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Areas Of Environment Concern Explained By Land Use Planner

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following article has been submitted by Curt Robbins, Perquimans County Land Use Planner, explaining the reasoning behind the areas of environmental concern.

When the first European colonists arrived in the Albemarle region over three hundred years ago they found vast and untamed forests, swamps and rivers. The Indians who inhabited the area were hunters and fishers and made no attempt to change the natural environment in which they lived. With the first colonists, however, the environment of the region and Perquimans County began to change. Sturdy colonists cleared forests and drained swamps to make room for their fields so they could grow crops. Where the Indians had been content to live with the natural environment, the colonists were determined to change

it and make it better for human habitation.

This process had continued since colonial times with natural lands being cleared or drained for agriculture, homes, and businesses. Natural areas have become smaller and fewer in most places including Perquimans County, although the county has been lucky to avoid the urbanization that has occurred in some areas. Until quite recently both state and federal governments encouraged this destruction of the original environment in order to put the land to "productive" use. But biologists, foresters, soil experts and others have now come to realize that the earth is not limitless and that natural areas serve a purpose in the natural scheme of things. The State Legislature in 1974 found

that the coastal wetlands are among the most biologically productive lands in the state and the nation as well. Serving as a natural habitat for many animals they are also the breeding grounds for shrimp, waterfowl and various species of fish. They fairly teem with life.

As a result, past policies urging the destruction of natural areas are being reversed. People are beginning to realize that all things on earth regardless of their appearance, serve a purpose and that by destroying the natural environment man may destroy himself in the end. We must preserve the critical natural areas which we have left if we are to avoid the serious consequences now facing many areas. The people who come to the county during the summer vacation

months are fleeing the reality of unrestrained growth and industrialization. Very few people choose to vacation in cities such as Raleigh and Norfolk. They would rather be in the more rural coastal counties.

The Coastal Area Management Act enacted by the 1974 Legislature affords Perquimans County the opportunity to keep much of its natural environment by designating the most critical areas as Areas of Environmental Concern. By so designating an areas its use is restricted. It does not totally prohibit use of an area but recognizes that it is important to use it carefully. It is unwise, for example, to build homes and businesses in an area prone to floods. By designating flood plains as Areas of Environmental Concern such development can be prohibited.

Of course there are other reasons for including an area as an AEC. It may be particularly beautiful, sustain a remnant species of plant or animal life, be particularly prone to erosion or have historical significance. In all of these cases it is in the public interest to develop such areas appropriately. Unrestrained development

would destroy them and, in some cases, be a threat to other areas and people.

Any development within an Area of Environmental Concern must, therefore, have a permit. This is to assure that the area is not destroyed by the proposed project. All projects in AEC's that already require permits; those of greater than 20 acres in size; those that involve construction of one or more structures having an area of 60,000 square feet and; those that involve drilling or excavating natural resources on land and under water will require a permit from the Coastal Resources Commission.

So while some types of development will be restricted, it is in the public interest that such restrictions are made. These areas are important not only to the people of Perquimans County but in some cases to the state and nation as well. As such they must be protected from indiscriminate development and misuse. The time during which we could afford to abuse the land and our national resources has passed. We must now protect our remaining resources and practice sound management. This is what the designation of Areas of Environmental Concern is all about.



COMMITTEE MEETS — Shown above are Charles Mims of Hertford, Frank Guthrie of Chesapeake, Va., Russell Burgess of Dublin, Va. and Dr. Jack Snider of Bristol, Tenn. The four members of Ruritan National make up an appointed committee to set up a Ruritan Speakers Bureau. The group met in the county courthouse Friday. (Ward photo)

National Ruritan Committee Meets

Several leading figures in the National Ruritan Organization were in Hertford Friday to meet with Charles Mims. The four men make up a committee to initiate a National Ruritan Speakers Bureau.

Those visiting included Dr. Jack E. Snider of Bristol, Tenn., Ruritan National Secretary; Russell Burgess of Dublin, Va., Ruritan National Executive Secretary; and Frank Guthrie of Chesapeake, Va.,

member of the speakers bureau committee. Also attending the committee meeting held in the county courthouse was Ms. Sue Yancy, Administrative Assistant in the National office located in Dublin, Va. Mims, a resident of Rt. 3, Hertford, is a member of the local Ruritans and serves as one of 21 National Ruritan Directors. He was elected to that position for a 3-year term at the National Ruritan Convention. He is

presently serving his second year. Active locally, Mims also works with three districts and serves on various national committees. Mims and his fellow members of the speakers bureau committee were appointed by the Ruritan National President, U.L. "Buddy" Lee of Raleigh, N.C.

Ruritans is the largest national rural service organization having some 38,000 members in 31 states. North Carolina ranks third in the nation membershipwise. The organization is set up with seven community service committees to work with the local club. The local Ruritans compete annually for recognition on the national level in such areas as public services, social concern and human development.

New Books At County Library

The Perquimans County Library has recently been given the following books as memorials: *Hometown U.S.A.* — in memory of Mrs. Mattie Dail; *Complete Flower Arrangements* — in memory of Mrs. Martha Turner; two in memory of Mrs. Alice Kanoy are: *Wedgewood Jasper and Painting Through the Eighteenth Century*. A number of other memorial books have been ordered but have not yet been received.

Other new books in the library are: *Animal Architecture*; *The Doctors' Book of Vitamin Therapy*; *History of the Comic Art Strip*, Ragtime (the current book-of-the-month); *The Eagle Has Landed* (the current Literary Guild selection); *Fear Is the Key*; *The Dark Crusader*; *Golden Rendezvous South* by Java Head and Circus, all by Alistair McLean; *Bella, Sleep in the Woods*; *The Bird in the Chimney*; and *The Marriage Chest*; all by Dorothy Eden; *Four Doctors*, by Siegle; *The Course of the Rebels*, by Shewmake; and *Watchman's Stone* by Randall.

