

Town Kills Proposal, Ends Parking Debate

By STEVE PLUMMER
A proposal that Lillington for three years a controversial downtown parking lot was killed June 12 by the local board of commissioners during their regular meeting. The action apparently ends the town board's involvement in the six-month debate over the fate of the property, located on the corner of Front and Eighth streets.

merchants have urged the town since January to buy or lease the property for downtown off-street parking. Project LIP (Lillington is Proud) has included the lot owned by Lillington realtor Ed Turlington, in a long-term proposal that would provide more off-street parking to meet the needs of the central business district. Although the lot can only provide an additional 17 spaces, it is considered critical by many because of its accessibility and high visibility. The action taken Tuesday, the final in a series of proposals made by the board, was prompted by the appearance of

Faye Lewis, owner of Lo Ra Fashions, located next to the lot, and Sirena Byrd, owner of Sirena's Floral and Gift Shop, located near Lo Ra Fashions. The two women have been supporters of the proposed parking lot since the issue first arose. Mrs. Byrd is co-chairman of Project LIP. In response to their question as to where matters presently stood, commissioner Thomas Brown informed them that at a previous meeting, a motion was made that the town not buy or lease the property. The motion was defeated by the board, so the matter was "still hanging in limbo," Brown said.

Commissioner Marcelle Brown (no relation), who said he felt the property was important to the town, then moved that they lease the property for three years at an annual rate of \$1,560 per year, the figure agreed upon by Turlington. Brown said three years would be enough time for the town to study the situation and make a final decision on whether or not to purchase the lot outright. Commissioner Fred Darroch seconded the motion on the first reading. During the discussion, commissioner Gary Turlington expressed his reservations on

the wisdom of purchasing or leasing the lot. "I'm still concerned about precedent," he said. "If you can explain how we can decide to buy this one and not another, then I'm all for it." "As it is now, I'm sure there are other people with parking lots who would like for the town to lease them at \$1,560 a year," he said. "I'm sure that there is not a similar situation in town," Brown responded. "I don't see how the town can expect merchants to go out and buy a place for their customers to park." "We're talking about \$130 per month here," Brown said.

"If it helps, it's worth it. I'm glad to see a precedent if necessary." Turlington, who said he had heard as much negative comment about the situation as anything else, said he would feel better if more of the affected merchants supported the proposal. "Out of the people who stand to benefit from this, over a majority have told me that they couldn't care less about it," he said. Ms. Lewis told the board that many merchants felt they paid enough taxes for the town to provide parking without the merchants having to "shuck out more for a parking lot."

"We're not responsible for everybody with a parking problem," Turlington responded. "There's a lot of folks here who put out more money than we're talking about to provide parking. They're not asking to be paid by the town." Brown said he was in favor of the proposal for two reasons. "Economically, we're not talking about paying that much for what we expect to get back," he said. "I also think it is an important step in the revitalization of the town." Following the close of the discussion, the motion was defeated 3-2, with Brown and Darroch voting in favor of the measure and Thomas Brown,

Turlington and Gerald Myrick voting against it. The action was interpreted by some observers as the final blow for the proposal, since Turlington had indicated to board members his desire for a final decision so he could make other plans for the property if necessary. In other business, the board heard a request for street paving from residents of the neighborhood around Loftin and Third streets. Lewis informed the group that they would have to get a petition for the action signed by at least 51 percent of the area's property owners. Continued on Page 4

Seven Candidates Vie For Miss Fourth Title

A field of seven candidates will vie for the crown of Miss Fourth of July during the Lillington Jaycees' annual pageant slated for that evening in the town park. The crowning of the winner will follow the Jaycees' dance, which will be held in the park this year instead of the traditional street dance. Tickets for the dance are one dollar each. Ticket-holders will be eligible for a drawing on three prizes, a riding lawn mower, a gas grill and a 10-speed bicycle. Tickets are available from the Fabric Shop on Front Street, pageant contestants and Jaycee members.



KATHY WILLIAMS



ANNIE HOLLMAN



FRANKIE COTTEN

Club and pianist in the FHA. Her previous titles include second runner-up in the Miss Coats Jr. Order pageant and she was a finalist in the Miss N.C. Charm pageant. She has studied piano for six years and band for four years. She is especially interested in English, French and the sciences at UNC-Chapel Hill to study law. Her hobbies include basketball, softball, cheerleading and horseback riding. ANNIE HOLLMAN, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Hollman of Spring Lake, is a

member of the Anderson Creek community. Annie, 17, is 5-1 and has brown hair and brown eyes. A member of Bethel Baptist Church, she is a student at Western Harnett High School. She is a member of the Beta and FHA clubs and has served as president of the BICP Club. She is also a Red Cross volunteer. Her favorite activities include drawing, writing and cheerleading. She is especially interested in her Bio-Med II class at Western Harnett. She plans to attend N.C. State University. FRANKIE COTTEN, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Cotten of Fuquay Varina, is a member of the Rawls Community. Frankie, 18, is 5-2 and has brown hair and green eyes. A member of Rawls Baptist Church, she attends Harnett Central High School. She belongs to several school-related clubs, including the Monogram, Science, Pep, FPCI, FFA, FHA and Library clubs. Her special interests are drawing, biology and art and she hopes to study to be a dental assistant following graduation from Harnett Central.

