

Owners Told Not To Expect Payment For House Lost In Truck Explosion

BY SUSAN USHER

Owners of a Bolivia home destroyed when a tractor-trailer truck caught on fire and exploded last Dec. 26 say they have been unable to collect from the trucking company.

"They said the driver had a heart attack and they wasn't supposed to pay anything," Frank Harrell told The Brunswick Beacon.

Early on Dec. 26, 36-year-old Larry Hall Whiteley was southbound on U.S. 17 in a rig owned by Worsley Transport Co. of Wilmington when, two miles south of Bolivia, the truck suddenly ran off the highway, struck

a culvert and then a utility pole. After striking the culvert, the truck began leaking gas, which apparently ignited when high voltage power lines fell from the utility pole.

Occupants sleeping inside a nearby two-story frame home fled shortly before the truck exploded, with the flames enveloping the house.

Whiteley died.

The transport company found temporary accommodations in a Wilmington motel for renters Lossia Goodman and her son, Kenneth, and mother, Lela Harrison, and bought them some clothing.

At the time of the accident,

General Manager Richard Bass said the company would be working out a settlement with the owners of the house.

However, no settlement has been forthcoming and after waiting, the renters have signed a one-year lease for other lodgings, said Harrell.

Last week, Harrell had the lot cleared of the last debris remaining from the fire. Monday evening he watched workers set up a 1973 Skyline mobile home he had bought with his own money and said, "It's a long way from being right."

Bass could not be reached for comment Tuesday.



MR. AND MRS. FRANK HARRELL of Bolivia moved a used mobile home onto their lot along U.S. 17 Monday, to replace a rental home that was destroyed in a freak highway accident three months ago.

STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

College Trustees Tackle New Building Decisions

BY TERRY POPE

Brunswick Technical College trustees are slowly constructing a new classroom building together.

At its monthly meeting last Wednesday, the board tackled a few more problems and added a few more details to the six-classroom building now under construction at the Supply main campus. The scheduled completion date is November.

At an earlier meeting, the board agreed to delete several details from the building, including a greenhouse, to meet its \$462,500 budget.

BTC President Joseph Carter said last Wednesday the building itself will cost that amount minus desks,

chairs and other necessary equipment.

Furniture and parking space must be paid for out of other funds "unless the bids come in under what is anticipated," Carter said.

Trustee W.A. "Bill" Stanley added, "I hate to see a building be built out there minus the desks, stoves, parking lots, the things that are necessary."

"A building does not function until we can find the money to buy these other things."

The funds to build the new classroom building were appropriated last year by the N.C. General Assembly. The board must await to see if additional funds will be

appropriated this year.

The board also voted Wednesday to pay Joe Johnson and Associates of Wilmington \$27,750 in architectural fees for designing the building. The fees represent six percent of the construction cost.

The trustees also agreed on the brick that will be used for the exterior walls and approved a plan to eliminate drainage problems on the north side of the campus.

The N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development had threatened to fine the school \$150 a day for alleged violations in allowing a drainage ditch to deposit into a nearby stream.

Johnson told the board Wednesday that his office has developed a plan that state officials agreed would solve the drainage problems. No fines will be imposed on the school, he said.

The area under question will be turned into a parking area with 274 spaces, he added. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has also approved of the school's plan to construct a 30- to 40-foot restraining wall on the north side of the campus to keep silt out of the branch.

In other action last Wednesday, the board hired Lori Barnhill as a computer technician instructor.

The board also entered into a 20-minute executive session to discuss personnel, but afterwards took no action.

Members tabled a discussion on the organization of a curriculum committee that would make decisions on the addition or deletion of programs from the school's curriculum. They appeared uncertain as to who should be asked to serve on the committee. An existing committee of faculty members now makes recommendations concerning curriculum to the board of trustees for approval.

Appointments, Land Use Plans On CRC's Agenda

Coastal Resources Commission (CRC) members will consider three Brunswick County nominees when they make appointments this week to the Coastal Resources Advisory Council.

The CRC is meeting today (Thursday) and Friday at the Sheraton Wrightsville Beach Hotel, with public sessions beginning at 9:30 a.m. each day.

Holden Beach Mayor John Tandy, CRAC member Rosetta Short from Long Beach and Maynard Owens of Shallotte are among nominees from several municipalities along the coast being considered for the council.

The CRC will also draft revisions of the beach access rules and review the final draft of Ocean Isle Beach's land use plan update. Sunset Beach's preliminary land use plan update will also be considered.

Discussion on the use of porous pavement in coastal development projects and a proposed review of coastal waters classifications are also scheduled, according to spokesman Kathryn Henderson.

The porous pavement is one of the methods developers are proposing to meet standards for stormwater control, said Henderson. She added that the pavement allows water to run through it rather than drain off into the coastal waters.

Other discussion will include proposals to clarify marine marina standards, which could allow a marina to be built in an area that does not have existing shellfish resources, said Henderson.

The CRC will also attempt to clarify existing rules for building piers, and making piers exempt from the permitting process if they're used for residential, as opposed to commercial purposes, she said.

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Quilt Entries Now Due April 1

The deadline for entering the Brunswick County Extension Homemakers Quilt Show '87 has been extended to April 1.

Spokesman Katherine Shawver said application forms were inadvertently left off brochures promoting the show. Forms are available from all extension homemakers in the county as well as

from the Brunswick County Agricultural Extension Office at the county government complex in Bolivia.

The show will be held Saturday, April 4, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Shallotte Middle School. It will feature hand- and machine-sewn quilts and quilted items for display

and/or judging, quilting demonstrations and a merchants' mall. Near the close of the event, a drawing will be held for a blue and cream double bed quilt made by county extension club members.

Show admission is \$1 per person. More information is available from Mary Russ at the extension office.

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