

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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30 CENTS

Briefs

Restoration group plans meeting

The annual dinner meeting of the Perquimans County Restoration Association will be held at Perquimans Center on Feb. 24, beginning with a reception at 6 p.m. Area representatives to the General Assembly and their wives have been invited, and are expected to attend. The speaker for the evening will be former Senator Melvin R. Daniels who was in Raleigh at the time major appropriations were secured for the restoration of the Newbold-White House.

All members are urged to attend as the Harvey Award will be presented to an outstanding public official who, in the judgement of the PCRA executive committee, has served in the tradition of John Harvey who was called the "Father of the American Revolution in North Carolina." His mother, born Elizabeth Coles, lived in the Newbold-White house as a girl.

During the dinner a portrait of an early Perquimans County Newby will be unveiled. Henry Rood, Jr., local artist and picture conservator, has recently restored the portrait. The Newby portrait will be hung in the David Newby Cottage with the hope that there is some distant kinship as "Newby" appears early in the county history.

The general membership will have a preview of the works of art by local artists Mildred Whitley and Nat White, as well as many other works by Rood. The public is invited to the opening of the Art Show on Sunday, Feb. 25, from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. There is no charge.

The price of the annual reception and dinner is \$7.50 per person. Reservations are necessary and may be made by sending a check to PCRA, P.O. Box 103, Hertford, NC 27944, or calling the site at 426-7567 before Feb. 20, 1990.

Police report

The following is a report from the Hertford Police Department as of Feb. 12.

On Jan. 29, an accident on Edenton Road St. near Wynn Fork Road occurred. A 1985 Chevrolet truck operated by Joseph Bunke Perry, Jr. stopped at the stop sign on Wynn Fork Road, then proceeded into the intersection. The Perry vehicle struck a 1979 Ford operated by Devail Marice Skinner that was traveling south on Edenton Road St. No citations were issued.

A 1972 Dodge truck operated by Matison Jay Mansfield pulled out from Covent Garden St. onto Market Street, striking a 1986 Nissan stationwagon operated by Kimberly Caroline Keyser on Feb. 5. The Nissan was traveling east on Market St.

Keyser and her mother, Joan Keyser, a passenger in the vehicle, were transported to Chowan Hospital with class C injuries.

Mansfield was cited for a safe movement violation.

Audrey Bunch Perry, driving a 1985 Chrysler, pulled out of a parking space on Market St. and struck an unattended 1988 Toyota owned by Annie Lou Campbell.

Shelma Clay Miller, 34, of 329 Market St., was arrested on Feb. 2 and charged with disorderly conduct.

On Feb. 3, Manuel Miller, 27, of 329 Market St., was arrested and charged with assault on a female and disorderly conduct.

Charlie Ferebee, 60, of Lot 28 Dogwood Trailer Park, was arrested and charged with possession with intent to sell and deliver cocaine and felonious possession of cocaine pursuant to a grand jury indictment.

On Feb. 12, Roy Hall, 23, of Route 1, was arrested and charged with communicating threats.

Connie Leary Jernigan, 24, of Wynne Fork Court, was arrested on Feb. 23 and charged with shoplifting from the Family Dollar Store.

Mistrial declared in Felton capital murder trial

Jury deadlocked after deliberating six hours

By JOE SOUTHERN
The Daily Advance

Edenton—After little more than six hours of deliberations the jury became deadlocked and a mistrial was declared Tuesday in the capital murder trial of Claude A. Felton, Jr.

Felton, a deaf mute from Perquimans County, was being tried for the August 1988 beating and stabbing death of Sarah Ann Jones and the shooting death of her daughter Falinda Brooks.

The trial lasted a little over two weeks, including a five-day week-end recess for one of the jurors to attend the funeral of her husband. The 12-person, all-white jury stood permanently locked with a 7-5 vote favoring a not-guilty verdict jury

foreman J. D. Elliott said after court was adjourned.

"The prosecution had not proven its case beyond a reasonable doubt," Elliott said. "We tried hard...we worried about this case."

Elliott said the jury began locked at 9-3 favoring a not guilty verdict, but eventually became deadlocked at 7-5.

"I'm disappointed," Assistant District Attorney Nancy Lamb said. "We'll have to try it again."

District Attorney H. P. Williams, Jr. said another special session of court would have to be scheduled, and he did not know when it would happen.

Defense attorneys William T. Culpepper III and Samuel Dixon re-

fused to comment about the case. Dixon did say, however, that Felton did understand what had happened.

