

# Perquimans People

## Oil company fire

# Memories warm, not pleasant

Last week marked the second anniversary of the Winslow Oil Company fire, and today there is little to mark the spot except a few charred remains.

But the fire is far from forgotten in this small town, particularly by those who were most affected.

"The only way you could have felt the fear was to be there," said Jean Winslow, whose husband Julian is the owner of the independent oil company.

Julian was down with the flu, the only reason he wasn't already at the office when the blaze erupted at 7:50 a.m.

Jean had on her running

clothes and was about to take off on a 20 minute jog.

"All of a sudden I heard this tremendous blast, so I ran down to that window," she said, pointing toward the far end of the house. "It's us!" she said to her husband, then she ran out of the house and over to the oil company just a few blocks away.

What was supposed to have been a short jog turned into a sixteen hour ordeal as she spent the rest of the day and much of the night on rescue squad duty.

"They told us we ought to be right across the street and if it blows up, well..."

Three different oil com-

panies jammed up against the residences that line Grubb Street threatened the entire town.

Only the determined efforts of area fire departments, directed by Hertford Chief Charlie Skinner, saved the town of Hertford, she said.

There wasn't a chance for the oil company though, as the orange blazes and black smoke billowed into the January sky.

Jean described the nightmare of watching as one of the large tanks exploded, sending its top floating over house-tops like a giant slow-motion frisbee and landing on Center Hill fireman Frank White.

At one point the fire departments ran out of water and had to draw it from the Perquimans River.

The Winslows' fears were compounded by the fact that they had little insurance on the facility. Julian Winslow said the insurance amounted to about 25 cents on the dollar.

Winslow's father had little use for insurance, and had raised his son to think the same way. What little insurance Julian had was purchased after his father died.

The cost of getting back into business was more than \$600,000, a tremendous financial burden for the Winslows.

"I have no idea how long it's going to take," Julian said. "We hope to pay for it in our life time."

Winslow wasn't one to mope over his misfortune, though. "It happens and what the hell

you gonna do about it," he said. "There sure wasn't anything I could do about it then."

The next day he was back in business, operating out of the rooms above Peoples Bank on Church Street and picking up fuel from Hollowell Oil Company.

Now Winslow Oil Company sprawls across two acres of land in Winfall, and is much safer than the crowded half acre of bulk tanks and offices that was the oil company off Grubb Street.

If there was a positive aspect of the fire, it was the increased safety consciousness that resulted afterwards.

Slide shows were prepared that showed the techniques used in battling the blaze, and the fire departments, which proved themselves well prepared to fight the fire, are probably even better prepared now.



Firemen battle blaze

Firemen battle the blaze at the Winslow Oil Company fire on Jan. 10, 1978. Safety precautions taken since the fire will remain the largest in the history of Hertford.

## Hollowell Oil Company deemed more than safe

Hollowell Oil Company, located in Winfall, has been deemed not only safe, but more than safe by Phil Riley, representative of the Fire and Rescue Service, a Division of the North Carolina Department of Insurance.

"Hollowell Oil (Company) is one of the safest built bulk plant facilities that I've ever seen," said Riley who added, "and Joel Hollowell has gone

far beyond what he had to do to install a safe facility."

Riley, invited to Perquimans County by the Winfall Volunteer Fire Department, was in the area last week to present a pre-fire planning program for Hollowell Oil Company in which four (Hertford, Winfall, Belvidere, and Inter-County) area volunteer fire departments participated.

And by pre-planning a fire, Riley said the possibility of experiencing a major loss due to fire was slim.

Riley also cited safety measures Hollowell has taken within the facility itself as fire preventive.

According to Riley, all of Hollowell's bulk tanks are designed so that if a fire should arise, the oil valves automatically close.

Riley also noted that the fuel flow can be shut off at all or any points, and that all the fuel tanks are designed to keep fuel from flowing out of control and to prevent spilled fuel from flowing beneath the tanks.

