

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Volume 56, No. 37

USPS 428-080

Hertford, Perquimans County, N.C., Thursday, September 25, 1986

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Winslow receives Telephone grant

Mrs. J. Emmett Winslow, Chairman of the Liaison Sub-committee of America's Four Hundredth Anniversary Committee, has announced a grant from Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company for archaeological work in Camden, Currituck, and Gates Counties. Matched by grants from the National Park Service, the funds will be used to survey and map Native American sites which were occupied before the coming of the English to the Albemarle. "The grant is especially significant at this time", said Mrs. Winslow, "We are celebrating Indian Heritage Week in North Carolina from September 21 to 28." 1986 has been designated The Year of the Indian in the commemoration of North Carolina's Four Hundredth Anniversary of the Roanoke Voyages.

There were heavy concentrations of Algonkian Indians in the Albemarle, perhaps as early as 14,000 years ago. A reservation was set aside for them in 1704, in present day Camden County, to help them preserve their way of life without interference from the settlers. But they had all disappeared by 1754, largely because of the deadly diseases brought them by the white man. They left nothing behind except their artifacts, consisting mainly of dugout canoes, projectile points, and pottery fragments. These, too, are being lost,

and under the grant archaeologists will be seeking out Indian sites in Camden, Currituck, and Gates, and marking them for preservation and future study.

North Carolina Power has joined Carolina Telephone in funding many county programs during the Four Hundredth celebration. Both have contributed to the most exciting archaeological discoveries in Lake Phelps, in Pettigrew State Park. Several dugout canoes, one carbon-dated at 2,850 years, were discovered along with entire Indian pots and amulets. Both helped fund an Indian Heritage Week at the site.

Further interest in Indian life was shown in funding a project to rebuild the Indian village of Acquascoogoc in Belhaven, Beaufort County. This village was destroyed by Ralph Lane in 1585.

Both corporations helped fund the Walter Cronkite Flotilla which kicked-off the Four Hundredth Anniversary in 1984 in Pasquotank County. A Lumbee Indian Dance Troupe was brought in for that occasion.

Other counties have also shared in grants from the two corporations. Among these are Chowan, Craven, Cumberland, Halifax, Hertford, Moore, Nash, Perquimans, Pitt, Sampson, and Tyrrell.

Block grant causes controversy in town

The Hertford town council held a special meeting last Tuesday night at the town municipal building at 5:10 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting was to give councilman Jesse Harris a chance to discuss the community development block grant applied for by Apricot Inc. in the spring of this year.

Apricot Inc. is located on Grubb Street in Hertford, and the facility is currently operating in a building which is owned by Mr. Harris.

Mr. Harris stated at the meeting that the application never should have been prepared. "The document is in law, made up, not true, and does not adhere to the guidelines," stated Harris referring to the guidelines set by the state in January 1986.

Harris has several problems with the grant application, and sited many at the meeting Tuesday evening.

Mr. Harris began by contending that the audit report and the financial statements of the principals of the corporation are so that Apricot could finance the building without the aid of this grant. The principals of the corporation are the Terranovas, Carl and Greg, and Mr. Micheal Litsky of Pennsylvania. Apricot, Inc. however contends that they applied for financing with and without the grant monies and were turned down by both North Carolina National Bank, and Wachovia on the basis of the financial records which are included in the grant application.

Another bone of contention brought out at the meeting between Harris and Apricot, Inc. is the condition of the present building. Mr. Harris sited a report by Phillip Lane stating that the building is sound, and needs minimal repairs to floor areas, the mens bathroom, a manhole area, and repairs or a new roof to keep areas in the building dry. Mr. Lane's report specifically states that he found 98 percent or more of the floor to be sound. Mr. Harris stated at the meeting Tuesday that the building was built to drive trucks in.

The Terranovas argue that Mr. Jim Mills also of Hertford has inspected the building on Grubb Street, and has made the following report, he states that the roof leaks and the holes in the floor do not align and appear randomly throughout the building making it difficult to assess actual reusable floor space, the floor integrity in most of the building is questionable, there is evidence of new leaks occurring, and the general condition of the building leaves much to be desired.

Mr. Harris argues that Mr. Mills is under contract, and stands to gain \$74,600.00 from the grant for work on the new building, and therefore would state Apricot's position.

The condition of the building, and repair of the building have and continue to be a major problem between the parties. The Terranovas originally approached Mayor Bill Cox in January when they felt that they could no longer stay in the building

due to its disrepair, they came seeking a solution to the problem. At that time Cox referred them to Pat Kelly at the Albemarle Commission who prepared the application for the Community block grant.

