



A CHEMICAL TANKER that ran off U.S. 17 across from the rest area near Bolivia to avoid collision tied up traffic—and area law officers—for more than six hours Monday. When the loaded tanker overturned on

a rain-soaked embankment a crane was required to right it again, forcing a detour of late evening traffic onto Gilbert and Benton roads.

STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

## Tanker Accident Ties Up Traffic On U.S. 17

BY SUSAN USHER

A tanker that ran off U.S. 17 near Bolivia to avoid a rear-end collision Monday afternoon tied up law enforcement officers for six hours and forced a 2½-hour detour of traffic.

Traffic was rerouted behind the state rest area along Benton and Gilbert roads from 4:51 p.m. to 7:27 p.m. Two cranes and a wrecker were called to lift the fully-loaded tanker, owned by Central Transport of High Point.

In a related fender-bender, one woman was transported to Brunswick Hospital with complaints of neck injury.

Operated by Douglas Murphy, 50, of Wilmington, the tanker was hauling 48,000 pounds of molten, 325-degree DMT or dimethyl terphthalate (DMT) when it overturned around 1:30 p.m. It was transporting the chemicals, used in making synthetics, from the DuPont plant at Leland to a Dupont plant in Charleston, S.C.

"It's not dangerous, just hot," said Brunswick County Emergency Management Coordinator Cecil Logan. No leakage was reported.

No charges were filed, said Trooper R.L. Murray.

Murphy said he went off the road after a car in the line of southbound lane of traffic ahead of him decided "at the last minute" to turn into the rest stop between Bolivia and Supply on U.S. 17.

In the midst of a heavy downpour, he said, "The cars in front of me were slamming on brakes. I had to

either go over there, hit the car ahead of me or come over and hit someone head on."

When he pulled over the tanker turned over when the rain-softened shoulder gave way.

"It went over real easy," he said, adding that he was glad to have had his seat belt on. "It's a long way to the other side (of the cab) on your head."

Murphy was not injured.

A passenger in a car following the tanker was taken to Brunswick Hospital in Supply, however, when the car in which she was traveling was struck in the rear by another

vehicle. Murray said Dorothea G. Williams, 67, of Wilmington, complained of neck injury.

She was a passenger in a 1980 Lincoln driven by her husband, Richard McLean Williams. An estimated \$150 in damage was sustained by the Williams car when it was struck in the rear by a 1984 Ford pickup truck driven by Jerry Franklin Johnson Jr., of Route 3, Delores, S.C., and owned by Columbia Farms.

Johnson was charged with failure to decrease speed.

"He was not paying attention. There was heavy rain. He ran up behind them and couldn't stop," said Murray.

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## Bus Bill Could Create Problems

(Continued From Page 1-A)

drivers," Turner said. "We've had some accidents, but if you drive a million-plus miles each year you're going to have some accidents."

According to Turner, Brunswick County's school buses will travel approximately 1,147,667 miles this school year. Union Primary's 13 buses alone will travel more than 159,000 miles.

So far, there have been 11 school

bus accidents in Brunswick County, Turner said, including all reported incidents such as minor fender-benders to the worst wreck involving the Union Primary bus on May 6. It is not known how many of those reported accidents involved student drivers.

"Sometimes they upset me because it's nothing but common sense mistakes," Turner said.

If the House approves the bill, then the schools must begin recruiting adult drivers, he added.

"It's something that will be new to us," Turner said, "but if the legislation passes it, then we'll do the best

we can."

Turner also hopes the state will help install strobe lights on the rear of school buses for safety during foggy mornings. A flashing light could help prevent rear end collisions, he said.

"I've been told it won't work, but I'm still going to push for it," Turner said.

Another idea Turner hopes to initiate is to install computerized boxes on each school bus that would contain a button for signaling the school bus garage. When buses break down, the device would be activated as a call for help.

## Election Board Names Proposed

A new party will be steering the Brunswick County Board of Elections come July.

Under North Carolina election law the party in state power is entitled to two of the three seats on the county board and the minority party the third seat.

Each party forwards the names of three nominees to the State Board of Elections for consideration.

From the Republican Executive Committee, Chairman John Dozier said the nominees chosen last month, in order of preference, are Larry Andrews of Shallotte, James Jefferies of Boiling Spring Lakes and Glenda Walker of Leland. Two will be appointed.

Charles Mills of Winnabow is the current Republican member on the Board of Elections.

Meeting last Friday night, the Democratic Executive Committee nominated current elections board chairman, Orie Gore of Southport; board member W.T. "Rusty" Russ of Shallotte and Virginia Brush, a precinct worker from Boiling Spring Lakes. One will be appointed to the committee.

None of the Republican nominees has served previously on the elections board, but all are former candidates for public office.

Gore has served on the board for at least six years, while Russ was appointed less than a year ago to complete the term of Alphonza Roach.

The three members named to the board will each serve two-year terms beginning in July.

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