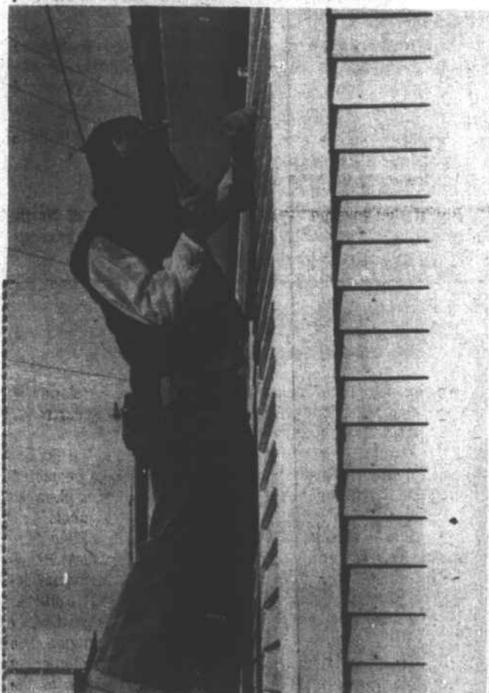
After a simulated fire staged last Thursday night at Hollowell Oil Company by both the Hertford and Winfall Volunteer Fire Departments, Winfall chief Wayne Winslow said, "Within a period of five minutes we had laid enough hose to put three attack lines into the fire," and added, "That's laying over 2,200 feet of hose."



Post drill gathering

Area volunteer firemen gather for a picture after pre-fire training at the Hollowell Oil Company in Winfall. Pictured with the firemen are Phil Riley (right, front) and Joel

Hollowell (next to Riley). Riley, of the N.C. Department of Insurance, declared the oil company to be one of the safest he has ever seen.



## Replacing windows

Billy Owens replaces windows in the department of recreation offices on Grubb Street. The project was paid for by the Jayettes Roc-for-Rec project this past fall and will hopefully help keep the offices warm.

## DSA forms available

The Perquimans County Jaycees have announced that forms are available to nominate persons for the 1979 Jaycee Distinguished Service Award, which will honor one individual for outstanding service to the community.

The forms may be obtained from Archie Miller, chairman of the DSA program, at Miller Livestock, or from Wayne Ashley at the Bank of North Carolina.

The award will be presented at a banquet program on Jan. 31.

## Outstanding woman picked

Local nominees for the Perquimans County Jaycee Outstanding Young Woman Award were: Chris Korsegay, Brenda Singletary, Brenda Teranow, and Mary White.

The Perquimans County Jaycees are proud to announce that Brenda Y. Singletary has been named as their nominee for competition on the state level, where the five outstanding women of North Carolina will be selected.

**NOTICE**

The dental office of  
**Dr. Jack L. Boone, DDS**  
will be closed through Friday  
January 25 while Dr. Boone is on  
active duty with the NAVY. Normal  
office hours will resume Monday,  
January 28. For information,  
call: 426-5452

**NOTICE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with General Statutes 163-33-(8) that the Primary Election will be held May 6, 1980 and the Second Primary, if necessary, will be held on June 3, 1980, within the County of Perquimans, North Carolina. The hours will be 6:30 A.M. until 7:30 P.M.

CANDIDATES seeking Party nomination in the First Primary, May 6, 1980 may file in the office of the Board of Elections beginning at 12:00 noon, January 7, 1980, and not later than 12:00 noon, February 4, 1980, pursuant to General Statutes 163-106-c.

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**How not to save choke victim**

Mama Cass used to sing with the Mamas and Pappas. Her voice was clear as crystal — "was" because she died, choking on food.

As choking incidences increase this season, would you know how to save such a victim? First of all, don't backslap a choking person. This could lodge the object deeper in the throat. Rather, apply the Heimlich Maneuver by pressing just below the nbcage and jerking inward.

I'll send you a Home Choking Chart if you'll clip this article and send to my Clipping Service, Box 5051, Raleigh, NC 27650



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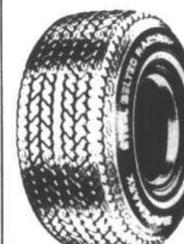
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