

THE Northampton County TIMES-NEWS

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County Health Head Resigns

JACKSON — Mrs. Norma B. Carroll, who started work as Northampton County's new health administrator on December 4, has announced her resignation in order to return full time to her graduate work at UNC-Chapel Hill, where she is studying for

her master's degree in public health administration.

Mrs. Carroll said her resignation was effective February 2.

The Alabama native retired from the N.C. Board of Health-Laboratory Division prior to coming to the job as Northampton County health administrator.

Odom Inmate Set Fire To His Mattress

JACKSON — Darrell Skeen of Ft. Bragg, an inmate at Odom Correctional Center, was burned Saturday when he set fire to the mattress in his cell.

Skeen confined on a breaking, entering and larceny conviction, was treated at Halifax Memorial Hospital late Saturday afternoon and returned to Odom. Then he was transferred to Central Prison Hospital in Raleigh.

According to Odom Supt. R. L. Turner, no charges were filed against the inmate.

The 62-year-old mother of two daughters of one son if married to Clifford N. Carroll, who is retired from the N. C. Highway Commission. He is working part-time with the Warren County Solid Waste Program. They reside in Wise.

She came to Jackson after 15 years in the Virology Division of the state board of health, processing such vaccines as typhoid, rabies and diphtheria.

Mrs. Carroll, who worked from 1930-1940 for the Alabama State Board of Health, has her undergraduate degree and masters degree in chemistry. She graduated from the University of Montevallo and did her graduate work at North Carolina State University.



LOOKING OVER THE STACKS of cards of long overdue and maybe forgotten library is Mrs. Francis S. Midyette, librarian for Northampton County. She has declared February as Amnesty Month. During this month people may return long overdue library books with no charge or fine attached.

Legislators Talk About Highways - Women's Lib

By JOSEPH COVOLO JR., Managing Editor

RALEIGH — Highway problems and plans dominated the scene among local legislators in Raleigh last week but a few comments on Women's Lib were added variety in Roanoke-Chowan politics.

Leading off a discussion on the highway picture was Lewiston's Sen. J. J. (Monk) Harrington, chairman of the Senate Roads Committee.

The senator was very much concerned over the firing of

commission by Bruce Lentz, newly appointed secretary of transportation and acting chairman of the State Highway Commission.

Lacking Some Facts "As far as I can see he (Lentz) fired these people without any knowledge of what they accomplished. He did not know how good (or bad) they were; was their performance excellent, very good, good, fair or poor? These questions are strong in my mind," Senator Harrington said. "Friday I was correctly quoted by a Raleigh newspaper as saying

that Lentz was going to need some time to get to know what's going on. 'We just want to assist him.' Well, it looks now that these cuts are only being made because the individuals involved were given their jobs by former Gov. Bob Scott. This seems to be politically motivated.

"I understand one of the local men fired whom I personally know, Worley Franklin Minton of Ahoskie, was hired to fill a vacancy that was there; they didn't just create a position to give him a job. Minton has a very good personality and this is a quality needed by anyone working in the right-of-way business. He is gifted with an ability to get along with almost anyone. The fact that he and eight others got fired for the reasons stated above appear to me to be bad management," the senator said.

Two Committees Senator Harrington last week appointed two sub-committees to conduct "nonpartisan" investigations of the operations of the State Highway Department.

One will be chaired by Sen. Herman Moore and will check on the primary road program. "Basically they will be looking into the extreme lengths of time it takes to complete road projects in the

state of North Carolina. I've been told by different people that our system of road building differs from other states and it takes a lot longer. Here a job takes from seven to 10 years to complete but elsewhere it's about half that.

"Governor Moore promised Rep. Roberts Jernigan of Ahoskie a new bridge at Winton way back in 1964 and it's not completed yet," Senator Harrington said.

When asked about it, Representative Jernigan said that Governor Moore left \$750,000 for this project when he left office. "Bob Scott added more funds to this and now, nine years later, it looks like it will finally be completed by this summer."

