



Plowing under

George Winslow plows under a field off N.C. 37 in the late afternoon sunshine.

Winslow said that because of wetness he only got one third his usual corn yield

from the land. (Photo by NOEL TODD-MCLAUGHLIN)

Rec group asks for athletic field

By MIKE McLAUGHLIN
The Perquimans County Recreation Department is seeking a 10 to 14 acre facility to accommodate an ever expanding county softball program.

Recreation director Billy Wooten expressed the need for such a facility in a special meeting with the county board of commissioners on Monday night.

Wooten said the facility would also be used for little league football and baseball, and proposed a plan in which the county could provide its share of the project's cost through a donation of land and volunteer labor. Grant money would pay for the rest.

He estimated that the facility, which would include back to back fields, as well as concession and restroom facilities, would cost between \$40 and \$80,000 to construct, excluding land cost.

In a lengthy presentation, Wooten, backed by several members of the recreation department's advisory committee, outlined the growing pains and problems of the county softball program.

"Softball is the biggest continuous activity in this county," Wooten said. There are presently between 300 and 400 active participants, he said.

The lack of an adequate facility is causing the county to miss out on tournament revenue that could make the softball program virtually

self-sufficient, he said. Wooten sifted through several options for improving the situation, including upgrading the present facility at Perquimans Union School, and purchasing land for a facility, but he singled out a county land donation as the most economically feasible possibility.

According to Wooten, problems with the current field include:

- The field is overscheduled. Games are stacked into the late night hours, discouraging participation.

- The field is difficult to maintain. Students utilize the field all day for recreation and in the evenings, Winfall residents use it, often ruining pre-softball preparations.

- The lights and poles on the field are in extremely poor shape.

- There is some discussion of turning the field into a facility for the school football program.

- There is no storage space at the field.

The property Wooten proposed to utilize is located off U.S. 17 behind the N.C. Department of Transportation Shop in Winfall.

The county presently receives some \$800 in rent for use of the property.

While some of the commissioners were supportive of

the proposal, others had reservations.

"I think what we really need to do is upgrade the facilities we've got," said commissioner Lester Simpson.

An advisory committee member argued that the need had gone unmet long enough.

Five years ago we came in here and begged and pleaded for lights and you were good enough to give us the lights. But you said 'Ya'll boys make do for a couple of years and we'll see that you get a field,' he said.

Simpson, however, felt that if the present facilities were upgraded both the school and the recreation department would benefit.

Joe Nowell, chairman of the commissioners, promised that the board would have an answer for the recreation department by the Nov. 5 meeting of the commissioners.

The commissioners also interviewed another prospective county extension chairman.

Ken Bateman, a crops agent with six years experience in extension work, was interviewed for the position.

Bateman, however, expressed some reluctance about relocating to Perquimans County.

The commissioners had previously interviewed Bill Jester, a crops agent in Tyrell County, for the position. A decision will be made at the Nov. 5 meeting of the commissioners.

Crop damage relief in sight

The Perquimans County Farmer's Home Administration office is checking into whether or not county farmers will be eligible for emergency loans to offset crop losses caused by heavy rains during the early part of the growing season.

"We have to determine if enough people have sustained a loss to qualify the county," said Melvin Howell, county FmHA supervisor.

Rep. Walter B. Jones said recently that the program is being offered to help farmers recover losses caused by poor weather conditions during this year's growing season.

Gates, Pasquotank and Currituck Counties have all been determined to be eligible for the program.

In order to qualify, a farmer must have sustained a 20 per cent loss on a major crop, and

be able to meet certain credit eligibility requirements.

If the farmer has strong enough credit to go to his normal lending institution for assistance, he will not be eligible for the program, no matter what his total crop loss.

Howell said that at this time, corn crops appear to have suffered most in this

county, particularly in the Joppa section.

It was an unusual growing season, however, in which some farmers enjoyed higher than average yields while others suffered losses.

Farmer George Winslow said that one of his corn fields, located off N.C. 37, which ordinarily yields 150 bushels per acre, yielded only 50

bushels per acre this season.

Soybean and peanut crops are still being harvested, and it is yet too early to tell how well these crops will do, Howell said.

He said he is "pretty sure" the county will qualify for the program, which lends money at a 5 percent interest rate, with a repayment period of up to 7 years.

Marching unit, band compromise in works

The Perquimans County School Board has appointed a committee that will try to work out a compromise between the marching unit and the high school band.

That compromise could result in present members of the marching unit being accepted into the band without being able to play an instrument.

No new members would be accepted into the unit and there would be a year by year phasing out of students who do not play musical instruments.

The entire group would be under the authority of band director David Ziemba.

It was decided to study the possibility of such a compromise in a special meeting between school officials and marching unit representatives on Monday morning.

The marching unit is a private organization sponsored by donations and member fund drives. The unit had been told that it would not be able to march at high school football games after this year because of the formation of a high school band.

Resulting controversy led to a decision by the school board to allow the two groups to share performance

time during halftime festivities at the games.

At Monday's meeting, however, there was no mention of the split time arrangement. Marching unit representatives said they would accept a compromise if one could be worked out.

High school principal William Byrum outlined a sketch for a conditional compromise that had apparently met with the approval of Ziemba.

Board chairman Clifford Winslow said that would take a great deal of cooperation on both sides of the issue to work out a compromise.

"We have a potentially explosive situation," Winslow said. He urged those persons involved to take an optimistic approach in looking for a solution to the problem.

Previous emotional exchanges between those persons connected with the band and those connected with the marching unit have created a difficult atmosphere for compromise.

In a related matter, marching unit representatives were told that the North Carolina Attorney General's office had ruled that it would be illegal for the school board to turn over

school property to a private group unless through public auction to the highest bidder.

