

## You Must Write In Speedometer Reading

Raleigh—Effective January 1, it becomes mandatory to write-in the accurate odometer reading on all N.C. vehicle title applications at the time of transfer.

In a concerted effort to work with the public on the new ruling, Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) officials designated December as a trial and error month for those vehicles owners applying for titles in December.

In a random sampling of odometer compliance ratios done by DMV statisticians in December, approximately 72% of those applying for titles in December listed the odometer readings on the form. J.M. "Bill" Penny commented that this figure represented a fair percentage of voluntary compliance.

"If the odometer reading is listed in the space provided on the application, then we can process the application in a more prompt, efficient manner," continued Bill Penny. "After all, we are here to assist the public in the buying and selling of vehicles, and this simple procedure of writing in the odometer reading will assure everyone of a high success rate in the processing and delivery of titles," remarked Penny.

The inclusion of odometer readings on title and application forms is designed to protect the consumer from individuals and automobile dealers who take unfair advantage of purchasers by altering odometer readings, according to Penny.

## Marine Michael Thomas Participates In Exercise

Marine Cpl. Michael R. Thomas, son of Alexander Adams of 428 Croker Road, and Olivia T. McCluney of 518 Harmon Court, both of Kings Mountain, recently participated in exercise "Halcon Vista".

He is a member of 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines, based at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

During the exercise, his unit was embarked aboard the dock landing ship USS Fort Snelling. The exercise consisted of good-

will visits to several South and Central American countries, where the Marines provided static displays and weapons instruction.

Port visits made during the cruise included Venezuela, the Netherlands Antilles, and Honduras.

A 1978 graduate of Kings Mountain High School, Thomas joined the Marine Corps in July 1978.

## Marine Jeffrey Ballew Returns From Okinawa

Marine Lance Cpl. Jeffrey S. Ballew, son of Wade H. and Barbara A. Ballew of 603 E. Hartford Ave., Bessemer City, recently returned from Okinawa.

He is a member of 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines, now based at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

His battalion rotated to Camp Lejeune from Okinawa as part of the Marine Corps' unit deployment program. The program is designed to rotate whole bat-

talions at one time instead of individuals at separate intervals. In this way, the battalion will retain its unit integrity, as well as shorten the actual time they will spend overseas. The battalion is not due to rotate back to Okinawa until some time in 1983.

A 1980 graduate of Bessemer City High School, Ballew joined the Marine Corps in June 1980.

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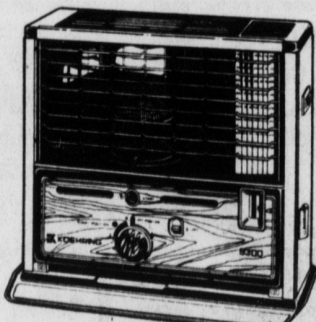


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## Child Care Can Be Deducted

Raleigh—Effective January 1, parents who need child care services in order to work can deduct the cost from state income taxes. As a result of action taken by the N.C. General Assembly, parents of children 15 and under can be declared as dependent for tax purposes, can claim up to \$2,000 per child or up to a maximum of \$4,000 per tax payer per year.

In order to be eligible, the child care expenses must be incurred only in order to allow the parent to work. This means that in a two-parent household, either both parents must work full time to claim this exemption or one parent has to be physically or mentally incapable of caring for himself or herself.

Parents who are full-time students and who were enrolled for five calendar months of the taxable year are also eligible for the deduction.

The deduction works as follows: for each qualifying dependent, add up the amount paid for child care expenses during the tax year. If seven percent of the total is less than \$2,000, the full seven percent is a tax credit. If seven percent of the total is equal to or more than \$2,000, you can claim \$2,000. Compute the credit for each of the children you can claim and add these figures together. Add

any other employment related expense totals to this figure. If the final total is less than \$4,000, you can claim the total. If the amount is \$4,000 or over, you can claim \$4,000.

Other work related deductions allowed in North Carolina include expenses to provide care for physically or mental in-

## Poetry Competition Scheduled

A \$1,000 grand prize will be awarded in the upcoming poetry competition sponsored by World of Poetry, a quarterly newsletter for poets.

Poems of all styles and on any subject are eligible to compete for the grand prize or for 99 other cash or merchandise awards, totaling over \$10,000.

Says Contest Chairman, Joseph Mellon, "We are encouraging poetic talent of every kind, and expect our contest to produce exciting discoveries."

Rules and official entry forms are available from the World of Poetry, 2431 Stockton Blvd., Dept. A, Sacramento, California, 95817.

capacitated spouses or care is needed to enable the tax-dependents of taxpayers when payers to work.

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