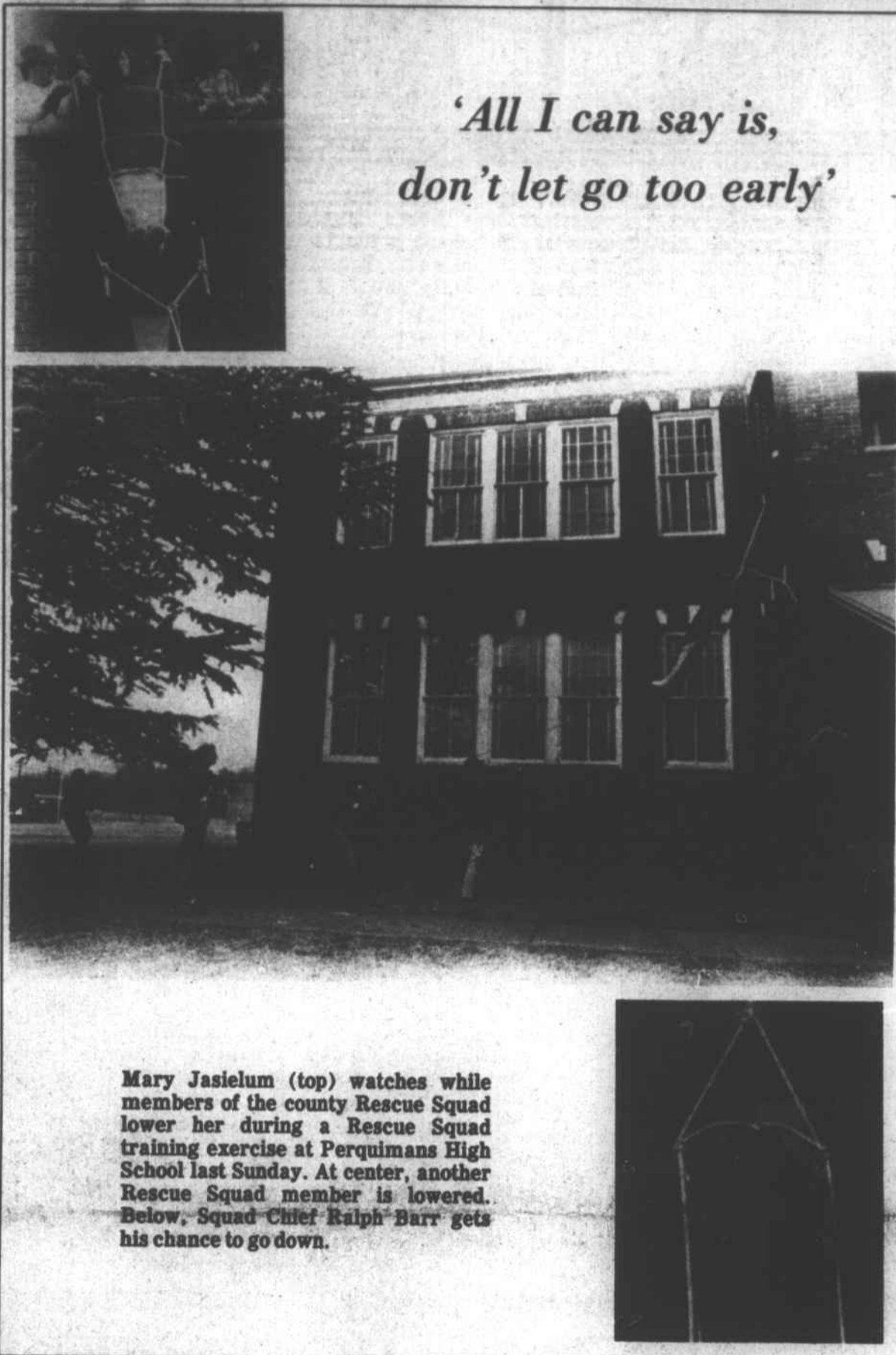


*'All I can say is,
don't let go too early'*



Mary Jasielum (top) watches while members of the county Rescue Squad lower her during a Rescue Squad training exercise at Perquimans High School last Sunday. At center, another Rescue Squad member is lowered. Below, Squad Chief Ralph Barr gets his chance to go down.

