

# Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Volume 36, No. 50

USPS 428-080

Hertford, Perquimans County, N.C., Wednesday, Dec. 24, 1980

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## County joins protest of proposed telephone rates

With a public hearing on the matter fast approaching, Perquimans County has joined other area units of government in opposing rate hikes proposed by Carolina Telephone.

The county commissioners made the decision on a motion by Charles H. Ward in a meeting on Monday, Dec. 15.

Last week, Ward said he based his opposition on the magnitude of the requested rate hike, and what he maintained is poor quality service.

"I just think the rate hike is too much at one time," said Ward. "They're having a hearing next month and I thought we ought to go on record as

opposing it," said Ward.

"We've got enough on us already without adding anything else," he said.

According to the Carolina Telephone proposal, rates for residential phone service would increase by about a third in the county, as would rates for business phones.

An additional requirement would be that telephone customers purchase their own phones or rent them from Carolina Telephone at a cost of \$1.25 per month.

Carolina Telephone's area public relations officer, Bill Meekins, said the company would encourage customers to rent or purchase their phones from

Carolina Telephone because the company would not be obligated to service other types of phones.

Repairs to the telephone unit would not cost the customer if he were renting it from Carolina Telephone, Meekins said.

Other increases are proposed in such areas as service connection charges, directory listings, key and push button telephone service, and auxiliary equipment.

But Ward argued that phone rates are already high enough, particularly in light of the service provided by Carolina Telephone.

"We've really got the poorest

telephone service of anywhere I've ever been," said Ward, "and the rate is about as high as anywhere you'll ever go."

The town of Hertford has also opposed the rate hike for the same basic reasons as those expressed by Ward.

Meekins, however, said that besides paying for increasing costs, the hike is needed in order to improve services.

An increase in extended area service, which allows county residents to make phone calls to neighboring counties without paying long distance rates, would have the greatest impact on county telephone rates.

Meekins said the cost of maintaining the service is not being borne by the

counties that presently benefit from it.

A public hearing has been scheduled Jan. 6 at 7 p.m. at the Knobbs Creek Recreation Center in Elizabeth City in order to gauge public reaction to the proposed rate hike.

Conducted by the N. C. Utilities Commission, the hearing will give concerned citizens and public officials a chance to speak on the matter.

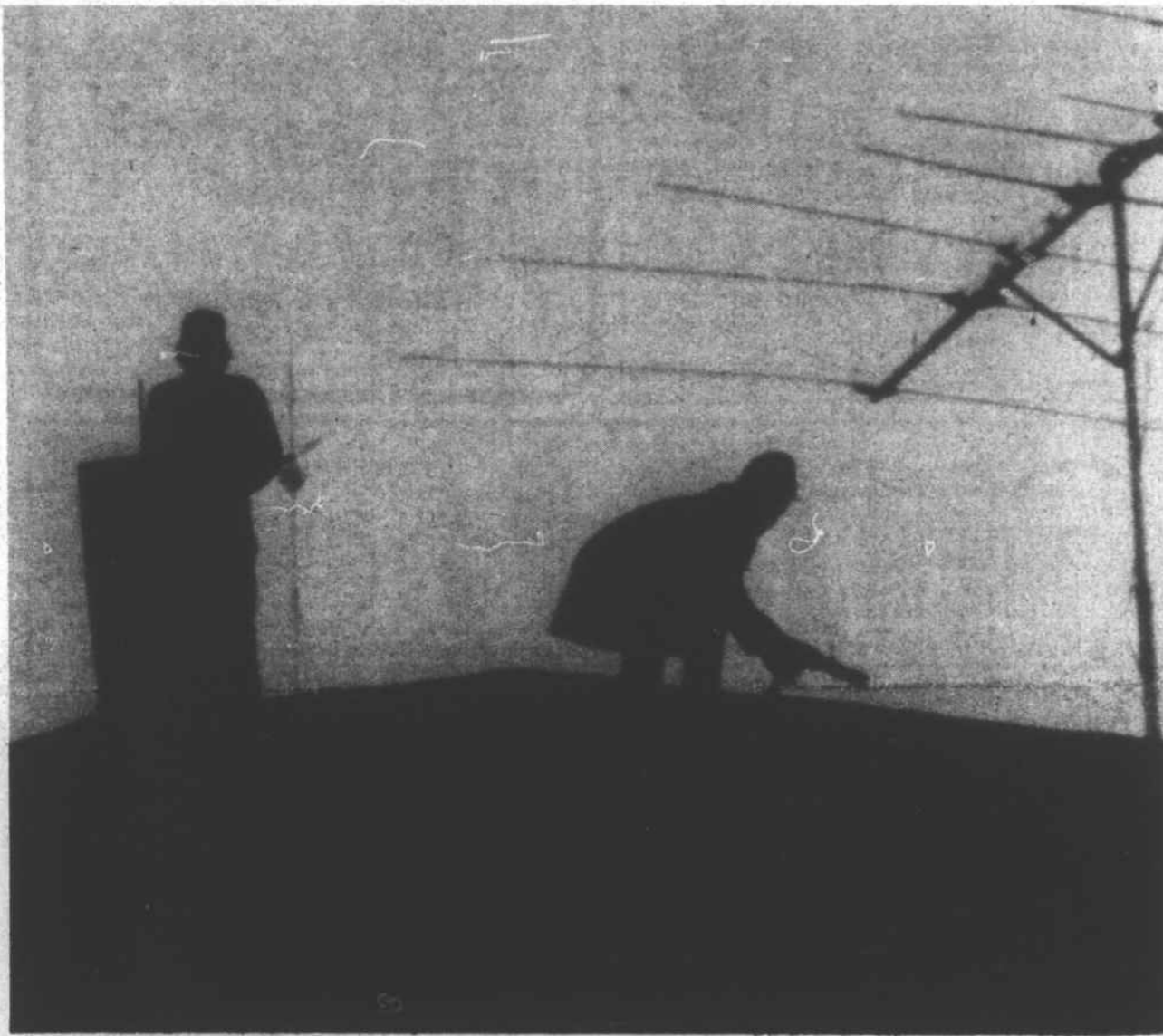
The town of Hertford will have a representative present. Perquimans County, however, apparently will not.

