

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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Myers Pleads Guilty On Two Counts Of Robbery

ELIZABETH CITY—Johnnie A. Myers Monday pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court to two counts of bank robbery in the Albemarle area last year and one count of auto theft. U.S. Eastern District Judge John Larkins sentenced the 31-year-old Hertford native to an ef-

fective prison term of 25 years on all three counts. Larkins gave the stocky defendant 20 years each on the robbery of banks in Edenton and Hertford, with the sentences to run concurrently. The judge added five years for the theft of an automobile from Pensacola,

Fla., the vehicle used in the getaway after the Sept. 18 robbery of a branch of Peoples Bank and Trust Co. at Edenton. At his arraignment shortly after court opened Monday, Myers pleaded not guilty to all three indictments. But shortly before the lunch break at 1

p.m., he and defense attorney Herbert Mullen changed the plea to guilty. Mullen told Judge Larkins that he and U.S. attorney Tom McNamara had engaged in plea bargaining in the case. The bargain called for a guilty plea with the government to recommend to the court that the bank robbery judgments run concurrently. McNamara did not make a recommendation on the charge of interstate transportation of a stolen vehicle. Mullen said he entered the plea bargaining at the request of the defendant. Myers pleaded guilty to taking more than \$11,000 in the armed robbery of the Edenton bank and more than \$13,000 from a branch of the Bank of North Carolina at Hertford on Dec. 20, about two months later.

He was captured in neighboring Gates County after the second holdup. The only sworn witnesses in the trial were FBI agents, who said Myers told them that he spent the loot from the Edenton bank robbery but that all the money taken in the second holdup was recovered. One of the items bought with the money from the Edenton robbery was a \$5,300 automobile, impounded by the FBI. Mullen said Myers is willing to turn over the title to the car once the prosecution determines who should be the rightful owner, the Edenton bank or the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. At the time of the robberies, Myers was a fugitive from the state prison unit at Creswell in Washington County.

Farmers Planting More Corn

North Carolina farmers indicate they intend to plant more corn in 1974, but are currently planning no change in soybean acreage. These findings are based on a survey of growers conducted around January 1 by the State's Crop Reporting Service. Results showed corn acreage increasing 10 percent over 1973 to 1,700,000 acres and soybeans holding at last year's plantings of 1,550,000 acres. The 4 remaining crops included in the survey all show declines. Cotton, at 175,000 acres, would be down 4 percent from last year, while sorghum at 115,000 acres would be off 4 percent. Intentions for oats fell 3 percent to 155,000 acres, while barley dropped 5 percent to 70,000 acres.

Due to the large increase in corn, acreage of the six crops would be 129,000 acres above last year's plantings. U.S. CORN AND COTTON UP, SOYBEANS DOWN For 35 major agricultural States in the Nation making the January acreage survey, combined indications followed a pattern nearly similar to that in N.C. Corn intentions across the U.S. are up 10 percent. Soybean states in the group showed intentions to be down 3 percent. Sorghum grain is up 1 percent. Cotton is forecast 17 percent above last year. Oats and barley are expected to be under 1973 - oats 1 percent and barley 15 percent. Officials of the Crop Reporting Service said the primary purpose of the January Survey was to give growers and agricultural planners some advance notice of what farmers are planning for 1974. The Statistical agency emphasized that the report only expresses farmers thinking around January 1. Final plantings may vary considerably from those expressed depending upon such factors as weather, and the availability of seed, fertilizer and fuel, plus the influence of the report itself on farmers actions. Another report on farmers intentions as of March 1, covering prospective plantings of most major crops in N.C. and the U.S. will be released. March 14.



