

## Fleeing suspect caught

A prisoner awaiting trial on charges of breaking, entering and larceny dashed out of a door of the Perquimans County Courthouse last Wednesday morning but was apprehended that afternoon.

Michael Wayne Spivey, 23, of Mead's Trailer Court, was in the custody of Sheriff Julian Broughton at approximately 9 a.m. when he asked to speak to his father in the grand jury room, Broughton said.

Spivey then fled the courthouse. After a fruitless search, Broughton posted deputy sheriff Victor Lamb on the front porch of a house on Willow Street.

Broughton was acting on a hunch that Spivey would attempt to return to his father's residence at Mead's Trailer Court.

That hunch proved to be correct, and Lamb made the arrest at approximately 4 p.m.

Spivey was charged with escape, a felony, and that charge became one of a long list pending against him.

Out on bond after being charged with breaking, entering and larceny at the Preston Divers residence in Hertford, Spivey had been re-arrested and charged with stealing two briefcases from the automobile of Hertford resident Rufus Timothy Brinn, and possessing implements of housebreaking by the Elizabeth City Police Department.

He had also been charged with possession of stolen property by the sheriff's department.

## First of a two part series

# Maintaining discipline at school a complex task

Time was when disciplinary measures in the schools were as simple as a sharp rap on the knuckles with a yard stick.

But times change, and the differences are reflected in society. We can no longer accommodate our youth in the simple one-room school house, with a head master to handle every problem from mathematics in nature to behavioral.

The changes in American education are among the most dramatic in our nation's young life. But education's role in the lives of our off-spring remains the subject of much debate.

Many view the public school system's role as primarily that of a disciplinarian: a sort of mini-society where kids go to practice obeying the rules necessary for survival in the "real world."

The PERQUIMANS WEEKLY decided to take a look at the county's policies on discipline, and talked with school superintendent Pat Harrell, as well as principals in each of its four schools.

While Harrell disputes the sentiment that it is the sole responsibility of the educational system to teach students how to behave in society, he does feel that a firm hand is needed.

"I don't think schools should shoulder all of that responsibility (as disciplinarian) and that's what most people expect," said Harrell.

"As an example, it is difficult to teach students honesty and respect in the schools when they observe, and in some instances, are encouraged to be disrespectful and discourteous outside of the school," he continued. "I'm not sure how much we can do and it's an unrealistic expectation that some people have of the schools," said Harrell.

He also noted that the marked changes in the educational system have made it difficult for teachers. "There is a tremendous range of differences and abilities in schools now," said Harrell. "A teacher will have a classroom full of students with different backgrounds and abilities and this makes the job harder."

But he believes that education should contribute to the teaching of desirable behavior. "There definitely needs to be a system of discipline so that students know that undesirable behavior will not be tolerated," said Harrell.



## Returned to courthouse

Perquimans County Sheriff Julian Broughton and other law enforcement officers escort suspect Michael Spivey back into the courthouse after a brief flirtation with freedom on Wednesday.

# Band Boosters' variety show at hand

The hottest progressive bluegrass band on the East coast will star in the Perquimans County High School auditorium at 8 p.m. October 18 — The Nothin' Doin' Band.

They keep all musical tastes satisfied playing traditional and modern bluegrass, jazz, rock and pop.

The group has been on television, they record for Prime Time records, and star in bluegrass and country music concerts in many areas.

They draw crowds and rave reviews wherever they go.

The Nothin' Doin' Band is the featured group for the Perquimans County High

School Band Boosters Club annual variety show.

Seats are just \$2.50 and that price, in addition to helping the band buy needed items, will bring you a great variety of entertainment.

Also appearing is the Andy Damiani Quartet, led by a former Mercury recording artist who, in the 1950's, was

one of Europe's best-known musicians — on record, in person, and concert.

Chavez Mabry, a recent star in "King and I," at the Tidewater Dinner Theatre, is a talented teenage singer; Laura White, who has won over 400 awards for her work with batons will be on hand. Local groups and the Perquimans

County High School Band will entertain, and there will be an auction, plus plenty to eat.

Other acts will be announced later. Emcee will be lovely Beverly Burton, known as Rosalie on WHNE (Honey Radio), Vicki on WTAR, and afternoon disc-jockey, program director, and music director of WQZQ-Q92.

# Farmers will suffer from dismal harvest

Perquimans County farmers will be severely pinched this year because of a withering drought that is expected to reduce per acre crop production by about a third.

The damage might be considerably worse were it not for the fact that a dry, hot summer has hampered production across much of the nation, pushing up prices.

In Perquimans County, farmers stand to lose some \$6.5 million in farm income this year, according to estimates compiled by Tommy Riddick, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service director for the county.

The impact of such heavy agricultural losses will be felt throughout the local economy. Riddick said his office arrived at the total projected loss by taking the average production loss per acre for the major crops in the county and multiplying it by crop prices at the time the figures were compiled.

Besides this year's losses, many farmers are carrying debts from previous years when income did not meet expenses. They must also deal with a galloping inflation rate in purchasing fuel, fertilizer, chemicals, and other farm supplies.

Interest rates have soared, and the farmer depends on heavy borrowing to get his crops in the ground each year.

The PERQUIMANS WEEKLY talked

with several persons connected with the farming industry over the past week, and while no one was anticipating mass bankruptcies because of the poor year, all agreed that the situation is bleak.

"Some folks who are heavily in debt are going to find it difficult to continue," said Melvin Howell, Farm-Home Administration supervisor for Perquimans and Chowan Counties.

Howell said that a string of good years in the early '70s encouraged heavy investment in land and equipment, and now several consecutive years of poor production, combined with rampant inflation, are taking their toll.

"The margin of profit is a lot slimmer than it used to be," said Howell.

County bankers say farmers are carrying heavier debt loads than in years past, perhaps higher than ever.

"The debt load is getting to be substantial for the average farmer," said R.L. Stevenson of Peoples Bank. "Many have such a heavy debt load that they can't service that debt from existing production."

He said that production costs are up 30 per cent over last year, and that income potential is about the same.

"A lot of farmers expanded based on income in the early seventies and its been down ever since," said Stevenson.

Bank of North Carolina's Wayne Ashley predicted that operating costs

would continue to rise, and that Farmers would enter the 1981 crop year carrying their greatest debt load ever.

Ashley said that next year could be a crucial one for many farmers, but the bank is still handling the needs of farmers who are credit-worthy.

While there has been some over expansion based on good years in 1973, '74, and '75, area farm management specialist Steve Riddick said the true culprits are inflation, and a string of poor growing seasons.

"Three years like the last three we've had take a toll on the very best farmer," said Riddick. "I don't care how good a manager you are, it's hard to make ends meet."

Though the trend is toward larger farms, Riddick said the older, more conservative farmer with less land and equipment is better off in a year like 1980.

Riddick said that with production losses in corn figured at an average of 35 per cent, farmers face a reduction in income of about \$75 per acre.

Since most farmers plant at least 100 acres of corn, Riddick said the farmer stands to lose \$7,500 on that crop alone, and losses are expected to be substantial in other crops as well.

Production is spotty across the county, with some tracts of land producing well,

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Illustration by Margaret Brewin