

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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## Local Telephone Companies Merge

At stockholders' meetings Aug. 24, approval was granted for The Norfolk & Carolina Telephone & Telegraph Company, a North Carolina company formed in 1902, to merge into The Norfolk & Carolina Telephone & Telegraph Co. of Va., a Virginia company formed in 1913, and for the surviving company to change its name to Norfolk & Carolina Telephone Company. All regulatory approvals were granted on or before that date. It is a Virginia corporation, since Virginia law requires all utilities to be domesticated; however, the principal office will remain in Elizabeth City, N.C.

Its service area covers eight counties in northeastern North Carolina (including the Outer Banks from Hatteras Inlet north) and portions of Chesapeake and Virginia Beach, Virginia. The territory has a balanced economy of agriculture, light industry, tourism, and military installations, and its Virginia territory in part is a bedroom community for the

Norfolk metropolitan area. The company serves approximately 55,000 telephones with a total of \$35.2 million assets. Its approximately six percent growth rate per year exceeds the industry average. It becomes the 22nd largest telephone company in the United States by this merger.

Approximately 75 percent of the common stock of the company is now owned by the former North Carolina Company's common stock and 25 percent by the former Virginia Company's common stock.

There will be no change in the directors, officers and employees. The old Virginia territory will be the Virginia division, the old North Carolina territory will be the North Carolina division, which will be subdivided into the Elizabeth City District, Edenton District, and Manteo District. It is expected that it will produce some administrative savings and facilitate improved cost controls and profit maximization.

## Local Library Seeks To Join Regional System

The first step toward enlarging the Pettigrew Regional Library system was taken on Thursday night when a special meeting of the Pettigrew Regional Library Board of Trustees was held in Edenton. Tom Shepard, chairman of the Board, welcomed a delegation from Perquimans County which presented a request to join the regional library system.

Mrs. John T. Biggers of Hertford, chairman of the Perquimans County Library Board of Trustees, was accompanied by Mrs. G. W. Barbee, Mrs. Jesse Harris, Mrs. Elaine H. Phillips, and Mrs. Wiley Whedbee, all of Hertford, and Mrs. Etta Turner of Durants Neck. In addition to the Board members, the Perquimans delegation included their County Librarian, Mrs. Silas Whedbee, who has announced her intention to retire in the near future.

Attending the special meeting were Pettigrew Board members from Tyrrell County Ms. W. A. Basnight, Mrs. Grady Swain and J. D. Brickhouse. Mrs. Geoge Barden and Mrs. C. J. Belch represented Washington County. In addition to the chairman, Chowan County board members attending the meeting were Mrs. Marguerite Burch and Mrs. J. N. Slade.

Pettigrew Regional Library Director Nellie M. Sanders presented an overview of the Administrative Code of the Department of Cultural Resources which governs

the formation of library regions. There was discussion of the various benefits of the merger. In broad terms, regional libraries "are organized to provide more adequate service than could be provided by separately operated libraries. Under a single administrative system, the member libraries will have the services of professional librarians who specialize in services to various age groups and in special types of service. A multicounty system can provide improved in-service training opportunities for non-professional staff members. By increasing the number of people served, the per capita cost of quality service is lower than for small populations."

"More specifically," Ms. Sanders said, "if the level of local support from Perquimans County for the operating expenses of their local library (such things as salaries and fringe benefits for local non-professional employees, utilities, building maintenance and insurance, postage and supplies) is sufficient, they will be eligible for State Aid to pay for a certified public librarian in addition to the basic State Aid which they are now receiving. The Regional Grant of \$8,000 is a bonus to county libraries which are part of a region with at least \$1.75 per capita in local support."

Shepard assured the board members from Perquimans County that

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MRS. EVELYNE LEBARS BAKER

## Awarded U.S. Citizenship

Mrs. Evelyn LeBars Baker of 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Hertford proudly announces becoming a citizen of the United States. She was born in southern France.

Mrs. Baker appeared in the New Bern District Court in New Bern, N.C. on Wednesday, Aug. 25 and was administered the Oath of Citizenship by John R. Whitty, Clerk of the United States District Court. Federal judges, Larkens and Johnson presided over the session, and she proudly became a citizen.

