

Withholding Planned

Employee Checks May Be Smaller

Warren County employees who currently are delinquent in payment of their county taxes may find their paychecks smaller by 10 percent next month.

According to Tax Collector Susan Brown, the county will begin garnisheeing of wages at 10 percent per payday until the taxpayer's debt is satisfied.

Ten percent is the maximum that can be garnisheed, according to law.

Mrs. Brown estimated that of the county's approximately 100 employees, 10 were delinquent in payment of their ad valorem taxes.

Some delinquent taxpayers intend to pay, Mrs. Brown noted, but simply postpone payment for two or three

months. Although the taxes are due September 1, the interest penalty is not attached until January 6 of the following year.

The interest rate on delinquent taxes is two percent for January with an additional three-quarters of one percent attached each month thereafter until the taxes are paid.

In the past, the tax collector's office has grouped delinquent taxpayers according to employer to simplify the garnisheeing process which is very time consuming, Mrs. Brown said.

For the past two years, the county's collection rate has been around 92 percent, two percent lower than in previous years.

Lake Developer Has Single Day In Jail

Lake Gaston developer J. R. Brock of Bracy, Va. spent only one day of a seven-day sentence for contempt of court in Warren County Jail this past weekend before being released pending an appeal of the sentence to the N.C. Supreme Court.

Brock was arrested Saturday in Henderson by Chief Deputy B. D. Bolton of the Warren County Sheriff's Department on a warrant issued early last month. He was released Sunday on the order of Superior Court Judge Darius B. Herring, who issued a stay on the arrest order pending the outcome of the appeal, according to Warren County Sheriff's Department Office Deputy Betsy Frazier.

The N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development (NRCD) sued Brock in 1983 for failure

to comply with the state's Sedimentation and Pollution Control Act in development of his West Lake Subdivision on Lake Gaston.

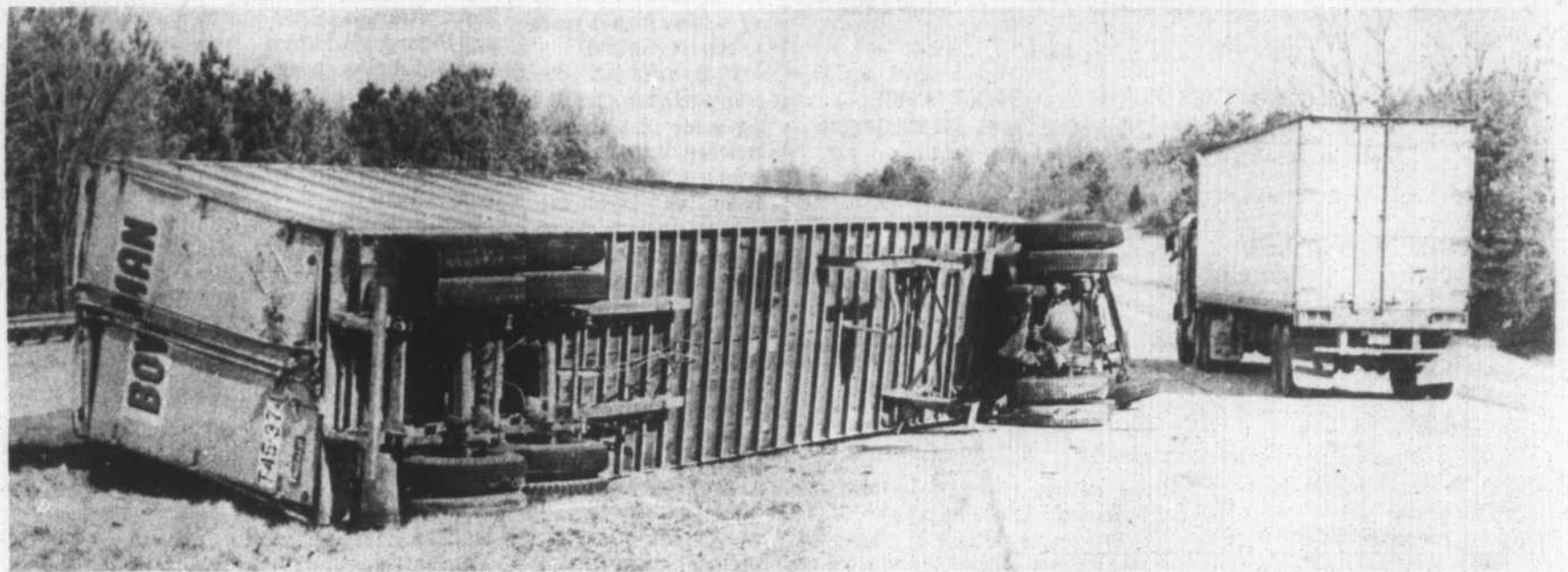
NRCD won the suit and although court records indicate some measures were taken to control erosion and sedimentation, Brock was found in contempt of court for failure to comply fully with state requirements.