"My suggestion was to have a representative there," said Hertford mayor Bill Cox. "If nothing else, I'll be there," he said.

Ward said the county would be content with writing a letter of opposition to be sent to the N.C. Attorney General's office and entered on record in the rate case.

The N.C. Public Utilities Commission will rule on whether or not the rate hike is justified. Among the commission's options are to approve the rate hike as proposed, approve it with adjustments, or to reject it.

Area residents wishing to comment on the rate proposal should be present at the public hearing. Written statements may be submitted to the Chief Clerk, North Carolina Utilities Commission, P.O. Box 991, Raleigh, N.C., 27602.



### Early evening chimney fire

Inter-county firemen attempt to unstop a creosote-clogged chimney following a fire at the Jerry Hall residence in

Woodville. 'Tis the season for chimney fires, and persons utilizing wood heat should make sure their chimneys are

clean and their heaters are properly installed.

## ARPDC director set

The Albemarle Regional Planning and Development Commission hired a former county manager to fill the position of executive director at their regular monthly meeting Thursday.

Don C. Flowers, Jr., who has served as county manager for both Alamance and Brunswick Counties, is expected to take over the reins from acting director Ray McClees on Jan. 6. McClees has served as ARPDC director since Robert Whitley's resignation in June.

Flowers, 40, is a graduate of Atlantic Christian College and has done graduate work at the University of Detroit in Michigan. An Army veteran, he is

married and the father of three children.

According to Billy Owens, personnel committee representative, some 70 applications had been considered before the committee decided on Flowers, who was recommended by the state Economic Development Administration.

The board also approved the establishment of a new position of assistant executive director for McClees.

In other business, Wayne Lee, of the North Carolina Department of Labor, reported on the progress of the recently established apprenticeship program.

The \$289,000 program is designed to provide on-the-job training and night

school instruction to the economically disadvantaged.

Various trades presently incorporated into the program include electrical, heating and air conditioning, boat building, cooking, and carpentry.

Although Lee said that 20 applicants had thus far been accepted into the apprenticeship program, his agency was seeking 15 additional participants who meet eligibility requirements.

The nine-month program includes 9 weeks of classroom instruction, expected to begin Feb. 9. Job training will begin in April and continue through Sept. 15.

## Time to pay those taxes

Tax dollars are pouring into the Perquimans County coffers as residents rush to get their 1980 assessments paid before Jan. 7 and avoid a 2 per cent interest penalty.

As of Friday afternoon, the tax office had collected \$594,678.00, just under half

of the 1980 assessment of \$1,267,503.12.

"People have been paying in real well," said tax supervisor Keith Haskett. A slump in collections was thought to have been a possibility because of the poor farming year, but Haskett said that payments are running about the same as

last year at this time.

The influx of money has come at an opportune time for the county, as interest on investments is soaring. County finance officer D.F. Reed, Jr. recently invested county funds at 16.5 per cent interest and was anticipating that the rate might go even higher.

Haskett said that the collections office will continue to be busy up until Jan. 6, the last day that taxes can be paid without penalty.

Taxes paid by mail can be received on the morning of Jan. 7 without an interest penalty.

After January, a .75 per cent monthly interest penalty will be added to the delinquent tax note.

County residents must also list their property for tax purposes during the month of January. There are five tax lists spread across the county who will be taking lists throughout the month.

After January, a 10 per cent penalty will be tacked on to the total property value.

