

## Public Parade

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Record. The federal gas tax bill passed. And before the ink got dry on the measure, officials in the State Department of Transportation were speeding up plans to replace the aging bridge.

Design work is well along on the replacement which will cost at least \$40-million. The 3.5-mile span will parallel the existing structure.

The Chowan-Washington connector is considered a vital route for tourism, agriculture and industry in Northeastern North Carolina. It is the state's longest bridge and according to a recent study it is in the worst shape.

It will now be up to the General Assembly to find state matching funds to go with the bridge replacement dollars. This is a top priority in Northeastern North Carolina and one around which the entire delegation can rally.

### Keep Ag Independent

By John Sledge

N.C. Farm Bureau Federation  
Less than 3 per cent of the people in this country live on farms and ranches, but more than two-thirds of the nation's agricultural production comes from 12 per cent of its farms.

U.S. census counts 2,456 million farms, which it defines as agricultural production units having \$1,000 or more in gross annual sales. Of these, only 1 per cent grossed more than \$500,000 or more in 1981, accounting for 30 per cent of farm cash receipts.

A step down to sales of \$100,000 or more annually expands the group to 12 per cent of all farms and ranches that generate 68 per cent of farm cash receipts.

The majority of farm units, 72 per cent, fall in the class of less than \$40,000 annual gross sales and produce only 13 per cent of total cash receipts. Many of the farms in this group are not heavily dependent on agriculture for their family income.

More than half of that large group of small farms represent more than a third of the nation's farmers who earn more of their family income from something besides farming.

These figures justify the claims that farmers and non-farmers have a lot in common today. Quite a few of them are the same people.

These facts about the nation's agricultural industry tell us something about the difficulty the government has in trying to develop farm legislation that will please everybody.

But, farming is an independent business. That is why even those people who operate a small farm while supplementing their income from other sources are still proud to call themselves farmers.

It is also probably why you don't have to talk to many farmers, regardless of the size of their operation, to learn that most of them would prefer to operate their business in their own way, without interference from the government.

The efficiency of U.S. agriculture is the envy of the world, and its high level of productivity puts all other industries in the shade.

Wouldn't it be nice if the politicians could run the government as well as the farmers can run their farms?

Turnabout

Judge: What happened after the prisoner gave you the first blow?"

Witness: "He gave a third one."

"You mean a second one?"

"No, I gave him the second one."

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**HEART FUND VOLUNTEERS PREPARE FOR BUSY FEBRUARY**—Bruce Gillikin, President and Fund Raising Chairman discusses plans for the up-coming Heart Fund Month with Howard Collins, Business Day Chairman; Corinne Thorud, Heart Sunday Chairman and Edith Nixon, a Heart Fund Representative.

## Unemployment Rate Down Task Force To Speak

RALEIGH—The statewide total unemployment rate declined to 9 per cent in December according to figures by Glenn R. Jernigan, chairman of the N.C. Employment Security Commission. The rate in November was 9.5 per cent.

The December rate of 9 per cent represented 262,700 jobless workers, a decrease of 16,000 from the previous month. The national unadjusted rate in December was 10.5 per cent (11,628,000 unemployed).

Jernigan said, "We feel that the decline resulted from fewer temporary layoffs in mid-December. Also there were fewer unemployment entrants and reentrants into the labor force. In fact, figures for the civilian labor force, total employment and total unemployment all decreased. There is some feeling that perhaps unemployment may have leveled off in December and that our economy may be recovering slightly."

Manufacturing jobs overall showed no change from November

to December. In durable goods, Lumber and Wood (up 100), Furniture and Fixtures (up 300), and Machinery (up 500) showed minimal improvement. Other categories had small declines. In nondurable goods, the leaders were Textile Mill Products (up 1,100), Paper & Allied Products (up 300) and Printing, Publishing & Allied (up 400). Declines were general and slight for other categories.

Nonmanufacturing jobs overall increased. Trade led with a gain of 3,600 jobs as a result of the expected seasonal employment. Government moved up 1,100 jobs due primarily to the employment of students and support personnel in the educational institutions.

