

## Murder conspiracy charged

Acting under advice of the district attorney, local authorities have declined to comment on allegations that a 15 year-old county resident attempted to hire three area youths to murder her father.

The three were, however, arrested by the Perquimans County Sheriff's Department on Feb. 12 for alleged conspiracy to commit murder, according to records on file in the office of the Perquimans County Clerk of Superior Court.

William Madre, Mark Lane, and David Eure, all of Route 3, Hertford, had their first appearance last Wednesday for planning to kill a county resident and for accepting \$140 as partial payment for the planned murder, according to Perquimans County Clerk of Court Jarvis Ward.

The victim's identity cannot be disclosed because of the alleged involvement of his daughter, who is a juvenile.

Eure was also under warrant for alleged solicitation to incite the others to malice aforethought and murder.

Perquimans County Deputy Sheriff Joe Lothian, arresting officer, would make no comment on the case, under the recommendation of Assistant District Attorney H.P. Williams.

The probable cause hearing is set for March 4.



Lindsey Earley leans against a sign that identifies a Hertford street that no longer exists. Part of the King Street redevelopment project, Brace Avenue was closed for good following a public

### A non-street

hearing on Friday afternoon. Several new residences will be constructed on the property, and a yet un-named street will take another approach.

### Next stop — state

## ARPDC approves more King Street funding

Another community block grant proposal for the King Street area in Hertford was routinely approved by the Albemarle Regional Planning and Development Commission Thursday night and will next be considered by the state.

The grant requests just under \$500 thousand for rehabilitation and condemnation proceedings in the King Street area, according to Hertford Mayor Bill Cox.

The proposal covers the north side of King Street between the intersections of Covent Garden Street and Hyde Park Street.

"The idea is to renovate and rehabilitate houses that are in suitable condition and to demolish and condemn those that are not suitable for living," said Cox. "The biggest part will be rehab," he said.

Some 29 housing units are involved in the project, Cox said. The town is charged with the responsibility of finding suitable housing for those persons whose homes are condemned, but Cox said that the redevelopment project currently in progress on King Street will provide housing for those persons.

In another matter before the commission, some \$31,000 in construction money that had been earmarked for an addition to the county senior citizens' center was redistributed among various

agencies in the region after the state disapproved the project.

The addition had been approved by ARPDC and included in the regional budget, but the state rejected it even after being asked to reconsider.

"The state felt the town had gotten construction money to renovate the center and felt the money should be distributed to some other agencies. They objected to Hertford getting construction money two out of three years," said Cox.

The commission also heard a report stating that funds for a criminal justice planning program were enough to continue the program through March 30.

An audit report took no exceptions to financial statements of the commission, and recommended no major changes in book-keeping and accounting practices. "I'm certainly glad it was a clean audit and there were no problems as we have had many times in the past," said commission chairman Raleigh Carver.

State board of transportation member Marc Basnight, a Manteo resident, attended the meeting, and addressed the commission on the need for additional funding for the state highway department.

Basnight presented a slide show that maintained that road construction and maintenance costs had risen more than 200 percent since 1967.

While taxes represented 29 per cent of the cost of gasoline in 1967, the figure today is only 8 per cent.

The slide/tape presentation forecast catastrophic results if more money isn't found for the state's roads.

"It's kind of tough in the highway department right now. We don't have any money," Basnight said. He said additional revenues could come from several different areas, including, of course, a gasoline tax increase.

In another matter, the commission passed a resolution supporting the continuance of the Economic Development Administration, an agency targeted for phase-out by the Reagan administration.

"As most of you are aware, many worthwhile projects have been funded by EDA in this region, including the courthouse in Edenton, Wanchese (harbor project), this building, and many sewer and water projects," said Carver.

Copies of the resolution will be sent to senators and representatives in Washington.

Finally, the commission lent its support to day care centers in the region that are attempting to get off the ground with the assistance of state funds. Among them is a possible center at Poole's Grove Baptist Church in Perquimans County.

## 'Tis the season to tackle government mind twister

By MIKE McLAUGHLIN

Did you know that only about one-half of the North Carolina taxpayers who have already filed their federal income taxes this year are using the peel-off label that came in the tax package mailout?

Big deal, you might think. But the Internal Revenue Service thought that little tidbit was important enough to warrant a press release aimed at making the pages of newspapers like this one.

And perhaps it is worthy. The IRS says that if you use your label, delays from errors and illegible handwriting may cause a delay in the issuance of refunds. Further, the IRS asserts that full compliance with label usage would save the federal government \$230,000 in time spent in processing forms.

