

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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## Fire clean up continues

By KATHY M. NEWBERN

More than one week following the Winslow Oil Company fire, officials continue to estimate damages, reconstruct the occurrences, and direct overall clean-up operations.

Julian Winslow, owner of the local Union 76 distributorship, said company losses have not been totally determined, but nine of the 11 oil tanks were lost while some product is still in the remaining two. Also lost in the fire were the company's offices, a warehouse, three transports and three service trucks. Cash in the building, which Winslow estimated to be "several thousands" was also destroyed along with the company's records. The figure reported previously of about \$600,000 outstanding in accounts receivable is considered by Winslow to be approximate. Winslow pointed out that the company is operating out of temporary offices in the downtown Peoples Bank building. The phone number remains the same. Winslow Oil Company is continuing to provide service to its customers, though somewhat limited, with the help of its Elizabeth City office, Hollowell Oil Company of Hertford, and two Edenton companies, Congo and Crawl.

Winslow added that the company is appealing to its customers to bring into the office any account statements received through the last of December as well as any

delivery tickets from the first of January through the time of the fire, which occurred Jan. 10. Winslow said, "We feel sure that the people will come through."

Winslow also added that the company has reached a definite decision to relocate its bulk plant outside of Hertford, but still within Perquimans County. He added that company offices will remain in town.

Concerning relocation of the oil companies which has been talked about, Hertford Mayor Bill Cox made the following statement, "The Town of Hertford has made some effort in the past to seek funding to relocate these companies. We were not successful. But it's not something new we're thinking of. The town feels it's time to renew their efforts. This would have to be a cooperative effort with the oil companies involved and the town, state and federal governments."

While local officials considered this move prior to the fire, local fire fighters also did some pre-planning in case a fire ever occurred at the site. Charles Skinner Jr., Chief of the Hertford Volunteer Fire Department, said, "We had planned for this emergency." He explained that pre-planned training has been used with an actual on-site maneuver carried out previously.

In a two-hour interview, Chief Skinner recently outlined the actions taken by his department and

those assisting in the Jan. 10 BLEVE. Skinner explained that BLEVE is an acronym used by the National Fire Protection Association. The letters stand for "boiling liquid expanding vapor explosions."

Response from other area fire departments was no accident, Skinner explained. The Albemarle Firemen's Association, a 10-county organization, has had a mutual aid program in existence since 1970. The agreement allows each member department to assist on the scene, remain on stand-by, and move up to additional stations to provide assistance. No departments will respond unless an order is issued by a department officer. Chief Skinner was that authority Jan. 10 when he put out a general alarm for assistance minutes after arriving on the scene. Skinner said his first reaction "was to call for help."

The fire chief and it was his decision to let the fuel burn itself out, trying to prevent it from spreading into the river.

Only between 16,000 and 17,000 gallons escaped into the river. While that figure sounds high, it only represents the contents of less than one of the exploding vertical oil tanks. A total of 230,000 gallons of different fuels were estimated to be contained in the 11 tanks at Winslow's.

While the origin of the fire still has not been determined, specula-

tion exists that fuel somehow escaped from the two trucks unloading at Winslow's that morning, covered the ground was then somehow ignited by a spark, possibly from static electricity. Fire, law and business officials involved say the origin may never be known.

In looking back over the BLEVE at Winslow Oil Company, injuries were kept at a minimum. Eight firemen received minor injuries with Chief Frank White, Chief of the Center Hill-Crossroads Department receiving a separated pelvis and fractured ribs.

In addition to the damages at Winslow Oil Company, Farmer's Feed and Seed, an adjacent business, was totally lost "except for partial insurance" according to Lloyd Lane, part owner. The business's grain tanks survived intact. That business is now operating at J&N Supply Company in Winfall.

At Reed Oil Company, losses were kept at a minimum. Damage was done to the company warehouse, a dock and pier no longer in use.

For resident T. Erie Haste Jr., whose home is located within 10 feet of the oil farm, losses only included the garage and playroom above, two vehicles and minor damages to the house which as a whole was saved.

Clean up operations at the fire scene are continuing.



JULIAN H. BROUGHTON



TOM WHITE



GEORGE HALL



WELLY WHITE

## Candidates file for local offices

Julian H. Broughton  
Candidate for Sheriff

Tom White  
Candidate for Sheriff

Perquimans County Sheriff Julian H. Broughton filed Thursday for reelection to his office.

The democratic candidate is seeking his fourth term and has served as sheriff of the county for 12 years. Broughton was first elected in 1966 and has run successfully in every election since then.

Broughton and his wife, Irene, reside at Grubb Street, Hertford and have two children, Jeff, age 21; and Betty Carol, age 17.

In addition to his position as Sheriff, Broughton also holds membership in the local American Legion.

Concerning the election, he commented, "I have tried to serve the public to the best of my ability for the last 12 years and I would like to continue in this office. When the public calls, I try to go. I am hopeful that my experience in the past will be considered."

