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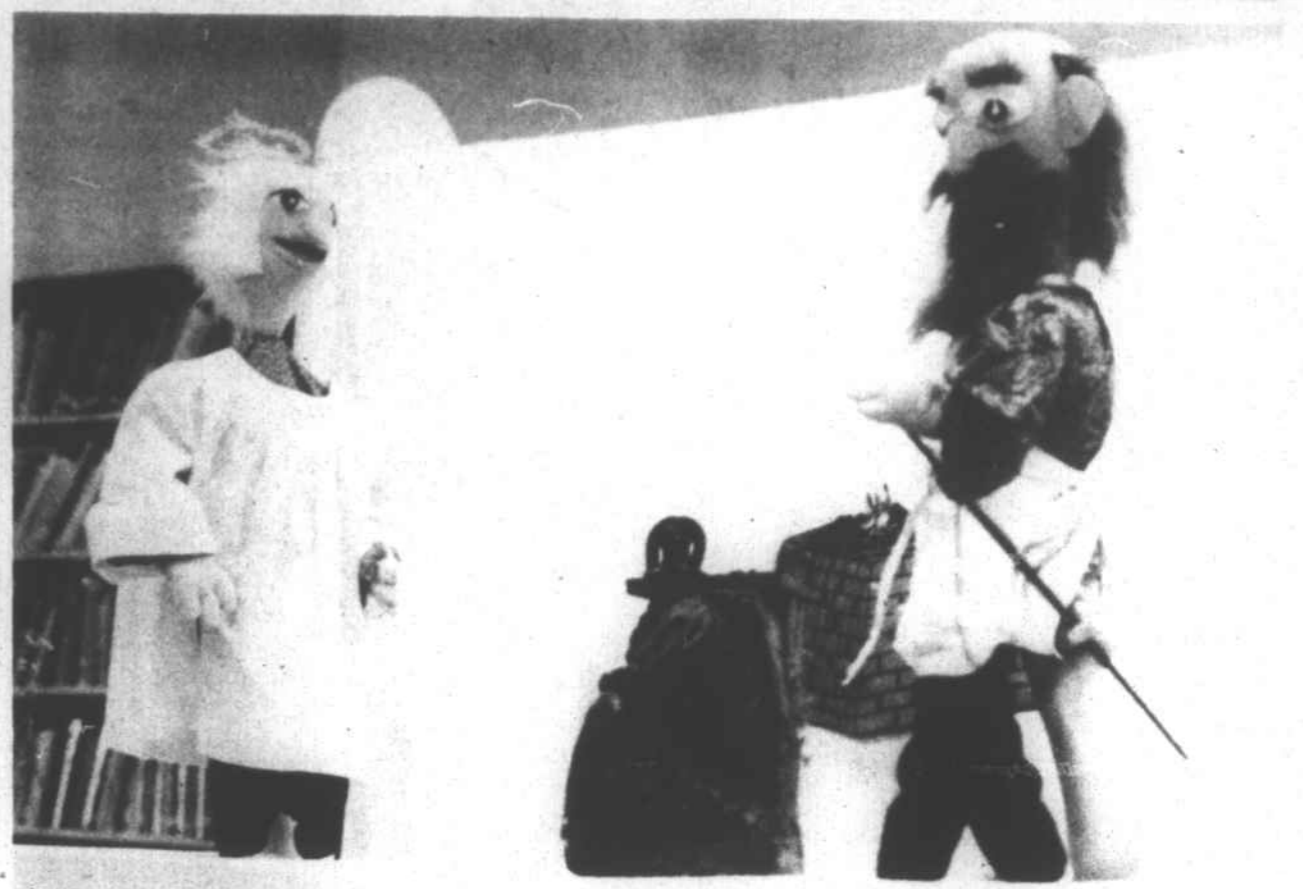


Puppet loving kids

Some 900 Perquimans County grammar school youngsters were treated to a performance of the puppet play, "Wicked John and the Devil," at the Perquimans County Library last Wed-

nesday as part of National Children's Book Week. The puppets were made by library assistant Margaret Brewin, and manipulated by Ms. Brewin, and Ellen

Bowen, county librarian. The children seemed to enjoy the puppet drama, as the expressions of these Central Grammar students attest.



County moving closer to recreation vote

The Perquimans County Board of Commissioners is moving closer towards calling for a vote on whether or not to fund a county recreation program through tax dollars.

At a regular meeting last week, board members discussed the need to move ahead with plans for a vote, and appeared to have reached a consensus on the matter.

Questioned later, board chairman Joe Nowell confirmed that the board will call for a vote if the town of Hertford decides to discontinue a share of the program.

"This is true," said Nowell. "The whole majority said this is the fairest way."

The recreation department has become a bone of contention since financial difficulties led members of the Hertford Town Council to contemplate dropping the town's share of the recreation program.

Recreation is currently funded on a 50-50 basis by town and county, and is

operating on a budget of \$40,000 during the current fiscal year.

"Nobody has said they're opposed to recreation," Nowell said. "But with the amount of money involved, we want the people to have a voice in it," said Nowell.

Commissioner Lester Simpson made the initial motion to vote on whether or not recreation should be funded through county tax dollars.

Simpson was responding to complaints that town residents had to pay a double share for recreation, through county property taxes and town property taxes and utility revenues.

Simpson proposed that a county-wide vote be conducted and that if approved, the program would be funded entirely by the county.

The question would have been on the November ballot at little extra cost to the county. But Simpson was unable to get a second to his motion.

Nowell said the board did not back Simpson's proposal in the fall because it

did not know at that time that the town would seek to shift its share of the program to the county.

