

State Moves Ahead On Land For Bypass Around Shallotte

BY SUSAN USHER

Right-of-way acquisition for the long-awaited bypass around Shallotte will begin before July 1986 under a revised long-range plan adopted by the State Board of Transportation last week.

The work is to begin during the 1986 fiscal year, one year ahead of the schedule set a year ago. The timing has been moved up several months ahead of the most recent estimates publicized by the N.C. Department of Transportation.

Under this latest revision of the Transportation Improvement Program, U.S. 17 would be four-laned across the width of Brunswick County by 1994, with bypasses completed around Shallotte and Bolivia before 1990.

Right-of-way acquisition for the Bolivia bypass is under way, according to public information officer of the N.C. Department of Transportation, with construction of both bypasses to begin in fiscal year 1987 or early in fiscal year 1988 and to be completed at about the same, in fiscal year 1989.

In a related project, the rest area on U.S. 17 between

Supply and Bolivia will be relocated to the Shallotte bypass, with construction of the \$700,000 project to begin in fiscal year 1988.

After the bypasses are completed, four-laning of the connecting segments will be completed sometime around 1994, said Jones.

The TIP plan itself doesn't break down the segments of the Bell Swamp to Supply and Supply to the South Carolina line projects.

The plan shows the \$18 million, \$13.5-mile N.C. 87 (Bell Swamp) to N.C. 211 (Supply) project with grading and structural work to begin in fiscal year 1988, a year later than previously scheduled, with paving to begin in 1990, along with additional construction.

The plan also indicates that construction is planned in fiscal years 1990, 1991 and 1992 on the 17.1-mile stretch of U.S. 17 from N.C. 211 at Supply to the South Carolina state line to be four-laned, with a bypass around Shallotte. Construction on one portion of that project—apparently a reference to the bypass—is moved ahead under the new plan.

The total cost of the project is an estimated \$32 million.

Added to the plan this year is the widening of Beach Road, the widening to a multilane facility of a 2.8-mile segment of N.C. 133 that leads from N.C. 211 to the Oak Island Bridge. Right-of-way acquisition is to start in 1984, with construction to begin in 1985.

Other projects included in the latest Transportation Improvement Program are as follows:

- Resurfacing and leveling of a 1.7-mile stretch of U.S. 17-74-76 from the New Hanover County line to the Brunswick River at Belville, a \$180,000 project, has been speeded up two years, to 1986 rather than 1988.

- Construction of high-rise bridges to Holden Beach and Ocean Isle Beach, under construction.

- Replacement bridge to Sunset Beach, with right-of-way acquisition to begin in 1986 (not 1985 as before), and construction in 1991, \$5.3 million project under latest financial projections, or \$1 million less than the rough figures offered a year ago.

- Replacement of six bridges in 1991: on N.C. 130 over the Waccamaw River, \$418,000; N.C. 130 over Wet Ash Swamp, \$183,000; bridge over Royal Oak Swamp, \$370,000; Juniper Creek and overflow on S.R. 1340, \$586,000.

- Replacement of the bridge over Juniper Creek at S.R. 1333 and S.R. 1928, construction in fiscal year 1988, delayed from last TIP.

- Replacement bridges over Town Creek and branch of Town Creek on S.R. 1411, \$534,000, with contract to be let "any day," said Jones.

- Bridge over Lockwood Folly River, under construction, \$390,000.

- Bridge over Rice's Creek on S.R. 1521, \$193,000, construction delayed from 1986 to 1989.

- Installation of automatic warning devices at the Seaboard Systems crossing at S.R. 1426 near Council Street, Navassa, \$65,000, with construction scheduled in fiscal year 1987.

- A safety project at Leland originally scheduled to begin in 1985 is set for construction in 1986. DOT plans to widen S.R. 1472 west of the U.S. 74-76 interchange west of Belville from a point 150 feet east of S.R. 1462 to a point two-tenths mile west of S.R. 1437 to provide for left-turn lanes; with overlay with asphalt from S.R. 1484 to a point two-tenths mile west of S.R. 1437 and remarking of established left-turn lanes.

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Williams Winner, Still Champion Shucker

Milton Williams of Seaside became a two-time winner of the N.C. Oyster Shucking Championship Saturday when he shaved five seconds off last year's time to set a new record for the event.

Williams, with a time of 2:51 minutes, outshucked five challengers, but the runner-up, Cathy Carlisle, finished within nine seconds of the winner's adjusted time after she received bonus time for having the neatest tray of oysters.

It was the first time Carlisle and the other four challengers had entered the competition, but all have experience shucking oysters at local sheds. Other participants were Shirley Simmons, Lois Hill, Terri Taylor and Charles Basin. Basin forfeited before finishing.