Several light romances, mysteries and westerns and two books for young people, *Table Tricks* and *Day Book of Magic* complete this list.



TO ATTEND CONFERENCE — Ms. Jean Gibbs will soon be touring Spain for one month where she will attend the International Human Relations Conference for Counselors in Costa del Sol. Ms. Gibbs is a guidance counselor at Copiague Senior High School in Copiague, Long Island.

Chamber Begins Civic Calendar

The Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce civic committee is in the process of trying to coordinate community activities through the initiation of a civic calendar.

The proposed plan would be for a calendar of upcoming community events to appear in the Perquimans Weekly each week in a regular spot. Civic clubs, churches, and community organizations would be asked to call the

Chamber office at 426-5657 by noon on Monday for the items to be in the paper the following Thursday. This will give Chamber secretary Jean Harrison the needed time to compile the calendar before the 11 a.m. Tuesday newspaper deadline.

Those with items to appear in the civic calendar should call the chamber office as soon as possible in order to let the notices of club meetings, or fund-raising events appear several times prior to their happening.

Report Earnings

ROCKY MOUNT — Peoples Bank and Trust Company today reported an increase in mid-year earnings of 20.0 per cent over the same period last year.

According to W.H. Stanley, Peoples Bank President and Chairman of the Board, "Assets have reached \$224.9 million compared to \$207.3 million during the first six months of 1974. Total deposits have increased from \$176.4 million to \$191.6 million. Loans totaled over \$132 million compared to \$120.8 million at the same time last year."

"Income before security gains or losses rose to \$1,152,040 compared to \$952,388 during the same period in 1974. Per share earnings before security gains were \$1.74 at mid-year compared to \$1.44 in June, 1974. Net income was \$1,159,328 compared to \$967,050. On a per share basis, this amounted to \$1.75 compared to \$1.46 at mid-year in 1974."

Stanley indicated that economic factors in the bank's market area have caused an increase in loan demand and a moderation in the rate paid for large certificates of deposit which enhance the bank's earnings.

During the first six months of 1975, Peoples Bank remodeled its office in Harelville, and began construction of facilities in Bailey and Roxboro. Peoples Bank currently has 35 offices in 22 North Carolina communities.



DOOR-TO-DOOR — Perquimans County Marching unit member Yvonne Baker and her mother Mrs. Carol Baker, participate in a door-to-door fund-raising campaign that has been taken on by the organization to raise money to purchase a new bus.

New Bus: Funds Needed To Keep Girls Rolling

The members of the Perquimans County Marching Unit and their parents have been busy this past month making a house to house canvas in the county receiving donations to fund their new bus. The campaign will end Friday, August 8.

Garland Eure, fund chairman, reports that the bus which costs approximately \$12,000 has been ordered and delivery should be made in September. To date the unit

has \$2,997 in the bus fund as a result of bake sales, candle sales and donations but much more is needed.

Each person and business is asked to give as generously as possible when contacted since there are no funds available from the town, county or school to buy the bus. Each donor will be given an official receipt by the solicitor.

Eure asks that citizens who have not been contacted, should send their donation to

Movin' On

HERTFORD — A rumor received here at press time was confirmed when a report that the large Kenworth truck used on the television program, "Movin' On," was spotted at the Perquimans County truck weighing station on U.S. 17 north of Hertford. A telephone call to the station confirmed that the truck had indeed stopped to be

weighed as required by law, but the unidentified station spokesman said the 'movie stars' were not inside. Crew members of the "Movin' On" program were driving the truck to Jacksonville, N.C. following shooting on location in Norfolk, Va. The truck by-passed Hertford, too busy to stop, 'cause they were movin' on.

Sr. Citizens Friendship Club Meets

The regular meeting of the Senior Citizens Friendship Club was held July 15 at the E.I.C. Building with Mrs. Rosa B. Gibbs presiding.

Mrs. Maria Bryant introduced six new workers with the Senior Citizens programs. They are: William Simon, Timothy Hedgepeth, William Bowser, Susetta Bowser, Marion Roundtree, and Joyce White. These young people will be aiding the senior citizens in getting to hospitals, banks, stores, etc.

Jaycees Will Attend Summer Board Meeting

Perquimans County Jaycee president, Welly White recently announced plans for local Jaycees to attend the Summer Board Meeting of the North Carolina Jaycees to be conducted August 1, 2, and 3 in High Point.

Approximately 500 Tarheel Jaycees will gather for the annual event to evaluate programming, initiate new areas of effort,

discuss ways to improve effectiveness within local communities, and conduct state organization business. One highlight of this year's conference will be guest speaker David Hale, immediate past president of the United States Jaycees.

Presiding officer for the event will be newly-elected North Carolina Jaycee President Jim Morgan of High Point.

EMS Council Meets Tonight

A regular scheduled meeting of the Region R Emergency Medical Service Council will be held tonight, July 31 at 8 p.m. at the Perquimans County Rescue Squad Building in Hertford. The purpose of the meeting is to elect officers and

appoint committees for the fiscal year. All persons interested in upgrading emergency care are invited to attend. The continuation of this council is a prerequisite for obtaining federal and state support.



PRESENTATION — R.L. Stevenson (left) presents an Award for Patriotic Service to The Perquimans Weekly, accepted by Ray Ward, General Manager. The award was made jointly by the Treasury Department and Stevenson, Perquimans County Savings Bond Chairman, for the newspaper's support of the savings bond program. (Newbern photo)