Commission Makeup The other committee appointed by Senator Harrington will investigate the makeup of the Highway Commission and decide how many members it should have and what their powers should be. Chairman of this committee will be Sen. Dallas Alford.

"Governor Hodges had seven; Sanford, I think, had 17; Moore had 14; and Bob Scott had 23. Governor Holshouser had indicated that he may not need any. At present he has appointed 23 commissioners to serve just (See LIB, Page 10)

County Employs Two Home Agents

JACKSON — Spending money and hiring personnel kept Northampton County

Commissioners busy during their session on Monday.

The hiring of personnel came when Mrs. Cynthia B. Watlington and Mrs. Rebecca Brittle were brought before the commissioners by Extension Chairman B. H. Harrell who recommended they be hired as new county employees.

Mrs. Watlington was approved, effective immediately as assistant extension home economist working with Family Relations and Home Management.

Mrs. Rebecca Boyd Brittle, former Vepco home economist, will begin work March 1 in the position resigned recently by Mrs. Mildred Jenkins as 4-H coordinator. Mrs. Brittle, who worked with Vepco for five

years, will be moving to Woodland with her husband, Tildon Brittle.

In other matters, the commissioners:

—Heard M. A. Coker of Pleasant Hill concerning his letter as to the fair tax valuation of his property.

—Accepted Bill Howell's resignation effective

February 14 as industrial development director at which time he will join the staff of Region L Council of governments.

Instead of seeking an immediate replacement, the board discussed the possibility of employing a county planner. The board also (See COUNTY, Page 10)

County Industrial Chief Named to Region L Post

ROCKY MOUNT — Bill Howell of Jackson has been appointed executive director of Region L Council of Governments, according to an announcement by the executive board of the council.

Howell has accepted the position and resigned as Northampton Industrial Development director, effective February 14.

W. W. Grant, Northampton County representative to COG, nominated Howell for the position. The board of directors gave him a unanimous vote.

Assistant Director Bob Quinn of Rocky Mount will

remain in his present post. Howell will assume the \$15,000 post on February 15. He leaves the directorship of Northampton County Industrial Commission where he has been active the past four years in obtaining industry for the county.

New industry coming to Northampton during his tenure as the first industrial development director included New Seaboard Industries, Union Camp Corporation in Seaboard, Daber Inc., in Woodland and Conway Manufacturing Company.

Howell is a graduate of

Seaboard High School and East Carolina University. He is married to the former Nan Dickens of Garysburg. They have one child, Angie, 4.

The new executive director came to Jackson from Washington where he was with Conservation and Development, transferring there from Raleigh.

Howell is the son of Mrs. Elvin Moody of Seaboard.

Commissioners Send County Survey To Planning Board

JACKSON — Northampton County Commissioners rerouted a proposed county

survey through the Planning Board at its meeting in the County Courthouse on Monday.

Ralph H. Lassen, assistant field office chief of the division of community services in the Department of Natural and Economic Resources, presented a reconnaissance survey to the commissioners. Lassen said the county Planning Board should be involved in the proposed survey. However, none of the members had been invited to participate in the discussion.

The proposed survey and planning work proposal over a three year period would have an annual cost of \$4,160 local funds with an anticipated two-thirds federal grant of \$6,400.

Commissioner John H. Liverman, in looking over the report, commented that it disclosed no new problems of which the commissioners were unaware.

Problem areas listed included the following:

Housing and income situations need improvement for a large segment of the population (1970 census shows that about 44 per cent of all the county homes were lacking some or all plumbing facilities and almost 38 per cent of all

families were listed as having an income of less than poverty level — the latter figure being matched by only one other county in the state.)

Medical facilities are very limited in the county.

Public schools in the county need upgrading.

There are few public water and sewer facilities and several of the small incorporated towns are very limited in funds to provide these or in funds and

personnel to operate such facilities, if available (there are eight water systems, but their service area is limited.)

