

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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## Citizens disappointed at lack of military concern displayed

By SUSAN HARRIS  
The Albemarle Commission, at its Thursday night meeting, hosted a panel discussion entitled, "The Need For The Expansion of Military Bombing Ranges, Potential Detriments and Possible Alternatives."

Numerous representatives of the Navy and Marines, along with Clarence Skinner, Director of the Dare County Airport, and Marshall Sanderson of the North Carolina Department of Transportation's Aviation Division presented their cases for and against expanded military airspace over the Albemarle area.

Three major areas of discussion were laid out by panel mediator Don Flowers, Executive Director of the Albemarle Commission: 1.) Are the proposed bombing range expansions necessary or are the present ranges adequate and maybe even excessive? 2.) What provisions have the military made for the commercial and private air traffic to and from the Outer Banks? 3.) Why cannot radar and radio communications be improved to add to the safety of the ranges?

Clarence Skinner led the discussion on the first question posed, stating that he felt the present range structure in

northeastern North Carolina is not necessary. "They absolutely do not need growth," he said. Skinner presented a map outlining present ranges and proposed changes.

According to Skinner, the Outer Banks, "the birthplace of aviation is almost denied air space for private air traffic," due to the military's excessive air space.

U.S. Navy Commander Salter countered, "It is a vital requirement that we (the armed forces) have it (air space) at our disposal." Salter said that pilots must have plenty of room

to maneuver for realistic training experience.

Salter said that the Navy's proposal for shifting its air space is primarily based on the fact that Dare County is often completely saturated by air space. Other reasons for the shift include regard for pilot safety and the need for more restricted space over land.

The Navy's Captain McDaniel emphasized that the realignment of the Palmetto Ranger in the Albemarle Sound in Perquimans County would help alleviate the concerns of the Holiday Island residents as it moves the boundary an additional 1.1 miles from the area.

Presently the range is only 1.9 miles from Holiday Island.

Captain Salter added that the charts presented by Mr. Skinner were somewhat misleading in the fact that the air space is not always active.

Director of the N.C. Dept. of Transportation's Aviation Division, Marshall Sanderson, entered the discussion explaining that a lot of the problem, especially in Dare County, is the lack of communication between military and civilian air traffic.

According to Commander Salter, the Navy is looking for a low cost radar system to help with communications in Dare County. At present the price tag

for a good system is about three million dollars.

Skinner said, "Three million dollars is nothing," when measured in terms of lives and the cost of planes. He further stated, "We can live together. We must live together."

The pabelists did agree that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) should create a board with representatives of private interests and a Department of Defense spokesperson to represent all armed force branches to enhance efforts to work together.

After the controlled debate, board members and visitors were invited to pose questions. Residents of Holiday Island felt the Armed service representatives had been vague about environmental and economic issues. Concerns raised were questions about how unburned jet fuel, which will shower the area when the planes fly over at low altitudes, will affect commercial fishing, crops, wildlife and humans.

Commander Salter said that a study done on the unspent jet fuel showed that it would pose no threats in such small amounts as might be present in the area following training missions. He showed the Navy's charts of present and proposed restricted air space and told the board, "We feel we have satisfied every question they (Holiday Island residents) have asked of us."

