

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

RECEIVED
JAN 22 2003

35 cents

Pediatric asthma workshop

Page 2

Student honor rolls

Page 6

Is that stream clean?

Page 8

January 22, 2003

Vol. 71, No. 4 Hertford, North Carolina 27944

How to change your phone listing address

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Most residents of Perquimans County have gone through the change of address process over the last two years with the implementation of mapping and the E-911 system.

But a majority of the listings in the Sprint telephone book show the old route addresses. Bills come to the new addresses, but changing the billing address did not change the phone book address.

Work is in progress on the 2003 Sprint telephone book, and unless customers request a listing change, the old address will appear in the new phone book scheduled to be released in June.

Eddie Lynch with the public relations department at Sprint said recently in a telephone interview that telephone subscribers can change their addresses in the phone book with one phone call. Instructions follow:

Dial "0"

You will be connected to a voice system. It will say, "Welcome to Sprint. For service in English, press 1."

Press "1" if you want service in English.

At the next prompt, press "2" for business office. The voice will tell you you are being transferred.

Press "1" for residential at the next prompt, and "1" for existing customer after that.

You will then be asked to enter your telephone number including the area code. When you have entered the number, the voice will repeat the number and ask you if it is correct. If it is correct, press "1." You will again be told you are being put on hold while your records are accessed.

At the next prompt, press "2" for changing your service, then "1" for new or additional services.

At this point you will be transferred to a live operator. You will be asked for your social security number as a verification. The operator will change and verify your address.

(Editor's note: As my own listing address still showed a route number, I changed my listing using this system. I had no problems with the change.)

Shannon speaks at King service

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Rev. John Shannon admonished the congregation to be drum majors for Jesus during the 17th annual Martin Luther King Day Service at New Haven Baptist Church Monday.

"It's all right to have the drum major instinct," Shannon said. "If the truth be told, all of us want to be up front...You need to be a drum major for Jesus. Just be sure you are being a drum major for the Lord and not trying to be a drum major for yourself."

Shannon took his remarks from King's having been called a drum major for justice.

"Martin Luther King Jr. was a prophet of the people to the people," Shannon said. "He challenged the conscience of a nation."

He said the King national holiday will not be a reality to all until everyone in the nation catches King's dream of justice for all.

"Everybody ought to have a dream," Shannon



Those who attended Monday's Martin Luther King Day service listen as a choir from Northeastern High School brings a message in music. The service was hosted by New Haven Baptist Church.

said. "There was a time when some of us couldn't have a dream. Your dream can become a reality because of the dream of a dreamer."

He also warned that sometimes people do not appreciate your dream and do not like you because of your dream.

"Just because you have a dream doesn't mean folks are going to love you," Shannon said. "Martin Luther King was hated by

some."

King came to grips with his dream, even though he knew he would be hated, Shannon added.

Shannon compared King to the biblical Joseph, whose brothers hated him so much for his dream that they sold him into slavery. He also said that their fellow disciples turned against James and John because they had a dream to sit on either side of Jesus.

He said every pastor needs those in the congregation who want to be on the left or right hand of the pastor, to lead the flock.

"I'm so glad that Jesus Christ didn't lay down His dream," Shannon summed up his remarks.

He said Christians should hope to be a drum major for Jesus, but to remember that to be a drum major for Jesus means being the most humble, the least in the king-

dom. He said there is a need for people to put their hands together and walk together.

Shannon is the pastor at New Haven Baptist Church and a deam at Roanoke Collegiate Institute. Rev. Landon Mason served as master of ceremonies for the service, which was organized by the Perquimans County Chapter NAACP. Fred Yates is chapter president.

Firefighters recall incidents, feelings day of fire

SUSAN R. HARRIS

For Charles Skinner, fire chief at the time of the Winslow Oil Company fire 25 years ago, not knowing what caused the raging inferno has always bothered him.

"The thing that's always disturbed me is the fact that I've never been able to get an official report ... from any agency," Skinner said.

Skinner said officials from a number of state and federal oversight agencies visited the scene, but none could determine what sparked the fire that destroyed two businesses, damaged a third business, damaged two homes and demolished several vehicles.

The former chief also said that reports that the town of Hertford was in danger of being burned to the ground were completely overblown.