She was accompanied by New Bern by her husband, James Baker, and daughter, Mrs. Linda Lewis of Belhaven, N.C. After receiving her citizenship, Mrs. Baker and members of her family visited Tryon's Palace and its Gardens.

Mrs. Baker is employed at Don Juan Manufacturing Corporation in Hertford.

## Board Of Education Holds Meeting

By KATHY M. NEWBERN

The Perquimans County Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting Monday night with one member absent. Following the call to order by Chairman Clifford Winslow and the reading and approval of the last meeting's minutes, items of business were discussed.

The first item on the agenda was approval of an attendance policy for all grades in the county's school system. At their last meeting, the Board approved a policy of attendance for students at Perquimans High School. After discussion with principals and other administrators, it was decided that a similar policy was needed for students in all grades. The following attendance policy was approved by the Board: (1) If a student misses more than 20 days (10 days in the case of half year or semester courses), for reasons other than illness, he will not receive credit for work in that class or grade; (2) A student can miss more than 20 days with a doctor's excused absence and loose no class or grade credit; (3) A review committee will be formed in each school for the purpose of appeal by parents and students; (4) The record keeping procedure for attendance will be handled by each principal in his respective building; (5) A conference will be held when a student misses 10 days (5 days in the case of semester courses) and a record of this conference will be maintained. The purpose of this conference will be to remind the student of the attendance policy and notify him of the number of days missed; and (6) The parent shall be notified by certified mail when a student has been absent 15 days.

In other business, the Board discussed travel compensation for Board of Education members when travel by members is necessary for Board business. Funds to cover such subsistence are set up by the County Commissioners. The Board of Education approved a statement to be presented to the Commissioners asking for compensation for services equal to that received by the Commissioners when on business.

The Board also approved guidelines presented to them for the screening, identification, referral and placement of Exceptional Children.

Under personnel matters, the Board accepted the resignation of Archie Miller from his position as electronics and drafting teacher at Perquimans County High School. And the Board approved all of the following for employment in the Perquimans County School System: Aubrey Baccus as the electronics and drafting teacher at Perquimans High; Delsie Riddick as a third grade teacher at Central Grammar School; Marjorie Lindsey as a fifth grade teacher at Hertford Grammar School; Hazel Eure as a physical education aide at Perquimans Central Grammar;

## Update On Swine Flu Immunization Program

In the past few months it seems that the "topic of conversation" has been the swine flu. We have all read about it, listened about it on the radio, and seen it on the television. An attempt will be made through this article to give local people an "up-to-date" report on the swine influenza.

Influenza has a special place in the history of epidemic diseases. Plague, smallpox, yellow fever, typhus, and the classic scourges have now generally been controlled. Influenza, however, has not.

This is so because the virus which causes the disease changes its makeup so often that men cannot build up specific immunity to it. Once every ten years or so, there occurs what scientists call a major antigenic shift. When this happens, the flu virus has changed so much that almost no one has any immunity to it. The population is wide open, unprotected against infection. This happened in 1957 with what was called the Asian flu, and again in 1968 with Hong Kong flu. In both years, millions of Americans were sick within a period of a few months.

Scientists have now identified a swine influenza virus which represents a major antigenic shift from viruses currently circulating in the human population. The new strain was first identified in early 1976, following an outbreak of influenza at Fort Dix, N.J. Several hundred recruits were infected and one died.

Scientists do not know for certain if this virus, officially called A-New Jersey-76 (Hsw IN1), will spread to the general population during the next flu season. If it does, it could cause a worldwide epidemic with extensive illness.

There is no known cure for influenza, although antibiotics are important for treating some of the complications of the disease. Vaccination before exposure to the disease is the only way an individual can protect himself from influenza.

This year, the nation is carrying out an unprecedented effort by the public and private sectors to provide vaccine for most U.S. citizens.

Following are answers to the most commonly asked questions about influenza.

