

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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15 CENTS



PLAQUE OF HONOR — On behalf of the Perquimans County Commissioners, Chairman Lester Simpson, presents a plaque in honor of service given by the late Ellis Winslow, to his wife, Mrs. Amy R. Winslow. Looking on are children.

Leah and Sarah; son Van was away at school and unable to be present. Also presented to Mrs. Winslow was a resolution honoring the late Mr. Winslow for his service to the community as a county commissioner.



FORMER COMMISSIONER — Thomas Nixon was also honored at the Monday night meeting of the Perquimans County Board of Commissioners with a plaque

of appreciation for his service on the board for 16 years. Pictured above, Simpson makes the presentation. (Newbern photos)

## County Commissioners Hold Regular Meeting

Prior to the business session at the Monday night meeting of the Perquimans County Board of Commissioners, Chairman Lester Simpson made two presentations. A plaque in honor of past service was presented to Thomas Nixon, former county commissioner. Also, a plaque in honor of the late Ellis Winslow, who also served as a commissioner, was presented to his family.

During the business session, the board members agreed to adopt the rules

and regulations for the county water system and authorized the chairman to sign the operating budget for that system.

All members of the Perquimans County Board of Education, Perquimans High School Principal William Byrum, and School Superintendent Pat Harrell were also present at the meeting. The proposed plans for Perquimans High School were discussed at length by both boards along with the possibility of call-

ing for a local bond referendum for this renovation and construction. No action was taken on the matter by the Commissioners.

The board also discussed the proposed building plans for the ARPDC building to be constructed in Perquimans County. Bob Whitley, ARPDC Executive Director, was present with the plans. It was announced that a meeting would be held with the architects to discuss the construction.

## ARPDC Transferral Of Funds Questioned By Executive Board

By KATHY M. NEWBURN  
R.S. Monds, chairman, presided over the Jan. 12 meeting of the Executive Board of the Albemarle Regional Planning and Development Commission (ARPDC) held at Angler's Cove Restaurant.

The main order of business was a presentation by Elizabeth City Auditor Speight Burrows. Prior to his report, Burrows explained that he and his staff have been working on the ARPDC audit report since November 1975 and requested permission to continue the audit with the Board's approval. That approval was later granted at the end of the meeting on a motion made by Hertford Mayor Bill Cox.

Burrows also presented a proposal to change the ARPDC's fiscal year to run from October through September.

After explaining existing deficits in several of ARPDC's program areas, Burrows gave three reasons for the deficits and incomplete ARPDC records including a "major breakdown in your system of inner controls," "mismanagement and misappropriation in transference of funds," and the "start up and continuation of an unauthorized program" which was a reference to the Chowan County Day Care Program.

The question of transferal of funds was discussed at length by board members. Burrows added, "We could

not find any authorization for the transferal of these funds." The transfer was made from the Manpower Program to other program areas, Burrows added. He explained that Manpower monies were used to cover unpaid payroll taxes in the amount of \$88,000. Executive Director Bob Whitley added that "The Department of Labor was reluctant to contract with us this year as a result of paying payroll taxes with Manpower funds." Concern was expressed by several members that the situation be remedied so that it does not happen in the future. Burrows then added that the bank handling ARPDC funds had no record of anyone asking for transfer-

ral of these funds. Elizabeth City Mayor John Bell expressed a strong feeling that the banking institution was just as guilty as the local unit. Al Phillips, chairman of the Chowan County Commissioners, commented, "I think the blame lies with us." Camden County Commissioner Macom Johnson then presented two recommendations: The continuance of the audit and a transferal of ARPDC monies to another banking institution until the matter could be cleared up. This second recommendation was made into the form of a motion by Johnson and seconded by John Bell. After a roll call vote was taken the motion was defeated eight votes to seven. Following the vote, Johnson commented, "I won't stop here."

It's business with me. I am going to ask for a federal audit to come in and audit these books because I want my name and Camden County to be cleared."

