

Body Found By Hunter

Woman's Body Still Unidentified

RICH SQUARE — The identity of a woman's body found Saturday buried in a shallow grave near here is still unknown.

State Bureau of Investigation officials and Northampton sheriff's deputies are seeking identity of the woman who was reportedly shot between the eyes.

Arrears Payment Request Tabled

JACKSON — A request for \$3,000 in back payments to the Tri-County Airport Authority from Northampton County was tabled indefinitely Monday.

County Manager Tim Ellen said the county has never received an official bill requesting payment of the funds.

Studies Presented

ROANOKE RAPIDS — Economic studies of Northampton and Halifax counties were presented to bi-county industrial and commercial leaders at a dinner here Thursday night.

County Board of Commissioners, and Forest Shearin of Scotland Neck, chairman of the Halifax Development Commission, accepted leather-bound copies of the studies.



HOLIDAY CLOWN — Pillow stuffed overalls, a mop hair-do, a poke and a little clown make-up transformed Kevin Brady into a Christmas clown for Saturday's holiday parade in the county seat. Kevin is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Brady of Jackson.

Split Vote Is 6-5

ABC Composite Board Defies State Order

JACKSON — The Northampton Composite ABC Board voted 6-5 Monday not to abide by a recent order of the State ABC Board that it lower the county chairman's salary and order him not to carry out the duties of a county supervisor.

The vote was taken in a special executive session Monday following an order dated Nov. 21 from Dr. L. C. Holshouser, chairman of the state board.

The county board was given 20 days to comply with the order that Bart R. Burgwyn of Jackson, chairman of the county ABC board, cease to execute duties of a system supervisor and that his salary be decreased commensurate with the salary paid board chairmen in comparable size systems.

The order grew out of a controversy that has been brewing for months. The state has charged Burgwyn with double office holding in that he is chairman of the board and carries out duties that would normally be handled by a county supervisor.

salary that would amount to about \$9,000 he said.

Members of the composite board, composed of the county commissioners, school board members and a representative of the Health Department, were called to the special meeting by county attorney Felton Turner, who explained the status of the order to the board in public session.

Turner said the board was faced with three alternatives. It could do nothing about the order and see what action the state board takes next, it could follow the order or it could seek a judicial review under the laws of the state.

Turner contended the order by the state board is not valid since it did not result from any public hearing. He further noted the state has no authority to tell the composite board to tell the county ABC Board how to run its business since that is not one of the legal responsibilities of the larger county board.

He said, however, the matter of the salary is a concern of the composite board and the full board could act on that part of the order.

Burgwyn's salary as chairman would amount to about \$100 per month if he were paid in accordance with board chairmen in counties with a similar size programs. Turner reviewed the background of the issue that has been in a state of contest since a May 25 letter to county commission chairman Jasper Eley informed him of Burgwyn's alleged double office holding.

Turner stated that since the Northampton case has come up the state board has drafted new regulations governing local ABC units. One of the regulations states that no member of the county board can serve as county supervisor.

"It forces two offices where two offices are not necessary," Turner observed. He continued explaining that beginning Feb. 2 members of county boards of commissioners can be appointed to serve as county managers, a situation he paralled with the relationship of the ABC board with its supervisor. Turner noted the regulation about county managers will be a matter of legislative law. State ABC Board regulations are not points of law.

Turner said the law for county managers will "pull the teeth from the ABC Board's conflict of interest clause."

County Manager Tim Ellen, who was the only non-composite board member allowed to stay during the executive session in which the vote was cast, has drafted a letter to inform the state board of the composite board's decision to follow the Nov. 21 order.

52.9 Cents Is Highest

N'ampton Gas Prices Continue To Rise

Gasoline prices in Northampton are up as high as 52.9 cents per gallon, a Wednesday spot survey of county station indicated.

The lowest gas price in the county was at a Jackson Gulf station where regular is still selling for 41.3 cents per gallon.

The most expensive gas in the county is at Shell stations where the premium brand is selling for 52.9.

Indications from service station owners are that prices will be driven even higher as the demand for gas increases and the supply decreases.

Most stations in the county had at least some petro in their tanks Wednesday afternoon, but most station owners are carefully watching the fuel gauge and are limiting quantities.

The majority of stations surveyed are showing favoritism to regular station patrons.

Flythe's Shell in Potocasi is limiting its regular customers to \$3 purchases while less

mercy is being shown non-regulars who can buy only a dollar's worth.

Lee's Exxon in Woodland hasn't been out of gas because the station owner there is selling only to regular customers and he is watching his station quotas.

Whitley's Service Station in Woodman, which usually sells about 500 gallons of gas a day,

(See GAS, Page 3)

Energy Official Named

JACKSON — Northampton County Civil Preparedness Coordinator George Harris will serve as local agent for the governor's energy crisis panel.

Harris, who serves in a dual capacity as county economic planner, will assist persons who cannot obtain fuel this winter. He will handle hardship cases for people unable to find a fuel supplier.

