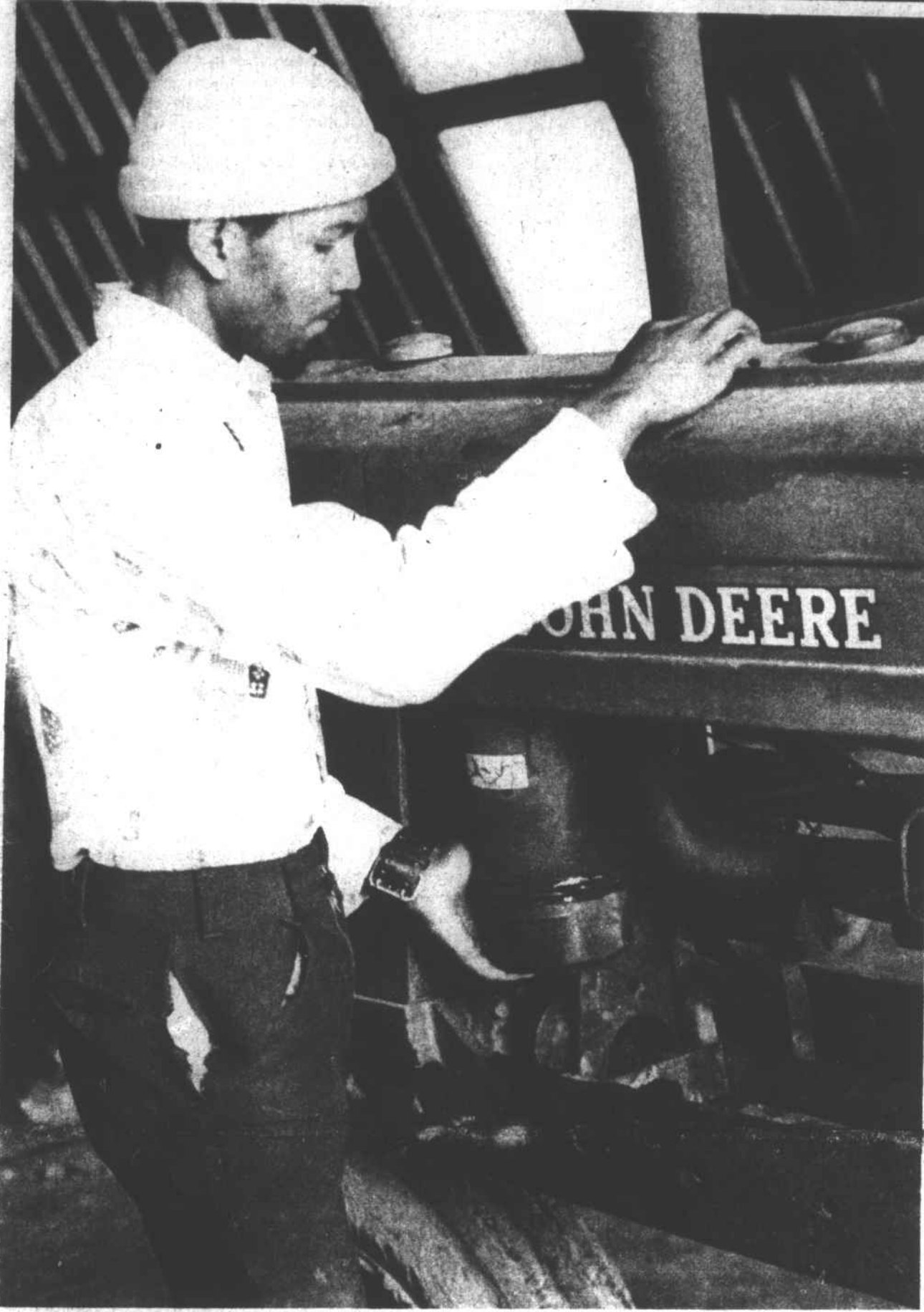


THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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Apprentice mechanic

Michael Banks works on a tractor at the White Hat Seed Farm in New Hope. Banks is an apprentice under a program sponsored jointly by the Department of Labor and College of the Albemarle. (Photo by MIKE MCLAUGHLIN).

