

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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Local woman arrested

By VAL SHORT

A former Hertford real estate agent was arrested and charged with the August 12, 1982 burning of a home in Center Hill once owned by her late father, Rennie Dail.

Bonnie Dail White, 41, who listed her address as 200 Crescent Drive, Hertford, was arrested July 19 and charged with conspiracy to burn an uninhabited dwelling and burning an uninhabited dwelling.

Arrested by special agent for the State Bureau of Investigation Walter House, White was brought before Perquimans magistrate John Symons and released on \$10,000 secured bond.

Mrs. White currently operates Bonnie White's Bookkeeping and Income Tax Service in Hertford. If convicted, Mrs. White could receive up to 33 years in prison on the two charges.

According to the warrants issued for her arrest, Mrs. White is charged with conspiring with Larry Wayne Sanders and others to burn the dwelling, located on the Center Hill Road, state road 1110.

In connection with the same incident, Sanders, 35, of Route 5, Box 210, Morgan's Corner and Douglas "Luckie" Cartwright, 36, of Route 3, Box 823, Hertford, were both indicted last May for conspiracy to burn a building and burning a building.

Arraigned in Chowan Superior Court last week, Sanders pleaded guilty to a charge of burning an uninhabited dwelling in Chowan County. Sanders agreed, as part of a plea bargain, to offer testimony on defendants in arson cases pending in Chowan and Perquimans.

According to reports, the Center Hill Fire Department responded to the fire around 11:45 p.m. The house, which was owned by Mrs. White, was unoccupied at the time of the fire, but had been occupied by tenants in the past.

Mrs. White's arrest is the latest in the continuing arson investigation in Chowan and Perquimans counties which has resulted in the arrest of three men in addition to Cartwright and Sanders, including Hertford attorney James D. Singletary.

All were indicted on charges of conspiracy to burn a building and burning a building in connection with the June 2, 1982 burning of a farmhouse near Tyner.

Mrs. White's first appearance hearing is scheduled August 10 in Perquimans County.

Wrecks reported in Winfall

By VAL SHORT

A collision last Thursday in Winfall between a vehicle and a tractor trailer truck loaded with bananas resulted in one injury and total loss of the vehicle.

Tanya Cherry, 18, a passenger in the vehicle, was treated for leg injuries and released from Chowan Hospital following the accident which occurred at the intersection of U.S. 17 Business and U.S. 17 bypass.

According to Winfall Chief of Police Joe Lothian, the collision occurred when the vehicle, driven by Joseph Martin, 73, of 311 W. 32nd St., Norfolk, Va., was travelling north when it pulled into the path of the tractor trailer.

