

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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Skinner retires as fire chief

The Hertford Town Council accepted the retirement and resignation of Hertford Fire Chief Charles Skinner Monday night at their regular meeting.

Skinner has been fire chief for six and a half years, and a fireman for 25 years. His resignation will go into effect September 30.

"This council accepts this resignation with regret," said Mayor and Town Manager Bill Cox, speaking for the council. "We appreciate the work he has done as a fireman and as fire chief."

The council will nominate Skinner's replacement at a later meeting.

In another issue, the town decided to consider using its power to regulate the speed of railroad trains coming through the city limits, perhaps using that power as leverage to get Southern Railroad to modify its safety lights at rail-street intersections.

The council's decision followed receipt of a letter from the state Department of Transportation indicating that the state could not upgrade the intersections.

The issue arose in the last month following the death of Charles Scott Williams of Hertford when his car collided with a train on Grubb Street. Though there were warning lights, there were no traffic gates at the intersection. The train was traveling 40 miles per hour, the allowed speed through Hertford.

The council tabled consideration of railroad speed limits until they had more information.

In other action, the council:

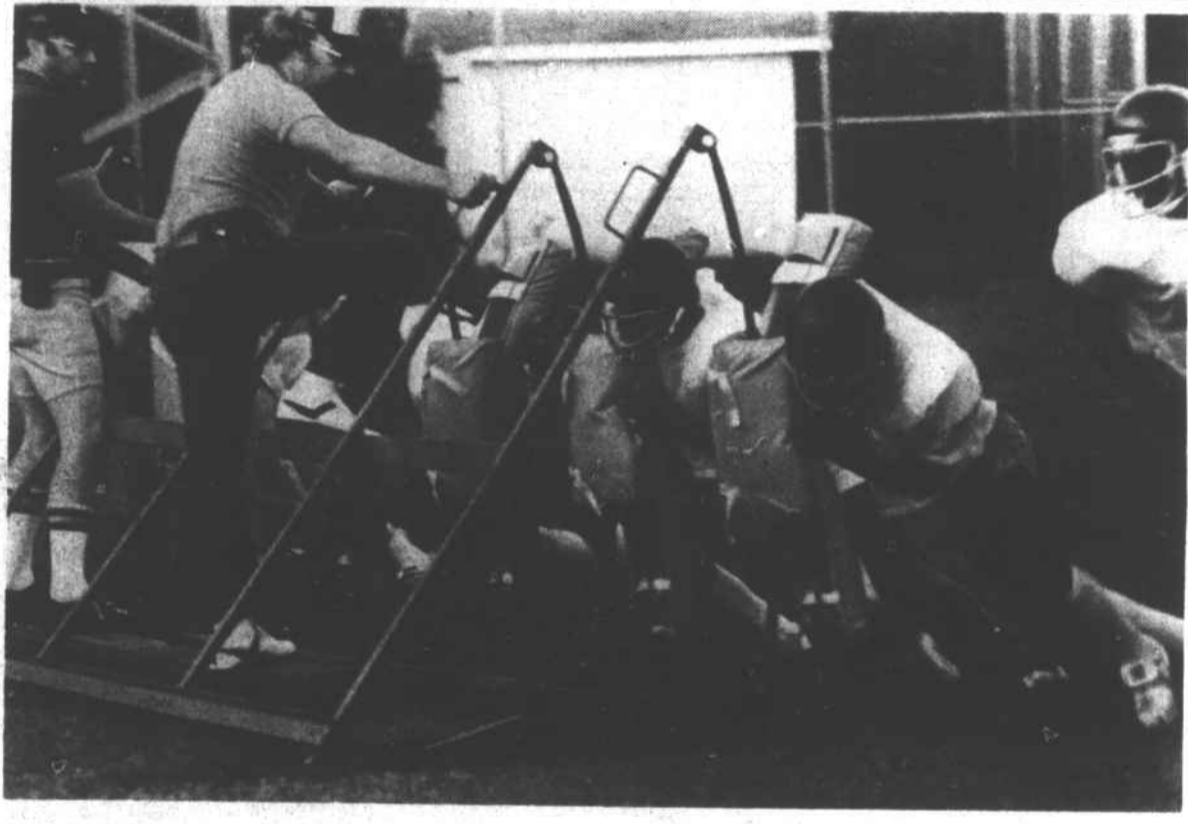
• Approved the reappointment of William Tilley, Ray Haskett and Mary Harrell to the town Planning Board, and John London, Washington Lyons and Don Morris to the Board of Adjustments, and Julian A. White to the Hertford Housing Authority.