Telephone service is fragmented, making long distance calls necessary between more than a very small portion of the county.

Additional employment sources are needed, particularly for low skilled workers.

There is no technical (See BOARD, Page 10)

Board of Education On Inspection Tour

JACKSON — "This is one of the best meetings we have had in a long time," declared W. C. Connor, Chairman Northampton County Board of Education, after visiting seven schools in the western part of the County Monday.

"Now we can see the needs and fix priorities on future operations," added the Chairman.

After a short meeting in the Administration Building in Jackson, board members accompanied by Superintendent Roy F. Lowry and Assistant Superintendent

W. R. King, began their inspection tour with their first stop at Squire Elementary School. Other schools included in the tour were Gaston, Garysburg, Gumberry, Seaboard and Coates. The Board members and administrators were luncheon guests of Gumberry.

Board members expressed their satisfaction for the cleanliness of all the schools visited and on several occasions congratulated the custodial personnel on the

good work they were doing.

"It is true we found some situations that need to be corrected, but we understand what is needed," declared Chairman Connor.

One short break in the tightly scheduled tour occurred at the Seaboard School when the delegation came across a basketball while inspecting the gymnasium. Several board members and administrators took a couple of shots at the hoop. Although (See TOUR, Page 10)

EAS Meeting Is Scheduled

JACKSON — A closed meeting of the steering committee for EAS (Extended Area Service) will be held in the County Courthouse here at 7 p.m. Monday, according to an announcement by Sidney T. Ellen, Northampton County Accountant.

Ellen stated the purpose of the meeting is to discuss future plans, because Grady Strickland, commercial supervisor of the Roanoke Rapids District of the Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company, has informed him there are not enough endorsements or petitions from some exchanges in the county.

If EAS was put into effect, county telephone subscribers could call anywhere in the county without paying a toll charge. Ellen urges interested parties to either write him a letter endorsing EAS or get petitions endorsing the plan to his office prior to February 12.

Conway Exceeds Blood Quota

CONWAY — Conway exceeded its quota of 75 pints of blood last Friday when a total of 91 pints were collected during the visit of the Tidewater Bloodmobile, which was sponsored by the women's club.

Thirty-one pints of the blood collected have been designated for Carolyn Wheeler, rural Conway resident, who will be having heart surgery in mid-March. The original quota for Conway was announced as 75

pints, with 106 potential donors showing up.

Mrs. C. J. Watson, Conway Blood Drive recruiter, commended the Conway area churches for participating in the drive. She also praised Georgia-Pacific employees, Johnson Manufacturing Co. workers, Len-Howe employees, Davis and Co. workers, and Northampton High School students for supporting the drive.

"Rainy Weather brought (See QUOTA, Page 10)

Potecasi Man Is Held For Murder

JACKSON — Cola (Ragmop) Burke, 23, of Potecasi is still being held without bond on murder charges pending a preliminary hearing in the fatal shooting of Joseph Colin Myrick, 25, of Murfreesboro last Friday night.

