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three occasions when we needed their service. Each time they responded quickly and performed their duties professionally.

The latest time was the early morning of July 13, 1981. There will always be the pain of losing a heroic son and a home. By the same token there will always be the remembrance of the calm leadership of Fire Chief Luther Parks, and the way he and his fellow firemen performed.

Fire, with all its good qualities, can be as fatal as a bullet. It requires respect. So do the men who are always ready to control it during its angry times.

All of us can at least give those in our fire service a simple "thank you" for the job they do so well.

Of Area Interest

On Friday at 8:00 P.M. NBC Magazine, a nationally televised program, will feature the Oregon Inlet story as it relates to Wanchese and the commercial fishing industry.

Producer Beth Polson and crew, cameraman Leigh Wilson and sound man Claude Novak, spent the week of February 22 in the area interviewing and filming the story. They were joined by NBC correspondent Jack Perkins, who will do the story.

No Room To Gripe

We are among that majority along the Public Parade and throughout the country who are old fashioned about patriotism. Yes, we still get a thrill when we see the American Flag; we still have a special feeling when the "Star Spangled Banner" is played; we still think this is still the "goodliest land under Heaven."

This was reinforced Tuesday when two items passed our cluttered desk. The Take Pride piece came from the N.C. Farm Bureau while the second was from the CPA Client Bulletin, sent by Mazima & Company of Daytona Beach, Fla. They are both something that is grist for the mill and we pass them along as we received them:

Take Pride In America

Amidst all the cries of doom and the moaning about cutting social programs in the budget, it was refreshing to read a report of a letter to the editor of a leading news magazine written by an immigrant from the Soviet Union. The immigrant wrote:

"If Americans knew what it is like to search for a piece of meat and never find it; how it is not to be able to buy a refrigerator unless you stay on a waiting list for 10 years; what it is like, by mandatory registration, to be committed forever to living in one place; how easily people are put in jail for complaining about it; what it is like to live in constant fear and to struggle for survival every day in a country where courts are designed to protect the government and justice is formulated in one simple concept of guilty unless you can prove otherwise; if they knew all this, they would become law-abiding citizens, never go on strike, not demand more freedom and never insult their government."

"But with amazement, delight and deserved pride, they would

whisper as I do: 'God bless this land and its people'."

We Americans are the most spoiled people on earth. We are so accustomed to having what we want and need when we want it and need it, to an abundance of any kind of food we want at reasonable prices, to the latest in conveniences through technology, and to the freedom to tell those who govern us what we think of them, that we forget how fortunate we are to enjoy the fruits of liberty and private enterprise.

We need those immigrants to remind us from time to time about how good we have it in this country.

Prepare Taxes

It's traditional for Americans, especially at this time of year, to moan about the income taxes they pay. This year the moaning is somewhat muted, but a lot of it can still be heard.

How do our tax rates compare with those of other industrial countries - the nations of western Europe, for example? Because of differing definitions of taxable income, fluctuations in the exchange rates, added surtaxes in some countries, the use of levies other than income taxes to raise revenues, and other variables, it's impossible to give precise answers to that question. But, in general,

during the late seventies when the most recent summary of statistics available was compiled, at least our income taxes were lower than those of most noncommunist European countries. Since then the 1981 tax act has increased the contrast in our favor.

Here are a few examples of the comparative data that illustrate how burdensome tax policies of other countries can be:

- In most of western Europe the maximum tax rate exceeded 50 per cent, as it did in the seventies for some Americans, but for most Europeans the maximum tax rate began at a much lower level - on incomes as low as \$33,300 in Sweden, for example, \$22,074 in France and \$14,620 in Denmark.

- In the United Kingdom the maximum rate of 83 per cent applied to incomes as low as \$42,000.

- In Iceland the maximum rate was only 30 per cent but it applied to incomes of as little as \$603.

- The least oppressive income tax rates in Europe were those in Switzerland, where a maximum rate of 12 per cent prevailed on incomes from \$35,016 to \$147,104. Above \$147,104 the rate dropped to 9½ per cent.

The next least burdensome income taxes were in Portugal, where the maximum rate of 20 per cent applied on incomes above \$35,000.

Annual Edenton Symposium To Be Held On April 28-30

EDENTON — Folk art and early furniture, pottery and architecture of northeastern North Carolina will be topics of discussion by expert lecturers at the annual Edenton Symposium April 28 - 30.

The program, presented by the Edenton Historical Commission and the East Carolina University Division of Continuing Education, will also include tours of historic homes in Edenton and special symposium meals in other historic buildings.

