

SMITH ACCEPTS EXTRA PAY INSTEAD OF JOB

BEMC Reaches Settlement With Former Union Leader

BY SUSAN USHER

Instead of his old job at Brunswick Electric Membership Corp. or one like it, fired union leader George Douglas "Doug" Smith of Whiteville has agreed to a settlement that includes another three years' wages.

BEMC reached a settlement with the former union leader around July 8, after a federal appeals court directed the co-op to comply with an order to offer Smith his job back.

BEMC General Manager David J. Batten said the settlement with Smith was valued at approximately \$150,000. It included reinstated back pay (at a rate of approximately \$10 an hour) interest and benefits from June 14, 1993, to his dismissal and "three years' additional salary for him not to accept re-employment," said Batten.

Smith's telephone had been disconnected and he could not be reached for comment Monday.

The June 14 order by the U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Va., denied a motion by BEMC to have its appeal reconsidered and directed compliance with an enforcement order issued in April. That order enforced a remedy issued by Administrative Law Judge Robert G. Romano in 1991.

The remedy found that BEMC had engaged in unfair labor practices and directed it to offer to rehire Smith and clear his personnel record; and if requested, to bargain in good faith with Wilmington Local No. 495 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Smith was fired May 10, 1990, after a scuffle with co-op Assistant General Manager Robert "Chip" Leavitt.

BEMC also had to post a copy of Romano's directives at all sites, which it did on July 12, just ahead of its deadline for reporting compliance efforts.

The NLRB ruled that Smith's involve-

ment in the altercation was legally insufficient grounds for his dismissal and that his firing was discriminatory.

However, the union has not been active at BEMC since sometime in 1990, according to former members and management.

"Unless we hear from the local in Wilmington, we're going to operate on the premise that the union is dead here," said Batten. "If they ask, we are to negotiate with them in good faith."

Batten said 51 percent of the 50 to 60 employees eligible for union representation had signed a petition asking BEMC not to recognize the union as their bargaining agent. However, a vote could not be called with the case pending before the NLRB. It is uncertain when, or if, a vote to end union representation will be called.

BEMC employees voted for the union in Sept. 27, 1989, and bargaining began that November. However, BEMC and the IBEW never did negotiate a contract.

Approximately 55 of the co-op's 138 employees are eligible for union representation in collective bargaining.

If BEMC and the union were to re-enter negotiations, Batten acknowledged, the status of two supervisory/management jobs created by BEMC without union involvement, as well as a number of job "promotions and enhancements" that have occurred in the interim would be called into question. In March 1990 the co-op's drafting and mapping coordinator and load manager coordinator were moved to new non-union eligible positions of engineering assistant supervisor and load management coordinator supervisor with benefit of collective bargaining with the union as required by federal labor laws.

In seeking to have its appeal heard again, the electric co-op had wanted to cite a Texas case in which another appellate court had ruled regarding the National Labor Relations Board's authority in labor-

related issues involving Texas cooperatives.

Since 1989 Batten said the co-op has paid approximately \$200,000 in legal fees to labor law specialist W. Britton Smith Jr. of Charlotte, who was hired to represent the co-op in union-related matters.

In voting for the local, union members said they were seeking a larger role in decision-making at BEMC for employees and fairer wages for linemen and others. While BEMC is the second largest co-op in the state, at the time the union was organized their pay was short of the statewide average.

Batten said that since then, BEMC has increased its efforts to make sure employees have an opportunity for input and has reviewed salaries.

"If we had any discrepancies we have tried to address those," he said. "We feel confident that in today's climate they are being paid fair market value for the size of our co-operative and our service area."



STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

Jurassic Beach

Cindy Simmons of Marietta, Ga., spent a vacation day working on this dinosaur sand sculpture at Holden Beach. Her daughters found the shells used for the teeth and claws.

Varnum Takes Seat On Town Board

BY DOUG RUTTER

Tony Varnum officially took his seat on the Varnamtown Board of Aldermen Tuesday morning, taking the oath of office from Mayor Judy Galloway at her place of business.

Varnum was expected to take his seat on the board at Monday night's regular monthly meeting but he was called in to work. Instead, he was sworn in Tuesday at the Lockwood Folly Seafood docks.

Varnum fills the seat vacated by Tonya Robbins, who recently resigned to devote more time to her restaurant business. He also fills her seat on the town planning board.

The planning board has tentatively scheduled a meeting Monday, Aug. 2, at 7:30 p.m. in town hall. Chairman Ada McDonald said pre-

liminary plans for the town park and a proposed adult entertainment ordinance will be discussed.

Shallotte recently adopted an adult entertainment ordinance that restricts where businesses such as topless bars and massage parlors can locate and how they can operate.

Aldermen said Monday night they are interested in getting new people on the planning board. Current members are McDonald, Tony Varnum, Paul Vealey, James Minera and Tracie Varnum.

"I'd like to see some more people from the community on the planning board, maybe even add some additional members," McDonald said.

Added Mayor Galloway: "We'll be glad to have all on there that want to, even if we have a whole room

full." Anyone interested should contact a town board member.

Town Clerk Luellen Norris reported Monday that she recently mailed third notices to a half dozen property owners who still owe town taxes for 1989, 1990 or 1991.

If the taxes aren't paid by the end of the month, town board members have instructed the clerk to turn the matter over to Town Attorney Michael Ramos for collection.

Varnamtown plans to send a letter of thanks to Congressman Charlie

Rose for his efforts in getting the Lockwood Folly River channel dredged.

"We may not be able to measure his part, but I'm sure he had some part in this," Mayor Pro Tem Ennis Swain said. Swain works for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which carried out the project.

