

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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20 CENTS



Almost spring

On Sunday, spring was just a few days away and the weather responded ap-

propriately. These young people, photographed at the

town docks in Hertford, were among a large number of

outdoor enthusiasts who got out to enjoy the beautiful day.

(Photo by MIKE MCLAUGHLIN).

County manager job outlined

A top level state planner met with the Perquimans County Board of Commissioners last week to outline the kinds of duties that might be performed by a county administrator.

Tom Richter, chief planner with the N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development, presented a job description for a county administrator or manager after being invited to do so by board members.

According to Richter's outline, an administrator would work in several different areas in assisting the commissioners with the dispensing of county business.

As an assistant to the board, the administrator would attend meetings of the commissioners, serving as assistant clerk to the board, as well as conduct research and

compile reports at the direction of the board.

He would determine that all orders, resolutions and regulations of the commissioners are carried out, and recommend action or consideration by the board on certain measures.

In addition, he would prepare and make periodic reports on the affairs of the county, and keep the board advised on present financial conditions and future financial needs of the county.

He would also appoint other non-electoral county officers and employees subject to the approval of the board and administer the county position classification and pay plan along with attending to general personnel matters.

The administrator could also serve as control agent over county property, work in

budgeting and finance, oversee the daily operations of county business, and serve as an agent in intergovernmental relations, particularly in securing state and federal grants to augment county services.

Another area in which the administrator would have wide responsibilities would be in planning.

The administrator would take a look at such areas of public concern as land use, floodway, erosion control, subdivision development, waste disposal and development and control of county government facilities.

In addition, he would consult with, coordinate and advise private and governmental agencies on planning and developing, and obtain, compile, and prepare reports containing data and statistics

that might pertain to future planning situations.

Board members expressed concern over where funds would come from, and Richter said he would look around for prospective grant monies, but was uncertain whether any would be available.

The commissioners also heard from Tom Harwell of Rivers and Associates, the engineering firm that designed the county water system.

Harwell said that Rivers and Associates would perform a rate study, at no charge, on the county water department.

The study will analyze income and outgo at the water department in an effort to determine what the proper rate should be.

The commissioners had expressed concern in recent months that expenses were

running too high at the water department.

R.L. Spivey of the Albemarle District Jail told the board that inflation has ravaged the jail's 1979-80 budget, and current funding would not be enough to finish the fiscal year.

Free concerts set

Songs of every type, played by youngsters of almost every age group will be the order of the night at 7:30, Tuesday, March 25, when the school bands present a free concert at the Perquimans High School auditorium.

Musicians representing the Hertford Grammar School, Perquimans Union, and Perquimans County High will play marches, rock, and selections to suit every taste.

Hit and run suspect

Man sought after three car crash

A Greensboro man is being sought by authorities on seven different charges stemming from a hit and run accident involving three automobiles and injuring two Perquimans County residents that occurred near Hertford last Wednesday evening.

The accident occurred some two miles south of Hertford on U.S. 17 when a 1971 Chevrolet Impala pulling a U-Haul trailer slammed into a 1961 Ford pickup truck which was waiting in the southbound lane to turn in to a driveway, according to Trooper M.J. McArthur of the N.C. Highway Patrol.

The pickup, driven by Myron Christopher Hill, 29, of Hertford, was forced in to the northbound lane, and collided head on with a Lincoln Continental driven by Howard Langston Manley, 57, also of Hertford.

The Perquimans County Rescue Squad was dispatched to the scene and rushed both Hill and Manley to the hospital, but before they arrived, family occupying the Impala, a man, woman and two children, were picked up by a passing motorist who drove them to Chowan Hospital where they were seen entering the emergency entrance, according to McArthur.

The four apparently never received treatment, though, and McArthur speculated that they slipped out of the hospital because of the rash of charges the driver faces in connection with the accident.

They include: careless and

wreckless driving; failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident; hit and run, a felony because personal injury was involved; failure to report an accident; driving without liability insurance; driving without registration (license plate); and driving with license revoked.

McArthur said that the U-Haul trailer had also been reported as stolen, and was filled with personal and household items.

The suspect's name, which was gleaned from personal items in the trailer and from previous owners of the car, is being withheld because authorities have reason to believe he may be using a false identity, McArthur said.

