

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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## Proposed construction-renovation at PCHS:

# Board approves go ahead with funds on hand

By KATHY M. NEWBERN

Despite controversy in the past and the close defeat in November of the proposed \$1.85 million school bond referendum, construction will soon begin at Perquimans High School due to a decision made when the Perquimans County Board of Education met recently in regular session.

The Board has approved using the approximately \$1 million on hand to start construction and renovation work at the site beginning as early as summer according to Superintendent Pat Harrell. During the regular meeting, the Board of Education met with the Perquimans County Board of Commissioners to request the nearly \$500,000 they had placed in a capital reserve fund for construction. The Commissioners agreed to turn over

these funds. And that amount added to the nearly \$500,000 on hand from the 1973 Statewide Bond Referendum gives the local Board of Education the nearly \$1 million which has been designated for Phase I of construction and renovation.

Harrell said Phase I will consist of \$1 million in renovation and new construction. He emphasized, "This will not complete the project, but the Board feels that with inflation and decreased buying power, the need exists to proceed immediately with the funds available."

Following its decision to go ahead and complete work with funds on hand, the Board then instructed its architect, Sam Ashford of Newberry, Ashford and Associates in Raleigh, to proceed immediately in working with the administration to develop schematics and

specifications for the \$1 million Phase I.

The Board of County Commissioners also agreed to work cooperatively with the Board of Education to build a new field house and public restroom complex at the high school. The money for this project will come from funds included in the Board of Education's budget for this purpose with the County Commissioners agreeing to support the project with additional funding. None of the money for construction renovation will be used in this project. Plans are to begin immediately on the project with specifications being developed, bids received, bids approved and finally construction beginning. School officials anticipate having the complex completed by Sept. 1 and pointed out that its location will be such that it can serve the present needs as well

as the future needs of the school if property adjacent to the high school can be acquired by the Board, an action that is continuing.

In other business, the Board of Education approved a revised policy on travel and reimbursement expenses for employees approving reimbursement for actual expenses incurred when an employee is an official representative of a school or the school system.

In budget matters, Ann Berry was designated as School Finance Officer by the Board. And the Board discussed plans for the 1978-79 school budget including program areas and capital improvement needs.

In personnel matters, the Board approved the employment of the following to work in the Central Skills Lab at Perquimans High School: Alice Winslow as teacher, and Jackie Cooper and Louis

Parker as aides. Charlene Overton was also approved for employment as an aide in the Migrant Education Program of the school system. Current Board employee Jeannie Umphlett received approval to work as the full-time Coordinator of Programs for Exceptional Children. Her regular teaching duties have been assigned to other teachers.

The question of optional accreditation was further discussed by the Board with Marie Haigwood, Assistant State Superintendent for Program Services. She met with the Board outlining the accreditation process for both the state and the Southern Association.

The Board also discussed student progress particularly at the seventh and eighth grade levels at Perquimans Union School. The Board expressed its feeling that definite steps need to be taken regarding the number of students in those grades

performing unsatisfactorily. No formal action was taken.

The Board refused a request from Field Enterprises Educational Corporation to send letters home with students in the schools concerning the purchase of encyclopedias. The action resulted in the feeling of the Board that allowing such might indicate endorsement of product on the Board's part.

Before adjourning, the Board heard from George Hall, a local businessman, who discussed the school system's and the schools' policies on discipline and the demerit system. Following his remarks, the Board discussed the concerns he presented and voted to reaffirm its support for the school principals in handling disciplinary situations. The Board also agreed to review the present policies on discipline and the demerit system.

## Town Council hears citizens' concerns

A delegation of interested and concerned citizens appeared at the regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Hertford Monday night to discuss several items.

Included in the discussion was a request for rezoning of some areas of the town, a suggestion that codes and ordinances be more strictly enforced, and questions concerning the possibility of relocating existing oil companies that are now in the city limits.

Hertford Mayor Bill Cox, presiding at the meeting, informed the group that zoning in the town would be evaluated and updated in June. He explained that this is to be done at no cost to the town under the Planning Assistance Program of the North Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Community Development.

Concerning the question of enforcement of codes and regulations, Cox explained that a codes and insulation inspector had been jointly hired by the town and county.

On the matter of relocation of oil companies, Cox responded by explaining that assistance will be given to oil companies in seeking any possible grant monies for relocation.

In its business session, the council approved a contract with Timberlake & Sykes, auditors, to examine the town records for the 1977-78 fiscal year.

The group also adopted the North Carolina standard building, plumbing and electrical codes for local use.

A "Resolution of Appreciation" was approved to be presented to fire departments assisting in the Winslow Oil Company fire of Jan. 10.

Other items discussed included the possibility of registering the Town of Hertford in the National Historic Register.

It was announced that bids will be opened Feb. 27 for the fire station building.

An update of work at the water-based recreational site on Grubb Street was heard as well as a report on progress on the Community Development Program in the King Street area.

## Inmates are still at large

Dion Dale, 21, of Hertford was one of two prisoners to escape Feb. 5 from the Gates County Prison Unit. At press time, Dale and Thurmond Bradford, 26, of Goldsboro remained at large.

Dale was tried August 2, 1976 in Perquimans county for burning of an unoccupied building, that being the old Vener Mill Located on Grubb Street in Hertford. He was

serving a four-year sentence. Bradford was tried Jan. 23, 1974 in Duplin Co. for assault with intent to commit rape. He was serving a 12-year sentence.

