

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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10 CENTS



DISCUSS LEGISLATION — Officials from the 10-county Region "R" met with legislators Friday night to discuss bills facing the General Assembly. On hand for the meeting, attended by approximately 85 persons, were Rep. Vernon James, T.R. Spruill, chairman of the Albemarle Association of Counties and Towns, Sen. J.J. (Monk) Harrington, Rep. Stanford White, and Pasquotank County Board of Commission Chairman Selby Scott. The Hertford Board served as host for the first meeting of this kind in 1974.

\$1,460 Million Reported In N.C. Crop Production

The combined value of field crops, vegetables, fruits and nuts produced in N.C. last year is estimated at an all-time high \$1,460 million, according to the annual report of the N.C. Crop Reporting Service. This includes receipts for quantities sold and to be sold and value of crops used on farms. The 1973 figure is about 41 per cent above the \$1,037 million value placed on crops the previous year. The increase this year is attributed mainly to higher prices, but perfect fall harvesting weather and high yields aided the increase. Huge increases in the value of tobacco, corn and soybeans led the way.

money crop averaged a record high 88 cents per pound for flue-cured while burley growers averaged 92 cents per pound. Last season flue-cured averaged 86 cents and burley only 78 cents.

Corn for grain, the second most valuable crop in the State, came in with a worth of \$264.0 million, compared with only \$151.6 million for the 1972 crop. Production at 115 million bushels, was 12 million bushels above last fall, but a jump in price from \$1.48 per bushel last fall to this year's \$2.30 accounted for the sizeable increase. Yield was at a record high 82 bushels per acre.

Production of the State's small grain crop was virtually unchanged from 1972. Wheat production at 5.6 million bushels was valued at \$15.1 million; oats at 3.8 million bushels valued at \$3.9 million; barley 2.9 million bushels valued at \$4.3 million and rye at 266,000 bushels valued at \$479,000.

Sorghum production increased 8 per cent this year to 4.8 million bushels. A \$9.8 million value was placed on the crop.

Apple production was about 210 million pounds with a value of \$13.7 million, while peaches at 30 million pounds, had a worth of \$3.5 million. Grape production increased to 3,400 tons and is valued at \$1.1 million. This is the largest grape crop in the State since 1948.

North Carolina's 3.6 million cwt. sweet potato crop, valued at \$20.5 million, led the Nation in both quantity produced and value. About 2.0 million cwt. of Irish potatoes were produced in the Tar Heel State last year equal to a year earlier. The crop was worth about \$16.4 million, up \$9.6 million from that of 1972.

Soybean production estimated at a record high 36 million bushels by Crop Reporting officials, is the third most important Tar Heel crop with a value of \$201.6 million. A whopping 29 per cent increase in acreage harvested for soybeans, plus record smashing prices, more than offset the 1 bushel per acre drop in yield. The average price per bushel of \$5.60 was \$1.47 above last year's price. A good growing and harvesting season pushed peanut production to a record 465 million pounds and is valued at \$77.2 million, versus the 1972 value of \$53.7 million — a 44 per cent increase.

Peanut Meeting Town Is Observing Birthday

"The Annual Peanut Production meeting will be held February 20, 1974 at 7:30 p.m. in the County Office Building," states Billy J. Griffin, Jr., Associate Agricultural Agent. Mr. Astor Perry, Extension Peanut Specialist, of North Carolina State University will be the speaker. The meeting this year will consist of a discussion of: 1. Variety selection and performance, 2. Land preparation and its effect on yield, 3. Planting date, 4. Pesticides for 1974 including herbicides, fungicides, and insecticides, and 5. General discussion on climatic and environmental effects on peanut production.

The George Washington's Birthday Sale in Perquimans County is always one of the biggest sales events in the Albemarle area, and this year will be no exception. It is a real sale on Washington's REAL birthday. The federal government decided that Monday is the day, but Perquimans County is sticking to Friday and adding Saturday. The dates of course are Feb. 22 and Feb. 23.