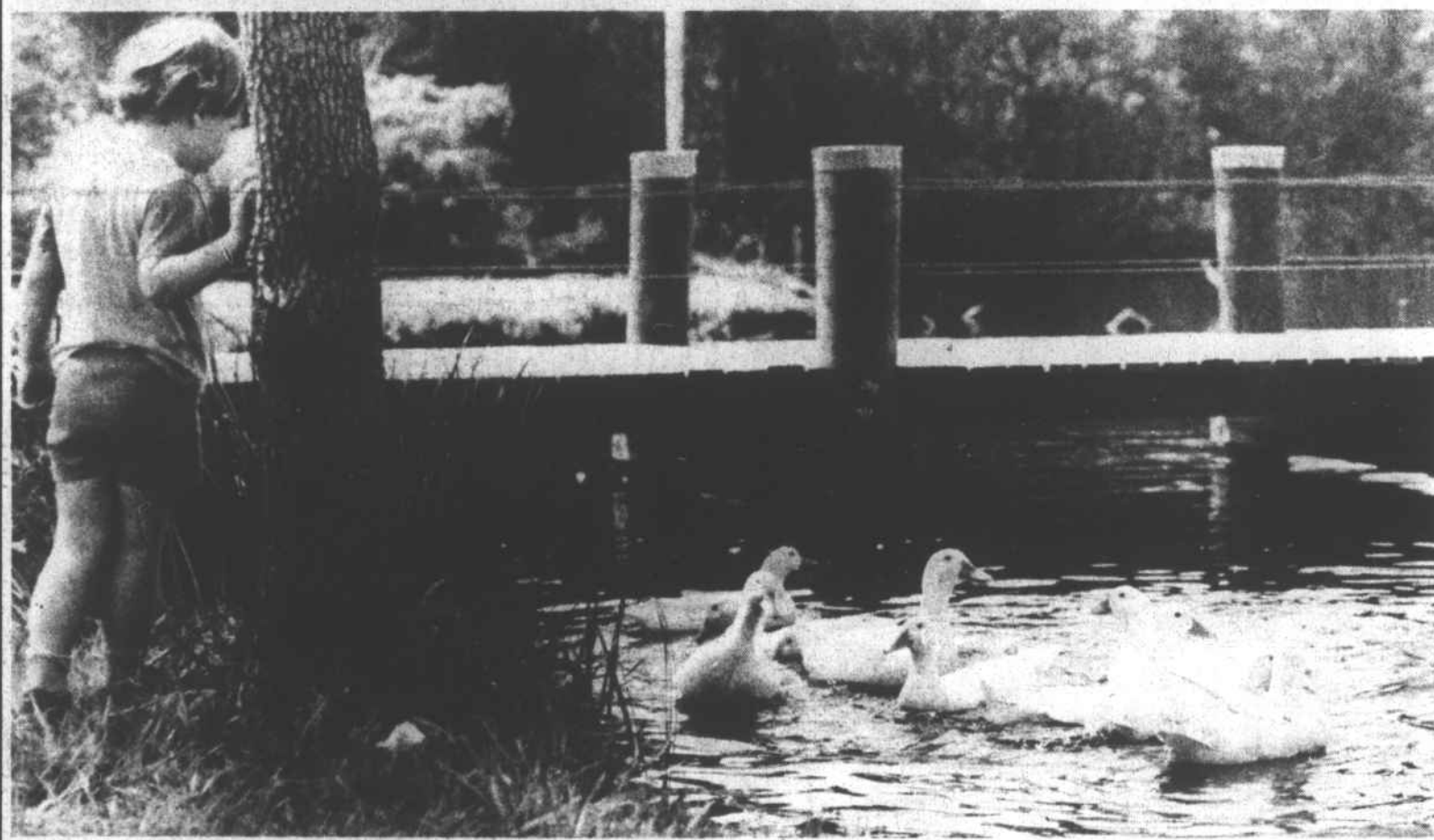
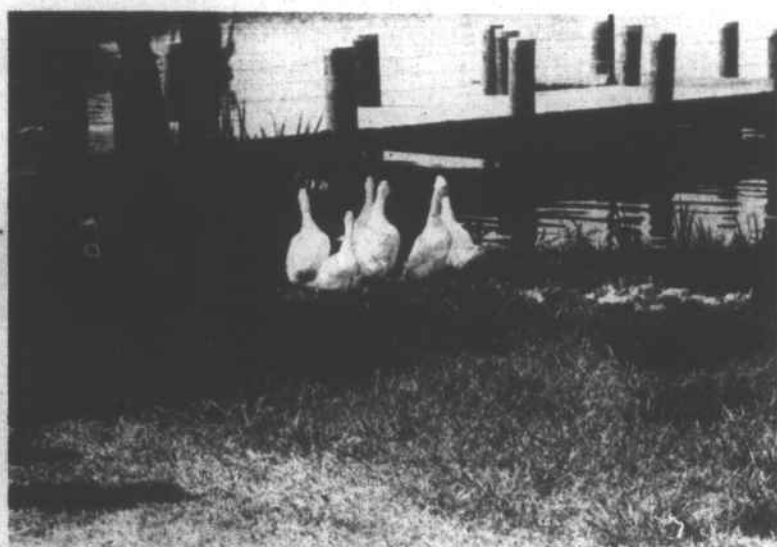
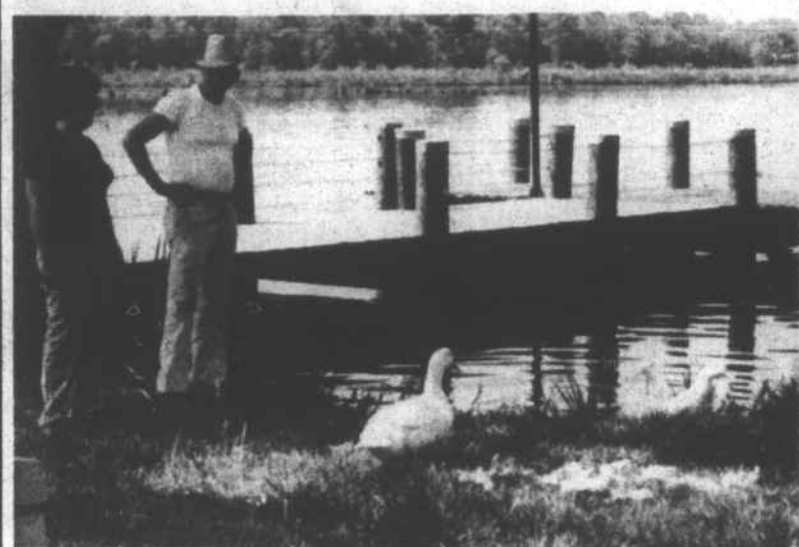
Carroll Payne of Stumpy Point said his neighbors even feared for their lives. He said that one accident could potentially wipe out the Dare County community of 210 inhabitants. He went on to say that the military planes fly at "what appears to be 100 feet over the rooftops."

