



Stonewall High School's Classes of 1929 and 1930 held their reunion in Oriental on Saturday, June 4. Attending from the class of 1929 were John M. Ewell; Tina Tuten

Henries, Morris Daniels, and his wife Muriel; Abbott Sawyer, and wife Ola Belle; Lennie Daniels, and wife Helen. Class of 1930 - Tillman Woodard, and wife Virginia; Affie Whorton Dawley

and husband Clarence; Hazel Woodard Guilford and her guest Lucille Gatlin. 1930 class member Louise Potter Gooding was unable to be present.



A packed gymnasium watched Saturday night, June 4, as Aurora

High School seniors received their awards and then became alumni of AHS.

The Pamlico News

Vol. 16, No. 23

20¢ per copy

USP 782-460

Wednesday, June 8, 1983

School Board Makes Budget Request

The Pamlico County Board of Education presented its budget request for the 1983-84 school year to the Board of Commissioners on Monday night, June 6. Superintendent George Brinson said that the majority of the budget's increase was in salary expense, 5 percent raises had been included in the event the state approved an increase in salaries.

"We have trimmed a lot of areas; we've cut out a lot of areas to keep (the budget) at the level it currently is," commented Brinson. The schools are requesting \$522,074 in county funds. For the current year they received a little over \$504,000.

Several areas of revenue have decreased in recent years, said Milton Day, finance officer, specifically fines and forfeitures and interest revenues, while costs have continued to rise.

The uncertainty of continued Revenue Sharing funds is making the budgeting process difficult for both the county and the schools. In the past, the county has turned over a significant portion of the Revenue Sharing monies to the schools, relying on it as a source for part of the county's financial support of education. However, with it unknown still for several months whether or not the program will be continued, the county is not sure as to where the money for all its programs as well as the schools' will come from.

Brinson told the commissioners that funds were needed for roof repairs and to complete the air conditioning project begun last year. All of the regular classrooms are now air conditioned, he said, and "teachers and students and parents are very appreciative." Still to be air conditioned are several shop areas and perhaps the high school band room. Also needed is some ditching, landscape work, and placement of gravel on all campuses, as well as at the school bus garage and administration building, and the carpet in the 5th grade hallway at Pamlico Junior High School needs to be replaced. The carpet, which was installed in the early 1970's, will cost about \$9,000 to replace. The carpet is "in dire need of replacement," Brinson said. "It cuts down on noise considerably," added school board chairman Lenwood Spruill. The requests also included \$4,000 for classroom furniture and equipment. With a student desk costing between \$30 and \$40, that figure "will only scratch the surface," Brinson said.

The schools have had several decreases in funding from various sources in recent years, said Brinson, which have led to a depletion of the schools' fund balance. Fines and forfeiture revenues, as mentioned earlier, have declined and the schools, year before last, lost about \$70,000 per year when dropped from the Impact Aid program. Also, this year the state required that expenses be cut by approximately two percent. With the cut coming about halfway through the fiscal year, it "left us with a two percent cut on eight percent of

our budget (the cut did not affect salaries which comprise 92 percent of Pamlico's state appropriation)... so the two percent came out of four percent which really was a fifty percent cut," said Brinson. And this year, he added, the schools did not anticipate an increase in state funding.

The school system has approximately \$7,000 left in the capital outlay fund balance, Brinson said, but that will probably be used soon to help offset the costs of repairing the high school gym roof.

The board took no action on the budget but will consider it further.

As of Monday night's meeting, the commissioners had cut \$100,113 from county budget re-

quests, not including the schools'. This year, \$2,516,621 in requests were submitted, however, revenues totaled only \$2,145,609, leaving a deficit of \$371,012 which would have to be reduced.

In looking at possible areas of reduction, Commissioner Brad Rice first suggested that the 2.3 percent increase in commissioners' salaries be deleted, and suggested cutting travel expenses in county departments. Commissioner Rice pointed out one instance where it appeared, to him, that the employee was being sent to school where he received more training so that he could come back to the county and request a higher salary because of that

training. He said he believed that the county should pay the educational costs for an employee to enable that employee to perform his current job more efficiently but that in the case mentioned above, that the employee should be responsible for pursuing the additional training at his own expense on his own time.

Commissioner Rice said that it seemed that the county had three choices regarding the budget: either cut the budget further by decreasing the specific line items, to go ahead and assume that Revenue Sharing will be available and work the estimate into the budget or to raise ad valorem property taxes. "And I've heard at

least three (commissioners) say they weren't going to raise taxes," he added.

County Manager Bill Rice said he could go through the budget and pull out the travel and training from each department, requiring all to be approved by the commissioners on an individual basis or could dictate that there would be no more than a five percent increase in each line item over the current year's appropriation. Some line item expenses are mandated by state or federal agencies, explained Rice, and the county would have little leeway in changing those.

Commissioner Rice and Bill Rice were scheduled to meet

Tuesday in order to look at the budget line item by line item.

In other business, the board: --approved supporting a bill which would assess taxes only on personal property and improvements to real property, not the land itself, for the purpose of financing fire protection.

--approved supporting a house bill which, if passed, would consider unsold subdivision acreage as underdeveloped for tax purposes.

--received a report from the Craven-Pamlico-Carteret Regional Library, in response to a request made at last week's meeting, stating that 17,022 books and magazines were checked out through the bookmobile last year.