Just as little George chopped down the cherry tree — our merchants are chopping down prices. Just as Washington was unable to tell a lie — our merchants can truthfully say that this year's sale is a money-saving opportunity.

So no need to waste that precious gas and going out of town to shop — no need to worry about parking meters or finding a place to park half-a-mile from the store. Just make plans to shop Perquimans County on the 22nd and 23rd.

This message from your Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce Merchants Committee.

Must List Taxes

All tax exempt property including all Churches and their properties, all community buildings, all Lodges, Clubs, Fire Departments, and all Veterans Organizations must be listed and then an exemption must be asked from the Tax Supervisor. Any person over the age of 65 who did not have an income of over \$5000 during 1973 can apply to the Tax Supervisor for a property exemption. These exemptions must be applied for before May 1, 1974.

Bill Will Be Supported If Written Another Way

SNUG HARBOR — Albemarle area officials have agreed to support a coastal land-use bill but not as presently written. Meeting with Region "R" legislators last Friday night, county commissioners, city and county attorneys, managers, coordinators and councilmen from the region expressed dissatisfaction with the proposed coastal management bill now before the General Assembly.

All agreed the coastal land-use bill is the most important legislation affecting the Albemarle area expected from the 1974 General Assembly. Senator J.J. (Monk) Harrington said, "I would like to kill the bill but if we can not do that then we want to give the 22 counties involved the authority to pick one man from each county. The 22 man-commission would then work with the governor's committee. In 18 to 22 months you could clean up your own house and let your county commissioners do your work yourselves."

"I don't know whether this will suit Washington or not, and I don't care," he said. Harrington continued, prior to a lengthy debate "We have a bill being studied, a state policy bill. The state seems to think nobody can do anything but them. They haven't given you county commissioners a chance. Representative Vernon James suggested that there were meetings scheduled in which some amendments could be approved making the bill more palatable to

the coastal area but, he did not go into detail. Rep. Stanford White presented two amendments and said he would not approve the legislation unless they were accepted. One amendment would require the state to purchase all property that the individual could not develop and use under the present coastal bill's regulations. "If your estuarine areas are so important let them pay for them," he said. The second amendment would require representation from the 22 counties on the coast.

"They should know we are not going to deliberately destroy anything that affects our livelihood," the legislator argued. White indicated that the bill was almost passed in the last General Assembly. "We really didn't know what we were signing. After learning, we killed that thing quick." A number of public hearings were held concerning the 1973 version of the bill. White indicated the bill's proponents "paid no attention to what you people had requested. "You go advise them all you want to — then they do as they please," he said.



QUARTERLY MEETING—Albemarle Firemen's Association held their quarterly meeting last night at the National Guard Armory in Elizabeth City. High on their agenda was election of new officers for the upcoming year. They are left to right, Carlton Jackson, Edenton, president; Bailey P. Sawyer, Camden, first vice president; George Owens, Columbia, second vice president; Charles T. Skinner Jr., Hertford, secretary; Dennis W. Swain, Columbia treasurer; Lawrence McInturff, Swan Quarter, chaplain. The quarterly meeting was hosted by the Elizabeth City Fire Department.

Harrington replied that he intended to do what he thought was best regardless of whether he got elected or not. Perquimans County served as host for this first meeting of the year for the Albemarle Association of Counties and Towns. T.R. Spruill of Washington County, chairman, presided at the meeting. City and county officials were reminded that Feb. 15 is the deadline for presentation of local legislation.

Interest Rate Is Lowered

Melvin E. Howell, local County Supervisor of the Farmers Home Administration, advised today that the interest rate has been lowered to 8-1/4 per cent on housing loans made by the Agency.