Such is the stuff of press releases from the IRS, and the mail is full of them this time of year. Most of them concern tax deductions you can claim, or income

most people overlook reporting, and will continue to overlook whether informed by the IRS or not.

Henry Sullivan, a tax accountant in Hertford, offered his own observations on the kinds of things that the taxpayer might not be aware of.

"One thing people overlook is moonlighting. If a person has two jobs, the transportation and expense of going to a second job is 100 percent deductible," said Sullivan.

The second job is, of course, the one that pays the least.

The IRS adds that there is such a thing as Child Care Credit, and it's available to working parents and includes situations in which one parent is a full-time student or is actively seeking work.

Federal law also provides for a tax credit of up to \$300 for conservation materials installed in the home, with a separate tax credit of up to \$4,000 for the installment of energy source items such

as solar and wind equipment. Sullivan said that particular credit is increasingly popular in these times of rising energy costs.

Certain low income working parents can receive a tax credit if they make less than \$10,000, and filing a return could result in a check from the IRS even if no taxes were paid. It's called the earned income credit.

There are also special tax breaks for older Americans. Senior citizens ages 55 and over who sold their principal residence after July 26, 1978, can exclude up to \$100,000 in gain from the sale if the home was their principal place of residence three of the five years prior to sale.

Seniors 65 and over get a double personal exemption, or \$4,000 off the top of the income figure.

The IRS wants almost every kind of income reported, though Christmas gifts haven't made the list yet.

Sullivan mentioned jury duty pay,

director's fees, and contest winnings as some types of income that are taxable. "Embezzlement fees are taxable," Sullivan said with a chuckle.

He added that unemployment compensation is taxable by the state, and on a limited basis, by the federal government, depending on the individual's income.

And when expenses can be deducted, you'd better believe that income must be reported. The IRS reminds us that moonlighting, and even bartering, are taxable.

Of course, when a person performs some task from another person and receives payment in cash, even the IRS has a difficult time tracking it down.

"That's where people hide things," said Sullivan, "doing something and getting paid in cash. Then some report it and some don't."

Having trouble figuring all this out? Maybe you need the assistance of a

professional tax accountant, like Sullivan.

He said that the complexities of filling out a tax form makes it a confusing task for the layman in many cases.

"It's something that's developed into a business now, rather than just anybody being able to sit down and prepare taxes," Sullivan said.

The professional has a long list of rules he must follow to make sure the job is done right, and fines and even criminal penalties can be assessed if he doesn't live up to them.

But the fellow who has little more to report than his W-2's, can probably fill out the 1040-A form with little trouble, said Sullivan.

The 1040 form, however, must be used if the taxpayer wants to claim certain deductions, such as moving or business expenses, or to itemize, and it's a little more complicated.

One problem professional tax preparers have is coming up with the

documents needed to verify various claims.

"This is where we have trouble, getting all the information we need to pull it (the return) together," said Sullivan.

With this in mind, it might be a good idea to find out from your tax preparer what kinds of papers he will need so that you can have them for next year's returns.

Low income, elderly and handicapped persons can get free help with their tax forms from the Economic Improvement Council office on Hyde Park Street in Hertford.

Office hours are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Still want to tackle it yourself? Okay, you've got 48 more days to figure it out.

Additional forms are available by calling 800-241-3860. The IRS also offers more than 90 free publications that explain almost every angle of the tax forms game.

Happy reading.

## Industrial development to secure operating cash

The recently reorganized Perquimans County Industrial Development Commission will seek to have from \$1,500 to \$2,000 transferred to its control get its recruitment efforts underway.

The commission, which conducted its second post-reorganization meeting Monday night, has some \$8,000 in savings left over from industrial development taxes collected in the county in year's past.

But that money is currently held by the county, and the need to get an operating

fund established was the first item of business.

Secondly, the commission discussed compiling a brochure that will outline the resources of the county for potential industry.

Parker Chesson, president of College of the Albemarle, has informed commission members that the college will design a brochure and that the commission will be required to pay printing costs only.

In another matter, Hertford mayor Bill

Cox told members that a meeting with N.C. Department of Commerce representatives earlier in the month had not been promising.

"The only thing they told me was things don't look very hot," said Cox. "They talked very negatively about any industrial development in North Carolina."

He said that the commission would have to take the initiative in the industrial search, and commission chairman Joel Hollowell agreed.

He said that according to his prior

experience, state government officials were prone to divert industry to more populous areas of the state.

There was some discussion as to whether or not suitable industrial sites are available. Several parcels were mentioned, and the consensus was that land would not be a major problem.

