Dumping Conviction Boost To Anti-Litter Effort

BY SUSAN USHER

A Long Beach man was convicted of unlawful dumping Thursday in Brunswick County District Criminal Court.

County officials say they hope the conviction is the start of a get-tough policy on littering.

Smitty Harding, who cleans up construction sites for a living, pleaded guilty to the charge brought by Beach Road property owner Charles W. Keller on a warrant issued April 26.

Judge Jack Hooks of Whiteville fined Harding \$50 plus costs of court but suspended the fine on condition Harding clean all litter from the site.

"He'll clean it up," said Litter Control Officer Martha Britt. "I told him I'll be checking it every day."

She added, "I hope this shows people we will prosecute."

This was the first case she had brought to court under the county's litter ordinance (Ordinance No. 40) since taking the job eight months ago. She had worked on the case for six months in cooperation with the owner of the land behind Brunswick County Airport where the dumping occurred.

Highly visible signs posted in several locations on the site and the entrance road leading to it warned of "no dumping," with little effect.

"I had warned him on previous occasions. He had said several times that he would pick up the litter," said Britt. "But it (the pile of debris) kept getting bigger and bigger rather than less and less."

Kellers and a second man, Luke Appleton, were

witnesses to the illegal dumping.

Ordinance 40, first adopted in 1979, governs the dumping of trash or garbage in the county.

Harding was convicted under Section 4, which is very specific in its intent.

It says it is "unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to throw, dump, or to cause to be dumped any garbage, refuse, rubbish, litter, junk, appliances, equipment, cans, bottles, paper, lumber, trees, tree limbs, brush or other forms of solid waste anywhere in the unincorporated area of the county," excepted as permitted by county regulations, without approval of the county commissioners.

In the past, the county landfill department has consistently tried to work with those who litter or dump illegally, offering the offending party an opportunity to clean up the area where the dumping occurred rather than face prosecution.

"Cleaning it up—that's what we're after," said Major White, county landfill director.

But White said the county doesn't plan to be as patient with dumpers in the future. He says the department instead plans to start prosecuting as many violators as possible. In fact, in conjunction with the county solid waste committee, he is seeking a way to eliminate the warning ticket that must now be issued for first offenses.

"Just don't give them a second chance," White urged. "We want to write them up on the spot."

White said illegal littering is time-consuming and expensive for the county.



LITTER CONTROL OFFICER MARTHA BRITT took this photograph of the illegal dumping site the afternoon of April 24, not long after a new load of debris was dumped.

"We have people out there cleaning up every day around the green boxes. It's unreal," he said. "We haul truckloads from outside the boxes."

Cleaning up illegal dumping sites and around green

boxes costs county taxpayers money—\$30,000 or more a year, by White's estimate.

"We think if the public realizes what we're doing, they'll start to pay attention (to the ordinance)."



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

### Two Receive Insurance Awards

Two West Brunswick High School seniors are among 44 students statewide who have been awarded \$1,000 scholarships by the N.C. Association of Insurance Agents. Coastal Insurance of Shallotte, represented by Don Evans above, sponsored Wendy Stout (left) and Katherine Fordham (right) in the competition. Miss Fordham, daughter of Mrs. Donna Fordham of Shallotte, plans to enter the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill this fall. Miss Stout, daughter of Mrs. Christine Stout of Ash, plans to enter Mt. Olive College in Mount Olive. The scholarships are based on superior academic achievement and financial need.

## Students To Compete In Oratory Contest Sunday

Two Brunswick County high school students will receive \$2,000 scholarships Sunday, May 19, in the annual Virginia and Odell Williamson Oratory Contest at West Brunswick High School.

Two students, a male and female, from each of the county's three high schools will compete in the contest that begins at 3 p.m. at West Brunswick's multi-purpose room, said community schools coordinator Linden Mathews-Boone. One male and one female will be chosen by a panel of judges to receive the \$2,000 scholarships.

Competing for West Brunswick will be Marion Gore and Randy Ward. They were chosen Tuesday morning by a panel of judges as school finalists. All local school winners receive \$100 cash awards.

Ms. Gore's speech was titled, "The Key To Survival," while Ward's speech was titled, "Endangered Species: The American Farmer."

Finalists from North Brunswick High School who will compete Sunday are Veronica Phelps, whose speech was titled, "You Can't Tell a

Book By It's Cover," and Chris Milligan, who gave a speech called, "The Peter Pan Syndrome."

South Brunswick High School's finalists are Candace Somers, who spoke on "Teenage Suicide," and Bradley Babson, who gave a speech on "Volunteer Firemen."

The contest is sponsored each year by Virginia and Odell Williamson of Ocean Isle Beach. Any student who plans to attend a North Carolina accredited university or senior college may compete for the scholarships.