Farmers voice mixed feelings on farm bill

By SUSAN HARRIS

Area farmers have mixed emotions concerning the new farm bill. Most echo the feeling of Douglas Layden, a Belvidere farmer, who described it as "complicated."

An estimated 120 of the 434 peanut allotments (now quotas) in Perquimans County will be significantly reduced or lost if the peanut referendum voted on last week passes, according to Tommy Riddick, Director of the Perquimans County ASCS office.

However, Riddick states, most farmers cannot make a profit if there are no price supports. In his opinion the referendum, although certainly not ideal, is "better than nothing."

Charles White who farms in the Bethel community says, "That's the club over your head. The government gets 'em (peanuts) and runs the price down."

Some farmers, like J.E. Proctor, feel they have been cheated. Proctor expressed great dissatisfaction over the referendum at the meeting held last Tuesday. Proctor is one of many area farmers who will lose his allotment if the referendum passes.

Riddick said he could understand the farmers' anger. "We told them their history would be protected if they rented their allotments two out of three years," Riddick said. The new farm bill has changed the rules in midstream.

Douglas Layden thinks voting for support prices and quotas is choosing the better of what's being offered. "With the choices they've given us, it's either that or nothing."

"I'm in favor of a program, but not that one," says Woodley Bundy, who will lose his 35-acre allotment if the referendum passes.

Of peanut farming, Bundy states, "It's been good to me. I haven't planted a peanut since 1956." Bundy has had an allotment since 1936.

Bundy said he has rented his allotment on the farm for two years and off the farm for two years like he was told in order to keep his allot-

ment. "Now they come 'round and tell us we don't have anything. I think we were lied to and misled," he said.

The people who are really in bad shape, according to Bundy, are those people who were unable to work their allotments, "like these widows." Bundy said they rented their farms out, and some of the operators in turn leased out their allotments. "They're the ones I feel sorry for," stated Bundy.

The feeling one gets from talking to farmers about the peanut referendum is that they feel like they don't have much of a choice.

Some will lose their entire allotments because of the change in rules if the referendum passes. But with no price supports, they still could not plant for financial reasons.

Whichever side of the fence farmers are on, most agree that the 1982 Farm Bill is detrimental to the peanut farmer.

Local officials meet to explain program

By SUSAN HARRIS

Tommy Riddick, Director of the Perquimans County ASCS office, and North Carolina Peanut Growers Association Director Norfleet Sugg held a meeting on Tuesday of last week to explain to county farmers the effect the outcome of the peanut referendum will have on them.

"If quotas are discontinued, you'll have nothing," Riddick told farmers. "You'll be out on the open market."

Riddick said, "There is confusion (over the vote.) You're voting as to whether you want quotas and if you have quotas, you have supports." He reported that there is nothing farmers can do at this point about the 1982 Farm Bill itself.

The main concern expressed by area farmers was the reduction and/or loss of peanut quotas, especially those allotments that have been leased to another operator for two of the past three years.

The 1977 Farm Bill allowed persons holding peanut allotments to lease them to another operator two out of any three farming years and still retain the peanut history on their farm.

The new Farm Bill stipulates that operators who leased their allotments to another farm with a different operator in any two of the past three years will lose the right to grow quota peanuts. This stipulation will effect 120 area farms, according to Riddick.

This elimination is the third step in a four-step plan to reduce the poundage of peanuts produced in accordance with the new Farm Bill. The bill drops the number of pounds to be produced in 1982 by 240,000 over the 1981 crop, and also reduces peanut poundage production each year for the next four crop years.

First to lose peanut quotas will be persons having previously had allotments, but no tillable cropland. Perquimans County has no such farms.

