

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Volume 29 No. 47

Hertford, Perquimans County, North Carolina, Thursday, November 22, 1973

10 Cents Per Copy

Trash Fires Rage In County; Burning Permits Cancelled

By KATHY MARREN
STAFF WRITER

For three consecutive days, Nov. 13, 14, 15, the Hertford Fire Department responded to calls resulting in trash or field fires that go away from those attending them. Chief Francis Nixon said, "The majority of the woods, trash, and field fires we have are caused by human error or

carelessness. The fire department is here to extinguish these blazes, but it costs the taxpayer roughly \$150 per call per year, when this type of fire can usually be prevented. We're asking the public to obtain burning permits and obey them." But for a while, no one will be able to get a burning permit. According to the N.C. Forestry Service, all burning permits have been

cancelled statewide in effect as of 2 pm Nov. 15. This means that there cannot be any burning within 500 feet of a wooded area, and this cancellation includes brush pile burning, and burning of any other debris that might spread to woodlands. This emergency measure has been taken due to the critical fire weather that all of the Albemarle area, including Perquimans

County, is experiencing. This critical fire weather includes low humidity and high winds. These conditions have been common recently and are predicted to continue, thus making outside burning of any kind dangerous.

The Forestry Service, as well as the Fire Department, urges the public to cooperate in preventing these fires as well as to work with them during this time of bad fire conditions. When burning permits are reinstated, Luke Stallings, which is the forestry agent for Perquimans County, is the person to contact in order to obtain one. Permits can also be gotten from several of the area businesses located throughout the county.

During the course of the Hertford Fire Department's regular meeting, one member reported selling six fire extinguishers in a two day period. These were sold mainly to farmers as a precaution against combine and tractor fires, which have also created a recent problem.

Perquimans county is fortunate in having five fire departments spread out all over the county. They are Hertford Fire Department, Belvidere FD, Bethel FD, the Inter-County Department (Woodville), and the fire department in Winfall. All departments, at times, work in close conjunction with the forestry service, especially due to the service's lack in manpower.

The county should appreciate the quick response and the willingness in which the firemen answer a call. Chief Nixon said, "When we receive a call, on an average, 13 men out of our 25-man department, are here to answer it. That's over half."

All of the county fire departments are doing their share. The Hertford Fire Department reported that, as of Nov. 15, they answered 23 calls in the town of Hertford and 15 in the county. This was the first time in 20 years that the department received more calls in town than in the county.



SOME CATCH—Johnny Baker of the Whiteston community got a big surprise the other morning when he went to his traps. He had caught a muskrat and mink in the same trap. It was as if both furry animals hit the trap at the exact same moment. Baker has been trapping for some 50 years. He has 20 traps in the turnpike area, this was the first time he's ever trapped anything like this. (Photo by Francine Sawyer)

Town Gets New Items

Hertford has a new street sweeper, a new garbage truck, a new police car, and five new trash containers all made possible through the revenue sharing fund.

All items were bought on a bid basis, and the equipment was purchased from the lowest bidder.

The fairly new street sweeper, which is about 30 days old, cost \$13,480.48. The old sweeper had been in use for 20 years, and is now being repaired to be used as an extra unit. The new garbage truck was purchased at \$14,227.60. The truck which had been used previously was 17 years old, and it too will be on hand as an extra unit to be used especially on holidays when there is a lot of trash to be picked up. Another reason why the town needed the new garbage truck so badly is that now all trash is being taken to the solid waste site in Chowan County which is a total trip of 22 miles.

The five new trash containers were bought for \$2,452.84. According to Hertford Mayor Bill Cox, these containers at this time, are being used on a somewhat experimental basis. If they prove to save time and do a better job, then more containers will be purchased. But if it is found that this will not be the case, then no more of them will be bought.

The police car, which has now been in use for about six months, cost \$3,009.00.

Mayor Cox is pleased that the town was able to buy all of this new equipment through the revenue sharing fund, thus enabling the town to obtain all of this equipment they needed so badly without having to raise the taxes.

Food Stamp Program

Three additional North Carolina counties—Camden, Haywood, and Perquimans—have been designated for the food stamp program, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) reports.

Russell H. James, Southeast regional administrator of the Food and Nutrition Service, said that the exact dates when the newly designated counties will begin issuing food stamps will be announced locally.

A timetable must be established, he added, by FNS personnel and state Social Services officials for the steps that need to be taken to assure effective and efficient programs.

