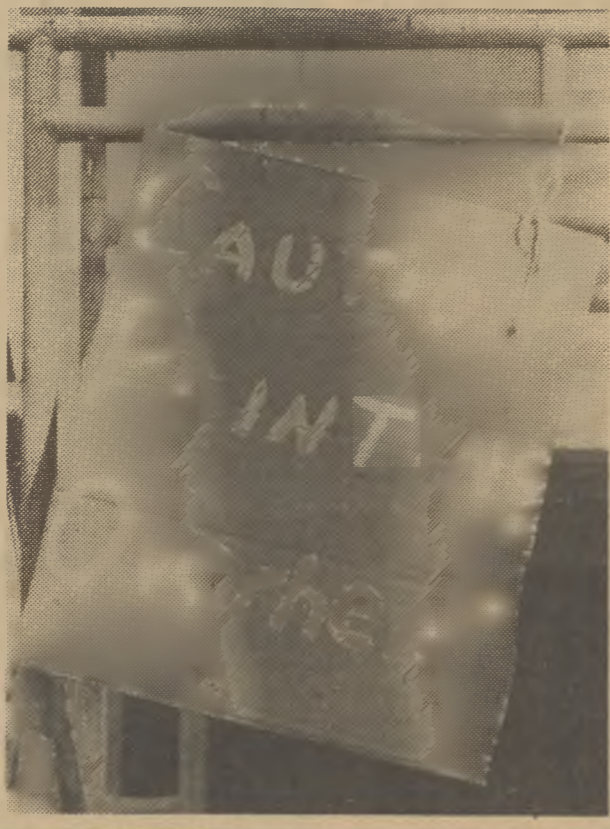




Visitors to the courthouse must beware of falling paint as workmen on scaffolding high above the courthouse steps add another coat of paint to the stately building.



## Community Facility Included

# Housing Authority Headquarters To Be Located At Gaston Project

GASTON — Gaston will be the site of the Roanoke-Chowan Housing Authority's main office, Leight Tinsley, housing director, told Gaston commissioners Tuesday.

In making the announcement, Ms. Tinsley noted that start of construction of the 50-unit Gaston public housing project is set for spring. Completion would be a year later.

To be constructed on the 13-acre site at the end of Broughton Street is a facility that will be used for administration, maintenance and community purposes.

Ms. Tinsley told the board that the building will have rooms set aside for activities such as special classes, arts and crafts and community meetings.

Nine employees will be stationed at the Gaston project. Housing units in Roanoke Rapids and Ahsokie and in Halifax, Northampton and Hertford counties will be administered from the Gaston site.

The community facility will include a large assembly room and a meeting room in addition to general office space and several private offices. It will also contain a garage for maintenance equipment.

Mayor Firman Myrick stated that the town has agreed to extend water service to the subdivision and a street will be paved up to the property line. Streets within the project will be paved by the authority. It will operate its own sewage disposal operation.

The entire project will cost in excess of \$1 million. Funding is provided by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The project, designed to relieve the housing pinch in Gaston, will contain two and three bedroom units that will



HOUSING HEADQUARTERS — The main administrative office of the tri-county housing authorities will be housed in a facility like the one illustrated in this artist's concept. The building will be located at Gaston.

be rented on a basis of the adjusted family income with no more than 25 per cent of the income going towards rent.

Each unit will be furnished with a stove, refrigerator, hot water heater and heating system.

The project will resemble a housing subdivision, Ms. Tinsley noted.

In other matters, the board:

—Met with Jim Bryant, representing a tank maintenance company from Madison, who proposed to maintain the town's elevated water storage tank for \$300 a year.

He stated that the tank is in good condition but should be inspected every other year. The matter was tabled.

—Voted to insure the new Town Hall (building only) at \$30,000. Insurance on the building's contents will be

separate. —Heard a report on construction of the new municipal building given by Elton Odom.

Commissioner Odom stated the project should be complete this month. He noted that a few minor details need to be worked out in the construction but reported no major problems.

—Agreed to cut heat registers off in unused rooms of the new building when it is occupied as a conservation move. Mayor Myrick said the town may have difficulty getting adequate fuel this winter since it will take much more to heat the new building than the old one-room structure.