Charlie H. Mims

Elected To Board

Charlie H. Mims, of New Hope was elected to the National Board of Directors, Ruritan International, at the club's 42nd annual convention in Tampa, Fla., recently. Mims, a member of the Ruritan Club in Durant's Neck has held offices in this club, as well as Poplar Branch Ruritan Club he belonged to prior. He was formerly District Governor of the Albemarle district Ruritan Clubs. He was also Lt. Governor and Governor of the Albemarle District. Mims represents North Carolina in his new directors job. He will serve the area as national director for Albemarle, Ronaoka and Cape Fear Districts. U.L. (Buddy) Lee of Raleigh was elected national vice president. Next year's convention will be held in Chicago.

Abbott Files For Walkers Judgeship



O.C. ABBOTT

O.C. Abbott, an Elizabeth City attorney, has filed for the district court judgeship, now being held by Judge Wilton Walker, Jr. of Currituck. The 43-year old attorney is a native of Vance County. Other background material regarding Abbott, according to biographical information reveals he graduated from Vance County public schools. Abbott spent four years in the U.S. Air Force, during the Korean Conflict. Higher education includes a B.S. degree from North Carolina State University in agricultural education, earning high honors and being selected Outstanding Student in school of education. He also earned ranks in Phi Kappa Phi, an honorary fraternity. After earning his degree he work with the Soil Conservation Service in Troy, N.C. He transferred to the Albemarle in December, 1961. He worked in this area until June, 1965. He then took his wife, the former Nancy Gilliam of Kingsport, Tenn. and their three children to the Chapel Hill area, while he earned his J.D. in law, and graduated from UNC in August of 1967. It was then back to the Albemarle, and Elizabeth City where Abbott became associated with Russell E. Twiford. A partnership was formed in January, 1969. The firm name now is Twiford, Abbott, and Seawell. Abbott is a member of the North Carolina State Bar, North Carolina Bar Association, and First District Bar Association. Civic activities include membership in the Elizabeth City Kiwanis Club, South Camden Ruritan Club, past president; a Mason, assistant scout master, member Order of Arrow and in the summer, coaches pony league and teener league baseball. The family attends Camden Methodist Church. Abbott is serving as chairman of the board and is a past superintendent and Sunday School teacher. Abbott paid the \$235 filing fee Jan. 15. He is a well known people's attorney, having defended persons in all of the first district's county courtrooms. There are two district court judgeships available. One belongs to Fentress Horner, who is resigning because of the state mandatory age limit. The other seat open belongs to Walker, who has resigned with eyes toward the District Superior Court Judgeship, belonging to W.W. Cahoon, who is resigning. Herbert Small, District Attorney is also seeking Cahoon's seat. Horner's seat is being sought by Jack Chaffin, an Elizabeth City attorney.

Candidates may file a proper "Notice of Candidacy" form with the proper board of elections (county or state) in person or by mail. Candidates filing by mail must have their form executed by a Notary or other officer authorized to execute documents. The registration deadline for persons not already registered and who want to vote in the primary elections is Monday, April 8. At press deadline Tuesday morning, no Perquimans County persons have filed for any of the available seats.

Filing Deadline Is Set Feb. 25

Filing deadline for persons wishing to file for any political office, which is open in 1974 is Noon, Monday, Feb. 25, according to state election law. Candidates for the state legislature (senate or house) file with the county board of elections in the county of their residence. Candidates for all county offices also file with the county board of elections. The primary election, unless changed by the 1974 General Assembly is scheduled for Tuesday, May 7. The second primary, if needed is set for June 4.

