

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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10 CENTS



IN ATTENDANCE — Several Perquimans County officials took time to meet Edwin Deckard, director of the North Carolina Office of Inter-Governmental Relations, last Thursday night at the ARPDC second annual banquet held at the Outer Banks, pictured left to right are Wayne Ashley, Hertford Mayor Bill Cox, Deckard, and R.S. Monds, County Commissioner.



CHAIRMAN CHATS — Lester Simpson, chairman of the Perquimans County board of commissioners talks with Deckard. Far left shows John Biggers, of Perquimans County.

Reading Program Given Teachers

Three reading specialists from the East Carolina University School of Education will conduct a special Language Arts Task Oriented Training Institute for teachers, principals and supervisors from six eastern North Carolina counties July 15-August 9. The institute is funded by the U.S. Office of Education and is a cooperative project of the ECU School of Education and the Alliance for Progress, Inc. of Powellsville.

According to Dr. Frank Arwood of the ECU education faculty, the institute was planned after an in-depth Alliance for Progress study of the educational needs of the public school systems of Bertie, Chowan, Gates, Hertford, Martin and Perquimans Counties.

Richard Baker, director of Alliance for Progress, asked ECU for assistance in the improvement of language arts and reading

programs for the six counties, and a proposal for federal support was submitted by Dr. Arwood and Dr. Ben Quinn.

ECU reading specialists Dr. Keith Holmes, Dr. Betty Long and Dr. Mary Lois Staton will conduct the institute for school personnel in Edenton, and will continue to serve as consultants to reading programs in the schools throughout the 1974-75 school year.

Ten teachers from each of the six counties and administrative personnel will participate in the project.

Dr. Arwood, who is serving as project coordinator, commented that service to the public schools "has always been one of the aims" of the ECU School of Education.

"We are happy to have this opportunity to be involved in the improvement of the communicative arts of elementary school children," he said.



PERQUIMANS WINNER — During the 4-H district day at Perquimans County High School, Perquimans County had one winner in a demonstration. She is Michelle Boyce. Shown above, Ms. Josephine Patterson, on left, District Home Economics Agent, presents Michelle her certificate. Michelle won first place for her horse demonstration. (Staff Photos by Kathy M. Newbern)

GED Candidates Are Increasing

The number of adults participating in the High School Equivalency Program on the local, state and national levels is rising. According to the 1973 Annual Statistical Report of the GED Testing Service in Washington, D.C. the total number of examinations administered increased by 9,870 over 1972 — from 439,346 to 449,216. The number of official GED centers increased from 1,997 to 2,135.

High School Equivalency is a program whereby an adult who did not complete his high school education may take a series of tests to demonstrate his general education competence and be awarded a certificate recognized and generally accepted as equivalent to a high school diploma.

GED test centers in the area are College of The Albemarle Learning Labs in Edenton and Elizabeth City and a mini-lab located in Hertford.

In the COA GED test center, 160 North Carolina residents were tested in 1973. One hundred and three met the requirements and received high school diplomas from the N.C. State Board of Education. Thirty-seven of those who passed indicated they planned to further their education beyond high school. Sixteen of these enrolled at COA.

The average age of the persons tested at COA was 21 years and the average number of years of schooling was 10.

The 1973 annual report for North Carolina showed 62 official GED Centers in operation; 8,991 persons tested; 25.7 average age; 9.7 average years of schooling; 26.9 per cent planning further study; and 31.6 per cent failing to meet state standards.

This compares with the national report: average age for all examinees, 25.1

years; average years of schooling, 9.8; 42 per cent indicated the test was taken in order to qualify for education beyond the high school level; and 31.8 per cent failed to meet state standards for issuance of the equivalency diploma or certificate.

Any person who is not a high school graduate may apply for the certificate and take the tests if: he is 18 years of age, provided he has been out of a public school program for at least six months; and he is a current resident of the state.

GED tests are designed to measure a person's knowledge and skill in five areas: test one measures ability to use correct and effective English in written expressions; test two, the three and four measure ability to read, understand and interpret material in social studies, natural science and literature respectively; test five measures the ability to solve problems in mathematics.

Tests in the area are given any day Monday through Friday, The Learning Lab at the Technical Center in Elizabeth City is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Monday and Tuesday nights from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. There is no charge for the test and no appointment is necessary.

The television program, "Your Future Is Now" is aired on Channel 2, Columbia through August 27. This series will help prepare adults to pass GED tests. The program is co-sponsored by the North Carolina Department of Community Colleges and the University of North Carolina Television network. Books for study of this series can be purchased at the Learning Lab.

For more information, contact Mrs. Dot Aydt, COA Learning Lab in Elizabeth City.



A WARM WELCOME — Hertford Mayor Bill Cox expresses a warm welcome to 4-Hers from surrounding counties in this district. Cox wished the young people a pleasant visit to Perquimans County and invited them to return.

Official Urges Fair Revenue Sharing

NAGS HEAD — Edwin Deckard, director of the North Carolina Office of Inter-Governmental Relations, was the key speaker at the third annual meeting of the Albemarle Regional Planning and Development Commission (ARPDC) held Thursday at the Carolinian Hotel.

According to Deckard, it is his responsibility to see that North Carolina receives its fair share of federal resources and to see that local and state governments make an impact on the federal program.

