

Frankly Speaking
By FRANK ROBERTS

The death of Ike Perry, principal of Perquimans County High School in Hertford, may not have been a surprise to everyone, since he'd been sick for quite some time, but it came as a deep shock for everyone. Ike was about 6 feet 2, robust-looking, the picture of health, and had a slight resemblance to John Wayne. He was the type of man who you could not help but respect and like very, very much. He was a very friendly and amiable person. He was a good family man—a good Christian. His record as a coach is well known throughout the Albemarle area. He had only a little time as school principal, but even in that short time he garnered the honor of teachers and students. I consider myself fortunate in having known the man as well as I did. Since I've been helping to broadcast the Perquimans football games, I was able to work closely with him. In the two and a half years of broadcasting and working with him, there was never a time when he didn't answer a question or do a favor or help. More than that, I can remember little things about the man—things that might be considered insignificant, but that linger fondly in my memory. I can remember quite often how he went out of his way to help us in our broadcast activities—to make us more comfortable. In my mind's eye, I picture a big, big smile, the night I interviewed him after he'd led the Indians to some championship football and I picture the figure I'd see, usually on the opposite end of the field from our broadcasting booth, pacing anxiously while his boys were doing their best to win for the school and for "Coach Perry." And I remember the last time I talked to him. It was just a short while before he went into the hospital. One of the teachers at the school and Bobby Carter, who took over as coach and Ike and myself were standing in front of the drug store in Hertford. We were talking for about 20 or 25 minutes. I guess we covered the subjects of football, school activities, family—I'm not exactly sure—but I remember that Ike, who towered over the rest of us, had that friendly grin of his all the time. It was sort of a trademark with him. It made you feel better just knowing him. Just ask any of his students or

ellow teachers, or those he taught in Sunday School—or just anyone in Hertford or anyone at all who's life was enriched because they knew Ike Perry. I know this column usually concerns itself with people and events related to Edenton, but I worked with, knew and liked this man very much. I was proud of my association with Ike Perry—one of the nicest guys I'd ever known.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

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souls and let this wondrous event that took place on a cold, starry night in Bethlehem become a daily miracle in our hearts and a guiding principle in our lives. Only when we have accepted salvation completely and without reserve can we hope to be worthy of God's great act of mercy.

(These comments are based on outlines of the International Sunday School Lessons, copyrighted by the International Council of Religious Education, and used by permission.)

Mrs. Robbins Dies After Long Illness

Mrs. Ella Mae Robbins, 62, died Monday morning at 6:25 o'clock at her home on West Queen Street after an illness of three years.

A native of Perquimans County, she was a daughter of the late Nathan L. and Nannie W. Layden and lived in Edenton 15 years. She was employed as manager of the Betty Shoppe in Edenton until her retirement several years ago due to ill health.

Surviving are her husband, John G. Robbins; a son, Ashton H. Morgan of Durham; two brothers, Claude B. Layden of Chesapeake, Va., and Adam Layden of Elizabeth City; a sister, Mrs. Grover L. Winslow of Elizabeth City and one grandchild.

She was a member of the Edenton Baptist Church and former member of Blackwell Memorial Baptist Church in Elizabeth City.

A funeral service was held at the Edenton Baptist Church Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock. The pastor, the Rev. R. N. Carroll, officiated, assisted by the Rev. George B. Holmes, rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Burial followed in the old Hollywood Cemetery in Elizabeth City.

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