

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

VOLUME XXVI—Number 13.

Hertford, Perquimans County, North Carolina, Friday, March 27, 1959.

5 Cents Per Copy.

Legislative Bill Calls For County Revaluation In '61

Tentative plans now being considered by the Perquimans Board of Commissioners to hold a revaluation of property in the county will become mandatory under a proposed law introduced in the Legislature last Friday. Under the proposed bill Perquimans County will be required to hold a revaluation by 1961, but may conclude the project before that date if desired.

The proposed bill, calling for revaluation of property on a mandatory basis every eight years, was introduced as a statewide measure in both the House and the Senate. It has the endorsement of the Association of County Commissioners; and in addition to setting dates for revaluation requires each county to appraise all property on a uniform basis, and also requires the county commissioners to levy a tax each year to provide funds for holding revaluations each eight years.

Under the terms of the bill, all property must be appraised at the market value; the board of commissioners must then select a fixed percentage to be applied to the appraised value in arriving at the tax value. Personal property as well as real property must be assessed at the same percentage.

Commissioners for Perquimans County have been considering a property revaluation for several years and presently are conferring with several companies, recommended by the Institute of Government, concerning the scope of the work and securing estimates as to the cost of the program.

Perquimans had its last revaluation in 1927, and the commissioner reduced that figure by 25 per cent in 1933. Action by the Legislature has postponed revaluation since that date. However, the 1957 postponement set the revaluation date for 1961 and it is believed the new proposed law included Perquimans in the 1961 category for this reason.

Although the County Commissioners have not yet taken definite action toward revaluation, it appears it will become mandatory for them to do so if the Legislature enacts the new bills.

Perquimans Gain Wins Over Central And Gatesville

Library To Close Friday and Monday

The Perquimans County Library announces that the library will be closed on Good Friday and on Easter Monday, but will be open as usual on Saturday preceding Easter Sunday.

The library this week is featuring a collection of rocks and minerals, a loan from the Rev. G. F. Hill of Elizabeth City. These 42 specimens have been collected from various sources, but many are native North Carolina minerals. All together they make an interesting display.

Recent non-fiction acquisitions in the library include a copy of Burke's Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Landed Gentry. This is for reference in the library as are two volumes of The Revolutionary War Muster Rolls. Another volume of Dr. Frank Brown's North Carolina Folklore came in the library this week.

Three new novels are: Remembrance Way, by Rehder; Brave Young Bears, by Burris; and Nine Tomorrows, by Astrov, a tale of science fiction.

New books for young people this week are: Defend Yourself, in the sports series; The Indians, Knights and Cowboys, by Dr. Seuss; If I Run the Circus.

High School PTA To Meet April 2

The Perquimans High School PTA will hold its final meeting of the current school year on Thursday night, April 2, at 8 o'clock in the school auditorium. New officers will be elected at this meeting and the group will discuss plans for next year.

Mrs. Henry Sullivan, program chairman, has announced a film on parent-teacher relations with commentary will be shown at the meeting, and following the film an open forum and discussion will be conducted.

All members are urged to attend and are reminded of the towel shower to be held for the gym classes.