Broughton was the second candidate to file for the office prior to the upcoming May 2 primary.

George Hall  
Candidate for Commissioner

GEORGE HALL  
George Hall, 45, of Rt. 3, Hertford filed Friday for a seat on the Perquimans County Board of Commissioners.

Hall is owner of Hall Enterprises, Inc. which includes the 79c store and the former Hertford Bus Station. Hall also owns and operates Holiday Island Marina.

A native of Leaksville, N.C., Hall has been a permanent resident of Perquimans County the last two years, but has had local business concerns for the last eight years.

Hall and his wife, Nadine, have three children: Pam, age 17; Bill, age 14; and Sue, age 13.

This is Hall's first attempt in seeking elective office.

The democratic candidate submitted the following statement, "I just feel that it's time I contributed some professional services to the community. I see a need for a good educational program and additional businesses which would pay above the minimum wage so that our citizens could live a better than average life."

## Walk-A-Thon to aid Cerebral Palsey

The Health Careers Club of Perquimans County High School will be sponsoring a Walk-A-Thon for United Cerebral Palsey on Saturday, Jan. 21.

Starting at the high school, the walkers will cover a six-mile route with sponsors pledging the amount they wish for each mile completed.

The CPO Club of the Elizabeth City Coast Guard base is sponsoring the first place prize of a \$50 savings

Tom White, 29, filed Thursday morning for the office of Perquimans County Sheriff. Known locally as "Big" Tom, White was the first candidate to file.

A democrat, he is the son of Mr. and Mrs. D.J. White of Rt. 3, Hertford.

He and his wife, Janet, reside at Rt. 4, Hertford. They have four children: Donna, age 15; Timmy, age 11; Dawn, age 8; and Shannon, age 4.

White is currently employed as a salesman with Hollowell Chevrolet Company where he has worked three years. He is also a former insurance salesman. White is also known locally for his recording of the single, "Ballad of the Catfish Kid."

Concerning his decision to seek the office of sheriff, White said, "It's time people our age get involved in politics and local government in this town and county. And honestly, I think it's time for a change. I'm serious in this effort and would pledge my energy and time to this demanding office."

Also concerning the election, White said he is encouraging voter registration prior to the May primary, especially citizens between ages 18 and 25.

Welly White  
Candidate for Commissioner

WELLY WHITE  
Walter W. (Welly) White Jr. has announced his candidacy for a seat on the Perquimans County Board of Commissioners. White filed for election on Jan. 12 from the Hertford Township.

A native of Hertford, White, 36, is married to the former Diane Divers of Hertford and is the father of two children: Kelli, age 10, and Wally, age 14. They attend the United Methodist Church in Hertford.

White, a Perquimans County farmer, has been active in the Perquimans County Jaycees, serving as president in 1975-76 when he won state honors.

White, a democrat, issued the following statement, "Being a native of Perquimans County and planning to remain here the rest of my life, I look forward to working for all the people of Perquimans County in making it a better place to live and to rear our children."

## Alliance group reviews activities

By KATHY M. NEWBERN

Looking to the past and preparing for the future was the underlying theme of the Alliance for Progress Board of Directors meeting held Jan. 5 in Perquimans County. Presiding was outgoing chairman R.S. Monds of Hertford.

The look into the past came as the board reviewed its activities and accomplishments to date including planning next steps in several on-going projects.

Alton Elmore reported on progress made by the AFP computer committee to obtain a centralized computer system for the six-county Alliance. He explained that four of the six counties have allocated \$2,500 this year and next for a director of the project. Applicants for the position are being screened with the final decision resting with a committee representing all counties. A feasibility study for the project was favorable.

In the area of community education, Pat Harrell, Superintendent of Perquimans County Schools and committee chairman, reported that

a six-county project was funded for an 18-month period. Those funds will be used to obtain a director with some limited funds anticipated from each county to coordinate the services. Additional funding for other phases of the project is being sought.

Larry Ivey, chairman of the Access to Mainstream project committee turned the program over to the program director for an update. It was noted that the AFP program in this area has been funded to provide training for projects in Nebraska and Alabama and to provide 10-12 training sites in North Carolina. It was noted that direct services will be provided to Perquimans and Chowan counties through the Albemarle Mental Health Center and four counties remain in need of these direct services. Additional funding sources are being considered for the home work with handicapped children qualifying for the program. Another \$40,000 funding was awarded to the Home Based Early Education project.

Dr. J.H. Horton reported on the Elected Boards Institute, an on-

going Alliance project which presents programs of interest to boards of education and county commissioners. Horton expressed a feeling that the program, while good in the early stages, has been "exhausted" and advocated abolishing it.

Also discussed was the Leadership Development Program funded by Rockefeller Foundation. Alliance is now in the process of developing a second phase of the program to work in the area of policy making. The first phase encouraged development of leadership training in administrators and other educational personnel. A proposal for a second phase has been submitted to the foundation. Progress in the area will continue providing funding is realized.

