

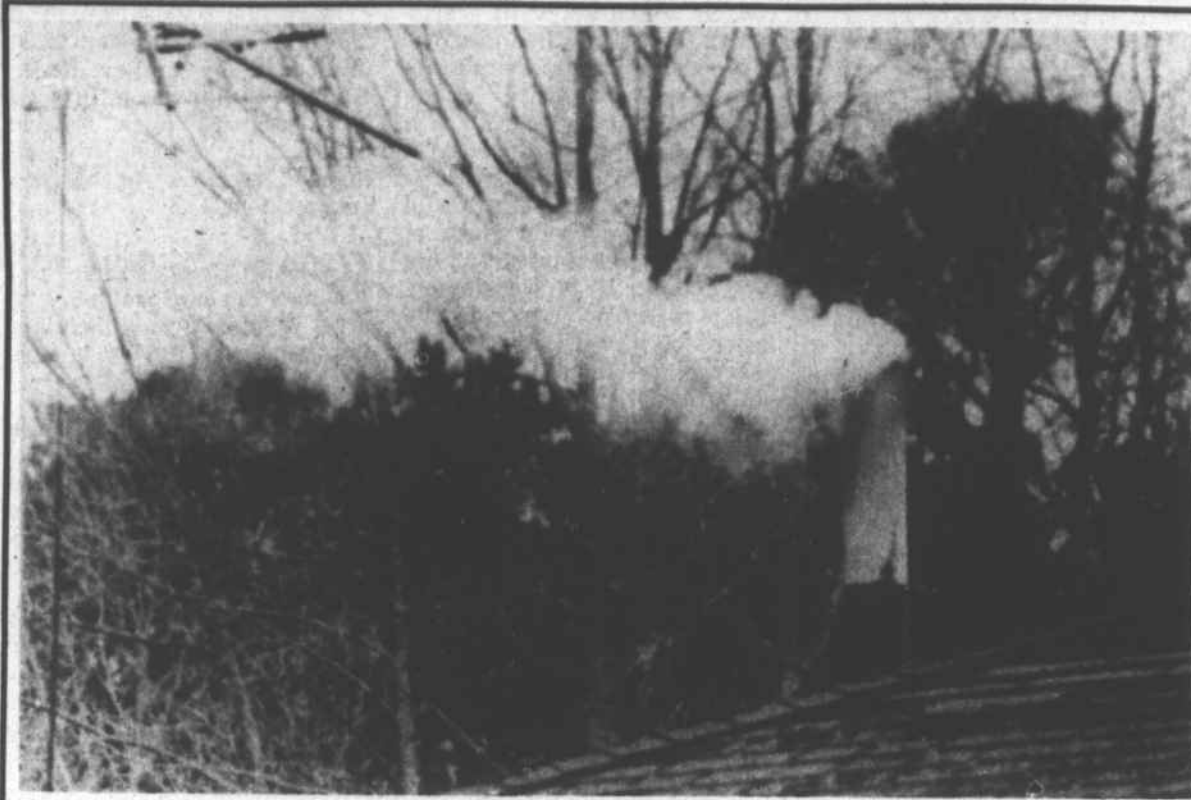
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Seasonal Signs

Smoke rising from rooftops is a familiar sight since Old Man Winter has settled into the area for a spell; but the cold weather won't help much to preserve the last remnants of Christmas as trees await their final destination on the curb throughout the community. (Photos by George Wilmore.)



Eastern Carolina leaders show interest in U.S. 17

Slowly but surely North Carolina is fashioning a four lane tourist highway through its most promising tourist area, deep in eastern North Carolina.

"I wish it was coming earlier but Highway 17 will become a tremendous economic factor when all 262-miles of it through North Carolina are completed," Lockwood B. Phillips of Morehead City, said.

Eastern North Carolina leaders, as well as state officials, showed more interest than usual in 17, a longtime North-South highway through the state, during a major Conference on Tourism conducted in Greenville recently.

Phillips, the Associate Publisher and General Manager of the Carteret News-Times in Morehead City, pointed out that the main thrust coming out of the tourism conference was that Eastern North Carolina has to build tourism dollars to offset lack of future dollars coming from a downturn in agriculture; and inadequate dollars coming into the economy from slow industrial development in the region.

