

It's employ the elderly week in N.C.

In an age of shrinking budgets and increased emphasis on maximum productivity, the value of the older worker should not be overlooked as a means to increase efficiency. This is the message of Employ the Older Worker Week in North Carolina, currently in progress.

Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr., proclaimed the observance to coincide with National Employ the Older Worker Week.

The national observance has emphasized the importance of older workers for more than 20 years.

"National Employ the Older Worker Week is an annual means of focusing public attention on the importance of using this valuable employment resource," said Bill Taylor, older worker specialist in the local Job Service office. "When you realize that more than two million North Carolinians,

two-thirds of whom are in the civilian labor force of the state, are 40 years old and older, you begin to see how important it is that we make good use of their experience and knowledge."

Job Service offices have participated in Employ the Older Worker Week for more than 20 years as a part of a year-round emphasis on placement of older job seekers. Since 1967, congressional legislation has

mandated equal opportunity and non-discrimination for people on the basis of age.

In spite of our continued efforts to inform employers and the general public of the advantages of hiring older workers, this group continues to have problems of unemployment. The emphasis on society places on youth seems to undermine our attempts to show that employing older workers makes good business sense.

Taylor explained that workers hired after age 40 generally reach higher performance ratings more quickly than their younger counterparts. They tend to have a more positive work attitude, greater job stability and lower absenteeism.

"We urge employers to consider older workers when they are hiring," said Taylor. "At Job Service, we will help match employer needs with applicant skills," he said.

Older persons may be due a tax refund

Many older or disabled persons across the state may be eligible for a tax refund as a result of a bill passed recently by the legislature.

According to Nathan H. Yelton, assistant secretary of aging, Department of Human Resources, any senior citizen or disabled person who missed the deadline for the \$7,500 property tax exemption in 1980 may now receive the 1980 exemption by filing an

application with their county tax supervisor no later than April 15, 1981.

That is also the final date for filing applications for the 1981 exemption.

"Any 1980 taxes paid by such persons on the exempted property will be refunded to them upon filing the application," said Yelton. "Persons who have not paid their taxes must also file an application in order to receive the exemption."

It is especially important that all eligible persons file a proper and complete application not later than April 15, Yelton stressed.

Persons who qualify for the exemption in 1981 do not have to re-apply in 1982 and future years unless they change their residence. They are, of course, required to notify the tax supervisor if they become ineligible for the exemption.

Leaders seek assistance for Atlanta, Ga. families

Area black leaders began last week distributing posters designed to heighten the awareness of the situation in Atlanta, Georgia, which involves the unsolved murder of 19 black children.

Rev. John London, pastor of First Baptist Church, in Hertford, and newly elected president of the National Association of the Ad-

vancement of Colored People, and Walter White, Jr., president of the Bethel Southern Shores Property Owners' Association and chairman of the county Political Action Committee, met with Hertford Mayor Bill Cox last week, in a gesture London said he hoped would make people aware of the worsening situation in Atlanta.

The poster, which reads "Stop the killing of the Atlanta Children," was designed by White.

White and London are also seeking donations to send to the coalition of the murdered children's families in Atlanta.

Those interested in making a donation for the cause should contact London.

Watches, tennis shoes stolen

The Hertford Police Department arrested a town youth Monday afternoon being sought for questioning in connection with a Saturday night break-in at Belk-Tyler Department Store in Elizabeth City.

Willie Lee Jones, 18, of Covent Garden Street in Hertford, was arrested and charged after his car was spotted in the parking lot of Perquimans County High School, where he is a student.

Hertford police chief Marshall Merritt said Jones was wearing a watch believed to have been stolen in the break-in at the time of his arrest.