Howell also noted that applicant's may now have a maximum adjusted family income of up to \$9600, which will enable more rural families to qualify for loans. Adjusted income is determined by figuring the annual gross income of the family, subtracting 5 per cent for withholdings and \$300 for each minor child living in the home. An example would be a family with four minor children and a total family income of \$11,300. The \$11,300 gross is reduced by \$656 plus \$300 for each child leaving an adjusted gross income of \$9535, \$65.00 under the maximum and would place the family within the maximum income limits. Also, deductions may be allowed for child care when both husband and wife are working.

The rural housing loan program administered by the Farmers Home Administration is designed to bring essential and modest housing within the reach of low to moderate income rural families who otherwise qualify. Funds can be used to construct a new home or to buy and repair an existing house. Repayment terms are scheduled in accordance with the family's ability to repay and may be scheduled up to thirty-three years. Howell stated that families who have previously been ineligible and others who meet the new requirements should visit the local FHA office for additional information or to make application. The FHA office located in the Perquimans County Office Building in Hertford serves Perquimans and Chowan Counties with a sub-office in Elizabeth City, 309 Federal Building, serving Pasquotank, Camden and Currituck Counties.



FIREMAN OF THE YEAR — Bill Fowler, right, member of Hertford Fire Department for 40 years, was honored as Fireman of the Year recently at the Albemarle Firemen's Association meeting. Fowler is a self-employed merchant. The award is made not only for a fireman with outstanding qualities, but as his role in civic activities in the community. (Photo courtesy of The Daily Advance)

Hurdle Selected For D.C. School



DONALD HURDLE Over 1,600 high school students from every state, as well as students from the Territories and Departments of State and Defense schools abroad, will gather in Washington, D.C. over a six-week period during February and March for an in-depth exploration of the American governmental system. The Program, sponsored by A Presidential Classroom for Young Americans, is now in its sixth year of operation. Donald T. Hurdle of Perquimans County High School will be participating

Quick Takes

DEADLINE TOMORROW Persons who have not purchased their 1974 auto or truck tags have until Friday at midnight to have them displayed.

BALLON SALE Members of the First United Methodist Church, MYF will sell ballons this Saturday and next Saturday for the Perquimans County Heart Fund.

HEART FUND AUCTION Items are still being accepted for the March 2, Perquimans County Heart Fund auction to be held at the Perquimans County Horse and Pony Club site. Items donated on a percentage basis, will also be offered. Items going for \$100 or less will see 20 per cent going to heart fund; \$100 to \$300 will give 15 per cent to heart fund with things selling \$300 or more the Heart Fund will get 10 per cent.

HOURS CHANGE The license bureau, located in the Chamber of Commerce office in the Municipal Building, will be closed Wednesday afternoons at noon until further notice.

FOOD STAMP SCHOOL There will be a special school on How to use the Food stamps, Friday, February 15, at 10:30 a.m., Perquimans County Office Building. The school is expected to last for one hour.

Today's edition of The Perquimans Weekly has a special Valentine's Day treat for all readers. Inside these pages, are cute little children, who had their picture taken back in the fall. Can you recognize these citizens of tomorrow, today?

Farmers Getting 100%

Agriculture has been designated to receive 100 per cent of its fuel needs for 1974. In order to be sure that each individual farmer receives the amount of fuel he needs, it is necessary that each farmer visit his local supplier of fuel. "This must be done on or before February 22, 1974," according to Richard Bryant, County Extension Chairman of Perquimans County.

When you visit your local fuel dealer he will help you fill out a certification of the fuel you used in 1972 and your priority needs for 1974. You, the individual farmer must visit your supplier and sign the certification form. If this is not done, then you may find yourself without fuel to farm with in 1974.

If anyone has items to donate contact Ray Ward or Wayne Ashley.

If you have any questions please contact Mrs. M.B. Taylor, Home Economics Extension Agent, 426-7697.

Hours of operation will be from 9:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday - and from 9:15 a.m. until noon on Wednesday and Saturday.