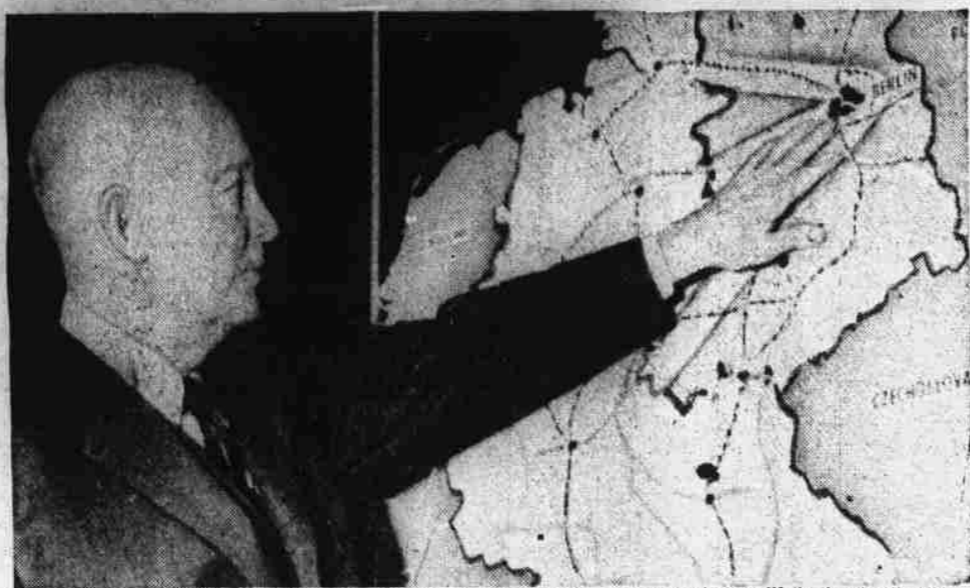
Interest Growing In Town Election

Although no candidates as yet have officially filed for office, the Hertford "political pot" has started to simmer and more interest is being developed in the election scheduled for April 27 than has been shown in recent years.

Hertford's primary election for the selection of nominees for the four posts as commissioner and one for Mayor will be held on Monday, April 27. The election of the officials will take place on Tuesday, May 5.

Registration books for the election will be opened Saturday, April 4, and remain open for three Saturdays for the purpose of registering voters not already listed on the roll. Officials for the election, named by the Town Board, are Mrs. B. G. Koonce, registrar; Mrs. R. A. White and D. J. Pritchard, judges.

It is anticipated, judging from discussions concerning the approaching elections, that a number of candidates will enter the race for offices prior to the filing deadline, which is Thursday, April 16.



FINGER ON THE SITUATION—President Eisenhower, who says that we'll "not retreat one inch from our duty," and that we'll exercise our right of peaceful passage to and from West Berlin, points to that beleaguered city as shown on a map in the White House office. The President has stated further that, should developments justify a summit meeting this summer, "the United States would be ready to participate in that further effort."

Committee Named To Plan Activity At Youth Center

The board of directors of the Perquimans Recreation Association has named an eight-man committee to act as an advance planning committee for the activities of the Youth Center. Members of the committee are George Baker, Mrs. Melvin Eure, Mrs. Elwood Nowell, Henry C. Sullivan, the Rev. James Auman, Carroll Williams, Mrs. Walter Harrison and Mrs. J. E. Newby.

This group held its first meeting on the night of March 19 and elected Henry Sullivan to serve as chairman and Mr. Auman to serve as vice chairman. The committee's purpose will be to create more interest and participation in the Youth Center activities.

Presently the committee is considering new and old ideas advanced for the development of the center and the group's conclusions will be laid before the board of directors for final approval.

Another meeting of the committee with the center's board of directors will be held on April 10 at the Youth Center.

HD County Council Plans Programs At Meeting Thursday

Home Demonstration Club plans for the coming months were discussed at a meeting of the County Council held Thursday of last week with the Council president, Mrs. William Winslow, presiding. Mrs. Winslow urged the members to subscribe to the new publication for Home Demonstration Clubs, and stated the publication desires to receive club news, ideas, recipes and program plans from local members.

Several events were planned for National Home Demonstration Week—May 3-9. Mrs. E. J. Proctor, Sr., and Mrs. L. B. Elliott, county house furnishings and home beautification leaders, were named co-chairmen to plan the annual spring tour of homes which will be scheduled the first week of May. Winfall H. D. Club will be hostess to the annual commissioners' banquet during this week.

The Council decided that the eleven clubs in the county will supply hostesses to assist the T. B. mobile unit which will be in the county April 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 21. Mrs. Joek Benton, county health leader, will notify clubs concerning the schedule.