—Heard a suggestion by Odom that town commissioners be paid \$25 per meeting attended and the

mayor be paid \$100 per month. Odom stated that payment might stimulate board members to work harder for the good of the town. The matter was tabled.

—Discussed numerous violations of town ordinances and voted to postpone action until Attorney Nick Long could be consulted.

—Discussed setting a deadline for free removal of junked cars in the town but no date was set.

—Heard a report from Town Clerk Deanie Manning that letters are going out to violators of the town's livestock ordinance this week. The letter states that violators have 30 days to comply with town law that prohibits livestock within 200 feet of a residence.

—Heard to pay election personnel compensation equal to that of the county.

## Peanut Program Legislation Discussed By County Farmers

JACKSON — Changes in the peanut program were discussed in an open forum Wednesday at the Agriculture Building.

Twenty Northampton farmers heard county ASCS Director Ben Mann and state Farm Bureau Vice President Marshall Grant of Garysburg explain how county farmers will be affected by the

proposed legislation.

Farmers are protesting two aspects of the program primarily. According to Grant, "We can live with the rest of the program."

County farmers are opposed to the revision that boosts the Commodity Credit Corporation's minimum sales policy to acquire peanuts for a resale level of 115 per cent of

the loan rate on both domestic edible and diversion sales, sales for peanuts that will be crushed to produce oil and meal for export.

Farmers also expressed strong opposition to a policy change that would place field and supervisory price support functions with the county ASCS office. The activities are now handled by various grower

associations.

Grant, who returned recently from Washington, D. C., where he met with a committee called by Congressman Walter Jones to air problems in the program, stated future meetings are planned to allow peanut producers to express opinions on the legislative changes.

## Appeals Case To Superior Court

# Sailor Gets Six Months

JACKSON — A Norfolk sailor charged with assaulting a female hitchhiker near Rich Square Monday was handed a six-month sentence by Judge Joseph Blythe yesterday in Northampton District Court.

Alan Joseph Guise of DeRidder, La., issued notice of appeal in the case and his bond was set at \$3,500.

Probably cause was found in charged of crime against nature and larceny from a person by force. No probable cause was found in the

felonious charge of attempting to ravish and carnally know Sheila O'Hara of Maine.

The active sentence was handed down in a charge of assault on a female.

Guise was arrested in Murfreesboro by city police after stopping a light blue Volkswagen meeting the description of Rich Square police who had radioed to have the vehicle stopped.

Murfreesboro police filed a marijuana possession charge against Guise and his bond

there was set at \$500.

In another case heard yesterday William Washington of Jackson was handed six months in jail for non-felonious breaking and entering. In a related case Perry Lee Jefferies of Jackson was handed 12 months suspended and fined \$100 and costs. He was placed on probation for three years and ordered to pay for repairs.

The two youths were charged with breaking in at Paul Barrett's Exxon Station

in Jackson a month ago.

Other cases heard yesterday and their dispositions:

William Jennings Lassiter of Conway — fail to give immediate notice of an accident, \$100 fine and costs; fail to give name and address and assist injured, prayer for judgment continued.

Raleigh Harmon of Rt. 1, Woodland — reckless driving, \$100 fine and costs; drunk driving, nol pros.

Bernard Suggs Moore of Rt. 1, Rich Square — fail to drive on right half, nol pros; speeding 75 in a 60, \$10 fine and costs.

John Walker Tillery of Rt. 1, Garysburg — speeding 60 in a 45 zone, \$20 fine and costs.

## northampton chaff

The general election records are already gathering dust, but a look at the voting statistics in Gaston indicates problems in that municipality.

Outgoing Commissioner Elton Odom, who did not run for reelection, said he would've run had he known the level of interest among the town's voters was so terribly low.

Odom said, "I am more concerned about the Town of Gaston now than I was when I first came on the board."

The commissioner was referring to the number of Gastonites who did not go to the polls last week and who apparently have no interest in municipal government.

Only 160 persons out of 430 registered voters in the county's second largest town cast ballots in the town commissioner-mayoral race. It is the lowest number of voters in the town's 25-year history. Only in 1957 did the voting records show a comparably low figure of 165. Just two years ago over 60 per cent of the town's registered voters voted.