Another major bone of contention between the two parties which was discussed at the meeting Tuesday was the legality of the grant application. Mr. Harris argues that he and the other council members did not have enough time to review the application and that the application was not necessary. He contends that the grant is an intrusion of government into the landlord tenant relationship, and borders on being illegal.

Mayor Cox stated Monday that this application was presented to the state in good faith. "The Terranovas have been good citizens and employers in the town of Hertford for 4 years. They have increased their payroll, and I feel very strongly about assisting them in their efforts to enlarge their operation and remain in Hertford."

Also brought out at the meeting was the issue of who will pay for the grant should Apricot, Inc. default on the loan. According to Ms. Carver who is public information director at the state department of Natural Resources and Community Development, division of community assistance if Apricot, Inc. defaults then the state would work with the town to recoup as much money as possible towards the grant. Mr. Harris contends that taxpayers will have to bear the burden of repaying the grant

should Apricot default.

Apricot, Inc. has signed a note with the state, and Hertford Savings and Loan has approved the final loan for the project, and according to Carver

unless the state could prove that the town was fraudulent in administering the money than the town would not be responsible for paying back the money.

The issues remain unsolved at this time according to Harris and Apricot, Inc. they are working to settle the problem.

The town has received word that the grant has been approved, but according to Carver the complaint is a local matter. There is still a condition on the grant until the matter is resolved to the state's satisfaction.

Carver stated that the state has an established process for handling complaints, and that the state is following those procedures. The state is still maintaining communication with the town in this matter, and hopefully it will be resolved to the satisfaction of all parties.

As for Mr. Harris, if the matter is not solved to his satisfaction he plans to pursue the issue in court if necessary.

He stated that he has never approved of the application, and says that he has done nothing that he wouldn't have done a thousand times over.

Bridge to be abandoned

Without the help of public funding the Albemarle Sound bridge will be abandoned by Norfolk Southern railroad in the next few months.

Approximately 150 area officials gathered Thursday night at the monthly meeting of the Albemarle Commission to learn the fate of the deteriorating bridge from railroad officials.

According to James McClellan, director of the Norfolk Southern Corporation the traffic on the bridge is not enough to justify spending \$19.2 million dollars which has been estimated for the needed repairs. "There is just not enough traffic now, and we don't project there will be enough in the future" he said.

For several years the railroad has been contemplating abandonment of the bridge but due to negotiations by state, local, and federal officials the bridge is still maintained by the company. The officials along with the railroad have been checking into alternatives for the rail line which connects Washington and Chowan counties.

So far none have been found. The railroad has been studying the alternatives because they see the bridge as a vital link to Northeastern North Carolina for transportation of grain, lumber, and other agricultural products to markets.

According to McClellan there are no easy answers to the problem. It's too expensive for the private sector to maintain the bridge, and therefore the railroad views the issue as a public sector problem.

McClellan stated that the problem is difficult because it involves so much money. "I've never seen a project like this where it will take \$19 million dollars," he said. McClellan commented that the railroad is hoping someone will come up with an easy answer, but none seems evident at this time.

The bridge continues to deteriorate daily, and it appears if it's to be saved some public effort will have to be made.

The bridge has also gradually seen a decline in traffic according to the railroad, and at the present time there are only three trains a week which use the bridge.

Fertilizer and grain shipments both declined 50 percent from 1984 and 1985. In the same time period paper products shipped via the line showed the only increase. Weyhauser in Plymouth was the major source of these shipments according to McClellan.

McClellan also stated that the railroad is looking into the possibility of rerouting traffic through Greensboro, N.C., which seems to be the most feasible solution. The railroad has tried shipping goods through Greensboro before and found it to be successful for them.

The railroad has also explored the idea of barging goods across the sound, but it proved to be too expensive.

Railroad officials pointed out throughout the discussion that closing the bridge in their opinion will not shut the link between Northeastern North Carolina and points north such as New York, and New Jersey. It will however end rail service to Norfolk from this part of the state.

Representative Vernon James was present at the meeting and urged the railroad to keep the bridge open. Arguing that rerouting the traffic through Greensboro will delay shipments, and will increase costs of shipments for the goods going to market. He also sited industrial development as a reason to keep the bridge open, stating that without rail traffic to the area from Norfolk the area was far less attractive to industrial developers.