Earning and learning Apprenticeship offers rare opportunity

"Experienced applicants only" is probably the most discouraging phrase in the English language to those persons trying to break into the skilled labor market. Without experience you don't get a job and without a job you don't get experience. But a new program is utilizing an old method to try and bring about a solution to the predicament. That method is apprenticing, and the program is being operated jointly by the College of the Albemarle and the N.C. Department of Labor. Employers are currently being sought to take on apprentices who have received 12 months formal training in such trades as diesel mechanics, air conditioning and refrigeration, welding and electrical installation and management. In return for providing on the job training, the employer is reimbursed \$1.55 of the apprentice's hourly wage. He also receives a \$16 per day "journeyman's fee," in exchange for time employees spent in training the apprentice, and a maximum of \$150 in reimbursement for spoilage and breakage that comes with learning a job. All reimbursement from the state ends after the apprentice has been on the job for six months. Michael Banks is one such apprentice working in Perquimans County. Banks maintains and operates equipment at the White Hat Seed Farm in New Hope. Banks graduates from a one year program in diesel mechanics on Monday, but his on the job experience has already brought him in contact with gasoline engines and will eventually include cleaning and processing seed, as well as other tricks of the farming trade. For Banks, the opportunity came along at just the right time. "I got out of the service and had nothing else, had no job. This program came up and I thought it was good deal, he said." His employer, Albert Eure, is also high on the program. "I think it's a good idea. It gives a chance for the student to go to school and get on the job training as well. The subsidy gives the employer an opportunity to have more patience with a young man who doesn't have any experience," Eure said. Eure said that he would bring his apprentice along at a relaxed pace, gradually exposing him to more job skills. "I'm obligated to teach him a trade," Eure said. The apprenticeship is intended to last for a period of three years, but if the employer feels his apprentice has mastered his trade in less time, he can be graduated early, according to program coordinator Bill Humphrey. Humphrey said the program was initiated in order to train skilled laborers for the Wanchese Harbor Project in Dare County. But red tape has delayed the project for about a year and a half, and participants are finishing up their school work with nowhere to practice their trades. By the time the apprenticeships expire, Wanchese Harbor should be a viable labor market for program graduates, he said. Another goal of the program is to expand opportunities for skilled workers at home, so that they won't be siphoned off by the high pay and benefits of the Norfolk region. So far some 15 of 42 program graduates have been placed in apprenticeships in the area. At least one of those 15, Michael Banks, couldn't be more tickled with his situation. "I've enjoyed the program very, very much and it's taught me a lot," Banks said. "I graduate March third and I'm going to feel good to walk across that stage. I'm a happy young man at his time."

Career center

Curriculum is discussed

Some 39 teachers representing 18 subject areas met with local principals, superintendents, and consultant Dr. Jack Owenby, last Wednesday and Thursday to develop a potential curriculum for the proposed Tri-County Career Education Center. When curriculum and floor plans are finalized, Ken Stalls, director of the Tri-County Center, will be in a more solid position to begin the search for construction money for the center. If funded, it will house advanced vocational and academic programs for students of Gates, Chowan, and Perquimans Counties. The session will be used to determine the floor plan for the career center, which will in turn determine the acreage needed. Site selection will be the next step. "We hope to have the potential curriculum finalized around the middle of March," said Stalls. Stalls and Owenby, the consultant from the Southeastern Regional Agency of Tuscaloosa, Ala., are presently in the process of reviewing and compiling the results of last week's curriculum session. Copies of the results will be available to the three counties and presented to the Tri-County Steering Committee by mid-March. Teachers, chosen by principals and superintendents, were divided into three basic categories, including academics, vocational, and the arts and humanities. Instructors from each subject area within the three report which explained the philosophy of the subject, the proposed space requirements in square feet, including the number of classrooms, seminar rooms, planning spaces, etc., and the projected use of the desired facilities. According to Stalls, utilizing the teacher recommendations is a key factor in planning the center. "Using such a broad input across the three counties makes sure that we won't leave anything out that should be considered," said Stalls, who also feels that the use of Owenby as an outside consultant is beneficial. "He can give us an unbiased and outside opinion and keep us out of the 'tunnel vision' pitfall," said Stalls.

Clearing up the letter incident

In the Feb. 21 edition of the PERQUIMANS WEEKLY we quoted Perquimans High School Principal William Byrum as having said that football coach Calvin Webster asked him to destroy a letter of criticism concerning coach Webster and not to put it in Webster's file. Coach Webster has informed us that he never asked Byrum to destroy any letter and did not understand why Byrum would do so. Further, Webster said that Byrum's comments lent the impression that there are deep dark reasons for his removal as football coach that would be embarrassing to him if brought out in public. Webster said that this is not the case. Byrum agreed that he never destroyed a letter at Webster's request, but said that he did destroy a letter. He said he did not think that he had said Webster asked him to destroy the letter. While we maintain that Byrum's comments were correctly reported, it is our belief that the error concerning Webster's action should be brought to public attention. The sixth step gave the students guided practice through independent work. The students worked individually at their desks on practice sheets while Mrs. Hill moved about the room checking their understanding. In the final step, Mrs. Hill summarized the lesson. According to Mrs. Talley, the theory is an effective way of teaching any subject to all ability levels. In addition to the video, Mrs. Hill will also teach a lesson to the group present at the association's meeting. Mrs. Hill is married to Gerald K. Hill who is presently attending East Carolina Medical School.

