

Merry Christmas

The News - Herald

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Monday, December 23, 1985

For Hertford County And The Roanoke-Chowan Area

Local Edition 2 Parts; Elsewhere 2 Pa

Grant will assist small farm owners

AHOSKIE — The Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation has awarded a \$74,800 grant to Legal Services of the Coastal Plains to initiate a land advocacy project.

The purpose of the land advocacy project is to "provide landownership information to small family farmers of limited resources in order to prevent further involuntary loss of farm land in the 11 northeastern North Carolina counties serviced by Legal Services of the Coastal Plains."

The grant is to be expended over a two year period. Marcus W. Williams, executive director of

LSCP, anticipates the hiring of one full-time and one part-time attorney "to coordinate an educational outreach network, to litigate and negotiate on behalf of small landowners and to investigate the feasibility of a rural land bank and/or community land trust." Williams added, "We are extremely appreciative of the compassion, generosity and understanding displayed by the leadership of the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation. They have provided the wherewithal to address some of the acute rural land problems of our indigent clients." In articulating the concern for

land loss, LSCP's application to the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation enunciated the crisis faced by many farmers. "The persistent decline in the number of farms held by small family farmers of limited resources in Northeastern North Carolina reflects a national trend towards increasingly larger farms owned by a significantly wealthier, less diverse, and more elite group of individuals and corporations," noted the application.

The document continued, "The average size of farms in the United

(See REYNOLDS, Page 11)



Man burned in S...

Reynolds gives \$74,800 to Legal Services

(From Page 1)

States more than doubled between 1950 and 1982, while the number of farms decreased by more than half in the same time period. The figures are even more dramatic in North Carolina, where the number of farms fell from 301,000 in 1950 to 88,000 in 1982, a decrease of 70.8 percent. This 213,000 farm decrease is attributable mainly to the steady loss of farms owned by poor family farmers with small acreages.

"Minority farmers have been particularly hard hit by the pattern indicated in these figures. Most calculations of the extent of the problem estimate the current national land loss rate among blacks at between 6,000 to 9,000 acres each week. The rate of loss for blacks is

consistently more than double the comparable for whites. In 1981, the Division of Policy Development predicted that 'there will be no black-owned farms' in North Carolina by the year 2,000. This event will be particularly devastating to North Carolina because this state has the most minority landowners and the largest amount of minority owned land in the nation. A similar fate threatens native American farmers, who have also suffered a disproportionately high rate of land loss.

"Thus, the trend in this state and in the rest of the nation reflects the potential loss of a way of life for thousands of limited resource family farmers, as well as the virtual exclusion of minorities from the

agricultural sector of the national economy. The loss of small farms to corporate farmers and outside speculators constitutes a highly significant alteration of the social structure, displacing poor and minority farmers from the only means of existence they know," says the application.

The Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation was established in 1936 as a memorial to the youngest son of the founder of R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company. In that year the brother and two sisters of Z. Smith Reynolds provided that their inheritance from his estate would go to the establishment of a trust for the benefit of the people of North Carolina.

The Foundation, drawing on the income from the Zachary Smith

Reynolds Trust and the W.N. Reynolds Trust, has now made 1,927 grants totalling more than \$124,000,000 to more than 945 recipients in all of North Carolina's 100 counties. Major attention has been given to education and health care, with increased interest in

recent years in improving the criminal justice system in North Carolina, in strengthening grassroots advocacy groups and in youth programs, family planning, cultural activities, rural life, the handicapped, minority and women's issues.

Thieves rob Belk

MURFREESBORO — Thieves made off with an undisclosed number of watches and pieces of luggage in a robbery at Belk-Tyler sometime between 9 p.m. Thursday and 8 a.m. Friday.

Manager Bobby Brown reports he is still working with the insurance company to determine the dollar

amount of the theft.

The robbers came in from the roof through the heating system to gain entry to the building, Brown said. The store is located on Main Street.

Police Chief Ed. Harris, Sgt. Pete Peele and sheriff's Deputy Wesley Liverman are conducting the investigation into the incident.