Persons contacting Harris will be asked to explain their

problem, give the name of their supplier, the reason he gives for not supplying, the size of the home tank, amount of oil on hand and a list of dealers contacted.

Businesses or industrial firms seeking assistance will be asked similar questions.

If Harris is unable to locate a supplier, requests classed as hardship cases will be forwarded to proper authorities in Raleigh.

Suppliers taking on new

customers (such as those moving into the area) will be given a form to fill out to allotments can be increased to cover the added customer.

Harris stated that customers who have switched dealers several times, leaving overdue bills, will not be considered hardship cases.

He has been instructed to request business and industry to switch to another fuel

(See OFFICIAL, Page 3)

Commissioners Will Participate In Paving At Woodland Project

JACKSON — County commissioners Monday agreed to pay a portion of street paving costs for the proposed Woodland housing project.

Leigh Tinsley, director of the three-county Roanoke-Chowan Housing Authority, and Al Vickery, Atlanta architect employed by the authority, appeared before the board seeking the \$7,800 in paving funds.

Ms. Tinsley, who stated no paving would be requested of the county at the Gaston project, stated the authority cannot use federal funds for paving when it doesn't own property on both sides of a right-of-way.

A 10-foot strip 1,050 feet long will be paved by the county. Funds will come from the next fiscal budget.

Ms. Tinsley stated the projects at Woodland and Gaston, each containing 50 units of low rent housing, should be complete in 12 to 15 months. The authority is seeking an option on the Woodland land now and it already holds an option on the 13-acre parcel in Gaston.

The housing director announced that the county will realize \$750 a year in payments in lieu of taxes from the Woodland project and \$1,500 per year on the Gaston site. The Town of Woodland will also receive \$750 annually

since that project will be situated inside the corporate limits.

All interior streets in the housing projects will be paid for with housing authority funds.

In addition to the units at Woodland, a 1,128 square foot community facility building will be constructed on the site. At Gaston a 3,444 square foot administration — community building will be built. Gaston will serve as headquarters for all projects developed by the Roanoke-Chowan Housing Authority and similar authorities in Roanoke Rapids and Ahoskie.

In other action, the board: —Reelected Jasper Eley of

Jackson to his second term as county board chairman and reelected John Henry Liverman of Woodland as vice chairman.

County Manager Tim Ellen

was reappointed county accountant and Felton Turner, Jackson lawyer, was renamed county attorney.

(See PROJECT, Page 5)

Social Services Building Dedicated

JACKSON — Two hundred persons attended the official dedication of the Social Services Building north of here Sunday.

Dr. Renee Westcott of Raleigh, state director of the Department of Social Services, challenged the Northampton welfare unit to better service to the county's poor in an impromptu address delivered from the steps of the renovated former county home.

"Everyone says we must do something about welfare and I think you are in Northampton County. We are going to have a better image because of the work that has been done here," the Goldsboro native stated.

"This county can send a message to the state and set a good example for social service programs. You have the facilities here to foster many innovative ideas."

Dr. Westcott spoke of the county's effort at housing Social Services, Social Security, Family Planning, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Security under a single roof. She said it would be a good model for the state and nation.

Mrs. E. J. Burgess, chairwoman of the Northampton Social Services Board, was presented a key to the building by Jasper Eley, chairman of the county board of commissioners.

Mrs. Burgess recalled the history of welfare in Northampton, of the days when the service was located in cramped quarters on the third floor of the courthouse. It later moved to the ground

floor and then across the street in the building it vacated last month.