He appealed the decision, but the appeal was denied by the N.C. Court of Appeals and the order for arrest was issued in January.

According to the Sheriff's Department, Brock was also served Saturday with an execution order from the Warren County Clerk of Court for payment of a \$1,200 fine previously imposed as a result of another NRCD suit.



The Senior Citizens Center on the campus of Hawkins School in Warrenton was the recipient recently of a pool table thanks to the generosity of Herbert L. (K.P.) Davis of Washington, D.C., a native of Warren County. Shown above with Davis (far left) are: (left to right) John Hawkins, secretary of the Merry Makers Club of Warren County; Allen Hawks, director of the Warren County Council for Senior Citizens which sponsors the center; and Woodrow Davis of Washington, D.C. (Staff Photo)



A deer crossing I-85 about seven miles north of Manson was blamed for an accident Thursday that did an estimated \$2,000 in damage to this tractor-trailer rig owned by Bowman Transportation Inc. of Gadsden, Ala. According to Trooper R. T. Futrell with the N.C. Highway Patrol, James Lee Mapp, 44, of Greensboro was driving north when he swerved to avoid the deer. His rig ran off the right

side of the road, then crossed to the left before overturning in the median. The rig slid on its side about 107 feet before stopping, reports indicate. Mapp was uninjured and no charges were filed in the 10:30 a.m. accident.

(Staff Photo)

Following Approval Of Lake Gaston Development

Lawsuit Is Filed Against Planning Board

By KAY HORNER
News Editor

Three out-of-state owners of Warren County property have filed a \$250,000 lawsuit against the Warren County Planning Board charging that it failed to comply with the county's subdivision ordinance in its approval last year of Fernwood Estates, a development on Lake Gaston.

The suit was filed last month by Samuel H. Moseley of Brunswick, Va. and Thomas H. and Ann H. Moseley of Lowndes County, Ga., owners of property surrounding Fernwood Estates.

A motion for dismissal

of the suit on the grounds that the court lacks jurisdiction over the defendants and that the complaint fails to state a claim upon which relief could be granted was filed Feb. 12 by County Attorney Charles T. Johnson, Jr.

Also named as defendants in the suit are the Warren County Zoning Board, then-Zoning Administrator Alvin Salmon, and Wallace and Betsy S. Brown, owners of Fernwood Estates.

The complaint charges that the Planning Board approved the subdivision without requiring that a sketch design, preliminary plat, and final

plat be submitted for review in accordance with procedures outlined in the Warren County Subdivision Ordinance.

It further alleges that the board violated the county's zoning ordinance by approving a subdivision that neither abuts a state-maintained road nor a road meeting right-of-way standards for state roads.

The Moseleys maintain that the only access to the subdivision is over their property which they describe as farmland used solely for agricultural purposes and for personal use and enjoyment.

The Moseleys have requested that the case be

remanded to the Warren County Zoning Board of Adjustments for an appeal hearing or that the court hear the matter and that the Browns be enjoined from further construction and development of the property.

O. L. "Butch" Meek, secretary to the Plan-

ning Board, declined last week to comment specifically on the lawsuit, but said the question of road right-of-way was becoming more an issue, especially in the development on Lake Gaston.

A landowner, by county statute, cannot be denied access to his pro-

perty. However, that access currently can be limited to an 18-foot cart path, Meek said. By state law, a 50-foot right-of-way is required for any road which is to be state-maintained.

"The person who doesn't have a right-of-way can never develop (Continued on page 3)

Local Projects Are Under Way

The Warren County Council on Aging's VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) program currently has two projects underway, according to Miriam Coleman, VISTA coordinator.

In the home weatherization project, which has been underway for some time, eight volunteers have given a total of 20 hours to weatherize four houses in the county.

In addition, plastic for insulation around windows and doors has been provided for five houses.

A telephone reassurance project was also begun the first of the year and for the month of January, seven volunteers reported a total of 155 hours spent calling shut-ins and the elderly.