The champion oyster shucker got a \$50 cash prize and an all-expense trip to Leonardtown, Maryland to participate in the National Oyster Shucking Championship Contest this weekend.

Should Williams enter and survive the preliminaries Saturday, he would face the national champion and four other challengers in the finals Sunday for the national title. The current national champion, Diz Shimke of the state of Washington, has a net time of just a tad over 2:30 minutes to shuck 24 oysters. That's just 21 seconds faster than the time posted by the N.C. champion Saturday.

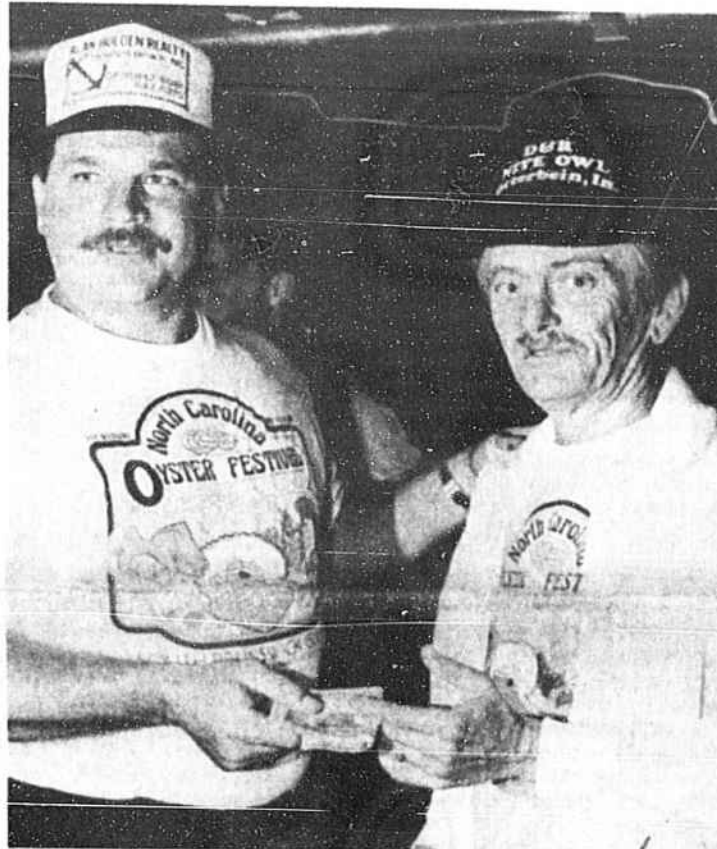
Winner of the national contest receives an all-expense trip to Galway, Ireland to represent this country in the internationals next year.

Williams won the N.C. title in 1984 with a time of 2:56:06 minutes. He defeated Lloyd Milliken, who had held the championship for two straight years.

Contestants at both the local and national contests shuck 24 oysters under rules stressing appearance. Final times are reduced by penalty seconds for such mistakes as cut oysters, broken shell fragments and muscles not severed. Presentation of oysters on the tray is important in the judging.

The oyster shucking contest at Ocean Isle Beach airport Saturday was one of the highlights of the fifth annual N.C. Oyster Festival sponsored by the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce. President-elect Alan Holden was in charge of the contest this year.

Judges included two mayors, LaDane Bullington of Ocean Isle Beach and Sonya Stevens of Calabash; two county commissioners, Chris Chappel, chairman and Herman Love; and two chamber board members, Dennis Crocker and Ken Pensmith. Time-keepers were Allen Dameron and Dr. Mike Bauerschmidt.



MILTON WILLIAMS (right) retained his title as the N.C. Oyster Shucking Champion and picks up the prize money from Alan Holden, chairman of the event this year. Williams shucked 24 oysters in 2:51 minutes, a new record.

Calabash Tables Water And Sewer Study Decision

BY DAWN ELLEN BOYD

The Calabash Town Council voted Monday to table until its next meeting a decision on who will provide the town's water and sewer feasibility studies.

Both Lewis and Associates of Shallotte and McKim and Creed of Wilmington have put in bids to perform the study.

Mayor Sonia Stevens said Charles Hedgepeth of the Division of Community Assistance in the N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development had told her the town would get "more for the money" if they went with McKim and Creed.

She pointed out that McKim and Creed would do a water and sewer study for \$2,900, while Lewis and Associates had asked \$2,000 for the water study alone.

Stevens also said that Lewis and Associates had been late with promised materials, even mailing the

wrong materials one time, while McKim and Creed had always been prompt.

Board members disagreed on whether they had already voted to go with Lewis' bid.

Stevens said the board had just voted for Lewis to send the contract, but nothing had been signed.