Request For 'Honor Cords' Denied

A group of parents met with the Pamlico County High School principal on Tuesday, May 31, in an attempt to persuade him to reverse the decision not to allow the Beta Club students to wear "honor cords" at graduation ceremonies on June 13. Although a compromise which would provide honor cords for all honor students (students with a cumulative average of 90 or above) was discussed, that, too, was denied.

When contacted Monday, June 6, Pamlico County High School principal Ben Potter said that the request was denied for several reasons and was unanimously agreed upon by the senior sponsors. The request was denied primarily "due to resentment among other students, groups and clubs" who had also hoped to be able to wear symbols of their organizations.

Potter met with the nine parents and three students and discussed the request for about two hours Tuesday morning, May 31. Superintendent George Brinson was also present.

Brinson said that he had been approached by one student and two parents and had indicated to them that this was a decision to be made at the school level. "The Board of Education doesn't even dictate that they wear caps and gowns (at graduation)," he commented. "I want to see the seniors happy about the situation...but there have to be some guidelines."

Anne Autry, parent of honor student Melanie Autry, who was also present, suggested that "we get away from the Beta Club" and discuss "academic recognition."

Potter explained that each honor student received a gold tassel, instead of the usual black one, to wear on his graduation cap. He continued saying that not all honor students, for one reason or another, were members of the Beta Club. "We really respect the members of the Beta Club...but it is just another club." He added that all honor students were denoted as such on the graduation program plus Beta Club members were allowed to have a gold seal

affixed to their diplomas. When called to receive their diplomas, the students' names were called "with honors."

Parent Mary Alice Hudnell asked if it was tradition that the cords not be allowed. Potter replied that cords had not been used since he had been at the school and that he had received numerous similar requests in the past from other clubs and organizations.

Parent Lois Alexander commented that the group should focus on the present, not past, situation. "We are honoring our children for four years of hard work," she said.

Potter, who had commented that the policy had been set several years ago, said that once one group was allowed to depart from the policy, other groups would have to be allowed to do so. "We want to provide a uniform, dignified and respectful graduation for them all," he said, "not take away from any student."

Mrs. Richard Greenwald said that there is a "substantial difference between the Beta Club and the other clubs" in the school, referring to the Beta Club's high grade average requirement. "They are striving for academic achievement," she added.

Student Karen Alexander said, "You're supposed to remember your high school graduation and, frankly, this year it's going to be a disappointment." Melanie Autry commented that it was going to be "total chaos" with parents trying to get down from the bleachers in order to take photographs. Added Karen, "Why don't you just give the diplomas out the last day of school? Parents won't be able to sit (where they) can hear their child's name called (at graduation) and Lord knows, don't go down to take a picture because you might get in somebody's way."

Potter said again he would discuss the matter of the cords with the class advisors and officers. The seating arrangements, he told the group, had already been discussed with the senior class). Concluded Melanie, "Mr. Potter, it's your job to say no but it's the faculty's job to say yes...is that how it goes?"

Student Wendy Fulford said to Potter, "When I asked you (Monday) if we could have a photographer (at graduation), you said it was our graduation...well, this (concerns) our graduation, too."

Potter then said that perhaps the group could look at having all



Wendy Fulford displays the graduation gown as the honor students would have liked to have worn. The honors cord around the neck of the gown is the article

which was in contention. The gold tassel on the cap also denotes the student as graduating with honors.

honor students wear the cords. One student commented that when that idea had been mentioned to Potter before, he had said no. The parents and students agreed that it would be an acceptable compromise. (See 'CORDS' page 9)

AREA MEETINGS

- Bayboro Town Board - Tuesday, June 14, 7:30 pm, Town Hall
- Minnesott Beach Town Board - Tuesday, June 14, 7:00 pm, Town Hall
- Aurora Town Board - Monday, June 13, 7:30 pm, Town Hall
- Beaufort County Board of Education - Tuesday, June 14, 8:00 pm, Administration Building, Washington
- Pamlico County Board of Commissioners, Monday, June 13, 8:00 pm, Courthouse Annex, Bayboro

Potter Gets Six Months Active

Orien Potter of Lowland, found guilty on May 25 in Pamlico County Superior Court on two charges of assault with a firearm on a law enforcement officer, was sentenced on Monday, June 6, in Craven County Superior Court.

According to District Attorney David McFadyen, Potter received a sentence of two consecutive

sentences of two years each and is to serve a six months active sentence beginning October 1. Following his release, he will be on five years' probation. Potter must also pay a fine of \$25,000.

Potter was convicted of the charges in connection with an October 23, 1982 incident in which he assaulted Wildlife Enforcement

Officers Royce Hamm and Gary Norman with a rifle after he found them on his property. Hamm and Norman testified in court that they had been on Potter's land checking for hunting violations.

No information was available at press time as to whether Potter would appeal.

County Bought Used Computer

It was recently learned that the computer system purchased last year by Pamlico County is, in part, formed of used equipment. Bill Rice, Pamlico County

Manager, informed the commissioners at their meeting last week.

In a later interview with Rice, he said that the equipment, which was purchased from Continental

Wayne, a company that has since filed for bankruptcy, had been used previously by the City of Washington, except for a printer (See COMPUTER page 9)