

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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## School demolition nears completion

By SUSAN HARRIS  
The Perquimans County High School construction-renovation project is progressing smoothly, according to Doug King, General Superintendent with general contractor Comanco, Inc. The Kinston-based firm opened its on-site office September 9, 1985.

Work on the wings of the 1924 building is 90 percent complete.

## Schools retain accreditation

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA—The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, through its Commission on Elementary Schools, has awarded continuing accreditation to Perquimans County Schools by action taken during the Association's 90th Annual Meeting here December 1-4, 1985.

Through accreditation, faculty, students, and parents will benefit by knowing that conditions for teaching in accredited schools meet certain standards and that efforts are continuously made for school improvement.

Citizens are assured of accountability and of value for their tax dollars through the process of setting standards and the regular reevaluation of SACS member institutions. Communities with accredited schools can be confident that their institutions compare favorably with others, not only within the region, but throughout the nation. Accredited schools are a "plus" for those who are interested in relocating their families and businesses.

Founded in 1895, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools is one of six regional accrediting bodies in the United States. More than 11,000 member public and private universities, colleges, junior colleges, occupational institutions, secondary schools, middle schools, and elementary schools enroll approximately five million students.

Demolition of the wings, one of the major expenses in the project, took about six weeks once the asbestos problems were solved. The bricks from the original structure were cleaned and used to re-enclose the ends of the building.

Other work scheduled for the 1924 building includes refurbishing seats to go back in the auditorium, painting the walls, and, finally, sanding the floors.

The upstairs area will be used for storage as state codes require elevators in two-story school buildings.

Some renovation of the auditorium is also scheduled. These improvements include putting the refurbished seats back in, painting the walls, sanding the floors,

installing new walls in the stage area, installing complete air conditioning control, and a sound booth for sound and lighting.

Work on the auditorium was temporarily halted in September when asbestos insulation was discovered under the stage area of that building. The removal of the material added around \$30,000 to the approximately \$2 million project.