"I think the best land is out here where we've got water and sewer," said Cox, in reference to a parcel adjacent to Don Juan Apparel.

As in the prior meeting, a topic of discussion was the kinds of industry the

commission might target for recruiting.

Commission member Wayne Ashley pointed out that sewage treatment capacity is a limiting factor. But the county's water situation took a definite turn for the better when a \$1.275 million expansion of the county-owned water system was approved, said Nowell.

Other advantages for the county in recruiting are that a four-laned U.S. 17 from the Virginia state line to Perquimans County is on the verge of being completed, and that the Norfolk, Va. airport offers more direct flights

than any airport in North Carolina, according to commission member Charles Ward.

The commission's next meeting is scheduled March 23, and a representative of the N.C. Department of Commerce will be invited to speak.

Cox will also attempt to obtain from the commerce department a list of industries that might be interested in relocating or expanding into North Carolina.

**This week**

Despite an occasional visit from spooks, this restored New Hope home is a real beauty — see page 3.

Silt and sediment from land disturbing activities are labeled as major pollutants of area waters in a soil conservation report — see page 11.

A corn growers' referendum is scheduled March 3, and the president of the growers' association is urging farmers to vote — see page 11.

**Weather word**

Partly cloudy skies through Saturday with lows in the 20's and highs in the 30's.

## Town native featured on Reader's Digest cover

Subscribe to the READER'S DIGEST? If so, take the February issue and turn it over.

Read the fine print under the colorful, intricate illustration, "Mosaic Signs of the Zodiac" — Watercolor by American Artist Nat White.

Does the name ring a bell? It should. White was brought up in Hertford.

The 68 year-old headed north to pursue a career in commercial art in 1928, just prior to the depression. Later he met Jeanie Parker Perry Jr.'s kid sister Mary Lou, and married her in 1936.

So White has double ties to this rural, farming town, and he and his wife

wouldn't mind coming back.

"We still call it home," he said in a telephone interview on Saturday. But White isn't interested in retiring just yet, and there isn't much demand for commercial art in Hertford.

He was fresh out of high school when he left the town just over 50 years ago and headed for the big city. "I had quite a rough time of it up here for a while," said White.

Lady Luck must have been smiling on him, though. "I was fortunate in getting a job in one of the best advertising agencies in art work just a month before the Depression," White said. "They kept

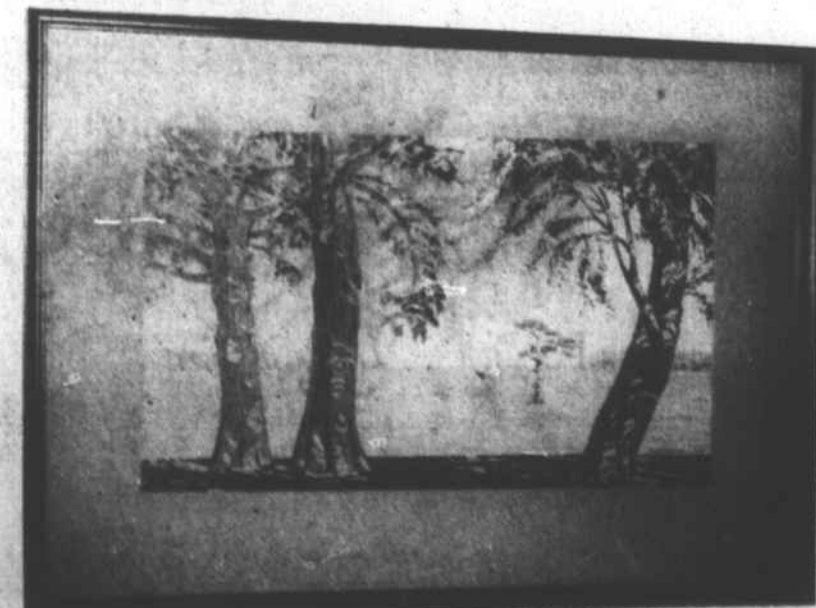
me because they didn't have to pay me much, I guess," he said.

While he worked, White pursued formal schooling at night, but there's nothing like on-the-job experience.

"I learned more from the artists there than I did anywhere else," he said. The staff included several internationally renowned artists, White said.

He stayed with the company for 32 years, until a merger went awry and the business folded. During those years he worked on campaigns for such concerns as Gulf Oil, Union Carbide, and the U.S. armed forces.

(Continued on page 2)



This Nat White original painting depicts the Perquimans River as seen from the back yard of R.S. and Francis Woods of

Hertford. White, a successful commercial artist, is a Hertford native.