All of the designated counties are currently operating food distribution programs. The transfer of these counties to the food stamp program in keeping with the provisions of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 which makes a nationwide food stamp program mandatory by June 30, 1974.

County representatives and interested citizens are urged to attend.



MANY RECENT FIRES—A recent field fire resulted in the burning of this old house. The following day, another such fire burned an old church building to the ground. Local fire departments and the N.C. Forestry Service are working together to inform the public about the recent weather conditions which are causing woods, trash, and field fires to become very dangerous. As a preventative measure, all burning permits have been cancelled statewide. (Staff Photo by Kathy Marren)



The Street Sweeper



TAKING FIRST AID COURSE—Jack Harrell demonstrates the correct way to administer mouth-to-mouth resuscitation on this dummy while other class participants watch. This was part of a first aid training course offered by the College of the Albemarle. Roy Griggs was the instructor. (Marren Photo)

First Aid Course Taught At REA

College of the Albemarle, with cooperation from the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce, taught a first aid course on Tuesday and Thursday nights, beginning Nov. 6 and ending Nov. 20.

The class, which was held at the Albemarle Electric Membership Cooperative (REA) Building, was taught by Roy Griggs. The classes consisted of a nightly three hour session, lasting from 7 until 10 p.m. The 15-hour course was certified by the American Red Cross.

Wounds, severe bleeding, shock, poisoning, broken bones, injured joints and muscles were just some of the subjects studied.



'Owed' To Holiday

By FRANCINE SAWYER

Tomorrow is Thanksgiving. Let us try to be thankful. There will be plump brown turkeys in the oven. Freshly baked sweet potatoes will fill the house with such aroma.

Children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, uncles and aunts will drive for miles for the day to be with family.

So what if turkeys are nearly a \$1 a pound and in some places more. And what does it matter if gasoline may be so expensive next year (if not expensive, maybe not even available.) There is this year, this thanksgiving.

How could the Pilgrims know, back in the woods, several hundred years ago, that the land they settled would soon be a nation which gobbled up, faster than a turkey, its and others natural resources.

What does it matter that only a decade ago, the first modern president in this century was elected and 1,000 days later assassinated?

Who can worry that a terrible war took its toll on American fighting men? Why be concerned that there are a number of unemployed Americans? Who has time to worry about starving children here at home? It's Thanksgiving isn't it?

We should also be thankful for President Richard M. Nixon. He tells us in every speech he makes, that we should all be glad he's president.

But on the brighter side. We have enjoyed, since the '50s two decades of plenty.

Plenty to eat, wear, drive and play with. With having plenty there is a penalty. Plenty doesn't last forever.

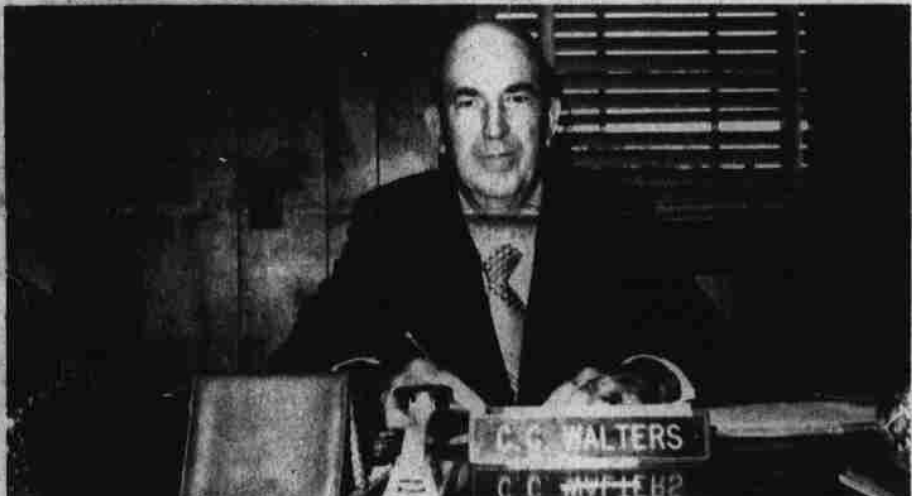
The fuel can stop to a mere trickle. Automobiles, with big engines can drink more gasoline than any potential member of AA can drink alcohol. Speed limits can be reduced. Work weeks can be cut to save energy.

As Americans, we must conserve and use things as our forefathers. Use things as if we expect then to be gone tomorrow, because they might.

But alas it is Thanksgiving. Let us be thankful for what we still have, and hope for a brighter future.

Let's do what we can, whatever the government suggests in order to continue functioning in as near a normal capacity as possible.

