

Botched Census Effort Still Perturbing Town

BY DOUG RUTTER

Nearly a year after preliminary census figures for 1990 were released, Shallotte officials are still trying to convince the federal government that their official population for the town is several hundred people short.

"I thought at one time we were getting somewhere," Mayor Sarah Tripp said at the town board meeting last Wednesday.

Shallotte officials protested both the preliminary census figure of 828 that was released last September and a revised population of 965 released in January. They

say the population is closer to 1,400.

The U.S. Census Bureau is sticking with 965 as the official population for now, but it has promised to issue a "revised certified census count" later this year.

Earlier this summer, the bureau admitted it made an error in figuring the Shallotte census because it thought that some people who live inside the town limits resided outside of the town.

Shallotte officials want the official census figure corrected because some state revenues, such as sales tax, are distributed to towns based on their population.

Public Works Director Albert Hughes and Alderman Jody Simmons said last week they plan to attend an Aug. 21 meeting in Lumberton relating to problems with census figures.

Alderman Wilton Harrelson suggested the town contact the N.C. League of Municipalities to find out how other communities are dealing with similar problems.

In the meantime, Congressman Charlie Rose has taken Shallotte's case to the Census Bureau's count resolution unit, according to a July 19 letter to Mayor Tripp.

Rose said the resolution process re-

quires the collection of records such as tax returns and sewer bills that prove the number of households in an area. The town has already furnished Rose with the records he needs.

The congressman says in the letter that he is "extremely concerned" about the effects low counts in Shallotte and other communities will have on federal funds and services provided to towns.

"Rest assured that I am doing everything possible to minimize the effects of the undercounts as they will serve as a major disadvantage to all of us," he wrote.

Besides the count resolution process, Rose said other options include filing a lawsuit or joining an existing suit. Several cities and states have decided to take legal action to get their official counts adjusted.

In his letter, Rose also said Congress is considering legislation that would mandate an adjustment in the 1990 population figures and establish an independent panel to improve the next census.

"This is a workable solution and a commendable idea, but does nothing to solve the immediate problem," Rose wrote.

Shallotte Board Wants Boom Boxes Turned Down

BY DOUG RUTTER

Shallotte officials want to control things that rumble in the night.

They're not worried about ghosts and goblins. They simply want the owners of vehicles with extremely powerful stereos to lower the volume.

Alderman Joe Hewett said the cars and trucks, which are commonly called "low riders" or "boom boxes," bother elderly people and can be a nuisance.

"Tonight, for instance, I thought it was thunder and I went out on my front porch and it was boom boxes," Hewett said at last week's town meeting. "Where it was coming from I don't know."

Vehicles equipped with "boom boxes" can be heard at a long distance and have been known to shake houses. Televised demonstrations have shown how the blaring sounds break glasses.

Hewett said the town could take care of the situation by enforcing its noise ordinance, which prohibits "unreasonably loud, disturbing and unnecessary noise in the town."

He said the town shouldn't harass the owners of "boom boxes," but should let them know the town won't tolerate excessively loud noises. Other board members agreed, although no action was taken on the issue last Wednesday.

Hewett said it may be hard for police to enforce the ordinance. "You call them and by the time they get there, they're gone and booming somewhere else."

Mayor Sarah Tripp said Shallotte isn't the only town that has problems with loud car stereos.

The "boom boxes" have become popular with young drivers in the last few years. Owners in some areas have formed "low rider" clubs.

Hearings Set

In other matters, aldermen agreed to hold public hearings next week

Physician Injured In Office Mishap

A Shallotte area physician was in serious condition Tuesday at New Hanover Regional Medical Center following a weekend accident at his office.

Dr. Michael Wilkerson injured his lungs and face Saturday when he was squirted with a jet of cold liquid while working with an instrument used to freeze lesions, according to a partner, Dr. Marcus Williams.

Due to the nature of the injury, Williams said he took Wilkerson to the Wilmington facility. Williams said a specialist was needed to handle the freeze injury.

He said Wilkerson could be back to work in two or three weeks. "The surgeons up there felt he was going to heal well," Williams said.

In the meantime, Williams and another partner in Brunswick Islands Medical Associates, Dr. Gary Ross, will handle Wilkerson's patients.

"I thought it was thunder and I went out on my front porch and it was boom boxes. Where it was coming from I don't know."

—Joe Hewett
Alderman

on a proposed variance from the sign ordinance and annexation and zoning requests in Brierwood Estates.

The variance would allow a second free-standing sign at Handee Hugo's convenience store located at the corner of N.C. 130 West and U.S. 17 bypass. A hearing will be held Wednesday, Aug. 21, at 7:30 p.m.

Mike Underwood of Handee Hugo's said motorists on the bypass can't see an existing sign that faces N.C. 130 until they've driven past the store. He wants a second sign that would face the bypass.

When Underwood first brought his problem to the town board last month, aldermen asked the planning board to review the sign ordinance and consider amending it to allow two signs on corner lots instead of just one.

