

MORE CITATIONS THE ANSWER?

Shallotte Chief Wants Drivers To Pay More Attention To Road

Shallotte police officers may start writing more citations following auto accidents to encourage motorists to be more alert, the town's new police chief says.

"I think what we're going to do is start filing more charges in accident cases," Chief Don Stovall said Tuesday. "That may make a few people mad. But maybe it will make people think a little bit more when they're driving."

Drivers allowing their attention to wander away from the road appears to contribute to the high accident rate, he suggested, based on observations during his first month on the job and discussions with other officers.

Accidents are frequent, but minor in nature within this town of about 700 residents. Most occur along U.S. 17, a

major thoroughfare for southbound summer tourists. In 1983, for instance, 90 accidents were reported. Of those 43 occurred either on U.S. 17 or involved an intersection with U.S. 17.

Over the past month, motorists have also had to get adjusted to two additional traffic signals installed to ease entry of traffic onto U.S. 17 in the business district.

Between July 31 and Aug. 5, for instance, four accidents were reported, with one injury and property damage to vehicles ranging from \$200 to \$3,000 each.

One driver was seriously injured in a two-car accident that occurred about 4:25 p.m. Friday in front of Lynn's Beauty Shop, according to a report filed by Lt. Rodney Gause.

Beverly Jean Prince, 22, of Shallotte, pulled out of a parked position, driving a 1984 Chevrolet. She was attempting to make a left turn onto U.S. 17 south when her auto was struck by a northbound 1973 Ford operated by Rifton Ercell Sellers Jr., 54, of Route 1, Bolivia.

Witnesses told Gause that Sellers was passing in the center lane, but Sellers said he had moved into the turn lane to make a left turn.

Noting unsafe movements on the part of both drivers, Gause filed no charges.

Damages to the Prince vehicle were estimated at \$1,000 and to the Sellers vehicle, \$200.

On Wednesday, July 31, Gary Mack Young, 28, was southbound on U.S. 17 when he swung his 1971 Chevrolet

about 1½ feet into the center lane, preparing to make a right turn into the Palms Station. A 1985 Chevrolet operated by Louis Mangini, 60, of Ocean Isle Beach was coming up behind Young "at a speed too great to stop," reported Officer Nellie Evans. The auto struck Young's protruding vehicle in the side.

Mangini was charged with exceeding a safe speed.

No charges were filed in a two-car accident that occurred Monday at about 11:50 a.m. near the Shallotte Post Office.

Jean Fields Leggett, 37, of Shallotte, was pulling out from the post office parking lot onto U.S. 17 north when she dropped her pocketbook. When she looked up, "it was too late," noted the report filed by Lt.

Rodney Gause. Her 1983 Continental struck the rear of a 1975 Chevrolet operated by Kenneth Anthony Pensmith Sr., 46, of Holden Beach.

Damage to the Leggett car was estimated at \$3,000, and to the Pensmith auto, \$200.

In an accident reported Thursday, Tina Marie McClain, 21, of Route 3, Shallotte, told Auxiliary Officer Martha Britt that she hit the brakes at the Wall Street traffic light to avoid striking another car. A second auto, a 1972 Chevrolet operated by Harold Kenard Cannady, 33, of Route 1, Shallotte, was approaching the McClain car from the rear.

Cannady put on brakes in plenty of time to stop, reported Britt, but the car started sliding and hit the left rear of the McClain car, causing an

estimated \$400 damages to McClain's 1980 Ford and \$200 in damages to his Chevrolet.

Shallotte police also are investigating two charges of forgery and uttering filed by a man against his wife after she allegedly endorsed and cashed two checks without his permission.

Russell Allen Smalley, 29, of Route 2, Jeffersonville, Ga., told police his wife, Sheila Diane Smalley, 28, forged his name on checks made out to him for \$47.70 and \$116.54 respectively, cashing them at the Oasis Food Mart in Shallotte Sunday about 1:25 p.m.

The police report indicated Smalley did not know the current whereabouts of his wife.

Calendar Of Events

Thursday, Aug. 8

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS Chapter 71, meets at the DAV Building on Four Mile Road, 7:30 p.m.

LONGWOOD COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT meets at Flowers' Store, Longwood, 7:30 p.m.

BRUNSWICK COUNTY COUNCIL on the Status of Women meets at Bolivia Town Hall, to begin organizing a rape task force to assist victims of rape and sexual assault. Interested individuals are asked to attend or to call, 1-800-672-2903, or 1-762-4255, identifying yourself as a Brunswick County volunteer, 7:30 p.m.

LADIES AUXILIARY of BPOE No. 2679, Calabash, meets at the Elks Restaurant, Calabash, for a luncheon and social hour, 11 a.m., \$6.50.