Let us try to be thankful.



C.C. Walters, superintendent for Perquimans County Schools

Perquimans Profile

C. C. Walters

By KATHY MARREN
STAFF WRITER

Perquimans County is very fortunate in having school superintendent that cares about what goes on in the county schools. He is C. C. Walters.

Walters has been married for 32 years, and has one daughter, Jape. She graduated from John A. Holmes High School in Edenton and East Carolina University. She has taught school for a couple of years and is now married.

All totaled, Walters has been a school superintendent for ten years. For three of those years, he served as county superintendent for the Chowan County Schools. And for the past seven years, he has been superintendent for the schools in Perquimans County.

Walters is very qualified for his job in having attended several institutes in higher learning. He received an AB degree from Atlantic Christian College, a MA degree from Columbia University. Both degrees were in school administration. Walters also did graduate work at East Carolina University in Greenville, N.C. and at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, N.C.

The position of superintendent was not one that Walters automatically received, but rather one that came about from a series of other positions. He taught high school special studies along with coaching baseball and basketball, then was principal at several different schools, and finally reached his present job.

Walters said, "I've been in just about all positions. I've had some experience with schools in both the smaller units and the larger ones."

One of the problems facing a superintendent is that he tends to become alienated from the students. This is the way Walters put it. "I enjoyed teaching and coaching because I had closer contact with the students. I think this kind of contact helps you keep a

younger outlook on life. I believe when a person becomes a superintendent he tends to lose some of this contact. In other words, I have missed 'rubbing elbows' with the students." Since Walters' years as superintendent of the county's school system, several changes have come about in county education as well as national education. Most of them have been improvements. Walters notes one of the main changes to be greater emphasis on occupational preparation in our schools. He also feels that this trend will continue. Another change for the good, he cited, has been greater awareness and concern for the needs of all children, especially the handicapped. These exceptional children, as they are called, are receiving more service and help than ever before. Walters feels that in recent years there has been more concern for the individual teachers, and as a result, better benefits and working conditions have come about.

Although the majority of the recent changes have been for the better, schools are still facing certain drawbacks. One of these is that the public seems to want bigger schools. Walters said, "There is greater pressure on the small school unit to keep up with the pace of change. It is difficult to finance our needs with everything moving so fast economically. The public seems to be looking for bigness and this plays down the concern for the individual student and teachers. We just don't have funds to keep up with the change. There are definite advantages to a smaller school, and I think that sometimes the public tends to overlook this."

Walters added that recently, the federal government has offered encouragement to schools and has made more funds available, but they have also put more restrictions on them.

Another problem, according to Walters, is that people are not

close to their schools and some of the parents are tending to lose some interest in the schools. Many varying factors have brought this about. Walters also made mention of the recent school bond issue voted on across the state during the general elections. The \$300,000,000 bond issue was approved in Perquimans County by a vote of almost three to one. He feels this is a very encouraging sign, showing that there is still a lot of interest in the public schools. Walters said, "I would like to thank all of those people that did help the approval of the school bond come about, because it will greatly benefit our girls and boys in the years to come."

Walters tries to work equally with all of the county's four schools. But his job is made somewhat easier due to the principals of the county schools. Walters is proud of all of the principals and he said, "All of our principals are doing a really good job, and have been very cooperative. I think they realize the needs of our youngsters. As a rule, they handle most of the problems that arise in the different schools." The four county school principals, to which Walters refers, are William E. Byrum, Thomas Maston, Bill Tice, and Gary Q. Stubbins.

Being a superintendent takes up many hours other than those at the office. Walters is constantly working on reports, attending meetings and conventions, and in general continuing to work for improvement of the county's school system. Walters likes to hunt, fish, and do a little bit of gardening during what spare time he has. He also said he is looking forward to retiring in the not too distant future.

Names Added To List

A Boy Scout awards article was cut last week due to space. Apologies to the young men whose names were omitted.

Tony Smith-woodcarving, personal fitness, camping, emergency preparedness. Linwood Spellman-woodcarving. Gary Winslow-Metal Engineering, Model Design, Coin Collecting, Building. Dwayne and Wayne Paul, and Howard Eves were recognized as new Scouts. Linwood Spellman, Shelton Skinner, David Perry and Tommy Harrell were all awarded the Tenderfoot Badge. Jefferey Vaughn was awarded the Second Class Rank, and Anthony Smith and Jerry Chappell made Star Scout. Randy Simmerson who recently achieved Scouting's highest rank, Eagle Scout was