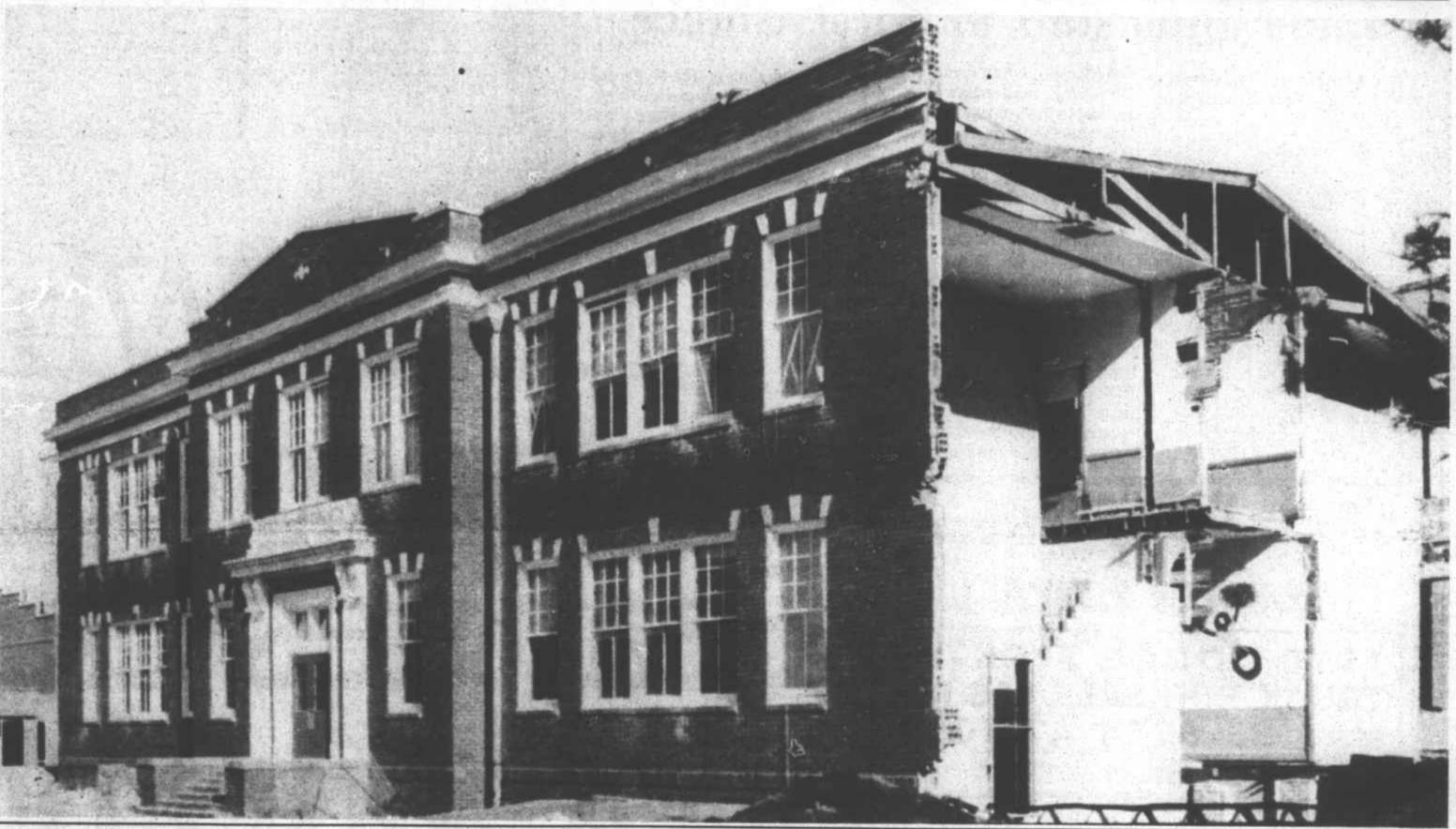
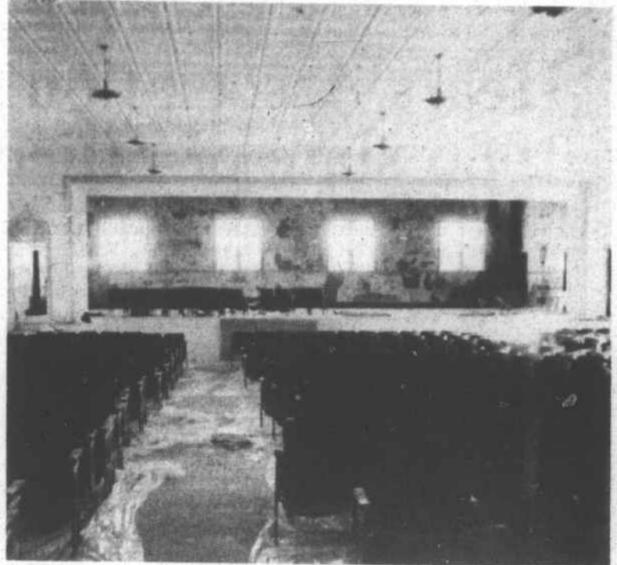
The pad for the new cafeteria is finished and construction of that facility is set to begin within the next three weeks. King expects to complete the lunchroom by September or October. The present cafeteria will then house the art department.

A total of thirteen new classrooms, as well as a bandroom

and art center, will be added to the high school. Four of these rooms will be housed in a Science building adjacent to the gym. The remainder will be constructed on the south side of the building.

King said he anticipates completion of the new and renovated areas by September or October, barring inclement weather and other unforeseen barriers.

Demolition work at Perquimans County High School is nearing completion as contractors prepare to begin renovation work inside the high school auditorium. (Photos by George Wilmore.)



## Blanchard Building determined sound for renovation

By JANE B. WILLIAMS  
Perquimans County officials received an affirmative response Monday night to an inquiry as to the structural soundness of the county-owned Blanchard Building.