Assistance Available

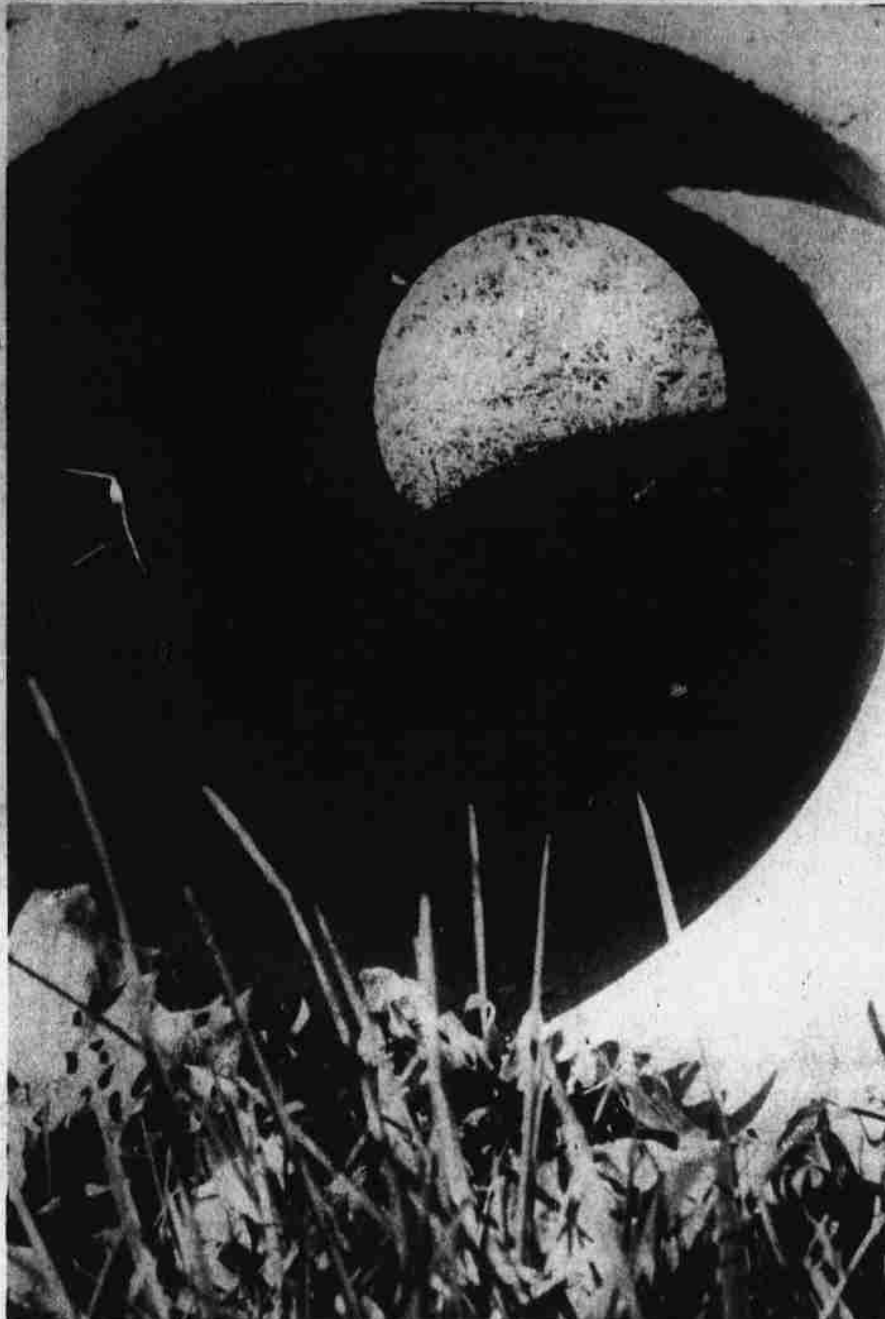
Financial assistance is still available for students at the College of The Albemarle. A new federal program for assistance called the Basic Opportunity Grant has been so successful that the deadline for applying has been extended from February 1 to April 1.

4-H Club Meets

The Wynn-Fork 4-H Club met recently at the Hertford Grammar School. President Lyn Hurdle called the meeting to order. Anne Rogerson gave the devotion - reading Psalms 1, followed by The Lord's Prayer. The Pledge to the American and 4-H Flags were said. Corinne Underwood, Secretary, read the minutes of the last meeting. The roll Grafton Beaman, an Elizabeth City attorney and former Federal Magistrate, has announced his candidacy for Walker's post. At deadline Tuesday morning, no announcement was made if Beaman had filed yet.