Wilmington Morning Star / Thursday, November 23, 1989

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Proposed group would boost inner-city business

By Hunter Kome
Staff Writer

Legal Services of the Lower Cape Fear is trying to put together an organization that would help create and support inner-city businesses.

The organization would have a board of directors and be independent from any existing agency or group, said Marcus Williams, executive director of Legal Services.

Legal Services is working for a group of people interested in establishing the community development organization,



Williams

he said. The agency is applying for start-up money from the N.C. Rural Economic Development Center.

"We're just providing technical assistance," Williams said. "I'm going to shield the organizers at this point in case this is not successful. But it's not anything secret. If we don't succeed this time we're not giving up."

The city of Wilmington is working with a dozen banks in an effort to create a CDC that would provide loans to support inner-city revitalization, either of housing, businesses or both.

But the organization described by Legal Services would not conflict with that effort, mainly because the two have different sources of funding, Williams said.

The city's CDC would get its money

from the banks. The organization Legal Services is trying to put together would get its funding from grants and donations.

City Councilman Luther Jordan, who has pushed for the creation of the city's CDC, said he supports the Legal Services approach as well. Most banks have not come to the community reinvestment table willingly, Jordan said, but have been forced by the federal Community Reinvestment Act.

So the city should welcome any effort to find money for community reinvestment, he said.

"I think Legal Services has a good idea," Jordan said. "I'm playing on both teams."

The organization described by Legal Services would focus on supporting busi-

nesses, Williams said. Eleven other such community development organizations exist across the state, all funded by the Rural Economic Development Center, he said.

"I feel it's going to take a multi-faceted approach to cure some of the blight we have in our communities," Williams said. "The good part is having those other 11 community development corporations out there that have already plowed the turf, so to speak."

Plans the organization might tackle include setting up a business that would provide unemployed people with day work, such as painting or mowing; or creating a business incubator that would help fledgling businesses get started, Williams said.

**Fund Raiser Launched
For Charles Rooks**

Nelson Mandela: Free At L

THE WILMINGTON

***NEW HANOVER *BRUNSWICK *PENDER *COLUMBUS *ONSL**

JOURNAL

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Wilmington, N.C., Thursday, February 15, 1990

On Streets Each Thursday

18

Group Working To Provide Housing, Jobs In Community

The Wilmington/New Hanover County Community Development Corporation has been developed in an effort to increase the amount of decent and affordable housing in Wilmington and New Hanover County along with increasing job

opportunities through the development of a small business incubator.

Areas expected to be targeted under the proposal include the portion of Wilmington from Greenfield to Nixon Street and 17th Street to the Cape Fear River; the Scotts Hill area and the area of Wilmington embracing Greenfield Street and Third to Sixteenth Streets.

Seven individuals from diverse backgrounds have been chosen to serve on the corporation's board of directors. The board members are: Luther Henry Jordan, James McQueen, Jacqueline Morris-Goodness, Allene Drain, James Webb, Jacqueline Skinner and Richard Snyder.

The non-profit corporation is charged with such tasks as improving communications between minorities and low-income citizens with the broader community at large; enhancing the economic welfare, education and social levels of disadvantaged citizens throughout the City of Wilmington and New

(Continued on Page 3)

Key To Head ges Consortium

awareness of their collective role in the economic development of the state," said Lee Monroe, senior education adviser to Governor Martin. "They are also concerned with increasing the numbers of minority teachers in North Carolina."

The consortium was created during a recent meeting in Raleigh of the presidents and chancellors of the state's predominantly black colleges and universities. The consortium will develop and conduct cooperative educational activities among the eleven-member institutions.

Photo Prize

\$25⁰⁰

**This Week
See Page 2**

**News Reaching The Journal After 5 P.M
Tuesday Will Not Appear In Our
Thursday Edition. We Solicit Your News
And Also Your Cooperation.**

-Management.

Group Working To

(Continued from Page 1)

Hanover County; enhancing opportunities available to residents and groups to obtain adequate low-cost housing accommodations by constructing, rehabilitating, and providing decent, safe and sanitary housing in New Hanover County for persons and families of low-income, who are in need of such useful or desirable for the furtherance, accomplishment, fostering or attaining of the corporation.