• Turned down by a 3-1 vote a motion by Councilman John Beers to donate \$200 to the Perquimans County Jaycees for the Jaycees Fourth of July celebration.



Working out

Just when you begin to miss baseball season, football season starts up. The Perquimans High School football team began practice last week, looking forward to their first game at home against Gates County August 27. Above, Bobby Swayne does stretching exercises with the team, while at right coaches Sid Eley (left) and Ed Leicester (right) add a little weight to the blocking sled.



Resident sues local doctor

A Perquimans County resident won a \$200,000 settlement against a prominent Elizabeth City physician last weekend in Perquimans County Superior Court for adultery with and deliberately alienating the affections of his wife.

An eight-man, four-woman jury awarded Lucius Chappell \$150,000 in compensatory damages and \$50,000 in punitive damages in his suit against Dr. Marshall Redding for enticing Chappell's wife, Alice, to separate from her husband. As of Tuesday morning, Redding's attorneys have not filed an appeal.

Redding is an ophthalmologist at Albemarle Eye Care Center in Elizabeth City and is president of the North Carolina Medical Society. Redding employed Mrs. Chappell as a nurse there for 11 years.

The jury also awarded Redding a token sum of two dollars for compensatory and punitive damages in his countersuit charging that Chappell invaded his privacy and subjected him to mental anguish. It was the same amount Chappell's attorney C. Everett Thompson suggested in his closing arguments to the jury.

Redding charged that Chappell had taped telephone conversations between him and Mrs. Chappell, and also followed him and harassed him in public. Because Chappell's lawyers failed to reply to the countersuit, they in effect admitted to the truth of the charges.

Chappell was asking for \$500,000 in compensatory damages and \$500,000 in punitive damages against Redding, while Redding was asking for \$200,000 in compensatory damages and \$100,000 in punitive damages in his countersuit against Chappell.

In the trial against Redding, Chappell's lawyers brought up a dozen witnesses, all relatives, friends and co-workers of Mrs. Chappell, including Chappell himself, who testified that Mrs. Chappell's personality and attitude toward her husband had changed drastically following a June 1979 business trip she had taken with Redding.

Chappell testified that after that trip his wife began to act cold to him, would not allow him to touch her, and would no longer sleep with him. The other witnesses testified that Mrs. Chappell became increasingly preoccupied with spending time with Redding.

Mrs. Chappell left her husband in April 1981, and though they are not divorced, another court has ordered her to pay her husband \$150 per month in child support. Chappell revealed to Redding's wife the taped telephone conversations with Mrs. Chappell, and subsequently she divorced Redding.

Mrs. Chappell, testifying for the defense, said that she left her husband because he neglected her, would not help her with housework or taking care of the children, would not allow her to wear makeup or certain types of clothing, and would not allow her to spend money on herself while he bought himself, among other things, cars and hunting equipment, and refused to consult a marriage counselor when the family began to experience problems.

Mrs. Chappell did admit on cross-examination that Redding encouraged her to be more independent, and "probably" encouraged her to leave her husband, but that Redding was not the major reason that she left.

Redding refused to comment following the decision, but Chappell said, "I'm sorry it happened to me and my family. I wouldn't have it happen for all the money in the world."

This week

Bill Jester writes about beating Johnsongrass. Turn to page 11.

Weather

Chance of thundershowers Saturday and Sunday. Highs in the mid 80s, lows in the low 70s.

Development drive will create jobs, reduce taxes

By TOM OSTROSKY
First in a series

The county is just beginning what it hopes will be its biggest push yet to increase industrial growth in the area. With the Industrial Development Commission's proposed formation of a Committee of 100 in Perquimans County, the commission and its supporters think they can put this county on the map of potential new industries.

In the coming weeks, the PERQUIMANS WEEKLY will highlight the advantages and problems of new growth in a series of articles.