The second group to lose quotas will be persons who failed to produce their quotas in any two of the past three years except in the case of natural disaster. There are only a couple of

county farms effected by this elimination, Riddick said.

These two steps cannot bring down poundage enough to meet quotas, according to Riddick, so the third step, or allotments leased two out of the past three years, will definitely be lost.

The fourth step in the reduction plan will be an across the board poundage cut. Riddick said that information he has received estimates that 8 percent will be trimmed from fourth step farmers.

"Nobody will benefit from these reductions," Riddick said.

According to Sugg, the fight to get a farm bill through Congress was an uphill battle. "The law has been written by a lot of people who don't understand. They don't even know where food comes from — they think it comes from the store," he stated.

Sugg told farmers that only five percent of the members of Congress have a farm background. "They are very urban and 'citized,'" Sugg said.

"Our congressional delegation from North Carolina stood together 100 percent," Sugg boasted, "but there were more consumers than growers."

"We got beat because the manufacturers of peanut products beat us. They want high quality cheap peanuts," Sugg said. He also said that opponents of the farm bill had professional lobbyists and ran newspaper advertisements that they used to put pressure on congressmen.

Council changes meeting date

The Hertford Town Council voted during their meeting Monday night to change its meeting date from the first Monday of the month to the second Monday of the month.

The change was made at the recommendation of Mayor and Town Manager Bill Cox, who said that by having meetings on the second Monday the council would have an opportunity to see the town's bills, which usually aren't received until after the first Monday of the month.

County, town attack redistricting plan

Senate proposal will shut out Albemarle area, officials say

The Perquimans County Board of Commissioners and the Hertford Town Council both took offense to the state Senate's proposal to break up District 1 in the state's new redistricting plan.

Both local bodies have adopted resolutions opposing the plan, which they feel would shut out Perquimans County and the entire Albemarle area from any effective representation.

State Senator Melvin Daniels (D-Pasquotank) agrees with that sentiment, and has been encouraging local county and municipal bodies to express their opposition to the plan.

The Senate's plan is to divide District 1, which now has two senators, into two single-senator districts. District 1 would consist of Perquimans, Chowan, Bertie, Tyrrell, Washington and Northampton

Counties, along with parts of Gates and Hertford Counties.

District 2 would consist of Pasquotank, Camden, Currituck, Dare, Beaufort, Hyde, and Pamlico Counties, and parts of Gates and Hertford Counties.

Hertford mayor and town manager Bill Cox stated at Monday's Town Council meeting that if the Senate's redistricting plan were approved, "once Melvin Daniels leaves office, you can forget ever thinking about having a senator from this side of the Chowan River."

As county commissioners and town councilmen see it, the populations of Bertie and Northampton Counties can easily outvote Perquimans and Chowan Counties, leaving the latter two counties without the voting clout they had in the old District 1, which

consisted essentially of the counties surrounding the Albemarle Sound.

The same goes for the District 2 counties of Pasquotank, Camden, Currituck and Dare. They would be outvoted by the larger populations in Pamlico and Beaufort.

In effect, the councilmen and commissioners believe, the Albemarle area will no longer have one of its own in the state Senate if this plan were approved.

The redistricting plan for the House of Representative is essentially the same as before, covering the Albemarle area.

What the ten county area intends to do about the problem is another story. Most of the trouble with the state's previous redistricting plans have had to do with districts in the Piedmont section of the state, where localities

have plenty of clout in the state senate to change the plans.

But the Albemarle region has traditionally been ignored in Raleigh, and this instance is not likely to be any different.

Councilman John Beers noted, "The ten county area has always tried to stick together. I think it's time we came together on this."

Cox said after the meeting that he objected to the "separating of natural neighbors" included in the plan. He added that the Albemarle area has the same economic and agricultural interests and should remain together.

Cox said that he has not heard of any lobbying efforts to change the plan, but said that he was in touch with Daniels and "if he feels a need for someone to be in Raleigh, Hertford will be represented."