Lecture topics and speakers are:

"Holdings of the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Center," Carolyn Weekly, Center curator, Williamsburg, Va.;

"Furniture of the North Carolina Albemarle," John Bivens, Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts, Winston - Salem;

"North Carolina Traditional Pottery," Dr. Charles G. Zug, UNC — Chapel Hill; and

"A Vertical Tour of Edenton, 1672 - 1982," Dr. Thomas C. Parramore, Meredith College.

Special tours for symposium participants include visits to Sycamore, home of Dr. and Mrs. Richard Hines Jr. and Leigh House, home of Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Crandall. Both houses

Holmes Student Named Winner

Suanne Bass of John A. Holmes High School was the series winner in apparel and accessories and was runner - up in the selling area in recent District 1, Distributive Education Clubs of America, competition at East Carolina University in Greenville. At total of 36 student prizes were awarded.

Runner - up in the category won by Miss Bass was Eric Byrum, another Holmes DECA student.

Another local student won runner - up honors. Jamie Lane placed in human relations.

were featured in the January - February issue of "Colonial Homes" magazine and are furnished with colonial antiques.

Other events are two luncheons, at the St. Paul's Church Parish House and the 1767 Chowan County Court House, and a cocktail buffet at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Roland Vaughan.

Further information about the symposium and about motel or private home accommodations are available from "Edenton Symposium," Division of Continuing Education, East Carolina University, Greenville, N. C. 27834.

Bank Dividend Is Declared

RALEIGH—Charles F. Merrill, president and chief executive officer of Bancshares of North Carolina, Inc., has announced that the board of Directors of Bancshares, at a meeting held on March 26, declared a 15 cents per share dividend on its common stock payable on April 15, 1982 to stockholders of record on March 26, 1982.

Mr. Merrill also announced that the board of directors of Bancshares and Bank of North Carolina, N.A. (a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bancshares) approved and adopted the plan of Reorganization and Merger Agreement relating to the acquisition by N.C. National Bank of substantially all of the assets of Bancshares of North Carolina, Inc., including Bank of North Carolina.

The agreement calls for an exchange of .9696 shares of the common stock of NCNB Corporation (the parent company of North Carolina National Bank) for each share of Bancshares common stock. The Plan of Reorganization and Merger Agreement was previously approved and adopted by the Board of Directors of North Carolina National Bank and NCNB Corporation on March 24, 1982.

The reorganization and merger is subject to the approval by Bancshares shareholders and various regulatory authorities, including the Comptroller of the Currency.

Recent Court Cases

Willie Lee Tann, hit and run with personal injury, waiver of probable cause.

Michael Thomas Perry, .10 Breathalyzer and exceeding a safe speed, 90 days suspended 3 years, \$175 fine and cost of court, surrender his operator's license. Appealed.

Old fools are not more foolish than young ones: they just look sillier



NEW TRUCK APPLICATOR — Ashley Welding Co. of Edenton has introduced a new product, a truck applicator. The 1400 gallon capacity stainless steel tank is carried on a S - 1800 four - wheel drive diesel truck. Jimmy Winslow, center, of Tanglewood Farms in Elizabeth City, bought the first such applicator. Jimmy Ashley, right, and Jim Bird, left, of Ashley Welding Co. hand him the papers to the truck. The cab - operated hydraulic boom system has an 18 row spraying capacity.

Local Firm Introduces Applicator

Ashley Welding Co. of Edenton has introduced a new truck applicator. The S - 1800 diesel truck, set up by Gimco International of Monroe, N. C., has a complete set of flotation tires and features four - wheel drive. They also helped in the mechanics of the new tank, and Don Smith, field representative for Defco Pumps, assisted in the technical data.

The tank itself has a 1400 gallon capacity. The cab - operated boom

system is an experimental set and can spray 65 feet or 18 rows at the time. The tank features are all stainless steel, from the low - control valve to the nozzle tips, and include parts from all over the country.

Jimmy Winslow of Tanglewood Farms in Elizabeth City bought the first truck applicator. According to both Jimmy Ashley and Jim Bird of Ashley Welding Co., "He (Winslow) has really worked

real close on the designing and testing of this new unit with the big boon."

Gross Retail Sales

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the final month of 1981 were: Camden, \$897,499; Currituck, \$4,916,183; Dare, \$5,798,897; Gates, \$2,094,030; Hyde, \$1,427,316; Pasquotank, \$18,091,417; Perquimans, \$2,661,264; Tyrrell, \$1,260,831; and Washington, \$5,786,312.

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