

# Warren Tax Official Defends Use Of Post Cards To Notify Taxpayers

Citizen complaints that use of post cards to notify Warren taxpayers of their 1986 tax bill constituted an invasion of privacy are without legal remedy, County Attorney Charles T. Johnson suggested to members of the Warren County Board of Commissioners meeting in mid-monthly session Wednesday night.

Johnson's comment on the matter was brief, as he stated simply that taxes are a matter of

public record, a position also taken by Tax Collector Susan W. Brown, who brought the matter to the commissioners in the form of a written report.

Mrs. Brown reported that 17,000 tax statements mailed earlier this month were printed on post cards for the first time. She said the decision to use post cards was made after considering the amount of labor cost and postage that could be saved by using the post card method.

Commissioners, who supported Mrs. Brown's method of notification, were told that by utilizing the county's computer system to pre-sort bills by zip code, the Tax Collector's Office was able to mail each bill for 12 cents as opposed to last year's cost of 24 cents.

Mrs. Brown reported that over \$2,000 in postage alone was saved, plus an estimated \$1,000 in labor that would have been necessary to stuff the tax bills in envelopes.

"I am bringing this to your attention because I have received several complaints regarding our new billing system," Mrs. Brown wrote commissioners. "This method is currently used in many other counties is clearly the more efficient and economical method to use."

Mrs. Brown reported that "since tax information is a matter of public record, I feel that the invasion of privacy argument is not a legitimate one."

She told commissioners that she felt the benefits far outweigh the disadvantages involved and "I hope to have your support in this effort to streamline the operations of my office."

# Damages High In Collision

Two Warren County residents received minor injuries in a Saturday afternoon collision on State Road 1305 between Highway 158 and Warren Plains.

State Trooper Al Bennett reported that Gregory Alonzo Banks of Rt. 2, Macon was headed south at a high rate of speed and attempting to pass a truck when he met a northbound truck driven by Beth Frazier Garrett, also of Rt. 2, Macon. Banks lost control of his vehicle and ran off the right side of the road, then came back onto the pavement and crossed the centerline, hitting the Garrett vehicle, according to the trooper. The impact caused Mrs. Garrett to go off the road and hit a utility pole.

Banks' vehicle overturned and came to rest on its side, Bennett said.

Mrs. Garrett was taken by ambulance to Maria Parham Hospital in Henderson where she was treated for numerous cuts and abrasions about the face and then released. Banks also suffered minor injuries to the legs.

Bennett said Banks was charged with driving left of center.

Charges to the vehicles were estimated at \$6,500 to Mrs. Garrett's truck and \$3,800 to Banks' 1981 compact car.

# GOP House Candidate Says Practice Unfair

Bud McElhaney, Republican candidate for Congress from the 2nd Congressional District, toured Vance and Warren counties on Tuesday to let area farmers hear his proposal for increasing the income of tobacco growers.

The legislation which he proposes to introduce early next year is a move which he said would increase income of Warren County tobacco farmers by as much as one-third.

"American tobacco is known overseas as the best in the world, but that reputation and North Carolina farm income are being damaged by an unjust business practice," McElhaney said.

Some American companies are importing cheap foreign tobacco, blending it with high-quality American tobacco, and then re-exporting it as "U.S. Tobacco," McElhaney said.

"Warren County tobacco farmers are being hurt by this practice, because it means less real American tobacco is being sold," McElhaney said. "This practice is an injustice to the American grower, and a possible swindle of the overseas buyer, who may be under the impression that he is buying 100 percent high-quality U.S. leaf."

The U.S. Department of Agriculture documented the practice of blending foreign leaf with domestic tobacco in April when it announced the 1986 quota, which was reduced by the maximum amount allowable below the 1985 quota.

McElhaney said he thought the foreign blends were a major cause of the six percent cut in 1986 production since annual quota figures are partly based on overseas demand for American tobacco.

According to USDA figures, only about three out of every four pounds of what is sold as U.S.

tobacco is actually grown in America.

"What that means," McElhaney said, "is that we could increase exports of real American tobacco by as much as one-third over and above what we are exporting today. And what we are exporting is 100 million to 150 million pounds of lower quality foreign tobacco that is disguised as American tobacco."

"That's tens of millions of dollars that our farmers should be earning off of what is proven demand for our high-quality American tobacco," McElhaney said. "It is wrong to sell tobacco as 100 percent U.S. grown when it is not, because it's unfair and hurts both the buyer and the American farmer."

"I'm standing for what's right, and plan to introduce legislation early next year during my first term in Congress, to require exports labeled 'U.S. Tobacco,' to be 100 percent American flue-cured or burley leaf. If the tobacco being exported is a blend with the lower quality foreign tobacco, then that percentage should be identified," McElhaney said.

"The most pressing problem tobacco growers have today is competition from unfairly subsidized foreign imports," McElhaney said, "and that problem is doubly compounded when these imports are passed off as American tobacco."

"I plan to work hard to protect the reputation of the high quality of American tobacco, which in turn should boost quotas and help North Carolina farmers earn more money," McElhaney said. "At a time when our farmers are suffering from the lingering effects of a scorching drought, and from mounting debts, Bud McElhaney is standing for what's right, and plans to do all he can do to increase farm income and American farm exports."

**SEAMLESS ALUMINUM GUTTERS**

"CUSTOM MADE"  
Seamless Aluminum Guttering

"WE INSTALL QUALITY WITH PRIDE"

All Products Are Custom Made - Color Available  
On Request — FREE Estimates  
257-2265

**W. L. (Bill) Reid, Sr.**  
Rt. 3, Box 138      Warrenton, N.C.

**Henderson Mall's LABOR DAY PUZZLE CONTEST**

**Win a Trip Via Eastern Airlines To St. Thomas in the Caribbean!**

Contest runs Tuesday, Aug. 26 through Monday, Sept. 1 at 4 p.m. Drawing will be held at 4:30 p.m., Sept. 1, by Miss Henderson, Kathy Roberson.

**GRAND PRIZE:** Free round trip airline tickets for 2 to St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, provided by Eastern Airlines. Free accommodations for 5 days/4 nights at Frenchman's Reef Beach Resort, plus \$400 spending money.

Entry Forms Available in all mail stores.

**Warrenton Furniture Exchange**

**White Westinghouse**

**SHOWDOWN OF VALUES**

**NOW THRU AUG. 30**

**Refrigerators And Freezers**

**Frost-Free Refrigerator-Freezer**

**WARRENTON FURNITURE EXCHANGE, INC.**

115 E. Franklin St.      Warrenton, N. C.