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Marines invade

Servicemen and county residents mingle after a huge Marine chopper is forced down because of suspected mechanical difficulties. A total of three helicopters landed on the Four Mile Desert Road near Winfall during efforts to get the big bird back in the air again. (Photo by Mike McLaughlin)

Marine choppers hit Winfall

An isolated strip of dirt road near Winfall became a virtual Marine air base last week as three helicopters landed there at one time because of mechanical difficulties.

It all started at 4 p.m. on Wednesday afternoon when an H-46 helicopter and its five man crew landed because of transmission trouble in the middle of what is known as the Four Mile Desert Road.

On a medivac mission, the chopper had delivered a three day old baby to the Portsmouth Naval Hospital and

was on its way back to Cherry Point, N.C. when the transmission trouble (later determined to be a false signal) was detected, according to Captain Gordon Hickey.

Hickey said the helicopter landed as a precautionary measure.

Another copter flew in at some 6 p.m., bringing in two mechanics, and flying out three of the five man crew, according to Perquimans

County Sheriff Julian Broughton.

Needless to say, the small group of Marines attracted a great deal of attention among area residents and passers-by. They were showered with food and attention, including a bucket full of ham biscuits.

On Wednesday afternoon, the crew did not appear the least bit glum about their immobilized state. Instead, they seemed to be enjoying the diversion. "We've met some right nice people out here," Hickey said.

Broughton said that he and one of the crew members went to an area farm house and got some fire wood so that the marines could keep warm for the night.

The next morning, another copter showed up, bringing parts, but when it landed, it too experienced some mechanical problems. Those problems, which reportedly had to do with the blades, were squared away, and the copter flew off to the Elizabeth City Coast Guard Base to get still

more parts, and to re-fuel, Broughton said.

The second chopper was gone so long, though, that a third copter was called in from Cherry Point. By the time it arrived in Perquimans County, the second helicopter was back from Elizabeth City, and for a time three huge helicopters blocked the Four Mile Desert Road.

But by 5:30 p.m., all of the helicopters were gone, Broughton said, and road was back to its usual state of desertion.

Farmers can now get crop backing

Federal crop insurance is now available to Perquimans County farmers for the first time.

The insurance, presently offered to corn, soybean, and peanut producers, has come at the request of local farmers, according to J. Frank Russell, supervisory adjuster for Perquimans and Pasquotank counties.

"It was requested through

such local agencies as the extension office and the ASCS," said Russell. "People would go by and say, 'When will we get some protection on our crops?'"

And because of the indicated interest, congress appropriated the funds necessary for including additional counties under the insurance plan. Perquimans, Pasquotank and Tyrell

counties are FCIC's most recent additions; Russell said there were plans to add more Eastern North Carolina counties in the future.

Federal Crop Insurance, a division of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, is a voluntary self-help program offering farmers a means of protecting their cash investment.

FCIC offers protection against excess rain, drought, fire, frost, freeze, hail, wind, disease, insects and any other unavoidable cause of loss.

"The only thing it doesn't cover is negligence," said Russell, "if a man puts forth good farming practices, he'll be covered."

A farmer who is an FCIC policyholder is guaranteed a specific quantity and quality of production from his insured acreage. If for any unavoidable reason his crop falls short of the guarantee, an insurance indemnity makes up the difference in cash, according to Russell.

"The farmer needs a means to protect his working capital. This is more important than ever before due to higher input costs and recent 19 percent interest rates," said Russell who added, "Federal Crop Insurance will enhance the economic stability of your community."

Anyone who is a landlord, operator or tenant that receives a share of an insured crop and follows good farming practices can get FCIC. "The only requirement is that a farmer be 18 or have an adult co-sign to justify the premiums," said Claxton Stallings, Perquimans County FCIC adjuster.

Corn, Soybean, and peanut farmers interested in information on "All-Risk" Federal Crop Insurance for the 1980 crop year should contact Stallings at 297-2076, or the ASCS office at 426-5802.

NRHDA gets brief extension

Although the Northeastern Rural Health Development Association has received a two month extension, NRHDA director Walter White, Jr. said that the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare was persistent in calling the continuation a "phase-out."

The announcement came at NRHDA's board appreciation dinner held at Angler's Cove Monday night.

White said he was still awaiting HEW's final decision on NRHDA's appeal for a continuation of federal monies. NRHDA is a non-profit organization trying to operate medical clinics in Perquimans and Bertie counties.

HEW rejected NRHDA's request for some \$200,000 in federal funds in January, citing as reasons Eastern Carolina Health Systems Agency's disapproval, the lack of community support, and NRHDA's failure to sever ties with Albemarle Family Practices, Inc.

NRHDA challenged HEW's refusal on the basis of invalidity. "Their only valid reason was the first," said White, "it's true that ECHSA turned us down."

Meanwhile, White stressed NRHDA's intention of staying together as an organization. "We're still in business, despite all the hell we've received," said White, "not for ourselves but for our fellow citizens that deserve better health care."

White commended the board for helping to bring about "needed changes" in surrounding areas by prompting health care improvements.