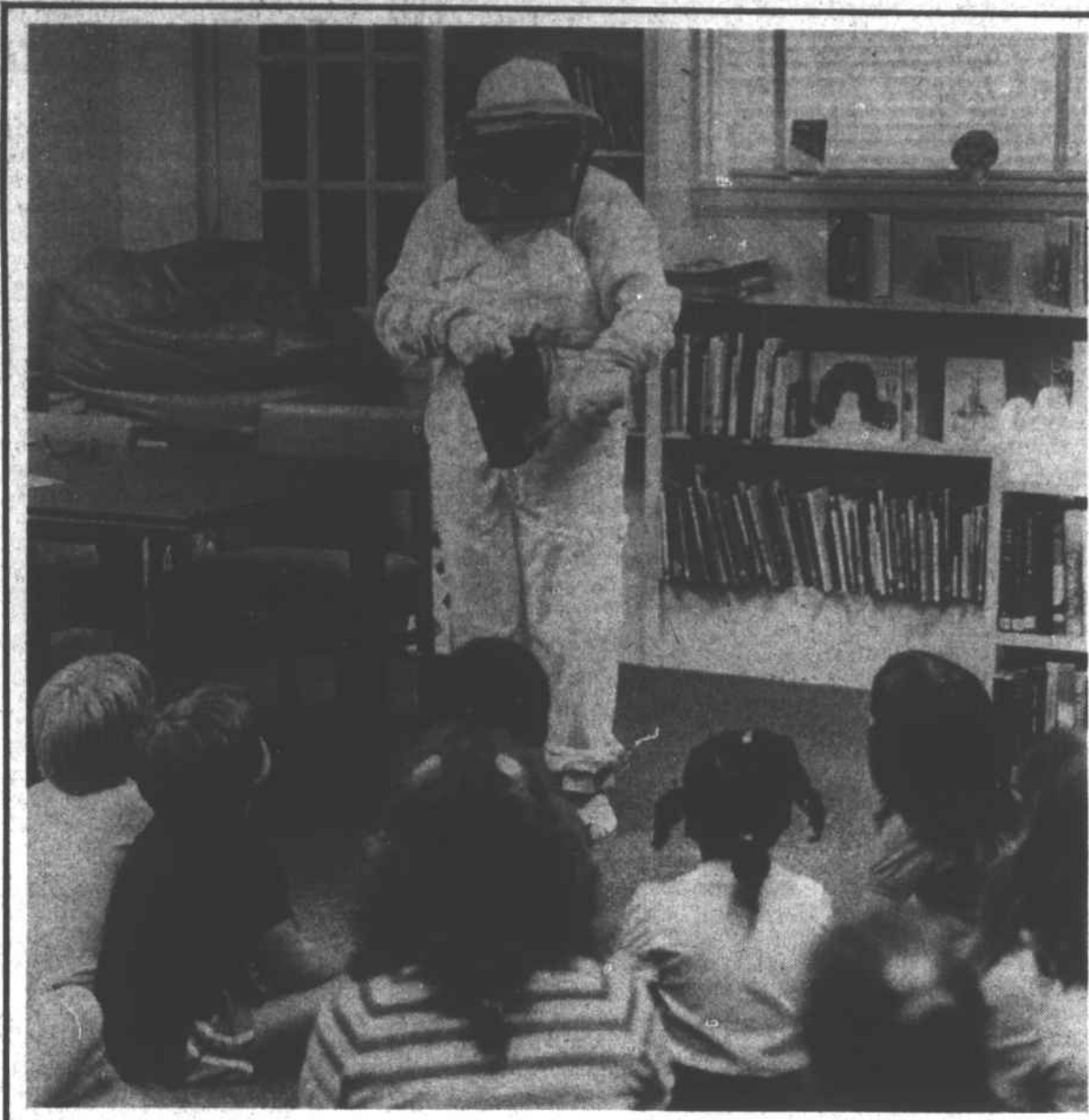
Driving the truck was David Clinton Pierce, 58, of Route 3, Williamston. Lothian said the truck, owned by Andy's Produce Company of Raleigh, received \$250 in damages.

Martin was charged with failure to yield the right of way in obedience to a duly erected stop sign, said Lothian.

A one-car accident occurred in Winfall last Wednesday around 2 a.m. near the intersection of U.S. 17 and state road 1201 when the driver lost control and ran off the road.

Jane Davenport Lassiter, 26, of 607 S. Church Street, Hertford, driver of the vehicle, was not injured in the accident. No charges were filed.

A break-in was reported last week at Malton Grove Church in Winfall.



Summer fun

Over 90 children have signed up for the Adventures from A to Z summer reading program at the Perquimans County Library. Above, extension homemaker Sally Knight talks about beekeeping and demonstrates "smoking." Below, Lynn Hilborn of Holiday Island supervises basket construction by Alice Brewin, left, and Kisha White. (Photos by Val Short)



Perquimans students excel in achievement testing

By VAL SHORT

Scores from the achievement tests taken last spring by Perquimans students reveal that students in grades one and two are continuing to equal or exceed state averages.

"That is our goal for all grades," said Paul Ward, who coordinates the testing program in the county. "We're still working on grades three, six and nine."

Local students in the second grade scored in the 70th percentile in reading on the achievement tests which are administered annually. This means that the Perquimans students scored better than 70 percent of all students tested in the same grade across the state.

This compared with a percentile rank of 69 for the region and state.

