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Local Briefs

NCNB approves raises common stock dividend

Charlotte—NCNB Corp. said recently its board of directors approved a 20-percent increase in NCNB's quarterly common stock dividend — three months earlier than the company historically has raised its dividend.

The quarterly dividend of 30 cents per common share, up from 25 cents per share paid the past three quarters, is payable September 22 to shareholders of record on September 1.

"This accelerated dividend increase represents another step in our commitment to increasing shareholder value," said NCNB Chairman Hugh McColl. "Total return to our shareholders is a combination of increases in cash dividends and significant increase in stock price we have experienced this year."

In addition, the NCNB board declared a regular quarterly preferred stock dividend of \$1.00 per share, unchanged from the previous quarter, payable October 1 to shareholders of record on September 1.

Swindell Funeral Home acquires membership in The Order of the Golden Rule

Swindell Funeral Home in Hertford has been accepted for membership in the International Order of the Golden Rule.

The Order is comprised of funeral directors from all over the world who are dedicated to keeping in touch with the attitudes of the public. This is accomplished through regularly scheduled seminars and educational meetings at which attendance is required by all members.

"Only one funeral home in a community is selected for membership. For this reason, the Order carefully screens all prospects. The decision is based on recommendations made by families the firm has served and by other professionals in the area."

Dale L. Rollings, Executive Director of the association, stated, "To obtain membership in OGR, all prospects must provide their community with quality funeral service and merchandise at reasonable prices. As a result of the positive response we've received from the Hertford area, Swindell Funeral Home has proven its worthiness to be counted among our members."

ESC comes to Hertford weekly

Beginning August 8, job seekers in Hertford will no longer have to go to the Edenton or Elizabeth City Employment Security Commission in order to register for work. The Edenton Local Office will be sending a representative to the Albemarle Commission building on Church Street Extended every Tuesday from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. to assist Perquimans County residents in finding jobs.

Kathy Keefe, Manager of the Edenton Local Office, stated that the decision to begin sending a representative to Hertford was made after several larger employers in Hertford began to do all of their hiring through Employment Security Commission. Some concern had been expressed that some residents of Perquimans County could arrange transportation to get to jobs in Hertford, but may have difficulty in obtaining transportation to Edenton or Elizabeth City to register for work.

This service is being provided on a trial basis. If employers and local applicants utilize the service it will be continued. The support of the employer community as well as the utilization by local people seeking work will be essential to the continuation of this service.

Perquimans County employers are encouraged to contact the Edenton Job Service Office at 482-2195 to list openings.

Anyone seeking employment is encouraged to report in person at the Albemarle Commission on Tuesdays between 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Brothers recall excitement of "Great American Race"

By: Jack Grove

Pete and Charles Ward went the distance in the 1936 Bentley they drove but didn't place in the money. That did not seem to bother them any and they talked animatedly Tuesday morning about their experiences during the "Great American Race."

The race was really a coast to coast rally featuring vintage automobiles. The skill of a driver and navigator in each team was pitted against the clock featuring precision driving, controlled speed and endurance of both man and machine over mainly back roads for 12 to 14 hours at a stretch.

Pete Ward of Edenton and his brother, Charles Ward of Hertford, each own auto supply stores in their respective towns. The Bentley Saloon they drove belongs to Willis Jessup of Hertford who went along on the race with a support vehicle containing spare parts (which weren't needed.) The car "ran perfect" commented Charles Ward and had all the power needed, especially in the mountains.

Of 120 cars entered from 32 states and six foreign countries, four were unable to start the race and 95 crossed the finish line at Disneyland in California.

The race took the cars from the starting line in Norfolk to Baltimore on the first day. The second day ended at Charlotte, NC. The race then wound through Nashville and Memphis, Tenn.; Little Rock and Fort Smith, Ark.; Lawton, Okla.; Gainesville and Irving, Tex.; Lawton, Okla.; Amarillo, Tex.; Tucumcari and Santa Fe, N.M.; Phoenix and Yuma Ariz.; and San Diego and Fallbrook, Calif.

The Wards said that cars from the state of the evening destination each day were placed in the start-

ing positions that morning. For North Carolina, a father-son team from Wadesboro, driving a 1932 Packard, were slated to lead the pack with the Wards in the second position.

Since that team didn't show up at the starting line on time, the Wards led the parade to Charlotte.

They placed eighth in the field of 116 on the first day, 44 seconds off the predetermined finish time at the final check-point, their best effort in the 12 day event. "We thought there wasn't anything to it," Charles Ward, the navigator, said smiling. Things got a great deal more complicated, however, as the race wore on.

Each morning they received a detailed set of instructions including where to turn at landmarks and specific speeds at certain stretches. (The directions might dictate that they drive 15 mph for 37 seconds, then 50 mph for 20 miles and then reduce to a specific speed for a certain time at another interval.)