Each speech is limited to five to seven minutes, or the student will be penalized. Judges will consist of five civic or educational leaders from outside Brunswick County. Speakers receiving the highest number of points in a tally of the judges' evaluation forms will be declared the winners.

Each contestant will receive a certificate for participating in the annual contest while the \$2,000 scholarships will be paid to the college of the winners' choice after verification of enrollment.

## Ordinance Covers Most Situations

Many Brunswick County residents and visitors unknowingly violate Ordinance 40, while some repeat offenders deliberately ignore its provisions, Landfill Director Major White says.

Ordinance 40 has been on the books since 1979, but only in the past several years, with the hiring of a litter control officer, has a concentrated effort been made to enforce it. As the pressures of growth place new demands for sanitation services from the county, so has the demand for enforcement of the ordinance increased.

White said his department plans to step up enforcement and prosecution of violators.

In addition to prohibiting dumping

of rubbish, garbage or other refuse in unauthorized locations, Ordinance 40 also specifies the types of materials to be deposited in the green boxes placed at various locations throughout the county.

It provides that:

•Only normal household refuse, garbage, and/or rubbish shall be put in a green box. Other items, such as furniture, appliances, building materials or similar items will be taken to the landfill at Supply. Heavy items such as stumps, bricks, cement and rocks should also be taken to the landfill.

•No fish, shrimp, shellfish or animal should be put in a green box unless wrapped in an airtight container such as a disposable trash bag.

•Refuse, garbage and rubbish should be put entirely inside the box, nothing should protrude.

•Flammable or explosive items should not be put in a green box; and it is illegal to start a fire in or around a green box.

•When litter is thrown from a vehicle, the driver will be held responsible, regardless of who threw the litter.

•If material dumped contains items that can be identified as belonging to a specific person or business, that material can be used as evidence in identifying who dumped the material.

•No owner or occupant of public or private property will be allowed to accumulate debris on the premises,

"creating a health hazard."

•No solid waste collected for a fee, charge or tax shall be dumped in a green box; no solid waste from outside the county shall be dumped in a county green box or landfill.

•No one shall cause damage to, move or overturn a green box.

•It is illegal to scavenge at a county green box site or landfill.

•No green boxes will be placed at any private industry.

•No commercial establishment or citizen shall dump a load equal to one-half the capacity of a green box at any one location. Also boxes and other packaging should be broken and flattened before dumping, so as to save space.

## Larry Bell Fund To Aid Waccamaw VRS

BY SUSAN USHER

Proceeds of a fund established in memory of the late Larry Duke Bell, former acting director of the Brunswick County Department of Social Services, will be used to help residents of the Waccamaw-Longwood area where he was reared.

The money will go toward purchase of a "Jaws of Life" or Hurst Tool, for the Waccamaw Volunteer Rescue Squad, said Brenda Borowski, county membership chairman of the North Carolina Social Services Association (NCSSA) and an employee of the Brunswick County Department of Social Services.

Used in automobile accidents when car doors are jammed, the Hurst Tool costs between \$4,000 and \$5,000. So far the fund has collected \$192, Ms. Borowski said.

"Larry had lived in this area for a long time," she continued. "We decided it was the best place for us to use the money."

"We felt if the county knew what we were going to do, more people would participate."

"We've got a long way to go."

The fund in Bell's memory was established by NCSSA on Sept. 21, 1984, but was only recently opened to contributions outside the membership of that organization. The fund was established as a tribute to Bell and also in recognition of, according to a release from NCSSA, "the often dangerous jobs performed by employees in social services."

Bell was killed Sept. 12, 1984, during Hurricane Diana in a head-on auto collision on U.S. 17 as he was returning to the county's emergency management center. He was killed instantly when his Datsun skidded across the rain-slickened road into another car 2.4 miles south of Bolivia. Bell had been in charge of organizing the county's hurricane evacuation shelters. He was an NCSSA member.

Ms. Borowski said NCSSA is a non-profit organization with over 3,500 members, including state and local employees, social services board members and friends of social services. Its purpose is to promote professional development and improvement of its members and to promote the advancement of the cause of social services in the state.

It has supported expanded funding of adult day care and child day care, licensing of day care centers as well as increases in foster care board rates, AFDC payments and personal

needs allowances for rest home residents. It also initiated legislation to provide protective services for the elderly and disabled.

Donations to the Bell fund should be sent to: Larry Bell Memorial Fund, attention Brenda Borowski, Brunswick County Department of Social Services, P.O. Box 219, Bolivia, N.C. 28422. Checks should be made payable to Larry Bell Memorial Fund. Donations are tax-deductible.

The deadline for accepting donations is Friday, June 28.

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