The historic significance of the bridge was also discussed, and was sited as a reason for saving the bridge. The railroad officials stated that this possibility had not been explored to their knowledge.

The evening ended without much encouragement by the railroad, and many unanswered questions.

Bryan center Facility set for Hertford

Brian Center Management Corporation officials were in Hertford Thursday afternoon to break ground for the Brian Center Nursing Care Facility of Hertford, North Carolina.

The facility will serve both Perquimans and Gates counties, and it is the first nursing facility to be located in either county.

Taking part in the ceremonies on Thursday were Reverend Henry Bizzell, pastor of the United Methodist Church of Hertford, W. W. White, Jr., chairman of Perquimans County Commissioners; and William Cox, Mayor of Hertford. Several other Perquimans County Commissioners, Hertford Town Council Members and officials from Gates County were present at the groundbreaking. Senator Mark Basnight and Representative Charles Evans were also present at the ceremonies.

Donald Beaver, President of the Brian Center Corporation welcomed everyone stating that the company is pleased to be in Hertford, and that the center will provide the best in high quality nursing care possible. Mr. Beaver also stated that hopefully



the center will become the hub of health care in the Hertford area.

In early 1985 Brian Center Management Corporation filed an application for the certificate of need to build the facility, and began working on the project.

Construction of the facility is to be complete by April, 1987.

The facility will house 78 beds, 39 skilled nursing beds, and 39 intermediate care beds.

Estimated construction costs for the facility is \$1.2 million.

The center will employ approximately 65 full time and 15 part-time employees. Employees will include a full time social worker, an activities director as well as a director of nursing and an administrator.

Bailey receives award

Juanita Turner Bailey, home economics extension agent, Perquimans County, received an award from the North Carolina Association of Extension Home Economists recently.

The outstanding young agents award, given to persons who have worked for Extension less than 10 years, but who have made an outstanding contribution, was awarded during the Association's state meeting in Wilmington, Sept. 11-12.

Dr. Martha Johnson, assistant director for the North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service, said Bailey was honored for her innovative programs in foods and nutrition.

Bailey conducted an Eat Right—Stay Light weight management series, attended by 100 adults. Her microwave classes for beginners proved popular, too, reaching 150 persons. Both classes emphasized proper nutrition.



Pirates plunder Eagles

In the biggest win of Perquimans history the Pirates beat Northeastern High School in front of a fired up crowd Friday night 26-20.

Spurred on by a superb rushing attack and great support by the special teams, the Pirates managed to upset the favored 4-A Northeastern Eagles.

Coach Flippen stated that he was not expecting a win over the Eagles Friday "I felt like Art Baker (the ECU head football coach) going down to play Auburn," he said. "I told the kids before the game if we played super, and got a few breaks we could be in the ballgame."

In just seven plays the Pirates made their first score taking advantage of a mishandled punt by Northeastern player Jerrod Baecus.

The Pirates recovered the mishandled punt on the 46 yard line of the Eagles and Rodney Welch scored with a 13 yard drive. The Pirates missed the extra point effort, but led the Eagles 6-0.

The score remained unchanged until half time, but Perquimans dominated the half with their fine display of a wishbone offense. Allowing Northeastern to run only 11 plays in the first half.

The third quarter afforded the Pirates two more breaks early on and they took control of the game once again.

Stanley Cobbs blocked a punt early in the quarter, and when the ball

bounced into the end zone Mallory fell on it for a touchdown.

Following the kick-off the Eagles fumbled the football, and the Pirates recovered it on the 24 yard line. At fourth down and one Welch powered up through the line and scored making the Pirates lead 18 to 0.

The Eagles gained their one and only turnover following a punt. Fred Lewis recovered the ball on the Perquimans 30 yard line, and after 4 straight carries by Stacy White the Eagles scored and cut the Pirates' lead to 18 to 6.

With 7:11 remaining the Pirates scored what would later prove to be the winning touchdown. Driving 58 yards on a fourth down conversion, Thatch carried for 15 yards rushing, and Johnson rushed 20 yards for the touchdown. Welch was successful in making the two point conversion, and the Pirates lead went to 26-6.

The Eagles rallied in the fourth quarter with two touchdowns but it was too little too late, and an excited Pirate team won the game.

Flippen was glad when the gun went off "Coach Merritt has put together one of the best passing attacks I've seen at the high school level," he said. "If they'd had more time they could have beaten us."

The Pirates travel to Weldon Friday night for their first conference play of the season. Game time is 8 p.m..