The marching unit parent's organization had previously asked if a bus titled to the school system by the group could be returned.

In addition the organization had asked if the school board could donate \$4,000 to the marching unit for the bus and other equipment should the unit decide to disband.

The attorney general's office ruled that such a move would be unconstitutional.

Council candidates talk about themselves, issues

By NOEL TODD-MCLAUGHLIN

Five candidates will vie for the two seats available on Hertford's Town Council this year. Running in the November 6 election are incumbents Mattie "Pete" Broughton, and Billy Winslow. Also filing for election are Dennis W. Hare, Jesse Harris, and A.L. West, Jr.

Current issues include such topics as attracting industry to the area, cultivating a more open policy between the council and the community, and lowering utility rates.

Dennis Hare, 33, is from Chowan County but has lived in Hertford since 1972 and is active in several civic organizations including the Perquimans County Jaycees, where he serves as treasurer, and the American Legion.

Although Hare has no previous experience in public

office, he feels the managerial skills utilized in owning and operating The One Stop Service Station in Hertford would be an asset to the town.

"I would like to serve all the people in the town of Hertford," said Hare, adding that he would like to see a "more open policy" between the people of Hertford and the town council.

One of the most important duties facing Hertford's town council, according to Hare, is to attract industry to the area. "I would do anything in my power to get some industry here," Hare said.

A graduate of Nashville Auto Diesel College, Hare has served in the United States Air Force.

A.L. West, Jr., 30, is originally from Dunn, N.C., and has lived in Hertford for four years.

"My wife and I have made Hertford our home, so I want

to be involved and I want to work to get everyone else, including the young people, involved," said West.

West feels that it is important for a council member to find out exactly what the community wants before pursuing a project or idea.

Organized community expansion and "getting away from Vepco" are issues West would like to work toward if elected to the council.

West is an Adult Services Social Worker for the Perquimans County Social Services Office and also supervises all rest homes in the county.

An active Jaycee, West also belongs to the American Legion, and the disabled American Veterans Association.

West served in Viet Nam while in the Army, attended Campbell University, and is currently working towards



West

completing his Master's degree in Educational Administration at East Carolina University.

Jesse L. Harris, 60, of Hertford, has eight years of previous council experience under his belt from service rendered in the 1960's.

"I also have 40 years of transacting business decisions to offer the town of Hertford," said Harris, who calls himself a Real Estate Developer and a Tobacco Warehouse.

Although Harris was reluctant to talk of particular issues he would like to work on, he admitted that the "Vepco problem" was



Broughton

something he would like to see solved.

"If elected, I would like to institute some changes but I can't say just what until I've studied the town budget. I do know, however, that I would do everything humanly possible to lower the monthly utility bill that each citizen receives," said Harris.

Harris graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a B.S. in Commerce, and served in the Army during W.W.II in the Finance Department.

Incumbent Billy Winslow, 48, already has eight years of council experience, and seeks



Harris

re-election because he wants to see several of the council's aims that he has actively been working on be completed, namely the King Street and Recreation Projects.

The King Street Project involves the demolition and redevelopment of substandard housing in the King Street area.

The Recreation Project includes the development of a water front park.

"I am very much interested in our town," said Winslow. A Hertford native, Winslow has worked for Winslow Oil Company for 24 years and is presently the Assistant



Winslow

Bookkeeper there. Winslow is also the Trustee for the town's Pension Fund, and the town's representative to the Recreation Department.

Another incumbent, Mattie "Pete" Broughton, 61, has also filed for re-election.

"I have had four rewarding years on the council. Although at first I think there was some speculation concerning the presence of a woman on the board, we have had a fine relationship," said Broughton, who is the first and only woman ever elected to Hertford's Town Council.

Broughton feels that



Hare

problems to be faced in the 1980's will be greater and that the town will need experienced people in order to cope.

"I'm as highly qualified as anyone running through the experience I have had working for the town," Broughton said.

A Hertford native, Broughton has served as Assistant City Clerk for 14 and a half years, and has been secretary to three mayors. She is presently employed as Assistant Secretary and Treasurer for Hertford Savings and Loan Association.

Youth injured in crash

A two car collision injured a six year old Crestville boy Sunday morning near Hertford.

Six other persons involved in the accident were treated and released at Albemarle Hospital, according to a hospital spokesman.

Teddy Dail, Jr., 6, was in satisfactory condition on Monday afternoon with a broken femur (the bone that runs from the hip to the knee).

The accident occurred on U.S. 17 south of Hertford when Jay Malcom Watson of Chesapeake, Va. tried to make a U-turn in front of a Ford station wagon traveling north.

The wagon struck Watson's 1978 Ford passenger car and came to rest in a ditch on the east side of the road.

The driver of the wagon, Willie Thoman Dail of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and five

passengers in his car, along with Watson, were taken to Albemarle Hospital.

With the exception of Teddy Dail, all were treated and released.

Watson's car received an estimated \$2500 in damages

and damages to the station wagon were estimated at \$1500.

Watson was charged with failure to yield by investigating officer Y.Z. Newberry of the North Carolina Highway Patrol.

Children should wear light costumes, he said, and parents should check their candy before allowing them to eat it.

Last year one child bit into a needle inserted into a Halloween treat, Merritt said.

Merritt advised town residents to keep their cars

Watch for tricksters

The Hertford Police Department will be beefing up its patrol Wednesday night in an effort to thwart would be Halloween vandals.

Police Chief Marshall Merritt said Halloween is traditionally a night of increased vandalism. The department will be on the lookout for egg throwers, pumpkin smashers and others of dubious intent.

Merritt advised town residents to keep their cars

parked in their back yards to make them less convenient targets for flying eggs. He also advised that residents keep their homes well lighted.

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