



BLACKSMITHS BEATING — Perquimans County's newest blacksmith, Rick Guthrie (left), is beating on a hot piece of metal, changing the shape to what he wants. David Brewin, right, holds the cold end of the iron and watches as Guthrie works. (Staff photo by Tony Jordan)

Old Profession Rekindled

Town of Hertford Has Another Blacksmith

By TONY JORDAN

The ears will not be deceiving if you pass by Custom Forging and Ornamental Iron Works and hear two hammers beating in unison. It simply means that the town of Hertford now has two, instead of one, blacksmiths.

Rick Guthrie has joined David Brewin in the operation located to the side of Harris Plumbing on Woodland Avenue. Brewin began making candlestick holders, fireplace poker, and other rough-hewn metal objects in Hertford during 1976. At that time, he was working as a guidance

counselor in the Pasquotank School System.

Since that time business has picked up and it's a full-time job for Brewin and his friend and new co-worker Guthrie. Guthrie has been working there for over a month.

The two men met during a course held at Brasstown, N.C. offered by the John C. Campbell Folk School. The course was taught by Frances Whitakers, described as the "Dean of American Blacksmiths."

Guthrie, who has lived in very sparsely and densely populated areas, says he feels at home in Perquimans County. "I have lived in places where the nearest town is 30 miles away," Guthrie stated.

Although the sweaty, dirty work and the loud noise of the busy hammers may not seem to be exciting work for most people, Guthrie and Brewin both agree that they would not consider any other career.

Guthrie is one of two people in the county who have recently been selected to the Albemarle Craftsmen Guild. Brewin was selected to the honorary membership in 1977.

Brewin pointed out that they have not quite perfected the craft yet. Looking at the red-hot piece of metal, he stated, "The mark of a really good blacksmith is the ability to pick this up in your bare hands."

Board Discuss Student Suspensions at Session

The Perquimans County Board of Education met March 6 to discuss among other items, mandatory retirement, the band program, revision to school calendar, spring testing and alternative measures for student suspension.

Federal legislation concerning a mandatory retirement age of 70 years was discussed for the school system's employees. The board is in the process of developing a local policy on the matter.

As the band program begins gearing up for its second concert, the board is considering the implementation of a booster club. The concert is set for March 22 at the high school. More information will be available after the concert.

A change in the school calendar was approved by the board. The last day for students will be June 6; the last day for teachers is June 8. Snow days in February are the cause of the two-day delay of the end the school year.

The board reviewed spring testing, both on the local and state level. No changes were reported, but more discussion on the matter will come in future meetings.

Replacing the gym floor and basketball backboards at Union School were listed on the agenda. The financial report was included by Superintendent James P. Harrell. Plans for budgeting for the 1979-80 year were discussed. No decisions were made.

The board approved a change in suspension of students that has existed for years in the county. If student behavior warrants suspension, the alternative program will provide students with structured learning in skill areas which the student needs assistance.

The program will become effective immediately and will include limited social contact for the students. It is being funded through money granted by the county commissioners.

The board approved CETA Title II funds, which had previously been handled by the county. The members heard a status report on the Tri-County Education Center, Feasibility Study.

Personnel allocations were discussed. It was reported that tentative allocations have come from

the state board of education. It was announced that additional funding has made it possible for the schools to hire a speech therapist.

The Perquimans County Schools System has qualified for a Safety Award to be given by the Dept. of Labor. The award is based on the number of employees and the safety record of the system.

The next meeting, set for March 19, will be held with five other county school systems in Edenton. Alliance for Progress, composed of Perquimans, Chowan, Gates, Hertford, Bertie, and Martin Counties, will review the Rockfellow Project. The project is used to develop and initiate leadership on the administrative level.

Recreation Meeting Held Monday Night

The Perquimans County Recreation Advisory Committee's regular monthly meeting was held Monday night at Angler's Cove with the officials from both the Town of Hertford and Perquimans County as guests.

A meal preceded a program by Steve Moler, Recreation Consultant, with the N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development. As part of his presentation, a National Recreation and Parks Association film, "In Search of Balance", was shown.

Mr. Moler spoke of existing relationships in North Carolina between towns and counties in the area of recreation. He compared the joint department in Perquimans County with other county-town departments in areas of approximately the same size. His comments also included budgets, facilities, potential funds and programs.

Several questions were asked at

the conclusion of the meeting.

Guests recognized were Town Commissioners Erie Haste, John Beers, "Pete" Broughton, Billy Winslow and Mayor Bill Cox, County Commissioners Welly White and Waldo Winslow, Superintendent of Perquimans County Schools, Pat Harrell, and Jerry Allen, Parks and Recreation Director of Elizabeth City. Ronnie Feaster, from the Rural Conservation and Development Office in Windsor, N.C. was also present.

