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Audit shows

County is on sound financial footing

A recently released audit shows Perquimans County government to have completed the fiscal year ending June 30 in sound financial shape.

According to the audit, the county spent \$105,765.15 less than a general fund budget of some \$800,000. In addition, the county received some \$50,000 more than had been budgeted in general fund revenue for the fiscal year.

The unanticipated revenue came largely from ad valorem taxes (\$25,705.47 more in collections than had been budgeted) and interest

on investments (\$15,456.08 more than had been budgeted).

"It showed we're in very good financial condition," said county finance officer Durwood Reid of the report.

The audit was completed by R.E. Aiken, Jr., a certified public accountant from Elizabeth City.

As is customary in auditing procedure, Aiken provided some criticism of the county's financial affairs in a cover letter accompanying the audit report.

In that letter, Aiken cited a

lack of internal controls in the county tax office and water department.

"This office is where the majority of cash collections of the county are received," Aiken wrote.

The county commissioners discussed the problem at a recent meeting and determined that instilling more internal controls would require the hiring of additional personnel at prohibitive cost.

They also stressed that there is no reason to suspect that the lack of internal

controls has been abused by county employees.

In his letter, Aiken stated that internal controls are always a problem in small counties.

Aiken also wrote of a problem in dispensing of anti-recession funds by the county.

"Anti-Recession funds must be spent or obligated within six months," Aiken wrote. "There was \$23,842.99 available for appropriation at July 1, 1978. The county was not in compliance. During the fiscal year ended June 30, 1979, all anti-recession funds had been spent," he wrote.

Fire kills elderly woman

An elderly woman was killed and two others injured when fire destroyed a two story home in the Yeopim Community on Wednesday morning, Dec. 26.

Annie Skinner Bonner died in the blaze, which erupted when a faulty oil heater exploded in the downstairs section of the Frank White residence.

Her daughter and White's wife Fannie White was hospitalized with severe burns, and her grandson, Warner Bonner, was treated at Chowan Hospital for slight burns and shock.

The Bethel Volunteer Fire Department was the first to respond to the blaze, and fire chief Donald Hobbs said the wooden structure was flat-

tened when the department arrived on the scene.

The fire actually occurred in Chowan County, though, and Chowan County firefighters arrived on the scene a short time later.

White told authorities that after the heater exploded, those persons in the upstairs portion of the house had no time to flee before the

structure was totally engulfed in flames.

He said he yelled to those upstairs to jump, and rushed off to get help.

Bonner knocked out a window and jumped and was followed a short while later by Mrs. White.

The family had reportedly already constructed a new brick home and was preparing to move into it.

Town hires new police officer

The Hertford Police Department has announced the addition of Eugene

McLawn, 32, as a new patrolman for the town force. McLawn was born in

Ayden, N.C. but has lived most of his life in Elizabeth City, where he attended Basic Training School at the Police Academy.

A former dispatcher with the Elizabeth City Police Department, McLawn has also served as the police chief in Gatesville, N.C.

"Actually, I was the entire department in Gatesville," said McLawn, who left the part-time post in search of a full-time position.

An ordained minister with the Holiness Assembly of God, McLawn is a former pastor

and founder of the Roduco Assembly of God Church in Gates County.

He is married to the former Deborah Ann Marriner of Elizabeth City and they have two children: Ronnie Eugene, 12, and Lora Lee, 8.

Although presently living in Elizabeth City, McLawn said that he and his family would relocate in Hertford after his wife, who is expecting, has the child.

McLawn fills the vacancy created by the resignation last August of Gene Mitchell who joined the Army.



Eugene McLawn

Clifford Winslow

Christian beliefs lead to service

By MIKE McLAUGHLIN
Except for the two years he spent in the army beginning in 1954, Clifford Winslow has lived his entire life in Perquimans County.

But in matters pertaining to public education and his Quaker faith, the Belvidere farmer moves to the head of the class for the entire state.

Already chairman and 13 year member of the Perquimans County Board of Education, Winslow was recently elected chairman of the state school board association, a position which yields a great deal of influence in setting state schools policy.

Winslow is also the equivalent of chairman of the state board and a national officer for the Society of Friends, or Quaker denomination, which claims 10,000 members in North Carolina.

That's quite an achievement

for any man, particularly for a man who has himself had no formal education beyond the high school level.

Otherwise, his life has followed a fairly average pattern.

As is the case with many young people, Winslow wanted to get out of high school and go to work, and, predictably enough, not long after graduation, Winslow and Marie Rountree decided to marry. In subsequent years they were to raise three children together.

That wasn't in the immediate future, though, as they got back from their honeymoon to find Winslow's draft notice waiting in the mailbox.

He took the one year farmer's deferment that was an option at the time and worked to get his affairs in order.

The sticky part of getting drafted for Winslow was that his religion absolutely forbids

taking up arms against one's fellow man.

Then, as now, he was committed to his faith.

Winslow was among those who opted for alternate service. "We were willing to give our lives rather than take another's if necessary," Winslow said.

He went through basic training just like any other soldier, except that he never shouldered a rifle.

The refusal to bear arms earned him some heckling and some dirty details from sergeants, but Winslow stuck by his resolve and spent his military hitch as a dental lab technician.

Religion made him different then, and has continued to impact on his life, leading him into ever increasing roles of responsibility.

"I believe the Lord leads those of us who make ourselves available into positions in which we can be of in-

fluence to others," Winslow said.

In effect, Winslow has turned over the reins to Christ, and his faith has led him into so much volunteer work that one wonders how he finds time to keep the 450 acre farm cultivated.

Citing the number of farming hunters in Perquimans County, Winslow insisted there is enough time to get everything done.

"You put your priorities where you want to," he said. "You can always find time to do what you want to do."

In observing Winslow's presiding over the county school board one can easily see why other organizations have turned to him for leadership.

Rather than rush through the agenda in rapid-fire fashion, Winslow makes sure the board takes time to discuss each item.



Bare tree reflections

Bare trees cast an eerie reflection on the backwaters of the Perquimans River. Their leafless branches are a sure indication that old man winter is upon us. (Photo by NOEL TODD-MCLAUGHLIN)

It's taxpaying time again

Perquimans County residents must pay their 1979 property taxes before Jan. 8 or face a 2 percent percent of the tax bill penalty, according to tax supervisor Keith Haskett.

Haskett said that payment must be received in the tax office on Monday, Jan. 7, to avoid the penalty. After the month of January, the taxpayer will be charged an additional .75 percent penalty for each month he is delinquent.

Last year the tax office had collected some 97 percent of its levy by the end of June and payments have continued to trickle in since then, Haskett said.

The total valuation of taxable property in Perquimans County in 1979 was \$1,173,506, he said, adding that new construction and the subdivision of property adds some 8 percent to the million dollar plus county tax base each year.

January is also the month for listing property for 1980 tax bills and the process has already started in the four townships of Perquimans County.

Mrs. Paul Byrum is the list taker in the Belvidere Township, and is taking lists at the Belvidere Community Building.

The Bethel Township list taker is Mrs. Charles Ward, and she is working out of C.R. Ward's Store.

In the Hertford Township, Ora Winslow is taking lists in the Perquimans County Courthouse, and in the Parkville Township lists are being taken by Mrs. Anna Newton at the Winfall Community Building.

Taxpayers who do not list during the month of January will be charged a 10 percent penalty. (Consult the tax supervisor's ad in today's WEEKLY for more detailed information on tax listing.)



Winning by giving

Clifford Winslow has dedicated himself to his religion and to community service. The result has been that his leadership qualities are in demand on the state level.