"It was recognized right off, that Highway 17 is a key to development of more tourism," Phillips explained. He admits that Interstate 95 currently carries most of the North-South tourist traffic. "That's the problem, 95 carries them right through the state without stopping," he explains. He feels that many tourists would opt for a slower paced

trip through the state on a four laned 17. "It runs right through the earliest historic sites in the nation and just off our beautiful beaches," Phillips points out.

He declined to fault Governor Jim Martin for pushing Interstate 40 construction so vigorously at the possible expense of 17 and other highways in the state. "I agree that 40 is important," Phillips says, "but I do hope the Governor will get behind 17 and give it a shove so it can be completely four-laned more quickly."

Meanwhile, the Eastern Carolina Chamber of Commerce is trying to coordinate a buildup of commercial tourist attractions in the 43 counties of eastern North Carolina. "We asked every county to come up with at least one commercial tourist project at the conference in Greenville, and for representatives from each county to return home to get busy in making it a reality as soon as possible," Phillips said.

"We need to get more tourist traffic moving through the area to offset our other economic problems which are not likely to go away soon."

"If we'll give northern tourists a decent four-laned North-South highway through our historic and tourist area in the east, they can help us solve our problems," he maintains. "Highway 17 is important to every eastern North Carolinian whether he lives in Raleigh, or Fayetteville, or right smack along 17," Phillips contends.

Agriculture Commissioner discloses year-end report

1985 was a good crop year although yield per acre of most field crops were below 1984 levels. Only tobacco, cotton, and sweet potatoes were higher than the previous year. Quality of most crops has been good although the soybean crop was hurt by excessive moisture at harvest time. Prices were below 1984 levels for nearly all crops.

Veterinary
The Legislature appropriated \$771,000 for additions to the Rose Hill and Monroe animal diagnostic laboratories. A construction appropriation of \$1,520,900 was made for new lab at Elkin.

Harris elected to EMPA committee

WILSON, NC/Mayor Frederick E. Turnage of Rocky Mount has been re-elected to a third one-year term as chairman of the North Carolina Eastern Municipal Power Agency (NCEMPA) Board of Commissioners.

Also during the board's meeting at the Wilson Municipal Building Laurinburg City manager Peter G. Vandenberg was re-elected vice chairman and Greenville Utilities Commission member E.A. Warren was named secretary-treasurer.

Elected to one-year terms as at-large members of the executive committee were Hertford Town Commissioner Jesse Harris, Scotland Neck Town Commissioner N.O. McDowell, Jr., Kinston City Manager Stephen W. Raper and Smithfield City Manager Anthony C. Robertson.

NCEMPA is a state-chartered municipal corporation composed of 32 Eastern North Carolina cities which formerly were whole customers of either Carolina Power & Light Company (CP & L) or Virginia Electric and Power Company (VEPCO). The agency now is the all-requirements electric power supplier to the participant cities and owns undivided interests in six

A state-federal pilot project to control and eradicate pseudotuberculosis in swine continued. An outbreak of tuberculosis in cattle has been eradicated. Surveillance testing and controlled movement of poultry for avian influenza continued.

Dr. Claude Carraway was named director of the Meat and Poultry Inspection Service. He replaced Dr. James A. Bell, who retired.

Structural Pest Control
Five persons were convicted in the courts of violating the state Structural Pest Control (extermination) Law. Four of these re-

ceived active prison sentences.

Four structural pest control operators (exterminators) were called before the Structural Pest Control Board for alleged violations of the law. One operator's license was revoked.

Standards
A new standards laboratory was opened in Raleigh, and grain moisture meter inspection program was funded. The LP-Gas inspection program was appropriated for equipment and facility improvements at the motor fuels laboratory.

State Fair
Attendance at the 1985 State Fair was 655,912. There were 348 non-fair uses of the fairgrounds. This amounted 1,457 use days with an estimated attendance of 1,010,968.

Research Stations
An additional pen for the bull test station at the Mountain Research Station at Waynesville has been completed and completion of a beef cattle research and demonstration facility is scheduled for December 1985.

Plans have been prepared for a sweet potato processing and handling facility at the Horticultural Crops Research Station at Clinton.

Planning is underway for a water management system at the Tidewater Research Station. It will provide irrigation and drainage.

