

# Shalotte Board Wants To Keep Parade Sweet

BY DOUG RUTTER

Shalotte officials want to keep sweets in the town's annual Christmas Parade, but are concerned about children scrambling in the street for candy tossed from floats.

Alderman Jody Simmons last week agreed to work with a parade committee which is considering several changes for this year's event, including a restriction on who can throw sweets.

Discussing the parade at last Wednesday's town meeting, officials said they would like to see adults toss the candy so it doesn't fall near parade entries and endanger little kids.

Throwing candy has become part of the Christmas Parade tradition. Even the mayor and town board members toss candy from their vehicle near the front of the lineup.

Alderman David Gause said the candy thrown out during the parade is the only candy some children get at Christmas. "I do hate to take that away from them," he said.

Mayor Sarah Tripp said the company that rents floats for the parade told her that Shalotte is the last remaining town it works with that allows candy to be thrown because of the potential liability.

Simmons said the Jaycees have offered to walk the parade route this year to keep the entries moving along and to keep children out of the street.

### Appointments Extended

In other business last week, aldermen extended the appointments of three members of the town planning board.

The terms of Davis Milligan, H.A. Stanaland Jr. and Conrad Pigott were extended until the first meeting in January. The terms expired July 31, and aldermen are considering appointees.

### Calling It Bluff?

Meanwhile, a request from Brunswick County to rename two streets was passed along to the planning board last week for a recommendation.

The county has asked the town to rename a section of Mintz Street and change part of Bluff Drive to Copas Road.

The county wants the section of Bluff Drive between Village Point



BEACON FILE PHOTO

**SHALLOTTE OFFICIALS want Santa Claus and other Christmas parade participants to keep tossing candy, but they're concerned about the possibility of kids getting hurt while scrambling for the sweets.**

Road and Copas Road changed to Copas Road.

County officials have been working on street names in preparation for the 911 emergency telephone system. They want to do away with all duplicate names and names that could confuse emergency personnel and slow response time.

"That's deadly time for emergency," Alderman Joe Hewett said last week. "It's life or death."

Some town board members said they would like to keep the name Bluff Drive, which has been used longer than Copas Road.

"If that's the only thing that's going to confuse anybody, we're in great shape," said Alderman Wilton Harrelson.

# Fire Near Oak Island May Have Been Set

BY TERRY POPE

A deputy on patrol late Saturday was the first to spot a fire that destroyed an office building near Oak Island.

Investigators believe an office for Standard Products and an adjacent storage building were intentionally set on fire along Fish Factory Road, beneath the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway bridge leading to Oak Island.

Deputy Charles Wilson said he was on routine patrol on Long Beach Road when he spotted the blaze.

The office building, fully involved in flames when he arrived, was declared a total loss.

Deputies found that someone had also set "some type of material" on fire in the center of a storage building behind the office, Wilson reported.

"The door was pushed shut," said Wilson, "and the fire just smoldered. There was no internal damage to the building."

The fire is still under investigation as possible arson.

In other reports on file at the sheriff's department:

■ An estimated \$6,150 in goods was reported stolen Sunday from Jennies Branch Baptist Church on N.C. 179 south of Shalotte, Deputy

## CRIME REPORT

Phil Bryant reported. The suspect forced open a door upstairs and took some jewelry and coins.

■ Someone tried to break into Leland Grocery on Old Village Road Friday, reported Deputy Pete Moore. The suspect tried to pry open a rear door, but was unable to gain entry. An alarm was also activated.

■ A car reported stolen from a Fisherman's Village home on Oxpen Road was found wrecked along N.C. 130 Sunday, reported Deputy Richard Long. The 1977 Datsun, valued at \$2,500, was found by State Trooper B.D. Barnhardt. The owner had reported it stolen Saturday.

■ Fishing gear, jewelry and appliances worth over \$1,400 were stolen from a home in Cypress Lakes after someone pried open a front door, reported Deputy Cathy Hamilton. The homeowner discovered the burglary Friday.

■ At Pelican's Roost, someone broke into a home between Sept. 26 and Oct. 6 and stole a microwave oven, food, vacuum cleaner and fishing gear, all valued at \$1,365, reported Deputy Patu Hewett.

■ Thieves broke into two homes

along Seashore Road. At one, \$310 in goods were taken from a home in Robinwood, reported Long. Another \$502 in appliances, linens and fishing gear was taken from a home, with \$105 in damage to a door.

■ Someone broke into a Palm Drive home, taking \$325 in tools and appliances and causing \$200 damage to a door, Ms. Hewett reported.

