

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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HIGH STEPPERS — The Perquimans County Marching Unit led Saturday's Albemarle Fireman's Association Parade which was held in Hertford.



HAPPY FIREMEN — Sidney Eley, standing, and Percy Newbern were among the many firemen participating in Saturday's parade. Both men are members of the Hertford Volunteer Fire Dept.



AN OLDIE — This vintage fire truck manned by the members of Elizabeth City Fire Department proudly strolled through Hertford amidst a cheering crowd.



ALL ABOARD — Mrs. Billy White and children were among parade participants carrying out the theme, "Things That Burn." (Photos by Kathy Newbern)



ATTENTIVE AUDIENCE — Clifford Winslow and C.C. Walters were among those attending the recent Alliance For Progress meeting held in Williamston. At the meeting, the directors voted to move in the direction of a computer system.

Alliance For Progress Meets In Williamston

WILLIAMSTON — Members of the Alliance for Progress Board of Directors voted to move in the direction of a computer system for the organization at their meeting held here Sept. 30.

On hand to explain the advantages of what such a system could do was Wes Lucas of Richmond, employed with Lea Industries. "It can initially do many things you would want done such as payrolls. Among its other uses would be payrolls and record keeping for other firms and farmers to bring in additional revenue," Lucas stated.

Lucas said he had recommended a lease agreement to Richard Baker, director of Alliance. "It is my opinion that this would be the best solution for this particular project. The lease company would upgrade the machine after three years with little penalty.

"With inflation, it will cost more to upgrade the computer after a three year period, if you find it inadequate for your needs,

but it should not be out of reach," Lucas said. He explained how the computer system would turn out more work in less time and cut down on personnel. "You might have to pay the employee who operates the machine more because of his training and expertise."

One of the points made that seemed to interest the group was the fact that it could be used by the six-county area for tax assessments and preparation of tax bills. In answer to a question on the grading of standardized tests for the schools, Lucas said that it could be used on those with yes or no, true or false and multiple choice answers "but in this area, it would have its limitations." As for general aptitude testing, it could do a great job for you."

Initial expense for the first three year period will be \$463,000 for which applications have been made to these foundations and "we are tremendously encouraged and optimistic that the financing will come through," Baker said.

Cost to each county in the six-county Alliance in the years following would be in the neighborhood of \$30,000 to \$35,000 which hopefully can be offset by the revenue obtained from use of the machine by industry and business in the respective county.

Alton Elmore, chairman of the Alliance, said that the duty of the Board members was to investigate to see if the commissioners can afford to keep the computer after the initial three-year investment. "We need some feedback from the counties to see if we can afford this gift."

If, in the final analysis, the computer is obtained, it will be located at the Audio-Visual Center of Mars Hill School at Trap, reported Baker. "This would give it a central location for the six-county area."

In other business to come before the board, Mrs. Susan Thomas, director of the Access to Mainstream program, gave a report on the progress made for handicapped children from birth to age three.

This is a new program of

the Alliance and a "home based one."

Mrs. Thomas explained that she and her newly acquired staff, Miss Lottie Baker of Tyner and Miss Eileen Britt of Severn, had mailed out 75 to 100 letters to parents with handicapped children whose names were obtained through agencies referred by school superintendents.

"We had 13 referrals before mailing out letters. We go into the home and assist families with handicapped children to work with them and understand them better," she said.

The staff has had some training in observing and learning about like projects and will travel to Iowa and Wisconsin next week.

An outdoor Environmental Project, headed by W.T. Modlin of Hertford County, has the backing of James Harrington, of the State Department of Natural and Economic Resources.

In a September 12 visit with Harrington, Modlin said "he admitted he had no money to hand out but would see what he could do."

VEPCO To Increase Rates To Electric Cooperatives

Virginia Electric and Power Company has informed the rural electric cooperatives, municipalities and one private utility it serves on a wholesale basis of plans to increase the rates these customers pay for electricity by about \$21.6 million. Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation of Hertford is one of the cooperatives that buys power at wholesale price from VEPCO.

VEPCO will seek a \$13,102,000 or 31.27 per cent, increase from the electric cooperatives and an \$8,523,000 or 28.68 per cent, increase from the municipalities and one private utility. The increases, which are based on a projected test year ending December 31, 1975, are designed to yield a 9.98 per cent rate of return on investment from the company's 41 wholesale customers in Virginia and North Carolina.

The amounts of the rate increases the company plans to seek from these wholesale customers under the jurisdiction of the Federal Power Commission (FPC) were contained in a letter mailed Sept. 30. They had been previously notified in August by the company of its plans to increase wholesale rates.

The letter, signed by Robert S. Gay, Veppo manager of rates, said the company plans to file the new rates with the FPC on or about December 2, 1974. Gay said recently completed cost of service studies show that without a rate increase Veppo would earn a "very low" 4.63 per cent rate of return from electric cooperatives based on the

1975 test year. Veppo, he said, would earn a 5.04 per cent rate of return on investment from the municipalities and public utility based on the same test period.