Mrs. Paige Underwood, county home economics agent, talked to the 22 Council members concerning a leadership contest sponsored by a national chain store. Mrs. Underwood also emphasized the importance of club members keeping their score sheets up-to-date. The club of the year will be chosen by these score sheets.

Mrs. Harold White was elected Education County Committee chairman. The objectives of Mrs. White's committee will be to support youth and adult educational programs enriching the local diamond Friday, April 3.

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

Note: This is one of a series of weekly summaries prepared by the legislative staff of the Institute of Government on the work of the North Carolina General Assembly of 1959. It is confined to discussions of matters of general interest and major importance.

New bills are coming in at a slow rate, so that the total introductions are now substantially behind the comparable figures for last session. 302 public bills have been introduced this year as against 287 for last session, but only 203 local bills have come in, as against 300 at the same time in 1957. Ratifications this session total 108 as compared to 104 last session.

Real Property Revaluation

Bills introduced in both houses Friday would make significant changes in the valuation and assessment of real property for ad valorem tax purposes. SB 162 (HB 331) would change the present quadrennial revaluation requirement to provide for regular 8-year revaluations, on a staggered schedule, so that about 12 counties would revalue each year, but any county wishing to revalue before its scheduled year could do so. County commissioners would be required to levy a special tax each year at a rate calculated to accumulate sufficient money (with other available funds) in the years between revaluations to pay for the next revaluation. SB 161 (HB 332) would legalize the time-honored practice of assessing property for taxation at substantially less than its true value. The bill would require that property be appraised at its true value, and that the county commissioners then adopt a fixed percentage of the appraised value as the assessment or taxable value. Taxes levied by the county, municipalities and other local taxing authorities would then be levied uniformly on the assessed valuation. In the fourth year following revaluation, the commissioners could make a horizontal increase or decrease in the appraised values to reflect current economic conditions, and the fixed assessment percentage would then be applied to the revised appraisal values.

Study Commissions

The proposed creation of two study commissions is continued on page five.

McGee-Eure Vows Spoken Sunday At Berea Church

Miss Mary Frances Eure, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Delwin H. Eure, became the bride of Harold Johnston McGee, son of Mrs. Mae Johnston Webber and the late Harold Valentine McGee, at the Berea Church of Christ on Sunday, March 22, at 4 o'clock.

The Rev. Neal Puckett, pastor of the church, officiated in the double ring ceremony in a setting of palms, white mums and lighted tapers.

The pre-nuptial music was presented by Miss Frances Privott, organist, and Miss Mollie Lu Yeates, soloist, who sang "Because," "O Perfect Love" and "The Wedding Prayer."

Given in marriage by her father, the bride wore a Paris original formal gown of white peau de soie, and chantly lace, fashioned with scalloped sabrina neckline, lace sleeves tapering to wedding peaks at the hands, and a fitted bodice. The floor length skirt had a panel of lace from the wedding point to the floor with applique of lace. The puffed bustle in the back skirt led to a chapel train. Her fingertip veil of illusion was arranged from a scalloped half-hat, embroidered with irridescent and pearls. She carried a satin covered Bible topped with a white orchid.

Mrs. Lon Brooks of Abilene, Texas, sister of the bride, was matron of honor. Her dress was of olympic blue taffeta fashioned with long fitted torso, short sleeves, full floor length skirt, accented with large bustle bow on the back skirt and a small bow on the squared low neckline. Her headpiece was blue taffeta and net edged with sequins. Her flowers were roses and camellias.

Mrs. Charles Smith and Miss Gladys Umphlett, both of Hertford, were bridesmaids. They wore dresses identical to the honor attendant. Their flowers were bouquets of roses and camellias. Earl Newton of Portsmouth, Va., uncle of the bridegroom, was best man. The ceremony was concluded on page 6—Section 1.

Historical Group Hears Talks On Old Landmarks

Talks on historic landmarks of the county were given here last Monday night during a meeting of the Perquimans County Historical Society. The meeting was held at the Agriculture Building.

