

## Gause Now Lieutenant

Rodney Gause, a Shallotte native with four years' law enforcement experience, has been promoted from sergeant to lieutenant within the Shallotte Police Department.

Effective July 24, said, Chief Don Stovall, "he is the assistant chief and will be responsible for the operation of the department in my absence."

The promotion comes less than a month after the hiring of Stovall as chief of police.

Gause, who joined the police department in summer 1981, was promoted from patrolman to sergeant six months later. He has the longest tenure with the department of its current five-person force and was one of three candidates considered for the chief's position.

He is the first person since William Hankins to hold the rank of lieutenant within the department. Hankins resigned in May 1983.



LT. RODNEY GAUSE

## Shriners Hold Annual Chicken Fry Next Week

The smell of fried chicken may fill the air next Friday, August 9, but it won't be mom behind the stove when the Brunswick Shrine Club holds its annual chicken fry with proceeds to benefit the crippled children's hospitals.

Shriners will be at seven locations throughout the county next Friday starting at 11 a.m. Plates will be on sale at Bolivia, Holden Beach, Long Beach, Ocean Isle, Shallotte, Southport and Leland.

But for each \$3 plate, buyers are investing in more than just a meal—they are helping the Shrine Temples of North America invest in operating Shriners Hospitals that care for burned and crippled children who cannot afford to pay for hospital care.

Last year, the 39 Shrine clubs that make up the Shrine Temple of New Bern in southeastern North Carolina raised \$380,442 from chicken and fish fries. Of that amount, \$80,347 was used to transport patients to and from hospitals while \$300,000 was donated to help operate Shriners Hospitals.

Since the first Shriners Hospital opened in 1922, there have been more

than 360,000 operations, more than 6 million physical therapy treatments given and more than 323,500 braces and prosthesis applied for children with indigent parents who cannot afford hospital care.

Each December, the Shrine Temples from both North and South Carolina meet in Charlotte for the annual Shrine Bowl. Last year, a check for \$2,171,984 in donations was presented to help operate Shriners Hospitals.

Across the United States and Canada, there are 18 orthopedic centers with 975 beds, three burn units with 60 beds and three spinal research centers that operate as Shriners Hospitals. The newest orthopedic center will be located in Greenville, S.C., where in November 1984 the ground was broken for the new building.

Shriners receive no outside aid from other sources and less than two percent of donations are used for administrative purposes.

Children accepted for care at a Shriners Hospital include children under 18, and those that Shriners feel they can reasonably help but can't afford to pay.

## Girl's Status Critical After Fall From Truck

A six-year-old girl who was seriously injured Tuesday after falling from the rear of a pickup truck was reported in critical condition Tuesday night at New Hanover Memorial Hospital in Wilmington.

She arrived at New Hanover at approximately 9 p.m., a hospital spokesman said, and her initial condition was assessed as critical.

Ocean Isle Beach Police Chief Jerry Gurganus said Ashley Nichole Wooten, 6, of 205 Timberbridge Drive, West Columbia, S.C., received cuts and scrapes about her face, elbows, hands and legs after falling from the truck on Second Street at Ocean Isle.

She was riding in the rear of a 1983 Chevrolet pickup at the time of the fall, which occurred at about 3:30 p.m. No charges were filed, he added.

Four local agencies worked with the child's parents to transport the girl to Brunswick Hospital in Supply. She was later transferred.

At the time of the fall, Shallotte Volunteer Rescue Squad was responding to another call, so the family decided to transport the child in their personal vehicle, with Ocean Isle Policeman James Stewart providing a squad car escort.

En route to the hospital, however, the police car broke down. The

parents continued toward Supply on their own. They were met on U.S. 17 by Shallotte Police Officer Nellie Evans, who said she escorted them to the Shallotte Volunteer Rescue Squad station.

There they were met by ambulance driver Greg White of the rescue squad and Brunswick County Sheriff's Deputy Ronald Hewett of Shallotte.

Hewett had just ended his duty shift and was on his way home when the emergency call came across his police radio.

No emergency medical technicians (EMTs) with the rescue squad were available, said Hewett, and the am-

balance could not run without an EMT on board. He is a state-certified EMT. He made the transport.

"I had to make a decision right then on what to do," Hewett said. "I think it was a good one."

"The Ocean Isle Beach and Shallotte police departments, Brunswick County Sheriff's Department and Shallotte Volunteer Rescue Squad all really pulled together," said Hewett. "We worked as a team to get the job done."

He added, "That's what we are out here for is to help."

The family was vacationing at Ocean Isle when the accident occurred, Gurganus said.

## First-Day Sales Draw Hesitant Leaf Growers

BY SUSAN USHER

Local tobacco farmers went to market wary of prices as Border Belt sales began Tuesday in the Carolinas.

But Milton Coleman, Brunswick County Agricultural Extension Chairman, was optimistic Tuesday after attending the first sale of the day in Whiteville, at Columbus County Warehouse.

"What I saw this morning was good tobacco selling good," said Coleman. "I didn't see a lot of people turning their tags or the cooperative taking a lot of tobacco."

That means most growers were taking the prices offered by buyers.

Mid-stalk grades C5L and C4L were running as much as \$2 per 100 pounds, while low-stalk grades P3L and P4L were running about \$1.52 or \$1.53, said Coleman.

But in a warehouse with 200,000

pound handling capacity, only 80,000 pounds of leaf was on the sales floor.

"That reflects the concern over prices," he said. "Everyone is naturally apprehensive about what may occur."

While acknowledging his observations were based on one sale only, Coleman predicted an average sales price of less than \$1.50 per hundred pounds.

Last year's opening day tobacco prices on the Border Belt averaged \$152.13 per hundredweight on 4.26 million pounds sold, down 10 cents from the previous year.

Marketing their tobacco will take a bigger chunk of the farmers' gross this season, with a 25 cents a pound assessment to finance the tobacco support price program and an average sales cost of about five cents per pound.

This year's support price is \$165

per 100 pounds, \$4.90 cents less than last year.

Coleman described the Brunswick County crop as in "excellent condition," especially when compared with 1984. However, Columbus County officials said their farmers are several weeks behind in harvesting.

The Georgia and Florida markets opened their season last week, averaging \$135.10 per 100 pounds.

Coleman said some fields may not make 100 percent of their growing quota, but that others will definitely exceed the quota.

The effective quota for Brunswick

County growers was higher for the 1985 season than their growing quota. Many farmers, however, took advantage of an opportunity to lease across county lines last year when special permission to do so was granted after Hurricane Diana.

"A lot of growers, rather than having a severely interrupted cash flow, leased to ease their cash problems. In most cases it was a good management decision," Coleman added.

Sales began Tuesday in Whiteville, Tabor City, Chadbourne, Lumberton and Fairmont, with Wednesday openings slated in Clarkton and Fair Bluff.

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