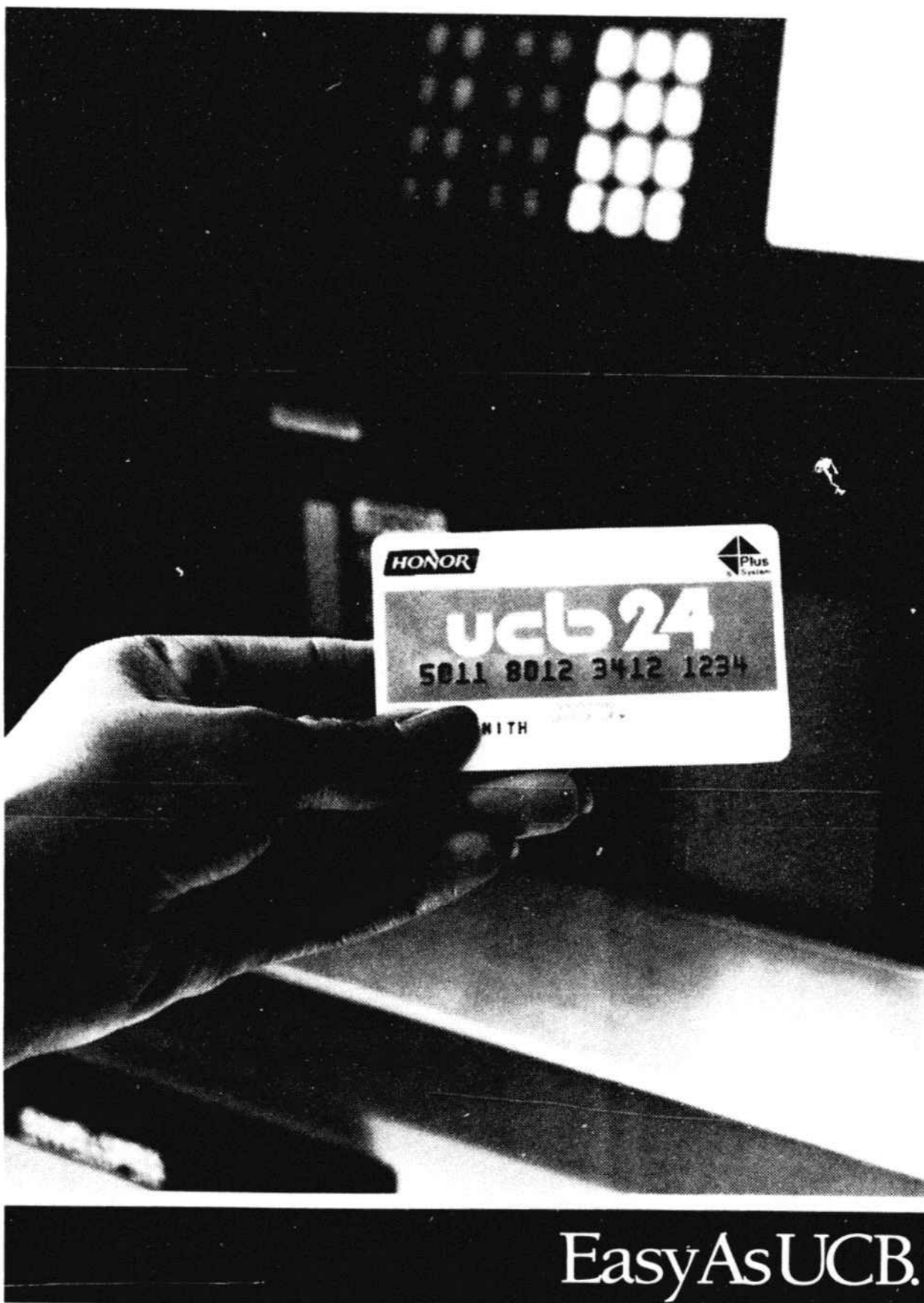
■ A battery charger, tool box and watch were taken from a home on N.C. 87 south near Winnabow Sunday, Deputy Steve Mason re-

ported. ■ Damage was estimated at \$700 to a home at Shell Point Acres II following a break-in there between Oct. 3-6, Ms. Hewett reported. Taken were a video recorder and a revolver.

■ A homeowner on Georgetown Road reported someone took a microwave oven, cooler and linens, with a combined value of more than \$700, during a break-in there between July 4 and Sept. 21, Sgt. Wendell Bennett reported.

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## Employee Accused Of Fraud

An Ocean Isle Beach business has filed charges against its bookkeeper, claiming she diverted \$138,000 from the business to a company her husband owns in Wilmington.

Catha Mitchell, 37, of Masonboro Loop Road, Wilmington, was charged with obtaining property by false pretenses and with three counts of forgery and uttering after the funds were reported missing from Sloane/Anderson Builders Inc. at Ocean Isle.

George A. Sloane III pressed charges against Ms. Mitchell before a Brunswick County magistrate. She was scheduled to make a first appearance in Brunswick County District Court Tuesday.

According to the warrants, Ms. Mitchell is accused of changing a \$45,000 wire transfer document intended for High Point Sprinkler Co. so that \$25,000 was transferred to

Atlantic Coast Environmental Consulting on July 1 instead.

The warrant states that Ms. Mitchell "knowingly and designedly with the intent to cheat and defraud" obtained the money from Sloane/Anderson Builders.

The consulting firm is owned by Ms. Mitchell's husband, the warrant states.

She is also accused of placing unauthorized signatures upon another wire document that allowed her to transfer \$75,000 to her husband's account on June 28.

Two other warrants allege that she placed unauthorized signatures upon checks drawn on Sloane/Anderson Builders' account, allowing the transfer of \$35,000 and \$3,100 to Gary Mitchell of Atlantic Coast Environmental Consulting.

Those checks were said to have been cashed on July 9 and Aug. 30, the warrants state.

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