

Schools Save \$15,000 On Fuel

Price negotiations during the past two weeks resulted in a savings of approximately \$15,000 in the purchase of No. 2 fuel oil for the school system.

Superintendent L.S. Guy told the board of commissioners several weeks ago that the system needed 52,200 gallons of fuel to fill its underground tanks, until they could be filled for the next school year. At that time, the state bid price for No. 2 fuel oil was \$1.18 per gallon.

Since oil prices have been dropping and the oil wasn't needed immediately, the county commissioners, asked to advance the money for the oil to the school system out of next year's budget, directed Guy to look into current oil prices.

Guy reported last week that he could buy the oil from E&B Oil Co. of Wallace for 88.5 cents per gallon, a savings of 29.5 cents a gallon from the state bid price. Guy said he was the told the price had bottomed out.

The board authorized Guy to spend \$48,321 for the fuel, which includes the state and local sales tax.

If the county commissioners had purchased the oil for the county government, they could have filed for a rebate of the sales tax. The school system must pay sales tax. However, the county commissioners are not authorized to make direct purchases for school purposes, despite the fact they appropriate local tax funds to the school systems.

County finance officer Russell Tucker told the board that several years ago the county commissioners authorized direct purchase of a computer for the schools and collected the sales tax rebate. The county government had to return the sales tax to the state as a result of turning the equipment over to the school.

In other business, the commissioners approved revision of costs of land treatment measures for the Limestone-Muddy Creek Watershed project. Kenneth Futreal, county soil conservationist, asking for the approval before submitting the revision to the state soil conservation office in Raleigh to send to federal authorities.

The land treatment costs will be borne by the federal government if the project is funded.

The commissioners, by a split vote, adopted the state wildlife commission's recommendations for antlerless deer hunting areas and dates in the county.

Dec. 1-8 will be set aside for hunting antlerless deer. The area lies southeast of the

boundary formed by N.C. 11, N.C. 24, N.C. 41 and S.R. 101 in the southeastern part of the county. Voting for the recommendation were Commissioners W.J. Costin, Allen Nethercutt and Calvin Turner, chairman. Voting against was Commissioner Franklin Williams. D.J. Fussell abstained.

Tucker told the board the county's revenue sharing allocation for the current fiscal year will be \$837,095. This will be about \$16,000 less than previously estimated.

The commissioners will sit as a board of equalization and review at 11:30 a.m. May 3 and 17 at the courthouse.

Important Facts About Rabies

Rabies is a preventable disease that can attack man, dog, cat, fox, raccoon, skunk, bat, or other warm-blooded animals (except rodents). It is caused by virus present in the saliva of a rabid animal.

The rabies virus reaches the brain by way of the nerves and once rabies develops, it is always fatal to both man and animals. However, if started soon enough, antirabies treatment in humans will prevent the disease from developing in most cases.

Rabid animals show different symptoms. In the dog or cat, one of the first symptoms is a changed personality and disposition. If your animal is sick, seek the advice of your veterinarian and follow his recommendations.

Wildlife Rabies
Rabies in dogs and cats has not increased in North Carolina, but there has been an increase in the wildlife population south of us in recent years. Beware of any wild animal seen in the daytime and which seems friendly. These animals are sick and may have rabies. Normally, the fox, raccoon and skunk forage from sundown until dawn and avoid people. When they become ill from rabies, they have a complete change in personality, roam great distances at any time and lose all fear of man. They will invade farm yards and buildings, chase chickens and even enter homes and cars if the door is open. They will attack and bite any animal or person who gets in their way.

Rabies can be introduced into our wildlife population at any time. Care should be used in handling foxes, raccoons, skunks and other wildlife which appear to be sick or dead. Bat rabies is present in the majority of states and may play a role in the spread among other wildlife. Caution should be used in handling bats. It is best to leave them alone. Bats do not normally perch on porches or hide in shrubbery in the day time. One should never try to administer to what appears to be a wounded or crippled bat. It would not be there if it

were healthy. Children should be warned of this danger.

In 1981, there were 19 cases of rabies in bats found in North Carolina. Also, in 1981, there were more cases of rabies found in cats than dogs in South Carolina. Some of these cases were along the South Carolina/North Carolina border.

Recently pet skunks purchased from pet dealers in various states have been found rabid and were trapped from the wild. Wild animals do not generally

make satisfactory pets. It is not recommended that wild animals be kept as household pets. Any captured wild animal may have been exposed to rabies and may develop the disease as long as six months after capture. No rabies vaccines are available to immunize wild animals.

What to Do if Bitten
In every case of animal bite or scratch, see your physician at once. As a first-

aid precaution, wash all animal bites immediately and thoroughly for 15-20 minutes with a warm soap solution. Notify your dog warden and local health department. Biting animals should be captured if possible. If capture is not possible safely, the animal should be killed and held for the dog warden.



CENTRAL OFFICE STAFF VISITS B.F. GRADY - Recently members of the central office staff visited with the faculty at B.F. Grady at a regular meeting in the library. Those visiting were L.S. Guy, superintendent; Dr. Alice Scott, Gary Sanderson and Mrs. Annie Jackson. Shown above are Guy, Owen Martin, assistant principal, and Mrs. Jackie Herring, teacher. (Photo by Janice Grady)

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