

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Volume 30 No. 27

Hertford, Perquimans County, North Carolina, Thursday, July 4, 1974

10 CENTS



CONGRATULATIONS — Howard Williams, right, former chairman of the Democratic party in Perquimans County, congratulates Joe Nowell, newly elected party chairman. Williams was praised by party officials for doing a fine job during the year. Nowell was wished luck on his job ahead. (Francine Sawyer Photo)

## Fourth Of July Feature

## Signers Of Declaration Were N.C. Noble Leaders

This week the entire nation marks again the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence — the time when 13 very small colonies huddled on the coast of a continent and angry over what they considered usurpation of their rights acted together to declare their independence from the most powerful country in the world.

What of North Carolina's role in the drama? The North Carolinians had had their share of frustrations during the few years preceding 1776 — with the Stamp Act, the Townshend Acts, the Sugar Act, the so-called "Intolerable Acts," and what they considered lack of proper representation.

When the call went out to name delegates to the

## Seeking Special Teacher

Several school units across North Carolina have already named 1975 Teacher of the Year candidates for the State and national recognition process. Perquimans County is now in the process of selecting a local Teacher of the Year.

The North Carolina Teacher of the Year program is co-sponsored by the Department of Public Instruction and the North Carolina Association of Educators — Association of Classroom Teachers (NCAE — ACT).

According to State School Superintendent Craig Phillips, the program recognizes persons who exemplify the finest in the teaching profession. "Teachers who are selected at all levels — local, State and national — must be fully aware that they represent good teachers everywhere," Phillips said.

Both public and private school teachers are eligible to be nominees. All local representatives will be narrowed down to one regional nominee for each of the NCAE's 15 districts. The State's Teacher of the Year will be chosen from the 15 districts.

The deadline for local units to select their Teacher of the Year nominees is Sept. 6.

North Carolina's 1974 Teacher of the Year is Mrs. Frances Kiser of Crest High School, Cleveland County Schools.

Nationally, the Teacher of the Year award program is sponsored by the Council of Chief State School Officers, the Encyclopaedia Britannica Companies and the Ladies Home Journal.

Second Continental Congress, North Carolina's choices were Joseph Hewes, John Penn and William Hooper.

Sentiment was in favor of independence in North Carolina by April 1776 when the Fourth Provincial Congress met at Halifax. The Provincial Congress instructed its delegates in Philadelphia "to concur with the delegates of other Colonies in declaring Independence, and forming foreign alliances, reserving to this colony the sole and exclusive right of forming a Constitution and laws for this Colony."

A copy of the document was forwarded to representative Joseph Hewes in Philadelphia, and newspapers throughout the colonies printed the text and praised the North Carolinians for their action, called the "Halifax Resolves."

On May 15 Virginia followed by instructing her delegates to vote for independence, and on May 27 delegates from Virginia and North Carolina presented their instructions to Congress. A motion was made on June 7 that the United States should be free and independent; Congress adopted the resolution on July 2, and two days later approved the final draft of the document, called the Declaration of Independence.

The three who signed for North Carolina were men who were leaders in the public life of the state. Joseph Hewes, a native of New Jersey, and of Quaker parents, was apprenticed to a merchant in Philadelphia. After his term of apprenticeship, he went into the mercantile business on his own, and with his business ability quickly amassed a fortune. Sometime between 1756 and 1763 Hewes moved to Edenton, N.C., where he continued in the mercantile business.

He immediately became a part of North Carolina's political life, was elected to membership in the Assembly, serving from 1768 until that body ceased meeting in 1775. He served also as a member of each Provincial Congress until in 1774 he was sent to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia.

With his shipping interests, Hewes was known outside North Carolina, and his company served as North Carolina's agent for Congress in fitting out vessels. He had known John Paul Jones and appointed Jones as a naval officer.

John Penn, born in Virginia, had a skimpy formal education, but decided to study law. He was able to overcome his lack of early training, and

studied law on his own, encouraged by a relative who offered the use of his extensive library.

After practicing law in Virginia for 12 years, Penn moved with his wife and two children to North Carolina, settling in Granville County — probably because the Penns had relatives in that county.

Penn soon became a leader in the community, and in 1775 was sent to the Provincial Congress in Hillsborough. Almost immediately, he was appointed a delegate to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia, where he joined other delegates in voting for and signing the Declaration. He was a member of Congress until 1777, was re-elected in 1778 and served until 1780.

The work in Philadelphia became so difficult that many were not able to continue. Of North Carolina's other signers, Joseph Hewes died and William Hooper resigned, leaving Penn the sole member of the three North Carolina signers.

William Hooper, the third signer, was a native of Boston, Mass. After graduation from Harvard, despite his father's wishes that he enter the ministry, Hooper studied law. Later, deciding that the Boston bar was crowded, Hooper moved to North Carolina where he had relatives, and settled in Wilmington.

He soon became prominent in the affairs of the colony, traveling miles on horseback in the practice of law. He served in all five Provincial Congresses, and was a delegate to the Continental Congress. He resigned from Congress in 1777 to return to his law practice. However, he was again elected to office, serving in the House of Commons from 1777 to 1782.

During the Revolution, Hooper lost much of his property and also became seriously ill with malaria. He moved to Hillsborough, and again served in the House of Commons. He died, and was buried in Hillsborough, but in 1894, his body was moved to Guilford Courthouse National Military Park where he and John Penn share a monument, honoring them for their service to North Carolina.