Discussion continued and Burrows added that there was no indication that any of the money was "used for personal gain."

Several members asked for information to determine how authority for transferal of funds was given to then Financial Officer Bill Taylor.

Chairman Monds then told members a meeting will be held with Burrows in the near future to try to clear up the matter.

All members then supported a motion to let Burrows continue with the audit report and investigation and the meeting adjourned.

## Former POW Tells Of Experiences And Discusses Amnesty

By KATHY M. NEWBURN

A large crowd assembled in the Albemarle Academy gymnasium Saturday night to hear remarks by Lt. Col. Raymond Schrump, who told of his treatment while held prisoner of war in Vietnam for five years.

Schrump was guest speaker on the occasion of Albemarle Academy's Twelfth Annual Appreciation Dinner attended by students, parents, faculty members and alumni. Following dinner, entertainment was provided by the Albemarle Academy Chorus followed by a welcome from Headmaster Donald J. Parrotte.

E. Ray Etheridge, Chairman of the Curriculum Committee for Albemarle Educational Foundation, introduced the guest speaker as "a national hero, a former POW who gave this country 24 years of service."

Schrump, who joined the U.S. Army at age 17, served as Commander and Staff Officer for eight years with U.S. Special Forces. His tour of duty included Japan, Korea, Okinawa, Ethiopia, Taiwan and Vietnam. He was taken prisoner of war in 1968 and released in February, 1973. He retired from the U.S. Army in December of that same year.

Despite living conditions and treatment received, Schrump told how he and his fellow Americans never lost faith in God, country or fellow man. He said, "They never could break us although they did break us individually." He then proceeded to describe how he finally broke under the pressure when he was put in total isolation from the other prisoners for two and one-half years as a result of an attempt to escape. In these extreme conditions, he did finally agree to sign a statement that he had received humane and lenient treatment while held prisoner and that America's involvement in Vietnam was wrong. The lieutenant colonel said, "I did it to save my life and I have never regretted it."

Schrump elaborated on the faith he developed in God, country, and fellow man as a result of his experience. He said, "We were being denied our freedoms that we once took for granted and I cannot tell you today how much I cherish those freedoms." Concerning his faith in fellow man, he added, "We were totally dependent on one another. We all stuck together. And this (coming home) could not have been possible without the help of the American people." He also cited the efforts of his wife to have him released as a result of her visiting Paris and the efforts of groups which resulted in improved treatment to prisoners of war.

In his opening remarks, Schrump told those present that since his retirement he has devoted his time to "bringing the plight of the prisoners of war still missing in action to the attention of the public." He continued, "I do not come here tonight to be honored as a hero but simply as a man who tried to do his duty to God, country and fellow man. I have no regrets."

Schrump briefly recalled his five-year "ordeal" beginning with his capture on May 23, 1973. He told the group that the Viet Cong tried to have him sign a statement saying he would no longer participate in the war and that he was beaten when he refused.

He continued, briefly explaining the 45-day indoctrination or interrogation period he faced. He said, "At times, I spent 12 hours listening to the 4,000-year history of Vietnam over and over and over again." The meetings were eventually reduced to weekly, monthly and finally, "about once every three months."

Schrump also went into the treatment he received in the hands of his captors.

He said he suffered some 100-150 attacks of malaria in the five years he was held

prisoner along with a variety of other jungle diseases. When he did receive

medical treatment, which was infrequent, it was as he described it, "elementary, at best" including crude bandages and vitamin shots. His home was a hole in the ground measuring four feet wide, eight feet long and four and one-half to five feet deep. He said the prisoners later "graduated" to "monkey cages" made of logs. Although, according to Schrump, "the treatment varied from time to time," he added vivid descriptions of techniques used to punish him and fellow prisoners of war.