The trial began on Jan. 22 with the selection of the 12 jurors and one of the three alternates. The next day the panel of prospective jurors was exhausted without the two alternates being selected. The next day a new panel was brought in, the alternates were selected, and the trial began. The prosecution used two full days and two half days to present its case. The defense used several hours to present its case, relying heavily on the state's lack of ability to prove its case beyond a reasonable doubt.

On Jan. 30, after having spent three hours in deliberations, juror Annette Downum was notified of

the death of her husband. Rather than declare a mistrial, Judge Frank Brown recessed the trial to give Downum the time for the funeral and to return to deliberate.

The trial resumed Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. The jury went back into deliberations. At 11:15 there was a knock at the door, but no one came out of the jury room. At 11:34 there was another knock. This time the jury returned and reported it was deadlocked. Brown urged the jury to return and to try and break its deadlock.

After the jury had gone back into deliberations, Culpepper made the first of his two unsuccessful requests for the jury to hear additional instructions.

"This is a capital case and Mr. Felton is put on trial for his life. I just believe in light of the jury's dilemma it is now in...it is appropriate for the court to give the

additional instructions as I have requested," he said. "It could be they have reached a decision regarding the capital offense, but are unable to render a verdict."

The jury had been given instructions by Brown about rendering a verdict of guilty of first-degree murder, guilty of second-degree murder or an acquittal. Culpepper had requested the jury be given instructions for verdicts of lesser charges such as manslaughter.

At 12:35 p.m. Brown called the jury back to see how it was progressing. Elliott reported that the deadlock remained, and that it seemed unlikely it would be broken. Brown asked the jury if anyone disagreed with Elliott. Hearing no disagreements Brown dismissed the jury and declared the mistrial. Culpepper tried one more time to have his motion heard, and Brown denied the request.

Newbold-White House to re-open March 1

From news release

The Newbold-White House and Perquimans Center will reopen to the public on March 1, with guided tours from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily except Sunday.

While no major projects have been undertaken during the winter, several interesting additions have been made to the furnishings of the house. The North Carolina Society CDXVII Century has given a beautiful pencil post bed, with curtains and a corn shuck mattress to be added. Elizabeth City preservationist, Fred Fearing, gave a huge cypress tray which was once used in hog killings in salting meat. He also donated a mortar and pestle like the one used in grinding maize in The Lost Colony. Carlton Boyce has given antique heart pine quilting frames, to remind visitors of the quilting parties which were once such an important part of the colonial social scene.

Archaeological work by site manager, Steven Allen, assisted by volunteer, Ruth Sexton, has been rewarding. Jean Newbold Griffin gave them permission for work on a 20-foot strip of land which she owns adjoining David Newby. Artifacts found reveal that a 40-foot post and beam building, with ground laid floor joists, was once located there. Other artifacts include broken clay pipes, glassware, Indian and Delft pottery. Work has also been done to locate and mark the seventeenth and eighteenth century dependencies on the site.

Volunteers June and Nelson Watkins have begun work on lay-

ing out and developing a kitchen garden behind Perquimans Center. In addition to the usual herbs and garden vegetables, this garden will also grow some "remembrance" with both roses and rosemary.

Special events planned for 1990 include an art show and reception for Perquimans artists Henry Rood, Mildred Whitley, and Nat White, beginning at 1:30 p.m. and closing at 4:30 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 25. Their work will also be shown from 10:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. on March 1, 2, and 3. This show is free to the public.

Other events are the April 21 walking tour of Hertford, tentatively called "The Arts, Gardens and Homes of Hertford, with the first ever Front Porch Art Show." Attention will be focused on Hertford residents with roots in Perquimans which go back several generations. They have returned to live in Hertford to prove that Thomas Wolfe erred in his famous novel, "You Can't Go Home Again."

They have come home, and are making valuable contributions to the cultural, educational and social life of the Albemarle area. Several of their homes will be open for viewing, with one artist creating a gallery to show works which span half a century. A unique feature of the walking tour will be the art displayed on front porches along the tour route, most of it by "Sunday Painters."