Watches and tennis shoes were among the items taken in

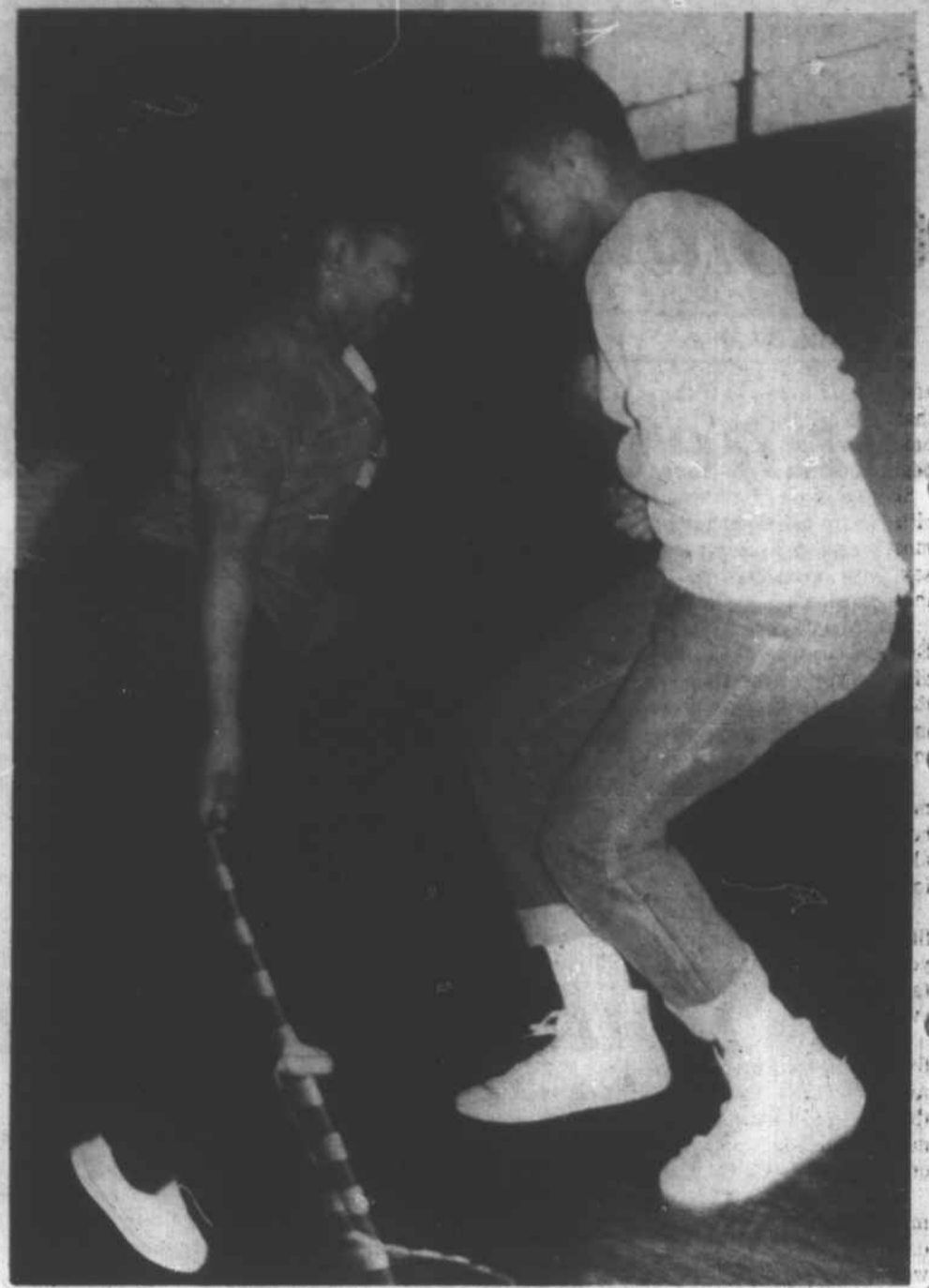
the break-in, Merritt said, and other persons are believed to have been involved, he said.

Jones was taken to Albemarle District Jail and bond was set at \$10,000.

In another police matter, Big Star assistant manager Vernon Lane took meat from under the coat of an alleged shoplifter Saturday afternoon and along with police officer Michael Jasielum, gave chase as the suspect fled the store.

Jasielum caught the suspect in the vicinity of West Market Street, and he was booked on shoplifting charges, Merritt said.

Edward Hines, 37, of 307 East Railroad Avenue, will be tried on the matter March 25.



Twice as much fun

Zinia Parker and Eric Skinner double their fun in Heart Fund rope jumping at Perquimans County High School.

Citizen's watch meeting scheduled for March 12

Those interested in forming a community watch program are urged to attend a planning meeting at the Perquimans County Courthouse in Hertford on Thursday, March 12, at 7:30 p.m.

Tony Young, field representative for the North Carolina Department of

Crime Control and Public Safety, will be the speaker.

Perquimans County Deputy Sheriff Joe Lothian said that he hoped citizens from all parts of the county would attend. "We hope to get a citizen's watch program going countywide," said Lothian.

Kids raise cash for Heart Fund

The thump, thump, thump of the disco beat coincided with the rhythmic pounding of the teenagers' feet as PCHS students jumped rope for Heart Fund Saturday morning at the high school gym.

A total of 40 students raised \$1,600 in a jumping session that lasted from 9:30 a.m. to

12:30 p.m. The students solicited contributions based on minutes jumped.

And as "Ray the DJ," (Ray Ward of WBXB in Edenton) spun the singles, the young people kept their ropes turning.

The top team raised \$580 and won jogging suits for their

efforts. Each of the six team members jumped for 30 minutes, and members included Cindy Sawyer, Sheila Rountree, Carla Skinner, Catherine Jones, Joy Chappell and Randy Winslow.

