

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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15 CENTS



A DEMOCRATIC WELCOME — Estelle Felton, chairperson of the Democratic party in Perquimans County, welcomes

Attorney General Rufus Edmisten, guest speaker for the Monday night fund raiser.



A LITTLE REMEMBRANCE — Following his remarks, Rufus Edmisten was presented a gift from the local Democrats. Pictured above, local merchant and Democratic supporter Willie F. Ainsley presents a pen and ink lithograph by Jerry Miller of the Newbold-White House to the Attorney General. Ainsley pointed out that Perquimans County is the home of the house, the oldest brick home in the state. (Staff photos by Kathy Newbern)

## Edmisten Boosts Democratic Spirit

By KATHY M. NEWBERN

as "a man whose dedication and ability is being proved by the job he's doing."

Edmisten opened his remarks by saying, "What are we going to do with that public trust that the people gave us?" He stressed holding public office as a public trust and said, "We owe allegiance to those who elected us. People in public life owe it to get back to the people and find out what's on their minds."

A large crowd turned out at Angler's Cove Restaurant for the Annual Fund-Raising Dinner sponsored by the local Democratic party.

Bill Cox, Mayor of Hertford, introduced Edmisten

The Attorney General said fairness, decency and honesty should be guidelines of elected officials. He said, "As Democrats we have only one obligation. That to take a stand on something, stick with it and not worry about the political consequences of it."

Edmisten continued and received applause when he said, "I think we've got too much government. In fact, I'm tired of government. We are being governed to death." He then quoted the old adage, "The government that governs least governs best."

The Attorney General went on to discuss young

people, courts, and law enforcement. He said, "I think the only thing that we have to offer is our youth. It pains me to see these young people we arrest. If you want to see a young person get a first-hand degree in how to be a criminal, then put him in our state institutions." He continued, "Now you know I don't like dope pushers. As long as you make me Attorney General of this state, we're not going to let up for one moment."

Concerning law enforcement, Edmisten commended the job that's being done but criticized low salaries and said he was

working to bring salaries of law enforcement officials up to "livable standards." He said, "I'm glad to finally have a Governor who will back me up on these things because for the last four years, we've had nothing. We've had absolutely nothing in the form of a Governor."

In closing, Edmisten drew parallel between Perquimans County and his own home county of Watauga saying both east and west need their voices heard in state government.

## Perquimans Has 20.4% Illiteracy

RALEIGH — A new state survey has revealed that Perquimans County has the highest illiteracy rate in the state of North Carolina. Other neighboring eastern counties had rather high rates when compared statewide.

The new survey used driver's license applications to find out how many North Carolinians could read. Conducted by the Highway Safety Research Center of the University of North Carolina, the survey recorded those license applicants who had to take an oral test instead of a written one.

The test results revealed that 8.3 per cent of the state's adult population are illiterate. Other patterns were revealed as a result of the survey. It was discovered that illiteracy is greater in eastern counties than in western ones and that nonwhites were more likely than whites to be illiterate.

Perquimans County was the highest with an illiteracy rate of 20.4 per cent. Other counties in the Albemarle and their illiteracy rates,

according to the survey, were: Chowan with 11.9 per cent; Gates with 11.9 per cent; Currituck with 11.3 per cent; Camden with 7.9 per cent; Pasquotank with 7.1 per cent and Dare County

with 5.6 per cent. One hopeful sign in the report is that a similar survey conducted in 1959 showed a 20 per cent illiteracy rate in North Carolina.

## Civic Calendar

MONDAY, MARCH 7

Hertford Town Council meets.

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Perquimans County Commissioners will meet at 10 a.m.

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The Winfall Town Council meets.

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A meeting of the Winfall Volunteer Fire Department is planned.

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The Perquimans County Board of Education meets.

TUESDAY, MARCH 8

The Perquimans County REACT will meet at the Albemarle EMC Building at 7:30 p.m.

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The Perquimans County Horse and Pony Club meets.

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Hertford Rotary Club will meet.

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Perquimans Masonic Lodge meets.

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A meeting of the Perquimans County Girl Scout Neighborhood will be held at the E.I.C. Office on Hyde Park and King Street. Service team members are needed and neighborhood jobs need to be filled. Anyone interested is invited.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9

The Garland Onley Post 8148 VFW will meet at the Municipal Building at 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 10

The Perquimans County Jaycees meet.

FRIDAY, MARCH 11

Bethel Homemakers meet.

## Travel On The Up

RALEIGH — State officials today reported that North Carolina's travel and tourism industry in 1976 reached a record \$1.2 billion in revenues, a 17 percent increase over 1975.

The total spent by visitors — \$1,280,000,000 — was up \$109 million over last year's receipts.

Put another way, visitors spent an average of \$3½ million a day, every day, last year in North Carolina.

State Travel Director William Arnold said the 1976

report compiled for his office of Travel Development by Dr. Lewis Copeland of the University of Tennessee, indicates that the travel industry in North Carolina is growing at almost twice the national rate.

The report showed:

Out-of-state travelers totaled 43.9 million — up by 3.9 million from 1975 and spent \$855 million in the state's resorts, attractions, cities, and communities.

Tar Heels spent \$425 million within their own confines.