

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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## Grant approved; work to begin



**HAPPY GATHERING** — With final approval of the \$34,320 state grant, some of those involved with the project decide to take another look at building before work begins. They are, front, l. to r., Frazier Pope, State Aging Representative, Hertford Mayor, Bill Cox; back, l. to r., Pam Whitley, Grantswriter from ARPDC, Joe Nowell, County Commissioner, and Annette Fairless, ARPDC Aging Administrator. (Staff photo)

**HERTFORD** — The \$34,320 grant from the North Carolina Division of Aging for the Hertford-Perquimans County Multi-Purpose Senior Citizens Center was officially approved November 6 and renovation of the building at the corner of Grubb Street and Academy Street will begin within the next 60 days.

The money was funded through Title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965. An additional \$11,440 from the town and county will be included in the construction and equipment for the facility. There will be some expansion of the present building to contain a kitchen, office, health screening room, dining area and multi-purpose area.

Pam Whitley, Grantswriter from the Albemarle Regional Planning and Development Commission and under request of Mayor Bill Cox to assist on the project, stated that construction would be complete at least by September of next year. Annette Fairless, Administrator of the Area Agency on Aging, also of ARPDC, will assist in activity at the center.

The center will coordinate ser-

vices with a number of local agencies including the Perquimans County Health Department of Social Services, Albemarle Mental Health, the Economic Improvement Council, College of the Albemarle, the Perquimans County Health Department, Parks and Recreation Office, Perquimans County Agriculture Extension Service, Perquimans County Library, Museum of the Albemarle and local law enforcement agencies among others.

Programs will include health screening, food stamp assistance, special programs for the handicapped, safety, recreation, education, information and referral and etc. for persons 60 years of age and older. The center will employ one full-time director and two part-time people, hopefully from the area CETA program and the Green Thumb program which employs older persons.

The goal of the facility, stated Mayor Cox, "is to enrich the lives of senior citizens in Perquimans County by removing isolation, boredom, rejection, feelings of being handicapped, loneliness, and depression

by giving these persons a focal point from which their needs can be met. This will provide a setting for them to get with their peers and an outlet for their creative talents."

The North Carolina Division on Aging was extremely impressed by

the local cash match allocated to the project. They considered this, as well as the unusually good attendance at the public hearing to determine the desire for the center, as a strong commitment from Hertford and Perquimans County.



**THE SITE** — The building is located at the corner of Grubb and Academy Streets. Construction and renovation should begin soon and will be completely finished by next September. (Staff photo by Tony Jordan)



## Larkins to speak

**EDENTON** — Dr. John R. Larkins, Special Assistant to Governor James B. Hunt, will be the guest speaker for the Advisory Council on Aging of the Albemarle Planning and Development Commission this Thursday at 2 p.m. here in the municipal building.

A native of Wilmington, Larkins received his B.A. degree from Shaw University, his M.S.W. from the Atlanta University School of Social Work. He has done additional work at the University of Chicago (1947-48), the Columbia University School of Social Work completing requirements for his doctorate degree (1953-54). Prior to receiving his doctorate, he was a student at the University of North Carolina.

A number of honors have been bestowed on Larkins. They include the Doctor of Laws degree from the North Carolina Agriculture University in 1958 and the same degree in 1973 from his alma mater, Shaw University. He was awarded a degree of Doctor of Humane Letters

in 1967 from the North Carolina College.

Larkins served as a member of the Advisory Board of Juvenile Correction from 1954-56 and was vice-president of the board of directors of the Southern Regional Council during 1948-52. His other memberships include the N.C. Recreation Commission's Advisory Committee of Thirty, the Steering Committee for a Better North Carolina (appointed by Governor Sanford), first vice-president of the N.C. Family Life Council, Governor's Committee on Juvenile Delinquency and Youth Crime (appointed by Sanford), Citizens Advisory Council of President's Committee on Juvenile Delinquency and Youth Crime (appointed by the late President Kennedy), Governor Sanford's Good Neighbor Council in 1963 and reappointment by Governor Dan Moore in 1966, the Governor's Committee on Demonstration Project for Youth, and the Family Service Traveler's Aid of Raleigh.