"We really need to talk with the town," said Nowell. "It (a vote) might not even be necessary. Right now it's in the planning stages in case it is necessary."

If a special vote is scheduled, it will probably be held in March, and will cost the county some \$2,000. "We would like to have the election behind us by March 31," Nowell said. "We'll be well into our budget-making process by then, and we need to know what to put into it money wise."

The board will begin mapping out the mechanics of the vote by January, to allow plenty of time for meeting advertising requirements and publicizing.

"I think we should do a good job of publicizing and advertising so people will know just what the thing entails, what is involved and where the money is going," said Nowell.



Winfall mayor resigns

Up until last week, the town of Winfall could boast of having the oldest active mayor in North Carolina. But no more.

Winfall mayor David Trueblood, 83, resigned as mayor last Tuesday, citing age and health reasons.

In announcing his resignation, Trueblood told the board that he had

enjoyed serving as mayor, and they in turn expressed their appreciation for his years of service and dedication.

Mayor pro tem Lloyd R. Morgan, owner of Winfall Supermarket, was appointed to serve the remainder of Trueblood's term of office.

Trueblood was in the middle of his

fourth term, set to expire this November.

Morgan has served on the council for less than a year, but has taken an active role in government in the town.

He had initially been appointed to the board after councilman Douglas Umphlett resigned.

Burke family loses home in fire

A fire that was started by a gas heater reduced a Whiteston home to rubble early Sunday morning. The Luke Burke family was burned out and their possessions destroyed in the blaze.

Three Belvidere Volunteer Fire Department trucks and the Perquimans County tanker truck were called to the scene at approximately 5 a.m., but it was already too late to save the small, three or four room structure, according to Belvidere chief Jimmy Chappell.

"When we got there the house was totally engulfed," said Chappell. He said that a pop-off valve had been activated

on an LP Gas tank by the kitchen due to pressure caused by the heat.

"It was throwing gas into the house and we had to let it burn because if we put it out the cylinder would explode," said Chappell.

Saving outbuildings and a house some 50 yards away became the primary concerns of firemen battling the blaze.

"Right behind the house there were some hogs shut up and it was working towards them but we got it put out before it got there," said Chappell.

"We did pretty good to save the outbuildings and all the way that gas was

blowing in there," he said. All but two of the Belvidere volunteers responded to the alarm. "We had a mighty good response," Chappell said.

Chappell was uncertain how many persons were living in the house because by the time the fire department had arrived, family members had already gone to a neighbor's house. It was believed, however, that seven persons were residing there. All were able to get out of the house safely, he said.

The Upriver Friends Meeting House, along with the Whiteston Community and the Perquimans County Chapter of the

American Red Cross have issued a plea for donations of clothing for the family.

Burke's sizes are: 36 pants; size 11 shoes, and; large shirt. His wife wears a size 18 1/2 or 20 dress. Dress sizes for three girls include a misses size 10, a junior size 9, and a girls' size 10.

Two boys wear size 32 pants, medium shirts, and shoe sizes 9 and 11.

In the town of Hertford, clothes may be delivered to J.C. Blanchard's Lawn and Garden on the corner of Church and Grubb. In the Whiteston area, clothes may be delivered to the Upriver Friends Meeting House, or directly to the family.

Christmas parade slated Dec. 5 in Hertford

Perquimans County's annual Christmas parade will be held Friday, Dec. 5, at 4 p.m.

Highlighting the event this year will be the Perquimans County High School Marching Band, making their home debut in uniform.

Among other marching units expected to participate is Northeastern's high school marching band.

The theme of this year's parade will be "Christmas Is..." Floats will be judged

in two categories — schools and church or civic, with a \$25 award going to the first place winner in each category, and \$15 awarded to second places. Honorable mention will designate third place winners in each category.

Bands and marching units will be judged according to the number of members, with trophies being awarded to the first and second place entries for the best band or unit of 60 or more members and a first and second place

trophy awarded for the unit consisting of less than 60 members.

All parade entries are expected to assemble at Perquimans County High School at 3:15. The parade route will then follow a northerly course, traveling down Edenton-Road Street to Grubb Street, then heading east on Grubb to Church, where it will continue southward to Dobbs Street, then back to the high school.

The Christmas parade is again being

coordinated by the Perquimans County Jaycees, with financial assistance from the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce.

According to Walter Edwards, Jr., parade chairman, some 60 or 70 units are expected to participate in this year's parade. Aside from float and band entries, Edwards said he anticipated participation from area law enforcement officials and volunteer fire departments, as well as a visit from Santa Claus.

School system receives federal assistance

Congressman Walter B. Jones announced last week the approval by the Department of Education for federal assistance totaling \$5,429.23 granted to the Perquimans County Schools.

According to schools superintendent Pat Harrell, the amount of the grant is based on the number of children served

by the school system whose families either live or work on government property, or live in low-rent federal housing.

Although Harrell said the money had been "anticipated," and budgeted as a source of revenue, he added that he had expected a larger sum. "We anticipated

some \$7,000 to \$8,000 (in federal aid)," said Harrell.

During school year 1979-80, approximately 134 students in Perquimans County schools had parents who were employed by the federal government. Some 92 students served by county schools lived in low-rent housing.

Harrell said that figures on how many students were federally served were incomplete for this school year, but survey efforts were presently underway. Once figures are compiled and submitted to the Department of Education, Harrell said he expected the anticipated balance to be issued.



Ring in the season

David Phelps of the Hertford electrical department appears to be ringing a giant bell as he adjusts town Christmas

decorations on Grubb Street. Hertford took on a festive air as workmen put up decorations all over town last week.