

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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20 CENTS

Committee of 100 banquet a success

A banquet held last Tuesday to form an organization to encourage industrial development in Perquimans County was termed a success by the county's Industrial Development Commission, the organizers of the event.

About 60 persons appeared at the Committee of 100 banquet, held that evening at Anglers' Cove Restaurant, to hear speakers from Elizabeth City and New Bern extol the virtues of organizing a citizens' committee to attract new industry to the area.

Citizens were asked to contribute \$100 to become a member of the committee, an independent organization which will work in cooperation with the county's Industrial Development Commission to bring in new business.

Hertford Mayor and City Manager Bill Cox, a member of the Industrial Development Commission, said that the initial response to the banquet "was very good," and that one of the first orders of business when the new committee meets within the next couple weeks will be to recruit new members.

The commission's goal is to have 100 paying members in the committee.

"I think we need this (the committee) very badly, and I'm asking for your support," was Cox's com-

ment to the group during the banquet.

Elizabeth City industrial developer Mike Sumner, along with New Bern industrial developer Tom Thompson, outlined the need for such a committee to the group.

Sumner noted that in Elizabeth City "we've had a few foul balls, a few singles, but soon we will get a home run." He added that there is "an era of excitement and enthusiasm" since there Committee of 100 began. He also noted that not only is Elizabeth City looking for new industry, but also expects to see expansion of existing industry, a major element in new growth.

Thompson, in describing the poverty of this area, said that if this county's average family income net the state average, "every family could afford to buy a new car every two years," and if it met the national average, "every family could afford to own a quarter of a million dollar home. That's how far behind you are."

A committee for industrial development, Thompson said, would provide local involvement and political power in attracting growth, as well as a money to purchase possible industrial sites, a major consideration for businesses contemplating moving to Perquimans.



The Great Pumpkin?

The time has arrived to buy yourself a nice pumpkin, and Jim and Stephanie Mills' pup, "E.B.", is checking out the wares outside the Orchard Shop on U.S. 17.



Approximately \$25,000 worth of marijuana was seized Monday night in the four-mile desert vicinity of Parksville in Perquimans County.

Assisting Perquimans County Sheriff Julian Broughton, seated, were J.C. Spear, left, Frank Kutchin, center right, both of the

Elizabeth City Police Department, and county magistrate Jack Symon, right. No arrests or charges have been filed.

Court hears sexual offense cases

Two men charged with first degree rape, aiding and abetting first degree rape and kidnapping will be tried in Superior Court December 6.

Superior Court Judge John B. Lewis Jr. continued the cases Monday of William Graham Cohen, 19, of Holiday Island and Terry Lynn Miles, 28, of Suffolk, Virginia.

Probable cause was found in both cases. According to Perquimans County Deputy Victor Lamb, who investigated the cases, last August a 23 year old female resident of Holiday Island reported to a Holiday Island security guard that she had been raped. The guard called the Sheriff's Department. Deputies proceeded to the scene and took the two subjects into custody.

The victim was transported to Chowan Hospital by the Perquimans Rescue Squad for medical examination.

At the time of their arrest Cohen and Miles were charged with second degree rape. The cases have since gone to the grand jury, according to Lamb, and the charges were changed to first degree rape, aiding and abetting first degree rape and kid-

napping. Lamb said that to his knowledge neither subject had a prior criminal record, but they are still waiting to receive the fingerprint reports from Raleigh.

Cohen is now in custody at Albemarle District Jail and Miles is free on bond.

The case of Wallace Hinton was also continued and will be tried December 6 in Superior Court. Hinton has been charged with incest. The Perquimans County Department of Social Services is investigating the case and their records are confidential.

Other court arraignments were: Wilbert Lee Jones, assault with a deadly weapon.

Carlton Walters, driving under the influence.

Roscoe James Jr., driving without a license; 12 months suspended for two years; \$500 fine and cost; supervised probation.

Isaac Riddick, driving under the

influence and driving with license revoked; two years with N.C. Dept. of Corrections, suspended two years with supervised probation; \$400 fine and cost.

Arrie Lee Wilson, assault on a female, pled not guilty.

Robert Cecil Harrell, shoplifting, pled not guilty.