Others who attended the meeting were: Mr. and Mrs. George White, Mack Nixon, Herbert White, Patti Riddick, Gill Underwood, and Wayne Henritze.

The members of the Recreation Advisory Committee are: Mrs. Paige Underwood, Mrs. Betty Hare, Mrs. Antoinette Sutton, Mrs. Rosa Talley, Mrs. Larry Drumgold, Mrs. Kay Boyce, Ed Brown, Ed Nixon, "Flutch" Dail, Billy Pierce, Tommy Nowell, and Eugene Rountree.

Work's Slow at School

Construction at Perquimans High School is moving slowly, but is expected to increase as the warmer, drier weather replaces the wet, according to Superintendent Pat Harrell. At the present, no work has been done on the proposed new construction.

The one-time agricultural shop, located on the front of the gym, has been stripped. Plumbers and electricians have been able to do the required work in renovation of the

building.

Harrell said soil engineers will be testing the soil as soon as the ground dries. With the results of the test in hand, the contractors will begin unloading fill dirt on the site. After compacting, construction work begins.

The project is approximately 30 days behind schedule, according to Harrell. He pointed out that the time may be made up if the weather breaks soon.

Attorney At Law Matthews Accepted by Supreme Court

With 12 other lawyers from the First Judiciary District in North Carolina, Attorney-At-Law, John Matthews was accepted as a lawyer who could practice before the Supreme Court. The ceremony took place in Washington D.C., March 5, before the nine Supreme Court Justices.

Matthews was the only lawyer practicing in the county to be accepted during the Supreme Court Session. "It's a rare occasion that I get to participate in the national government, other than paying my taxes," Matthews said.

Each of the accepted members was introduced individually by Rufus Edmisten, N.C., to the highest ranking judges in the country. The men were selected by lawyers who have previously been accepted.

While present, the Supreme Court announced their rulings on current cases. One of the rulings received national attention, concerning alimony in divorce cases for either sex. The court ruled in favor of the measure.

Matthews noted some surprise at the friendliness of the court. "They were serious," he said, "but not stilted."

The size of the courtroom was another surprise to the county's attorney. "As far as seating, it's not

much bigger than the Perquimans County Courthouse," he informed. He did note that the walls, floor, and ceiling were made of marble. The high ceiling made an impressive

room, according to Matthews.

"A lot of lawyers go through their life and never get the chance to come in contact with high officials. I feel I'm very lucky," Matthews said.



MATTHEWS ACCEPTED — John Matthews, Attorney-at-Law, was accepted by the Supreme Court to practice law before the highest court March 5, in Washington, D.C.

Three Men Arrested in County Case

Two men were arrested Saturday on arson charges while one of them and another has been arrested for larceny of a hog and breaking and entering.

Elmer Lee Roundtree, 33, of 105 Celestia Street, Elizabeth City, and Lloyd Thomas Meads, 27, Rt. 2, Elizabeth City, were arrested by

Sheriff Julian Broughton for larceny and breaking and entering of J.P. Perry's barn in Perquimans County. Meads and Andy Bray, 20, of Elizabeth City, have been charged with arson. Parker's barn caught fire Feb. 11.

Meads and Roundtree are being held on similar charges, larceny of

cattle, by the Pasquotank Sheriff's Department. Broughton said Camden Sheriff's Dept. and Elizabeth City Police Dept. helped in the investigation.

Roundtree remains in Tri-County Jail on bond. Meads is out on \$13,000 bond, as is Bray.

Bear Cubs Are Raised in County

By JEAN WINSLOW

Evan and Pauline Cartwright on Four-Mile Desert Road keep their pet dogs outside, but they keep their pet bears in the living room.

About a month ago, the Cartwrights were cutting wood where loggers were working. The loggers told them of a mother bear which had just been accidentally killed when she strayed into the path of a logging truck.

As they talked, faint cries were overheard and the two cubs were discovered in the cavity of a large tree. Taking them home, the Cartwrights consulted with veterinarian L.C. Cooper, who put the babies on milk and pabulum. They will soon be eating dog food.

The cubs are about 7 to 8 weeks old and will weigh four to six hundred pounds at maturity. Before that time, the Cartwrights and Forester Horace Cahoon must make a decision as to where the bears will be permanently sent, since they would eventually require an acre of fenced land and a pond.

The Cartwrights have more than one choice. The cubs can be assigned to a zoo, or can possibly be trained to cope with the wild once more. This is the first time a family in North Carolina has ever undertaken the raising of bear cubs.

In the meantime, Johnnie and Jodie, who are already answering to their names, are happily developing under Mrs. Cartwright's tender loving care. "I love every minute of

caring for them," she said of the rare black natives of this area. "I'll



"Are You Talking To Me?"

Jodie appears speechless over her new human friends. The cub and her brother are being cared for by Evan and Pauline Cartwright. It is the only known case in the state where people have adopted and raised black bears. (Staff photo by Jean Winslow)