Despite living conditions and treatment received, Schrump told how he and his fellow Americans never lost faith in God, country or fellow man. He said, "They never could break us although they did break us individually." He then proceeded to describe how he finally broke under the pressure when he was put in total isolation from the other prisoners for two and one-half years as a result of an attempt to escape. In these extreme conditions, he did finally agree to sign a statement that he had received humane and lenient treatment while held prisoner and that America's involvement in Vietnam was wrong. The lieutenant colonel said, "I did it to save my life and I have never regretted it."

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In closing Schrump touched on the amnesty issue which in his words, "angers me." He said, "I cannot in my life understand anyone letting these men come back until an accounting for those missing is done." The crowd applauded as the former POW announced, "I will not welcome a one back in my community and will have nothing to do with them."

Schrump received a standing ovation when, in concluding his remarks, he said, "I ask that God bless you as he has me and may our future generations enjoy the freedoms that we have in the past. God bless America."

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## Traffic Statistics Are Released

CHARLOTTE — The N.C. State Motor Club estimated that 122 persons would die in traffic accidents on North Carolina highways during seven holiday weekends in 1976. The actual fatalities were 125.

"Unfortunately, our estimates are usually rather accurate," commented Thomas B. Watkins, chairman of the statewide organization. "And that means tragedy on our highways."

Watkins said there is no magic formula for predicting the number of fatalities that will occur.

"We base our estimates on current fatality trends, predicted weather conditions, length of holiday periods, and averages for a holiday during a ten-year period," the motor club executive explained.

"The purpose is to make the traveling public more alert and more safety conscious," Watkins said. "We do not intend for our estimates to scare. Rather, we want to cause an awareness of potential dangers on the highways."

Watkins pointed out that many accidents are caused by speeding, reckless driving and driving under the influence. "If a person realizes this, perhaps he will slow down and obey safe driving practices," he said. "And if our estimates save only one life each year, then our efforts are not in vain."

The motor club's predictions for each holiday during 1976 were:

Holiday	Predictions	Actual Deaths
Easter	21	18
Memorial Day	13	19
July 4	18	19
Labor Day	22	15
Thanksgiving	20	19
Christmas-New Years	28	35
	122	125

## Finance Managing Workshop Slated

On Thursday night, January 20, at 7 p.m. in the Perquimans County Office Building in Hertford, Dr. Hugh Liner, Extension Economist, N.C. State University, will discuss ways to Evaluate Investments.

Decisions involving investment of capital for machinery, land and other long term investments by farmers are often made without determining which alternatives provide the

highest rate of return. Topics to be discussed include methods for determining: The number of years required to repay the investment, the average rate of return for the investment, what will be the value of the investment in future years.

Charles E. Hammond, Area Management-Marketing Specialist, invites and encourages farm families and agribusinessmen to attend.

## Attend Conference

R.S. Monds, Clifford Winslow, and Pat Harrell attended the Joint Conference of the North Carolina School Boards Association and the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners held Jan. 13-14 in Raleigh. N.C. Monds, a local county commissioner, is also on the Board of Directors of NCACC. Winslow, local School Board Chairman,

serves as treasurer of the NCSBA.

The meeting was by invitation and included discussions of interest to the representatives in both areas. Items discussed included Budget — Fiscal Control Act, Future Directions in Employee Negotiations, Open Meeting Law, and Local Control.

## Chamber Of Commerce Offers New Service

The Board of Directors voted to add a new service by the Chamber due to the numerous inquiries about rental housing.

If owners of business or dwelling property for rent would contact the Chamber office and give a description and location the office will be happy to pass on the information. The office number is 426-5657.



PRESENTATION — L.A. Cottle, District Manager of Roses Stores, makes a presentation to Mrs. Kathleen Nelson, manager of the Hertford Roses Store. Mrs. Nelson achieved a sales in-

crease and net profit improvement for the tenth period which represented the best performance of any Roses Store in the local district.

Harrell also added that the day missed recently due

to snow and road conditions will be made up at the end of the school year rather than during the scheduled Easter vacation. The revised schedule will mean June 8 will be the last day for students and June 10 will be the last day for teachers.

Schools were let out Monday at 12:30 p.m. in Perquimans County due to