The average weekly hours by production workers in manufacturing rose to 38.9 in mid-December from 38.7 in mid-November. In mid-November 1981, workers averaged 38.5 hours per week.

### Replacement Of Bridge Praised

GREENVILLE—Officials of the Eastern North Carolina Chamber of Commerce were high in their praise for action taken by Staff of the North Carolina Department of Transportation in moving ahead for a replacement bridge across the Albemarle Sound.

John T. Capps, III, of Morehead City, Chairman of Travel for the Chamber, said "the Albemarle Sound Bridge is needed to continue the economic development of that area of our state."

The Eastern Chamber, at the request of the Edenton Chamber of Commerce, made a special appeal for a replacement bridge at DOT's Transportation Improvement Program hearing at Ahoskie last year. Robert S. Hackney, the President of the Eastern Chamber and the organization's spokesman at the Ahoskie hearing, called the Sound bridge crucial to the Washington-Chowan County area and the region surrounding it.

The present bridge has deteriorated badly and is quite old. It does not meet standards used to construct such bridges today.

The Eastern Chamber made special appeals related to two bridges at TIP hearings last year. The other was at Morehead City where it joined the Carteret County Chamber of Commerce in seeking another bridge from the mainland to Bogue Banks.

"We are hoping that DOT will have some definitive action on this project soon," Capps observed today.

"We hope the Board of Transportation will accept Staff recommendations on the bridge across the Albemarle Sound, and we hope that progress will soon begin on the bridge in Carteret County," Capps commented.

### Task Force To Speak At Conference

GREENVILLE—Concern by farmers related to agriculture and its problems began building at a steady rate all during 1982. Long before that, however, a task force in the Agriculture Extension Service at N.C. State University in Raleigh, was at work trying to find some alternatives for improved farming.

Members of this task force will be offering suggestions during a major farm conference scheduled for McKimmon Center in Raleigh, beginning at 8 A.M., on February 8.

The conference is a result of a special planning committee which has been at work since last April and is being coordinated by the Eastern North Carolina Chamber of Commerce.

Raymond D. Meiggs of Tarboro, is chairman of the Planning Committee and had comments. "We believe the suggestions by the task force members from the Extension Service will be very meaningful to farmers and agribusiness related men and women attending the conference."

Making up the panel which will appear at the second general session on the morning of the conference, will be Dr. A. A. DeHertogh, head of the department of Horticulture Science at State, Dr. B.E. Caldwell, head of the Department of Crop Science, Dr. C.A. Lassiter, head of the Department of Animal Science, Dr. Robert E. Cook, head of the Department of Poultry Science, and Dr. Eric L. Ellwood, Dean of the School of Forest Resources.

Purpose of the conference is to bring farmers in Eastern North Carolina together to begin to chart some new developments in agriculture in the East in an attempt to regain farming's equilibrium.

The subject of the Panel will be "Expanding The North Carolina Farm Income Base."

County Extension Agents have reservation forms for those who wish to attend the conference.

Another highlight of the second general session will be a presentation by Dr. W. D. Toussaint, Professor of Economics and Business in the School of Agriculture and Life Sciences at N.C. State. Dr. Toussaint will touch on the important milestones of the history of how farming developed in Eastern North Carolina.

G. Brantley DeLoatche, Raleigh, President of the North Carolina Agribusiness Council, will preside over the second morning session of all the day conference.

Also appearing will be Dr. Chester D. Black, associates dean and director, N.C. Agricultural Extension Service at N.C. State University.

## American Heart Association To Kick Off Fund Raising Campaign

American Heart Association volunteers are really buzzing as they begin to kick off their 1983 fund raising campaign in Chowan County. They are excited about the many events they have planned for February, which is designated—Heart Month.

The events start with the first week in February when the many businesses in the county will be contacted to participate in the Business Day Drive.

Younger volunteers will be participating in the Heart Fund's Jump Rope for the Heart Campaign and the local Bucket Brigade.

All of the activities will culminate with Heart Sunday which is scheduled to take place on

February 27, when Heart Fund volunteers will travel door-to-door soliciting funds to fight cardiovascular diseases.