The escape was reported at 2:45 a.m. by other inmates to Captain Burce Stalls, Superintendent of the Gates Prison Unit. Stalls said the two escaped after locking three unarmed guards in a detention

area. None of the guards were injured. The two escaped in a car belonging to Dale's father which had been reported stolen. The car was later found abandoned near Dinwiddie, Va.

Dale had been granted work release at the minimum security institution. Prior to his escape, he had been released a weekend pass to see his parents. Bradford had previously been on the work release

program but had been taken off it prior to his escape according to Capt. Stalls.

Concerning any connection between the two escapees, Stalls said, "They had developed a close friendship in the last 30 to 60 days."

At press time, state and federal authorities were continuing the search for the two in both North Carolina and Virginia.

## Sheriffs' Departments cooperate in raid

The Sheriff's Departments in Perquimans and Chowan counties teamed up Saturday morning in a

raid on an illegal moonshine liquor operation discovered at Rt. 1, Hertford.

James Oscar Wells of Rt. 1, Hertford was arrested at 5:50 a.m. for possession, sale and transport of a non-taxed-paid liquor. Wells was arrested by Perquimans Sheriff Julian Broughton and Chowan Sheriff Troy Toppin while he was heading west toward Chowan County on rural road 1312. The officers reportedly found two gallons of the illegal liquor on the front seat of the car Wells was driving.

The still had a 250-gallon capacity and contained 100 gallons of fermenting mash. No arrests have been made for the ownership of the still.

According to law enforcement officers from both counties, they had been working on the case for the last two months.

The value of the destroyed or confiscated moonshine totalled \$150 according to Sheriff Toppin.

Wells was released Saturday afternoon on \$1,500 bond.

Other officers in on the raid were Walter Harrison and Victor Lamb, Deputy Sheriffs for Perquimans County, Chowan Deputy Sheriff Melvin Evans, and Chowan County ABC Officer Joseph Byrum.

## Water system grant approved

RALEIGH — State grants totaling some \$31 million were offered recently to 92 local governments across the state for construction of water supply projects according to an announcement by Human Resources' Secretary Dr. Sarah

Morrow and Governor Jim Hunt. Included in the approved grants was \$230,425 for the Perquimans County project.

These are the first grants made pursuant to the North Carolina Clean Water Bond Act of 1977 and the 11th group of awards for water supply projects since the construction grants programs began in 1972.

The voters approved the new Act in a referendum on Nov. 8, 1977, authorizing \$110 million for grants to assist local governments in financing the cost of construction of water supply projects. This brings the total amount of State funds that could be made available for such projects to \$180 million.

Since the beginning of the grants program, 514 water supply projects have received State assistance amounting to approximately \$94 million. These projects, on which local governments bear most of the financing burden, have total costs exceeding \$500 million.

## Charged in accident

A one vehicle accident reported at 9:30 p.m. on Feb. 7, seven miles south of Hertford on Highway 37, near the location of the "Five Mile Y" resulted in minor injuries to the driver.

Raymond Lee of P.O. Box 34, Winfall, driver of the early model automobile, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol.

According to the report by investigating officer Y.Z. Newberry, Lee was traveling north on Highway 37 apparently driving on the wrong side of the road. He swerved to the right going out of control and skidded off the road on the west shoulder. The car then overturned in a ditch and came to rest on its top.

Lee was taken to Chowan Hospital complaining of injuries. Damage to the car was estimated at \$1800.



WORD OF THANKS — John Beers, Hertford Town Councilman, was recognized for comments at the Feb. 7 meeting of the Albemarle Firemen's Association held in Poplar Branch, N.C. Beers expressed the appreciation and gratitude of the Town of Hertford to all those assisting during the

Winslow Oil Company fire on Jan. 10. Also during the meeting, Charles Skinner Jr. of Hertford, Chief of the Hertford Volunteer Fire Department, was elected and installed as first vice president of the organization for the coming year. (Staff photo by Kathy M. Newbern)

## Funding approved

By KATHY M. NEWBERN

Elected officials and school administrators in Perquimans County will soon be joining their counterparts in five other nearby counties in participating in a newly funded program offered by the Rockefeller Foundation.

Chuck SWith, with the Foundation, informed school superin-

tendents in the counties Monday morning of the approval of a grant application submitted by the six-county Alliance for Progress, Inc.

The program will enable Board of Education members, school administrators, and County Commissioners in the counties involved to work with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in a role

identification and policy development program.

This, the newest AFP project approved for funding by Rockefeller, is a follow-up to the Leadership Development Program recently completed by school administrators in the six counties. That program, was also funded by Rockefeller and conducted in connection with UNC-Chapel Hill.



NO INJURIES — No injuries were reported in this accident involving an overturned log truck occurring at 11:10 a.m. Thursday in Perquimans County. Driver of the tractor-trailer truck carrying the logs was James Bradshaw Stokley of 701 Brooks Ave., Elizabeth City.

According to a report by investigating officer Charles H. Mims, the vehicle was heading west on rural road 1300 when he came into the sharp curve by the store owned by R.W. Turner. In the curve, the wheeling on the fifth wheel holding the load to the cab broke

and the load of logs overturned. The driver was charged with traveling left of the center line. Damage to the truck was estimated at \$500. Property damages to a post and fence belonging to R.W. Turner was estimated at \$100. (Staff photo by Kathy M. Newbern)