Q. How effective will the new influenza vaccine be?

A. It is generally believed that effectiveness of today's flu vaccines ranges somewhere from 70 percent to 90 percent. When a distinctive new strain comes along, scientists are now generally able to match a vaccine to the new strain, and it is likely that a high degree of effectiveness will be achieved in a vaccine against the swine virus.

Q. Will the influenza vaccine make me ill?

A. In the past, a small percentage of people who have been vaccinated against the flu have run slight fevers within 24 hours after receiving the vaccination. Swelling, redness, and tenderness in the arm occur in 20 to 40 percent of those vaccinated. Severe reactions are very rare.

Q. Can I get flu from the vaccine?

A. The flu vaccine contains a virus that has been killed. No one will get flu from taking the vaccine. Because the virus used in making the vaccine is grown in eggs, people who are highly allergic to eggs should not take it.

Q. What can I do for protection if I am allergic to eggs?

A. First, check with a physician to be certain that the allergy is the type that would prevent you from being immunized. However, even if you cannot take the flu vaccine, you will get some benefit from the mass vaccination program. This is so because you will be living in a protected population and therefore will be less likely to be exposed to the disease.

Q. What are the symptoms of influenza?

A. Symptoms of influenza often come on suddenly and may include some or all of the following: fever, chills, headache, dry cough, and soreness and aching in the back and limbs. Fever seldom lasts more than several days, although the patient may continue to feel weak for several days to a week or more.

Q. When can I get vaccinated?

A. At this point health officials do not know the date that the vaccine will be available. Health officials will keep you informed on the influenza program and give notification as to date, time, place, etc. through the papers and radio as soon as these issues are known.

The influenza program will be held in two phases, bivalent phase and monovalent phase. A special vaccine for the elderly 65 and over, and chronically ill will be made available earlier (bivalent phase).

The second phase (monovalent) will occur later. A mass immunization program will be conducted to immunize the 18-64 year old population. Below 18 years of age, the vaccine will not be used.

Again, the date, time, place, etc., are not known at this point; however, you will be informed through the media as soon as decisions are made.

## Civic Calendar

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

The Perquimans County Jaycees will meet at the auditorium of the Albemarle EMC Building beginning at 8 p.m. A special program on Gun Safety will be presented by Joe Tunnell. The public is invited. There is no charge.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Bethel Homemakers will meet at 2:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

The Elizabeth City Shrine Club will have a dance for Shriners and Guests from 9:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at the Elizabeth City Shrine Club. Music will be by Vince Chory and the Squires. Admission is \$5 a couple.

From 10 a.m. until, members of the Perquimans County Rescue Squad will be offering a free blood pressure check on the lawn of the Perquimans County Courthouse.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Town Beautification meeting will be held at the Municipal Building at 8 p.m.

Perquimans County Rescue Squad Ladies Auxiliary will meet at 8 p.m. at the Rescue Squad Building.

Inner-County Fire Department will meet.

Wesley Circle will meet.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Perquimans Lodge No. 106 will meet at 8 p.m. at the Lodge Hall in Hertford.

Hertford Rotary Club will meet.

Perquimans County Horse & Pony Club will meet.

The Senior Citizen Friendship Club will have its regular meeting at the E.I.C. Building in Hertford beginning at 3 p.m. Each member is encouraged to attend and bring a new member.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Durants Neck Ruritan Club will meet.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Hertford BPW Club will meet.

Hertford Fire Department will meet.

Hertford Lions Club will meet.



ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL IN PERQUIMANS — Lieutenant Governor Jim Hunt, Democratic candidate for Governor, was in Perquimans County last week as he campaigned throughout the Albemarle area. During his Wednesday stop



at the courthouse, Hunt met the people, talked about the upcoming November election and thanked his supporters. Hunt's local campaign chairman, Julian Broughton and



Wayne Ashley, were on hand to welcome the Lt. Governor. The picture at left shows Jason Smith, a young supporter meeting his candidate for Governor. Jason is the son of Mr.



and Mrs. Paul Smith Jr. Also shown are scenes of the crowd which ventured out to meet the candidate and hear his views. (Newbern photos)