In these articles, we will discuss such subjects as what growth can do to decrease taxes; how other towns in northeast North Carolina have attracted industry and benefited from growth; how the problem of "underemployment" has left the county

with one of the lowest unemployment rates in the state, but also one of the lowest per capita incomes; how the county invests millions in its youth, but gives them few opportunities to return on that investment; and what the costs of growth will be to the county.

This drive marks the first time the county has tried to organize citizens, and generate money, to encourage industrial growth here.

The Industrial Development Commission will start off its campaign with a banquet at Anglers Cove Restaurant on September 21, inviting over 200 county businessmen and farmers, along with state representatives and officials.

Tom Thompson, an industrial developer from New Bern who spoke at a similar banquet in Elizabeth City, will be the guest speaker.

The commission hopes to sign up at

least 100 persons, who will donate \$100 each per year. The money will be used for advertising and expenses to draw potential industries here.

Letters of invitation have been sent out to local civic groups, and more letters will be sent to businesses and individuals.

This new effort to attract growth to the county was the result of several things. Among them were the increases in taxes, both in the county and in Hertford, and the prospect of more increases in the future as local governments take over services once provided by state and federal governments; the concern of local citizens, expressed in recent polls, that the greatest need in the county is better job opportunities; the push for growth started in Elizabeth City in the past year; and Hertford's involvement in the Community of Excellence program, which brought

about the revitalization of the Industrial Development Commission two years ago.

The six-member commission acts as an arm of the county Board of Commissioners. Its only success in the past has been to encourage the expansion of the Don Juan plant, but with this drive they think there can be more successes in the near future.

Because the county hasn't been able to spend tax money to recruit industry, much of the expense of calling on potential industries has been covered by interested citizens and the town of Hertford. The commission hopes the Committee of 100 will solve the problem of financing the travel and advertising expense of recruitment.

"We've never had a good, organized way of attracting industry," said commission member of

drive chairman Ben Berry.

Once such a local organization is in place, the biggest part of their job will be recruiting the recruiters. "We have to convince the state's industry hunters that Perquimans County is ready for industry and can provide the things necessary for growth," said Hertford Mayor and Town Manager Bill Cox, a member of the commission.

"We hope to get cooperation from all units of government and also the private sector," said Cox. "The community has got to want industry. We need local support."

In the past, said Berry, "the farmer has been able to support the county, but it's gotten to the point now that farmers can't continue to support it. Our tax base puts too much burden on the land owner."

County woman celebrates her one hundredth year

Mary Smith Lane probably hasn't seen so much excitement in quite a while, and she was bushed by the time the afternoon was over.

"She was about give out," said Hazel Morgan of Morgan's Rest Home concerning Mrs. Lane, called "Miss Mamie," who celebrated her one-hundredth birthday last Friday.

With about 20 nieces and nephews present, along with the other residents at the home, Mrs. Lane was wheeled out into the dining room for birthday cake and punch and plenty of photographs of this special event.

Though she can no longer walk and can see very little, she still has the stomach of a five-year-old, putting away two or three pieces of cake and washing it down with punch. "She eats good," said Morgan. "That's what keeps her alive." Bananas are a favorite of Mrs. Lane's.

According to Morgan, the rest of her insides are just as strong as her stomach. "She's generally healthy for a woman her age," she said. "Everytime the doctor comes to check her, he says her heart and everything is good. She'll probably outlive me."

The daughter of Amos and Sarah Winslow Smith, Mrs. Lane was born August 6, 1882 in Perquimans County, the next to the youngest of nine children. After attending school in Belvidere, she lived at home until her father's death in 1919. Her mother had died the year before.

She then lived with her sister Olive and brother-in-law John Hendren until 1923, when she married Isreal Lane. They had no children.

She was an organist at Chappell Hill Baptist Church before her

marriage, and then joined her husband's Quaker congregation.

A resident of Morgan's Rest Home for the last 13 years, Mrs. Lane mostly keeps to herself now. She no longer has the energy to get out much, and recognizes few but those she sees often. She talks very little, but will answer a question when asked.

"If you ask her a question, she'll answer it if she takes a notion," said Morgan. "But if she doesn't want to talk she won't."

"When her people talk to her, sometimes she'll recognize their voices and call them by name."

But Morgan adds, "She's still got a little spunk left in her." It takes plenty of spunk to get as far as Mrs. Lane has.



Mrs. Mamie Lane in her room at Morgan's Rest Home.