S. T. Perry of Durants Neck gave a report on gravestones in three old burying grounds, the James P. Waddebec, the George Newby and the James Leigh family graveyards.

B. C. Berry reported on the Perquimans County Court House, stating that Freemasonry in Perquimans County coincided with the erection of the present Court House when the Masonic Lodge was organized here, there was a one-story Court House on the present site; probably succeeding earlier buildings. Under the leadership of Gabriel White, in 1822, the Masons agreed to add two wings to the one room building in return for the privilege of holding their meetings there.

Mr. Berry traced some of the work of the Masonic Lodge not only in regard to the Court House but in laying the cornerstone in numerous other old buildings in the area.

Miss Mary Summer talked on "Summerville," the old home on the Durants Neck road. She gave a detailed description of the home as it was originally built and some of the changes that have been made to it through the years, while at least six generations of Summers lived in it. She has in her possession deeds and maps of land bought by the family since the late 1600's. Summerville is now the home of the Raymond Eure family.

The program was under the direction of Mrs. C. A. Davenport and Capt. N. S. Fulford presided over the business meeting, during which the group decided to hold future meetings of the Historical Society in the Agriculture Building if it is available.

Red Cross Drive Lagging In County

The Perquimans County Red Cross Fund Drive, now in its third week, is lagging far behind its proposed goal, according to Henry Stokes, Jr., fund chairman. Of the goal of \$1,648, only \$630.57 has been turned in. Some of the areas have not as yet reported and Mr. Stokes urges all solicitors to complete their canvassing as soon as possible.

If there is anyone in the town or county who has not been contacted and would like to contribute, they can call Mr. Stokes at Hertford 3296 and he will have someone call for it.

The board of directors of the local Red Cross Chapter points out that the quota assigned the county for this drive includes financing local programs such as the blood bank and home service and unless greater response is forthcoming in the appeal for funds some of these local programs will face curtailment.

Class To Present Play On April 3

The Senior Class of Perquimans High School will present its annual play "The Thirteenth Day" under the direction of Mrs. Elizabeth Skipsy on Friday evening, April 3, at 7:30 o'clock.

The cast includes Beverly Tucker, Lib Thach, Lois Byrum, Joseph Proctor, Edith Spruill, Shirley Tarkington, Bobby Stallings, Pat Harrell, Charles Elliott, J. T. Winslow, Dickie Owens and Jo Davis Towe. The assistants are: Vickie Johnson, student director; Buddy Ayscue, Jack Dail, Willie Saunders and Victor Sutton, stage managers; Brenda Joyce Stallings, Hazel Elliott, prompters; Sherman Long, lights and sound; Hulda Dail, Bonnie Dail, properties; Glennie Myers, Wynnda Chappell, wardrobe; Beverly Rose, Patricia Keel, Gloria Stallings, publicity.

Tickets will be sold in advance and at the door.

Seamaster Planes May Soon Be Sent To Harvey Point

Sunrise Services At Baptist Church

As Easter Day begins to dawn this year, churches of Perquimans County will meet at the Hertford Baptist Church for the sunrise service at 5:50 A. M. Ministers of the county today issued an invitation for all Christians to join in this service.

The Rev. W. E. Pickett, minister of New Hope-Woodland Methodist churches, will bring the sunrise message. Mike Holloman will herald the beginning of the day with trumpet music, and there will be congregational singing of the traditional Resurrection hymns.

Cancer Society To Open Annual Drive

Perquimans County's annual Cancer Crusade will get underway here with a kick-off meeting on Friday, April 3, at 8 o'clock at the Municipal Building, it was announced by Mrs. Norman Elliott, Crusade chairman.

Guest speaker at the meeting, which will be sponsored by the Perquimans County Cancer Society, will be Dr. Ray G. Silverthorne and the public is invited to attend. All members of the society and workers who have volunteered to solicit funds for the campaign are urged to attend.

Miss Hulda Wood, president of the county society, will preside at the meeting, during which plans will be formulated to carry out a successful fund drive.

