

# Graham Calls For Action To Prevent Abandonment Of Railroad System Tracks

Agriculture Commissioner Jim Graham recently called for swift action by federal, state and local government officials to prevent abandonment of over 250 miles of branch line railroad system tracks. These smaller lines run from mainline railroads, and are located in rural areas.

These branch lines have been moved into a Category 1 classification for rail lines, which is the last step before a rail system files a notice of intention to abandon, or a statement of abandonment, as they are commonly known. Over 266 miles of track would be af-

ected by this action.

"If the present trend continues, every branch line railroad could eventually be abandoned by large rail systems, seriously hurting the economic viability of rural communities who use the lines to transport crops, pulpwood, building materials, fertilizers and the like out of and into their sometimes remote areas. This will also mean that new industries will not locate in these areas since there would be no rail transportation to move materials in and out of the area," Graham said.

Should these branch lines be abandoned by their rail system, the only mode of transportation of goods in and out of these areas would be by truck, which would increase the cost of inputs needed for agriculture and industry and elevate the cost of the good produced. In turn, it would cost more to transport goods produced out of the area, raising marketing costs and lowering returns. Another result of the abandonment of these branch lines would be businesses closing down due to lack of rail transport, with a resulting loss of jobs and markets.

The rail branch lines subject to abandonment are as follows: Marion to West Shelby, 51 miles of track, owned by Norfolk-Southern Corporation; Wilmington to New Bern, 89.17 miles of track, owned by CSX Corporation, commonly known as Seaboard Coast Line Railroad; Henderson to Creedmore, 14 miles of track, owned by Seaboard Coast Line Railroad; Fairmont Branch Line, 11 miles of track, owned by Seaboard Coast Line Railroad; Lumberton to St. Pauls to Duart, 23 miles of track, owned by Seaboard Coast Line Railroad; Pittsboro to Moncure, 11 miles, owned by Seaboard Coast Line; Halifax to Scotland Neck, 19 miles of track, owned by Seaboard; Norlina to Roanoke Rapids, 35 miles of track, owned by Seaboard; Red Springs to Parkton section, 13 miles of

track, owned by Seaboard Coast Line Railroad.

"These two railroads basically have a monopoly in these areas, and should they decide to abandon these rail

branch lines, chances are remote anyone will purchase them and continue service," stated Graham. "These rail systems have a moral obligation to these communities

from which they have reaped profits while rendering service. The Interstate Commerce Commission also needs to review these requests for abandonment carefully, in-

stead of rubber-stamping them, to see what effects they are going to have on the economic livelihood of rural and agricultural areas with limited transportation

resources. When you kill transportation alternatives in any area, you effectively kill any possibility of agribusiness, food distribution or industrial growth."

## Bloodmobile Visits Chowan High

The Tyner Jaycees will sponsor an American Red Cross bloodmobile visit at Chowan Junior High School from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. on Saturday, March 5.

With a goal of 100 units of blood, the visit is one of eight bloodmobiles the county hosts each year. Individuals wishing to make an appointment to donate or needing information can contact any Tyner Jaycee.

During the 1981-82 fiscal year, patients treated at Chowan Hospital, Inc., used nearly 750 units of blood. National studies indicate that more than five per cent of all individuals hospitalized require a blood product during that hospitalization, and the average quantity of blood required per patient is nearly four units. Additionally, 95 per cent of all Americans who reach age 72 will need blood

or a blood product during their lifetime.

Red Cross Blood Services, Tidewater Region, serves 54 North Carolina and Virginia hospitals, supplying a minimum of 460 units per day. Blood consumption by patients in local hospitals has increased dramatically during recent years, largely because patients are no longer seeking medical treatment outside the region. Patients who once sought more sophisticated medical treatment which was unavailable in the Tidewater region are now able to remain within their local communities and receive the same treatment.

Generally, individuals are eligible to be blood donors if they are in good health, between the ages of 17 and 66, weigh at least 110 pounds and have not donated within the past 56 days.

## White Is Elected To Directorship

The Carolinas Farm & Power Equipment Dealers Association elected Oscar White to a two-year directorship of the two-state dealer organization at its 48th Annual Convention in Raleigh.

White is president and general manager of Edenton Tractor & Implement Company, located on Highway 32, North. He has been serving farm and industrial equipment customers in this area for 30 years, now featuring Ford and Massey-Ferguson, plus specialty lines.

Oscar graduated from John A. Holmes High School, and served nine years in the National guard. He is past president of the Edenton Jaycees,

past president of the Edenton Chowan Chamber of Commerce, and captain of the Edenton Fire Department.

Oscar and his wife, Sarah, are members of the Edenton Methodist Church. They have two sons - Oscar, Jr. and Henry - who also work in the dealership.

The Carolinas Association comprises some 400 farm and industrial equipment dealerships in North and South Carolina. The CFPEDA headquarters is located in Wilson, North Carolina, where Edward D. Biggs manages the Association as Secretary-Treasurer and Executive Vice President.

## Miss Jordan Is Recipient Of ACC Scholarship

WILSON—Avis Colleen Jordan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Jordan, of Tyner, has been named a recipient of \$500 Leadership Scholarship at Atlantic Christian College.

A senior at John A. Holmes High School, Miss Jordan will enter Atlantic Christian College at the beginning of the 1983-84 academic year, and will major in medical technology.

She is a member of the National Honor Society and has received physical education and physical science awards. Miss Jordan is a member of the Future Homemakers of America, DECA, Monogram, French and Biology clubs.

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