Funding was received for renovation and new construction of poultry facilities and Piedmont Research Station in Salisbury.

Design for an irrigation of the Peanut Belt Research Station at Williamston has been completed.

PLANT INDUSTRY
Testing for endophyte, a toxic fungus found in seed and pasture plant tissue, is being offered. A fee schedule for the service has been established.

Soybean seed quality has been adversely affected by weather conditions.

Intervention activities against the gypsy moth continued in nine locations. In Avery County on the Tennessee border, a joint operation was conducted with Tennessee Department of Agriculture to eradicate a gypsy moth infesta-

tion involving both states.

A survey for itchgrass, a new weed found in Robeson County in 1984, showed limited infestation.

Bioassay analyses for herbicide contamination were conducted on 340 samples of fertilizer. Sampling and testing of fertilizer and lime continued.

Museum
Dedication of the new Maritime Museum in Beaufort took place in May. Funds were appropriated by the General Assembly to double the educational staffs to the Maritime Museum and the State Museum of Natural History in Raleigh.

Marketing
The 1985 Legislature appropriated \$12 million for a new Raleigh Farmers Market. Several capital improvements were made including new buildings and parking areas at the Charlotte and Asheville farmers markets. All three markets continued to grow. The Asheville facility, for example, served 900,000 people during the year with \$30 million in produce sold. Gate receipts at the Raleigh Market were \$100 thousand with wholesale rental fees of \$150 thousand. At the Charlotte Market, 200,000 people visited the complex.

Engineering assisted 67 firms with individual consultations and planning. Estimated costs for the recommendations was \$11 million.

Daily market information was provided major newspapers and radio stations. Reports were published weekly on livestock, grain and sweet potatoes. Market NewsLine, a daily TV broadcast, expanded futures coverage.

"Flavors of Carolina", a promotional program for N.C. food products, was expanded to include three cities; Philadelphia, PA, Baltimore, MD and Charlotte, NC.

Flue-cured farmers sold 524 million pounds of tobacco in 1985 for \$896 million, down \$100 million from 1984. Stabilization receipts were 132 million pounds, down 26 million pounds from 1984. The burley tobacco crop is estimated at 19.5 million pounds and should bring growers \$30 million.

Twenty-five companies were assisted with the contract process for horticultural crops. Aid was given in developing 800 acres of evening primrose, a new contracted crop. Two community farmers markets were developed with assistance provided to six communities interested in forming vegetable packing sheds. The N.C. Herb Growers Association was established.

Grain marketing assistance,

grain grading and equipment checks were provided to 230 firms. Three cotton gins went into operation for the 1985 crop. Help was given 10 farmer groups organizing cooperatives.

Three rail abandonments were opposed by the NCDA. Livestock specialists assisted in the sale of 107,356 head of beef cattle, 977 dairy cattle, 718 goats, 1,066 sheep, 68,477 pounds of wool, and 461,767 swine.

Logue named as new assistant administrator

Peter F. Logue has been hired as the new Assistant Administrator at Albemarle Hospital, Robert Jeffries, hospital administrator announced today.

A native of Norwell, Massachusetts, Logue came to Albemarle Hospital from Baltimore County General Hospital in Randallstown, Maryland. He was an administrative assistant at that hospital.

Logue will be responsible for administering all hospital satellite services, medical care evaluations, and four departments within the hospital. Medical Records, Social Services, Dietary and Emergency departments at the facility will be administered by Logue.

Logue holds a masters degree in Health Administration from the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond. He also received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Vermont, and minored in Economics at University of Vermont.

Prior to working at Baltimore County General, Logue did an administrative residency at Church Hospital in Baltimore.

Logue said that he is excited about the new position. "This is a good career opportunity for me. I'm excited about the wide range of responsibilities I'll be handling, with duties in the hospital and the satellite services," he said. "I'm very pleased to be

moving to such a pleasant town," Logue added. He plans to live in Elizabeth City.

Logue succeeds Charles Stewart, who left Albemarle in November to accept an Assistant Administrator position in a Raleigh hospital.

Logue will be working with Jeffries, and Associate Administrator Glen Washington in the three-man administrative team at Albemarle Hospital. The administrative team was expanded to three in early September 1984, when Stewart was hired and Washington was promoted from Assistant Administrator to the Associate position.

