



SIGNS PROCLAMATION — Hertford Mayor Bill Cox signs a proclamation designating Beautification Weeks for the town. Thomas Riddick (l) has been designated Livability Committee

Chairman. Joe Nowell (r) is the Chairman of the Perquimans County Industrial Development Commission. (Staff Photo by JACK GROVE)

Hertford beautification begins

Mayor Bill Cox of Hertford has proclaimed July 30 through August 11 as Beautification Weeks for the town.

During this time, local groups and individuals are asked to help to beautify the town with such projects as painting store fronts and other buildings, clearing vacant lots of grass and debris, picking up trash along town streets, and cleaning other areas of the town which have become unappealing to the eye.

The beautification effort is a part of the town's quest to achieve the Governor's Community of Excellence Award.

Sponsored by Governor Jim Hunt and the N.C. Department of Commerce, the program is designed to assist communities in the state to become more attractive for prospective industry and related economic development.

The eventual outcome of the project would be improved job oppor-

tunities and capital investments in the area.

Cox, at the request of the Hertford Town Council, is spearheading the effort to have the town named a Community of Excellence. Working with Cox are Joe Nowell, Chairman of the Perquimans County Commissioners, the county's industrial development commission, and other interested citizens.

The Albemarle Regional Planning and Development Commission is providing technical assistance in preparing the project.

The Jaycees have taken the challenge of directing the beautification campaign with the help of the Agricultural Extension Service, other clubs, and individuals. The governor feels that



FACE LIFT — New siding and paint are being applied to the home of Mr. and Mrs. James C. Boyce at 210 S. Church St. in Hertford. Efforts such as this are being encouraged by the town in its beautification campaign. (Staff Photo by JACK GROVE)

appearance of a community is one of the foremost factors considered by potential industry. A review team from the state will be in Hertford on August 16 to review the work of the town toward the Governor's Community of Excellence Award.



TOUR — Over 75 people went on the hour-long tour of the Bear Swamp Watershed Project. The photo was taken at the Smith's Bridge crossing

as the group inspected and discussed the project. Albert Moore, District Conservationist led the tour. (Staff Photo by JACK GROVE)

Bear Swamp tour is success

By DAVID LEATHERWOOD
Conservationist

Recipe for success: 150 ears of corn, 101 local representatives, 27 dozen hush puppies, 15 automobiles, 10 flood control and drainage ditches, 7 gallons of barbecue sauce, 6 state Soil and Water Conservation Commission Representatives, 5 gallons of slaw, 4 pounds of butter, 3 State Soil Conservation Service Officials, 2 pounds of salt, 1 bus and 1 pig.

All these ingredients came together Thursday, July 19 for the public inspection tour of Bear Swamp Watershed. The Albemarle Soil and Water Conservation District in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service sponsored the tour.

The day began with the annual Field Day meeting of the Albemarle Soil and Water Conservation District. The Annual Plan of Operation for the District was discussed and approved. This is a guideline of objectives the district will use to accomplish a comprehensive conservation program in the five county district.

At 11 a.m. the inspection tour introduction began with a welcome by Perquimans County Board of County Commissioners, Chairman Joseph Nowell. Following the introduction the chairman of the Bear Swamp Watershed Commission, Archie T. Lane Sr. gave

a brief historical sketch of the project. To conclude the introduction, Albert Moore, District Conservationist with SCS made a slide presentation of the actual work history of the project.

Over 115 people attended the scheduled lunch, and old fashioned pig pickin' at Jimmy "Catfish" Hunter's farm in Bear Swamp. After the lunch, about 75 people boarded a bus and about 15 cars to tour specific parts of the Bear Swamp Watershed project.

The project was conceived to alleviate the flood hazard and rectify the drainage problem in a 1300 acre area known as Bear Swamp in Chowan and Perquimans Counties. The project consisted of dragline and clearing channels to improve water run-off characteristics and provide a better outlet for the run-off. Special emphasis was placed on environmental factors such as wildlife habitat and erosion control. Channel banks were seeded with shrub lespedezea, fescue, love grass and various wildlife mast trees such as Autumn Olive, Saw tooth, Oak, Willow Oak, and Green Ash.

Participants were able to see the benefits of the project easily because of a three inch rainfall the day prior to the tour. All roads were easily passable and cropland was free of standing water within 15 hours.

Director Sullivan to retire

Henry C. Sullivan, executive director of the Hertford Housing Authority since October of 1962, will retire from that position on August 1. The newly appointed executive director is the Rev. W.I. Wolverton. The position, for the most part, is a part-time position.

The housing authority was established in September, 1961 as a low-rent housing project subsidized by the Federal Government. It was created by the town council who appointed five commissioners to run the project.