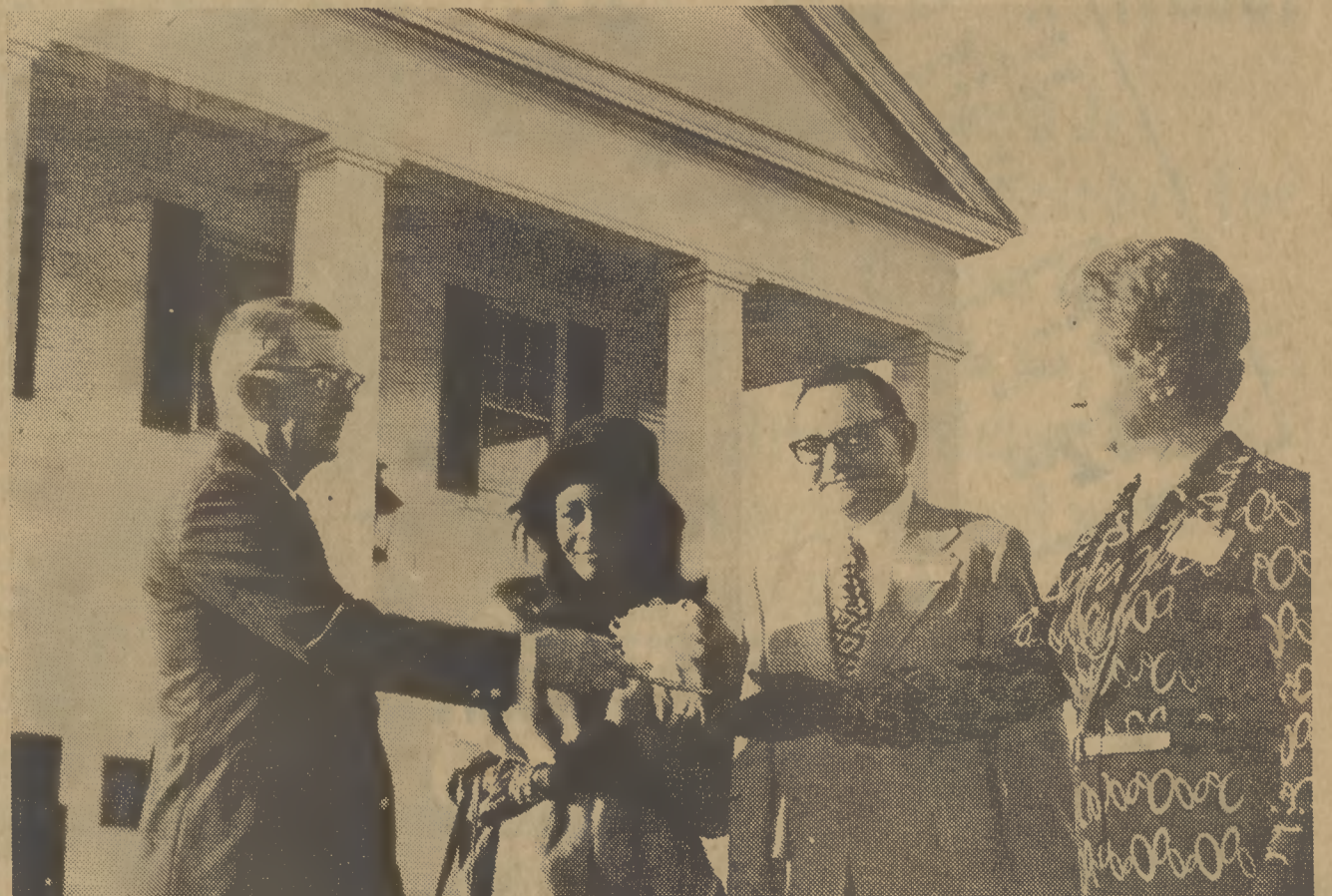
The Social Services Building was built in 1924 as a county home for the aged. John

Henry Liverman, county commissioner representative on the welfare board, alluded to the building's history and noted that still it is serving the people of the county the same

as it was when the cornerstone was laid.

The facility was renovated at a cost in excess of \$250,000. The project took over a year to complete.

A reception followed Dr. Westcott's remarks and formal dedication. The building was open for public inspection for two hours Sunday afternoon.



ACCEPTS KEY — County commission chairman Jasper Eley presents the key to the new Social Services Building to Mrs. E. J. Burgess, chairwoman of the county Social Services board, in dedication ceremonies Sunday. Looking on are Dr. Renee Westcott, guest speaker and state Social Services official and Jim Clark of Woodland, county Social Services director.

northampton chaff

Nobody wants Jackson's old fire truck, but nobody wants the town to sell it either.

Jackson commissioners have twice tried to get rid of the antiquated fire engine — once in a public auction and subsequently in a private sale.

It seems the bids from the public sale were all rejected, commissioners believing them too low. The board was then approached privately with a more attractive offer and commissioners were willing to sell.

Jackson volunteer firemen, expressing no desire to have the old truck, asked the town not to discard it.

The town still holds title to it but has again expressed interest in having the out moded equipment taken off its hands.

Mayor Charlie Bass says the firemen can have it or the town's going to sell it — once and for all.

County Commissioner Jack Faison of Seaboard, who professes to be no game hunter, said Monday he has knocked off three deer in the past two years.

Faison's weapon is not a gun. All three have fallen to the mighty blow of his front bumper.

The funeral operator did not enumerate on methods of disposal of the dead animals.

Christmas in Jackson will bear little signs of an energy crisis.

The Jackson Woman's Club financed the purchase of new electrified street decorations for the county seat as well as electric candles for the windows in county office buildings.

The street decorations, the first electric one there, will be turned on weekends and on the two major holidays, Christmas and New Years. They will not burn Monday through Thursday.

The woman's club is attempting to transform Jackson into a candlelight town this holiday season by encouraging residents to place candles in their windows as a uniform townwide decorating scheme.

Mary Bryant of Potocasi can use any spare furnishings, appliances and utensils good hearted people can donate her.

Her seven-room house was gutted by fire last week and she was unable to retrieve any of her personal affects.

Mrs. Bryant had lived in her house only three months, having moved back to her native county recently after a long stay in Baltimore.

Members of the Woodland Fire Department will accept donations for Mrs. Bryant.

The parents of Dorothy Vick of Conway have been named outstanding farm family of the year in neighboring Hertford County.

The award was presented by the Ahoskie Rotary Club at a meeting Monday night.