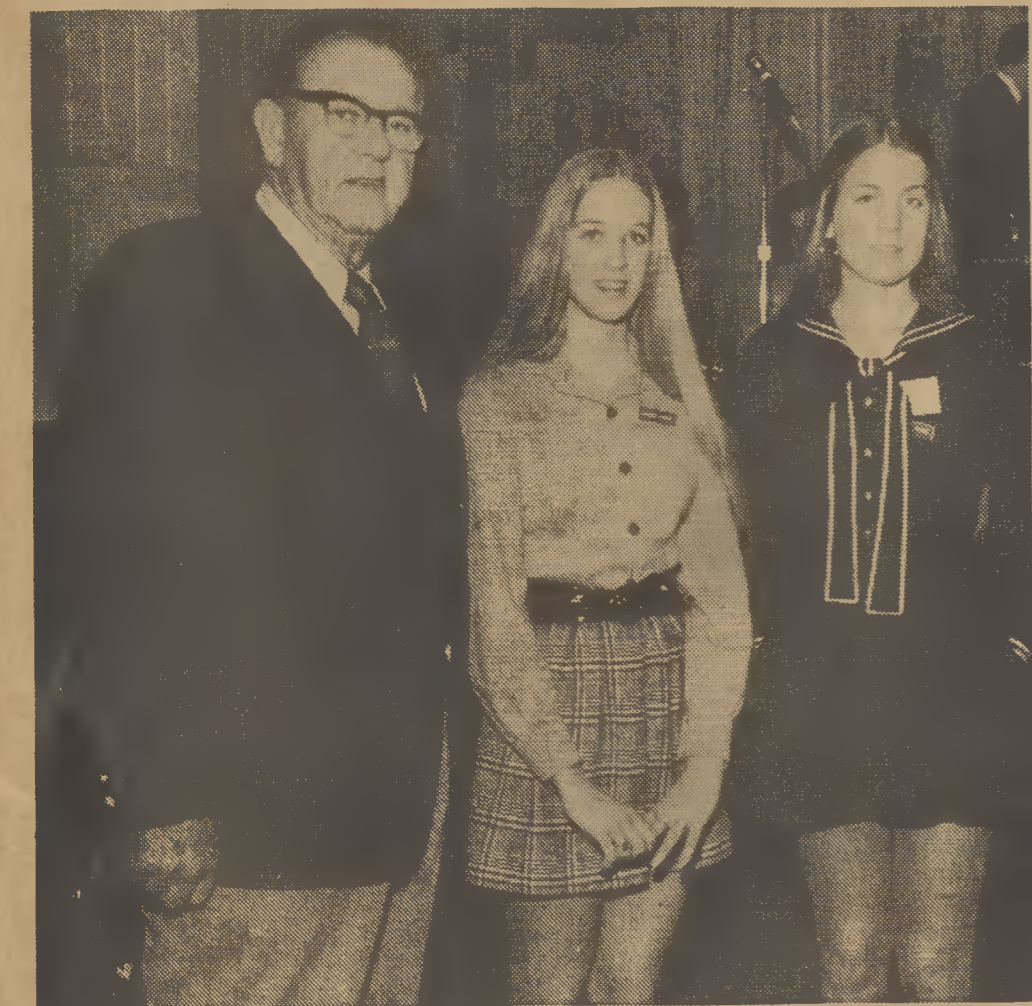
The preliminary hearing was scheduled to be held here Wednesday, but was continued until next Wednesday.

Otis Wheeler and Ted Sumner of the Northampton County Sheriff's Office, who investigated the case,

arrested Burke in Murfreesboro Saturday afternoon.

The Sheriff's Office placed the time of the shooting at 9:15 p.m. Friday at the home of Linwood Long in the rural area between Millwaukee and Potecasi on state road 1535 about two miles east of N. C. 35. It was at the Long home that the body was found.

Burke is an employee of Georgia-Pacific Package Co. Investigation into the case is being continued by the Northampton County Sheriff's Office.



TWO PRETTY GIRLS from Northampton County served as pageettes in the North Carolina House of Representatives during the week of January 22. Here they are shown with their sponsor. From the left are Representative J. Guy Revelle, Sr.; Miss Bonnie Edwards, daughter of County Commissioner and Mrs. William D. Edwards of Pendleton; and Miss Pauline Eley, daughter of County Commission Board Chairman and Mrs. Jasper Eley of Jackson.



SEVERAL THOUSAND NOTICES of Intent to Purge are readied for mailing by Northampton Board of Election Chairman R. L. (Scoop) Grant and his assistant Mrs. Barbara Jean Wheeler. Of the 13,458 voters registered in time to vote in the May Primary only 6,664 got to the polls and the number dropped to 6,200 in the November General Elections. Once the notices are received electors have 20 days to show just cause why they should not be taken off the books. Those affected are voters who have not participated in the election process the past six years.