"No, absolutely, not as long as we had water in the river," Skinner said when asked if large portions of the town were threatened. "We had talked about this thing and we had planned. We had it contained."

In fact, the notebook that Skinner has kept outlining details of pre-planning for a fire at the site where three oil companies once stood just feet apart bears out the department's pre-planning. As early as 1963, firefighters had mapped out plans to fight a potential fire at the site. Another training session was set for

July 1978, a training session that would not be held because the event had already occurred by that time.

Skinner said the Hertford fire crew had fought fire at a house on King Street at 1:15 the morning of Jan. 10, 1978, returning to the station and getting gear back in place until around 4.

The dispatch radio log shows that the department was called back into service at 7:55 a.m., this time to an explosion at Winslow Oil Company. It was 15 degrees outside with the wind blowing from the northwest between 10 and 20 miles per hour. The bitter cold temperature caused water to freeze upon contact with surfaces, which was instrumental in allowing firefighters to save Erie Haste's house, which stood less than 10 feet from some of the Winslow Oil storage tanks. The wind direction also helped keep other structures out of danger.

Skinner said while his name and face were in many news reports at the time of the fire, it was the firefighters on the scene from all departments who deserve the credit for their valiant efforts to fight fire. He said while he remembers many incidents, it is almost impossible to remember exactly which firefighters were in each smaller crew throughout the day.

He said that Durwood Reed, co-owner of Reed Oil

Company, was out of the office when the fire started. Upon his return, he went into his office, removed the county financial records (Reed was the county finance officer at the time) and closed the door to the company warehouse. Closing that door, a "gutsy" move in Skinner's estimation, kept the fire from sweeping through the warehouse and possibly igniting Hollowell Oil, which backed up to Reed Oil.

Skinner also remembers that Hollowell Oil Company employees Sidney Copeland and Wayne Layden put themselves in the line of fire by volunteering to drive gas trucks to the fire trucks when the fire trucks were running out of gas.

Hertford's assistant chief Pete Riddick and the Winfall Fire Department hand-pulled lines from the boat ramp to Reed's pier, a difficult job that saved the Reed pier.

Overall, Skinner said the crews on the scene worked together like a well-oiled machine, doing whatever it took to control the blaze and protect nearby property.

Unlike Skinner, Edward Leicester had less than a year's experience as a firefighter at the time of the Winslow Oil Company disaster. In bed suffering from the flu, Leicester none-the-less answered the call, leaving his Hiland Park home and being met with a frightening sight when he neared the fire station.

"I was not prepared when I came across the railroad tracks (on Grubb Street) for the thick, black smoke that I saw," Leicester said.

And while he at first felt fear, like the more seasoned firefighters on the scene, when he arrived at Winslow Oil Company, his training and instinct took over.

"We were very well trained, which was a credit to (chief) Charlie Skinner and (assistant chief) Pete Riddick," Leicester said. "We did what we had to do and what we were trained to do."

Leicester was in one of the first two trucks to arrive on the scene. The tanker driven by Lloyd Lane had taken its position behind Farmer's Feed and Seed and Leicester's crew stopped by the Haste house. He remembers fighting fire with John Beers, Francis "Panky" Nixon and Thomas Hurdle.

He spent an hour or so on Covent Garden and Grubb streets, only moving around to see the tanks around 10 o'clock.

"It began to sink in what were we up against," Leicester said when he saw what was actually on fire. "I realized the full extent of the circumstances."

Leicester said he cannot give enough credit to the department officers, who in addition to Skinner and Riddick were Thomas Hurdle, Edgar Roberson, Parker Newbern and Sid Eley, for their work and for

the foresight of fire officials to pre-plan and train for a possible fire.

"The whole thing worked out so much better than you probably could have ever planned," he said.

Because they had planned and trained so well, Leicester said, actually fighting the fire was almost instinct.

About 5 p.m., the young firefighter returned to his bed, where he would stay until the end of the week, still fighting the flu — but fortunately not having to fight any more fire.

(Next week, read how volunteers sprang into action to provide comfort and food for emergency personnel.)

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
High: 36
Low: 26
SNOW SHOWER/WIND

FRIDAY
High: 33
Low: 20
PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY
High: 37
Low: 21
PARTLY CLOUDY/WIND