Perhaps Odom has reason to be concerned when now over 60 per cent are in the apathetic category.

Over in Halifax County the Arts Council is still looking for craftspeople to participate in the Dec. 1 holiday crafts fair in uptown Roanoke Rapids.

Northamptonians wishing to sell handmade items or those who wish to demonstrate at the fair should contact Janis Leonard in Roanoke Rapids.

The holiday fair is a repeat of a spring fair sponsored by the council that drew several thousand spectators.

Ola Mae Murph, county nutritionist in the Agriculture Department, will provide upon request suggestions for well balanced meals.

Ms. Murph will also work up a menu, provide recipes and even tell inquirers how

much of what ingredients it takes to whip up a meal to feed a set number of people.

Her office is in the Agriculture Building.

Northampton peanut farmers are upset over the prospect of changes in the peanut program as suggested by Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz.

At a meeting of peanut producers in Jackson Wednesday, one outraged farmer opposed to any legislative change said, "Leave us alone in 1974 and let us die in 1975."

Rumor has it that annexation will come up in the near future in Garysburg.

If the town annexes the sections outlined in an earlier announcement, Garysburg may surpass Rich Square as the county's largest town. The area north of the present town limits is densely populated and just may boost Garysburg's population to the 2,000 mark.

The unincorporated area north of town has its own water system and is now in the process of supplying the town-proper with municipal water service. What a switch from thenorm!

Mary F. Turner of Jackson retired recently after serving 20 years in the county ASCS office.

She was presented a framed certificate and a silver charm noting her years of service in the ASCS office.

The NJUWOHCLI is open!

That's the New Jerusalem United World Outreach Humanitarian Center of Life International at Pleasant Hill.

The organization, located in an old restaurant-gas station on US 301, is headed by Felix Whetstone who plans eventually to open an orphanage at the site.

The profit-making end of the venture deals with the sale of gifts from around the world.

## County Agencies In New Quarters

JACKSON — Some county offices are getting more elbow room as a shift in offices continued this week.

The Sheriff's Department is now located in the reception area and in the rear of the former Welfare Building, now a general county office building.

The two offices the sheriff vacated in the courthouse are being prepared for occupancy by the county manager-auditor's office along with a portion of the present Tax Department.

The Tax Department will occupy the former manager-auditor's quarters.

Soil Conservation Service moved Wednesday across the street from its former quarters in a small building on the square to the general office building.

The county board of elections, now on the third floor of the courthouse, will relocate in the former Conservation building.

The shift was made possible when the Social Services Department vacated the Welfare Building and moved to the renovated County

Home.

In addition, the clerk of court and the register of deeds are going to be exchanged office space following completion of an interior expansion of the present deeds office. Bids have not been let for the project.

## Meet Set On Study

ROANOKE RAPIDS — A joint meeting of the Halifax and Northampton development commissions will be held Nov. 29 at Howard Bloom Restaurant here.

Virginia Electric & Power Co. at that time will disclose results of a revised economic study of the two counties.

The study is an update of a 1964 evaluation of the economic conditions of the two counties.

The report will highlight such items as desirable locations for prospective industrial and business development.

Roger Delano Hall of Woodland — drive with suspended license, nol pros with leave.

William Lee Parker of Rt. 1, Jackson — speeding 80 in a 55 and drunk driving, four months suspended on a \$100 fine and costs.

Joseph Nathaniel Hull, address unknown — driving under the influence, \$100 fine and costs; public drunk on highway, nol pros.

McCoy Ward of Rich Square — drunk driving, prayer for judgment continued on costs.

Jack High of Rt. 1, Garysburg — nonsupport of children, nol pros with leave.

Leon Vinson of Conway — (See SAILOR, Page 16)

The building, known as Soultch I, will house an electronics industry employing over 300 initially. The structure will be a shell-type building that can be adapted to most any industrial use.

McKissick stated the structure, ultra-modern in design, can house up to 10 small industries. Office space will be included in the building, the first structure in the 928-acre industrial park that ultimately is designed to employ over 8,000.

The entire city-to-be is located on what was a slave plantation. Pre-Revolutionary War graves are on the site, including graves of slaves.

The governor said, "The eyes of the people of the nation today are on Soul City. It represents a dream come true."