By adding their names to this historic document, the three North Carolinians became immortal, along with the 53 other Americans who signed. Accounts of their lives and work and that of others in the service of North Carolina are available in booklet form from the Division of Archives and History of the Department of Cultural Resources, 109 E. Jones Street, Raleigh, 27611.

## Joe Nowell Heads County Democrats

BY FRANCINE SAWYER

Joe Nowell, former North Carolina Highway Com-

missioner under Gov. Bob Scott's administration, and well known with many democrats across the state

was elected Saturday as chairman of the Democratic party for Perquimans County.

Tom Brown was elected convention chairman and conducted the meeting which lasted 1½ hours.

Others elected were Ann Young first vice chairman, second vice chairman is H.E. Daughy, third vice chairman is Jack Nowell, secretary elected is Jean Harrison and treasurer is incumbent, Mrs. Alberta Eason.

After the election of county party officials delegates to various committees were elected.

Elected to the Congressional district executive committee was Jordan Bonner and Rev. John London. Judicial district executive committee officials are Archie Lane and Rev. Walter Leigh. Elected to the state senatorial election executive committee were Thomas Nixon and Walter Umphlett. Elected to the house of representatives executive committee were Wayne Ashley and Mrs. Annie Baker.

Voting delegates to attend the district convention were Rev. John London, Thomas Nixon, Wayne Ashley, Jordan Bonner, Joe Nowell, Ann Young, Archie Lane, Rev. Walter Leigh, Walter Umphlett and Annie Baker. Delegate to the state executive committee is W.F. Ainsley.



PARTY OFFICIALS — Shown are those elected to serve the democratic party in Perquimans County for the coming year. From left, Joe Nowell, chairman, Ms. Ann Young, first vice chairman, Mrs. Alberta Eason, treasurer, A.E. Daughy, second vice chairman and Jack Nowell, third vice chairman. Not pictured is Jean Harrison, secretary.

## Our County Has Turtle Landmark

By KATHY M. NEWBERN  
Staff Writer

Towns and cities all over the United States have landmarks; some unusual which they claim to be theirs alone. Well, Hertford has not been left out when it comes to this. She has her famous Perquimans River turtles. To tourists as well as county residents, the turtles perched on the half-submerged stick are a familiar sight as one travels down the causeway before reaching the old S-shaped bridge. The bridge itself is claimed to be a first by Perquimans County dwellers, but that's another story.

Many a Hertford native has returned for a visit and they are always anxious to see if the turtles are still there. As far as I know, they are and always will be.

As a child, my older sister and I made a game out of seeing who could spot the turtles first on our seldom visits into Hertford. And we would get a special satisfaction out of being the first to say, "It's a one-turtle day!" As best my memory recalls the most turtles I've seen on that stick were five.

From talking to people around town, it has been my conclusion that those famous turtles have been there forever. No one seems to remember when or how they arrived.

The turtles definitely add something to the quaint atmosphere of the sleepy little town nestled comfortably by the Perquimans River. When you ride by on those hot sunny days, slow down just a bit and you can almost see a look of contentment on the faces of the sunning turtles, a Perquimans County landmark.



READY FOR FUN — The Horse and Pony Club has exciting activities set for the 4th of July at the ring site.

## Fun Is Planned

The fourth of July is practically upon us. For those who aren't excited about fighting the traffic to possess a one foot stretch of sand for the day, there is an alternative. Those interested can have a day of enjoyment free. The event is the fourth of July Horse and Pony Club show. There is no admission charge and the activities begin at 11 a.m. and continue throughout the day.

The show will be held at the new show ring located four miles west of Hertford. The outing should prove to be a family event with classes for both children and adults. There will also be speed and pleasure classes.

The refreshment stand will be filled with special items to celebrate the fourth. Old-fashioned homemade ice cream and peach jacks are just a few of the items that will be on sale.



HOGGING THE MARKET — Wayland White got a surprise in June. One of his gilts (this is a female hog which has not farrowed), she then became a sow had a litter of 10 pigs born June 8. Then on June 25 the sow had nine more pigs. White and Sammy Jorda have been in the hog production business for a year. This was their first double luck. (Francine Sawyer Photos)



THE SECOND SET — When these little piggies go to market, there will be an extra set going along. These are the additional pigs born June 25. County farm agents cite this as being a rare happening.

## Small Claim Law Changed July 1

### Special Program

The Gospel Union will be held at Riddick Grove Church in Belvidere Sunday, July 7 at 8 p.m. Groups appearing on the program will be the United Gospel Singers, The William Gospel Singers, The Faithful Kee's, The Gates County Caravans, The Shiloh Male Chorus and the Starlight Four. The program is being sponsored by Mrs. Camilla Lilley. Rev. D. S. Whitehurst is pastor.

The law raising the dollar ceiling in Small Claims Courts from \$300 to \$500 goes into effect July 1.

Small Claims or Magistrate's Courts are part of the state's District Court system. These courts are located in all county seats and in most large cities.

"An average citizen can settle a small claim quickly, simply and inexpensively in

Magistrate's Court," said Jim Blackburn, Assistant Attorney General in the Consumer Protection Division of the Attorney General's Office, which supported the increase in the jurisdictional limit.

"Consumers may appear in this court with or without an attorney because the hearings are informal, even though the court's decisions are official and binding," Blackburn said.



NEW MEMBERS — Two recent initiates into the Omega Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa honorary society at Paul D. Camp Community College are (L to R) Sybil Cale and Janet Spivey. Both students are currently enrolled in the two-year secretarial science program.