These homes and gardens have never been opened to the public before, but are being shown to raise funds for North Carolina's oldest house, Newbold-White, also

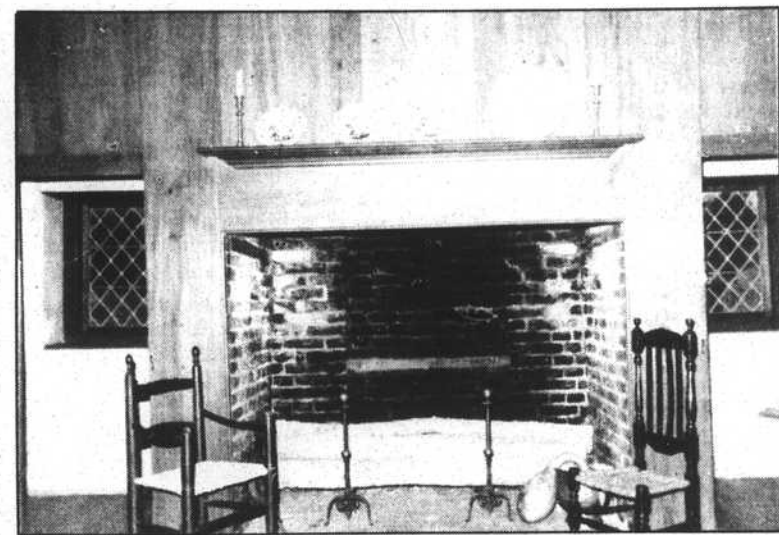


Photo courtesy of Lucille Winslow

The huge fireplace was the focal point of the Great Hall at Newbold-White. Note the 17th century chairs and ledged casement windows. Delft plates and pewter charger and candlesticks adorn the mantel.

being shown as part of the tour. Luncheon at the new Perquimans Center is included in the \$10 price of the tour and will be served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The annual fall fund-raising effort will be made with JOLLIFICATION V, scheduled for October 5, and will celebrate the week of Harvest Moon.

In addition to the people who have been "repatriated" to Hertford, many have moved back to rural Perquimans. Some have come back to land which has been in the family for generations, and others have purchased waterfront sites on the beautiful rivers and

creeks. And then, there are those who have never left home.

Mrs. J. Emmett Winslow, currently serving as president of the Perquimans County Restoration Association said recently, "We hope that these people, and other Perquimans citizens will join in these efforts. These events are vital to the operation of the site. We have to raise every penny of our \$35,000 budget locally, and it now appears that we will have at least a \$10,000 deficit. So, I hope that everyone will promote these fund-raisers, and will join the Perquimans County Restoration Association in its efforts to preserve the truly wonderful heritage of Perquimans County's past."

Commissioners prepare to renovate Blanchard building

By SUSAN HARRIS
Editor

The bidding process for the Blanchard Building renovation should begin in the spring, according to Murfreesboro architect Shurley Vann, who drew the plans.

Vann met with the county commissioners last Monday to review with them his latest drawings. The first floor will be remodeled to house the offices of the building inspector, sheriff's department, water department and magistrate, as well as a 30-seat commissioner's room.

The second floor will serve as the county's second courthouse. An addition to the back of the building will encase the stairs and elevators leading to the courthouse.

The floor of the first story of the building will be torn up and replaced with a concrete slab. The second floor will be reinforced and a fire resistant ceiling added.

Before voting on whether to proceed with the project, commissioner Thomas Nixon expressed his view that the building should be torn down. Nixon said that rather

than renovate the Blanchard building, a new facility should be built.

County manager Paul Gregory and Vann said that their research indicated that the cost of new construction hovers around \$70 per square foot, while renovation costs are around \$40-50 per square foot, which will save the taxpayers thousands of dollars.

Vann also said that a structural engineer had tested the building. The engineer said that the building could handle the renovations planned with a few minor adjustments, which are called for in the plans.

The commissioners chose the plan they preferred and authorized Vann to begin work on the final drawings so that the bidding process can begin as soon as possible.

Conservation update
Floyd Mathews updated the commissioners about the projects in the county under the direction of the conservation office. Mathews said that \$367,464 has been appropriated for cost-share projects, of which Perquimans will receive \$63,665.

Projects constructed have included two critical seeding areas, two animal waste spreading sites, one solid waste water system and five animal waste facilities. There are 10 more water control structures that should be put in soon.

Mathews told the board that the solid waste water system is a pilot on Ed Nixon's farm. There was once run-off on the property, according to Mathews. But with the construction of a lagoon, sprinklers and pumps to handle the waste, there is now no run-off.

Electoral changes

Gregory told the commissioners that Mike Crowell, the Raleigh attorney hired by the county to assist in the electoral change process, wrote a chronological schedule of events that took place concerning the proposed electoral changes. Crowell sent the information to the U.S. Justice Department as requested, and included news articles and other written documents.