According to Mrs. Coleman, a volunteer has been designated in each community to call individuals who are confined to their homes. The volunteers are urged to make contact with those on their lists at least three times a week.

"This is one way that we are able to keep in touch with those who

need reassurance that someone cares, and to ensure that their basic needs are being attended to," Mrs. Coleman said.

Anyone wishing more information on the weatherization or telephone reassurance programs should contact Mrs. Coleman at the Senior Citizens Center or call 257-3111, Monday through Friday.

Mrs. Coleman added that start up of a senior citizen nutrition site at the Senior Citizens Center on the campus of Hawkins School in Warrenton was anticipated in the next two weeks.



In its first eight hours of operation Monday, Warren Immediate Care Center located in the Warren General Hospital building treated 13 patients between its regular hours of 4 p.m. and midnight. Staffer Pat Gaul, LPN, is shown above with Phil Williams, executive director of HealthCo of Soul City which is administering the clinic. The center is designed to offer primary health care services similar to those offered by private physicians in their offices. Plans call for the center to operate until mid-summer when the Warren County commissioners hope to have in place an alternative to the financially ailing county hospital. The hospital's in-patient services were discontinued last Friday while the hospital undergoes renovations funded by a federal grant. Federal funds are also expected to provide the bulk of the center's funding. (Staff Photo)

After Completion Of Undercover Operation

Improved Striped Bass Fishing Seen In Warren Lakes

Sportsmen should see an improvement in sport fishing for striped bass in Roanoke Rapids, Kerr and Gaston lakes as a result of "Operation Rock," an undercover investigation into the illegal commercialization of striped bass taken from North Carolina's inland waters, according to recent information from the N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission. Operation Rock was a joint effort of the Commission and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The two-year investigation resulted in the Jan. 16 arrests of over 20 people in North Carolina and Virginia, and uncovered illegal commercialization of over 110,000 pounds of inland striped bass with an estimated retail market value of a half-million dollars. Changes in management of North Carolina's coastal Albemarle Sound-Roanoke River striped bass population may also result from Operation Rock.

"The striper that were being caught and illegally sold from these lakes will now be available to recreational fishermen," said Richard B. Hamilton, chief of the Division of Boating and Inland Fisheries of the N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission. "Operation Rock has resulted in the virtual elimination of large-scale striper poaching from these lakes, and since this illegal harvest was substantial, sport fishermen should see immediate and long-term improvements in striper fishing in these inland waters.

It is illegal to sell striped bass or any other game fish caught in inland waters, and the full benefits of striped bass and hybrid striped bass stockings will once again be available to sportsmen whose license dollars funded the programs. Sport fishermen also played an important role in this investigation by making us aware of the problems with commercialization of inland striped bass."

Management of North Carolina's coastal striped bass population may also change as a result of Operation Rock because many of the fish that were poached and sold from inland waters were reported and listed as coastal fish from Albemarle Sound. Striped bass populations along the entire East Coast—including the Albemarle Sound-Roanoke River population—have suffered severe declines in recent years from pollution of spawning and nursery areas and heavy fishing pressure. In fact, the recreational catch of coastal stripers on the East Coast dropped from 9.3 million pounds in 1960 to 556,000 pounds in 1980, and the commercial harvest shows a similar decline.

Consequently, President Reagan recently ratified the "Striped Bass Conservation Act of 1984" which is designed to protect dwindling coastal striped bass populations. One of the provisions of this act is that

each state must reduce its total catch of coastal striped bass by 55 percent. States which don't comply with the act face a total moratorium on all coastal striped bass fishing.

"We need to meet with representatives of the Wildlife Commission to get detailed information on verifiable striper catches from inland waters that were recorded as being caught in salt water areas," said Robert Mahood, director of the N. C. Division of Marine Fisheries. "We would have to adjust our striped bass landings accordingly. Depending on the magnitude, our landing statistics could have given us a false picture of the abundance of striped bass in the Albemarle Sound area, and this could affect North Carolina's required 55 percent reduction in landings under the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Striped Bass Management Plan."

"We look forward to working with the N. C. Division of Marine Fisheries in the analysis and adjustment of harvest data resulting from Operation Rock," concluded Vernon Beville, executive director of the N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission. "We're very concerned about the serious decline that the coastal Albemarle Sound-Roanoke River striped bass population has suffered in recent years. The sound management and protection of our inland and coastal striped bass populations is a high priority."