To date, the corporation has received about \$25,000 to begin its work. Marcus Williams, a lawyer and executive director of Legal Services of the Lower Cape Fear, stressed that the corporation may be able to get more monies through the North Carolina Legislature.

Williams stressed that the legislature is positioned to increase the allotment provided to the Wilmington/New Hanover County Community Development Corporation through the North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center, Inc.

LSLCF will be providing technical assistance to the corporation. Most recently, the law firm, which provides comprehensive legal assistance to indigents and low-income clients, assisted St. Mary's Catholic Church in obtaining \$2.1 million from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to construct 39 units of housing for the elderly and handicapped.

By developing a small business incubator, the corporation hopes to provide job training to the elderly

and youths.

The non-profit corporation is proposing to locate the incubator in Wilmington, making the city the home of the first small business facility to be located in Southeastern North Carolina.

In addition the board intends to sponsor "art fairs, raffles, food fairs, events at Thalian Hall (plays and seasonal affairs) and other ventures which could draw from the local annual festivities including the Azalea Festival and Riverfest," according to a proposal developed in behalf of the corporation.

Fund Raising

(Continued from Page 1)

Mary Middleton. The committee is sponsoring such activities as a fish fry, car washes, a mass mailing campaign, concerts and dances with all proceeds going towards helping Rooks.

The board of directors of the Talented Teens organization, Wilmington Police Department and housing center directors will be sponsoring a "Give A Heart" benefit dance Friday, February 16, at the Martin Luther King Center, located at 401 South 8th Street, door prizes will be awarded. Alcoholic beverages will be permitted, but will not be provided.

Entertainment for the dance will be provided by STRICTLY BUSINESS. The cost of the event, scheduled from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., is only \$5.

Tickets are available for the event at the following locations:



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"The work of Legal Services cannot be measured in terms of dollars or numbers of people helped. I have heard the stories of clients of Legal Services and seen their eyes shine in gratitude. Legal Services keeps people in their homes and helps them keep their jobs, enables them to put food

on their table, and ends domestic violence situations that afflict their lives. Members of the North Carolina General Assembly are proud to support the work of Legal Services."

— **Representative Milton F. "Toby" Fitch, Jr.**
North Carolina General Assembly



housing issues affecting the poor. This has created a much broader awareness of the needs for better low-income housing among public officials in the area and has already affected local housing policy. The officials do not want to repeat the "report card" grade again – a D plus.

In the southeastern part of the state in Wilmington, Legal Services housing advocacy took a different approach. When an elderly woman sought

legal recourse for substandard rental property, she contacted Legal Services of the Lower Cape Fear. Her case broadened the awareness of the housing needs of other elderly and handicapped persons and prompted a joint church-community project, facilitated by Legal Services. Last September, Hadden Hall, a subsidized housing facility with 39, one-bedroom units was dedicated as a result of her case. Subsequently, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban

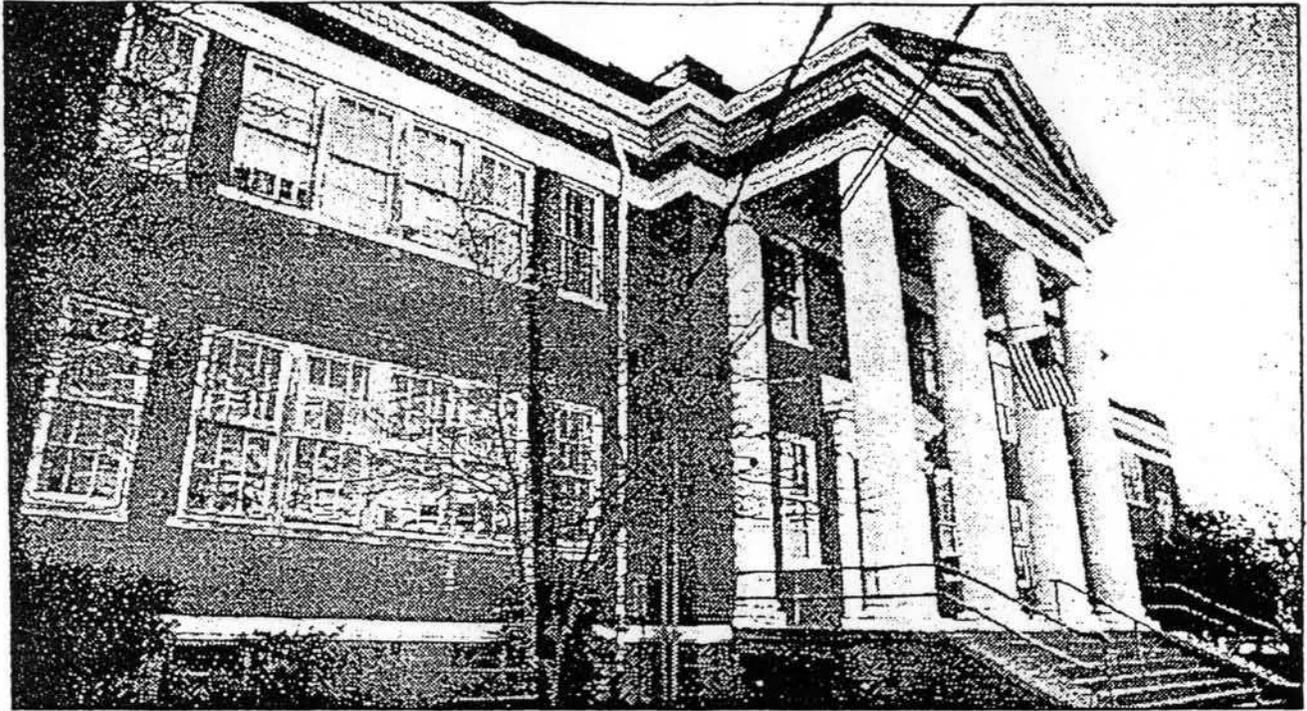


Legal Services of the Lower Cape Fear helped to create Hadden Hall, a 39 unit housing facility for the elderly and handicapped.

Development approved another \$2 million grant for land acquisition and construction of 40 subsidized units on an adjacent tract through the second such nonprofit corporation created and represented by Legal Services of the Lower Cape Fear.

The Region

Wilmington/New Hanover



Tileston school was first built in 1871.

Old school's renovation hinges on church's fund-raising effort

By Alison Feldman
Staff Writer

The church that bought the old Tileston school in Wilmington's Historic District has started a fund-raising campaign to help continue renovation work on the 19th century building.

St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church bought the school at 400 Ann St. last summer for just under \$17,000 and is renovating it for a number of community uses. Tileston was built in 1871, with additions in 1910, 1937 and 1950. The school is actually three buildings connected by walkways.

In the future, the church plans to use the 16 school classrooms for literacy training, tutoring and adult education courses and the gymnasium as "a recreational magnet," said Marcus Williams, chairman of the project fund-raising committee. In addition, the church hopes to use the school for day care and food dis-

tribution.

He said other plans include converting the southern annex into 20 to 24 apartments for low-income elderly people.

"We want to make sure we can meet the needs of all ages," said Williams, who is also executive director of Legal Service of the Lower Cape Fear. "We want to provide an alternative to the criminal activities that may allure youth, and prevent the elderly from idly wasting their time or . . . giving up on life."

The church has already spent about \$150,000 removing asbestos, putting new lights in the gym, replacing broken window panes, re-roofing parts of the school and fixing the electrical and plumbing systems, said the Rev. Thomas P. Hadden, pastor of St. Mary's.

St. Mary's, which also houses a school, now sends its first- through eighth-graders to the Tileston gym for physical education classes. St. Mary's is across Ann Street from

Tileston.

The Raleigh diocese of the Roman Catholic Church has advanced \$350,000 for the first stage of renovations. But the funds will not cover the entire restoration, which will cost about \$1 million.

Hadden said the church has signed a contract for the second stage of work, which is restoring the exterior and completing roof work. Renovation work is expected to be completed in about three years.

