



Taking A Break...

...seems to be the best way to spend a hazy, lazy afternoon for these geese that were visiting on the

lawn of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Stokes of Front Street last week. With the changeable

weather geese have played a predominant part in the scenery around Perquimans County for

the last several weeks. (Photo by Edward Leicester.)

Chowan jury finds Singletary guilty on four counts

By JANE WILLIAMS

A jury of six men and six women returned a guilty verdict last Thursday against a Hertford attorney charged in connection with the June 2, 1982 burning of the Elliott House near Tyner, N. C.

James David Singletary, age 33, was convicted by a Chowan County Superior Court Jury for conspiracy to burn and burning an uninhabited dwelling and for conspiracy to burn and burning a building for fraudulent purposes.

The combined maximum sentence for the four charges is 46 years imprisonment. Singletary could also face disbarment from the North Carolina Bar Association.

A sentencing date was set for February 26, the next session of Superior Court in Chowan County.

Originally Singletary was charged with conspiracy to burn and burning an uninhabited dwelling, the additional charges were levied last Monday by the Chowan County Grand Jury just prior to the beginning of testimony in the case.

In testimony beginning early last week Douglas "Luckie" Cartwright, age 35, of Route 3, Hertford, told the court that he, Singletary, and three other men had been involved in burning the Elliott House.

The Elliott House was owned by Hay Makin International, Inc., a British West Indies company.

Cartwright offered his testimony as part of a plea bargain to receive a reduced sentence for his part in the fire and in other charges filed against him.

The three other men involved in the fire were; Larry Wayne Sanders, age 35, of Route 5, Morgan's Corner and Mitchell Duke Ivey, age 35, of Route 3, Hertford, and Peter Rosenthal of Virginia Beach, Va.

SBI agents Walt House and Bill Godley testified that in an April interview with Singletary, Singletary admitted that he knew that Cartwright was taking him seriously when he was discussing ways to burn a building.

The interview with SBI agents took place after Singletary failed to pass a polygraph test given in Chowan County Sheriff Troy Toppin's office.

Agent House testified that Cartwright had told him that Singletary advised him not to use any flammable liquids in starting the fire because they could be detected by law enforcement officials. Cartwright also told House that Singletary suggested boarding up the windows of the house and to start the fire at the bottom of the stairwell.

Board discusses plans for new county high school complex

By JANE WILLIAMS

The Perquimans County Board of Education met in special session Monday night to discuss proposals for the county high school complex and to review the school system's audit report.

Sam Ashford, a Raleigh architect contracted by the Board to design the school complex, met with Board members on Monday night to present a small scale model of the building showing alternatives available for construction and revamping of Perquimans County High School.

The Board had previously expressed their desire to keep the auditorium portion of the 1924 building in tact. Ashford's proposals included the removal of the left and right wings of the original building, leaving the main section of the building to adjoin new construction, or removal of the 1924 building, leaving the auditorium and adding a modernized entryway to the auditorium. The idea of totally demolishing the building and adding a new auditorium was abolished. A final decision was not reached on

which proposal the Board would accept for the school, but most members leaned toward renovating the original building instead of building a new front for the auditorium.

The Board agreed to make a decision at their next meeting on February 6, and to ask the County Commissioners for a special joint meeting on February 13 to discuss placing a bond referendum on the ballot for the May 6 Primary.

The Perquimans County Commissioners gave the Board of

Education their support concerning the renovations and construction of the high school facility last month. The project cost is estimated at \$2 million or less with major funding anticipated from the new half-cent county sales tax.

Ashford also reported to the Board that he had brought in a structural engineer to look at the 1924 building on December 29. Findings from the engineers report assessed that the building was structurally sound for reconstruction purposes.

The Board also heard a report from R. E. Aiken who conducted the annual audit for the 1982-83 school year.

Aiken told the Board that this had been the first year that the school system had been under a single audit concept. Prior to the '82-'83 school year, each different section was audited separately.

The current audit is divided into three categories: governmental, proprietary enterprise and trust and agency funds.

In total cash and investments the Perquimans County School System closed out the fiscal year '82-'83 with \$923,000.

The Board unanimously approved the audit report.

In other business the Board:

- Granted sick leave and leave without pay to Lola Duers in accordance with her request from January 2 until March 5.