## Governor appoints local man

Governor Jim Hunt today named six new members to the N.C. Forestry Council. The Council is composed of 11 members, all appointed by the Governor. Members represent various concerns relating to forestry and serve terms of four years.

One of the Governor's appointees is Joseph W. Nowell, Jr. The Belvidere farmer is a member of the Perquimans County Board of Commissioners and president of the Perquimans County Industrial Commission. He will represent farmers and

other private, nonindustrial forest landowners.

The Council advises the Secretary of Natural Resources and Community Development relating to the conservation and development of both state-owned and privately-owned forests in the state.

Other new members of the council are Mack B. Ray of Burnsville, James H. Sears of Gates County, Charles H. Slagle of Franklin, William H. Utley of New Bern, and W.W. Yeargin of Oxford.

## Farm-City Week to begin

There can be no question that agriculture has a good image in the mind of the public. Survey after survey have shown that farmers are highly respected members of their community and their contributions are properly recognized.

Even so, it is necessary that there be a continuous effort to help foster a better understanding between the rural and urban segments of our society. Each group is dependent on the other for products and services so essential to modern living.

Farm-City Week (November 17-23) is designed to call attention to this interdependence and to narrow the gap that often divides these two segments of our population.

The special week, just before Thanksgiving each year, was established in 1955. The movement soon spread to year 'round activities. Today, many thousands of local groups in farming communities and cities conduct a wide variety of farm-city projects. The

key to this success is volunteer workers who understand the need of rural-urban understanding.

There are many areas where more understanding is vital. For example, consumers need to understand that food prices are not high in relation to other expenses which make up the cost of living, and that rising farm production costs are preventing many farmers from making a reasonable return on their investments.

Better understanding is not a program of just one week's duration. After all, one group can't get along for one day without the other. But together they make the best food and fiber team in the world.

R.L. Stevenson has been named Perquimans County Farm-City Week Chairman for the 1978 observance of Farm-City Week. The appointment was announced by J. Wilbur Cabe of Statesville, state Farm-City Week Chairman.

Serving with Stevenson as co-

chairman for the county committee is Richard Bryant, County Extension Chairman.

In appointing county Farm-City Week chairmen, Cabe stated that North Carolina is fortunate to have a fine relationship between urban and rural citizens. "Farm-City Week can help to maintain and strengthen this relationship," he said. Cabe is president of Ideal Production Credit Association of Statesville.

This will be the 24th annual observance of Farm-City Week. Last year's observance, according to final reports received at national headquarters, involved the active participation of more than 15,000 communities in the United States and Canada.

The Week is under the direction of the National Farm-City Council, Inc. The non-profit organization is headed by its 1978 National Chairman David H. Stroud, President, National Live Stock and Meat Board,

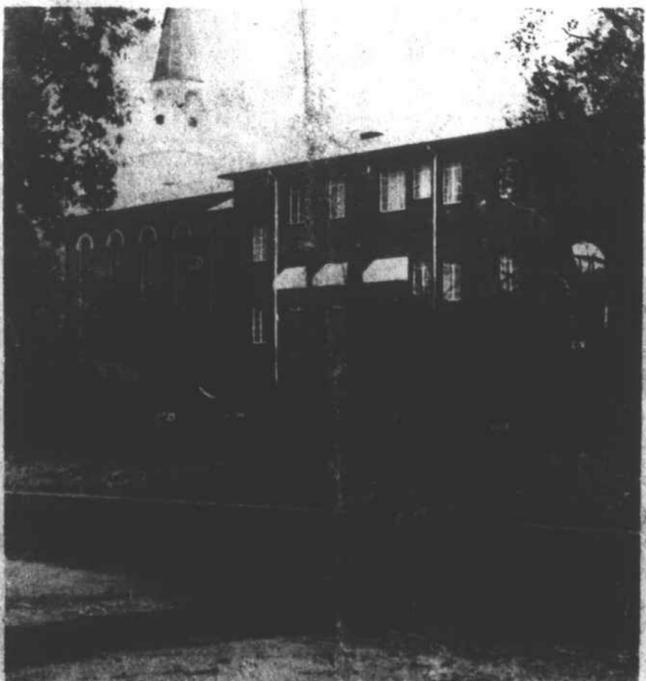
Chicago, Illinois. Kiwanis International will serve as coordinating agency for Farm-City Week and act as headquarters for the national council as it has every year.