Pete Ward, who handled the right-side mounted steering wheel, said that missing a turn could make all the difference in placing at the end of a day. "We didn't make but one wrong turn in the whole race. And people were standing in front of the sign" in a church yard in Sparta, Tenn. "About everyone missed it," Charles added. That day they placed 75th.

The racers were greeted by throngs of excited people in all the small towns they went through who urged them to pass one another with waving gestures. Pete Ward termed it "The fun part. It was just about like being in a Burt Reynolds movie."

At each overnight stop they had assigned hosts who "adopted" a car and team and who paid for the

privilege. In Dallas they had a day off for rest. The Wards' hosts took them sight-seeing to visit such places as the school book depository where President John F. Kennedy was assassinated and to "South Fork", a ranch 20 miles outside the city, made famous by the TV series, "Dallas."

Also at each stop, the locals would press souvenirs on them. They said before they reached the halfway point, a Bentley full of T-shirts, ball caps, pennants, pins and other items had to be transferred to Jessup's vehicle. At a service station in Amarillo, Tex. they even received a free tank of gas.

Along the way they became in-

stant celebrities, signing souvenir Great Race books. "I'll bet we signed over 10,000 autographs," Charles Ward said.

They made many friends among the other teams. The winner of the race, Dick Burdick of Rosanky, Tex., wrote them after the race, urging them to participate again next year. He offered his help and advice and said that he would like to see them finish in at least the top ten in 1990.

The Wards finished 27th in the field this year, based on their performance during the "championship run" on the last two days. They finished second in the effort to achieve "rookie of the

year" honors.

Their only mishap on the run was when they hit a dog in Tennessee and bent a fender. After the grueling pace, they were "wore out" when they reached the Disneyland finish line.

The Wards now plan to acquire their own vintage car and enter next year's event. "This year's experience was the best two weeks spent in our life," Charles Ward beamed. His brother agreed. "We really enjoyed it."

As to winning, "If you enter the race, you win," Charles stated.



Prior to the beginning of the Great American Race, the Ward Brothers posed with Bentley owner Willis Jessup at his home.

New athletic director assumes duties

The Perquimans County Schools announced the appointment of Jim Tabb as athletic director and head football coach at Perquimans High School.

Tabb comes to the area from Beddingfield High School in Wilson, where he has served as an assistant coach and teacher since 1986. Prior to coming to North Carolina, Tabb spent 30 years in education in Georgia, his home state.

The new coach is excited about the upcoming football season. He said the high number of seniors on the roster looks good. "I was impressed with that," he said, adding, "That's a good sign."

Tabb said he is bringing "a lot of experience and commonality with this area" to Perquimans. He has coached and played all sports, as well as serving as a teacher, coach, principal and administrator during his tenure in Georgia.

"Firm and fair" his how he describes his coaching style. He stresses grades. "Academics is very important. It's the most important thing," he said.

Weightlifting is an important part of a football program, and Tabb plans to continue with the program already in place at Perquimans.

Tabb came to North Carolina to be near his daughter and her two children in Kinston. When he heard

about the opening here, he applied to have the opportunity to once again become an athletic director and head football coach.

Fortunately, the Wilson School system granted his request for release, allowing him to begin work in Perquimans this past Monday, the first day of football practice.

Tabb was one of two candidates of those interviewed recommended to the board of education by school administrators. He met with the board last Thursday night to discuss the position. He called on Friday to say he would be coming to Hertford on Monday.

Tabb graduated from Miller County High School in Georgia, attended Auburn University and earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees from Troy State University. He also holds a masters degree - North Carolina Continuing Certificate in social studies, physical education and school administration.

He served as head coach during 11 of his 32 coaching years. He coached teams in all classifications.

Tabb looks forward to a long and successful career working with the youth of Perquimans.

The Perquimans Pirates will open their season against Camden on Friday, August 25 in a non-conference game after scrimmaging with Roanoke Rapids on August 17.



Arthritis sufferers form regional support group

Sufferers of the excruciating pain of arthritis no longer need to bear their pain alone. A club has recently been established in the Albemarle area to offer support to these afflicted with arthritis.

The Albemarle Arthritis Support Group meets at Knobbs Creek Recreation Center in Elizabeth City on the second Tuesday of each month from 1:00 until 3:00 p.m. The "ABCS", an acronym for Arthritis Buddies, Caring and Sharing, hosts informative meetings featuring guest speakers who teach the participants how to live with arthritis, its pain and crippling.

The group is planning to hold a second meeting each month to be used as a time for outings and sharing concerns.

A spring workshop designed to help arthritis sufferers in the Albemarle area learn to manage their disease through lifestyle and diet sparked the group's formation.