The drivers of the other two vehicles were both admitted to Albemarle Hospital in Elizabeth City. Hill suffered severe knee injuries, a fractured left wrist, and

multiple lacerations, but was reported in satisfactory condition. Manley was held overnight for observation and released.

Perquimans County Sheriff's Deputy Victor Lamb was the first law enforcement officer on the scene, and described it as a grisly one.

"The highway was pretty much covered in glass," Lamb said. "I'd say a good 200 feet of glass."

Hill was lying in the highway in front of his truck and rescue squad members, many of whom were not on duty at the time, had to pry open the door of Manley's auto to get him out.

All of the vehicles involved were severely damaged, and the gas tank of the pickup had ruptured, necessitating the presence of the Hertford Volunteer Fire Department, Lamb said.

Town talking Electric switch

The Town of Hertford, along with several other Vepco-served municipalities, has been negotiating with Carolina Power and Light Company for several months. But at CP & L's request, the negotiations have been kept secret.

The reason for the secrecy, according to Hertford mayor and city manager Bill Cox, is so not to jeopardize any possible positive outcome of the meetings.

Last Wednesday Cox, along with town council member John Beers, traveled to Wilson, N.C., to attend a special meeting called by Power Agency Number 2, of which Hertford is a member.

Power Agency No. 2, formed in 1976, consists of the 17 N.C. municipalities served by Virginia Electric Power Company. The agency is funded jointly by the municipalities and its purpose is basically to plan and improve projects designed to benefit its member cities.

The meeting was held jointly with Power Agency Number 3, which consists of municipalities served by CP&L.

Cox and Beers heard a status report on negotiations with CP&L, but because the meeting was designated an executive session, could not disclose any information.

Cox did say, however, that the agency's goal was to buy into a partial generating system.

"By having an interest in the generating company, we could hopefully have some say in rate control," he said.

Power Agency Number 2 is presently conducting a feasibility study to see if buying power from CP&L would be economically beneficial. The reason, of course, is to find a power source which could provide cheaper utility rates.

But even if the town of Hertford could come to some agreement with CP&L, it would be some five years before the Vepco contract could be completely broken.

"We would only be able to unload 20 percent of the contracted energy in any one year," said Cox. "Unless it's agreeable with both parties."

Cox said that the agency hoped to have some tangible results of negotiations with CP&L by December, 1980.

Power outage occurs

Some 1000 Perquimans County residents were without power for over four hours on Monday night as high winds brought down a tree on a Vepco power line.

The whole Burgess Substation, which services Bethel, Snug Harbor, and Holiday Island, was off from 11:30 p.m. until 4 a.m. because of the downed line. According to Ed Brown, of Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation.

Brown said that a similar incident occurred on Feb. 16, resulting in a power outage of about two hours.

School calendar revised

Perquimans County students and teachers will apparently make up for the lost time due to snow through an abbreviated Easter Holiday and an extended school year.

The school board accepted superintendent Pat Harrell's revised school calendar at their regular Monday night meeting. Students will attend their last day of classes on Tuesday, June 10, instead of June 2, as originally scheduled. The final day for teachers will be Friday, June 13, instead of June 6.

The Easter Holiday has been amended to also allow for the lost time. Students will not attend classes on Good

Friday, April 4, but teachers will be required to put in a half of a work day. Monday, April 7, is a holiday for both teachers and students.

Although Harrell said that the possibility of making up lost days on Saturdays was discussed, the shortened Easter holiday was more practical from an energy-saving standpoint. "We won't have to heat the building over Easter," said Harrell.

All 9-month employees of the Perquimans County school system will end their school year on Wednesday, June 4.

Harrell noted that should any additional school days be missed, make up days would have to be scheduled for the

Saturday immediately following the day missed.

In other business, it was noted that because of a reduction in teacher allocations from the state, Perquimans County would lose a total of three positions. Teacher allocations are based on enrollment, and Perquimans County's student enrollment is down, said Harrell. He noted that should retirements and resignations take up the three positions, no positions would have to be terminated.

The reduction in allocations has also prompted the loss of two and a half months of custodial service and one month of clerical assistance.