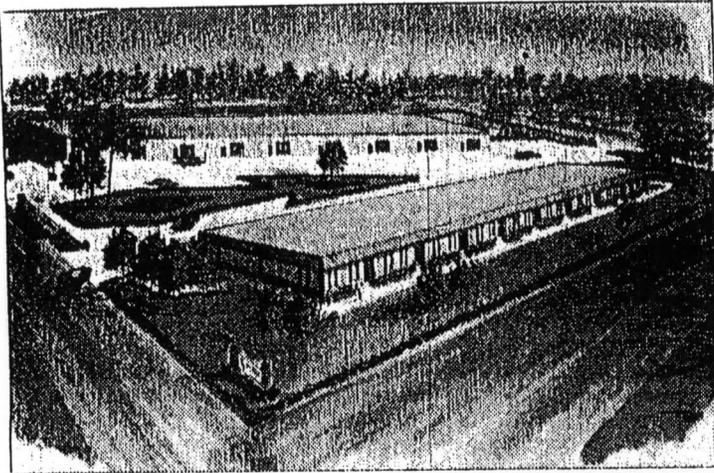
Many of the materials used so far have been donated, and the church has raised about \$10,000 through raffles and individual donations, Williams said.

But St. Mary's needs more help from the community.

As part of the fund-raising effort, he said, the church may name classrooms after people who contribute between \$50,000 and \$100,000.

To make a donation, call the church at 762-5491 or Williams at 763-6207.

MONEY

STOCKS 6C

ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF WILMINGTON/NEW HANOVER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORP.

Officials hope to lure upstart businesses to these proposed condominiums at the Hilton Industrial Park at 511 Cornelius Harnett Drive, north of downtown Wilmington.

\$397,750 FEDERAL GRANT

Business incubator gets ready to build

By **TIM BASS**

Staff Writer

After 19 months as a mere nest egg, Wilmington's incubator for fledgling small businesses appears ready to hatch.

The non-profit agency overseeing the incubator just received a \$397,750 federal grant, has bought an acre of business property north of downtown and expects to have at least three entrepreneurs on board by the end of the year.

"We're just extremely optimistic about this little venture," said Harold L. Gore, executive director of the Wilmington/New Hanover Community Development Corp., whose main function is to get the incubator cooking.

Business incubators are designed as safe havens for newborn and infant enterprises, offering them office space, technical and financial advice, marketing help and even secretaries, computers and copiers.

In some cases, incubators offer low-interest loans. The city of Wilmington has given the CDC \$100,000 to use as a loan pool for incubator businesses, which can apply for low-interest loans up to \$20,000. No loans, however, have been issued.

meetings, he has asked for an explanation of why no loans have been awarded.

"To date, they have not made any loans," Mr. Youngblood said Tuesday. "It's enough people who want them."

CDC officials have said they wanted to line up prospective entrepreneurs, a site and more grants before making loans.



Gore

The CDC's biggest shot in the arm came in September with word that it had received a three-year, \$397,750 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The country has as many as 500 incubators — including 100 new ones in 1991. With the help of incubators, new businesses have an 80 percent chance of succeeding, Mr. Gore said. Without them, that chance drops to 20 percent.

"We expect that some world-class businesses will emanate from this facility," said Marcus W. Williams, executive director of Legal Services of the Lower Cape Fear. His group set up the CDC and pro-

ness condominiums and an acre of construction-ready property at the Hilton Industrial Park at 511 Cornelius Harnett Drive. The money came from state grants, loans and locally raised cash.

The CDC is talking with the heads of four prospective businesses and plans to have the three condos occupied by the end of the year, Mr. Gore said. Using the grant money, the corporation also plans to build nine more business condos on the extra acre by spring 1993.

Mr. Williams and Mr. Gore envision Wilmington's incubator as an avenue for creating jobs for the needy. Each incubator business must hire low-income people for at least 75 percent of its work force.

"We're hoping to provide job opportunities so that people can make it on their own," Mr. Gore said.

Mr. Williams predicts that a successful business incubator will mean more jobs, a lower crime rate and a growing community.

"It instills hope, too," he said. "And sometimes you can't quantify that."

Staff Writer Mark Ippolito contributed to this report.