Leaders for the group are Helen Meekins and Lina Sherlock. An Elizabeth City massage therapist, Wendy McClenon, is the founder and coordinator of

the ABCS.

Bernie Blystone, physical therapist at Coastal Rehabilitation Center, Inc., is medical advisor. Registered Physical Therapist Sandy Trevillian, Blystone's associate, assists him.

Membership chairman of the ABCS is Jessie Cox of Hertford. Other officers in addition to Cox, Meekins and Sherlock are Helen Wilson of Frisco, publicity; Dee Marshall of Elizabeth City, Sunshine Fund; Tammy Smith of Elizabeth City, telephone and Roxie Blanchard of Belvidere, social.

A club spokesperson said, "Joining an arthritis club can make coping with the problems of arthritis a little easier. We invite all interested persons to come and hear the latest information about arthritis and its treatment, in addition to meeting others who share common concerns and enjoy recreational activities."

There is no cost to join the club which is sponsored by the Arthritis Foundation.

For more information, call Jessie Cox at 426-5685, Helen Meekins at 264-2278 or Charlie Swanner at 482-2544.

Help available through disability hotline

Joe is a 56-year old man who has multiple sclerosis. He applied for Social Security disability benefits and was denied.

Sara is the elderly mother of a schizophrenic daughter who is incapable of managing her own affairs. Sara was afraid that her daughter would be left alone with no income when she died.

Forty-year old Ed, who is paralyzed from the waist down and uses a wheelchair, wanted to re-enter the real estate business but was afraid his disability checks would be terminated.

Joe, Sara, Ed and thousands of others have found that help is just a phone call away through the N. C. Disability Hotline.

The toll-free number is 1-800-638-6810 and is in operation Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The hotline is equipped with a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) to serve hearing-impaired citizens.

Initiated in the fall of 1985, the hotline has helped thousands of individuals, providing assistance and referrals to disabled North Carolinians who have problems or need information about the Social Security Disability Program, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and the Hyatt v. Bowen class action suit.

The Hyatt v. Bowen class action suit involves people with pain, high blood pressure or diabetes who have been denied Social Security disability benefits. Under the suit, they may be eligible for a new review.

"The disability hotline is a tremendous asset to disabled individuals who need financial assistance because they are unable to work," said Administration Secretary James S. Lofton. "Many citizens have received important counseling in processing their disability claims."

Hotline staff members have a wealth of information

at their fingertips, and they are advocates working solely on behalf of disabled persons, according to Secretary Lofton.

The N. C. Disability Hotline and Information Office, formerly located in the N. C. Department of Human Resources, was recently moved to the Governor's Advocacy Council for Persons with Disabilities in the N. C. Department of Administration.

The process of obtaining disability benefits can be frustrating and confusing, according to Secretary Lofton. The hotline was established by the N. C. General Assembly to help disabled individuals to better understand how to process disability claims and to appeal unfavorable decisions.

Calls may also be referred to other agencies, such as vocational rehabilitation offices, the Disability Determination Service, local departments of social services, federal offices of hearing and appeals and local Social Security offices.

Joe, Sara and Ed, mentioned above, found assistance through the hotline.

Although he had the right to appeal the denial of Social Security disability benefits, Joe felt it would be useless. Working through the hotline, he decided to appeal and throughout the appeals process Joe called the hotline every time a question came up. Two months after filing for reconsideration, Joe received a letter of approval.

The hotline staff referred Sara to the local Social Security office to file a disability claim for her daughter. There she received help in processing the claim, which later was approved.

After talking with the hotline staff, Ed decided his best option was the Work Incentive Program with its nine-month work period during which his disability checks would still be delivered.

Edenton Job Service places many individuals in positions

The Edenton Job Service office placed 138 individuals in jobs during the month of June, resulting in a total of 1208 individuals placed during the 1988 Program Year (71-88 through 6-30-89). Of these individuals, 146 were veterans.

The definition of an individual placement is an applicant who is placed for the first time during the program year. Some applicants are placed more than once during the program year. Including subsequent placements, the Edenton Job Service office placed 1676 applicants. This was an increase of 20 percent in individual placements and an increase of 35 percent in total placements.

Kathy Keefe, Manager of the Edenton office credits the increase to several factors. "I feel that both the employer and applicant community are utilizing our services more than they have before. More employees are doing all of their hiring through Employment Security Commission and more people are utilizing our services to find jobs."

Applicants seeking work are encouraged to apply in person at the Edenton Job Service office located at 709 North Broad Street between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Monday through Friday.

Employers currently seeking help or anticipating future needs are encouraged to contact the office to inform the Job Service staff of their needs.

All services offered by the office are provided free of charge.