The monies collected by the volunteers of the American Heart Association will go toward education, community service activities and most importantly, to support research—research that will hopefully end the number one killer of over a million Americans a year.

The Chowan County Chapter of the American Heart Association hopes to raise over \$10,000 from Edenton-Chowan County, to assist in paying the amount of dollars spent in North Carolina on research to fight heart and blood vessel diseases.

## The PIK Program A Positive Step

Calling the recently announced "payment-in-kind" (PIK) program a "positive step," John Sledge, president of the N.C. Farm Bureau, said he believes that farmers generally will be responsive to the program, but it will be up to each individual to decide if participation will be profitable to him.

President Reagan announced the new program at the recent American Farm Bureau Federation annual convention in Dallas, Texas.

Under the program, which Reagan called a "crop swap," producers who take land out of production will receive a proportion of the commodity they would have grown either from government or farmer-owned reserve stocks. The program will involve corn, wheat, sorghum, rice and cotton.

In its policy-making session, the American Farm Bureau amended its farm program policy to support implementation of the "crop swap" program to alleviate the problem of burdensome price-depressing surpluses. Delegates said the program should be viewed as a short-term measure.

Voting delegates to AFBF's 64th annual meeting also went on record supporting a system under which the price support level would be adjusted according to the amount of net dairy products purchased by the federal government and opposed any assessment of producers by the federal government on Commodity Credit Corp. pur-

chases of dairy products. Delegates urged the repeal of that section of the Budget Reconciliation Act of 1982 which authorized the assessment.

In other action, delegates approved a resolution in favor of a tobacco program which provides that growers shall supply in line with demand in return for price support loans. Delegates supported the tobacco loan program for each type of tobacco that results in no net cost to the government.

Also of interest to North Carolina, voting delegates recommended effective administration of the peanut program and supported the efforts of growers and USDA to develop expanded export markets.

In the area of international trade, delegates supported continued authorization and appropriation of funds to "buy down" interest rates or finance other export programs needed to offset subsidized competition from other exporting countries. Delegates also opposed trade embargoes, except where national security is involved and then only if it apply to all trade and technology. Also in this connection, delegates, supported legislation, which has been signed into law, calling for "sanctity of contracts" to restore the image of the U.S. as a reliable supplier.

Sledge, who led a 15-member delegation representing the North Carolina Farm Bureau, was re-elected to his fourth two-year term as a member of the AFBF board of directors.

## Kirby Named Trust Executive

CHARLOTTE — Robert L. Kirby, Eastern Region Executive in Raleigh, has been named trust executive of NCNB National Bank, reporting to Donald D. Buchanan, executive vice president.

"Bob Kirby, who has more than 25 years of experience with NCNB in personnel, trust, lending and general bank management, will oversee all the trust functions," Buchanan said, "freeing me to devote more of my time to achieving the full potential that NCNB has in the Florida market."

Buchanan said the trust functions, which include personal trust, corporate trust, trust investment, trust operations and the Trust Company of Florida, "... is an important part of the company and deserves the close daily attention of an executive of Kirby's stature."

Buchanan has been NCNB's Florida Group Executive since the Charlotte-based bank holding company acquired four banks in that state.

Kirby, 52 and a native of Charlotte, began his banking career here in 1956 as a personnel officer. He also served as a trust officer and branch administrator in Charlotte before moving to the Burlington office as city executive in 1971.

He was transferred to Raleigh as city executive in 1972, was later named area executive and was named Eastern Region Executive in 1975.

Kirby was responsible for the recent coordination of the merger of Bancshares of North Carolina into NCNB. He will move his family to Charlotte in the near future.

# Big help for small businesses

### Small Business Tax Workshops

If you're a new business owner, contact your IRS office for information on special free workshops in your area.

They can make you aware of tax benefits and responsibilities and help you set up an efficient and "tax-wise" recordkeeping system.

If it's high, stay on your medication to keep it under control. Help us save lives by having your blood pressure checked, and sending your dollars today to your American Heart Association, listed in your telephone directory.

**American Heart Association**  
WERE FIGHTING FOR YOUR LIFE