A large part of the meeting was devoted to discussion and future directions of the narrative and interpretive history of the Albemarle Region, another continuing project. A suggestion that the project report be published in area newspapers in serial form was received favorably.

Closely connected to that project is the 3,810 acre site for an outdoor

environmental education center which is originated through Alliance for Progress with the land donated by Union Camp Corporation. L.M. Brinkley of Ahsokie, Alliance Board member interested in the project, explained that outgrowths of the original proposal have taken on a "mushrooming" effect. He pointed out enthusiastically some of the many possibilities of the center which could serve industry, tourism, local residents, education, and related causes.

Following discussion of current status and future directions of the AFP projects, the board elected officers for the coming year. Serving as chairman will be Frank Rice of Sunbury; vice-chairman will be L.M. Brinkley of Ahsokie. Richard Baker is continuing to serve as Executive Director of the organization.

## Additional coverage

The first of the year brought unemployment insurance coverage to additional workers in the Perquimans County area.

Manager Mrs. Alice W. Bond of the Edenton local Employment Security Commission reported Jan. 12, that all State and municipal government employees as well as some domestics and farm workers now are covered by North Carolina's unemployment insurance program.

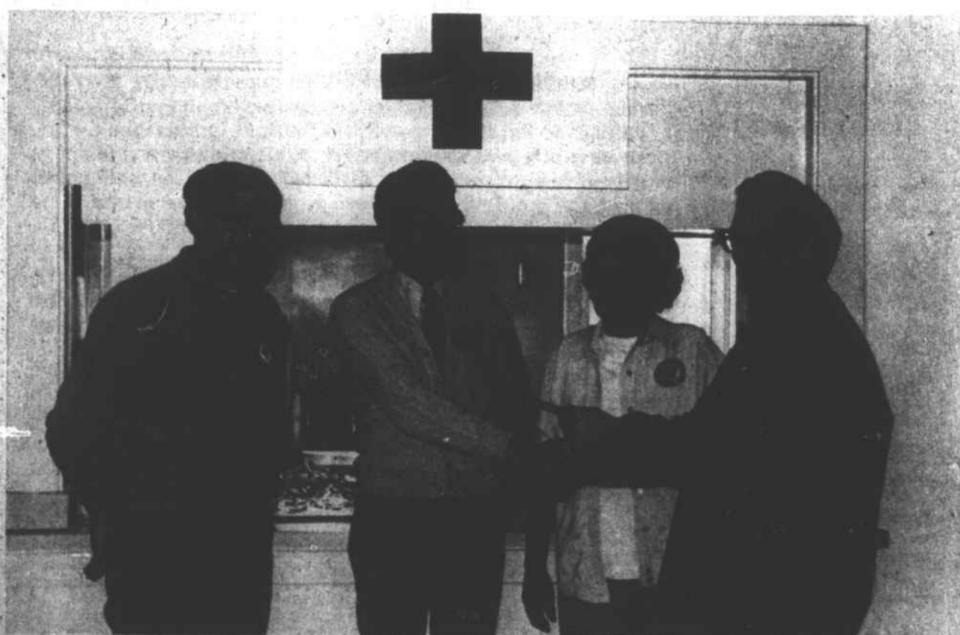
Across the State about 262,000 additional workers now have unemployment insurance effective Jan. 1.

Complying with federal statutes, the 1977 General Assembly amended North Carolina's Employment Security Law to add these groups which had not previously been covered by the federal-state insurance program.

Mrs. Bond explains that over 95 percent of the State's labor force is now covered by unemployment insurance.

The new UI law extends coverage to:

- (1) Agricultural workers of employers with ten or more workers in 20 weeks or who paid \$20,000 or more in wages in any calendar quarter during 1977,
- (2) all state and local government workers,
- (3) workers in non-profit elementary and secondary schools, and
- (4) domestic workers of employers who paid \$1,000 or more to workers in any calendar quarter during 1977.



**DONATION RECEIVED** - A check representing a \$450 donation to the local chapter of the American Red Cross was presented Jan. 11 to help offset expenses of provisions provided to firemen in the Winslow Oil Company fire. Shown above (l. to r.) are John Boers, chairman of the local chapter, Talmage Rose Jr., disaster chairman for the Town of Hertford, Geneva Sawyer, blood program and canteen chairman for the local Red Cross, and William H. Cade, Manager of the First Colonies Division, Tidewater

Chapter of American Red Cross, who made the presentation. The local chapter provided cots, blankets, food and drink for firemen from 8 a.m. Tuesday until firemen left the scene. Volunteers manned the relief station at the First United Methodist Church for as many as 12 to 30 hours at the time. Additional funds from Red Cross are available to cover expenses of the local chapter in their efforts to render assistance. (Staff photo by Kathy M. Newbern)