Crowell asked the Justice Department to extend the filing period if they approve the electoral proposal. Unless the Justice Department

advises differently, the May primary will be held under the old system. The filing deadline was Feb. 5.

Other business

In other business, the board approved the employment of Todd Tiley as full-time dispatcher.

heard a complaint from Ella Mae Brickhouse concerning the handling of her property taxes.

reviewed with building inspector Aubrey Onley his annual report for 1989.

designated the tri-county landfill as the county's scrap tire disposal site.

endorsed the Head Start Program.

agreed to petition the state for road maintenance at Snug Harbor.

approved the Champanoke Farms Subdivision.

agreed to a tax release for property leased to Beech Springs Trucking, provided that the company who owns the equipment pays the taxes.

approved marking reserved parking spaces for county employees who work at the courthouse.

Poster contest time nears

From news release

The five counties in the Albemarle District are once again participating in the Conservation Poster Contest. The contest has been held through the schools in Chowan, Perquimans, Pasquotank, Camden and Currituck counties for the past 36 years.

Secretaries from each district office have been visiting the schools with slide shows, Sammy Soil Saver puppet shows, photos and other materials helping to encourage students in grades four through six to think about their natural resources. Over 2,000 students are expected to participate in the contest.

Posters are presently being pre-

pared through Feb. 16 with first and second place winners being selected in each grade. These winners then go on to the five-county competition to be held in Hertford March 6.

Carroll Williams, supervisor for the Perquimans County Soil and Water Conservation Committee, serves as chairman for the District Contest. "The educating of our young people in the early years about conservation of our natural resources is a challenge we take seriously," Williams said. "Hopefully, through our efforts, students will realize that the future of these resources lies in their hands," he concluded.

Small rural schools need help badly

By SUSAN HARRIS
Editor

The Perquimans Board of Education last Monday night viewed a videotape contrasting the facilities and programs at Northern Durham High School with those at Northampton West High School.

The video is being used by members of the Small Rural Schools Consortium in their efforts to secure an education for the students they represent equal to that of students in larger, more affluent systems.

Programs, facilities, supplies and course offerings at the Durham County school far surpass those at Northampton West. The Durham facility is well-maintained, offers a wide variety of academic and vocational courses and contains a 26,000-volume library.

The Northampton County school is much different. The building is in poor repair. Classrooms are very small. The shop teacher said that only one piece of his power equipment is in working condition. Students were shown using books with pages missing. Administrators and teachers say that they are unable to offer many of the courses they would like due to budget restraints.

Statistics compiled by the consortium show that in Northampton County, a one cent hike in taxes only generates about \$34,000 at 100 percent collection. Durham County collects approximately \$720,000 with a one cent hike in taxes.

The consortium is trying to get parents and citizens in the counties it is working for to form support groups. These groups will launch letter writing campaigns and be asked to help formulate plans to obtain more funding for rural school districts.

Perquimans will join forces with Camden County on Feb. 20 at 7 p.m. at Camden Middle School. All parents and education supporters are urged to attend the meeting. The second session will be held in Perquimans County.

Perquimans superintendent Mary Jo Martin has been involved in the consortium since its inception. "All we can do is try," she told board members about the consortium's efforts.

Clifford Winslow said that those interested in working for equalizing programs and facilities in North Carolina's schools must raise the awareness of the legislators.

Although not nearly as great as those at Northampton West, Perquimans has facilities needs. The high school roof is in disrepair. Both Winfall schools must have new septic systems. Teachers are holding classes in converted closets.

Administrators in the small school systems say they must have help raising money. "Small school systems cannot generate those funds," Dr. Martin said when discussing how to fund capital projects.

Dr. Martin is encouraging parents to attend the meeting in Camden.

Committee of 100 plans meeting

Perquimans County Committee of 100 will hold its annual meeting on Monday, Feb. 26, at Angler's Cove Restaurant. Social hour will begin at 6:30 with dinner at 7:30. Members and guests are welcome. Tickets are \$7.50 and may be picked up at the Perquimans County Chamber office.

Thinking of placing a Classified Ad; but not sure how to do it? Just call our friendly Ad-Visor, Elenora she will be glad to help you.

426-5728

Perquimans
Weekly119 W. Grubb St.
8 a.m.-5p.m., Mon.-Fri.

Photo courtesy of Perquimans Conservation Committee

Ginger O'Neal, secretary for the Perquimans Conservation Committee, and Sammy Soil Saver (Nan Laughton, secretary, Chowan County) tell students about ways they can conserve soil.