Festivities began for the day with a parade along dusty farm paths to the speaker's stand on the site of Soultch I. The North Carolina A. & T. University Band provided marching music and choral selections were performed by an ensemble from nearby Kirell College.

Scores of people in the bicentennial crowd sported plastic souvenir yellow hardhats with "Soul City Groundbreaking" printed on them. Numerous other souvenirs, including printed matter, were sold at a booth.

The property is now inhabited by no more than 30 persons who live mostly in house trailers. An old red barn and several mobile home-type offices form what is the main crossroads of the town.

McKissick, former head of the Congress of Racial Equality, announced plans for his self-standing community five years ago.

**Soultch I**  
 Soultch I is conceived as an incubator structure or shell

building which focuses on attracting industrial firms seeking to open markets in the new city.

It is designed to house a complete range of industrial and managerial facilities within a prototypical structure and expands the industrial work environment.

The ultramodern facility will feature structure of steel, pre-cast concrete and solar gray glass. It will contain contemporary climate control.

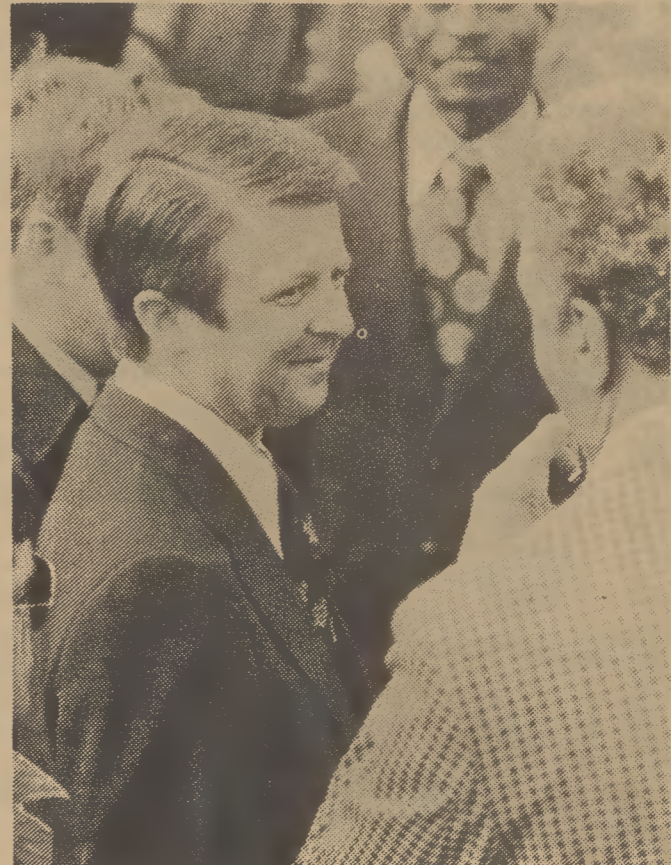
The facility will contain 40,000 square feet of manufacturing and processing space, plus 12,000 square feet of office space.

There will be room for cafeteria and private dining facilities as well as meeting rooms and personnel training space.

McKissick announced earlier this year plans that an electronics industry is locating in the industrial park of the new city that will employ 300.

The city will be served by a regional water supply serving Oxford-Henderson-Soul City.

McKissick proposes a total planned community complete with homes and apartments, jobs, business opportunity, shopping centers and far-reaching recreational and cultural programs.



GOVERNOR Jim Holshouser mingles with the crowd following the groundbreaking ceremony Friday at Soul City.

## Man Killed In Affray

GARYSBURG — A 23-year-old Garysburg resident is being held without privilege of bond on charges of first degree murder following the death of another resident here.

Northampton Deputy Sheriff Ellis Squire said Joe Garner, 23, is now in Northampton County Jail in Jackson following his arrest Monday in connection with a Nov. 9 incident.

Garner allegedly stabbed James Henry Kee, 38, several times about the head and shoulders with a butcher knife in Kee's home.

Kee, who was treated and released at Halifax Memorial Hospital in Roanoke Rapids following the 8:15 p.m. incident Friday night, was taken to Duke University Medical Center in Durham Saturday. He died in the hospital Saturday night.