The National Farm-City Council is composed of representatives from more than 150 major farm organizations, industries, businesses, associations, governmental agencies, educational institutions, and church groups. A Presidential proclamation and a joint Congressional resolution have called for Farm-City Week observances each year since the inception of the event. The Week has won the Freedoms Foundation's Distinguished Service Award, which carries the same distinction in the community service field as does the famed "Oscar" in the motion picture industry and the "Emmy" in the television field, and the Silver Anvil Award from the Public Relations Society of America for being an outstanding community relations program.

## "Operation Overcharge" strikes at VEPCO's management

**WASHINGTON, N.C.** — Consumers who have to purchase their electric power from VEPCO in northeastern North Carolina have

every right to be opposed to the public utility on its high rates, a spokesman for a citizens protest group claimed last Wednesday.



"VEPCO, it appears to us, is very poorly managed," Richard S. Coiner, Washington Chairman of Operation Overcharge, said.

Meanwhile, William H. Page, Washington Chairman of the Strategy Committee for Operation Overcharge, also claimed VEPCO's problems stem from poor management decisions made at the top level. "There have been a number of poor decisions over the last several years," Page explained.

Page said the poorest decision came during the mid-east oil crisis when the decision was made to stick with oil when other public utilities were making plans to change over to coal and nuclear energy to generate electric power.

"VEPCO stuck with oil and the others didn't," Page professed. "Now, the others have rates that range from 10 to 50 percent lower

than the rates charged by VEPCO."

Stanley W. Hege of Edenton, Chairman of the Petition Committee of Operation Overcharge said stockholders of VEPCO should be the ones most concerned. "VEPCO is charging the highest rates and making the least money," Hege pointed out.

Hege feels VEPCO needs to clean house, making better short and long range planning, more productive employees and some good vision for the future.

Coiner, also a VEPCO stockholder, said several VEPCO stockholders are in the forefront of the movement which has collected over 25,000 signatures asking Governor Hunt and the North Carolina Utilities Commission, along with Federal agencies, to act to bring about a rollback in VEPCO electric rates.

## EMC checks mailed

Member-consumers of the Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation have been mailed \$49,200 in capital checks, according to manager Ed Brown, Jr. Checks were mailed to members receiving service in the years 1963 and 1964.

As a cooperative business, Albemarle EMC does not make any profits. Instead, any monies left over at the end of each year's operations are referred to as "margins" and as such are assigned to each

member-consumer's account as a capital credit.

"With this retirement of capital credits we will have returned \$356,429 to the Cooperative's members through general retirements and \$146,890 to the estates of deceased members," Brown noted. "That's a total of over one-half a million dollars returned to our members and to the economy of the area."

## Subscriptions to be sold

The PTA at Perquimans County Central School and the Hertford Grammar School will begin selling subscriptions for the *Perquimans Weekly* this week. The subscription

drive will continue through the month of November and the first part of December. So if you want the *Weekly*, do nothing. Someone will be getting in touch with you shortly.

**WHEN IT RAINS, IT RAINS** — After a long period of dry weather, Perquimans County was covered with the wet stuff most of the week. The rain came at a bad time for the

county's farmers who are in the process of harvesting soybeans. The rest of us were glad to say good-bye to the dust. (Staff photo by Tony Jordan)