Second grade students ranked in the 81st percentile in mathematics.

Perquimans first graders ranked in the 64th percentile for reading and the 85th percentile for math.

Ward said the test results follow a six year trend of improvement. He said several factors could be involved in the improvement of Perquimans test scores.

"I think over the six years students have become better test takers. I also think the teachers have become more aware of the objectives of the tests and have geared their instruction and materials to those objectives," Ward said.

"I also think the reading instruction has improved. Reading is the basis for everything. A good reader will do better in all subject areas," he continued.

Ward also said students were reading better than they ever had.

Ward said the statewide testing program was initiated six years ago. "Prior to that, there was some testing locally — some did and some didn't."

Under the state program, achievement tests are given to students in grades one through three and in grades six and nine. "The state feels the first three grades are the most important," said Ward.

Testing for sixth and ninth graders

is a double-check to make sure progress is being made, according to Ward.

Ward said a local testing program is administered to students in grades four, five, seven and eight.

According to Ward, criterion reference tests are given to first and second graders in reading and math only. "These tests give more specific data about individual students," he said.

All others receive norm reference tests in which comparisons are made with students of the same age at the same time across the nation, according to Ward. These students are tested in reading, spelling, math and language arts.

Testing in Perquimans usually takes place in the spring. Testing will begin next year March 27 and will continue through April 5.

Ward said he always announces the testing dates well in advance so that the parents will be aware that testing is taking place.

Ward said hundreds of influences can affect the students' testing abilities. "Anything positive that you can do would certainly help. If they come to school fresh, they usually do better," he commented.

Ward commended all the teachers and staff members associated with the testing program. "We are continuing to make progress. We're still working toward our goal and we'll just continue to work at it," he said.

Albemarle Commission honors Marc Basnight July 21

By SUSAN HARRIS

The Albemarle Commission applauded the accomplishments of resigning State Board of Transportation member Marc Basnight at a dinner held in his honor at Angler's Cove Thursday night.

Pasquotank Commissioners Chairman Raleigh Carver said, "The Albemarle region is a better place in which to live" due to Basnight's six-year tenure on the board.

Although Basnight, a Dare County native, was a virtual unknown at the time of his appointment, Carver said, Basnight "is held in high esteem by everyone in this district today."

The State Board of Transportation earlier this month named N.C. Highway 12 at Dare County Marc Basnight Highway.

The high-rise bridge on U.S. Highway 17 at South Mills, the improvements to Highway 12 at Hatteras and Ocracoke, the upcoming construction of a four-lane bridge on U.S. Highway 158 at Coinjock, and the approval for a new Albemarle Sound Bridge were among Basnight's highway improvement successes mentioned by Carver.

Carver attributed Basnight's

success to his ability to cut bureaucratic red tape, his willingness to stand up for the needs of the people in District I, and his close link with local government entities.

"Above all, Marc was blessed with common sense," Carver summed up his praise of Basnight, who is resigning for business and family reasons.

Hertford Mayor and Albemarle Commission chairman Bill Cox added to Carver's compliments. "I have seen the greatest improvements in the past six years I have seen in the rest of my lifetime."

"I don't deserve this," Basnight said as he accepted a plaque from the Albemarle Commission and simultaneously received a standing ovation from the packed house.

Basnight gave credit for the District I highway improvements to locals who kept him abreast of the people's needs.

Other Commission business included a decision to change health insurance coverage to the League of Municipalities self-insurance plan. "It appears to be the most economical plan in the long run and

is cheaper in the short term," Commission Executive Director Don Flowers told the group.

The Clearinghouse review included, eleven requests, all of which were

approved by the Commission.

Budget Director Mary Lou Onley informed the Commission of an unexpected grant of \$37,026, which will decrease local funds needed for

Commission operation. The Commission approved the budget amendment.

The appointment by the state of Hal Walker to the EMS Council was approved.

Faircloth speaks on industry to area leaders

By VAL SHORT

On the eve of his expected plunge into the North Carolina gubernatorial race, D.M. "Lauch" Faircloth told area business and industrial leaders there is more potential here for industrial development than anywhere else in the state.