Shurley Vann of Vann & An-

draws Architects presented a preliminary report to the county's board of commissioners on Monday night, stating that the building was structurally sound for possible use as a court and office facility by the county.

Vann, a Murfreesboro resi-

dent, reported his findings after a lengthy test of the building, and also presented drawings of potential utilization of the 4,700-square foot ground floor of the building.

Vann established that the neo-classical structure was erected

in the early 1900's. He stated that the design of the building was typical for that era, and that the facility, if renovated, would be one of the most attractive features of the downtown section of Hertford.

Plans submitted by Vann included renovating the first floor of the building to house an 80-seat courtroom, judge's chamber, jury room, a small area for the Clerk of Court, a dispatch office, sheriff's office, deputy sheriff's office, magistrate's office, public restrooms, and a conference room.

Included in the estimated price of \$164,000 is the total renovation of the building's exterior.

Vann told the board that the front of the building has been altered extensively, and proposed that the metal canopy and the metal that covers the original facade be removed to restore the original look of the structure.

Also included in the price is the cost of two heating and cooling systems, a new electrical service, and new plumbing for the restroom areas.

Vann stated that he established the price on the base cost of \$35 per square foot. Also proposed is the new construction of a two-level ten foot by 40-foot back section which will house a stair tower, lobby area, and an elevator tower at a cost of \$32,000, or \$40 per square foot.

The cost projection does not include the elevator, which will not be needed until such time as renovations of the second story are required for additional office space occupancy.

The architectural study of the building came about following

the request of the District Attorney's office for the commissioners to look into the possibility of adding additional courtroom facilities in the future, due to overcrowded court dockets.

The District Attorney's office has met with the commissioners on at least two occasions and discussed at length the problems presented with criminal court scheduling when the county holds Superior Court.

The additional courtroom would insure the right of a speedy trial to criminal court

cases that are currently having to be rescheduled when Superior Court is in session.

The commissioners have ascertained that funding for portions of the Blanchard Building renovation project can be obtained through Court Facilities Funds.

No action was taken by the Board on Monday night in regard to the matter, but the commissioners told Vann that they would inform him of their plans once they determined financial feasibility of the project.

## Library launches new memorial gift program

Wallace McLendon, Director of the Pettigrew Regional Library, announced the launching of a new memorial and gift program to fund needed physical improvements in the public libraries of Chowan, Perquimans, Tyrrell, and Washington Counties.

Envelopes will be placed on the circulation desk specifically for the purpose of honoring or memorializing individuals, families, or events through the purchase of exhibit cases, shelving, furniture, computers, art works, etc. This memorial and gift program will not replace the popular memorial book program which provides a means for placing a specific book in the library collection in the name of an individual.

The focus of the memorial and gift program is to provide those physical items that will make the

library a more comfortable and attractive place. We've had a club in the region raise funds for a circulation desk and a family gave a study carrel in memory of a family member, McLendon stated. Those gifts carry an engraved plaque with the name of the giver and the person memorialized.

Although the local counties and state support the library, it's the local citizenry who can make the library more than the basic building and basic collection. Some libraries have received estates to better fund the local library. Such support transforms libraries into community show places. Well endowed public libraries attract businesses, industry, and families looking for a good place to work and raise children. All gifts to the library are also deductible for tax purposes, McLendon said.



### CORN YIELD WINNERS

Weldon Hyrum (above center) was honored last Thursday night as the second place Corn Yield Winner in Perquimans County. Hyrum harvested an average of 186.73 bushels per acre during 1985. The meeting was sponsored by the Perquimans County Agricultural Extension Service and the Perquimans Ruritan Club. Presenting the trophy was Willis Proctor (right), District Governor of Ruritan National and Stan Winslow (left), chairman of the local extension service. Not pictured were first place winners Glen and Wayne Pendleton and third place winner, Larry Larabee. (Photo by Edgar Roberson)