A Coast Guard spokesman said that they have had no problems with admission to air space during search and rescue operations.

Wayne Harris, District Office Representative for U.S. Congressman Walter B. Jones, reported that although Jones has supported defense and restricted areas and realizes the need for advanced aviation, he will not endorse the new proposals until it is proven that they would have no adverse economic impact on aviation, fishing, senior citizens, or other potential hazards.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the military representatives and interested citizens talked, explaining their views and concerns to each other one on one.

The consensus of local citizens in attendance was that nothing was accomplished through the meeting. According to some, the same ground was covered as has previously been discussed at property owners' association meetings and public hearings. They feel that their voices are not really being heard by the military hierarchy.



### Returned to Freedom

Louis Lamb and Mary Humphries recently donated these 10 ducks to Perquimans County. They were released Friday, July 19 at Missing Mill Park. Mr. Lamb, who had raised several of the ducks, gave them their freedom when he found that he no longer had adequate space for them. Citizens are welcome to feed the ducks; however, they are asked to refrain from any action that may harm them.

Photos  
by  
Tim  
Bryant

## Appeals court upholds Singletary conviction

From Staff Reports

RALEIGH—The North Carolina Court of Appeals recently passed on the decision to uphold the conviction of former Hertford attorney James David Singletary, who was convicted in January 1984 in connection with the 1982 burning of the century-old Elliott House near Tyner, N.C.