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Around Town

SHUTTLE BUS
An idea whose time has come (which can also be interpreted as a sign of the times) is the shuttle bus that will be in operation at this year's July 4 Festival in the Park. The bus route will run from the park, up Main Street, right at Front Street, left at Eighth, left again onto James and another left at the stoplight to go north on Main. The bus will then turn right onto Front Street, left onto James and another left at the stoplight to go north on Main. The bus will then turn right in Front Street, left onto First behind the courthouse, left again onto Harnett right on Main and back to the park. Stops and schedules will be announced in next week's issue of the News. An activity bus on loan from the Harnett school system will be used for the shuttle service, sponsored by the Lillington Kiwanis Club. There's no charge for riding. This service is important for several reasons obvious to everyone. The gas situation being what it is. Also, anyone who has ever tried to park at the park in the afternoon or at the bridge in the morning knows what a headache it is. The shuttle bus will solve all these problems if everyone will give it a try.

Harnett Bus System Model For NC Training

The Traffic Safety Research Agency (TSRA) at UNC-Chapel Hill has selected the Harnett County school bus system as a model in developing a training program for state-wide use. The new training program centers around the preparation of a slide-film series which will be used to train school bus driver training representatives across North Carolina. Driver training representatives teach students who seek to become certified school bus drivers. Harrington Morrison, Supervisor of Transportation for Harnett County Schools, said, "I am very pleased that the Traffic Safety Research Agency has selected our system in developing the slide-film series. It speaks well for our staff and for our school bus drivers." Lauren Ogle of TSRA said "the selection of Harnett County as the unit in which the filming was done was not random chance." "We very carefully evaluated the possibilities and chose Harnett County because we know they have a good program," she said. The photography was completed June 8 and on some rural school bus routes in the Harnett Central attendance area. Thirty pupils from North Harnett Primary School rode the school buses during the filming. The buses were escorted by Highway Patrol Trooper D.S. Skiles. Dr. Mark Fountain with the Department of Motor Vehicles was also present during the simulation and filming. School bus drivers Mike Jones, Sandra Byrd, Debbie Bell and a student, Graham Byrd, took part in the activities during filming. Mrs. Doris Lewis, principal

at North Harnett School and Jerry Ennis, Harnett Central principal, assisted with the planning and organization of the activity. Two of the school buses used are equipped with new experimental safety devices, including the prototype walking arm, developed by the Harnett County School Bus Transportation Department, and four additional mirrors, which will allow drivers a greater view of the area around the bus. One of these buses was taken to Chapel Hill June 14-15 for further use in the training program. Morrison said the state had ordered 8,200 walking arms for

use on all North Carolina schools transporting children in kindergarten through grade three. The Harnett County prototype was used as a model in writing the specifications for the walking arms ordered by the state. Harnett County School Superintendent R.A. Gray said, "I am particularly proud of the work being done by Mr. Morrison and our staff, and by the school bus drivers." "While I know our system is not perfect," he said, "it is at the same time reassuring to have been selected to serve as the background for the preparation of the slide-films to be used in the training program."

Big Cuts Expected In County School Budget

By NANCY BOUNDS
The Harnett County Board of Education had to trim the "meat with the fat" when they cut their budget last night by \$257,591. Suffering costly blows on the chopping block were the in-school suspension program, the athletic fund, teachers supplements, and activity buses. None of the board members were pleased about the reductions. "I hate to do it," said Carrie Carroll, "but there seems to be no choice." The board was concerned most about the teacher supplements and the in-school suspension program. Those two items were not done away with completely, but reduced considerably. One hundred dollars has been proposed for the teachers. That figure was cut to \$75. The in-school suspension program had been allotted \$23,000 by the county, that amount was trimmed to just \$10,000. "With \$10,000," Gray explained, "we can still start the in-school suspension program in November. It will be delayed for a few months, but not completely cut out." Gray said that state funds would come in around January to finance the in-school suspension program through the rest of the 1979-80 school year. The board had a choice between giving the five Harnett high schools an additional \$31,000 for athletics or salaries for five new school secretaries. Coats Principal Jack Hawley and Western Harnett Principal

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Stolen Vehicle Leads To Arrests