Board member Virgil (Tink) Coleman said Lewis and Associates had asked an additional \$2,500 for an elevation study.

Marie Brown asked that the decision be tabled.

Mayor Stevens said the board will meet separately with W. Leslie Hall Jr. of McKim and Creed and Jerry Lewis of Lewis and Associates before making the decision at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

The board voted to pass a sanitation ordinance which states people who want garbage pick-up must provide themselves with a garbage can (See CALABASH, Page 2-A)

Comprehensive Awarded Nurse Screening Position

BY DAWN ELLEN BOYD

Brunswick County Commissioners unanimously chose Comprehensive Home Health Care to provide nurse screening under the Community Alternatives Program, despite a recommendation from the Cape Fear

Council of Governments (COG) in favor of the Brunswick County Health Department.

After making the decision, the commissioners went into executive session for an hour and 10 minutes on a "personnel" matter. Commissioner Chris Chappell said no action was taken.

The Community Alternatives Program (CAP) could give Medicaid recipients or private-pay patients who would normally require institutional care the opportunity for less expensive home health care. Through a CAP waiver program, some people who were previously ineligible for Medicaid could become eligible.

Medicaid now pays for nursing, and speech, physical and occupational therapy. Under the new program it will also pay for traditionally non-medical services which would help patients stay at home, including screening, case management, home delivered meals, durable medical equipment, home mobility aids, and chore service.

The state has given Brunswick,

Columbus and Pender counties each \$25,000 a year for two years in order to establish the alternative program. It was decided Brunswick County would provide the nurse screener for the three counties. Each county was to help pay for the screener's salary and benefits.

At the Wednesday night meeting, Comprehensive Home Health Care Director Ed Harris asked, "Why screen just to screen?"

He argued that nurses in his organization already did screening, while the health department would have to hire and train a screener. He went on to say that the counties would not have to pay his screener because she would be reimbursed for her services through Medicaid. He pointed out if this was the case each county would have an additional \$7,000, as well as the budgeted \$10,000, of the grant to spend on services.

A county case manager, hired through the Department of Aging with CAP monies, would work with the nurse screener to decide who would receive the services.

"You can provide 3,000 hours of chore services for \$21,000," Harris said.

Rita Canfield, a Comprehensive Home Health nurse, said, "Mr. Harris hired me a long time ago (for screening) and I still am learning."

Linda Bedo, spokesperson for COG, expressed concern over Comprehensive being a "private for profit" agency. Later she said, "We recommended the health department because they would not be providing any services at all. They wouldn't be purchasing any services from themselves."

Brunswick County Health Director Tom Blum and Bedo both said the new program could serve approximately 10 people the first year, using Watauga and other North Carolina counties' first year in CAP as a guide.

Harris said, "If we do it, we can serve 10 times that amount."

One reason Harris feels his group can do more effective screening is that they work closely with medical professionals and hospitals now. (See COMPREHENSIVE, Page 2-A)



Vehicles Totaled In Accident

Rescue workers gathered around Tracy Lee Lancaster, M., of Shallotte, who received head and skull injuries in a wreck Tuesday morning at the intersection of N.C. 179 and the Blueberry Farm Road. State Trooper D.B. Harvell said Lancaster ran the stop sign in her '85 Oldsmobile, hitting a '78 Chevrolet sandwich truck owned by Master Marketing Limited and driven

by Jim Ballou, 60, of Shallotte. Both vehicles were totaled. Ballou received no serious injuries, but according to Harvell, Lancaster was taken to New Hanover Memorial Hospital where she will undergo surgery. Harvell said charges will not be pressed until he can talk to Lancaster.

Ex-Sheriff's Parole Status Unchanged

Former Sheriff Herman Strong's parole status remains unchanged following a hearing on Sept. 17, according to the U.S. Parole Commission.

At his first parole hearing, in October 1983, the commission decided to parole Strong in 48 months, or August 1987, said Lee Chaitte, assistant administrative hearing examiner for the commission's Atlanta regional office.

"At his last hearing there was no

change," Chaitte added Tuesday. "Strong has the option of filing an appeal, but he has not at this time."

Strong was sentenced on July 19, 1983, for conspiracy in five drug smuggling schemes. U.S. District Judge W. Earl Britt sentenced him to a 14-year active prison sentence, but made him immediately eligible for parole.

At the time, federal prison authorities said Strong would probably have to serve 40 to 52 months of

his 14-year sentence before being paroled.

He reported to the federal minimum security prison or "honor camp" in Lewisburg, Pa., on Aug. 15, 1983.

Reporting with him was former Shallotte Police Chief Hoyal (Red) Varnam Jr., who has since been paroled.

Strong could have been sentenced to 25 years in prison and fined up to \$75,000.