And NRHDA director, Andrew Martin, was in accordance. "Even though NRHDA has been chastised in many ways, looking down the road behind us, I see that we have accomplished many things," said Martin who noted the professional adaptations at Chowan Hospital and the completion of the Gates County Project as examples.

'Unreal' wreck hurts five

Shrieks pierced the rainy dark night and flares marked the sight of an apparently serious single car accident on U.S. 17 south of Hertford on Friday.

Concerned motorists

stopped to ask after the victims, and the Chowan County Rescue Squad rushed to the scene.

As they arrived, it appeared that all of the five passengers

in the car were injured, some seriously.

A piece of glass protruded from one young man's forehead, another fellow appeared to be bleeding profusely from a chest wound. A grim scene, right? Well, not really.

It was all a put-on, a training exercise for rescue workers, and some of those who responded were the last to know.

"Some of them didn't know until after it was all over. They never did catch it," said Bill Underkofler, regional coordinator of rescue squads.

Perquimans County squad members H.B. Miller, Annice Peckham, Oscar and Janet Turlington, and Marjorie Nixon, were made up to look incredibly like accident victims, and played their roles to the hilt.

The sham accident was set up to require at least two ambulances and a Hurst

power tool to remove three of the victims.

Chowan County was called, and one Perquimans County unit was later called in.

Underkofler said the response time by Chowan County was about right, considering wet weather conditions.

"By and large I think they did real well," he said. "They did some things I wouldn't do," he added, but learning is what a training mission is all about.

Some squad members caught on to the scam quicker than others, but all were initially fooled.

One member, when told that a victim had passed out in the back of an ambulance, rushed in to the unit, checked over the victim, and pronounced "We've got to take this one in right now."

Underkofler said the response was not unusual.

Jaycees awarded

The Perquimans County Jaycees were presented the North Carolina Chapter Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's Best Per Capita Award during the state chapter's annual meeting on March 22 in Raleigh.

The Jaycees conducted a bike-a-thon last spring that raised \$3,500 for CF, more money per capita (based on total county population) than

any other county in the state. When the miles had been ridden and the money collected, the Jaycees had taken in 43 cents for every person living in the county. Total fund raising efforts came to more than \$5,000, but 10 percent was donated to the American Cancer Society, 10 percent to the March of Dimes, and 10 percent to the Heart Fund.

W. Bruce Joyner, executive director of the Cystic Fibrosis Chapter, praised the outstanding effort of the Perquimans County Jaycees for their successful project. Ray Winslow, bike-a-thon chairman, accepted the award with fellow Jaycees Archie Miller, Bobby Harrell, and Richard Copeland.

The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation supports research, teaching and care programs across the country for victims of this genetic and fatal lung and digestive disease.

In North Carolina, two Cystic Fibrosis Centers, supported by the foundation, provide diagnostic services and care for CF victims. They are at Duke Medical Center in Durham and at North Carolina Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill.

Foundation supported research is carried on at both centers.

Gov. Hunt coming

Governor James B. Hunt will be in Perquimans County on Wednesday, April 9, from 12:30 to 1:30 to attend a luncheon being held in his honor

at the ARPCD Building on Church Street Extended in Hertford.

The luncheon, sponsored by the Perquimans County Re-Elect Jim Hunt Committee, is open to all supporters.

Gov. Hunt, who said that this will probably be the last visit to Perquimans County before the election, has expressed a desire to meet with as many of his supporters as possible.

Heading up the Re-Elect Jim Hunt Committee in Perquimans County are Anne Young, Wayne Ashley, and Julian Broughton.



Accident victims

A Chowan Rescue Squad worker assists Annice Peckham and Oscar

Turlington, both members of the Perquimans County Rescue Squad, in a sham

accident conducted Friday night. The Chowan volunteer appears to be unaware of the

fraud. (Photo by MIKE MCLAUGHLIN)

\$1,735 lost in check forging spree

A Perquimans County man has been arrested in connection with the passing of \$1,735 in forged checks at the Bank of North Carolina in Hertford.

Timothy Linwood Reid, 20, of Perquimans County, is charged with two counts of aiding and abetting check forgery and more charges are pending against him, according to Hertford Police Chief Marshall Merritt. Merritt alleged that on five

different occasions, Reid, along with another, unidentified subject, went to the Bank of N.C. and passed forged checks stolen from Richard J. Foley, Jr., of Spring Lake, N.C.

The second person is being sought and may or may not have been involved in the check forgery, Merritt said. Reid is being held under \$1,500 bond in the Albemarle District Jail and is scheduled

for a first appearance hearing on April 9.

In another matter, charges have been lodged against a Hertford man for an alleged rape and common law robbery.

Miss Glenda Whitehurst, of 312 Stokes Street, told investigating officers that Joseph Delton Lightfoot, Jr., of 417 King Street dragged her around to the side of a Market Street home and raped her, robbing her of \$11 at about

10:30 p.m. Tuesday. Lightfoot denies the allegations, said Merritt.

He was released on a \$1000 unsecured bond, and is scheduled for a probable cause hearing on April 9.

Still another incident saw two men arrested on drug charges and the car they were traveling in impounded after being pulled over on Grubb Street. (Continued on page 2)