The case has now been appealed to the North Carolina Supreme Court, which could rule on the decision within the next two months.

Singletary, age 34, 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 for fraudulent purposes. He received a three-year sentence for those crimes on March 26, 1984 in Chowan County.

In a ruling released earlier this month, the three-member Court of Appeals overruled Singletary's contentions that the Chowan County Court erred in five areas for allowing certain evidence to be admitted.

Judge Sarah Parker wrote the opinion, and Judges John Webb and Charles Becton concurred.

The appeal maintained that statements Singletary made

during a polygraph examination should not have been admitted in court because lie detector test results are not admissible.

The appeals court ruled that only the results, and not voluntary statements made during the test, are inadmissible.

In a second charge of error, Singletary contended the court erred when it allowed testimony relating to other crimes in which he had been accused but not convicted.

The appeals court ruled that this claim was without merit because an objection was not made by the defense during the trial until after testimony of the other crimes commenced.

Singletary also contended that the court should not have allowed testimony about a corporation he set up to manufacture firearms; claiming that this was prejudicial evidence, unrelated to the offense with which he was charged.

During cross-examination at the trial Singletary denied he thought the family of one of his co-defendants was involved in drug trafficking, but testimony of Hertford Police Chief Marshall Merritt rebutted this statement.

The court ruled that the testimony was relevant because it

supported Singletary's knowledge that some of his co-defendants were involved in criminal activities.

Singletary cited a fourth error in the trial, charging that the State was allowed to pre-

sent its case twice when court allowed rebuttal witnesses to go beyond the scope of rebuttal testimony.

The burden of proof with this charge was on Singletary to

prove a reasonable possibility that a different result would have occurred had the court not committed the error, and the court ruled that the defendant failed to carry his burden in that regard.

## Boosters set goals for school year

By JANE B. WILLIAMS

A three-tier press box and a grass infield for the baseball field are two major projects that may get attention at Perquimans County High School during the upcoming year with the help of the Perquimans Pirates Athletic Booster Club.

The group held their first meeting of the 1985-86 school year last Thursday night under the direction of the school's new athletic director and varsity football coach Bill Flippen.

Noting a healthy balance in the club's bank account, members discussed various projects that were within the club's reach during the upcoming school year. The plan to construct a new

press box is not a new idea, but with anticipated ad sales for the football program this fall the project could be completed without depleting the organizations funds.

Plans for the press box, according to Mack Nixon a Perquimans County Board of Education member, were drawn up last year with an estimated construction cost of \$5321.00, excluding labor. Nixon told the group that they could probably anticipate a five-percent increase over that figure due to rising construction costs.

The club decided to begin work on that project after football season this year, for completion prior to the '86 football season.

The press box will feature

a concession stand on the first level with running water for workers in the stand, and will be open all the way around for ease in serving.

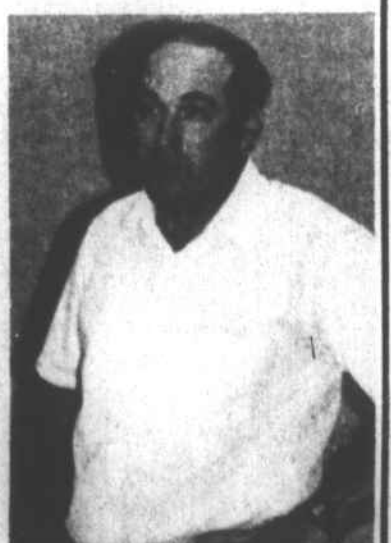
The group plans to spend an additional \$1,200 to \$1,500 to sow grass in the infield of the baseball field.

Other projects mentioned that may get the groups attention this year is a waterline for the softball field and a fence around that field.

During the meeting committees were set to handle the upcoming advertising sales for the fall football program, and a membership committee was established.

Perquimans will meet Edenton in their first home game this year, and the group is planning a dinner

at the high school prior to gametime.



BILL FLIPPEN