Russell Shepard, assault on female, pled guilty; received 90 day suspended sentence and treatment at Albemarle Mental Health Center; \$50 fine and cost.

Irene Jordan Welch, assault with a deadly weapon; received 90 day suspended sentence and treatment at Albemarle Mental Health Center; \$50 fine and cost.

Cleveland Stevenson, forgery, pled guilty and sentenced to 2 years with the N.C. Dept. of Corrections; immediate work release recommended.

Ervin Isaac Bryant, breaking and entering, larceny and receiving and possession of stolen goods.

Farmers unable to cash in on hog market

By TOM OSTROSKY

With the price of most farm commodities taking a dive and many farmers going down with it, there is bright spot in a group that has made been making good money in the last six months and expects the good fortune to continue for at least the next year.

While most farmers have been sandwiched between the high cost of expenses and low market prices, hog farmers have gone in just the opposite direction: lower expenses in better prices.

The drop in the price of corn for feed couldn't come at a better time

for hog farmers, timed as it is with the rise in hogs prices.

While corn has dropped in the neighborhood of 50 cents a bushel from last year, the price of feeder pigs has risen from a low of 30 cents a pound about two-and-a-half years ago to about \$1.50 a pound now. Top hogs have also increased dramatically to about 60 cents a pound.

Hog farmers, and farmers in general, are not the type to brag about how much money they're making, but it's easy to see that the profit margin has increased enormously since a few years ago, when many farmers, according to county extension agent Bill Jester, "almost lost their shirts," in the hog market.

Extension livestock agent Jeff Copeland added, "It would be hard not to make money in hogs right now."

But even though there is money to be made in raising hogs, most local farmers are not taking advantage of it. This is not always because they're not interested in hogs either. Though there are some farmers who will have nothing to do with hogs after having taken a loss a couple of years back, many would like to enter the market but can't.

In fact, hog numbers across the nation have been on the decline. Copeland expects hog numbers to

increase in the coming months, "but it'll be nothing like the boom of a few years ago," he said.

Part of the reason is the hesitancy of farmers who were burned in the past, but most the problem is, as usual, money. Farmers here are carrying so large a debt load from the last few mediocre crop years that they haven't the credit to start a hog operation.

Other farmers would like to feed their cheap corn to expensive feeder pigs, and have the equipment to start a feeder pig operation, but can't wait three or four months for the pigs to finish out and still meet the bills.

R.L. Stevenson, vice president of Peoples Bank in Hertford, said his bank doesn't offer long term loans for hog equipment, and Melvin Howell, supervisor of the Farm Home Administration in this area, which is offering long term loans, has so far had no takers.

The boom-bust cycle of hogs in recent years has shied bankers away from the business as well as farmers. Stevenson said that his bank doesn't except hoghouses as collateral on loans, but rather expects other farm equity as security. Hog farming, said Stevenson, is just too risky. "I can remember when I was young my father had to dig a hole as big as my office, so many of his hogs died," he said.

Extension chairman Jester noted that their were at least 10 empty hoghouses in the county, the result of farmers who jumped into the hog market as few years back, but could afford to keep the operation going when the market fell through.

The bank does offer short term loans for purchasing feeder pigs, but there haven't been too many to take up the offer. "Frankly," said Stevenson, "farmers are in such a bind that they don't have the credit."

One farmer who has been able to take advantage of the hog market is Preston Stevenson, who bought 500 feeder pigs and expects to feed them a little more than half his corn crop. Stevenson has raised hogs for most of the last 15 years, but dropped out about two years ago when the prices were low.

Scrounging up the credit to buy the pigs "took quite a bit of negotiating," but Stevenson can expect to make a good deal more money when he sells top hogs this winter than he could have gotten selling the other half of his corn crop.

"You have to keep trying," he said.

And if Stevenson can get his foot back in the door, he could have a solid business for quite a while. County extension agents and others familiar with the hog market expect to remain high for at least another year, and perhaps two.



Cheryl Stallings, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Ferebee, is crowned this year's Pork Queen at the Chowan County Fair by James Ferebee, president of the Northeast Pork Council last week in Edenton.

This week

Fair and mild weather through the weekend, highs in the upper 70s and lows in the mid 50s.

Weather

Hertford Fire Chief begins his retirement. Turn to page three.