There were seven teams involved in the competition.

Gas tax

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all on gas, though," said Harrington. "We'll probably have to get it (money for transportation) from several places."

Evans described the effect of declining revenues on the highway fund as "tremendous," and also favored the gas tax concept.

A \$2.1 billion tourist industry, in addition to agricultural needs, was incentive enough to increase highway improvement revenues, according to James.

Also expressing favor for the gasoline tax, James said additional highway money could be gained by transferring expenses of the highway patrol from the transportation budget to the General Fund, "where it belongs in the first place."

He also advocated inclusion of the tax of up to \$120 paid on new cars in the transportation budget. The new car tax is presently feeding the General Fund.

But operations in Raleigh are at a virtual standstill as state government waits until the entire economic picture is unveiled by the Reagan Administration.

"Things are pretty quiet in Raleigh right now," said Harrington. "We all have to wait and see what is going to happen in Washington."

Daniels did, however, have some bleak predictions. "North Carolina has been

getting some 25 to 27 percent of its total revenue from the federal government and I don't know how much we'll be cut," he said.

"I will say that North Carolina is experiencing declining revenue at a rapid pace," said Daniels, who added that he expected a 6 percent decrease in programs.

"I don't want to be an alarmist, but I think you're going to see a shifting in priorities," said Daniels.

Among proposals Daniels said he would make to the Assembly was a rate reduction from utilities, an increase in funding to public libraries, and a "complete review of CAMA regulations."

Describing the Coastal Area Management Act as "unpopular with a lot of people," Daniels said he would propose "reimbursement for coastal land people own and have been denied use of."

Daniel's comments drew a response from Hertford resident and Coastal Resource Commission member T. Erie Haste, Jr.

"CAMA is a controversy because we were delving into something that's never been done before with a bunch of bureaucrats who haven't done it either," said Haste.

"There is much more to the com-

mission than restraints and regulations put on private property," he added. "We don't enjoy denying a person use of his property, but we have to do what we think is right, and I think it's unfair to make a comment to this group that CAMA should be gutted."

"We're trying to administer the program as equitably as we can," concluded Haste.

Evans, who is also involved with CAMA as a member of the advisory council, told the group that he, too, felt "a lot of good had come out of CAMA."

But Daniels was adamant in his opposition to the coastal program. "I think you've failed to listen to the people. I hear and you hear that people are being denied use of property that has been in their families for years."

"Someone once said 'CAMA was trying to pre-judge God in their annual erosion rate predictions' and if we've got tight times in North Carolina, the \$200,000 (allotted to CAMA) might be used better somewhere else than to penalize people in the 20 counties," said Daniels.

Haste reminded Daniels that the 20 county area had been issued "straight from" the General Assembly. "We did not seek them," he said.

The meeting then adjourned to a group seemingly eager to turn to ACC basketball action.

Planning input

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is the most critical problem facing Hertford and what do you think should be done to resolve the problem?"

Forms are available at both the town office and the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce office in the

Municipal Building on Grubb Street in Hertford. Forms are also being distributed at Peoples Bank and Bank of North Carolina, as well as Woodards Pharmacy, all in Hertford.

Cox said that Hertford residents and those persons living within one mile of

the town limits are urged to fill out a form and return it to the town office by March 27.

A final draft of the land use plan must be completed by June. When finished, the plan should be similar in scope to the recently completed county land use plan up-date.

Visual distress signals now required

Federal regulations now require that visual distress signals be carried on boats in coastal waters, which include North Carolina's sounds and bays.

These regulations will not apply on inland and joint jurisdiction waters. The new federal regulation requires boats 16 feet and over, or carrying six passengers or more, to carry approved devices for day and night use. Boats under 16 feet, manually propelled boats, and sailboats

under 26 feet of completely open construction are not required to carry day-time devices, but must carry night-time devices if they are operating at night.

Devices which are approved for day use only include large orange flags and three hand-held or floating orange smoke devices. An automatic SOS electric light is approved only for night use. Boaters could meet the requirement for both day and night operation by having an orange flag and an

automatic SOS light on board. A number of devices are approved for both day and night use. These include hand-held, pistol projected and rocket-propelled orange flares. Boaters must have three flares on board that are certified as combination devices to meet the requirements for both day and night use.

Also, if you have a daytime device on board (orange flag or smoke signals) you would need three flares or an

automatic SOS light to meet the requirements for night operation.

All devices must be readily accessible, in good working condition, and must be accompanied by appropriate tools for their use (if you have pistol flares on board you must also have a working pistol).

All devices must be approved by the Coast Guard, and this approval must be marked on the box or the item itself.



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