However, the planning board has recommended the ordinance not be changed. Public Works Director Albert Hughes said board members didn't want to revise the rule but didn't say they would oppose a variance.

Alderman David Gause agreed with Underwood's contention that the existing sign can't be seen from the bypass.

Hughes said he thinks the situation creates an "undue hardship," which is one of the qualifications for granting a variance.

Another hearing will be held next Wednesday on the zoning of .34 acres at Brierwood Golf Club where the golf cart shed is located. The planning board recommended the

land be zoned R-15.

Charles and Ellen Allen also have requested the annexation of a lot in Brierwood. Planners are in support of the annexation.

Other Business

In other business last week, aldermen:

—Heard a report from Fire Chief Tim Carter on proposed changes in the fire district lines. The lines may be changed somewhat when the 911 emergency telephone system is started. Carter said Shallotte's fire district might be extended to include Red Bug and Gray Bridge

Soldier Drowns At Long Beach

A Fort Bragg Army corporal drowned in the ocean while fishing near the west end of Long Beach Saturday night.

Daniel Cruz, 31, of Spring Lake, drowned around midnight Saturday while he and three friends were setting fishing nets near Lockwood Folly Inlet, said Maj. Johnny Freeman of the Long Beach Police Department.

Freeman said Cruz and another man were in the ocean and two men were on the beach when the accident occurred at an area known as "The Point."

Cruz went under and the other man in the water grabbed him but could not hold on. Freeman said the two men on shore drove about four miles to a phone booth and called the police department and rescue squad.

roads.

Discussed ways the town can help reduce the number of vacancies in shopping centers, such as adding signs at both ends and along the bypass pointing the way to the downtown business district. "The recession has been a little hard on everybody," said Alderman Jody Simmons, who noted vacancies at his Village Pines office complex.

Discussed imposing more regulations on roadside vegetable stands and seafood dealers. Town officials said some people have complained about them being "eyesores" and receiving the same benefits as other business owners without paying town taxes.

Talked about needed street improvements in Brierwood Estates and other areas of town. Mrs. Tripp appointed Gause and Simmons to a committee that will recommend where improvements should be made.

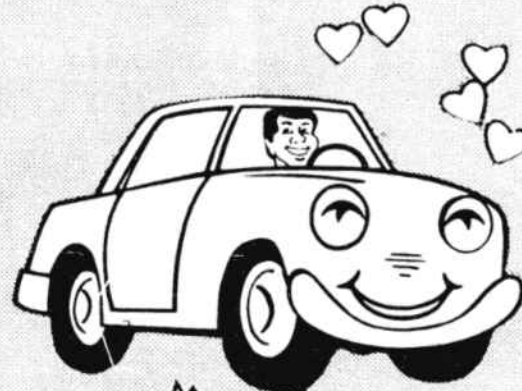


STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

Crabbing At Sunset

Charlie Carnes checks a crab trap near the waterway at Sunset Beach last week as a friend, Larry Sutter, looks on. The two men were visiting from Pine Bush, N.Y.

HOME OF THE 1991 \$9,995.00 Dynasty



You'll Love the Low Prices and Friendly Service at Mac White Chrysler, Plymouth Dodge in Loris, SC.

ONLY \$199⁹⁵** Per Month!!!

Only \$499 Down or \$9,995 Sale Price. Plus Tags & Taxes. 13.5% APR at 60 Months.



1991 DODGE DYNASTY

Loaded with AT, AC, PB, Cruise, Tilt, AM/FM Stereo & More!

ONLY AT MAC WHITE IN LORIS!

Special Savings On Farm Tough Trucks

TOUGH SAVINGS



1991 DAKOTA "S" \$8,895⁰⁰

TOUGH TRUCKS

JUST A SHORT DRIVE TO LORIS!

10% Discount on All Parts & Service for Senior Citizens (62 or Older)

MAC WHITE
CHRYSLER ★ PLYMOUTH ★ DODGE

Hwy. 701 N. Loris, SC

Call Collect (803) 756-DEAL

We Service All Makes and Models of Cars and Trucks
SERVICE OPEN: Monday-Friday 7:30 am-5:30 pm
SALES OPEN: Monday-Friday 9 am-8 pm, Sat. 9 am-5 pm



AWARD-WINNING CUISINE

A TASTE OF EUROPE

If you want to experience the true meaning of international cuisine and a taste of Europe, then join us for dinner. Our unique menu offers a charming array of superbly prepared beef, veal, lamb, game, poultry, fish and seafood.

An International Fare with a Southern Flair
Luck St. and Mulberry St. (Turn off Hwy. 17 at the blinking caution light.)
(803) 249-2389
RESERVATIONS SUGGESTED

9.75% NEW CAR LOANS A. P. R.



First Investors

FDIC INSURED

SAVINGS BANK



642-8143
WHITEVILLE

754-5400
SHALLOTTE

371-1000
LELAND