- Approved a motion to request that the Department of Transportation inspect a site at the main gate of Holiday Island to prove that it is unsafe for the loading and unloading of children onto school buses, thus enabling the buses to pick up students at the Holiday Island Clubhouse inside the main gate.

- Approved a request from David Ziemba, Band Director, to continue a lease purchase plan for instruments that has been used by the high school to benefit students at Union School.

- Heard a report from the Principals and Instructional Coordinators concerning the use of curriculum guides in the classroom this year.

- Heard a report from Paul Ward explaining the State Annual Testing Writing Component which was administered to all sixth and ninth grade students throughout the state on Tuesday.

Lions Club hosts guest speakers

By KEN CASTELLOE

The Hertford Lions Club met last Thursday night with Dr. Leibert DeVine and Mike McArthur presenting the main program.

DeVine, a family physician and McArthur, a trooper of the N. C. Highway Patrol, are currently involved with a very successful program in the Edenton-Chowan Schools teaching the students about drug abuse and its effects on the human body. DeVine stated that this area has a common problem with drugs and their main objective is to inform the students about the misuse of drugs and the damage that may be done when these drugs are not used properly.

At the present time, the program has been presented to every student from the sixth grade through the twelve. "We have gotten a response from the students, their parents, and the school system in general," said DeVine. He also stated that the

greatest impact is made on the younger students because they have not formulated their ideas about the future.

DeVine explained that, "we don't tell them precisely not to use a certain drug, but we show them what this drug will do to you physically and emotionally and then they can decide for themselves. Drug Abuse does not necessarily refer to illegal drugs but also to such common market items as: nicotine, alcohol and caffeine."

DeVine emphasized the fact that more and more teenagers turn to alcohol and nicotine because of peer pressure than any other reason.

McArthur explained that he tries to show the students what can happen to them when they misuse drugs in the eyes of the law.

The Lions Club hope that a program can begin in this area to inform our local youth on this matter.

Parks receives national award

The United States Achievement Academy announced today that Dwayne Parks has been named a 1984 United States National Award

winner in Physical Education.

This award is a prestigious honor very few students can ever hope to attain. In fact, the Academy recognizes less than 10 percent of all American high school students.

The Academy selects USA winners upon the exclusive recommendation of teachers, coaches, counselors or other school sponsors and upon the Standards of Selection set forth by the Academy.

The criteria for selection are a student's academic performance, interest and aptitude, leadership qualities, responsibility, enthusiasm, motivation to learn and improve, citizenship, attitude and cooperative spirit, dependability and recom-

mendations from a teacher or director.

Parks, who attends Perquimans County High School, was nominated for this National Award by Carolyn Rogers, a Health/Physical Education teacher at the school.

Dwayne's picture and biography will appear in the United States Achievement Academy Official Yearbook, published nationally.

Parks was diagnosed with a rare bone cancer in December of 1980. He has had his right arm and shoulder amputated, and a portion of each lung removed as a result of his illness.

He also received two years of monthly chemotherapy treatments from February 1981 until February of 1983 at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland.

Parks is presently in remission from his disease, and returns to the hospital in Maryland once every two months for follow-up testing and check-ups.

Dwayne was nominated for the National Physical Education Award because of his participation in regular class activities in spite of his handicap and because his grades on Health/Physical Education are now at a 91.5 average.

Besides this award, Dwayne has received recognition from top officials of the United States, including the Governors Award from N. C. Governor James B. Hunt Jr. and letters from Congressman Walter B. Jones, Senator Edward Kennedy and President Ronald Reagan.

Dwayne is the son of Gail Griffin of Belvidere and the grandson of Helen Parks of Edenton.

Staley joins area law enforcement agency

Jack Staley, a native of Burlington, N.C., has recently joined the ranks of law enforcement personnel in Perquimans County.

Staley has taken over the job of Wildlife Enforcement Officer replacing Horace Cahoon, who retired in November.

Staley, a graduate of Elon College, said that his interest in hunting and fishing is the major reason he chose a career in wildlife.

Anyone having questions or seeking information concerning wildlife in the county should contact Staley at 426-5662 (Or call 1-800-962-7137).



STALEY



Receives Check

Albert Eure of the Perquimans Co. Restoration Association recently received a contribution from N.C.N.B.

Representing N.C.N.B. is O. B. Rawls, City Executive of the Hertford branch.