GAME NIGHT at the American Legion Hut, one mile south of Shallotte on U.S. 17, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 9

BRUNSWICK COUNTY DEMOCRATIC WOMEN meet at the Tri-Beach Volunteer Fire Department for a white elephant sale and cake and ice cream social, 7:30 p.m.

GAME NIGHT at the Sunset Beach Volunteer Fire Department, 8 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 10

GAME NIGHT at the Calabash Volunteer Fire Department, 8 p.m.

Monday, Aug. 12

CALABASH TOWN COUNCIL meets at the town hall, 10 a.m.

BRUNSWICK COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION meets in the county commissioners' chambers, 6:30 p.m.

BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH meets at the health department, 7 p.m.

SHALLOTTE PLANNING BOARD meets at the town hall, 7 p.m.

HOLDEN BEACH SENIOR CITIZENS meet at Virginia Craig's Seashore Road home, 7 p.m.

RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION for Brunswick County meets at the Commission's office, Brunswick County Government Center, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 13

OCEAN ISLE BEACH COMMISSIONERS meet at the town hall, 4 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 14

BRUNSWICK TOASTMASTERS meet for breakfast at the Ship's Chandler Restaurant, Southport, 7 a.m.-8 a.m. Visitors and prospective members welcome.

Judgment Sought In Meares Suit

Four government defendants in an action filed by a former Brunswick County employee want a federal judge to rule on the case, saying there is "no disputed issue of material fact."

The complaint was filed Sept. 10 by Alinda Meares, former administrative secretary with the Brunswick County Department of Social Services who was fired in September 1981 by former DSS director Jamie Orrock.

Requesting a jury trial, she seeks compensation plus reinstatement and back pay from the five defendants: the county, the department of social services and their respective governing boards, and Orrock.

Attorneys for the four government defendants filed a motion for summary judgement in U.S. District Court in Wilmington on July 17. On July 25, U.S. Magistrate J. Rich Leonard ruled that Ms. Meares has until Oct. 1 to respond to the motion

rather than the usual 30 days.

According to the brief supporting the motion for summary judgement, Mrs. Meares has not alleged she was fired pursuant to a custom or policy of the governmental entities or that a policy or custom of those entities denied her due process or any other constitutional right.

These allegations would provide the only basis for her complaint, the defendants argue.

The brief says that rather, Ms. Meares alleged that Orrock was an agent of the governmental entities when he dismissed her. But it continues, depositions indicate that is not the case. Also, Ms. Meares alleged she had been denied due process

by not having an opportunity to present her grievance in a binding hearing.

Ms. Meares dropped grievance appeals begun through both the State Personnel Commission and through the state courts. She later entered into a settlement with the social services board that was approved by the State Personnel Commission. It provided for her full reinstatement with back pay and benefits. But in Wake County Superior Court, Judge Pou Bailey recently ruled that the social services board was without the authority to enter such a binding agreement with an employee, remanding the matter to the Commission.

June Deeds Are Reported

For the month of June, a total of 1,104 deeds and deeds of trust were recorded for revenues of \$8,479.50, reported Robert J. Robinson, Brunswick County registrar of deeds.

Irregular instruments which include filing of corporations, con-

tracts, marriages, births, deaths, financial statements and other services generated revenues of \$4,527.80.

Real estate excise taxes collected totaled \$23,868 along with 28 plats for \$378, for a total revenue of \$37,253.30 last month.

Expenses of \$10,309.98 were listed as follows: contracted services, \$4,112.99; equipment rental, \$3,293.09; departmental supplies, \$1,100.14; maintenance and repair, \$597; capital outlay, \$519.42; travel and training, \$321; telephone, \$186.42; postage, \$144.92 and dues and subscriptions, \$35.

Biker Injured At Beach

A 14-year-old biker was seriously injured at Holden Beach Saturday in a collision with an automobile.

John Keith Byrd of Parkton, Maryland, was rushed to The Brunswick Hospital and then transferred to a Wilmington hospital, where his condition was described as improving early this week.

According to Holden Beach Chief of Police Raymond Simpson, the bike-riding youth came out of Sunshine St. onto Ocean Boulevard West in the path of a 1977 Dodge station wagon driven by Dozier M. Spivey of Route 3, Whiteville. The car, headed east at the time, sustained damages to the grille and a broken windshield.

No charges were filed as a result of the accident, Simpson said.

Women's Meeting Set At Calabash

There will be a meeting of the Coastal Business and Professional Women at the Elks Restaurant in Calabash Tuesday, Aug. 13 at 6:30 p.m.

Prospective members are invited to attend.

In addition to regular club business, Shirley Poorman, a certified color analyst, will give a presentation.

For more information call Chris Rosdahl or Lisa Young at (803)249-3449 or (919)579-3161.



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