

LOCAL NEWS

Health Director urges public to have property evaluated

Local health officials are urging potential land buyers to have property evaluated to be sure it is suitable for septic tank system, or that it already has an acceptable sewage system.

According to Mr. Howard Campbell, director of Pasquotank-Perquimans-Camden-Chowan District Health Department, the North Carolina Department of Human

Resources has received a number of complaints from people who have purchased land on which they plan to build a house or move a mobile home, only to find later that the site is unsuitable for a septic tank system.

"This can be a devastating experience for people who have worked hard and saved money to buy land and settle in a home,"

Mr. Campbell said. "This is more likely to happen to people who are buying their first piece of property and are simply unaware that they need to have the site evaluated."

He also pointed out that those who are moving into an established mobile home park must give written authorization from the Pasquotank-Perquimans-Camden-Chowan District Health Department before moving a trailer on a lot.

"Sometimes a septic tank system is failing and the future residents are unaware of the situation until they have already moved their mobile home onto the lot and made a deposit or paid rent," Mr. Campbell emphasized.

Steve Steinbeck, a soil

specialist and supervisor of the On-Site Sewage Program for the N.C. Division of Health Services, said that North Carolina has a variety of soils, some of which are more suitable for septic tank systems than others.

In the mountains, there are problems of water being too close to the surface, shallow soils and steep slopes, he said. Sites in the coastal plain are plagued with high water table problems, and clays that absorb sewage so slowly that it rises to the surface of the ground. The piedmont has a combination of these problems. Many of these conditions, either separately or combined, make the soil in some areas of the state unsuitable for septic tank systems.

Steinbeck also noted that in the

past, septic tanks were used for subdivision development, the soil becomes overloaded," Steinbeck said. "Mother Nature is simply taxed beyond her limits."

In order to have the site evaluated for septic tank system suitability a person must apply to the local health department. Before any other permits for construction can be issued, the improvement permit must be issued by the local health department.

Mr. Campbell said a permit could be denied because of seasonably high water tables, water that is too near the surface, inadequate soil depth for the treatment of sewage, or heavy clays. There also could be a lack of enough acceptable

space for the septic tank system to take care of anticipated sewage flow.

He also said that the old percolation (perc) test is no longer recognized as a dependable indicator of septic tank system performance. This test involved digging a hole and pouring water into it to see how fast the water dissipated. However, the test does not consistently indicated the presence of a high water table, heavy clays, shallow soil depth, or other possible problems.

"It is ironic that, even though land and a home are much greater lifetime investments, people often spend more time looking at a car before they buy it, than they do a piece of property," Mr. Campbell said.

Bleil receives BA

Chief Submarine Sonar Technician Richard E. Bleil is Command Career Counselor for Personnel Support Activity, Norfolk, providing a career guidance program and retention incentives for the command. This summer Chief Bleil achieved one of his own goals—a

Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminology.

Chief Bleil graduated cum laude at St. Leo College commencement exercises on June 29. Chief Bleil earned his B.A. through St. Leo College Extension Service at the Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base with the help of the Navy's Tuition Aid Program.

Over 800 enlisted service members fall under the Chief's purview at nine Personnel Support Activity Detachments, located at various Tidewater Naval activities. In his job, Chief Bleil provides career counseling to sailors stationed ashore and seeks to increase retention throughout the command.

Chief Bleil presently resides at Holiday Island, with his wife Virginia and his son Gene. He has served over 22 years in the Navy and would like to find employment in the Hertford area upon retirement from the Navy.



BLEIL

Mosley elected

Reynold L. Mosley of Route 3, Box 411 Edenton, was sworn in at the Disabled American Veterans Convention in Charlotte, N.C. on June 30, 1984. Mosley is the Adjutant and Treasurer of Chapter 64 in Elizabeth City.

He is a veteran of World War II and the Korean War. He has served six tours of the Pacific Ocean during more than twenty

years in the United States Marine Corps.

Mosley is a life member of the Disabled American Veterans, Fleet Reserve Association, and the American Military Retirees Association. Also, the VFW, American Legion, Marine Corps League and the Uniformed Services Disabled Retirees Association.

Hurricane

(Continued from page 1)

Shut off water and electricity at main stations.

Take small valuables and papers, but travel light.

Leave food and water for pets (shelters will not take them.)

Lock up house.

Drive carefully to nearest designated shelter using recommended evacuation routes.

After the all-clear is give:

Drive carefully; watch for

dangling electrical wires, undermined roads, flooded low spots.

Don't sight-see.

Report broken or damaged water, sewer and electrical lines.

Use caution when re-entering your home.

Check for gas leaks.

Check food and water for spoilage.

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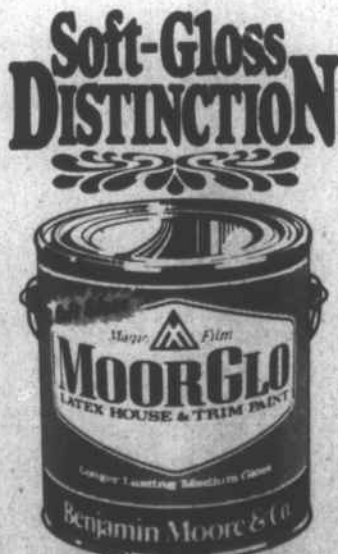


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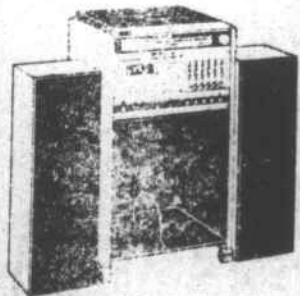
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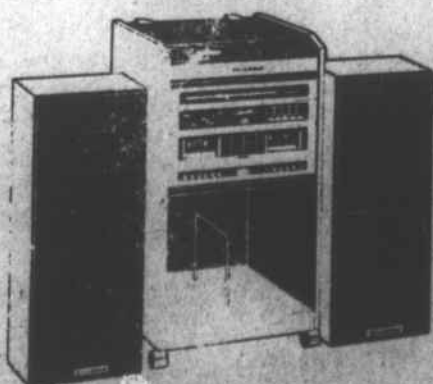
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