In his August 5 letter notifying the wholesale customers of the company's plans to increase their rates, Gay said, "The basic objective of our company continues to be to provide to all our customers the best possible electric service at the lowest practicable costs. However, our cost increases can no longer be absorbed. We feel it is essential, in order to continue to provide reliable service, that our rate for electric service to our rural electric cooperative, municipal and privately owned utility customers must be increased."

Veppo sells electricity on a wholesale basis to 19 electric cooperatives, 21 municipalities and one private utility.

Donations Needed

The Perquimans County chapter of the American Red Cross is asking for donations of clothing from the general public to be given to the Robert Mallory family of Rt. 4, Hertford. The family's mobile home was totally destroyed by fire on Sunday night, Sept. 29.

The Mallorys have one girl, age 10, who is in need of dresses and size 6 shoes. They have four boys, ages 9, 5, 3, and 2. Clothing needed for them includes: size 10 pants (regular); size 6 pants (slim); size 5 pants, and shirts; also, shoes in sizes 5, 12, 10, and 11. Mrs. Mallory wears size 13 dresses and size 10 shoes. Robert Mallory wears pants with a 38" waist and 39" length, and size 10 shoes.

Any and all donations to aid this family are welcomed. Persons wishing to donate clothing may do so at Blanchard's Farm Equipment located at 104 E. Grubb St. in Hertford, or call John Beers, county Red Cross chairman, at 426-5536.

At this time, clothing is urgently needed; however, persons having household furnishings available may also call the above number.

Schools Will Join In Lunch Week

Next week, October 13-19, Perquimans County is observing National School Lunch Week.

This special week has been set aside by Congress in recognition of the importance of school lunches in the educational process.

Over 1400 children eat lunch at Perquimans County Schools each day. The school food service supervisor believes this is the most nutritious meal of the day for many children, particularly for those from low-income families.

Schools that take part in the national school lunch program receive donated commodities and cash reimbursement from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service. Because of this, children in Perquimans County are able to purchase lunches valued at 60 cents for 50 cents. In addition, many needy children receive lunch free or at a reduced price.

Many do not realize each meal has been selected and prepared to meet one-third of the Recommended Dietary Allowance as established by the National Academy of Science.

The Academy studies nutrients (some 45 are needed to build, maintain and repair body tissue) and develops reference standards for interpreting nutrient requirements at certain ages. A "Type A" school meal is based on these requirements and will include a variety of foods that together will supply all needed nutrients.

Belvidere Native Receives Promotion



Wallace Baker, Jr.

Three personnel changes involving the Central Crops Research Station, Clayton, and the Peanut Belt Research Station, Lewiston, have been announced by state agricultural officials.

Commissioner of Agriculture James A. Graham and N.C. Agricultural Experiment Station Director J.C. Williams Jr., said that W.C. (Bill) Allsbrook would retire Dec. 31 as superintendent of the Central Crops Station.

Allsbrook will be succeeded by Wallace Baker Jr., who is now superintendent of the Peanut Belt Station. Raymond Coltraine, a former extension agent in Moore and Pitt counties, will succeed Baker.

Allsbrook's retirement will mark the end of a 46-year career, the last 20 of which have been spent as superintendent of the Central Crops Research Station. The Halifax County native was on the staff of the Upper Coastal Plain Research Station, Rocky Mount, for 24 years and served as superintendent of the old McCullers Research Station for two years before

assuming his present position.

The new superintendent of the Central Crops Station is a 36-year-old native of Belvidere in Perquimans County. He has been superintendent of the Peanut Belt Station for 10 years, and prior to that he served as an extension agent in Washington County and in the U.S. Army.

Baker has a B.S. degree in agricultural education from N.C. State University. Mrs. Baker is the former Lois Byrum of Hertford. His parent, Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Baker Sr., live at Belvidere.

The new superintendent of the Peanut Belt Research Station is a 25-year-old native of Hamilton in Martin County. He has a B.S. degree in agronomy and a M.S. degree in agriculture from NCSU.

His wife is the former Terry Gardner of Bethel. His parents are Mr. and Mrs. Rufus A. Coltraine of Hamilton.

The Central Crops Station and the Peanut Belt Station are two of 15 branch agricultural research stations in North Carolina. The N.C. Department of Agriculture is responsible for the management and supervision of the permanent staff at each station. Research at the station is planned and conducted by scientists of the N.C. Agricultural Experiment Station.

DANCE
The Elizabeth City Shrine Club will have a dance Saturday night, October 12th, 1974, from 9:30 to 12:30 a.m. for Shriners and Guests. Admission is \$5.00 per couple. Music will be furnished by the Countrymen.



FAMILIAR FACE — Uncle Sam was among the participants in Saturday's Firemen's parade. He toured the Hertford streets in a bright red bug.



ROLLING ALONG — Winfall Volunteer Fire Department turned out for the Saturday parade in one of their shiny red trucks with members riding up front and in back.