## Brrrr... old man winter is here

Don the long-johns and that extra pair of socks, old man winter is here, and this time he came in like he meant business.

The Elizabeth City flight service recorded the coldest weather of the year, appropriately enough, on the first day of winter, Dec. 21.

And according to the flight service, there is a "slight chance" of some

snow-fall on Christmas eve.

So a white Christmas appears unlikely, but remains a possibility.

A better bet is that temperatures will be slightly warmer today (Dec. 24), with lows in the 30s, but cooling back down to the 20s for Christmas.

So bundle up, and put another log on the fire. Santa Claus will have to find another entrance this year.

## County schools

# Family life curriculum to be established here

The Perquimans County School Board decided last week to institute a comprehensive curriculum dealing with family life.

Although aspects of family life are dealt with in high school biology, health, and home economics classes, schools superintendent Pat Harrell said there was a need to coordinate such efforts.

"We want to make sure that things being identified as important (to a family life curriculum) are included," said Harrell, "and avoid gaps and duplications."

The county school system has completed an outline of a comprehensive family life unit and the board decided at their regular monthly meeting last Monday to investigate thoroughly that particular course of study, as well as possible alternatives.

According to Morris Kornegay, Perquimans County school coordinator of education in grades 7-12, development of a family life unit was initiated in the county some three years ago.

A committee consisting of county health and physical education teachers, as well as community representatives, outlined a course proposal based on a need expressed by area health departments and regional health educators.

In addition to the course outline, the committee identified policies that they felt should be addressed before implementation of the program.

Among the committee's concerns were identifying who should teach the course, in what grade to begin the study, what staff development is necessary and available, and whether a student may opt out of the program because of conflicting beliefs.

The board is expected to begin addressing such questions after the first of the year.

In other business, the board moved to establish a policy dealing with student requests to transfer to neighboring school districts.

Harrell said that due to Perquimans

County's more stringent graduation requirements, several students have attempted to transfer to surrounding counties where the number of units required for graduation were not as great.

Perquimans County High School requires that a student complete 21 units of study before graduation, the highest number required in the area, according to Harrell.

In another policy matter, the board moved to establish regulations governing school employee leave of absence.

Although the county school system has not offered a leave option in the past, a recent employee request prompted the board to work on establishing such a policy.

The board moved to grant the employee a three-month leave and to set guidelines later that will address maximum leave allowed, continuation of employee benefits, job assurance, etc.

Harrell announced that a \$33,210 grant had been awarded the Tri-County Career Counseling and Placement for the Handicapped project.

The money is expected to fund administrative costs for planning stages of the project that is designed to aid handicapped students in Perquimans, Gates, and Chowan Counties.

The planning grant will expire in June of 1981, when Harrell said that funds would be sought for implementation of the project. Paul Ward, Perquimans County Testing Coordinator, is coordinating the three-county effort.

In other fiscal matters, the board learned that the Juvenile Justice Delinquent Prevention Act grant of some \$10,649 had been audited. The grant funds the counseling program available at Perquimans Union School, which is under the direction of Lueta Sellers.

In personnel matters, Harrell announced that vacancies still existed for a vocational agriculture teacher, an elementary learning disability teacher, and a secondary LD teacher.

Although Harrell said that several inquiries had been made, none were qualified except for one applicant for the voc-ag position. "And he is still thinking about whether or not he wants to relocate to this area," said Harrell.

Harrell said that it was possible to employ an uncertified teacher if he or she is willing to work towards certification.

A total of eight applications have been received for the newly-established position of assistant principal at Perquimans Union School. Harrell said that the interviewing process would begin after the holidays.

The meeting was held at Hertford Grammar School, in keeping with the board's newly-established policy of meeting at a different county school for the second regular meeting of each month.

Brenda Terranova presented an account of a unit recently completed by her gifted and talented students utilizing film as a means of understanding poetry.

Students were taught motion camera operation and mechanics, and worked with a variety of lenses to achieve different types of effects. Ultimately, the students wrote, directed and produced their own films depicting a particular poem.

Mrs. Terranova aired one classes' effort which depicted a western scene complete with swinging doors and saloon girls.

Students also studied the history of film making, the development of cartoons, and produced their own animations as well.

In other business, the board learned that:

•Perquimans County has been selected to present a program on gifted education at the annual Region I Principal's Institute, slated for Jan. 24;

•that seeding at the Perquimans County High School football field has been completed;

Dear Santa,  
I want a Mickey  
Mouse record player  
I have been a good  
girl, Love, <sup>6 years old</sup>  
Angela Wilson  
Santa's prize letter

Six year old Angela Wilson, a student at Hertford Grammar School, penned the winning letter in this year's "Letters to

Santa" contest. She will receive \$10 for her winning entry. Turn to pages nine and ten for more letters. Mrs. Jennie Cox

won our recipe drawing, and will receive \$15.