Starting in August, aldermen will meet the second Monday of each month instead of the third Monday. The meeting time will remain 7:30 p.m.

Chadwicks Hope For Arrests In Family Cemetery Desecration

A Shell Point family is hoping for the arrest of a person or persons who desecrated its small, century-old cemetery.

Two weeks ago, for the second time since March, headstones were overturned in the Chadwick family cemetery off High Meadows Road, according to family member Toni Chadwick.

Graves in the secluded family plot date back to the late 1800s and early 1900s, according to Nellie Chadwick, who lives nearby. The first incident occurred in March, when family members discovered six headstones had been overturned. While most could have been toppled by hand, Toni Chadwick said she believes machinery would have been required to turn over one large headstone.

"The first time we fixed it ourselves," Toni Chadwick said. "We didn't call the sheriff's department."

Two weeks ago, when family members discovered all the dozen or so gravestones overturned and flowers strewn about the cemetery, they reported the incident to the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department.

Detective Gene Caison said Tuesday he hopes some recent arrests in a series of unrelated incident will result in information about the cemetery desecration.

"I don't believe kids could have done it," said Toni Chadwick, who used a backhoe to right the headstones after the first incident. She said she could find no additional evidence such as footprints. "It seems like each time it's happened right before a rain."

Congratulations Jehovah's Witness Kingdom Hall—Midway Road

We're proud to have provided paving services for your church.



Helping Brunswick County Grow!

Grading And Paving Contractor
754-7177

Asphalt Plant—2 miles north of Shallotte on Hwy. 17

When you leave the Brunswick shores, take the Beacon with you!

America's Favorite Frozen Yogurt
When Taste Matters

Stop by today and ignite your tastebuds with Colombo.

2 for 1 Bring this to store listed. Buy a large serving of Colombo Frozen Yogurt and get a second of equal or lesser value Free.

Good at Shallotte and Southport Express Stops
Limit 1 per customer. Not redeemable for cash. Not valid with any other promotion.

Express Stop
24 Hours A Day—7 Days • Shallotte—Jct. Hwy. 17 & Holden Bch Rd.

J. Mark Saunders, O.D.
Family Optometry

- Comprehensive Eye Examinations
- Ocular Emergencies
- Contact Lenses and Glasses Prescribed
- Diagnosis and Treatment of Diseases of the Eye
- Full Selection of Eyeglass Frames

Suite 3, Promenade Office Park
143 Holden Beach Road, Shallotte

Office hours by appointment.
Evening appointments available.

Phone 754-9687

Member American Optometric Association

©1990 THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

Dairy Queen

WELCOME TO THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF "DAIRY QUEEN"*

SPECIAL ANY FLAVOR SUNDAE
\$1.49 (nuts extra)
(Good July 22-Aug. 4)

Serving real ice cream and fresh fruit topping since 1950.

Shallotte Plaza 5701 E. Oak Island Dr. 1002 North 3rd St.
Shallotte • 754-2545 Long Beach • 278-5371 Wilmington • 763-5053

Toby's
RESTAURANT & RAW BAR
ON THE LAKE AT CYPRESS BAY

Recipient of 1ST PLACE FOOD DIVISION at the 1992 & 1993 BLUE CRAB FESTIVAL
In Little River, South Carolina

Early Dinner Menu—4:00 to 6:00 P.M.
Pasta of the Day \$11.95 • Chicken Angelica \$9.95 • Steak Diane \$12.95
Crab Cake Chesapeake \$12.95 • Fried Jumbo Shrimp \$11.95 • Broiled Flounder \$9.95
Sea Catch (Black Grouper, Yellow Fin Tuna, American Red Snapper, Norwegian Salmon) when available \$11.95 to \$13.95
Entrees served with house salad, fresh baked bread and sauteed vegetables or rice.

We serve food Mon-Fri till 1 AM, Sat. till 12 PM, Sun. till 10 PM

HAPPY HOUR IN THE BAR 4 TO 7 PM—FREE WINGS
Bar Specials All Nite

35¢ Fresh Shucked Oysters
15¢ Steamed Spiced Shrimp
\$2.25 Alaskan Snow Clusters

OFF PREMISE CATERING AVAILABLE
Hwy. 17, Little River, SC • Open 7 Days a Week
RESERVATIONS PREFERRED (803) 249-2624

Make your pool sparkle without draining your budget.

Save time and money with the BioGuard® 3-Step Program.

1. Sanitize
Stingy Stick® stabilized chlorine lasts longer. You'll use less chlorine, less often.
2. Shock
Remove wastes with Burn Out® or Burn Out® 35 to keep water sparkling clear.
3. Prevent Algae
Back-Up® stops algae before it starts, saving you time and money.

Stingy Stick® Long-lasting stabilized chlorine sticks

Burn Out® Shock to sparkle your water.

Back-Up® Stops Algae Before It Starts

Complete Line of Pool & Spa Chemicals.

Dealer For Down East Spas Relax. Bring your pool to BioGuard®

PROFESSIONAL POOL MAINTENANCE
Hwy. 179, Island Village Specialty Shops, Ocean Isle Beach, Behind IGA Bldg.
579-8828 OPEN MONDAY - SATURDAY
Daily Maintenance • Chemicals • Accessories & Equipment

CHICORA Medical Group
Complete Primary Care

Adults Hospital Care Children Minor Emergencies

Lee Langston, MD • Jon Langston, PAC • Roger F. Nelson, MD

We have 2 locations for your convenience

Shallotte 341 Whiteville Rd. (Hwy. 130 W) 754-8731
Seaside Seaside Plaza (Jct. Hwy. 179 & 904) 579-8512

Call for appointment—Vacationers & Walk-ins Welcome.