Initially, application was made to the Federal Government for 44 housing units. Government guaranteed bonds were sold in the amount of \$665,000 to mature in 40 years. At the time the bonds mature, the town

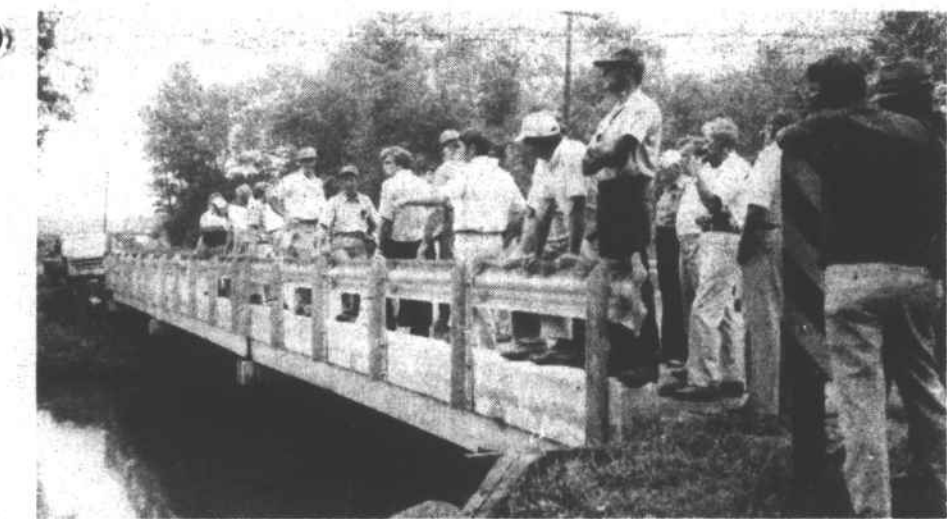


FINAL DAYS — Henry C. Sullivan in a relaxed moment at the desk that he will vacate on August 1. Sullivan will retire as Executive Director of the Hertford Housing Authority on that date.

will own the units.

Units have been added since the program started and the project now has 78 units. The current commissioners of the authority are Henry C. Stokes, Chairman, Julian A. White, D.T.

Rose, James S. Bass and Shelton Zachary. Stokes and White have been commissioners since 1961. Sullivan retired from the Hertford Savings and Loan in 1975. At that time, he was managing director of the firm.



A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE — Many participants look over the bridge to the canal which was widened

as a part of the Bear Swamp Watershed project.

Chief Skinner reports on fire calls

Chief Charlie Skinner of the Hertford Fire Department reported that 30 fire calls were made during the first half of 1979.

By the month, calls answered were: January, 8; February, 7; March, 5; April, 5; May, 3; June, 2. Of these, six were

dwelling, three were contents; three were vehicles; five were heating; and three were outbuildings.

Daughters of Charity conduct prison ministry

By JACK GROVE

Catholic Social Services serves a unique role in the community. Located at 123 Market in Hertford, it is staffed by Sister Barbara Gerwe and Sister Gloria Gilman. They are Sisters of the Daughters of Charity order.

According to Sister Barbara, Catholic Social Services is "a multi-function, family oriented agency. It is the arm of the Church reaching out to those in need." Because it is not strictly regulated, it can help those who possibly don't meet the criteria for services at other agencies.

Services are rendered to the elderly, in adoption and foster care, in counseling and crises intervention, in problem pregnancies and in ministry to prisoners, migrants and other minorities.

The Hertford agency has a very active program in its ministry to prisoners. The Sisters became aware of the need for this program through the Economic Improvement Council (EIC).

Their first visit to a prison unit was at the Gates County unit at Gatesville in April of last year. Since then, Currituck and Washington County units have been added to the program.

In an interview, Sisters Barbara and Gloria explained why the ministry to prisoners is so necessary and how the ministry is conducted.

Although there are programs of education, and training sessions in machine shops, etc. at the prisons, inmates still have a lot of time on their

hands to brood and to worry about families on the outside.

When they began the program in Washington County, the program was set up on an individual counseling basis. In many instances, prisoners, worried about their wives and families, asked them to write letters or to make personal contacts to alleviate family problems.

Often the inmates just wanted to talk about what was happening on the outside in order to forget for a little while about their prison environment.

The program at Gatesville consists of group sessions of films, tapes, singing, and prayer and devotional services. The Sisters visit the Gates unit every Wednesday evening.

They have been guest speakers at local churches, explaining the prison ministry and the needs of the prisoners. The Men's Bible Class from the Hertford Baptist Church has visited the unit along with Rev. Bullard who conducted a devotional service.

On another occasion, the choir from the Hertford United Methodist Church sang for the prisoners. And Father Joseph Klaus and members of the congregation of St. Victor's Catholic Chapel in Hertford visited the unit with Father Klaus celebrating Mass.

Sisters Barbara and Gloria have arranged for guitar lessons to be given at the Gatesville unit by a College of The Albemarle instructor. They expressed a need for guitars for this facet of the program. There is a possibility of other programs being established for the prison unit through the Adult

Education Director of the College.

The North Carolina prison system has four categories of prison units: maximum, closed, medium, and minimum custody. The units in Currituck and Washington Counties are classed as medium custody units with armed guards in towers and constant supervision of all prisoners. The Gates County unit is a minimum custody unit without the guard towers and with work release programs for the inmates.

In a visit to the Washington unit at Creswell last week, Sister Barbara had not even entered the administration building yet when she was called over to the "yard" fence by an inmate for some on-the-spot counseling. The unit is a rather grim place to visit with its guard towers and high fences topped with wicked looking barbed wire.

The Sisters visit the unit every Tuesday morning for two hours. The counseling is done in the administration building. As we entered and signed in, we were met by the unit's Program Supervisor, Preston Bunch.

Bunch coordinates the religious, social, recreation and counseling programs for the unit. Bunch said that "the Sisters have helped tremendously in individual counseling in the areas of family, marital, and social problems of the inmates."

The Sisters have been visiting the unit for about nine months. In that time, according to Bunch, they have counseled with about 25-35 percent of the inmates. (See Daughters, page 5)



PRISON VISIT — Sister Barbara (l) and Sister Gloria wait to be admitted to the Washington County Prison Unit. (Staff Photo by JACK GROVE)