Vocational allocations are up, however, and Harrell said there was a possibility of expanding the vocational program.

The tentative curriculum for the Tri-County Career Center, which reflects teacher input gained from a special curriculum meeting, has been completed by Tri-County director Ken Stalls and curriculum adviser Jack Owenby. Stalls is expected to submit the results of the tentative curriculum sometime next week.

The school board met in executive session following the regular meeting to discuss facility needs and potential program expansion.

New deputy sheriff hired

Perquimans County Sheriff Julian Broughton recently announced the hiring of a new deputy sheriff, Joe Lothian, of the Whiteston community.

Lothian, 30, brings to the job three and a half years experience with the Elizabeth City Police Department, and will be pulling night duty in the county.

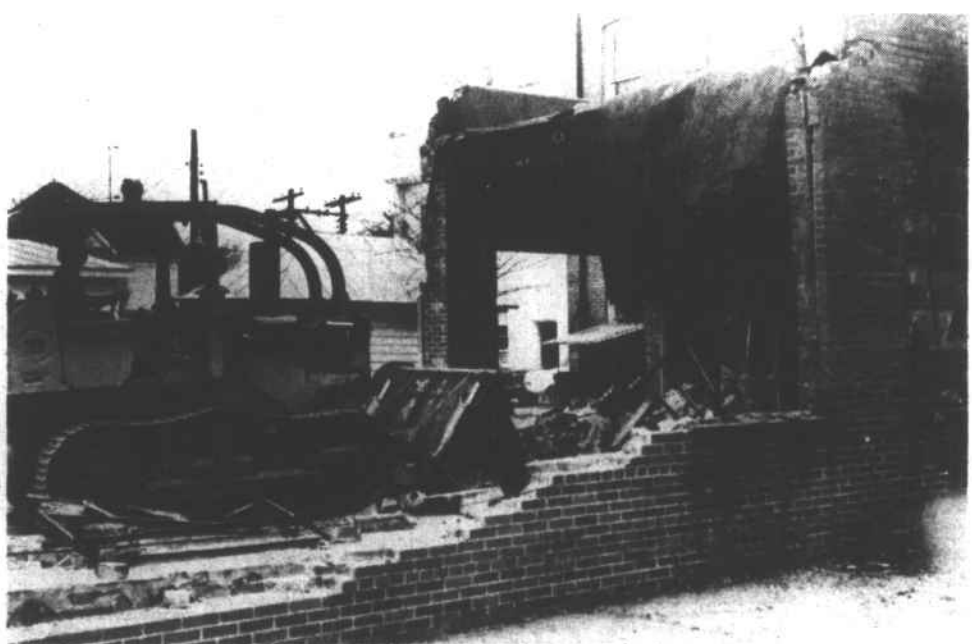
A brawny, amiable man,

Lothian resigned from the police department in May of 1977 to pursue degrees in English and Political Science at Elizabeth City State University. At present, he is a few courses away from finishing up those goals.

But when the opening in Perquimans County came along, Lothian was anxious to get back in to police work.

"I've always thought a lot of law enforcement. Once you get out of it you miss it," he said. "Anybody who says they don't didn't enjoy it in the first place."

Originally from Raleigh, Lothian has resided in the area for the past 11 years. His wife Pam teaches at Hertford Grammar and they have a one year old son.



Demolition

Randy Holland, of Holland Landscaping in Edenton, bulldozes the one story portion

of the Blanchard Building, which faced front Street. The one story portion of the county

owned building is being razed to make way for new parking spaces.

Raid nets liquor, beer

The Hertford Police Department confiscated approximately three and one half cases of beer, and two gallons of whiskey in a raid at a King Street cafe Saturday night.

Arrested was Clifton White, 42, of Route 1, Hertford, owner and operator of the Laurens' Cafe on 210 King Street.

According to Hertford Police Chief Marshall Merritt, White was charged with possession of intoxicating liquor for sale, and possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages on unauthorized premises.

Hertford police officers Robert Morris, Eugene

McLawn, and Merritt were accompanied by Alcohol Law Enforcement Officers Virgil Williams of Elizabeth City and Ellis Paul of Plymouth.

Merritt said White, released on his own recognizance, is expected to appear in court on April 9, 1980.