Rodney G. Houston of Charleston, S.C. and Ronald M. Scott of Monks Corner, S.C. were arrested June 12 by Lillington Police Officer Fred Frye for possession of a stolen vehicle. Ten dollars worth of gas was stolen from Gate's Service Station June 15. According to a report by Officer Clyde Pate, a tall, slim white man, driving a late model Gremlin, drove off without paying for his gas. The incident is still under investigation. A break-in reported June 16 by Inez McLean at Bethune's Laundry was investigated by Officer Frye. According to his report, entry was gained through a rear window. The suspect then removed the glass to the cash register. Approximately \$46.90 worth of cash and merchandise was missing. The arrest report said Art Canady, a 17-year-old black youth was arrested at 8:30 a.m. that day at the residence of Barry Merritt. All cash and merchandise was recovered and Canady was held on \$200 bond. The only wreck reported by the police department during the week occurred June 16 and was investigated by Officer Frye.

an operator's license, fictitious registration, stolen plates and possession of a stolen vehicle. Scott was arrested and charged with possession of stolen plates and vehicle. Ten dollars worth of gas was stolen from Gate's Service Station June 15. According to a report by Officer Clyde Pate, a tall, slim white man, driving a late model Gremlin, drove off without paying for his gas. The incident is still under investigation. A break-in reported June 16 by Inez McLean at Bethune's Laundry was investigated by Officer Frye. According to his report, entry was gained through a rear window. The suspect then removed the glass to the cash register. Approximately \$46.90 worth of cash and merchandise was missing. The arrest report said Art Canady, a 17-year-old black youth was arrested at 8:30 a.m. that day at the residence of Barry Merritt. All cash and merchandise was recovered and Canady was held on \$200 bond. The only wreck reported by the police department during the week occurred June 16 and was investigated by Officer Frye.

According to the report, a 1977 Ford, driven by Evelyn Y. McDougald of Broadway was making a left turn off West Old Road when it was struck by the second vehicle. Ronald G. Davis of Wadesboro, driving a 1978 Ford, was charged with passing at an intersection. Damages to the McDougald car were estimated at \$400, while damages to the Davis car were estimated at \$350.

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POST 74 MEETS

Post 74 of the Disabled American Veterans and Auxiliary organizations will conduct its officers installation Saturday at 7 p.m. at the DAV hut in Buies Creek. All members are urged to attend the supper meeting and Continued on Page 4

Grave Markers Tell Stories

Break-In Report Gets Pot Arrest
Dean Lacroix of Lillington reported to the Harnett County Sheriff's Department June 17 that his trailer had been broken into while he was away for the weekend. Deputy Jesse Gentry investigated the incident and reportedly found nothing missing. However, he did find three marijuana plants growing in pots beside the front door of the trailer. Lacroix was arrested and charged with possession and manufacturing of controlled substance.

By LORRAINE MIZE
The family stood by the open grave as the minister said a final prayer. In the background sat a truck with two men, waiting for the services to end so they could get on with their work. Before the last car left the cemetery, the two men were already out of the truck and working. In just a few minutes, they had the grave closed and the flowers arranged on top. It looked very pretty, but how long would it last? Time and the weather take their toll on gravesites and headstones. After a time, neglect also takes its toll. When talking through several cemeteries in the presence of several war veterans. At Barbecue there is a site for John Oliver, who served in the 60th N.C. Infantry for the Confederate States of America. At Summerville is the grave of Capt. James N. Turner, who served in Company D of the 2nd

Summerville, have several things in common besides their age. The most notable similarity is both have a gravesite dedicated to the memory of a stranger. The gravesite at Summerville Cemetery has no dates but Mrs. Lois Ross said the man was found dead on the roadside in front of the church sometime in the early 1800's. The stranger's gravesite at Barbecue is dated 1766 and the inscription reads "Sacred to the Memory of a Stranger." Another similarity in the cemeteries in the presence of several war veterans. At Barbecue there is a site for John Oliver, who served in the 60th N.C. Infantry for the Confederate States of America. At Summerville is the grave of Capt. James N. Turner, who served in Company D of the 2nd

N.C. Cavalry. Buried at Summerville Cemetery are three generations of Joseph McKoy. The three generations are grandfather, father and daughter and span a longer time period than the history of the church. The oldest grave at Summerville is dated 1749 and belongs to Margaret Arthur McKoy. Also at Summerville is a gravesite belonging to an eleven-year-old girl named Ellen Wayman, an orphan who died April 6, 1857. The inscription is fitting: "Thrown upon the charities of an unfeeling world, she found at the hands of strangers that sympathy, love and affection which none but the orphan can appreciate." Another interesting grave at the Summerville Cemetery belongs to a man named McNeill. The stone is worn and

the first name can't be made out. According to Mrs. Ross, he was a navigator that did blasting for the Cape Fear River. A stone from that site now marks his grave at this request. He said it broke him in life and he wanted it to mark his grave. Also buried at Summerville are several World War II veterans, two of which were killed in action. Murdoch McRae McLaughlin died June 5, 1945 in Bhuton, India while on a mission. Sgt. John B. Bethea, a member of the first company of the 176th Infantry, was killed in action in France in 1945. Comdr. Robert P. Ross, a naval pilot during the war, died in 1963 and his request was to be buried at sea. A stone is located in the cemetery in his memory. Continued on Page 4

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HEADSTONE AT BARBECUE CHURCH