Unlocked cars bonanza for thieves

A rash of burglaries swept through Hertford last weekend, as articles and money were removed from five different automobiles. On Saturday, Feb. 23, Mrs. Linda Robertson of Rt. 3, Hertford, reported that while visiting the Morris Kornegay residence, her pocketbook was stolen from her unlocked car. A sum of \$50 was taken, as well as an unendorsed check made out to Mrs. Robertson worth \$130, and three credit cards. On Sunday, Feb. 24, Terri Kay Copeland, of 215 Woodland St., reported that her Avon bank bag holding some \$275 in cash and an unknown quantity of checks was stolen. "It probably happened between 10 and 11 p.m. of the 23rd," deduced Hertford Police Chief Marshall Merritt, "because that was the only time the car was unlocked." Merritt also said that Miss Copeland's brother, Scott, of the same residence, reported that a 5-ton hydraulic lift, valued at approximately \$20, and a socket set, also valued at about \$20, was removed from his unlocked car. Two other thefts occurred on Feb. 24, during revival services at the Hertford United Methodist Church. Billy White, of Whedbee Dr., reported that a CB radio valued at \$125 was taken from his unlocked car during his service. Margie Nixon, of Gaston Dr., lost \$40 when thieves took her pocketbook from an unlocked automobile. "The only safe place to lock anything is in the trunk," said Merritt, "leaving a car unlocked is just asking to be robbed."

Hill to represent Perquimans

Mrs. Parthenia H. Hill has been selected to represent Perquimans County at the annual meeting of the North Carolina Council of International Reading Association to be held in Charlotte, March 12-14. "This is quite an honor for us," said Rosa Talley, county coordinator for elementary education, K-6, "because it's the first time we've ever had anybody from here go up to give a presentation." According to Mrs. Talley, the association usually selects Ph.D.'s to give presentations. Mrs. Hill will conduct a 90 minute session on "Teaching to an Objective," based on Madeline Hunter's learning theory. The theory, initially taught to Susan Winslow by Madeline Hunter at a summer workshop at the University of California at Los Angeles, is being taught to all teachers and school personnel in Perquimans County. "We're building teacher competency through the theory," said Mrs. Winslow, adding that the theory gives organization to instruction and also offers teachers a common way of speaking about instruction. "It's what teachers have been doing for years," said Mrs. Talley, "the theory just breaks it down so teachers know exactly when they're doing something, and why."

Heart Sunday is history

Neighborhood volunteers visited residents in Perquimans County last Sunday to leave educational materials and ask for contributions to the Heart Fund, according to Mrs. Eerie Haste, Jr., Heart Sunday Chairman for the Perquimans County Heart Association. "Residents who were not at home found envelopes in which they can mail donations, and we hope that they will do so today, in order for us to complete our tally," she added. The 1980 goal is \$3350.00. "Although death rates from heart and blood vessel diseases have been declining for the last two years, these diseases still kill more people annually than all other causes combined," Mrs. Haste said. "So we ask for continued support of the Heart Association's life saving programs of research, education, and community service to heart patients and their families. All donations to the Heart Fund are tax deductible," she concluded. Contributions may also be directed to Mrs. Eerie Haste, Jr., chairman of the local unit, Grubb St., Hertford, NC.

ARPDC is A-OK

The Albemarle Regional Development Association's financial condition is "all right." At least that's the consensus of ARPDC's auditor, Edgar M. Johnson, Jr., whose Kill Devil Hills CPA firm was retained for the year ended Sept. 30, 1979. "We found nothing really to squawk about," said Johnson who reviewed the \$1,008,028 in finances handled by ARPDC at their regular meeting last Thursday night. ARPDC Chairman Donald Bryant, however, had some proposals to keep the commission from sliding "into the doldrums." Among those was the replacement of guest speaker appearances with detailed staff briefings on regional programs. Bryant also said that ARPDC, as representative of a primarily "rural" region, could benefit from an exchange with similar commissions "to see what they are doing that we are not." Bryant said he will send written copies of his proposals to members for consideration.



Making plans

Mrs. Susan Winslow, (L), who works with staff development for the Perquimans County school system, joined with Mrs. Rosa Talley, elementary education coordinator, K-6, (C), and Mrs. Parthenia Hill, Carolina Council of International Reading Association at their annual meeting in Charlotte next week.