Sixteen Cases On Court Docket At Session Tuesday

A varied docket consisting of 16 cases was disposed of during Tuesday's session of Perquimans Recorder's Court, presided over by Judge Ches. E. Johnson.

Costs of court were assessed against W. L. Dabney, O. W. Copley and Roy Boyce after each had submitted to charges of failing to observe a stop sign.

Arnold Basnight, Jr., paid a fine of \$14.25 and costs of court after pleading guilty to a speeding charge. Seymour Elkins was fined \$5.25 and ordered to pay the costs after he also entered a plea of guilty to a charge of speeding.

Beatrice Harrison paid the costs of court after submitting to a charge of improper use of headlights on her car.

William Brothers, Negro, submitted to a charge of failing to display a read flag on a loaded truck and paid the costs of court.

A fine of \$27 and costs of court were taxed against Aaron Rowe, Negro, who pleaded guilty to charges of permitting an unlicensed operator to drive his car and of being drunk on the streets of Hertford.

Ervin Jackson, Negro, was fined \$25 and costs after being found guilty on a charge of assault with a deadly weapon. Wilbur Whitehurst, Negro, charged with the same offense, was found not guilty.

Harriet Rouse and Carrie Thach, Negroes, were ordered to pay the costs of court after being found guilty of mutual assault.

Mason Nixon, Negro, was found guilty on a charge of non-support of his children. He was given a 30-day sentence, suspended upon condition he support four of his six children, the other two children being in custody of the mother.

Costs of court were taxed against Benjamin Lewis, prosecuting witness, in the case in which Frank Jessup was charged with assault.

Harvey Point Naval Air Station may soon be the haven for at least two of the Martin PGM Seamaster planes, which have been completed on the order of 14 of the seaplanes. The Weekly was informed last Thursday that the Navy has issued tentative orders for the station to be prepared to receive two of the planes around the first of April.

While construction is still in progress at the NAS, Cir. D. F. Dalton, resident officer in charge of construction, told this reporter work is progressing on schedule and a number of new building contracts are expected to be issued by June.

These new contracts, it is believed, will cover construction of a number of buildings necessary for the operation of the station. Sometime ago Commander Dalton reported the Navy Department had stepped up the commissioning date for the base by a six-month period, from October, 1960 to some time in March.

Mayor V. N. Darden reported Monday he had been advised by Congressman Herbert C. Bonner that some 3.7 million dollars worth of contracts are likely to be awarded at the base during the coming summer. The Congressman also advised Mayor Darden that information he had received from the Navy Department indicated Harvey Point NAS may become part of the defense picture in the development of nuclear aircraft in future years.

More than nine millions in contracts, some of which have been completed, have been let at the base since construction was started last year. Better weather conditions are expected to permit a stepping up of the work during the coming months.

Miss Hulda Wood, president of the county society, will preside at the meeting, during which plans will be formulated to carry out a successful fund drive.

Methodist Church Host For Good Friday Services

Worshippers from all churches of the county will gather at the First Methodist Church in Hertford Friday for the three-hour Good Friday Service, scheduled for the hours twelve o'clock noon through three o'clock. The Rev. James A. Auman, host pastor, will be the presiding minister. Other ministers who will present meditations on the Seven Last Words will be as follows:

"Father Forgive Them," the Rev. H. V. Napier; "Today shalt thou be with me in Paradise," the Rev. W. E. Pickett; "Woman, behold thy son—Son, behold thy mother," the Rev. Leroy Howe; "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me," the Rev. Orval Dillon; "I Thirst," the Rev. Bryan Holloman; "It is finished," the Rev. P. M. Porter; "Father, into Thy hands I commit my spirit," the Rev. Frank Fortesque. Closing the meditations will be the Rev. James O. Mattox and giving the benediction will be the Rev. A. N. Gore, Jr.

Stores of Hertford will be closed during this service. There will be opportunities to come and go at will, during the singing of hymns.