During a dinner meeting held last Wednesday at Angler's Cove, which included nearly 100 members of county governments and industrial development groups from Perquimans, Chowan and Pasquotank, Faircloth said, "You are going to have more industrial development than ever before."

"You have just begun to touch the surface of potential of what we can do," he continued.

He said Eastern North Carolina

has a great potential for agricultural industries. "If we can direct industries toward agriculture and the use of agricultural products, we have served a three-fold purpose," Faircloth said.

"What is needed is industry that is compatible with what is here, not industry that would destroy what is here," he added.

Faircloth, a businessman and farmer from Sampson County who recently resigned as state Secretary of Commerce, has served as highway commissioner during Terry Sanford's administration, as well as Secretary of Transportation during Bob Scott's governorship.

Introduced by the newly appointed member of the state Board of Transportation Tom Campbell,

Faircloth was praised for his accomplishments as Secretary of Commerce.

Campbell said Faircloth had an "unbelievable track record," which included expansion and growth in such areas as economic development, state ports, and travel and tourism.

Faircloth spoke of expansion of roads, education and the economy as it related to the industrial development of the area.

Faircloth recognized Tim Brinn, who was recently appointed to the state Economic Development Board. Faircloth called the board "enormously influential with what happens in the state. It's the force to help us make it happen."

Polling places set for county peanut referendum

By VAL SHORT

The North Carolina Board of Agriculture has authorized the N. C. Peanut Growers Association to conduct a referendum in counties producing commercial peanuts, including Perquimans.

According to Tommy Riddick, director of the Perquimans Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS,) the referendum will be held in Perquimans Tuesday, August 16 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at four locations.

The Perquimans polling places will include Hertford Supply Company, Belvidere Farmer's Exchange, the ASCS office and the Perquimans Extension office.

The polling places are being determined in the individual counties by a referendum committee. The Perquimans committee includes Riddick, chairman, Donald Madre, Bill Jester, and members of the county Peanut Growers Association.

In addition to deciding the county polling places during a meeting held July 18, the committee also heard further explanations from Betsy Owens, a representative of the state peanut organization.

"The objective of the referendum," said Norfleet L. Sugg, executive secretary of the N.C. Peanut Growers Association, "is to give each commercial peanut grower an opportunity to designate on a written ballot, whether or not the peanut farmers in North Carolina should assess themselves \$2 per ton for the six year period beginning with 1983 and continuing through 1988."

According to Riddick, those eligible to vote will include owners, tenants or sharecroppers engaged in the production of peanuts during 1983.

Perquimans County has at least 235 peanut producers, according to Riddick, in addition to the farmers who lease their peanut quotas.

Perquimans has a total peanut allotment of 2,771 acres, said Riddick.

North Carolina peanut farmers voted the N.C. Peanut Growers Association into existence in 1953 to be a self-help program designed to "promote and stimulate the production, sale, use and consumption of peanuts and peanut products through research, education, legislation and other available means."

Referendums have been held every six years among the peanut growers resulting in large favorable approval votes ranging from 96 to 98 percent.

The funds paid in by the growers when they market their peanuts are forwarded by the buyers to the N.C. Department of Agriculture, which in turn, has designated the state Peanut Growers Association as the organization to administer the use of the funds.

Growers voted to assess themselves \$1 per ton in 1973 and 1978 and now are being asked to assess themselves \$2 per ton.

North Carolina is the third largest peanut production state. Yet, all other peanut states have already approved \$2 per ton, according to Sugg. Virginia growers will contribute \$1.50 per ton in 1983 and \$2 per ton in 1984.

"Much of the progress we have made in peanut production," said J. Lewis Storey, president of the N.C. Peanut Growers Association and peanut farmer in Hertford County, "is the result of funds the association has invested for research and education. More funds are needed for promotion and market development," he said.

Additional funds would allow for expansion of current on-going promotions. The funds would support more frequent photo-recipe releases to newspapers and magazines, as well as special projects.