Perquimans District Court holds hearing

The Honorable John T. Chaffin presided at last Wednesday's session of Perquimans County District Court. Robert Winfrey, Assistant District Attorney, prosecuted for the state. The following cases were heard:

Danny Ray Boyce pled not guilty to charges of reckless driving and assault with a deadly weapon. He was found guilty.

Boyce received a sentence of 9 months. An appeal was noted and a

\$1,000 secured bond was ordered.

William Henry Askew, charged with driving under the influence, third offense, pled guilty to driving under the influence, second offense, and was sentenced to 6 months. An appeal was noted and a \$500 bond was ordered.

James Durwood Hunter pled guilty to the transportation of spirituous liquors in the passenger area of a motor vehicle. He was given a 30 day sentence, suspended for two years, a \$100 fine plus the cost of court, and was told to violate no laws for 12 months.

Clinton Lee Mercer pled guilty to the transportation of alcoholic beverages in a motor vehicle which is not authorized by law to do so. He was sentenced to 30 days, suspended for two years, was given a \$100 fine plus the cost of court, and was told to violate no laws for 12 months.

Robert Wayne Meads pled guilty to giving spirituous liquor to a person

less than 21 years of age. He was given a 9 month sentence, suspended for 2 years, a \$350 fine plus the cost of court.

Meads was told to violate no laws for 12 months and to have no alcoholic beverage in or about any vehicle under his control.

Carlton Henry Jordan pled guilty to assault on a female and was sentenced to 30 days, suspended for 2 years, and was given a \$25 fine plus the cost of court. He was told to violate no laws for 12 months and not to strike or assault prosecuting witness for two years.

Roger Cherry, Jr. pled guilty to speeding, 63 miles per hour in a 55 mile per hour zone, and was fined \$35 plus the cost of court.

In civil court action, an absolute divorce was granted in the case of Barry Keith Layden vs. Freds Ann Layden.

Filing period ends, fourteen running

The end of the filing period for local elections in Perquimans County finds every seat up for elections contested by at least two people, save for the Clerk of Court seat.

Kenneth Spivey filled out the list by filing for the Belvidere seat on the county Board of Education, the seat now held by Clifford Winslow, who will run against him.

The other school board seat, the New Hope seat, now held by Lloyd "Flutch" Dail, will be decided between Rev. Walter L. Leigh and Mac Nixon.

Three men are running for the position of sheriff, incumbent Julian Broughton, Donald Riddick and Hertford Police Chief Marshall Merritt.

In the race for the District 1 seat on the county Board of Commissioners, incumbent W.W. White is up against two candidates, George Reid and Wayne Howell.

Dail is one of three candidates running for the other county commission seat up for election. That seat, the New Hope Township seat, is

now held by Marshall Caddy, who didn't file. Along with Dail, Tony Jordan and William Wray Chappell will run for that seat.

Jarvis Ward will run uncontested for the Clerk of Court seat.

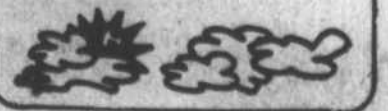
The primaries for the partisan elections — the commissioners seat and the sheriff — will be held in May.

This week

The Perquimans Weekly goes to a hog killing. Turn to page three.

Weather

Chance of rain today, fair tomorrow with a chance of rain Saturday. Highs in the 50s, lows in the 40s.



County Board agrees to Woodville subdivision

The Perquimans County Board of Commissioners approved plans for a subdivision in Woodville at their regular meeting Monday afternoon.

Called Woodville Lake, the subdivision consists of 13 lots off SR 1367 in Woodville. Passage of the plan is subject to approval by the state Department of Transportation.

The motion was opposed by Commissioner Marshall Caddy, who stated that he would rather see DOT approve the plan before the board made a decision.

The board also adopted a resolution expressing its opposition to the proposed state Senate redistricting plan.

That plan would put Perquimans County in a one seat district that includes Chowan, Bertie, Northampton, and parts of Gates and Hertford Counties. The board members stated that they would rather see Perquimans in a district with Pasquotank, Camden and Currituck Counties, as it is now districted.