Dean's list

Phyllis Moore has been placed on the Dean's List for the first semester at Mount Olive College in Mount Olive, N.C. Mrs. Moore is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Moore of Goldsboro, N.C. and the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. W.P. Lane of Route 1, Hertford.



TUNNEL TO LIGHT—A graphic photo of a sewer pipe, captured by staff photographer Kathy Marren shows it as a tunnel to light. The more one stares at the photo the longer the cylinder appears.

Promotions Announced By Peoples Bank Co.

The Board of Directors of Peoples Bank and Trust Company of Rocky Mount today announced the promotion of Roy Chappell to Assistant Vice President and Cashier and Mrs. Nettie Leo Chappell to Manager of Hertford's West Drive-In Office. Chappell, a

graduate of Perquimans County High School, joined Peoples Bank in April of 1955 as an officer trainee. Prior to his employment with Peoples Bank, Chappell served as a Corporal in the U.S. Army from 1953-1955. The Cashier of Peoples

Hertford Office has attended the Carolina School of Banking in Chapel Hill as well as numerous Consumer Credit Seminars. Chappell's civic interests include the Heart Association, Red Cross and the Bethel Fire Department. He is a Ruritan and serves the Bethel Baptist Church as Deacon and Treasurer.



ROY S. CHAPPELL, JR.

Chappell is married to the former Jeanette Gail Bunch, and they have two children, Kent and Amy.

Mrs. Chappell, also a Graduate of Perquimans County High, joined Peoples Bank in June of 1953 as a bookkeeper and served as Head Bookkeeper for several years. Currently, Mrs. Chappell has been serving as Head Teller in the West Office.

In the community Mrs. Chappell is active in the Perquimans County Marching Unit Parent's Club, has served as a Counselor for the New Hope United Methodist Church M.Y.F. and as Church Treasurer.

Mrs. Chappell is married to William Penn Chappell and they have three children, Ella Sue, Jeffrey and Lori.

She has recently completed the bank's Customer Relations and Staff Sales Training Course.



NETTIE LEO CHAPPELL

Craft Workshop

A craft workshop, sponsored by the Extension Service, will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 5, at the County Office Building beginning at 10 a.m.-12 noon. Salt Ceramic will be taught by Mrs. Esther Morgan of the Bethel Homemaker's Club. Mrs. Morgan will instruct the group in making apple trees using the Salt Ceramic technique.

Anyone interested in learning this craft is invited and should call Mrs. Paige Underwood, Home Economics Extension Agent, 426-7897.

TO SING

Cecil Forbes and his singing group will be at Anderson's Methodist Church Saturday, Feb. 2 at 7:30 p.m. The public is invited.

Court Action

Judge Fentress Horner presided at a brief session of Perquimans County District Court on Wednesday and heard the following cases:

Walter Daniel White was given a 60-day jail sentence on a shoplifting charge;

James Jones, charged with disorderly conduct, received a sentence of 30 days which was suspended on the condition that the defendant stay out of Teresa's Place—pay cost of court and damage to Gum machine;

John Henry Davis was sentenced to not less than 30 days or more than 6 months at the Department of Correction, when found guilty of being a public

drunk (second offense); David Alfred Daniels was taxed with a fine of \$15 and costs on a speeding charge;

Charges of trespassing, assault, and assault with a deadly weapon against Jean G. Ange, Janet L. Lee, and Leon Ange were dismissed.

GUEST SPEAKER

The Bishop J.W. Wactor, Presiding Bishop of the Seventh Episcopal District will be the guest speaker for St. Paul A.M.E. Zion Church Service Sunday, Feb. 3, at 11 a.m.

The public is invited to attend. Rev. C.O. Parker, Host Pastor.