Deckard's office was newly created by Governor James Holshouser. The office brings five federally funded programs under the direct control of local government through the use of the Lead Regional Organization. The five programs are: manpower, aging, family planning, child development, and women, infants and children nutrition. On May 8, Gov. Holshouser designated the ARPDC to be the Lead Regional Organization for North Carolina Multi-

County Planning Region R. "I am pleased to learn of Region R's endorsement of this program which I enthusiastically view as a major step forward in improving the efficiency and effectiveness of human services for North Carolinians," the governor said in a June 12 letter.

Deckard commented on the need for more federal grant co-ordination. He said the public was demanding more "flexibility and less power in Washington. The major delivery of services in North Carolina must continue to be made by the local governments. They know what will work in their own back yards," he continued.

Deckard added that 13 of the 17 Lead Regional Organizations in the state have supported the program.

William B. Gardner, chairman of ARPDC, presented the "Duke of Albemarle" award to James T. Shaw, affiliated with the Coastal Plains Regional Commission. "He has performed a tremendous job in helping us and has given us the opportunity to charter our own course," Gardner said.

In Shaw's acceptance, he commented on the good news received that day concerning a \$250,000 federal grant for the Chowan county-wide water system. "I hope I can bring you more good news," he said.

1974-75 officers were installed by T.R. Spruill, chairman of Albemarle Association of Counties and Towns. The officers are Chairman W.B. Gardner; Vice Chairman Walter Harlow; and Secretary-Treasurer N.J. George.

Natural Beauty Values Stressed

A "balance" between functionalism—ability to do the job—and natural beauty on projects engineered by the USDA-Soil Conservation Service is stressed in an editorial by Kenneth E. Grant of Washington, Administrator of the federal conservation agency.

In his comments, published in Soil Conservation Magazine, the national administrator reminds SCS engineers that "we must, of course, design structures that are technically adequate, safe, and do their intended job."

But he points out that engineers can also "design in" the preservation of scenic and other natural visual resources as well as the preservation of desirable wildlife habitat.

Kenneth Grant cites design work on ponds, terraces, irrigation and drainage systems, agricultural waste management systems, and watershed flood prevention projects as opportunities for preserving and enhancing the aesthetic values. He says demand for SCS engineering assistance "remains very high," and adds "I am very proud of the dedication, expertise, professional reputation and high standards of SCS engineers."

Commenting on the editorial, SCS State Conservationist Jesse L. Hicks of Raleigh said, "In North Carolina, we have of course been following the standards that our administrator cites in his editorial comment. Since North Carolina has a high degree of natural beauty, we have a real opportunity to preserve and enhance aesthetic aspects in every part of the state."

L. S. Blades, Jr. Dies At Age 69

Lemuel Showell Blades Jr., 69, died in the Albemarle Hospital Sunday at 5:10 p.m. after an illness of two and a half months. He was a native of Elizabeth City and resided at 108 E. Fearing St.

He was the son of the late Lemuel S. and Mrs. Grace Melick Blades and husband of Mrs. Eliza Laughinghouse Blades.

(Continued on Page 2)

Ms. Boyce Caps 4-H Win

By KATHY M. NEWBERN
Staff Writer

Perquimans County High School was the scene for the Northeastern District 4-H Activity Day held Tuesday, June 18. Approximately 550 young people and adults from the 15 counties in this district attended. This was one of seven district activity days to be held across North Carolina.

Activities began at 9 a.m. with demonstrations in 27 events. Each event had two judges which were secured by Raleigh officials. After a barbeque lunch catered by W.E. Burner of White's Bar-B-Que, there was a talent show, special speakers and the winners of the morning events were named. District winners are awarded a scholarship to the North Carolina 4-H Congress in Raleigh to be held in July. At that time, state winners are named in each area and they will travel to the national competition in Chicago.

The following are the Perquimans County 4-Hers and the events they participated in: Valeria Skinner, dairy foods (9-13); Cassie Felton, open class for table setting demonstration; Celestine Modlin, dairy foods (14-19); Anna Modlin, fruit and vegetable use; Marvin Riddick, horticulture market and production; and Michelle Boyce, horse.

Hertford Mayor Bill Cox welcomed the young people to the county during the afternoon assembly program. Cox stated that he felt 4-H was a very worthwhile program and encouraged the young people



PRESENTATION OF AWARDS — Dr. Chester Black, assistant director of 4-H, prepares to present the awards to the winners in the different demonstration categories.

to continue being involved. Dr. Chester Black, state assistant director of 4-H, also addressed the group and named the winners of the morning events.

Special recognition is given to the people connected with the Home Economics Extension office and the many others in the county whose time and efforts made the activity day a successful one.

Bonner Elected Demo Chairman

The East Hertford Precinct Democratic Party was opened in forum by elected acting chairperson J. Jordan Bonner at 8 p.m. Tues. June 18.

After a brief explanation of the precinct election process and office duties, Bonner opened the floor for nominations of officers. The Precinct Committee was elected as follows: Wayne Ashley, chairperson; Ms. A. H. Eason, first vice-chairperson; Ms. L. H. Hudson, second vice-chairperson; W. F. Ainsley, third vice-chairperson; Erie Haste, Jr., secretary-treasurer; and five members at large: Harold Reid, J. Jordan Bonner, Rev. John H. London, Jr., S. M. Whedbee and George Blanchard.

Other precinct business was carried out and the meeting was then adjourned by chairperson Wayne Ashley.

LEMUEL S. BLADES JR.